

Дорогой мой друг Олег! Спасибо тебе за все!

MEMORIES

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

As I reach the autumn years of my life I wish to share some memories.

Lest anyone get the wrong idea some may be funny or seem irreverent. I love this Church and the parishioners and I did work hard for it, as did the parishioners who were generous in their contributions to the Church and humanitarian causes in Ukraine and America.

The Church Parish began with ten families and grew to the 180 families today. Our Church is all wood, designed by Radoslaw Zuk, a professor of architecture at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. It was featured on three pages in color of two leading architectural magazines; Architectural Review and Progressive Architecture. Picked as one of ten best designs of the year for it's outstanding blending of the traditional with modern elements.

I recently heard a woman, who seeing our Church for the first time, opening the door inside say, "My God, what a beautiful building".

I understand because I have the same feelings as she. Built entirely of wood, long laminated beams meet at a central point to support the high towers of the Church. A wood plank ceiling and walls give a very warm feeling and the acoustics are the best I have heard in any church.

Author Daniel Slobodian

Came to Kerhonkson in 1951 to supervise the reconstruction of Soyuzivka's buildings. Became the first manager of Soyuzivka and stayed for 19 years. When Holy Trinity Parish organized he was one of the first Trustees, a post he held for 17 years. He was a prime mover in the construction of the Church. He is still an active supporter of the Church and community affairs.

FOUNDER OF PARISH LUBOMYR HUSAR

While attending the seminary in Stamford, Connecticut, he worked summers at the UNA Estate Soyuzivka. When ordained a priest he taught in the Seminary and came to Soyuzivka every week end to say mass for the few inhabitants. Attendance grew until he established a Parish.

Rev. Husar said, "When you hear older people coughing and the cries of babies you know you have a Parish". As the Parish grew he and the building committee commissioned Radoslaw Zuk, profes-

sor of Architecture at McGill University, Montreal, Canada to draw plans for a new Church in Kerhonksonto accommodate all Ukrainians visitors and residents.

Rev. Husar was taken away from us to work as Cardinal Slipy's assistant. Today he is Metropolitan of the Kiev dioces in Ukraine.

Though few in number then, the loyal parishioners raised funds and finished the work started by Fr. Husar.

This Church was featured on three pages in color of the two leading architectural magazines, Architectural Review and Progressice Architecture. The review stated, "a pleasant blending of traditional and modern .

WHY IS THERE AN "X" BEHIND THE ALTAR?

Six round steel columns support the high towers of our Church. The architects feared that high winds of 80 miles an hour might exert such a force as to topple them down. The X brace is there to strengthen the cupporting columns.

HAS IT WORKED?

We have had three big hurricanes since the Church was built. and it is still standing. Not a hurricane but a local twister with winds of 90 miles per hour did take off shingles on two tower walls. The Priest asked the Trustees what to do. He was told to phone the Bishop's secretary. Our Church is covered by a blanket policy which covwers all churches in our diocese. I was pleasantly surprised to see two insurance adjusters arrive in two days to examine the damaage and more surprised to find the settlement figure covered the repairs completely.

ANGELS ARE WEARING OUT FLOORS IN CHURCH

When the Oprysko family moved to our area they organized and taught our children Ukrainian folk dancing every week in our Church basement.

In time remarks were made that slight signs of wear are showing on the "Dex-0-Tex" composition flooring and the instructor charges for lessons and profiting.

The dance group ~~has~~ made many appearances before American audiences and on Ukrainian holidays. Children attended classes with enthusiasm and were proud to exhibit this facet of Ukrainian culture.

Today, the group does not exist but I and many others would gladly pay the cost of a new floor to see our Angels dancing Ukrainian folk dances.

HANDICAP ACCESSABLE

I must admit we didn't plan it that way but it did turn out that our's is one of the few churches you can enter without climbing stairs. Although 90% of the people park their cars and use the stairs, it is still very convenient for disabled people to park cars on a level lot, get into a wheel chair or walk directly into Church.

The most pleasant sight however, is being inside the Church and watching a bridal procession promenade down the long sidewalk and enter the Church.

SHRUBS, YES FLOWERS, YES TREES, NO

Blue spruce and several other evergreens were planted in front of our Church. Time passed and no one realized they were no longer shrubs but in fact trees. A rude awakening was a hurricane that blew down two large pines across the street at the entrance to Soyuzivka and two old trees on our neighbor's lot which damaged his porch roof.

