

# Am-Pol Eagle

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## Journey in Faith and Grace has tremendous impact on Polish-American parishes

Thirty-four Polish American parishes were identified as such by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo in a book it published in 1966 to commemorate the millennium of Christianity in Poland.

In the New Visions reorganization over a decade ago a number of East Side churches in Buffalo were closed including Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Transfiguration, and St. Luke, which now serves the community as St. Luke's Mission of Mercy.

The following is the disposition of the remaining 31 Polish-American churches as the diocese finishes the Journey in Faith and Grace:

### Buffalo

St. Elizabeth, St. Francis Xavier/St. John the Baptist merged into *Assumption* (Black Rock).

*St. Florian* (Black Rock) merged into All Saints (Riverside).

*St. Adalbert* merged into *St. John Kanty* (East Side). *St. Adalbert* is appealing.

St. Stephen, *Holy Apostles Peter & Paul*, SS. Rita & Patrick, *St. Valentine, Precious Blood* (East Side) merged at St. Stephen - new name St. Clare.

*St. Stanislaus* (East Side) remains independent - to be revisited in two years.

*Corpus Christi* (East Side) is operated by the Pauline Fathers and was not part of the Journey in Faith and Grace.

*St. Casimir* and St. Bernard (Kaisertown) will link and share a pastor. The financial situation at St. Bernard as well as its "maintaining a vibrant parish life" will determine its future.

### Albion

*St. Mary Assumption* merged at St. Joseph site. New name - Holy Family.

### Batavia

*Sacred Heart* and St. Anthony parishes will merge to form one parish, using both sites.

### Cheektowaga

*St. Andrew* (Sloan) remains an independent parish.

*Queen of Peace* and Holy Name of Jesus merged into *St. John Gualbert*. "Queen of Martyrs and St. John Gualbert parishes will remain independent but should form a collaborative relationship, looking toward the future when they might be linked or merged," according to the diocese.

*Our Lady of Czestochowa* to remain independent but should prepare for merging or linking with St. Casimir and St. Bernard in the future.

*St. Josaphat* and Resurrection "will remain independent but should form a collaborative relationship, looking toward the future when they might be linked or merged," according to the diocese.

### Depew

SS. *Peter and Paul Parish* in Depew will merge with Our Lady of Pompeii in Lancaster to form a new parish with possibly a new name at the Lancaster location. Both sites can be used until July 2009.

*St. Augustine* and St. James will merge after the 100th anniversary celebration of St. Augustine in July 2009. The merged parish will determine which site will be used.

### Dunkirk

*St. Hyacinth* and *St. Hedwig* will merge to form a single parish with possibly a new name using both sites.

### Lackawanna

*St. Barbara, St. Hyacinth, St. Michael the Archangel* and Our Lady of Grace merged at St. Michael's. Now called Queen of Angels Parish.

### Medina

*Sacred Heart* merged with St. Mary and St. Stephen. Sacred Heart parish will become an oratory until the celebration of its 100th anniversary in 2010. The disposition of that property will be at the discretion of the new parish.

### Niagara Falls

*St. Stanislaus Kostka, Holy Trinity*, St. George, Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Lebanon, merged at St. Stanislaus - Now called Divine Mercy Parish. City of Niagara Falls has bestowed a historic designation on the Holy Trinity complex.

### North Tonawanda

St. Joseph merged with *Our Lady of Czestochowa* (North Tonawanda).

### Olean

*Transfiguration*, St. John, St. Helen merged at St. John site. Transfiguration to be an oratory. The parishioners are appealing.

### Perry

St. Joseph, *St. Stanislaus Kostka* and St. Mary Parish (Silver Springs) merged using St. Joseph and St. Mary. New parish to decide disposition of St. Stanislaus.

### Salamanca

*Holy Cross* merged with St. Patrick now called Our Lady of Peace (new parish will decide which site to use).