

Monsignor Francis Kaminski



Monsignor Kaminski is a name that comes to mind when thinking of St. Mary's Catholic Church or school. He was first assigned to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Gaylord as an assistant pastor in 1928. Father Kaminski was transferred out of the area in 1933, only to return in 1935, and was appointed pastor in 1936. He would spend the rest of his life ministering in Otsego County. Under his leadership, the church grew from about 250 to 650 families.

One cannot talk about the history of St. Mary Parish and School without mentioning the accomplishments and vision of Msgr. Kaminski. He oversaw all of the major building projects of the parish facility, witnessed baptisms, first communions, confirmations and marriages of generations of families. He is remembered as a “**people's priest**” who provided love and encouragement by visiting the sick, celebrating new births, cheering on the students and comforting and consoling families.

Brief Biography:

Born: 1900 in Poland Immigrated to Ludington, Michigan in 1908
Ordained a priest: 1928 and named a monsignor in 1956
Moved to Gaylord in 1928 left and returned in 1935
Retired in 1980
Died: 1989

Claim To Fame:

Leadership Secrets:

How I can apply this example to my leadership style:



Harold Elgas

“Mr. Gaylord”

Harold A. Elgas was instrumental in the economic revival of Gaylord and Otsego County in the 1960s through the 1980s. Coming over from Cadillac in 1958, Mr. Elgas took over as president of Gaylord State Bank. From this position, he had a unique opportunity to help the town of Gaylord build an economic base. He had a vision for what Gaylord could become and he executed on it. Among his many extraordinary accomplishments were: starting the Gaylord Industrial Development Corporation; negotiating and winning the bid for the U.S. Plywood Plant; helping start the Alpine Festival, now called Alpenfest; chairing the organizing committee for Otsego Memorial Hospital Foundation; and chairing the building committee of the United Methodist Church. Mr. Elgas produced “The Gaylord Story,” a film documentary he presented at least 150 times in nine states. Due to his tireless work in Gaylord, Mr. Elgas was the recipient of the Economic Achievement Award at the World’s Fair in New York in 1965. He was the Alpenfest Buergermeister in 1981.

Brief Biography:

Born: April 7, 1920 in Cadillac, Michigan

Married: July 12, 1941 to Norma Elgas (nee Boram); 5 daughters

Military Service: 1942-46; Major; Commanded tank company during World War II

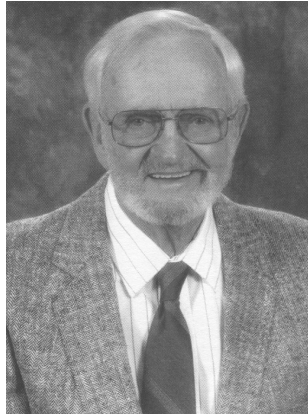
Work: 1958-1983; President & CEO of Gaylord State Bank

Died: February 2, 1998

Claim To Fame:

Leadership Secrets:

How I can apply this example of my leadership style:



Gordon Everett

Gordon brought business to Otsego County. Upon moving to Gaylord in 1960, he established *The Northern Star Advertiser*, which later became part of Weeklies, Inc., a publishing company. Throughout the years, founded three other businesses in the publishing field, as well as Speedi Print and Star Office Supply.

Gaylord's Alpine motif was championed by Gordon in the early 1960s to increase community spirit, stimulate economic growth and foster a community identity. The theme is now interwoven into the community's festivals and commercial architecture.

Brief Biography:

Born: 1919 on a farm in Oakland County

Moved to Gaylord in 1960

Died: 2003

Claim To Fame:

Leadership Secrets:

How I can apply this example to my leadership style:



Jim Mongeau

“Mr. Alpenfest”

Thirty-three years of teaching the community’s children is guaranteed to make an impact. Jim spent his entire teaching career at Gaylord High School – in the classroom and on the football field, basketball court, and track.

But his investment didn’t end with education. He served as the general chairman for Alpenfest for at least 20 years and is known for recruiting participants from malls and shows he would see while traveling. Alpenfest, and his community, were on his mind and in his heart.

Brief Biography:

Born: 1930 in Mohawk, Michigan

Moved to Gaylord in 1956

Died: 1992

Claim To Fame:

Leadership Secrets:

How I can apply this example to my leadership style: