



Calumet City Historical Society Newsletter

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www.calumetcityhistoricalsociety.org

May — July 2019

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A Note to the Members . . .

The June Program and Concert was a one-of-a-kind enjoyable day. There was a presentation with a brief history of Saint Victor Parish and tour of the original stained-glass windows dating to 1928. Following, the Saint Victor Pentecost Concert featured the St. Victor Celebration Choir, San Victor Spanish Choir, South Holland Master Chorale, and Gargoyle Brass of Chicago.

JULY MEETING & PROGRAM

The **July General Membership Meeting** is Sunday, July 14, at 2:00 p.m., followed by refreshments. At 3:00 p.m., the program will be **Folk and Frontier Houses** (see page 4). There will be a 50/50 raffle. This is sure to be another informative presentation.

EXPANDED HOURS FOR JULY & AUGUST

The Historical Society Center, 760 Wentworth Avenue, will be open on **Tuesdays** from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., in addition to Thursdays and 2nd Sundays.

HERITAGE DAY AMERICANA

Good news that the Calumet City Historical Society will host another Heritage Day Americana event at the log cabin site on Sunday, September 8. Marilyn Schultz will chair the event and Marge Michel will assist as co-chair. The menu will feature grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, plus popular items from last year, including a beer booth. If you can volunteer during the event, please let us know.



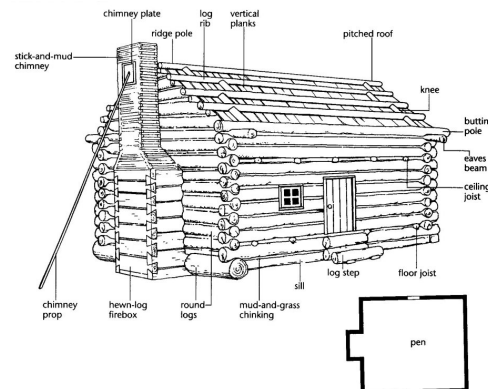
Photo. Fr. Dave Pavlik thanking everyone at the concert.

CRAFTERS WANTED

During Heritage Day Americana, there are a few spaces available for crafters (cost is \$20). Please contact us.

LOG CABIN SITE CLEAN UP

To prepare for the Heritage Day Americana event, two clean ups are planned for **Saturdays, August 17 & August 24** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Volunteers are needed to help at the cabin, grounds, and prepare the plantings.



**July 14
Program
Folk and
Frontier
Houses**

**Calumet City
Historical Society**
760 Wentworth Ave.

Museum Hours:
Tuesday 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Thursday 1:00-4:00 p.m.
2nd Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.

**General Membership
Meetings & Program:**
2nd Sundays (generally),
Meeting 2:00 p.m.
Program 3:00 p.m.

See newsletter for schedule.

Membership Drive Update. . .

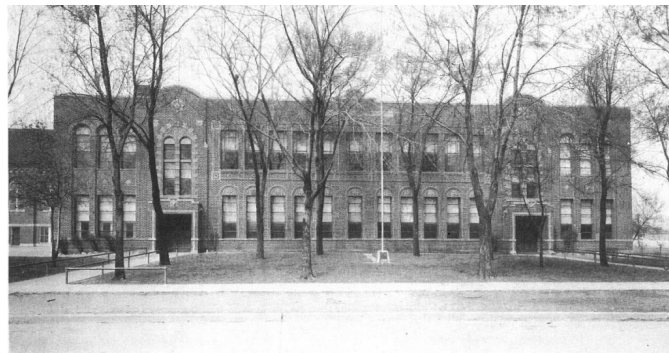
We appreciate your support! If your membership has expired, you can renew at anytime to become a member in good standing (a membership form is included with this newsletter). Also, you can contact Casimira Bilinski to check the status of your membership. Dues can be given to Casimira, mailed, or dropped off at the Calumet City Historical Society Center.

Membership is open to all and new members are always welcome. Forms can be found on our website, at our Center, or the Calumet City Public Library.

Welcome New Members. . .

Welcome new members who have joined in 2019:

- Kathy Barron, Calumet City
- Michaelene Edgeworth, Lansing
- Margaret Evans, Lansing
- Dr. Wayne & Janice Helge, Mokena
- Kevin Kolczynski, Calumet City
- Irene Rutkowski, Schererville, Ind.
- Dennis & Charlene Sidkey, Munster, Ind.
- Henrietta Wright, Calumet City



St. Victor's School

The Calumet City Historical Society, Inc. is an Illinois non for profit corporation, and a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Mail: PO Box 1917, Calumet City, IL 60409

- Board of Directors 2019**
Mike Wolski, President
Marge Michel, Vice President
Marilyn Schultz, Secretary
Louis Krawczyk, Treasurer
Mark Mikals
Lori Munda
Sue Warner

Happy 25th Silver Anniversary. . .

Congratulations to Ray & Casimira Bilinski who have celebrated their Jubilee 25th Wedding Anniversary on June 4, 2019. On their anniversary date, they received a special Silver Jubilee blessing at St. Andrew Church by Fr. Jacek Dada. In celebration, CCHS had a cake at our June General Membership Meeting. Congratulations!



Calumet City Historical Society Raffle. . .

The 2019 Calumet City Historical Society Raffle tickets will be mailed or available for pick up at the July General Membership Meeting.

