

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church Project

Parisioner Experience

O. H. 547

HELEN BOSAK

Interviewed

by

Mary Lou Shirilla

on

December 11, 1986

HELEN BOSAK

Mrs. Helen Bosak was born March 7, 1935 in Poland, Ohio, one of nine children of Michael and Josephine Hvizdos. The family owned a dairy farm, and Helen helped with many of the daily chores, even as a young child.

She attended Poland Elementary School, and later Poland High School, graduating from there in 1953. While still in high school, she took many awards for her bookkeeping and secretarial skills.

She was employed by Strouss-Hirshberg Department Store from 1953-56. During this period she met and married her husband, Thomas Bosak. The Bosak's owned and operated City Office and Art Company from 1957 until 1975. They then sold the business and Mr. Bosak became an independent trucker for North American Van Lines. Mrs. Bosak served as bookkeeper for her husband during this time.

The Bosak's are the parents of three children: Mrs. Delores A. Leone; Thomas S. Bosak, Jr.; and Katherine M. Bosak. They also have one granddaguhter, Rachelle Leone.

Helen Bosak has been a member of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic church since her marriage to Thomas Bosak, June 4, 1955. She was an officer in the P.A.C.E. Club (Parents and Associates for Catholic Education), and was actively involved with the Parent Teacher Guild of Byzantine Catholic Central School. Presently, she remains actively involved with the parish by using her artistic talents to decorate the church for special occasions.

In addition to decorating the church, she used her artistic abilities to create wood crafts, and in cake decorating.

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INTERVIEWEE: HELEN BOSAK

INTERVIEWER: Mary Lou Shirilla

SUBJECT: P.A.C.E. Club Fund, Fund raisers, Social Events,
Baptisms, Decorating the church

DATE: December 11, 1986

S: This is an interview with Mrs. Helen Bosak for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the history of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church project, by Mary Lou Shirilla, on December 11, 1986, at 10:30 a.m., at Mrs. Bosak's home.

Helen, before we get started talking about your involvement with the church, can you give me a little bit of background about yourself?

B: Okay, my maiden name was Helen Hvizdos, and I lived in Poland, and I was born there. I am one of nine children. I have three sisters and five brothers. We all grew up on a 118 acre farm. We worked there, and we went to a Roman Catholic church, Holy Trinity.

S: You went to Holy Trinity?

B: In Campbell. I went to Poland Union Elementary School and graduated from Poland High School, and I was involved in sports there in basketball and all that. My goal was to be a bookkeeper, and I was a bookkeeper for four years at Poland High School.

S: While you were in school?

B: For the principal while I was in school.

S: Was that one of those work study programs? Did they have that at the time or not yet?

B: Well, no, they just picked out a bookkeeper who was involved

in secretarial work. That did help me a lot. I was like a bookkeeper and a secretary to the principal.

S: Then after you graduated did you get a job or did you do something else?

B: Yes, I used to work for Strouss. I was the bookkeeper for Strouss. It was called the squares. Each department had their sale items in the middle of the store, and I was bookkeeper there. The first year I worked in the toy department. On the first day I was there I made the total sales, the most that they ever did.

S: Really?

B: The first day, yes. I just whizzed around that toy department and like computerized it. I made the biggest total for the day.

S: Good for you. Did they give you any kind of recognition for that?

B: I got a raise.

S: Very good. How long did you work at Strouss then?

B: Until I got married in 1955. We were married in 1955. Two months after we got married I got pregnant, so I worked like four months after that. Then it was time to quit.

S: Backtracking a little bit how did you meet Tom, your husband?

B: Well, my brother lived next door to Bosak's for a while. He had two children at the time, and I was baby-sitting while they had their third child. That was how I met Tom. He just came home from the service and we really just said hello. Then after I left my dad needed me out on the farm, so he came out there searching for me. That was how we met. Then we started dating, and then we were married June 4, 1955.

S: And you were married at St. Nicholas Church?

B: Yes.

S: Do you want to tell me a little bit about that?

