

A HISTORY OF THE
HOLY TRINITY UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
KERHONKSON, N.Y.

When the Ukrainian Naational Association, a fraternal order of Ukrainians living in the U.S. and Canada, purchased the estate of Dr. Foord, consisting of 400 acres and 7 buildingsto be used as a home for the aged and resort for it's members, this marked the beginning of the Ukrainian community in Kerhonkson.

A young student attending the Seminary in Stamford, CT worked many summers behind the registration desk of the U.N.A. resort, Soyuzivka. Upon his ordination to the priesthood he taught school at the Seminary and came to Kerhonkson every week end at Soyuzivka which donated him living quarters.

At first only 25 people attended. Fr. Husar with the aid of Stephen Orlowsky and Mrs. Barusewych sought out people of Ukrainian lineage in the area to become adherents of the Church. The Ukrainian National Ass'n built an outdoor chapel and people stood on a semicircular wooded hillside. In cold or inclimate weather masses were held in a recreation room made available by the Hotel. Operating as a mission of Hudson, N.Y. Fr. Husar established the parish named Holy Trinity Ukrainian CATHOLIC Church. The first trustees were Antine Chuchra and Daniel Slobodian who held this position for 17 years.

Still, small as w3e were, we all dreamed of building a Church for our children and our summer vacationers. Rev. Husar was liked by everyone but especially by children. His sermons were gems. He was a priest with a calling.

Accompanied by Dr. Barusewicz and Wolodymyr Beriska Fr. Husar met with Radoslaw Zuk, professor of architecture at McGill University in Montreal, who already had a reputation for building Ukrainian churches in Canada. He drew up several proposals and the Building Committee approved the third.

The Bishop stipulated that the parish must raise half of the building cost before building. The parish of 20 families, had very few organizations then. Soyuz Ukrainok did everything. Everyone worked. Ran every Church and holiday observance: Svyachenys, Prosfora, Shevchenko, Ukrainian Independence.

We tried various fund raisers: 50/50's, Christmas cards sold and mailed, fashion shows, bake sales and 3 lotteries. It was a lot of hard work but everyone did more than their share, Addressing envelopes, stuffing them with chance books, classifying them by zip codes took weeks. Two people assigned to pick up the mail, put in a large canvas bag, one put padlock on, the other held the key, that evening a committee of 5 met at each other's house, one opened the letter, second removed the contents, third gave tickets to the fourth and cash to the fifth, added up cash and tickets, and made out deposit.

The raffles were very successful, raising \$10 to \$14,000 each time. Our many friends and visitors contributed more than 50% to the building fund. Two organizations that gave the most were the Ukrainian American Citizens Club of Poughkeepsie, and of course Soyuz Ukrainok. Not to be forgotten, the Ukrainian National Ass'n donated 4½ acres of prime flat land, fill for landscaping for free, lodging for priests, it's facilities for dinners, special events, and pre-cooked meals for Church dinners.

Orest Bedrij, a Trustee for 5 ? years, wwas of immense help in building the Church. He negotiated with the President of the U.N.A. to donate land to the Church, contract with the Architectural Firm, prepared financial statements to submit to the bank in applying for a mortgage. The Vice President was so impressed he asked to have copies of them, saying, "You boys know what you are doing, I'd like to show them to the priest in my Church". This bank was willing to give us a mortgage for half of what we desired with the explanation that Churches are risky because sometimes the parish breaks up and the Church because of its architecturw is noT adaptable to other uses. They grant mortgages to churches as a matter of good will. We tried next the Kerhonkson National Bank. The U.N.A. president Joseph Lesawyer, explained that the law does not allow U.N.A. to grant construction loans, but with a letter signed by him saying that U.N.A. guarantees to give us a mortgage upon completion we obtained the mortgage. Thank you Ukrainian National Association.

Our parishioners were impatient that THE Church took 2 years to build. We, the Trustees were not. We gained time to raise money to meet payment deadlines to avoid late payment penalties by begging organizations and people to make good on their pledges or Please help us. Again Soyuz Ukrainok came to our rescue with \$3,000 and Zen Sawchuk with \$1,000.