

A Marvelous Ministry

Twenty years have now passed since the women of SS. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Bridgeport, PA began their Catering Ministry in the Parish Hall. The story of these women and their ministry deserves to be told.

Fr. Basil Sheremeta, who died in July of 1972, was Pastor of SS. Peter and Paul for some 28 years. An energetic priest, he established the 12-acre cemetery on Church Road in Upper Merion and built the lovely Fatima Grotto near the Church. He was the Founder of the Holy Family Council of the Knights of Columbus in Bridgeport and the First Grand Knight. In 1963-64 he succeeded in building the Parish School and Hall on Hurst Street in Bridgeport for \$250,000.

The new School-Hall was solemnly dedicated January 26, 1964, and some 700 guests attended the subsequent banquet, the first such dinner served by the Ladies Auxiliary in the new Hall. The success of this affair and the high quality of the home-cooked food attracted the attention of other churches, civic groups and bridal parties. And so on that day the Catering Ministry of the parish was born.

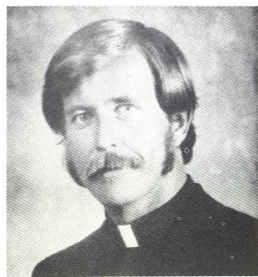
During the last 20 years approximately 100,000 people have been served by the Ladies Auxiliary of SS. Peter and Paul. This total includes almost all the local churches, scores of civic and fraternal groups, hundreds of bridal parties. Some families have returned three and four times for the bridal reception of their sons and daughters!

One truly remarkable fact is that the Ladies of the Auxiliary all work on an unpaid and volunteer basis. They are overseen by a squad of eight Hostesses, who rotate weekly to take charge of a given affair. Service for the sit-down dinners is provided by the 16 girls of the Parish Junior Sodality, who also volunteer their time and efforts.

A big attraction of the Catering Ministry



*Rev. Basil Onufrey
Sheremeta*



*Rev. Ronald Peter
Popivchak*

beautifully paneled Lounge is provided for this purpose free of charge.

Most guests are impressed by the cleanliness of the facility. A frequent comment is that one can "eat off the floor" in SS. Peter and Paul Hall.

Another attractive feature is the spacious and well-groomed grounds surrounding the banquet hall. Through the years hundreds of bridal parties have used these grounds for their photography sessions, especially the lovely Fatima Grotto with its backdrop of White Pines.

Banqueters appreciate the casual, family-like atmosphere provided by the Catering Ministry. Guests are not "pushed out the doors" after four hours or so of a wedding reception. Most parties are of five or five and a half hours' duration. Civic and Church banquets often last all night.

Current Pastor, Msgr. Ronald Popivchak supports the Catering Ministry by being present at all the receptions in the hall. He encourages the women of the Auxiliary in their ministry as Christian witnesses of service to neighbors and friends. Fr. Ronald is often called upon to say the blessing over the food for the benefit of the bride and groom, often-times in different languages.

Through this Catering Ministry the parish women have supported the parish Sunday School Program for children, the parish evening school for adults and several other charitable and religious programs.

For more information on the Christian Catering Ministry of SS. Peter and Paul Church, just give Fr. Ronald a call at 272-7035. The very modest cost, the beautiful facility and delicious home-made food will amaze you!

is the home-made preparation of such Slavic foods as holubtsi, kobasa and kapusta. Italian-style and basic American fare are also available.

To keep the cost of a banquet or wedding to a minimum, the Catering Ministry invites clients to bring in their own beverages to serve their guests. A

SS. Peter and Paul

Ukrainian Catholic Church
Bridgeport, Pennsylvania



Catering Ministry

Twentieth Anniversary