A second windstorm blew down trees all over Foordmore Road the night one of our organizations held a meeting under the Church. The members either walked home or slept in the lobby of Soyuzivka. Our local volunteer Fire Company worked all night until 6:00 AM with chain saws to clear the road so residents could travel the next morning.

Did this teach anyone a lesson? It took 3 years to convince the Church committee to cut down the trees before they fall on the Church. Amen

SINGING THAT BROKE GLASS

It was a week day morning mass. The Priest was singing. The entire sidewall of our Church has sliding glass doors which are opened in summer to allow those who cannot be accommodated inside to see and hear the mass.

For no apparent reason one large pane of glass broke into a thousand pieces none larger than a half inch.

As new glass was being installed, the workman explained this is a special glass made for strength. It is under extreme tension and sometimes a sound wave of the proper wave length can cause the glass to break as happened here.

THE ROOF IS FALLING

The new Trustees called on me to join five others they had called. Inside the Church they pointed out to us something which was brought to their attention by a visiting engineer.

The large laminated beams that hold the roof rest on steel brackets which are welded to steel columns. On one of these brackets a large crack was pointed out .

All agreed it was a serious condition that required immediate action. But the ex-Trustee kept looking at the crack high above. After 15 minutes, he noticed that the crack moved when a slight movement of air occurred by someone opening a door.

Turning to the present Trustees he said, "Mr. Lytwyn, get two or three long sticks, tie them together, wrap a rag around the end and wipe that cobweb off!"

Why was a Canadian Architect Chosen?

Wladimyr Zuk has a reputation as a Church designer in Canada. The original conception of our Church design was his but the plans had to be approved by N.Y. State. So, a company that had a license to practice in N.Y. State had to be found.

How Could they Supervise from Canada?

Beautifully. I have never seen better supervision by an Architect. Every week he phoned me or I phoned him to report how the work was progressing. At critical times he drove down to inspect the work being done versus the specifications. Example: When the foundation was dug it was measured for accuracy, every pour of concrete was tested to see it complied with the strength specified in the contract, when steel bars were laid he found they were laid not in accordance with plan specifications, the concrete pouring which was to occur the next day was called off until a correction was made.

Specifications stipulated that the laminated beams were to have no more than a specific number of knots depending on the length of the beam, grades of lumber, hardware, roofing, etc. everything was specified and the contractor was estopped from making substitutions without approval of the architect.

Pews

Obvious. Folding chairs are not that beautiful or comfortable. Mention pews and everyone thinks of the hard oak straight back seats. I have not sat in one that I could say was comfortable.

In the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C I finally found a comfortable Church seat. They are wooden individual chairs with arms, commercial quality Naugahyde padded seats and backs. Though they are individual chairs dovetail slots enable them to be locked together.

Their versatility enables one to remove a row if you need more aisle space for weddings or religious holidays.

Mainly, the chairs are comfortable and we seniors who have supported the Church all our life and continue to so long as we are able, have done our suffering for a lifetime, deserve a few comforts in our golden years. †

IF IT AINT BROKE DONT FIX IT

As you look out our wall of sliding glass doors you look upon a flagstone patio in the center of which is a wooden cross in the middle of a pretty flower bed, usually well kept by a few dedicated persons who love their Church.

Every once in a while someone suggests we take out the flagstone pour concrete or asphalt. Please dont. The flagstone is embedded in stone dust, not sand. In Ellenville, the Urban Renewal Agency and village wanted to update Market St. where a new large store "Richie's" is. New Sidewalks were put in using bricks laid in a bed of stone dust because stone dust, unlike sand does not move around stays firmly imbedded. So far .It has lasted 30 years.

A COOL CHURCH? NOT YET

A heating engineer I hired to replace a furnace looked at the way our walls and ceiling all converged to the towers stated what an ideal situation it was for cooling the Church. Since hot air rises all we need is an open window in the tower and a fan to help draw the hot air and blow it out and be replaced by cooler air outside.

No action was taken until a couple of years later a new Church committee installed a fan. It was tried out once and never used again. The noise and vibration was just too much.