B: Father John Rommack, Sr. was there. I would go to church with Tom on Sundays to get familiar with the Byzantine rite. Then Father Rommack married us June 4th. We were the last ones to be married. Well, there was a couple after us who got married the same day. Then while we were on our honeymoon, Father Rommack passed away. He was the last one to

- marry us.
- S: I bet that was a shock to you.
- B: Oh, yes, we called home, and then my mother-in-law told us that he had died. Going back to starting out with the Byzantine rite I remember the first time I had to go to confession we went behind the altar, and we confessed there. They put this sheet or something over us. It was the strangest thing. That was the last time I went to confession down at St. Nicholas. I went back to the Roman rite.
- S: For that.
- B: Right.
- S: Were there any other differences that struck you?
- B: Well, it did. The first time I went to church all they did was bless themselves right to left. To this day I still can't familiarize with that. When they bless themselves so many times, it was just so strange to me because we didn't do that. We didn't genuflect in the Byzantine rite. But it was nice. I learned a lot from it. I have been there ever since.
- S: Now you were raised Roman Catholic, right?
- B: Yes.
- S: The Holy Trinity is a Roman Catholic Church.
- B: Yes.
- S: Did you know at the time when you were married that the church does encourage the women to go with their husbands, right, or was that just something that you wanted to do on your own?
- B: Well, no, it was encouraged at that time you go to the husband's church, yes.
- S: Did your own pastor tell you that too at Holy Trinity?
- B: Well, he wanted to marry us there, but since you follow the husband, he said to go to the Byzantine rite. My father was kind of against it. He wanted me to stay in the Roman rite. Like you said, the Byzantine wanted the men and the women there.
- S: What were your early years in the parish like for you then as a young wife and then eventually a new mother too?

- B: We went there every Sunday. I enjoyed it. I enjoyed the singing. It was different because they responded to everything the priest did. As the children came we took the children every Sunday. They came with us every week, and they were baptized there and raised there and went to school at the Byzantine Catholic Central.
- S: Is there anything significant that you can remember about their baptisms? Which pastors were there?
- B: Well, I remember Father Lasky baptized our Kathy, the third child. Father Rommack Jr., I believe, baptized Delores. I can't remember who was there at the time for Tommy.
- S: Was the ceremony itself the same as it is now. Was there anything different about it at that time?
- B: Well, they did it privately after mass and everything like that. You had your own private ceremony. They baptize you as a baby. They sort of did everything the same as today. They took you to the side altar there and they said different prayers there too. I don't see that today.
- S: With the mother do you mean?
- B: With the mother. Then we walked out of church. Then you would call that you were mothered or something, and then you came back in with the baby. The godparents did the same. I don't think they had that big baptismal bowl there. They didn't have that. That was brought in later. It was mostly the same.
- S: Pretty much the same as it is now?
- B: Yes.
- S: Did you feel at this time that the church had ways for you to be involved?
- B: At that time I don't remember there being any kind of doings outside of maybe a few dances. I don't know who took care of that. That came along later, but there was nothing for us. I know the pirohi house was in existence up on Youngstown-Poland Road, but that was before the children were in school.
- S: When did you become more active in the parish?
- B: When Delores was in first grade, that was when I got involved. Father Rommack was there at the time. He made at least one parent from the family come to the meetings. They weren't allowed to have any excuses. If one didn't come, the other

had to come. They had all the families at least one like I said. There was a total attendance of 100 percent for the first couple of months. We got involved pretty much. We started a P.A.C.E. club which was called Parents Association for Catholic Education.

S: Do you want to tell me a little bit about that? How or when was that organized?

B: That came into existence in 1964 in September. Father Rommack organized it, and he was pastor of St. Nicholas Church at the time. He appointed my husband, Tom Bosak, president at the time.

S: He was appointed then.

B: Right, and that was how that started out. In that first year we had a Thanksgiving turkey raffle and dance.

S: That was your first activity?

B: Right.

S: So it was Father Rommack's idea to organize the P.A.C.E. club?

B: Right, he wanted everybody to get involved who had children in school.

S: What was the purpose then of the P.A.C.E. club?

B: The purpose was to make money so the parents wouldn't have to pay tuition. We were involved with the different church functions working at the pirohi house. At least one parent had to work there, or if they couldn't, then they washed the dishes and the pots and pans after; so the husbands and wives did that. Then we had dances, and we got involved with that raising money and fashion shows and card parties.

