On Sunday, April 17, Msgr. Russell Duker celebrated a divine liturgy in memory of Historical Society board member Father David Kriss. Father Kriss died suddenly late last year, during a celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination.

The liturgy took place at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church in Oakland and was attended by members of the Historical Society and their families, as well as friends and family of Father Kriss.

The 2005 Lambing Lecture followed immediately afterward in the church hall. In this year’s lecture, “Pittsburgh Takes the Pledge,” Mike Aquilina told of the 1851 visit to Pittsburgh by Father Theobald Mathew, the Irish temperance crusader. Leading characters in the story included Pittsburgh’s first bishop, Michael O’Connor, Father Thomas Heyden, Abbot Boniface Wimmer, and the city’s colorful anti-Catholic mayor Joe Barker. A condensed version of the lecture appeared in two consecutive editions of the Pittsburgh Catholic, Aug. 4 and 11.

The photo at left shows past and current board members who attended the liturgy and lecture: (from left to right) John Bates, Regina Kelly, Anthony Joseph, Kerry Crawford, Mike Aquilina, and Msgr. Russell Duker.

The annual lecture honors Msgr. A.A. Lambing, who founded the Society.

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