

The work of the Society of Christ in Australia commenced with the arrival of two priests in Australia in 1959. The priests, Fathers Gagajek and Gula left Poland at a time when the communist regime in Poland began to weaken.

Father Gagajek began his pastoral work with the Polish community in the Bankstown / Revesby area, where he played a part in helping to form the Polish Club which still exists in Bankstown.

Father Gula initially worked in Newcastle and was later transferred to Gippsland.

The Society of Christ extended their pastoral work to include Canberra in 1970, Brisbane in 1973, Adelaide, Geelong and Ashfield in 1975, Dandenong and St. Albans in 1984 and recently Wollongong in 1998.

In 1978, the Australian Province was established by the General Superior of the Society of Christ, Father Czeslaw Kaminski. 30 Priests belong to the Province which covers Australia and New Zealand. Two priests are on loan in South Africa.

The short history of the Society of Christ's work in Australia could be summed up as 44 years of pastoral work and 25 years of province.

During those 25 years of province, a number provincial superiors have been appointed. My predecessors were Fathers Pajdak, Wrona and Lipski.

It is proper to remember that the Society of Christ built the Marian Sanctuary in Marayong, a place where Poles from the whole metropolis of Sydney gather in prayer.

Our priests work throughout Australia, with the exception of Perth. Recently, we became involved in local pastoral work in Melbourne (Noble Park North) and Broken Hill. We plan in the future to have more involvement in local pastoral work, particularly here in the Archdiocese of Sydney.