

Msgr. Bernard Reilly

Those Were the Days

It was the latter part of the '70's when I was an associate at St. Casimir, 1976-1980. Fr. Al Hornberger was the pastor and Fr. Duaine Pamment was a part-time associate since he was also full-time at the Diocesan Tribunal. For the first two years I lived "above the Office" across from the Church, then I moved into the "little house without a prairie."

Big parish activities were all the rage: annual Corn Roast, the first (Polka) Polish Mass - since Pope (Saint) John Paul II was elected in 1978, Saturday night dinner dances, Sr. Lucene's 50th Jubilee in 1977, etc.

Fr. Al and I got along famously, I think. He loved to cook and I loved to eat his cooking - except for the time when I thought he was serving squash (which I LOVE,) only to discover after I had a fork-full in my mouth that it was rutabaga-ugh! He never served it at table again though I can't say he never fixed it for himself.

The doors of the rectory were always open to welcome seminarians overnight or for a summer job, or to receive someone in need. Fr. Al was the quintessential Christian Service leader. (That's not a bad way to be remembered, ever!)

All-in-all, it was the second of three great formative assignments as an associate. Thanks for the memories, and let's Pray for One Another.

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