Since the celebration of Easter is so late this year, the season of Lent and also therefore Pre-Lent is falling late as well. The Pre-Lenten season falls on the last two Sundays of February and the first Sunday of March. Each year these three Sundays always fall right before Ash Wednesday. They are often known by their Latin names, Septuagesima, Sexuagesima and Quinquagesima Sundays. They have these names because we know that Lent lasts for 40 days, then these Sundays correspond to the fiftieth, sixtieth and seventieth days. I must admit that this has never really made much sense to me as a week is not ten days long, but still that’s what they are called. I tend to think that it’s better to call them the Pre-Lenten Sundays, because it reminds us that we are preparing for the Lenten season to come.

One question that does come up regarding this season of Pre-Lent is, “If Lent is a preparation for Easter, then why do we need another season of preparation?” “Is Pre-Lent just a preparation for a preparation?” If we look at this season in greater detail though, we can see that it does play an important part of the way in which we approach Lent. Our work during this time of year is two-fold. Lent is the season for action. During the Lenten season, if we hold it faithfully, we will increase our prayer life in the attendance of special services and the renewal of our own prayer life at home. We will spend time fasting, not just from prohibited food, but hopefully also from those things which draw us away from the presence of God. And we will increase our giving, in increased measures of time, talent and treasure. But what then spurs on this action? In order for any action to take place there must be a period of introspection. There must be a time of examining our lives and resolving to do better.

We normally take this to be what occurs during the Sacrament of Penance each and every time we gather for Holy Mass. And certainly it is true that an examination of conscience is an important part of a worthy confession, but more is needed. We need to focus all of our attention on asking the question, “How am I doing in religious life?” This is the theme of the Pre-Lenten season.

If we examine the Gospel of these three Pre-Lenten Sundays we will see that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is asking us to search beyond the normal rules of right and wrong. He asks us to go beyond even our actions to examine our motivations. On the first Pre-Lenten Sunday, Jesus says to us, “You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment. But I say to you, whoever is angry with brother will be liable to judgment; and whoever says to brother, ‘Raqa’ will be answerable to the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ will be liable to fiery Gehenna.” (Matthew 5:21-22) Jesus here challenges us to take an introspective look at our lives. He realizes that not many among the disciples to whom He is speaking have committed murder. Likewise, not many followers of Jesus today are killers. But if we look only to the letter of these commandments, we can get a self-righteous attitude. We begin to say to ourselves, since I haven’t committed murder, since I haven’t killed anyone, my spiritual life must be going great. Jesus tells us this is not so. He tells us to look deeper. Murder and killing is borne of hatred (Continued on Page 3.)
Email Addresses for the P.N.C.C. Offices

The email addresses for the staff of the National Church Center and God’s Field are:

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky
pbmikovsky@pncc.org

Secretary to Prime Bishop — Julie Orzell
secretarytopb@pncc.org

P.N.C.C. Treasurer — Joan Scheuneman
treasurer@pncc.org

God’s Field - Rola Boza Editor — Julie Orzell
godsfield@pncc.org

Questions or concerns? Call us at 570-346-9131 or 570-346-2125.

Save the Date!
14TH Mission Workshop of the P.N.C.C.
“Our Faith Through The Years”

Friday, May 2 - Sunday, May 4, 2014

Our Saviour Parish
Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Detailed Information will be sent to all Parishes.

God’s Field — Rola Boza
Publication Information

The deadline for article submissions is the 1st of the month; publication date is mid-month. Submissions received after the 1st will be included in the following month’s issue.

Email articles and photos to godsfield@pncc.org. To ensure clarity of graphics, please send JPEG or TIFF formatted pictures with a resolution of at least 300 pixels per inch. **Please identify individuals in photographs or caption photographs.**

Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:

God’s Field
Polish National Catholic Church
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109

CALLING ALL PNCC BOWLERS
All Saints Parish Sterling Heights, MI

All Saints Parish is hosting the 2014 Bowling Tournament on June 6, 7 and 8.

Notice that the month is June, not May.

We are hoping more teams can attend with the later date.

Look for the bowling packets to be sent to each Parish soon.

We hope to see you in June!

Identification Statement

The Official Organ of the Polish National Catholic Church, Polish-English, **ROLA BOZA (GOD’S FIELD)** (ISSN 1046-5030), is published monthly by:

Polish National Catholic Church
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109

Periodicals Postage paid at Scranton, PA.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to ROLA BOZA (GOD’S FIELD),
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109

CONTROLLER:
Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

Opinions expressed in various articles published in God’s Field do not necessarily reflect the doctrine of the P.N.C.C.
and disrespect; so then we must ask ourselves, have we shown anger or have we shown disrespect? Certainly many more of us are guilty of these sins, so we cannot say that we are doing fine. There are still sins we must begin to purge from our lives.

In the Gospel for the second Pre-Lenten Sunday, our Lord challenges us again. He says, “You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for He makes His sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.” (Matthew 5:43-45) Again Jesus asks us to look deeply into our lives and examine our motivations which lead to action. Certainly we know that we are supposed to love, as Christ taught us. But in fact often times we fall back to the old standard of the ancient law, which said to love your neighbor, but hate your enemy. It seems so much easier to love the people who will love us back. But Jesus calls us to a higher standard. He calls us to love all of creation, and we must especially work on loving those who are not easily loveable or those who are outright enemies to us. We must remember that we must love, not because of anything another person has done or not done, but rather we love because we are children of God the Father, Who is all love.

