

**Pavučina Corner – By Tony Kadlec**

**HISTORY OF ST. JOSEPH SETTLEMENT AND MONSIGNOR FRANTIŠEK TICHÝ PART 2 of 2**

Forward by Fr. Bob Mraz

I am pleased to present the second of the two-part series on Monsignor František Tichý and the early community of the St. Joseph Catholic Church, as contributed by Fr. Bob Mraz.

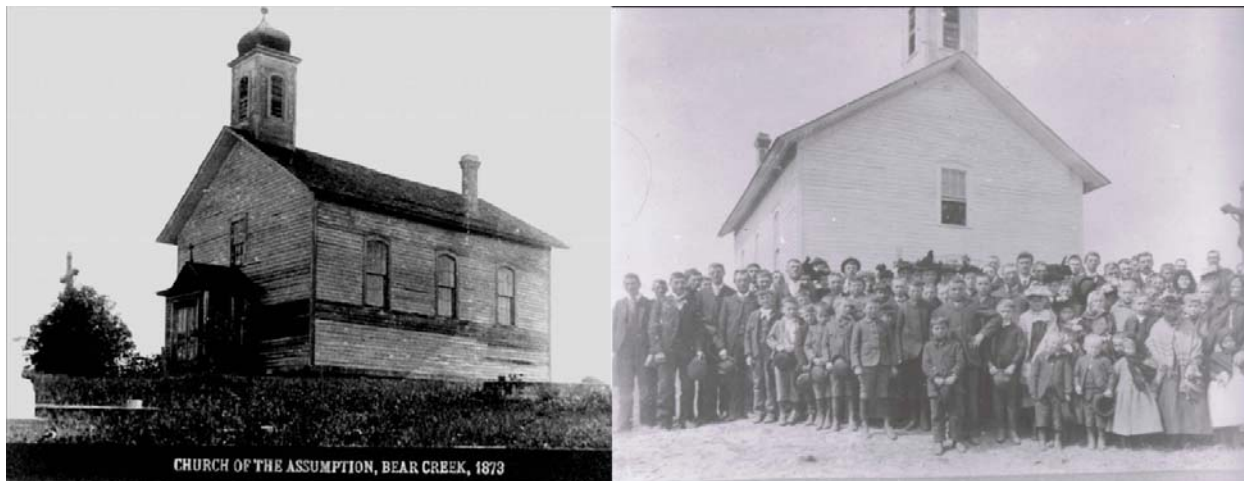
In 1909 the priests of Czech nationality serving in the St. Paul Archdiocese (now comprising the territory of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota and the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota - in which Silver Lake is located), formed the League of Bohemian Priests of the St. Paul Archdiocese (in Czech: “Vydala Líga Českých Kněží Arcidiecese St. Paulské”). They determined to write a book about the history of the Czech Communities in the Archdiocese of St. Paul including personal biographies of the Czech Priests.

In 1910 they published a book in the Czech Language entitled Průvodce Po Českých Katolických Osadách V Arcidiececi St. Paul, Minn. Ve Spojených Státech Sev. Amerických (A Guide to Czech Catholic Communities in the Archdiocese of St. Paul, Minnesota in the United States of North America).

We thank Jerome J. Michael, Rockville, Maryland who translated the book from Czech into English. Below is Part two of this two part series pertaining to the Czech community of Silver Lake, Minnesota as it was a century ago in 1910, by Rev. František Tichý.

**HISTORY OF ST. JOSEPH SETTLEMENT AND MONSIGNOR FRANTIŠEK TICHÝ PART 2 of 2**

There can be little said about the religious life and activities of local pioneers in those times. The struggle for survival was hampered by native population of Indians, adverse climatic conditions, dense inaccessible forests, plains extending beyond the horizon, rivers and creeks without a single bridge or crossing points. The battle with the nature and its environment was indeed difficult. Living conditions and standard of our pioneers, men, women, and children alike, improved slowly with an enormous human effort on the part of them all. In the absence of spiritual leaders - Czech clergy - and without knowledgeable leadership among its ranks, only life experience and losses of loved ones forced them to initiate, in 1867, a Catholic cemetery on Bear Creek, about four miles south of today's town of Silver Lake. It was not until mid 1870's that they began to plan the construction of a small church. However, the first attempts to accomplish this task were without success for lack of interest and personal sacrifice. Only in 1873 and 1874 was the first small Czech church built in the area, near the above mentioned cemetery on Bear Creek. Major credit for the construction went to the families of Vosmek and Zicha and for regular services to the eternal singer Josef Kučera and to this day (1910) still living elder Josef Popelka.