Even without a fan the idea would work to some extent. Another engineer advises try a smaller size fan with a quieter motor. I still think the idea is good.

AIR CONDITIONING

We were advised that to air condition the Church would be prohibitively expensive due to many obstacles. I was told the same thing about Soyuzivka's dining room. Years later the industry developed small window units that made it possible. I think the same thing will happen, they will conceive of other ways to air condition. For us, NOT YET.

WHO DIMMED THE LIGHTS?

I have heard people say we need better lighting in Church. How old are you? Sometimes they tell me. I confess to being 79. The lights are dimmer to me, too. Yet, just 5 years ago singing with the Church choir I had no trouble reading music and words.

Our Church lighting is indirect, the easiest and best lighting. You don't see bare bulbs to hurt your eyes. True, someone had replaced the bulbs with half the wattage, which was false economy. Also with the years the sockets deteriorated so only half the remaining lights function. A new Church Architectural advisory Board is studying this matter.

Who dimmed the lights? Do as I did, see an Ophthalmologist.

GAMBLING IS ILLEGAL EXCEPT

In the early years our Parish was too small to build a church by itself. We counted on the good will of the many guests who frequented Soyuzivka and Ukrainians in the diaspora to support us. And they did.

To raise funds we mailed reffles to our Ukrainians all over the U.S. and Canada. Our local parishioners worked hard evenings and afternoons four times a week stuffing envelopes, sorting them by zip codes, addressing, etc.

Once a week two trusted workers picked up returning mail from the post office box, placed in a large canvas bag with a lock and that evening 5 people opened counted and checked the mail every week.

To our surprise we received a letter from the U.S. Postal Service that we were guilty of conducting illegal gambling.

I was hard for us to believe that with gambling casinos thriving Junk mail offers, and state government Lotto games our little church is accused of gambling.

It turned out, we neglected to put a small print statement that you need not pay any money in order to win which would then make it legal.

We explored running BINGO GAMES for raising funds but found the bureaucratic red tape made it impractical for us.

Moral is that Gambling is illegal except when the government does it.

DE YE CHOR ?
WHERE'S THE CHOIR ?

Easter Sunday. The Church was packed. The Priest sang and response "Chrystos Voskres" (Christ Has Risen) was not being sung and the Priest turned to where the choir should be and asked, "Where's the choir?"

At the age of 16 I began singing in the Elizabeth, N.J. Church choir. Every Ukrainian Church had a choir. Perth Amboy, Carteret, Elizabeth, Newark, Jersey City, Passaic, N.Y. City, Yonkers, etal. It was our way of life to attend choir practice every Friday night load the guys and gals into our 12 year old Model A Fords (they cost all of \$25.00 then) stop at a diner, for coffee and a bun, or a low cost night club for a beer or two (all we could afford). We also made plans to attend other Ukrainian functions. Every choir in the area sponsored a Ball once or twice a year and every city supported each other's dances.

In those depression years of the 1930's when one in 4 people were unemployed we had good times at minimal costs. Bus outings to the seashore, boat rides and picnics where we boys chipped in to buy a small keg of beer, hot dogs, rolls, pickles, etc. and took all our choir members in our jalopies to one of the state parks where they had grills and swimming facilities.

We worked once in a while for the Church, too. Caroling Christmas time brought in good money toward paying off the Church mortgage, helping out in other Church affairs such as Easter dinners, Bazaars, etc.

We were the Americans born of Ukrainian immigrants, some went to Ukrainian school 3 evenings every week, most never did learn the language to any great degree. But we all knew who we were of the land of our parents, even though there was not a single history book on Ukraine in the English language. Anything on Ukraine was written by Russians. Strange to believe, the beauty of our Ukrainian Church music sung by our Choirs attracted and held many of our youth. Even intermarriages, Ukrainian words were written in English phonetics so they could sing. Every choir had a few members, I know for a fact that Miami, Florida and Binghamton, N.Y. had a goodly number who required this but still enjoyed singing and taking part in the mass.

Our Kerhonkson community is composed of a large number of senior citizens in retirement. Many still maintain fairly good voices, they still enjoy singing Church Music and Ukrainian classic folk songs which were sung in Church and Ukrainian Holidays. Not to be compared to The Banduristy, Dymka, Dr. Wolansky with his love of music did turn out a drilled, cohesive group who maintained Ukrainian Culture.