In the Gospel for the last Sunday in Pre-Lent, Jesus once again confronts us. The Gospel reads, “Jesus said to His disciples: ‘No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.’” (Matthew 6:24) Although we do not have to worry about serving other gods in the literal sense, as was the case in the time of our Lord, we still must be careful, because instead we sometimes set up other things as gods within our lives and then serve them, even though we would never call them gods. We must look inside our lives to see who we truly serve and what we truly worship. Is it power or prestige that drives us? Are we in the service of some addiction, or even bad habit that has taken over our lives? Are we so selfish that the only people we serve are ourselves and our own interests? Certainly all of us could answer yes to these questions, at least for some times within our lives. It is this that we are asked to consider during this Pre-Lenten season.

During the Pre-Lenten season the Church calls us to consider these words of our Lord and through them to examine our lives and our motivation. And especially we are called to take a deeper and deeper look into all things that we do as Christians and as members of Christ’s Church. We must measure ourselves, not only by a few commandments, but on the whole Gospel of love, which has been given to us by Jesus Christ.

So I encourage you, brothers and sisters, members of our Polish National Catholic Church, use this season of Pre-Lent to examine your lives, so that you may be ready for the season of action, the season of Lent which is to come. When the day of Ash Wednesday comes, let us come to the altar truly acknowledging that we have fallen short of the demands of God, the demand to be “perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48) Let us be ready to take what introspection has discovered within us and then through the actions of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, to change our lives by following our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the one Who not only shows us and teaches us, but also the one Who leads us in the ways of salvation.

NOTICE TO PARISHES

If your parish is in need of financial assistance and you must request subsidies from the Polish National Catholic Church, you must follow the procedures as outlined by the XIX General Synod.

All individual parish requests must be sent through the proper Diocesan Bishop as soon as possible, along with all of the required supporting financial documentation.

Diocesan Bishops must forward all parish requests to the Office of the Prime Bishop no later than March 15, 2014.
A Chance to Serve the Church

As we are approaching the time for the XXIV General Synod to be held in Erie, Pennsylvania, the Church looks to the staffing of the General Church Commissions which operate during the four years from October 2014 to October 2018. These Commissions serve the vital needs of the Church during the time between synods.

The Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church lists those Commissions which must be operational with the Church. The Constitution also allows the Prime Bishop to appoint any other Commissions that he sees fit. The named Commissions are: 1) Constitution; 2) Mission & Evangelism; 3) Budget and Finance; 4) School of Christian Living; 5) Liturgy; 6) Church Doctrine; 7) Clergy Salary and Benefits; 8) History and Archives and; 9) Sacred Vocations.

The membership of these Commissions is usually appointed on the last day of the Synod and the members are taken from those who are delegates to the Synod. Although those who attend the Synod are often in the best place to see what work must be done going forward, these are not the only individuals who might be willing to offer themselves for the work of the Church. There may be other individuals who would like to offer their time and talent to serve the work of the Church in a number of different capacities. In an effort to allow more individuals who might wish to be helpful in the work of these Commissions, we describe the work of the Commissions and invite those who might be interested in serving to submit their names together with their background and what they feel they could add to supplement the work of whatever Commission they choose. We also remind the faithful of the P.N.C.C. that the membership of each Commission is limited. The number of members is chosen with two criteria in mind: the desire to make sure that the entire Church is represented, but also kept limited to insure that work is accomplished and the expenses of doing the work of the Church are kept reasonable.

The Commissions

Below is a short description of each of the Commissions of the Polish National Catholic Church and the goals they accomplish. These descriptions are not meant to be exhaustive or official descriptions of what each Commission does, as the roles of the Commissions are always changing to respond to the needs of the Church at any given time. Instead they are given to help individuals see what they might have to offer the Church in their work.

Constitution Commission

The Constitution Commission is given a special role within the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church. It is required to meet and take action on all submitted amendments to the Constitution for submittal to the General Synod. It is usual that all of the bishops are appointed to this Commission together with a representative from each Diocese. It would be helpful for work on this Commission that an individual have a good working knowledge of the Constitution as well as the operations of the Church on the parish, diocesan and national levels.

Mission & Evangelism Commission

This Commission plans and executes programs to help the parishes and dioceses of the Polish National Catholic Church better announce the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. These programs are variously targeted to those who are already within the P.N.C.C., to those who have fallen away from our Church, to those who are in our parish neighborhoods or to the unchurched.

In particular this Commission has been planning and executing the Annual Mission and Evangelism Workshop of the P.N.C.C. This workshop gathers interested members of the Church together in different parish settings to discuss and share ways to accomplish the work of Evangelism.

Budget & Finance Commission

The Budget and Finance Commission reviews the annual expenditures of the Church as well as prepares the annual budget for the Church. Included in this annual budget are the expenses for the operations of the Office of the Prime Bishop, the National Church Center, the various Commissions of the Church, the ecumenical work of the church and various publications of the Church. It also reviews and prepares budgets for the Savonarola Theological Seminary including the uses of the building and the teaching of students and those clergy which come to the P.N.C.C. for incardination.
School of Christian Living Commission

This Commission prepares materials for the use of the Schools of Christian Living (Sunday) Schools throughout the P.N.C.C. In the past few years this Commission has written and compiled studies on “The Holy Mass,” “The History of the P.N.C.C.” “The Solemnities of the P.N.C.C.” and it is presently working on a series of lessons on the “Creeds” including the Confession of Faith of the Polish National Catholic Church.