S: You had a lot of activities then.

B: Right, rummage sales, bake sales. We had a bake sale once a month, and everybody had to bake who had children in school plus anybody else who wanted to.

S: Was the membership strictly for parents of B.C.C. (Byzantine Catholic Central) children, or were other parents involved too?

B: It was mostly for the parents who had children up at the school, but if others wanted to come, they were invited.

S: Did you have good turnouts in the beginning?

- B: In the beginning we did because we had to have one from each family.
- S: That is right. You said one was required at least. About how many people would you say belonged at that time?
- B: We had a list of the parents. I think there were a good fifty or more. There were 188 children and 112 families at the time between 1964 and 1965. The list is here. The different ones who went to church and had children up at the school are listed here too.
- S: We are looking at a scrapbook that was put together by the P.A.C.E. club, right?
- B: Right, we started this in 1964, like I said. I typed up all the newsletters and took all the pictures. We put them in this P.A.C.E. book like a scrapbook.
- S: I'm glad you did this. Did you have a reason at the time? Did you think that some day you would be looking back at this and recalling the different things?
- B: At that time we wanted to go back each year to remember what we did the past year, but we had dances and all that stuff too. All of this is here; anything that refers to the P.A.C.E. club is put in this scrapbook.
- S: I see you sold Easter candy.
- B: Right.
- S: Bingo, card party, fashion show . . .
- B: Yes, we had card parties and fashion shows. I was one of the models. Our little daughter modeled the communion dress because she was making her first holy communion that year. We had to go out and get all the prizes from the merchants--the ones we would go to who donated something. We had over 100 prizes, and we had a really good turnout and a really good time.
- S: Did you profit well from it?
- B: Oh, yes, like I said we used the money for different things up at the school. Anything that went on at P.T.G. (Parent Teacher Guild) like if we had a card party there that would go in too. I think they bought a video recorder one time, different movie projectors and things for the school at that time too.
- S: So you supported the school by all of these activities?

- B: Right. Then we had school picnics. Different people would dress up like clowns. There would be people up on the dunking machine like Ann Kraynak sitting on the dunking machine, and I was up there too. That was the year that we made the most money ever in that festival that we had because everybody was involved. We made like \$25,000 or something that one year.
- S: Really?
- B: Yes.
- S: Was the summer festival at the church?
- B: That was the picnic up at the grove.
- S: Boy, that is a good profit, more than we are even making now.
- B: We had more booths at the time. It seemed like the more booths you have the more profit you are going to make. See, now they just have a few of them, and they are not really making money. You have to have merchandise there. You have to give to receive. In these festivals you have to have the booths.
- S: You have to have something people want to try for.
- B: Right.
- S: How did you get so many people to become involved and work for this festival at that time?
- B: Well, it was more like a community. It was the families who had children going to that school, and they seemed to want to get involved. Like I said Father Rommack started this project where at least one parent had to come. Then the spouse would come too, at the function. Each one had their job to do, and they stuck to it. If you couldn't do it, you had to get somebody else to take your place. That was why we had a really good membership because if you couldn't come to one of the functions, if you were in charge of going to the pirohi house that Friday--you were scheduled to go once a month--now, if you couldn't go or your husband couldn't go or wife then you had to get somebody else to take your place.
- S: That was still your responsibility?
- B: Right.
- S: That is a good idea.
- B: So that way there were always people working at the pirohi

house. It wasn't by chance like it is now when you go and they are not there. Father didn't have to call anybody. You were scheduled to go and you went or got a replacement.

S: That is a good idea because a lot of times people will cancel out on whatever the activity is and then you are stuck.

B: Right.

S: Did you have some events strictly for the children at this time?

B: Right, we had St. Nicholas Day. We had like a little Christmas party for them. St. Nicholas came; everybody got a gift. Then at Easter time . . . I don't know if we had any Easter bunnies coming at the time. They were involved with the fashion shows and things like that. A lot of times at these festivals you had to bring your kids along; so they helped out on different things too. They were involved a little, but not like the youth should be.

S: There was no youth group at that time, was there?

