

MRS. MARY SENKOW - (St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church)

INTERVIEWED: May 16, 1975

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Mrs. Senkow came to Richmond in 1932. There was no Ukrainian Catholic Church at the time, the people going to Vancouver to church.

The first meeting of a congregation was in 1928 at 671 Williams Road at the home of Mr. & Mrs. J. Yarmish. There were about 10 people at the meeting and father Joseph Laba took the Mass.

The decision to build a church was made in 1948 under Reverend George Zydan. The cornerstone ceremony was held August 28th, 1949, with Bishop Niel Savarin officiating.

They had been celebrating Mass and holding dances and bazaars at the Ukrainian National Education Society Hall at 531 Francis Road. The hall was built in 1936 and was burnt in 1938 and rebuilt.

Father Zydan was the Architect.

Mr. L. Koss was the Builder.

The land, two lots and church cost - \$18,000.00.

Design

Of white stucco with two projections at the front. The right one contains a stairway to the choir loft and the left one contains the furnace and sink for arranging flowers.

Entrance hall has swinging doors leading into the church.

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There is a centre aisle and pews. The floor is tiled with carpet down the aisle and around the altar.

There is a chandelier above the altar and on three columns there are candle shaped bulbs. There is also an Everlasting Light which burns all the time.

At the back is a dressing room for the Priest and another for the servers.

Donations have been given by the congregation such as the Tabernacle, Chandelier and others as listed. Explanation given of "Dalmatics".

Residence

Started June 4, 1960. At the back of the church facing Cantrell Road. Cost - \$8,700.00 with voluntary labour for Rev. S. D. Olynyk, C.S.S.R., during his ministry.

Groups

Catechism group
Ukrainian Catholic Youth
Ukrainian Women's Society
Ukrainian Language School.

The language school meets Saturdays either at the church or at the hall. The residence contains 3 bedrooms. Is of stucco with siding trim.

Services

The church follows the Byzantine Slavonic Rite and Masses are held in the Ukrainian language. It was Greek Catholic but was changed in 1954 to Ukrainian Catholic. Christmas and Easter are celebrated at the same time as everyone else now.

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Background

Local Richmond but many visitors. Predominantly Ukrainian Polish Slovak members.

Priests

Father Zydan	- to 1949
Father Martynyk	1951 - 1959
Father Bilyk	1959 - 1960
Father Olynyk	1960 - 1963.
Father Hanushewsky	1963 - 1966
Father Chehovsky	1966 - 1971
Father Barclay	1972 - 1974.

Father Carclay died 1974 and the church has had temporary Priests, among them Judge James H. Bartman, a retired ordained Priest, coming from Vancouver.

Special Events

Visits of various Bishops and Cardinals - Cardinal Joseph Slipyj in 1968 and Bishop of New Westminster for their 25th Anniversary October 13, 1974. Have also celebrated their 10th Anniversary - see newspaper.

Plans for Future

A new Priest is coming from Manitoba and should be taking his first Mass May 25th, 1975.

There have been talks of putting in an iconostasis in front of the altar (description given) and onion domes on the two front projections.

There are an average 50 people at the services, but there are more on special occasions. The church could seat about 200 or more if using the choir loft.

Upkeep

By collections and fund-raising events.

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Mrs. Senkow's mother was one of the original founding members at the first meeting in 1942 of the Women's Groups, and was the first President of the Women's Group.

MURIEL NOBLE