All of the Bishops of the Church are placed on this Commission showing that the teaching of the faith to the youth of the Church is a very important aspect of what the Church does. At present the Commission is divided into two groups which write materials for the lessons to express the faith of the Church and those which then take this material and work it into a manner in which it can be enjoyably presented to the youth at various age levels.

National Commission on Liturgy

The National Commission on Liturgy is responsible for the publishing of liturgical texts for the P.N.C.C. as well as the yearly “Liturgical Reference Calendar” or “Ordo” and the “Home Calendar.” In recent years the Commission has published the revised Missal for the Celebration of Holy Mass. It is particularly proud of the three-year cycle of Mass Prayers which correspond to the three-year cycle of readings found within the Lectionary. The P.N.C.C. is one of very few Churches which have such a series of prayers. At the present time the Commission is working on a revision of the “Ritual” of the P.N.C.C., the book of the rites of Sacraments of the Church as well as various blessing in both liturgical and private settings. The last ritual published by the Church was put out in 1958. A member of the Commission, at present Bishop Stanley Bilinski, serves as the Church’s representative to the “Consultation on Common Texts.” This ecumenical body strives to have English translations of liturgical texts that are commonly used across all English speaking denominations.

At present all of the Bishops are members of this Commission and all others are members of the clergy. Anyone who is interested in serving must have a knowledge of the liturgy, both in a historical sense as well as the present day liturgical expression of the P.N.C.C. There is also a fair amount of research that must be done in order to better compose and revise the present liturgy in a congruent way with the historical expression of the Church’s worship.

Church Doctrine Commission

The Church Doctrine Commission is one of the most important Commissions of the Church as it is given the responsibility of protecting and expounding the faith of the P.N.C.C. It performs this work on a variety of levels and in a variety of different ways. It has the responsibility of answering questions of faith which are posed from other Commissions. It writes position papers on various theological topics which are of concern to the religious world and the people of the P.N.C.C. and also makes sure that the lessons which are taught within the Church, through its publications, are in line with the faith of the Church. In recent years the Church Doctrine Commission has published the First Holy Communion Catechism, written documents on “Marriage and Divorce,” “Homosexual Conduct,” life issues in a paper called “To Live in the Spirit of God,” and reviewed items which were produced in regards to the Union of Scranton and its foundational documents.

All of the Bishops of the Church are important and active members of this Commission. In order to serve on the Church Doctrine Commission one must have an excellent understanding of the Catholic faith and theology. One must also be willing to do a tremendous amount of research in order to effectively work with others on the Commission and make statements in accord with the historic Catholic faith and teachings of the P.N.C.C.

Clergy Salary and Benefits Commission

The Clergy Salary and Benefits Commission is responsible for setting the standards by which the clergy of the Church are compensated. It not only sets the tables of minimum salary for the clergy based on number of years of service as well as the size of the parish served, but it also sets the standard of what benefits, such as health insurance for the clergyman and his family and an allowance for the use of a vehicle for parish business and car insurance. This Commission also tries to keep track of how well the parishes of the Church are fulfilling these responsibilities. The work of this Commission should be one that is very important for the Church as, in order to help encourage vocations to the priesthood, the Church must show its care and concern for the welfare and support of its clergy and their families.

(Continued on Page 6.)
History and Archives Commission

The History and Archives Commission is primarily responsible for the Archives of the Polish National Catholic Church. In this role Commission members collect, sort and catalogue historical materials which are received from parishes, dioceses and individuals. They also help to keep the current records of the Church. At present the Commission is involved in a project of digitalizing a number of historical items of importance for the P.N.C.C. The first items that the History and Archives Commission are digitalizing are the Proceedings and Reports of the General Synods and also the Publications of the P.N.C.C., beginning with *God’s Field*. These documents will be made completely searchable and eventually will be available Church members and also researchers.

The History and Archives Commission also monitors and encourages historical research into the Polish National Catholic Church. The Commission members collect historical research papers that have been written on the Church as well as a number of other topics. They also encourage historical research by assisting historians in their projects.

In order to participate in the work of this Commission, one need not be a historian. A desire to work to preserve the history of the P.N.C.C. and share it with others is what is truly needed.

Sacred Vocations Commission

This Commission is responsible for assisting the clergy and parishes of the Church in encouraging Sacred Vocations to the Priesthood and Diaconate. The Commission members encourage the young men of the Church to seriously consider if the Lord is calling them to serve within the clergy of the Polish National Catholic Church. Taking it as fact that Jesus is calling men within the Church to the ministerial priesthood, they work to help and encourage these men to examine this call and explore the possibility of answering this call.

In the past this Commission has published materials describing the priesthood and the diaconate and also has held short retreats to help the men of the Church discern their calling.

Would You Like To Serve?

If you feel that you can contribute to the work of the Polish National Catholic Church through one of its Commissions, you are encouraged to write to the Office of the Prime Bishop. Please include your name and contact information, parish affiliation, on what Commission of the Church you are interested in serving, your qualifications for service and what you believe that you would bring to the work of the Commission. All submissions will be considered, but final decisions will not be made until the calling of the XXIV General Synod in the Fall.

If anyone has any questions regarding the work of any of the Commissions, or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Prime Bishop at (570) 346-9131 or The National Church Center, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505 or pbmikovsky@pncc.org.

Reminder Regarding Changes and Amendments to the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church

Article XXIII of the Constitution states:

The Constitution and Laws of this Church may be amended only by the General Synod of this Church upon two-thirds (2/3) of the votes of the delegates present and voting.

A proposal to amend the Constitution and Laws of this Church must be submitted in writing to the Constitution Commission at least six (6) months prior to the start of the General Synod, and shall be distributed to each Parish of this Church, together with action taken thereupon by the Commission, at least sixty (60) days prior to the start of the General Synod.

Therefore since the XXIV General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church is to convene on September 29, 2014, all proposed amendments to the Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Constitution Commission through the Office of the Prime Bishop before midnight on March 29, 2014. Send to:

Office of the Prime Bishop, P.N.C.C.
Attn: Constitution Commission
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505
or Fax to: 570.346.2188
Attn: Constitution Commission
or Email with Subject line of Constitution Commission to: pbmikovsky@pncc.org and secretarytopb@pncc.org
Making It Through High School

By Nicholas Clarke

“God has no phone, but I still talk to Him. He has no Twitter, but I follow Him. He has no Facebook, but He is my friend. I may not see Him, but He is always there for me.” Being a 16 year old junior in high school, it is really tough to live in our society; always on the move - rushing everywhere. We say we “need” things when in reality we only want them.

Life as a high school student can be pretty difficult. It is even harder to keep God in our lives. What kids these days do not realize is, whenever it gets too hard, we need to turn to Him for everything. He will be there for us no matter what.

I know it can be tough, but we need to learn to keep our heads up and not get down on ourselves. Let’s say you are struggling with bullies. They are just doing that to you because they want attention. Do not do the wrong thing. Yes! You know what I mean. Suicide is never the answer. Each and every one of us is put on this earth by God for a reason; whether it be a poor factory worker or a rich doctor. God has a plan for us all, so focus on the bright side, even if you may not see it. Just ask God, because I promise you there is a bright side. If you are struggling with your grades, you can always ask God for help. He will help you in whatever way he sees fit.

High school is very tough. If you let God lead you, it will only make everything easier.

Nick is a member of the National UYA and a member of Holy Trinity Parish, New Castle, PA.

Convo 2014

In the beginning...

July 21-25, 2014
Heidelberg University
Tiffin, OH

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Forms are now available on the Western Diocese P.N.C.C. website.

Registration packets will be delivered to all parishes during February.

Go to westerndiocesepncc.org/wduya for Convo 2014 information.

Save money by registering early!

Updated Registration Fee Schedule as of January 31, 2014

Early Bird (Postmarked by May 23, 2014) Early Bird Registration Fee: $240 per person

Regular Registration Fee (Postmarked by June 13, 2014) Regular Registration Fee: $295 per person

Late Registration Fee (Postmarked after June 14, 2014) Late Registration Fee: $325 per person

Final deadline for registration is to be received by July 7, 2014.

Join the Convo 2014 Facebook Group for updates...
Protocols for Receiving the Prime Bishop or a Bishop in the Polish National Catholic Church

By Martin H. Wachna, Jr.

As the son of a priest of the Polish National Catholic Church, and now as a member of the Supreme Council, I have had the unique opportunity to travel around our Church and witness the different receptions of a Bishop. The reception of a Bishop at a Liturgical Event, a meeting of a Parish Committee, or another occasion should be treated with dignity and utmost respect.

In this article we will focus on some protocols for inviting and receiving the Prime Bishop or a Bishop: We will address the proper way to invite the Prime Bishop or a Bishop to an event; we will look at the traditions of greeting a Bishop at the Altar and the order of procession; we will review general protocols when a Bishop arrives at the Church; and we will go over the proper manner of addressing the Prime Bishop or a Bishop of our Holy Church. But first we will look at some background on Bishops of the P.N.C.C.

Types of Bishops in the P.N.C.C.

In our Church we have the Prime Bishop and Diocesan Bishops. A Diocesan Bishop is also referred to as Bishop Ordinary. Many people ask me what the difference is between the two.

In the P.N.C.C. the duly elected head of our Church is given the title “Prime Bishop.” This distinction is derived from the term *primus inter pares*, which means first among equals. Thus it is evident why we use the term *Prime* or *First Bishop*. The title of the Prime Bishop is “Most Reverend” and is akin to an Arch-Bishop. While in the PNCC we do not recognize our Prime Bishop as an Arch-Bishop, in the Western Catholic Church, among the clergy peers, there is a distinction. An Arch-Bishop in many instances wears the color red. In the P.N.C.C. it is the Prime Bishop’s choice to wear red or magenta.

The Diocesan Bishop, or Bishop Ordinary, carries the title “Right Reverend.” The Diocesan Bishop in the Polish National Catholic Church is entrusted with the care, teaching, governing and sanctifying of the faithful in their jurisdiction. He shares these duties with the Priests and Deacons of his Diocese. He is not only the Diocesan Bishop who is the shepherd of the Diocesan flock, he is also the pastor of the Cathedral. The crosier, or shepherd’s hook, signifies the bishop as the shepherd of the diocese. This outward sign of distinction lets all know that he is the leader of the Diocese with a direct link back to the Apostles through Apostolic Succession. The Prime Bishop also carries a crosier to signify that he has jurisdiction in all of the Dioceses.