B: No.

S: I didn't think so. So it was mainly still a family type of thing.

B: Right.

S: This community club award, was it a project that you were involved in? Was that sponsored by a radio station or something, a television station maybe?

B: Right, WYTV sponsored it. We used to go like to Arby's or different places, different merchants, and you would have to get wrappers and things like that. The most that was brought in got a prize. I think we won that one year.

S: For the whole year?

B: For the whole year. We brought all the wrappers that we saved and everything like that. WYTV sponsored it.

S: Different merchants gave you so many points for their products. Is that how it worked?

B: Right. You were supposed to go and eat the product and bring the wrapper. We used to go in the garbage bins and pick them out. When people would be eating, this other

woman and me used to go and ask them for their wrappers. We were in competition, but we won that year. There were different prizes; you would get like \$100, different gifts and stuff like that.

S: So you found all kinds of ways to raise money, didn't you?

B: Right.

S: Another thing that is sort of a lost sign of the times you might say is that I have noticed you would ask people for their stamp books, green stamps or whatever.

B: Right, that was involved in card parties too. If they couldn't bring a gift or if they couldn't go out to a merchant to get a gift, then they would bring their green stamps. Then we would go and get merchandise from the green stamps for the card party. So the whole church was involved in that too.

S: That is something we don't have anymore.

B: Right. Now here in 1966 are the different events that we had. It tells you about the bake sale, the CCA (Community Club Award), our campaign that we had, card parties, teenage hop. Now we did have the teenagers involved too. They had a little dance. Then there was Father Eugene's farewell party.

S: That was Father Yackanich, right?

B: Yes.

S: How long was he at our parish? Do you recall? He was an assistant for about one year or so . . .

B: I think about two years.

S: Two years?

B: Yes. Then Father John Lucas came, and he left in September of 1966; so we had a farewell party for him.

S: He was just there for a short time too?

B: Short time, yes. Then in September after Father John Lucas left Father William Levkusic came. Then Father Francis Yurick was the new assistant. Now they were really involved in the P.A.C.E. club and the children and all that. He continued on with it. He was involved in the school and the cemetery. He took men up there and cleaned the cemetery and all that too. They were involved again with the turkey dance and doughnut sales.

We had different functions at the school like one year we would have a make-up demonstration, and then another time we would have like how to make Christmas centerpieces. Somebody would come and show it.

S: A craft type of thing.

B: Craft, yes. So we would make that, and then we sold Christmas trees too that year. Every month there was something going on that we got involved with in trying to raise some money.

S: I see that Father Levkusic came in September of 1966, so it was at that time that Father Rommack, Jr. had to retire due to ill health, right?

B: Right.

S: Then you had a farewell party for Father Rommack, Jr.

B: Yes, we had a banquet for him. Then like you say he was ill, so then Father Levkusic became our new pastor.

S: Father Levkusic is noted for his music, isn't that correct, Helen?

B: Right.

S: Was he writing at that time? Was he already writing music?

B: Yes, he was writing music at the time. At that time we were involved with P.A.C.E. too, but a lot of people didn't know that we--my husband and I owned an office supply store, City Office and Art, up by the college. Father Levkusic would come, and we xeroxed all the copies of his music free, and anything he needed for his music was given to him through the store. We donated a lot of supplies to the church and things like that. Tom wasn't involved in it anymore, so he thought he would do his part.

S: In that way.

B: In that way, right, for doing all of the free work. Father would bring his music up to be copied. Well, then he was telling the bishop about it and everything, so the bishop sent us a momento of St. Cyril & Methodius Church embedded in . . .

S: A silver coin embedded on lucite.

B: Right.

S: St. Cyril & Methodius.