Idon't know who ended the Choir's singing in Church . I will say "Abe tebe kachka Kopnula". As I sit in Church today I can still hear hear beautiful music as it was once sung.

EASY TO GET A MORTGAGE ? NO WAY

Orest Bedrij engaged in promoting, incorporating and merging corporations, and I, two trustees went to two local banks. Orest presided the Vice President of Ellenville Trust Co with a prepared presentation stating our financial position, growth rate of the parish, total amount of money pledged by members and projected earnings. After reading, he smiled at us and said, "You boys really know what you're doing. Excuse me a minute. Mind if I make a copy of it for myself?"

Then he explained the bank's policy on mortgages to churches. The construction of churches is such that they have poor marketability. They are not easily converted or saleable for other uses. Disagreements occur, fighting disbands the church and the bank is left with property of little or no value. We put more value on the character, background and responsibility of the men on the board pushing the project. If we do grant a mortgage it is not for business but for maintaining good will in the community. If you get a bank willing to grant half the mortgage you require we will go for the other half.

The same thing we heard from the Kerhonkson National Bank but they said they would take over the whole mortgage.

The Ukrainian National Association, by State Insurance Laws could not grant a Construction Loan but, with the signature of the President of the UNA stating that upon completion of construction the U.N.A. will take over the mortgage the two banks were willing to talk to us.

The Ukrainian National Ass'n , as it has in the past, helped many Ukrainian Churches get built, helped us in many other ways, too. They donated the three plus acres, allowed us to take fill from their property across the road, snow plowed our parking lot, catered many of our Church dinners at little or no cost. I do think it is time for someone to say, "Thank You, Batko Soyuz".

** Both banks have since merged, are now known as Fleet Bank and Key Bank.

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASS"N TOO MUCH DEMOCRACY?

This Organization founded by hard working coal miners in Pennsylvania by predominantly Lemkos in my opinion deserves more credit for the work it has done in Ukraine's fight for independence, recognition and Ukrainian American organizations.

For 104 years it has published the daily Ukrainian newspaper Svoboda then in the English language the Ukrainian Weekly. The U.N.A. has borne the costs of these newspapers which have never in any year made a profit. Criticisms range from the ridiculous to the absurd even though the UNA paid one million each year the newspapers were losing. Pointing out to some readers that each issue they pay 6¢ for cost 13¢ just to mail. Costs of wages for editors, writers, printers, paper, ink, presses and building are not included.

Maintaining Soyuzivka also costs the UNA annually. We all think the newspapers and Soyuzivka are beneficial and worth keeping up for our members as a fraternal order.

It wasn't easy growing up in America and having everyone say you were part of Russia, therefore Russian. Through ignorance the Media fostered this lie. Even Encyclopaedia Britannica wrote of Ukraine as Southern Russia. I was in my late teens when the UNA underwrote publishing first pamphlets, then books on Ukrainian history.

I was 12 yrs. old when my father took me to march up 7th Ave. New York City with 10,000 Ukrainians protesting the Famine in Ukraine and the loss of 7 million. Of the 5 major Newspapers only the N.Y. Daily News mentioned the demonstration stating that eggs and tomatoes were thrown at the marchers by communists and the arrest of one for hitting the American Flag.

For a while it was almost a weekly occurrence for Ukrainians to seek a mortgage to buy an apartment house in which they put up 10% and wanted UNA to put up 90% for the mortgage. Hard to explain to them was that the laws governing Insurance fraternal prohibited loans on such margins.

A long time-consuming phone call to UNA home office from a woman asking to stay at Soyuzivka for free and to pay her transportation was made. Asked if she was a member of UNA, she said, "No". I ask, what Dim Varyatiw (Nut House) was she phoning from?

Besides parades, manifestations, protests, meetings with government officials, the UNA backed the Ukrainian cause more than any other organization in the USA.

So far as Auditing goes, UNA is audited by insurance auditors of every state of the U.S.A. and Canada they do business in. The ratio of UNA reserves to insurance in force is better than most large insurance companies, including Prudential. The Insurance Departments would not allow our two Ukrainian fraternal to merge if they were bad financially. On the contrary, because they are in such good financial shape the merger has their approval.

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