Inviting a Bishop or Prime Bishop to the Parish

There is a proper way to invite the Prime Bishop or a Bishop to an event at a parish. In these days of technology, many people simply pick up the phone and call the Prime Bishop’s or a bishop’s office or even his cell phone. Some resort to a quick email invitation. This practice is not in keeping with the dignity of the Office of Bishop. A formal letter of invitation, signed by the parish pastor and a member of the event committee of the parish committee, should be sent to the Office of the Prime Bishop or the Diocesan Bishop. The letter should stipulate the reason for the invitation, the date and time of the event, the time you would like the Prime Bishop or Bishop to arrive, and any other pertinent information that may be needed. This letter should be in addition to the originating call or email. There is a twofold reason for this letter: First, it officially invites the Prime Bishop or Bishop to the event; and second, it is placed into the parish file at the National Church Center or the Diocese for historical record.

Receiving the Prime Bishop or Bishop at the Parish

When the Prime Bishop or Bishop is set to arrive at your parish for a visit, the following should be performed:

- A member of the Parish Committee should greet the Bishop at his car upon arrival.
- The Bishop should be escorted to the Church or the Rectory.
- The Bishop’s luggage should be carried into the Church or the Rectory.
- The Parish reserve a quiet place where the Bishop can go to prepare himself for the services.
Approximately 15 minutes prior to the beginning of Church the procession line should be formed.

**The Order of Procession at a Parish Event**

Interfaith Guests
Thurifer
Crucifer
Presenters of the Gifts (Bread & Salt or wine & Hosts)
Parish Committee
Non-Catholic Ecumenical Guests
Ladies Society
Altar Servers
Catholic Ecumenical Guests
Pastor
Bishop
Prime Bishop

**The Order of Procession at a Diocesan or National Event**

Interfaith Guests
Thurifer
Crucifer
Presenters of the Gifts (Bread & Salt or wine & Hosts)
Non-Catholic Ecumenical Guests
Supreme Council Members
Diocesan Council Members
Ladies Society
Altar Servers
Catholic Ecumenical Guests
Clergy Reverends
Clergy Very Reverends
Bishops
Prime Bishop

The Parish, upon the procession into Church, should greet the Prime Bishop or Bishop prior to his entry into the sanctuary. The gift of bread and salt should be presented if the parish follows the Slavic tradition. The gift of hosts and wine should be presented if the parish follows the Hispanic tradition.

The proper way to address the Prime Bishop at the greeting is Your Grace, Prime Bishop Mikovsky. Otherwise, the Prime Bishop needs to be addressed as Prime Bishop Mikovsky or simply Prime Bishop.

One should never address the Prime Bishop by his first name.

The proper way to address the Bishop at the greeting is Your Excellency, Bishop Bilinski. Otherwise, the Bishop needs to be addressed as Bishop Bilinski or Bishop. One should never address the Bishop by his first name.

Following the Mass or service, the Parish should have refreshments so the Bishop has the opportunity to meet and greet the parishioners.

**Receiving the Prime Bishop or a Bishop for a Meeting**

When the Bishop is scheduled to attend a parish meeting, a Parish Committee member, along with the Pastor, should greet the Bishop at his car. Upon the Bishop entering the room for the meeting, all attendees should rise from their chairs and extend the traditional greeting, “Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus.” or “May the name of Jesus Christ be praised.” and remain standing until the Bishop sits or he acknowledges everyone to be seated.

This show of respect for the Office of Bishop needs to be impressed upon everyone. Just as we teach our children to rise when a Priest or a Bishop enter the Sunday School rooms, we as adults must not forget this sign of respect.
A Photographic History of the Polish National Catholic Church

By Joseph Seliga, Chair, History & Archives Commission

The statement that a picture is worth a thousand words also applies to our Church. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the Archives had a photograph of every: parishioner, parish church and clergyman of the P.N.C.C.? Unfortunately, the number of parishes that have photographed every one of their parishioners is small; perhaps small enough to be counted on only one hand.

We at the P.N.C.C. Archives feel very fortunate to find photographs of the exterior of many of our parish churches, let alone pictures of the altars, interiors of the churches, church halls, cemeteries and ancillary buildings. Photographs of all of the clergy of the P.N.C.C. are even more difficult to find. It is problematic enough to develop a list of all of the clergy who have served the Church since its inception.

Getting together photographic databases would be of inestimable help in filling out the history of the P.N.C.C. One of the ways to make this happen is to use all of the available photographs, from newspapers such as *Rola Boża-God’s Field, Polka*, and *Straż*; and of anniversary and diocesan history books.

The P.N.C.C. Archives is in the process of developing a photographic database. We plan to start this project with photographs of the churches and clergy of the P.N.C.C. There are no existing files of studio or professional photographs in the P.N.C.C. Archives of either subject. The P.N.C.C. Archives has many photographs of events throughout the churches’ histories. However, most of these are from newspapers and books, and are of low photographic quality. Parish Anniversary books and special diocesan histories contain photographs. Again, these pictures are of a quality only necessary to print the book, and they need to be electronically enhanced.