- B: Yes, so that was from 1969 in June. We keep that as a souvenir.
- S: Did Father Levkulic ever talk to you about the writing that he was doing, the music?
- B: Oh, yes, he would try some of the songs at the church. Then he would come up to the store and show us the different things he was doing. He printed a book for the church too.
- S: While he was still there?
- B: Right. He had it printed. If you would look in some of the literature down at the church, you would see his name in there.
- S: Was he writing original things at this time, or was he translating some of the Slavonic songs into English?
- B: Well, it was mostly original things. Then he copyrighted it later putting it in a book.
- S: After he left St. Nicholas he published it.
- B: Right.
- S: That is interesting. What about any problems that might have been with the P.A.C.E. club? Do you recall anything like that?
- B: Well, like in any group there were your cliques. A lot of them were involved, and some of them dropped out. It seemed like it was going pretty smooth in the beginning. Different people wanted their ideas and stuff. Some went and some didn't. Some fell out of the group. Groups like that never are sure.
- S: Yes, it is.
- B: But we tried to harmonize, but sometimes it doesn't work.
- S: It is interesting because each generation thinks that problems are unique only to them, but when you see what is happening, it happens all over and all the time like that.
- B: Oh, yes, that is in every church.
- S: There are many other activities that you have had through the years. You had the turkey raffle. There is a list of winners from that. I like these little P.A.C.E. setters, the newsletters, that were sent out by the club.
- B: Right. I typed those up. Father Levkulic was there at the

time. Well, the different priests were there like Father Rommack. We have a list in here. We would set up different things that were going on that month. Every month one came out. On this one like there were the meetings on the first Sunday of every month. Then Father Lucas' farewell was that month and hospitality and there were different groups like that. Then everybody got a chance to bring up their suggestions and ideas for the P.A.C.E. club. This is what it was about. They wanted everybody to put their suggestions in. If there was a new doing that they heard of from a different church or something like that, well, then we would try it. Then Father Levkulic would have his little corner.

S: He has some words of wisdom each month I see.

B: Right. There were different doings.

S: In one of the P.A.C.E. setter newsletters I read something interesting from Father Levkulic. He said that people were complaining because there wasn't enough involvement in their church, but here it is their chance to take over with the functional part of it at least and why weren't there more.

B: Like you say people wanted to socialize, but they wouldn't come. They had their ideas out of the church; they wouldn't come to those P.A.C.E. meetings to point their views, and that was what Father Levkulic wanted them to do. They would always bicker behind everybody, but they wouldn't come out and say it at these meetings.

S: I think this little poem says that right here. It says "What Kind Are You?" Do you remember that one?

B: Yes. It says:

Are you an active member
the kind that will be missed,
or are you just contented
that your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings
and mingle with the flock,
or do you stay and home and criticize or mock?
Do you ever volunteer?
Do you take an active part
to help the work along,
or are you satisfied to be
the kind that just belongs?
Do you help as a guiding stick
or leave the work to just a few
and talk about the clique?
Come out to the meetings often

and help with hand and heart.
Don't be just a member
but take an active part.
Think this over member
you know right from wrong.
Are you an active member,
or do you just belong?

I think I had something to do with this.

S: Did you really?

B: Yes, I did.

S: That caught my eye.

B: This says it all in a nutshell. There were members, and there people who just stood on the sidelines.

S: And griped about what the active ones were doing.

B: Right.

S: You could print that in today's bulletin I think.

B: Right, I think Father should; I think so.

S: We should show that to him.

B: Yes, he should take that out because that really came in handy. It was always the same ones who would be down there in the turkey raffle, on the dances, on the decorating committee, on the rummage sales. It was always the same even if you weren't the president or the vice-president, it seemed like the same ones were then too. It started out where it was a nice community. They would weed out too, but as long as Father Rommack was there, you had to be there. Later on it started dying out. The P.A.C.E. club lasted for a good five or six years.

S: Did Father Levkusic not have that requirement then that one parent be there at least?

B: Not that I can remember. I don't think he did. Father Rommack, but Father Levkusic didn't.

S: Maybe that was why they dwindled off too. Was it disbanded for any reason in particular or just because of dwindling membership?

B: I think it was on the account of dwindling membership, and then the new generation was coming in too. Our children were already going out of school. Our kids were there each for

eight years. After that it just dwindled down.

S: So they should have been adding new members all along rather than just letting them . . .

B: Right.

S: The ones who were there sort of worked out of that through the years, and they didn't have anybody to replace them.

B: Right. That was what they had this P.A.C.E. club for. Any new mother or new father who had children coming into that school were to come down to the P.A.C.E. club too. It seemed like they weren't doing that.

