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What's left?

*The viewpoint of
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In Buffalo, there are three major league sports. The Bills, the Sabres and the Usetabees.

You know the Usetabees. If the Diocese of Buffalo closes churches like St. Casimir or St. Adalbert, 20 years from now we'll all be sitting around saying: "Remember how it used to be?"

Western New Yorkers do that with the Canadiana (the Crystal Beach boat), the Larkin Building, neighborhood theatres, etc. We have a habit of tearing things down and later lamenting the fact that they are gone.

The Diocesan publication "Millennium of Christianity of the Polish People 966-1966" listed the following Polish-American parishes:

St. Stanislaus, Buffalo.
St. Hyacinth, Dunkirk.
St. Adalbert, Buffalo.
Assumption, Buffalo.
St. Casimir, Buffalo.
Assumption, Albion.
St. John Kanty, Buffalo.
Holy Cross, Salamanca.
Transfiguration, Buffalo.
SS. Peter & Paul, Depew.
Corpus Christi, Buffalo
Holy Trinity, Niagara Falls.
Transfiguration, Olean.
St. Hedwig, Dunkirk.
OLC, North Tonawanda.
St. Barbara, Lackawanna.
Sacred Heart, Batavia.
St. Josaphat, Cheektowaga.
St. Luke, Buffalo
St. Augustine, Depew.

Holy Apostles Peter & Paul, Buffalo.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Medina.

St. Stanislaus Kostka, Perry.

St. Hyacinth, Lackawanna.

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Buffalo.

St. Andrew, Sloan.

St. John Gualbert, Cheektowaga,

Precious Blood, Buffalo.

St. Florian, Buffalo.

St. Stanislaus Kostka, Niagara Falls.

Queen of Peace, Buffalo.

St. Valentine, Buffalo.

St. Michael, Lackawanna.

OLC, Cheektowaga

(Other parishes like St. Joachim, St. Gabriel, Queen of Martyrs, Resurrection, St. Joseph were listed as territorial parishes.)

Of the main 34, how many will be left after the Journey in Faith and Grace? Will a magnificent structure like St. Casimir Parish on Weimar and Casimir Streets in Buffalo remain? Or will the "journey" lead to the end for the Byzantine-style church the diocese called "The splendor of Eastern architecture."

Will the place where Cardinal Karol Wojtyta said Mass on a visit to Buffalo's Polonia be here in another 40 years or will it be sold off as excess property?

How many churches (which could never be built today in our affluent society but were built by poor immigrants) will be sold to the highest bidder?

In the next few months, keep this list and mark what's left. Twenty-five? Twenty? How many times will be say: Remember how great St. _____ used to be?