One of the ways photographs such as these can be improved is by having volunteers who are proficient in computer software programs such as Photoshop or Photoscape electronically clean up and enhance the photographs so that they are of a higher quality.

Hopefully, low quality newspaper and magazine photographs can be enhanced electronically to give the P.N.C.C. Archives usable electronic version photographs for the data base.

A secondary problem is that special event photographs such as Clergy Conference or Synod photos often do not have proper identification of all of the individuals in the photograph. Unfortunately, identifying these people is an arduous task and we need volunteers to help us with this task. One large group photograph can provide many individual photos. Obtaining individual clergyman photographs is a soluble problem with the use of modern technology. Handheld scanners provide excellent quality scans up to 600 dots per inch and can be used to acquire individual photos. As with most computer electronics products, the cost of these devices has dropped considerably in recent years. They can be purchased for about $100, which includes a hard case to carry the scanner. Volunteers are needed to perform the task of scanning and breaking down group photos into individual “head shots,” if possible.

People who have the necessary computer skills to maintain flat file databases such as Microsoft Office Excel or Open Office Calc are also needed as volunteers. The flat file databases allow us to keep a record of the P.N.C.C. Archives’ parish and clergy photographs.

The success of the P.N.C.C. Archives photographic database project is going to depend on a number of dedicated volunteers with the special skills we disclosed in this article. Most of the work can be done from home, so volunteers won’t have to travel to the P.N.C.C. Archives in Scranton, PA.

If your skills include the use of the computer programs mentioned, why don’t you volunteer your services? Contact any member of the P.N.C.C. Commission on History and Archives: Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Mrs. Anne Czop, Rev. Bogusław Janiec, Rev. Dr. Czesław Kuliczkowski, Rev. Krzysztof Mendelewski, Mr. John Ostroski, Mr. Joseph F. Seliga, Dr. Joseph Wieczerzak, Mr. David Zahorsky and Rev. Charles Zawistowski; or send an email to seliga1@optonline.net.
U.S. National Council of Churches Stands ‘in solidarity’ with Ukraine Churches Seeking Peace and Justice

Washington, February 10, 2014 – As tensions in Ukraine continue over whether the nation should move closer to Russia or seek a relationship with the European Union, the U.S. National Council of Churches has praised Ukrainian churches for speaking and acting for “peace and justice.”

Ukraine President Viktor F. Yanukovych triggered widespread protests when he broke a promise to sign far-reaching political and free trade agreements with the EU. Instead, he secured $15 billion in aid from President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia.

Yanukovych has sought with little success to ease tensions in the former Soviet Republic, where attitudes toward Russia are bitterly divided.

The Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky, director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations for the Orthodox Church in America, one of 37 member communions of the National Council of Churches, said the NCC “expresses its gratitude, admiration, and support to the Ukrainian churches.”

Churches in the Ukraine “have spoken and acted for peace and justice,” said Father Kishkovsky, a former president of the National Council of Churches.

“The voices of the Churches have sought to bear witness to non-violence,” Kishkovsky said. “They have also expressed the urgent need for an honest dialogue between government and society, with peace, justice, and democracy as its goal.”

Jim Winkler, General Secretary and President of the NCC, said the Council “asks the Christian people of our member communions to support the Christian churches of Ukraine by prayer.”

“We are in solidarity with the Christian witness to non-violence and justice in Ukraine and around the world,” Winkler said.

Since its founding in 1950, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA has been the leading force for shared ecumenical witness among Christians in the United States. The NCC’s 37 member communions -- from a wide spectrum of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, Evangelical, historic African American and Living Peace churches -- include 45 million persons in more than 100,000 local congregations in communities across the nation.

NCC News contact: Philip E. Jenks, 646-853-4212 (cell), cruzandjenks@gmail.com
National Christian Leaders Oppose Mass Incarceration

Newark, NJ—Christian leaders sat transfixed as Rev. Darren Ferguson, pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Far Rockaway, NY, told the story of his decline from adolescent years with promise to incarceration and God’s power to restore and redeem. The leaders of Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A represent the broadest coalition of church leaders in the United States, including: Historic Protestant, Evangelical/Pentecostal, Catholic, Orthodox, and Historic Black Churches. They came together for the group’s annual meeting in Newark, NJ, February 4-7. On this night, the leaders were struck by one thing: Jesus loves the prisoner and he was one.

For the past six years, CCT has educated itself and taken action on issues of poverty, racial justice, and immigration reform. This year, the group furthered its commitment to these issues by engaging the issue of mass incarceration in the U.S.

The message was clear from speakers that included formerly incarcerated faith leaders, a federal judge, a former prosecutor, a director of state corrections and a social worker, as well as the deliberation among CCT participants: Mass Incarceration is not just an issue. It is first and foremost about people created in God’s image with lives, families, hopes, and dreams ensnared within a web of personal struggles and choices exacerbated by social conditions, laws, structures, and historic dehumanization of people of color.

Mass incarceration is a destructive system of human control where certain ethnic minorities experience inequitable interaction with the nation’s penal system. Current realities include:

- With only 5 percent of the world’s population, the U.S has 25 percent of the world’s imprisoned people. (The Sentencing Project)
- Incarceration rates have increased from 500,000 inmates in jail and prison in 1980 to more than 2.2 million in 2010. (The Sentencing Project)
- For-profit prison companies commonly demand 90 percent occupancy from the states that contract with them. (6 Shocking Revelations about how private prisons make money, by April M. Short on Salon.com)
- CCA and Geo Group, the nation’s two major private prison companies, “have had a hand in shaping and pushing for criminal justice policies such as mandatory minimum sentences that favor increased incarceration.” (In the Public Interest Report, September 2013)
- The “War on Drugs” dramatically increased the U.S. prison population from 41,000 drug offenders in 1980 to half a million in 2010. (The Sentencing Project)
- African Americans make up 13 percent of the U.S. population and use drugs at the same rates as people of other races, but represent 45 percent of those imprisoned for drug violations. (Drug Policy Alliance Report)
Criminal prosecutions of immigration suspects in federal court districts along the U.S. southern border have increased by 1,475 percent over the last 20 years resulting in increased demand for prisons and detention centers to hold inmates (War on Undocumented Immigrants Threatens to Swell U.S. Prison Population, by Chris Kirkham on Huffington Post and TRAC Reports)

1 in 3 Black men and 1 in 6 Latino men are likely to be imprisoned in their lifetime. Only 1 in 17 white men will experience the inside of a jail or prison in his lifetime. (The Sentencing Project)

In light of these facts and others corroborated by the personal testimonies of several speakers, agreement among CCT’s leaders was palpable. The group declared:

The church in the United States has a moral and ethical imperative to protect human dignity and must address the problem of mass incarceration in our nation.

First, we recognize that the legacy of the dehumanization of people of color has borne lasting effects in current-day society. These effects are perhaps most acutely experienced by our African-American brothers and sisters who were deemed non-human, “chattel,” by law in the days of antebellum slavery and whose human equality was challenged by the Jim Crow system of subjugation until passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 attempted to right it. We see the vestiges of these systems of human control in America’s current system of mass incarceration.

Second, we recognize that these systems are not only affecting African-Americans. They are now impacting all people of color, the poor, the marginalized, and the immigrant in the United States. Latinos and other immigrants, in particular, are experiencing the brunt of increased detention rates in the midst of their struggle for immigration reform.

Third, while there is a role for prisons to address violent offenses, we recognize that our nation’s justice system has lost the hope embodied by its historic vision to “correct” and restore broken people back to society. As followers of Jesus Christ, we believe in the redemption and reconciliation of all things, rather than retribution. This includes the prisoner and broken systems. This is the essence of the gospel.

As Christian leaders, CCT declared: “Mass incarceration must stop. We are challenging ourselves together with government and the nation to seize this moment when multiple forces are aligning toward positive action to correct the injustices within our ‘justice’ system.”

CCT in the U.S.A. is encouraging its member denominations and organizations to increase awareness, educate, and take action to oppose mass incarceration in the public square. CCT also committed to developing guiding principles for the Church in its efforts.

We invite you to learn more about CCT by visiting www.Christianchurchestogether.org.

Connect to CCT on Facebook at Christian Churches Together.

Note: The Polish National Catholic Church is a participant church in CCT.
Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

**New Parish Sign**
**Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, Mt. Pleasant, PA**

The Parish of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish in Mt. Pleasant, PA replaced the small existing parish sign with a larger, more visible sign on Bridgeport Street in front of the parish. After the Thanksgiving Day Mass, Fr. Bruce Sleczykowski, parish administrator, blessed the new parish sign.

Submitted by Rev. Bruce Sleczykowski

Central Diocese

**Our Savior Chapel, Tripp Park**
**Scranton, PA**

A new life for an old chalice: A chalice which belonged to the late Rev. Albert Liska was given to Our Savior Chapel in the Tripp Park section of Scranton, PA. The beautiful chalice was presented by Mrs. Amelia Liska, whose late husband, Steven Liska, was Rev. Liska’s brother.

Rev. Liska faithfully served the Polish National Catholic Church spending most of his service in the Detroit area P.N.C.C. parishes.

The chalice was skillfully regilded and recently consecrated by our pastor, Bishop Bernard Nowicki, with the Rev. Jason Soltysiak, also present at the occasion.

Submitted by Ellen Golembeski
New Parish Committee Elected  
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Denver, CO

Bishop Nowicki visited St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Denver, CO, in November 2013 to install a new parish committee. Pictured with the Bishop are Fr. John Kalabokes and the new committee members.

SS Cyril and Methodius Parish  
Perth Amboy, NJ

October 28, 2013 was the date in our Parish that will be remembered for a very long time. It was the date that our church building completely burned down. We have no building now, but we continue as a parish and we are doing great. Now we are renting First Presbyterian Church in Perth Amboy, NJ, which was offered to us by the pastor, Rev. Peter Hofstra.

Submitted by Rev. Mariusz Zochowski

SS Cyril and Methodius parish before the October fire  
Parishioners temporarily worship at First Presbyterian Church.
Eastern Diocese

News from St. Joseph’s Parish

Westfield, MA

On Sunday, December 15, 2013, a candlelight service was held at St. Joseph’s Parish in Westfield, MA. A reception and a visit from Santa were conducted immediately after the service.

A Family Mass was held on Christmas Eve. During the Mass several of the School of Christian Living students joined with the choir members to help fill the air with joyous music.

On Sunday January 5th, the S.O.C.L. children held the Opłatek dinner and performed a religious rendition of the Nutcracker written and directed by Lauren Sittard. The crowd enjoyed the play and then had a lovely stuffed pork roast dinner cooked by members of the Parish Committee and the S.O.C.L.