This year the proceeds will be dedicated to the Log Cabin Fund. The cash prizes will be:

- First prize – \$200**
- Second prize – \$100**
- Third prize – \$50**
- Fourth prize – \$50**

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will take place Sunday, September 8, 3:30 p.m. at Heritage Day Americana. Winner need not be present. All support is greatly appreciated. Marge Michel has volunteered to coordinate the sales of the raffle tickets again this year. If you need additional tickets, please let us know or come to the Center. Thanks.

Cal City Area History. . .

Saint Victor Parish was founded on April 19, 1925 to serve a growing population in Calumet City, many of whom worshipped in Hammond, Ind. The homilies would be in English as the new parish served a large population of 2nd generation Polish, and also, Italian, Irish, German, Slavic, and Lithuanians. The first building was wooden and erected at the corner of Price Avenue and Memorial Drive. Fr. William Rooney was the founding pastor.



The school building was completed in 1926. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur arrived that summer to staff the school, which opened with 340 pupils. The first floor was a hall and a library on the south end, and a kitchen and dining room for the sisters at the north end. The 2nd floor was six classrooms, a chapel, and the sisters' sleeping quarters. Sister Blandine was the first principal. In 1928, a four-year high school course was inaugurated and the grammar school had 452 students. Mass was celebrated in the new brick church December 23, 1928. The architecture is Romanesque in style and originally sat 729 people.

Weathering the Great Depression, the church continued to grow. A convent was built ca. 1951, a new rectory in 1955, and school wing addition in 1956. In 1959, the interior of the church was remodeled from the Latin form. A Jubilee 2000 fundraiser restored the plaster, new paint, and refinished the original hardwood floors (throwing out the carpeting added from the 1960s), and exists much as we see it today. In 1978, the sanctuary was renovated and sculptor Lillian Brulc designed a new two-piece crucifix—the beautiful bronze crucifix still hangs above the altar.

Many ministries were created to serve the community, such as Jubilee Retreat weekends, Operation Summer for teens, Victor Care, A.A., Al-anon, and a soup kitchen. Since the 1970s thru today, the music ministry has been outstanding.



In the 1990s, the job market, changes in population, and an aging congregation saw a decline, but in the 2000s, new parishioners joined the church with great diversity including Nigerian, Latino, in addition to multi-generation residents. The Hispanic community grew fast and two masses in Spanish were added—one filling the church to capacity that additional pews had to be brought back. In 2016, St. Victor and Our Lady of Knock combined resources and staffing to become a bigger Parish. However, with the current Renew My Church program, an official Decree was issued that starting July 1, 2019, the three parishes of Calumet City would be extinguished and one new parish would be formed with three worship sites. The name ad interim is *Our Lady of Knock and SS. Andrew and Victor Parish*.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

The windows were made by the Tyrolese Art Glass Co., Innsbruck, Austria. Each of the Neo-Romanesque windows feature an oculus.

Above photo. Saint Pope Victor I.

Victor, dressed in full papal regalia, stands at a church entrance to proclaim the day of Easter. He is holding the papal crozier and the scroll with medallion. Because of Pope Victor (189-199 A.D.), the date of Easter was set on a Sunday to unify the celebration.

Left photo. Saint Paul & Saint Peter.

Paul, standing with Peter before Christ, is presenting a book of his works to Christ. Peter is kneeling as he receives the crossed keys from Christ. The scene is known as *traditio legis*, or the passing of the law, connecting every Pope since in a unbroken chain.





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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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Upcoming Events:

July 14 – 2:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting.

Program - 3:00 p.m.: *“Folk and Frontier Houses”* – Regional building types in America adapted to their specific locations and changed with technology. Folk types outside of Colonial New England resulted from territorial expansion in the 19th Century with nearly one-million settlers spreading to the Mississippi River. Building types included: Cape Cod Cottages, Cracker, Creole, Shotgun, Conch, Sod, Log, Fachwerk, Box-and-Strip, Balloon Frame, and Spanish Territorial Architecture. Enjoy this slide show by Mike Wolski. Also, there will be a 50/50 raffle.

August 11 – 2:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting.

Program - 3:00 p.m.: *Introduction to your Local Forest Preserves – The Building of a Community.* Director Stephen Defalco will give a presentation on all the forest preserves in Calumet City, including Sandridge Nature Center and Preserves, Shabbona Camp Ground, Green Lakes, Wentworth Woods, and others.

August 17 & 24 – 9:00 a.m. Volunteer cabin clean up.

Log Cabin Site - Anytime, approx. 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.

September 8 – Heritage Day Americana.

Log Cabin Site - 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. Save the date! Bring your friends and neighbors and enjoy a relaxing afternoon. There will be food, beverages, and a beer booth. Also, music, crafter/demonstrator booths, games, tours of the historic log cabin, and the County Store will be open. The Calumet City American Legion will assist in the flag raising ceremony at 12:30 p.m. The Raffle drawing will be at 3:30 p.m. All net proceeds from the event and annual raffle will benefit The Cabin Fund.

October 13 – 2:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting.

Program - 3:00 p.m.: T.B.A.

RUMMAGE SALE & MUSEUM STORE

A mini rummage sale will continue during museum hours on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and second Sunday to benefit CCHS. Also, do not forget to visit the Museum Store of wonderful history items.