**Historical photos of the Church of the Assumption, Bear Creek, McLeod County, Minnesota.**

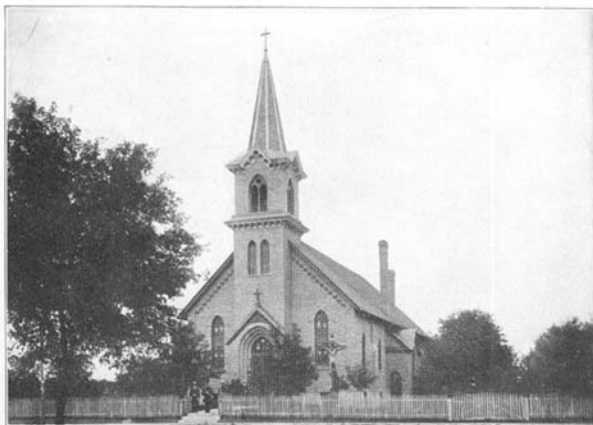
The small settlement was from its beginning visited young priests- missionaries, the first, may have been a certain Rev. Hvězda (Czech for “star”), although the first one remembered was Rev. Stern (German for “star”), a German who understood Czech language. Another missionary was a Frenchman of unknown name. The third one who stopped here for but a short time was Rev. Josef Juskiwicz, a Polish national. There were many Polish and Czech immigrants in this fertile country. The missionaries held religious services either at the “Kašpar” school or on the farms of the Zicha and Vosmek families before 1870. Between 1873 and 1875 it was the visiting Czech priest. Rev. Šteinochr who came to America with Rev. Cipín, theologian (seminarian) František Tichý and three others who had passed away. In 1876 and 1877 it was the famous missionary, Czech-Polish Rev. P. Šulák (deceased) from Chicago, who paid several visits to Silver Lake during holiday seasons.

Hon. Rev. Honorát Povolný of St. Francis Order from the German settlement of Winsted paid visits to Bear Creek once or twice a month from 1878 to 1882, after his departure from Winsted. Polish priests from Silver Lake assumed missionary duties here, having built their own church with the aid of their Czech brethren in about 1879. Their missions lasted two years, from 1882 to 1883. Their names were Rev. Socha, Zavadilski, and Tizkiewicz, all deceased. At the same time an invitation from Bear Creek extended to the current Archbishop’s counsel Hon. Rynda from St. Paul. The Czechs got their own priest in 1894 in the person of Rev. Fr. Jiránek who also served the Poles. During his time the Czech settlement at Silver Lake achieved a remarkable progress.

During the years of 1874 through 1894 the church at Bear Creek was virtually abandoned. Silver Lake, however, grew to become a lively little town to which farmers from Bear Creek and for miles from the north, west and east, came to market their produce and, on Sundays, to worship at the Polish church. No services were offered at Bear Creek. The situation was an indication of the desirability of having a Czech church built at Silver Lake. Fr. Jiránek successfully began a collection of funds for the new church and took to found St Joseph’s

settlement. Fr. Jiránek's signature appears as that of the founder of St. Joseph's settlement on the documents of McLeod County, in Glencoe, as well as on the first page of the settlement chronicle along with those of Hon. Archbishop Ireland, Louis Caillet – Vicar General, and leading citizens Josef Popelka and František Navrátil, dated April 6 1895. However, it was not until the administration of his successor, Father Jaroslav Čermák, who assumed his office as the parish priest at Christmas 1895, that a new church and a parish office was completed, serving the good citizens of the settlement.

Unfortunately a mistake common to all new churches occurred here as well: the church today (in 1910) is too small. Father Čermák led St. Joseph's settlement at Silver Lake for more than ten years. After his transfer to New Prague, Father František Tichý, Dean of New Prague, was appointed parish priest on July 1, 1906. He built a cement sidewalk around the parish office and the church, founded St. Aloysius Association of Young Men and St. Cecilia Association for Young Women. Several new benches were added in the church, and steam heat was installed for eleven hundred dollars. It is with pleasure that we observe the rapid pace the community development despite the fact that the settlement did not have a Czech Catholic school, with no more than ten settlers locally, with the rest coming from farms scattered miles out. Although regular catechism classes are held each Saturday morning at Bear Creek and in the afternoon at Silver Lake, it will be the parents' task to properly educate their children to be wise and respectful before God and people. May God be helpful to them, along with St. Joseph, patron of this settlement.



Chrám Páně sv. Josefa v Silver, Lake, Minn.



Fara v Silver Lake, Minn.

**Historical photo of the St. Joseph Church and Rectory, circa 1910.**

### **Order of Services in Silver Lake, Minnesota**

Workdays - Mass at 8 o'clock.. Sundays and official holy days: first Mass with short sermon - 8 o'clock, sung Mass with sermon at 10 o'clock (summer), one half hour later in winter. Communion is given after main mass.

### **Names of Church Counsels in Silver Lake, Minnesota**

Fr. Kopecký, treasurer; Jan J. Drahoš, secretary; Jan Vojta and Fr. Fiala, trustees.