S: Eventually that stopped. It didn't work out.

B: Yes.

S: You mentioned a few of the pastors and their assistants during this time period. Do you recall anything about some of the other ones like Father Lasky? You mentioned a little bit about him.

B: Yes, Father Lasky, I remember him. In 1960 he baptized our third child. Then he left I think a year later.

S: I think he just recently died.

B: Yes, he died about a week ago.

S: There were quite a few assistants during this period.

B: I remember Father Yurick and there was Father Burnacky, Father Lucas, Father Eugene Yackanich. We are still in contact with each other.

S: Are you?

B: We send Christmas cards.

S: Where is he now?

B: He is in Pittsburgh. He was at our daughter's wedding. Father Levkulic was seen about four years ago at a doing.

S: When did we stop having the assistants? Do you recall?

B: I think after Father Yurick left. I think he was the last one.

S: Was he? Did the parish decrease in size? Was that why we stopped having them?

B: I believe so.

S: Or was it maybe more of a shortage of priests too?

B: Right, that too. The shortage of priests because there weren't too many going into study for that.

S: You mentioned a little about you and Tom having a business in art supplies. I know that you have got an artistic streak in your nature, and that you do a lot of decorating for our church for the holidays. What can you tell me about that, Helen? What are your responsibilities in that job?

B: It happened when Father Mihalik was there. I guess there were other people decorating at the time. With the children and everything like that I wasn't too involved in it except for like cleaning the church and things like that. Well, then this couple who used to do the decorating quit, so a week before Christmas . . . Father Mihalik needed somebody else. Mary Hlivak said that I used to do it for P.A.C.E. club decorating for the different functions for the dances and everything, so she called me up and asked me if I would decorate. I said that I really didn't have any ideas. But then God was with me because I had a dream, and in my dream I knew how to do it. Then I just went down and cut some branches and put some poinsettias on it with little bows. Our daughter when she was married, I ordered these candlestick holders to go on the pews. Well, I showed Father Mihalik the pictures and he just loved them.

S: Do you mean when she was married, those were just rented?

B: Those were rented, yes. We rented them. She got married at St. Dominic's, and I rented those. They had the bows on them, so that gave me some ideas of what to do. So then we rented them for the church for Christmas, and then I got the live tree branches because father wanted everything live. He didn't want any cardboard or anything like that because this was what was being done in the past. I went around the Christmas trees here and cut the branches and made little different arrangements. Like I said I put poinsettias on them and bows and tied this to the candelabra like. Then we decorated and put big branches up by the pillars and decorated the church. I didn't know he was back there. Here I looked back there, and he was watching me. He said, "Helen, I never dreamt that something like this would be so beautiful from scratch doing it." He was back there crying.

S: He was real emotional.

B: Yes, he was real emotional because it really came out beautiful. I really got a lot of compliments. Ever since that they say the church is really beautiful. So I decorate

for Easter, Christmas, and I do the weddings and in between if father needs different things done.

- S: Are you responsible for ordering the altar flowers and that type of thing?
- B: No, the secretary orders altar flowers, but I order anything that I need for decorating.
- S: For the decorating. So the first year you rented the candles.
- B: Yes.
- S: And then after that did you purchase them?
- B: Right, the church purchased them. Father Mihalik purchased them, so they have been with the church ever since.
- S: That was a sound investment.
- B: Right, they are beautiful. So that was my initiative and my thing for the church, those candles.
- S: Who helps you with the decoration, or is it mainly you?
- B: Well, it is mainly me. For the pew things I do that myself. But for the main altar and decorating the trees, the men bring in the trees and set them up, and then some of the women decorate it. I will foresee the thing a little bit and make sure all of the flowers are straight and all that. But the other decorating is mostly my ideas with help from the men and the other women. We spend about two days down there from morning until night. Then the second day if we are not done, we go back there, and we stay until midnight if we have to to complete it.
- S: And you usually wait until a day or so before the holiday?
- B: You have to. You are involved so much in your own home work and you have to go down and do that.
- S: I mean just liturgically that whole season is penitential right until the end. So the decorations can't go up too early.
- B: Right. They have to go up a day or two before the holiday.
- S: It is interesting about that dream you had that you actually saw what you had to do. Do you remember that?
- B: Well, I still do because like I said I was thinking and thinking and wondering what I was going to do because he asked me at the last minute. I went to bed, and here a

thought came to me in a dream with what to do with these branches because I had never seen them before anywhere to do that. So I just went behind the house here and cut the branches off.