January wrapped up with the Men's Club Installation dinner held at Roma Pizza; the club then hosted a fish dinner on January 26th.

The parish Outreach Committee continues to meet in this New Year and are planning a Red Cross blood drive for Saturday, March 15, 2014.

Submitted by Kelly Burek

Several S.O.C.L. students joined the choir on Christmas Eve to offer their voices in praise

Most Rev. Franciszek Hodur

Founder and First Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church

Born: Sunday, April 1, 1866

Died: Monday, February 16, 1953
The Most Reverend Anthony A. Mikoosky, PhD.
Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church
along with
The Council of the Western Diocese
Polish National Catholic Church

request the honor of your presence at
Installation and Pontifical High Mass for
The Right Reverend Stanley M. Bilinski, Jr.
as
The Eighth Ordinary of the Western Diocese
of the Polish National Catholic Church
and
Pastor of All Saints Cathedral

Saturday, the first of March, two thousand and fourteen
at eleven o’clock in the morning

All Saints Polish National Catholic Cathedral
9201 West Higgins Road in Chicago, Illinois

Direct inquiries to 847-698-0578 or wdsec2bp@sbcglobal.net.
Parish Scholarship Awards
All Saints Cathedral, Chicago, IL

In 2009, All Saints Cathedral Parish instituted a Scholarship Program for the benefit of young people who are active participants in Parish activities and who also fulfill the necessary requirements: must be either a member or the child of a member in good standing of the parish; must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation; and must prove that they are enrolled in college or college equivalent at the time of award presentation.

Applicants for a Full Award of up at $1,000 per year must have completed 1 year’s post-confirmation attendance in the School of Christian Living, earned an attendance award and regularly attended Sunday Masses. Applicants for a Junior Award of up to $600 per year must have attended the School of Christian Living, post-Confirmation, with regular attendance at Sunday Masses; an attendance award is not required.

Parish life participation may also be considered in these awards. Parish life consideration includes participation in youth choir, altar server, lector, handbell choir, Youth Group and other Parish service opportunities. Applications must contain a 500-word essay on a specific subject.

In the past 4 years, we have issued awards to 10 different recipients totaling $22,000.00 in scholarships. Some recipients have received multiple awards.

On Sunday, January 5, Chairman Gary Kurzynski presented Scholarship Awards to Kaitlyn Esula and Myles Urban. Kaitlyn is in her third & final year studying law at New England School of Law. She is ranked in the top 10 percent of her class and has received three CALI (Computer-Assisted Law Instruction) awards for being first in three classes. She has 1 New England Scholar award for being in the top 10 percent.

Myles is a sophomore studying Special Education at St. Louis University. His activities include membership in the Alpha Delta Gamma Fraternity and volunteering with Habitat For Humanity, Warrior Dash and in Special Education Classroom.

Both Kaitlyn and Myles have been students in the School of Christian Living. Myles has also served as an altar server acolyte.

The All Saints Parish Family is very proud of these two fine young people.

Submitted by Lorraine Kay

Gary Kurzynski, Parish Committee Chair; Kaitlyn Esula and Myles Urban, award recipients; Rev. Frank Rowinski, Assistant Priest
Chicago, like many other cities in much of the United States this winter, has been the recipient of record-setting weather. On Sunday, January 5, Chicago’s temperatures dropped and the snow fell, but approximately 60 All Saints Cathedral parishioners donned their extra sweaters, boots, heavier mittens, and scarves and attended Mass at 10:00 a.m. The Mass was followed by the School of Christian Living Christmas Program.

Yes, the kids made it to church, too. Several students presented their musical talents:

Ashley Bialasik played Exercises I & II on the violin; Emily Bialasik played Jingle Bells on the guitar;

Michael L. played Holiday Mix on the trombone; and Grace Urban played a Bach piece on the violin.

The program continued with the telling of the Christmas story – the story of the birth of Christ ably told by the following participants: Ashley Bialasik, Emily Bialasik, Edwin Bogzevitz, Henry Bogzevitz, Gianna Galvan, Paige Gradowski, Madison Gradowski, Carlie Kulczak, James L., Kara L., Michael L., Alyssa Maycan, Joey Scott, MaryJane Scott, Ella Smolka, Jessica Smolka, and Grace Urban. Kudos also go to all the teachers and parents who were instrumental in having the children prepared.

Following the Christmas Program, everyone adjourned to the lower level Fellowship Hall for the Annual Parish Christmas Dinner wonderfully planned and coordinated by Theresa Heath and Ray Mizyk and their team of willing helpers. A warm and delicious dinner of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, sauerkraut & sausage, stuffed roast pork, corn bread and a variety of home baked goodies were served. A raffle was held with many very nice prizes, donated by parishioners, being won by a number of lucky winners.

So, despite adverse conditions, another Cathedral tradition was kept.

Submitted by Lorraine Kay
The 2014 Liturgical Reference Calendar – Ordo is available for purchase.
The cost of the Liturgical Calendar is $12.00 per book for pickup-up orders or $14.50 per book for mail orders to U.S.; $16.50 per book for mail orders to Canada.
To order, please make check or money order payable to The Polish National Catholic Church – LRC and send to:
The Polish National Catholic Church – LRC
Attn: Secretary to Prime Bishop
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109