Associations and Officers in Silver Lake, Minnesota

St. Joseph Association (Section West): František Navrátil, chairman; Václav Popelka, vice-chairman; secretary; Jan J. Drahoš, František Hlávka accountant; František Stíbal, treasurer.

St. Vaclav (Wenceslaus) Association (Katolický Dělník) – (Catholic Workmen) Josef Stíbal, chairman; Jan Šulc, Secretary; Jan Krejčí, financial secretary; Jan Vojta, treasurer.

Knights of St. George (Section West): František Kopecký, Chief Knight; František Čermák, secretary; Jan Mička, treasurer.

St. Aloysius Young Men's Association: František Stíbal, chairman; Arnošt Dudek, vice-chairman; Josef Podhrázký, secretary; Jindřich Navrátil, treasurer.

Church Association of Holy Rosary: Elder sisters of the association of the rose: Rosalie Berková, Anna Svobodová, Františka Šulcová, Františka Novotná.

St. Rosalie Association (Central Womens Unity): Josefka Drahošová, chairperson; Josefka Fialová, vice-chair; Františka Píchová, secretary; Rosalie Berková, treasurer; Marie Uherková, bookkeeper.

St. Cecilia Women's Association: Františka Stíbalová, chairperson; Emilie Hlávková, vice-chairperson; Emilie Svobodová, secretary; Marie Podrázká, treasurer.

Catholic Families (and several mixed religion) Contributing to St. Joseph Church in SilverLake, Minnesota- 1910

Andrle Josef	Doležal Josef	Jilek František	Miška František
Ardolf Josef	Doubek Jan	Jilek Jan	Miška Jan
Ardolf Josef Ed.	Doubek Jakob.	Jilek Václav	Miškovský Jan
Ardolf Karel	Drahoš Jan J.	Kašpar Jiří	Miskovský Jan W.
Ardolf Vojtěch	Drahoš Jan	Koktán Jan	Moravec Josef
Bandas František	Dužovski Antonín	Kolář František	Mulva František
Bednář Jan	Fiala František	Kopecký František	Navrátil František jun.
Berka Jan	Flídr Josef	Krejčí Jan	Navrátil František sen.
Buřič František	Hemza Josef	Kučera Jan	Novák František
Buřič Josef	Hlávka František	Kurc Jan	Novotný Josef
Čačka Antonín	Hlávka František J.	Lhotka Vojtěch	Osmík František
Čačka Vincenc	Horníček František	Lorenc Jan	Osmík Jan
Čáp Josef	Hořejší Vojtěch	Lorenc Josef	Osmík Vilém
Čápek Antonín	Chalupský Antonín	Makovský Stanislav	Papež František
Čekal František	Chalupský František	Matoušek Josef	Pauliš Jan
Čermák František	Chapluský Josef	Matoušek Viktor	Peňáz Antonín
Červený František	Chalupský Václav	Mička Jan	Peňáz František
Doležal František	Chrást Rudolf	Mikeš František	Peňáz Václav
Doležal Jan	Jauoušek František	Miška Emil	Pešek František

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Pešek Václav	Rys Josef	Urban Václav
Pícha Jan	Soběslavský Jan	Vacek František
Pícha Josef	Stíbal František	Vacek. Matěj
Podhrázký Jan	Stíbal Josef	Veselý František
Podhrázký Josef	Stíbal Petr	Vojta František
Pokorný Josef	Strejček Jan	Vojta Jan
Pokorný Václav	Strejček Vilém	Vokál František
Popelka Josef	Svoboda Josef	Vokál Vincenc
Popelka Václav	Šmída František	Vosmek Antonín jun.
Portele Josef	Šmída Josef	Vosmek, Antonín sen.
Pošusta Josef	Šulc Jan	Vosmek Eduard
Pražák Vaclav	Šulc. Vincenc	Vosmek Gustav
Prosecký Jan.	Šustáček František	Vosmek Jiří
Ptáček Jan	Šváb Antonín	Vosmek Josef
Pulkrábek Antonín	Ťupa Jan	Zajíček Jan
Pulkrábek František	Ťupa Josef	Zajíček Karel
Pulkrábek Jan	Uherka Václav	Zanoth Albert
Pulkrábek Vaclav	Urban Antonín	Záruba Josef
Pulkrábek Vilém	Urban František jun.	Zavoral Vaclav
Růžička Jan	Urban Frantisek sen.	Zich Josef
Růžička Josef	Urban František H.	Zicha Alois
Růžička Josef K.	Urban Jan jun.	Zicha František
Růžička Josef sen.	Urban Jan sen.	Žejdlík Josef
Růžička Karel	Urban Josef H.	Žižka Václav
	Urban Josef W.	

If you have any contributions or suggestions for topics for future columns, please contact me by email: [tkadlec@gmail.com](mailto:tkadlec@gmail.com) or call me: (651) 271-0422 or send your letters to my attention: 1408 Fairmount Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105. Děkuji! Tony Kadlec