S: Did you bundle them together?

B: Well, you put one or two together, and you tie the ribbon on it and then I put silk poinsettias on it. We use that every year.

S: That is beautiful. Were there any other activities that you have become involved with through the years?

B: Well, while our children were in school, we were involved in P.T.G. up there. We almost had the same kind of function there that we did down at P.A.C.E. club. I was involved with homeroom mothers and the different card parties up there. I don't remember if I was on any of the offices like president or vice-president. I think one year I was secretary or something. Mostly I was in charge with a couple of other women with the card parties up there too.

S: So you had church responsibilities plus school responsibilities.

B: Right, and the pirohi house and all that and homeroom mother.

S: Were most moms at that time still staying home with the kids, or did you have a lot of working moms then too?

B: Well, mostly they were staying home with the kids.

S: I know these days it is hard to get volunteers for things like that.

B: Right.

S: What about in the more recent years? What have those been like for you as far as parish activities from the time maybe of Father Koval and Father Buker? Was there anything significant about that period that you can think of?

B: I remember working under Father Koval too. We used to type up different things and run them off for the parish. I don't think they were in the P.A.C.E. club. Then our son was an altar boy, so we were involved in that doing different duties with him. Then the kids were up at school, and they were in different functions up there too. They won different awards and stuff. You had to go to that. Our daughter was in three spelling bees.

S: Was she?

- B: Yes, and then all three of them won awards up there, Delores in math when she graduated, and Kathy in math when she graduated. Tommy got the history award; so they were all good kids. They did real good up there.
- S: Was there anything significant about the time of Father Duker that you can recall?
- B: Well, there wasn't too much involvement with him outside of the fact that we cleaned the church and did the linen and things like that, but I don't think there was too much to do with functions.
- S: Your children were already older at this time.
- B: Right.
- S: Are they remaining active in the Byzantine rite, or have they joined other churches?
- B: Well, Delores is teaching in a Roman Catholic Church in Texas, and there is a Roman Catholic Church two blocks away from them. The closest Byzantine church, I believe, is in Dallas or Houston, and that is kind of far for them to go.
- S: It is not possible for them to get there.
- B: No.
- S: Is there anything else important that we didn't cover?
- B: Going back to our family there were three priests in my family and a nun. Father Cyril Yablonsky is my cousin. He is by ritual.
- S: I know Sister Jude.
- B: Yes, Sister Jude and Father Gabe. He was with the army. He retired from the army, and now he is with St. Jude in Columbiana. Father Cyril is a missionary priest, and he had some missions at our church.
- S: Are they brothers?
- B: Right. Sister Jude at the time was their sister. Father Cyril Yablonsky is by ritual. He joined the Byzantine rite.
- S: Where does he live?
- B: Well, he was in Chicago. Now he is in Kentucky, but he goes around the United States.
- S: How did he decide to become . . .

- B: He was given different missions all over the United States. He was so interested in the Byzantine rite. So he went, and now he is by ritual.
- S: This family was all from Youngstown.
- B: Right, this was my mother's sister's family. Then on my dad's side there is a priest, Father Hvizdos. He died a couple of years ago.
- S: How was he related?
- B: He was a cousin.
- S: Looking back is there anything that you would have liked to have seen done differently through the years?
- B: Like I said with the involvement, if people would get more involved in the church. I think Father Dennis is trying to bring out more of the children in the church to do their things. I think if the children and the youth would get more involved because they are the future generation of the church because once the older people die out, well, then this younger group will come in . . . Even up at school we had to be involved, but I think the youth and the children should get more involved in it.
- S: To feel like they belong.
- B: Right.
- S: Speaking of the children and the next generation do you have any words of wisdom?
- B: I would like to see them come to church and get more involved and be the next generation and pray for peace and good health for everybody and amen.
- S: Amen. Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW