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Discipleship for and with the Youth

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky
Prime Bishop

During the month of August, the Polish National Catholic Church shows a special attention to the youth of the Church in the celebration of Youth Sunday on the last Sunday of the month, this year, August 25. While this Sunday gives us an opportunity to pray for and with the youth of the Church, especially as the summer is coming to an end and many of them once again return to school, we really must challenge ourselves to not only concern ourselves with the youth on this one special day and no more.

Saint Paul speaks to a young man, named Timothy, who he had placed in charge of a congregation. He tells him, "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

While these words were written to a young man in the ministry of an infant church, they certainly do have much for us to consider when we work with the youth of our Holy Church, and in fact when we work with any others within our Christian Catholic community.

We notice that the expectations of Saint Paul for Timothy are really quite high. He tells him to set an example in speech and in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. As difficult and challenging as these might be, especially within our present culture, these are certainly the expectations that we should have for the youth of our Church today. But this immediately begs the question, how can they set an example, if they have none to follow in us. It is never enough for us to stand back and point our fingers to tell the youth, or anyone for that matter, what they are to do or how they are to act. First and foremost we must model that Christian behavior within our own lives as well. Saint Paul reminded us all in the letter to the Philippians, "Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:9) But in order for this to ring true and not be hypocritical, then we must actually be living this sort of Christian Catholic life and faith. So we see that high expectations for others, be they youth or not, places high expectations upon ourselves as well.

The saying from Timothy ends with the words, "Continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers." In this we see that the journey of the Christian is not meant to be one of solo practice. We are to join together to live the Christian life. It is in this that we "save ourselves and others" as Saint Paul says.

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Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:

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We must remind ourselves this as we approach our Christian discipline and life, it is for this reason that our Polish National Catholic Church describes certain portions of our discipline as obligations. They are obligations, not so much for our own religious life, but rather because they are important for others around us as well.

It is in this that we must put our family religious life in practice, not only immediate family but our parish family as well. Attendance at Holy Mass, the common worship of our parish together is an important part of our example and common life, but it is really just the first part. When we receive Holy Communion, the Body of Christ, at Mass it should remind us that we need to be the Body of Christ, at every moment. The extension of this worship should be private prayer and a life of prayer and Christian service as well. If we expect our children and youth to acquire a discipline of prayer, then we too must be people who pray. If we want them to be unafraid to pray in any and every situation then we must be people who turn to God at any and every moment with prayer. If we want them to act in a Christian manner and with Christian love in all situations, then we must do so as well.

If you desire that our children and our youth play a part within your parish and our Church, then we must take them and encourage them to be an active part of all the things our parishes do: worship, fundraisers, service projects, meetings, everything. I have heard from very many youth just how boring parish meetings are and having sat through very many of them, in some ways I must agree. Maybe these meetings would be more engaging for all if they would be focused on the work of our parishes and we asked to hear the vision of all, including our youth.

I had the great opportunity this summer to spend some wonderful time with some of the youth of our Holy Church. I attended the Western Diocesan Youth Gathering at Pine Trails Camp in Saugatuck, Michigan and the annual Kurs Encampment at the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center at Spójnia Farm in Waymart, PA. During these days I spent time in the celebration of Holy Mass, in prayer,

in service and in joyful Christian life together with adults and youth of the P.N.C.C. These days were truly joyful as I was spiritually uplifted by the youth of the P.N.C.C. I encourage any and all Polish National Catholics to experience these events if you ever have the opportunity. You will be uplifted and encouraged in your own spiritual life, through the enthusiasm and faith of the young members of the Polish National Catholic Church.

And our course we know that there are many other opportunities for these experiences that we can have. There are many youth events held throughout our Holy Church, and each one is joyous. But along with these larger events, there is also the opportunity to work together with the youth of the Church on the local level, through involvement in the prayer life and liturgical life of the Church, through parish service projects, as suggested by the Future Direction Subcommittee, or through events to spiritually uplift and encourage us. And if you say to me that my parish only has a few youth so what can we do, the answer is that a few youth and a few adults can accomplish great things throughout your parish and community if only you take the initiative. In fact we must remind ourselves that Jesus did not demand large groups. He told us, "Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:19-20) If we desire to grow in our Christian faith and service, even two or three gathered together, praying or working, will have the blessing of Jesus upon it.

So my brothers and sisters, during this month of August pray strongly for the youth of our Holy Church. But don't let it be prayer only. Although the summer is almost over, there is still time to gather with the youth of the Church, to pray, to work, to serve Jesus in His Church and in the community. And don't let it end with the summer either. Let all God's people be a vital part of His Holy Church. Be an example to the youth and if you truly look to them, they will be an example to you as well.



Nominations Commission
Polish National Catholic Church

Report of the Nominations Commission Meeting
August 6, 2019

The Nominations Commission of the Polish National Catholic Church met at the P.N.C.C. National Church Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania on Tuesday, August 6, 2019. The Commission was called to order by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky and Bishop Paul Sobiechowski offered the opening prayer.

The Commission reviewed their responsibilities in vetting candidates for the office of bishop in the Polish National Catholic Church as outlined in the Article XII – Section 3 of the P.N.C.C. Constitution. The Commission reviewed and discussed those materials submitted by clergy who had accepted nomination as a candidate for the office of bishop. The Commission then interviewed the two candidates that were present. After discussing the responses to the Theological Questions as determined by the Supreme Council and other pertinent questions asked by the commission, the Commission as per the P.N.C.C. Constitution determined the fitness of each candidate.

The Commission reports that Very Rev. Jaroslaw (Jerry) Rafalko has been found fit as a candidate for election and his name will be presented to the 2019 Special Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church as a candidate for the office of bishop.

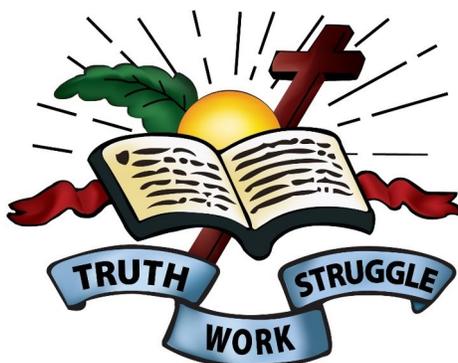
Prime Bishop Mikovsky thanked the members of the Nomination Commission for their time and labor for the good of our Holy Church. The meeting concluded with a prayer offered by Bishop John Mack.

Respectfully submitted in Christ,

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr.

Secretary, Nominations Commission

Polish National Catholic Church



Very Rev. Jarosław Rafalko

Personal Information:

Parents:

+ John and + Wanda (Siemionkowicz) Rafalko

Grandparents:

+ Konstanty and + Franciszka Rafalko; + Feliks and + Marianna Siemionkowicz

Date of Birth:

January 24, 1955, Knyszyn, Poland

Baptized:

April 11, 1955, Holy Mother of Czestochowa Parish, Monki, Poland

God-parents:

Stanislawa Kosciuk and + Antoni Kuc

First Communion:

May 1964, Holy Mother of Czestochowa Parish, Monki, Poland

Confirmation:

May 26, 1968, Holy Mother of Czestochowa Parish, Monki, Poland

Deacon Ordination:

June 17, 1979, Cathedral Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Bialystok, Poland – Most Rev. Edward Kisiel, Archbishop of Bialystok

Ordination to the Priesthood:

June 8, 1980, Cathedral Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Bialystok, Poland – Most Rev. Edward Kisiel, Archbishop of Bialystok

Pastoral Responsibilities in Poland:

June 1980-June 1984, Assistant Pastor at St. Bartholomew Parish, Szudzialowo, Poland

June 1984-November 1989, Assistant Pastor at St. Andrew Bobola Parish, Bialystok, Poland

Arrival to the USA:

November 20, 1989, November 26, 1989-March 26, 1990 – Assistant at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Divine Word Parish and St. John the Baptist Parish in Chicago, IL

Accepted into the P.N.C.C.:

February 1990 by Most Rev. John Swantek and Rt. Rev. Joseph Zawistowski

Appointed as Pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Kewanee, IL:

March 26, 1990 by Rt. Rev. Joseph Zawistowski

Matrimony:

Married Wieslawa Czaban, July 7, 1990 at Holy Trinity Parish in Kewanee, IL by Rt. Rev. Joseph Zawistowski, assisted by Very Rev. Joseph Kobylarz, Very Rev. Martin Wachna and Rev. Joseph Brzek.

Educational Background:

Elementary Education – 1962-1970 Monki, Poland

High School – 1970-1974 Monki, Poland

Archdiocesan Seminary, Bialystok, Poland 1974-1980

Certificate of Graduation of Archdiocesan Seminary, Bialystok, Poland – June 14, 1980

(Continued on Page 6.)

(Very Rev. Jarosław Rafalko - Continued from Page 5.)

Post-Seminary Study – 4 year theological study, Archdiocesan Seminary, Bialystok, Poland 1980-1984

Master's Thesis – “Understanding the Sacrament of the Eucharist in the Russian Orthodox Church” – Catholic University of Lublin and Academy of Christian Theology, Warsaw, Poland

Black Hawk College, Kewanee, IL 1997-1999, English Language, Introduction to Computers, Computer Programming

Pastoral Activities:

Holy Trinity Parish, Kewanee, IL – March 26, 1990 to the present.

Pastoral responsibilities and duties described in the Constitution of our Church; Preparing weekly and monthly parish bulletins; Church services at Holy Trinity Parish; Attending parish meetings; Participating in the Ladies Adoration Society meetings and their activities; Monthly Tea Party with the Ladies Adoration Society; Helping the ladies to clean the Church; Sunday School classes; Preparing annual celebrations such as Christmas and Easter with Sunday School children; Preparing Christmas and Easter decorations in the Church; Mother's Day and Father's Day party with the children; Visiting the sick at nursing homes and hospitals; Visiting homebound parish members; Preparing monthly dinners for the parish members and for the community; Helping with the fundraisers of the parish; Advertising parish and all activities on Facebook; Preparing parish information at the parish communication billboard in the church vestibule; Representing the parish at the Diocesan and General Church meetings; Participating in the remodeling of the church and rectory.

Diocesan Activities:

Recording Secretary of the Clergy Circle of the Western Diocese – May 1995 to May 2011; Chairman of the Western Diocese Clergy Circle – elected May 2011; Member of the Western Diocesan Council; Member of the Western Diocesan Theological Commission 2010; Deaconate Program of the Western Diocese 2010; Translator of different documents from English to Polish; August 2016 – appointed as Senior Priest of the Northcentral Seniorate by Bishop Stanley Bilinski; Member of the PNCC/ACNA ecumenical dialogue commission; Elected as the clergy delegate to the Supreme Council 2017; Reelected as the clergy delegate to the Supreme Council at the General Synod 2018; November 2018, appointed by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky as the Senior Priest assisting Prime Bishop as the administrator of the Western Diocese after the unexpected passing of Bishop Stanley Bilinski; Supporting and supervising parishes in Chicago; Actively participating in the life of each parish in the Northcentral Seniorate; Participating in the liturgical celebrations of the Seniorate parishes; Preparing two Lenten Retreats in the Seniorate; Visiting parishes at their fundraising events; Visiting parishes of the Western Diocese at the time of their special need; With the appointment of the Prime Bishop administering the Sacrament of Confirmation; Installed new pastor at Divine Word Parish in Chicago, IL; Preparing Clergy Conference and Retreat for the Western Diocese; Providing spiritual directions and emotional comfort to the Ladies Adoration Society as the Chaplain of this society in the Western Diocese.

Kewanee Ministerial Association Active Member:

Attending monthly meetings; Participating in the activities prepared by the Association such as graduations and baccalaureate celebrations; Participating in preparation of lunch meal for the volunteers working at the Labor Day festival in Kewanee; Member of the Kewanee Kiwanis.

Kewanee Church Fellowship Active Member:

Participating in Palm Sunday Concert; Participating in Community Memorial Service; Participating in Thanksgiving Community Service; Participating in the preparation of the lunch meal for volunteers

working at the Labor Day weekend in Kewanee; Participating Crop Walk – Kewanee Church Fellowship; Grief Counseling with Bible Study for the community.

Kewanee School District:

Attending sports events; Attending concerts and musicals in which children from the parish participate;

Kewanee Community:

Participating in the Benefit for Life – an annual fundraiser for the sick in the community; Participating in the Relay for Life in Kewanee; Helping with the free meals served to the community members at the Memorial Day and Thanksgiving Day; Chaplain and Bereavement coordinator for OSF Hospice; Monthly 15 minute radio program at Kewanee radio station; Monthly religious reflections to the local newspaper Star Courier; Community funeral services at the funeral homes; Community grief support group; On call pastoral visit at Kewanee's 5 nursing homes and the hospital.

A much more detailed report from Very Rev. Jaroslaw Rafalko, together with his Curriculum Vitae and his answers to a number of questions has been mailed to each parish of the Polish National Catholic for review and distribution to the Special Synod Delegates.

Prayer for the Clergy and Laity of the Church

Let us pray for Prime Bishop Mikovsky;

For our Diocesan Bishops: Bishop Mack, Bishop Nowicki and Bishop Sobiechowski;

For our Pastors;

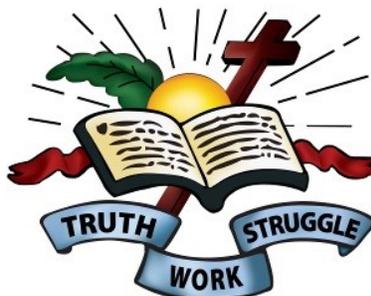
For all bishops, priests and deacons;

For all who have a special ministry in the Church;

For the people of God.

Almighty and Eternal God, Your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops — successors to Your Apostles — priests and deacons, as well as all other leaders of the Church. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church, and help each of us to faithfully do the work to which You have called us.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Hotel Reservation Information

Reservation and contact information for the three hotels in which we have placed room blocks for the upcoming Special Synod is listed below, in addition to information regarding a hotel that we use for occasional meetings at the National Church Center. Remember that delegates are required to make their own hotel reservations and payment arrangements. A limited number of rooms in each hotel are available on a first-come-first-served basis for October 24 and October 25, 2019. There is no guarantee that additional rooms will be available at these hotels and at these rates once all the blocked rooms are booked.

To obtain the special group rates listed, delegates must state that they are reserving under the block of rooms set under **P.N.C.C.** Rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes in effect at time of check in. *Please address any inquiries about check-in and check-out times, fees for late arrivals/no-shows, hotel amenities, dining in the hotel and airport shuttle with the hotel staff when making reservations.*

Hampton Inn Scranton at Montage

22 Montage Mountain Road
Scranton, PA 18507
570-342-7002

30 rooms blocked at \$105.00/night.

Room: 2 Double Beds

Reservations must be made NO LATER THAN September 24, 2019.

Courtyard Scranton Wilkes-Barre (Marriott)

16 Glenmaura National Boulevard
Moosic, PA 18507
570-969-2100

20 rooms blocked at \$109.00/night.

Room: 2 Double Beds

Reservations must be made NO LATER THAN September 24, 2019.

Spring Hill Suites by Marriott Scranton Wilkes-Barre

19 Radcliffe Drive
Moosic, PA 18507
570-207-1212

30 rooms blocked at \$114.00/night.

Room: 2 Queen Beds and a pullout double sofa

Reservations must be made NO LATER THAN September 24, 2019.

Comfort Suites

44 Montage Mountain Road
Scranton, PA 18507
570-347-1551

PLEASE NOTE: Rooms have not been blocked at this hotel, but if you call and book under "P.N.C.C." they offer 20% off of their current price of the day on available rooms.

Let the Children Come to Me: Discipleship of and with Our Youth



During August our Holy Church focuses on our youth. Thanks to **Karen Sobiechowski** for this meaningful and succinct reflection: Future Direction has given us the theme for August - Let the Children Come to Me - Discipleship of and with our Youth. Let us reflect on Jesus' own words to His disciples found in Matthew 19:13-15

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so He could lay his Hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering Him. But Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." And He placed His hands on their heads and blessed them before He left.

Jesus' desire is the same today as it was so many centuries ago. He wants to bless our children, and it's up to us to bring them to Him. This includes attending Mass as a family, providing instruction in the faith (both in our churches and in our homes), and living Gospel values daily. This is discipleship. Do our children see a true picture of Jesus in us? Let's pray this month to be led and guided by the Holy Spirit, that our lives would reflect Jesus and draw others - especially our young people - to Him. Blessings to all!

Prayer for our Youth (2010 P.N.C.C. Prayer Book)

Loving and kind Father, because You created us in Your image and likeness and determined that one generation should follow another in order to continue life, keep in Your tender and steadfast care the youth of the Church. May they come to know and understand that true happiness can be attained when they live in harmony with Your teaching. May they, like our Lord and Savior in His youth, grow "in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor."

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our Church has some wonderful youth programs – encourage your children and the youth in your families and parishes to take advantage of these life-changing and faith-enriching experiences. Just this summer we had wonderful events at the KURS, the Western Diocese Youth Gathering and the Eastern Diocese Acolyte Retreat; and coming up later this month is the 46th Annual Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat. These events provide our youth with some great time shared in worship, prayer, faith building and making friendships that last lifetimes.

During this month dedicated to our youth we also pause to remember our past National Youth Chaplain of nearly 40 years, † sp. Bishop Stanley Bilinski. He was a devoted and tireless advocate for the youth of our Holy Church - may he rest in peace!

Please keep this church-wide undertaking in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church.

May our example of following Jesus – our lived discipleship – be a genuine and faithful example for the youth of our Holy Church and those youth whom we meet in our lives. Please remember to especially pray for our youth during this month and at Holy Mass on Youth Sunday, August 25th!

P.N.C.C. Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

PNCC Youth Activities - June & July 2019

KURS, WD Youth Gathering & ED Acolyte Retreat



A Short History of the Life and Struggles of Bishop Francis Hodur - Part 2

This book was written by Rev. Bolesław Bąk in 1946 and published by the author in 1954. Its dedication is as follows: "I humbly dedicate this work to all those co-workers of the Organizer, bishops, priests and laymen, who, by their faith, devotion and struggle made the existence of the Polish National Catholic Church possible and insured her further growth and development."

This 88-page book has a Preface, Comments from Bishop Francis Hodur's writings, 14 chapters, a Peroration, an Appendix, an Appeal and a short paragraph written by Bishop Francis Hodur titled Remember! This article, Part 2, will be about chapters 8 through 14, a Peroration, an Appendix, an Appeal and a short paragraph written by Bishop Francis Hodur titled Remember!

Chapter 8 - The First Period.

This chapter opens with a discussion about the singing of the Holy Mass in the Polish language. "Eye witnesses confirmed the fact that many cried during these services held in the Polish language." The Roman Catholic Bishops tried every way that they could think of to tell people that a Mass in the Polish language is not valid: pamphlets, newspapers and from the pulpit. "To counter these actions, Rev. Hodur wrote an extended letter to the Polish people in which he reaffirmed, in a fundamental manner based on historical facts and incontestable evidence, the reasonableness of his ideas." Rev. Hodur realized that sermons and speeches would not be enough; he also needed a well-educated clergy, which were in short supply, to provide continuous pastoral teaching. Some of the clergy came to the National Church for material gain. To overcome these difficulties, Rev. Hodur decided that a Constitution, delineating the lawful duties of both clergy and laity, was needed; as was a Seminary to train priests for the National Church. After discussions with his brethren, he called a Synod to be held in Scranton on the 7th, 8th and 9th of September, 1904. Sixteen priests and 130 lay delegates from the parishes and patriotic organizations which supported the National Church came to this Synod. "They came from Scranton, Dickson City (Priceburg), Jessup, Wilkes-Barre, Plymouth, Edwardsville, Duryea, Austin Heights, Shamokin, Nanticoke, all in Pennsylvania; Bayonne, Jersey City, Passaic and Perth Amboy in New Jersey; Fall River, Lowell and Webster in Massachusetts; West Seneca, New York, and Chicago, Illinois." The results of the

Synod were: adoption of a Constitution, Church rituals were to be in the Polish Language, not Latin, a Bishop was chosen - Rev. Hodur, Adoption of two Holy Days (Poor Shepherd's Day and Brotherly Love Day); and a determination that a Theological Seminary to train young men to become National Church priests was to be organized.

Chapter 9 - The Birth of 'Spójnia' - An Organization of Brotherly Assistance.

This chapter talks about the birth of Spójnia, another way for helping his parishioners deal with their insurance needs. When the Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.) was being formed there was an organization which dealt with their insurance needs named Związek Polsko Narodowy (Polish National Alliance). It attracted Poles of every political, social or religious persuasion, in large numbers. "This liberal policy became a source of conflict between the Roman Priests and the Związek." Priests would sometimes prevent a deceased person to be brought into a church or the cemetery if that person had a Związek emblem. "Little by little the heads of the Związek began to cater to the Roman priests." Even though the constitution of the Związek guaranteed its members religious freedom, the practicality was different; either a person could choose to disregard their church or "leave the organization and engage in religious and social work befitting the honor and integrity of the hard-working Pole." In 1908 when Związek members asked for redress from rulings and were denied, they appealed to Bishop Hodur. His response was to then found Spójnia. The Constitution of Spójnia said "The Polish National Union is not only to be a life insurance company or a financial organization, paying out money in case of death, but it is to be rather, an organization of ideals. Were we the richest people in the world materially, if we did not possess strong spirit, conviction in the responsibility for our deeds before God, our own conscience and before our community; and if our faith did not awaken us to social quality, the realization of individual and national worthiness, we would come to a pitiful end, just as so many organizations, which did away with higher ideals, have done. The teachings of Christ should not be used to disguise the mighty, when they enrich themselves and rule over great masses of people, through the medium of religion. His teachings shall give strength, the power to regen-

(Continued on Page 12.)

(A Short History of the Life and Struggles of Bishop Francis Hodur—Part 2 - Continued from Page 11.)

erate our nation spiritually as well as morally, to guide it towards great and noble deeds, and to lead it to a state of perfection, which Jesus Christ called the rule of the Kingdom of God on Earth.” The Roman Catholic clergy did all they could to cause the downfall of the PNU and the P.N.C.C. When the second Sejm was called to be held in Bayonne, NJ, a Roman Catholic Priest from Passaic proposed “(1) To warn that anyone who participated in the Sejm would not be given absolution, (2) To argue that Spójnia was an unreliable organization, whose ultimate goal was social, political and religious downfall. (3) To publish and distribute at the Sejm a pamphlet, which would be slanderous to Bishop Hodur and his faithful Priests. (4) To warn the foreign born in Bayonne and vicinity, regarding the decline of Spójnia and the National Church.” These proposals didn’t have an effect on the Sejm or its work.

Bishop Hodur stressed the need for social and humanitarian work. Large numbers of pamphlets on a variety of topics were printed and distributed. An evening school was run for Spójnia members during nine months of the year; most lectures were given by Bishop Hodur. Over the years, Spójnia provided assistance to striking miners and scholarships to young people who could not afford higher education. Because of the training of its officers by Bishop Hodur, the PNU has prospered and continues its support of its members and the P.N.C.C.

Chapter 10 - The Second Period.

The period between 1909 and 1916 was one of development for the P.N.C.C., beginning with the Second Synod held in 1909, to the inclusion of a new parish in Dupont, PA, in 1916. “This Synod declared that preaching of and listening to the Word of God is a Sacrament, and that the preaching of the Gospel is a sacred duty of a Polish National Priest. The Synod also set aside the second Sunday of March as a Church holiday, commemorating the founding of the Polish National Catholic Church.” Bishop Hodur took on many roles during this period: spiritual leader of the Scranton Parish; editor; an author; song writer; a teacher at the Theological Seminary; and a missionary. In the March 1912, he wrote “Through the Years to Thee O Lord” (Tyle Lat My Ci O Panie!). This song became the hymn of the P.N.C.C.

In 1914, Bishop Hodur organized the male youth of the parish, many of whom did not have much education or an occupation, to become active, educated

healthy-minded persons. This Society, Zmartwychwstanie (Resurrection) held education classes promoting patriotic works by giving presentations about national heroes, encouraging plays and athletics. Other parishes followed suit and developed their own like societies.

The third General Synod was held in Chicago in 1914. Because of the rapid developments of new parishes, a need for men to aid Bishop Hodur arose. The Synod elected four priests as Bishops-elect: Rev. Walenty Gawrychowski, Rev. Francis Bończak, Rev. Walenty Cichy, and Rev. J. Plaga. The Synod also established a Liturgical Book Commission, and accepted the Creed of the P.N.C.C.

In 1915, the Polish National parish in Buffalo, NY, which was fraudulently sold to the RCC, was recovered through the efforts of Bishop Hodur and Bishop-elect Gawrychowski. In 1916, a dispute arose in the RC parish in Dupont, PA; A Sheriff and his deputies brought a RC Priest to the parish on January 16th and, while pushing through the people, a shot rang out and mortally wounded Mr. W. Gazior. This ultimately led to the development of the Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish.

Chapter 11. The Thorny Road Through Poland.

It was always Bishop Hodur’s dream to bring the idea of a free church to Poland. This could not come to pass while Poland was partitioned by Russia, Germany and Austria. In 1907, while Bishop Hodur was at a congress consisting of Old Catholic Bishops, clergy and laity, his name was called, as was the name of the church he represented. “General Kiryjew, who represented the Orthodox Church, became aroused at this and jumped to his feet crying: Polish National Church! Now what kind of a new church is that? Why necessarily ‘National’? But then it is true that you Poles have to be different from all the rest of the world. With you, everything is National. . . wsio narodowe. . . National religion. There is no National religion yet, replied Bishop Hodur, but there will be some day, when the Polish people awaken them from their lethargy, throw off the Roman Catholic yoke, and introduce the National Church.”

After the downfall of Czarist Russia, Rev. Bronisław Krupski sailed to Poland as the first missionary of the National Church in 1919. He was met by intransigence of the RCC, who utilized every means possible to thwart his mission. In 1920, Bishop Hodur spent several weeks in Poland to investigate the conditions

there. After he returned to the USA, he “organized committees to collect contributions for the people made destitute by the World War. He trained the missionaries in the ideas of the National Church. He did everything in his power to gain equal rights for the worshipers of the National Church in conformity with the Polish Constitution of 1921, guaranteeing freedom of conscience to all citizens.”

Bishop Francis Bończak was appointed head of the missionaries from America. He faced the draconian opposition of the RCC, meetings and Masses were broken up by armed thugs and even the police. When Bishop Hodur went to Debnik, Poland in 1923, the police prevented him from singing Mass in the Polish Language; the head of the police told them that even saying the Our Father in Polish was prohibited. The RCC papers contended “that the National Church was an importation from America, supported by the Masons and Jews.” In 1925, Bishop Leon Grochowski sailed for Poland with the intent of visiting and conducting Masses in every National Church parish. His sermons inspired National Church members. Opposition by the RCC continued unabated; public massacres of National Church members occurred. In 1926, when Bishop Hodur visited Warsaw, Poland, and while Mass was being conducted, he was attacked by fanatical students along with Bishop Bończak; Bishop Bończak’s head was split open by a chair. After the police arrived the attack was stopped. “Several criminals were nabbed and confessed, that in accordance with instructions from the Roman Catholic Priest they were to murder these valiant fighters for spiritual freedom.” After his wounds were cleaned and dressed, Bishop Hodur spoke to newspapermen. He said “I now feel fifty percent stronger than I did before, because I feel that the personal injuries I received will benefit the National Church. This display of Roman Catholic intolerance reverberated with loud echoes in the American Press. The name of Bishop Hodur and his National Church restrained the Roman Catholic clergy from greater abuse of the people.” The Polish government in 1925, while negotiating a concordat with the RCC used a threat of promoting the National Church to obtain concessions.

Chapter 12 The Third Period

During World War I, Bishop Hodur exhorted his parishioners to buy as many Liberty Bonds as they could to show their gratefulness for residing in this country. He also sought donations for assistance to

Poland. He suggested that a Sejm of all organizations made up of Polish Immigrants be held. At this Sejm, held in Buffalo, NY, he made a motion that “We, the representatives of the Polish Immigrants in America, hereby decide to donate to Poland 20 million dollars (this sum was to be guaranteed by the assets of all Polish organizations held by American Banks) to help strengthen her, so that she can more easily enter on the road to economic revival. The motion was unanimously carried. When Bishop Hodur left the hall, he was given a tremendous ovation, even the Roman Catholics.” The motion was never carried out. Bishop Hodur continued to help those who had grievances.

Twenty new parishes were formed during this period, eleven in PA: Philadelphia, Canonsburg, New Castle, Carnegie, Boswell, Johnston, McKeesrocks, Slovan, Oil City, Erie and South Forks; two in NY, Albany and Niagara Falls, and one each in Trenton, NJ, Wallingford, CT, Westfield, MA, Foley, MN, Cleveland, OH, and Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The Fourth General Synod was held in 1921. Its decisions included (1) Public Confession for all adult members, (2) That Baptism and Confirmation are actually one Sacrament in dual form, (3) Defined the concept of Hell, (4) Lifted the ban on clergy marrying, and (5) Recognized “Through the Years to Thee O Lord” (Tyle Lat My Ci O Panie!) as the hymn of the P.N.C.C. Bishop Hodur spent time and effort to incorporate the decisions and resolutions of the Fourth Synod. Opposition to Bishop Hodur and the National Church came from independent priests who had been thrown out of the RCC and disregarded by Bishop Hodur. “A vital weapon in the struggle against those who were cheating and injuring the people, and in the propagation of true Christian teaching’s, was the magazine Rola Boża (God’s Field), an organ of the National Church, it was founded by Bishop Hodur in 1923.”

Dioceses were created during this period by a Special Synod in 1924, Eastern, Central, Western, Lithuanian and Poland. Rev. Leon Grochowski and Rev. John Gritenas were elected as bishops and a date, Aug. 17, 1924, was established for their consecrations along with those of Rev. W. Gawrychowski and Rev. F. Bończak who were elected at the 1914 Synod. The RCC renewed its attacks in the press, “declaring that in the face of God and the Church, this deed of Rev. F. Hodur is frightfully sacrilegious.” An article in

(Continued on Page 14.)

(A Short History of the Life and Struggles of Bishop Francis Hodur—Part 2 - Continued from Page 13

Przewodnik Katolicki quoted Pope Boniface VIII who stated in the encyclical *Unam Sanctam*, 1302. “We assert, state and announce, that in order to be saved, it is necessary that every living person be subject to the Pope.”

Two Slovak priests, from McKeesport were sent by their parishioners to petition Bishop Hodur to “receive their parish under his jurisdiction, bless their church and administer the Sacrament of Confirmation.” The church was blessed in September 1925, and in November 1925, he dedicated the Slovak parish of Holy Name of Jesus in Passaic, NJ. A group of Italians came to Bishop Hodur. They had organized several parishes of a proposed Italian National Church, at the head of which was Rev. A. Lanza. Unfortunately it shortly ceased to exist. The chapter ends with a *Rola Boża* article written by Bishop Hodur, Volume 3, number 23.

Chapter 13: The Expansion Period of the ideals of the National Church

Despite being almost 60, Bishop Hodur helped the Anthracite Coal Region miners who went on strike. He saw to it that their families were properly taken care of and organized committees to aid those in need. Bishop Hodur in those days wore a tattered cassock because he gave every penny to the miners. The strike lasted 170 days.

All Saints Parish in Chicago invited Bishop Hodur to Chicago in 1926 and asked for the restoration of the Bishopric and the appointment of a clergyman with the title of Bishop. Bishop Leon Grochowski was appointed in charge of the Western Diocese and the pastor of All Saints Parish. Bishop Grochowski established *Przebudzenie* (Awakening), a weekly magazine. “A Theological Seminary was organized and missionaries of the National Church were sent to western and southern states as well as to Canada. Numerous parishes arose in various cities in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Minnesota.”

The rebuilding of St. Stanislaus was also done in this period at a cost of \$100,000. A building for the Rev. Hieronim Savonarola Seminary was purchased and opened. Parishes were organized in Hazleton, Frackville, Middleport, Minersville, Allentown, Bethlehem, Kingston, Reading, Throop and Homestead in PA and Little Falls and Utica in NY.

In April 1928, the Third Special Synod was held in

Scranton. A new Diocese, Buffalo-Pittsburgh, was created, and Rev. John Z. Zielinski, elected as Bishop. He was subsequently appointed as Bishop of the newly-created Diocese.

Bishop Hodur went to Spójnia Farm where he wrote *Apokalipsa XX Wieku* (Apocalypse of the Twentieth Century). When he returned to Scranton, he edited the memorial book “33”. Annual vacations for children at Spójnia Farm were begun during this period. A Parent-Teacher Association was organized. A number of buildings were built at Spójnia Farm to provide housing for the aged and disabled without families. New parishes were organized in PA, NJ and NY and the number of parishes in other diocese doubled.

Chapter 14 - The Golden Period in the Work of Bishop Hodur

The General Synod in Chicago, IL in 1935 and the Provincial Synod in Warsaw, Poland selected three candidates for Bishop, Rev. Joseph Lesniak, Rev. John Misiaszek and Rev. Joseph Padewski. Bishop Joseph Padewski was sent to Poland to administer that Diocese. A petition signed by 300,000 members of the National Church was sent to the Polish Government asking for recognition of the National Church. The sway of the RCC over the Polish Government caused the attempt to fail. “In this period, there were about 250 parishes and missions in the North America, Brazil, Canada and Poland.”

Bishop Hodur sent letters to President Roosevelt and to the Department of State pleading for their intervention to prevent a war upon Poland by Germany. The war finally came. “Urged by their Bishop, the members of all National parishes exceeded 100% their quotas in the purchase of U.S. War Savings Bonds.” Bishop Hodur suggested that newspapers and bulletins be published and sent to members who were serving in the armed forces. The monthly newsletter “Forward Christian Soldier” resulted. Some returning serviceman entered Savonarola Seminary and became Priests.

The horrible war crimes, sufferings, hunger and poverty greatly affected Bishop Hodur. He caused aid to be sent to Poland from the National Church and its organizations and begged others to help. “In February 1946, he received a notification from the Polish Government to the effect that the National Church was now a legally recognized religious institution. For Bishop Hodur, this news was cause for tremen-

dous joy, because his work and his struggles had brought about blessed fruit in Poland” This joy was short lived because Missionary Bishop Joseph Padewski was arrested and died in a Communist prison in Warsaw, Poland in 1951.

Peroration

“Bishop Hodur never desired rewards, distinction or praise because he felt he could apply to himself the words of the Bible, as follows: But Jesus called unto Him and said, Ye shall know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great, exercise authority upon them (Matt. 20:25). But it shall not be so among you; but whosoever will be great among you let him be your servant. (Matt. 20:26). And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant (Matt. 20:27). Even as the son of man came not be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many (Matt. 20:28). The fact remains that he did not partake of God’s bread gratis, because he served his co-workers strengthened them, taught them, reprimanded them, when necessary, encouraged them to work, sustained them against moral corruption and prepared them for great deeds.”

The chapter ends with a list of the five languages that Bishop Hodur spoke, the numbers of people he baptized and married, the numbers of priests ordained, the numbers of trips he made to Europe and the numbers of funerals conducted. The writings of Bishop Hodur are also listed.

Appendix

This chapter discusses the funeral of Bishop Hodur and contains the text of the eulogy by Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski.

Let Us Consecrate Ourselves

“It is not sufficient to consecrate a brick or a wooden church, and decorate altars, but God demands the consecration of each one of us on the altar of a united cause.

Let us consecrate our minds, and seek in God the inspiration for gaining Truth and Justice.

Let us consecrate our hearts, and our love for our National Church, with every drop of blood which our hearts possess, and which awakens us to action.

And let us follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, imitate Him, work with Him, and suffer in the name of His most holy ideals, and in this way we shall fulfill the aim of our life, the source of untold happiness and eternal salvation”

REMEMBER!

This segment was written by Bishop Hodur. It is about the history of Poland and its location in the center of Europe “between two political and economic colossi — between Germany and Russia — both obsessed with the idea, that they are destined to rule not only Europe, but the entire world, and both powers desire not only the fertile soil of Poland, and her mineral riches, but also the splendid Slavic race, endowed by the Providence of God with any great racial qualities.” Poland saved Europe twice, in 1683 under King John Sobieski in defeat of the Turks and in 1920 under Marshal Pilsudski in the defeat of the Red Army at Warsaw. “Poland gave to the world statesmen, scientists, authors, poets, musicians, noble men.” Poland gave to America Kosciuszko, Pułaski, hundreds of soldiers in World War I and four million hardworking people who enriched the United States. “Remember that Poland has created in the XV and XVI century, the first federation of nations, not through the sword and force, but by the common ideals, common cause, uniting the Polish, Lithuanian, Ukranian and Prussian kingdoms into one powerful democratic state, flourishing through the centuries.” He said that the Jesuits, under Cardinal Hoze, “through its fanatical teachings, brought about degeneration, intolerance, hatred and anarchy, causing the downfall of an illustrious and free-federated Poland. On the most beautiful glass windows of this church, you can see the likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the World and his Holy Mother Mary; you can see the faces of three Apostles — Peter, Paul and John; you can see the great emancipator, Abraham Lincoln; you can see the greatest reformer and martyr of the Slavic race, John Hus; and you can see two of the greatest philosophers and poets of the Polish Nation, Adam Mickiewicz and Julius Slowacki.” He concluded with “Remember that in your veins flows the blood of great heroes, great leaders, great poets, statesmen and noble, sturdy workmen. Be proud and try to show with your life that you are worthy of your heritage.”

This book relates the life of the organizer of the P.N.C.C. and a history of the early days of the Church. Reading it will bring to life the struggles that your parents and grandparents lived through to make and keep the P.N.C.C. a reality. Keeping a democratic church has never been easy. It needs our constant attention.

Joseph Francis Seliga
Chair, P.N.C.C. Commission on History and Archives

90 Years Later, Bishop Hodur's Vision is Alive and Well at Spójnia Farm

The 90 for 90 Campaign has seen a lot of success the first 7 months of the year. Thank you to all of those who have generously donated. This month's article will have a short report on the Kurs encampment 2019, and the Independence Day Celebration at Spójnia Farm. Next month some campers and counselors will tell you about their recent experience. We have 5 months left to keep collecting donations and keep pushing closer to our goal. At this point with our collected donations and pledges we are half way to the goal of \$90,000. Thank you again to all of our donors and supporters.

On July 4, 1929, the Polish National Catholic Organizer Prime Bishop Francis Hodur consecrated Spójnia Farm in Waymart, Pa., for the benefit of his people.

Now, fast forward to July 4, 2019, and his dream is still very much alive. At the 2019 annual Kurs encampment, the 90th anniversary of Spójnia Farm was observed in such a way that it would have put a smile of great satisfaction on First Prime Bishop Hodur's face. Because this is what he would have seen:

The 90th Anniversary event started with a Mass celebrated in the main auditorium of the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center, which was standing room only for those in attendance. Polish National Catholic Church Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, the principal celebrant, urged the Kurs encampment youth to "tell others to join us when you go back to your parishes." The Prime Bishop also praised the "quality of leadership" at the Kurs which for 2019 was at full capacity by campers. Assisting the Prime Bishop at the Mass were Y.M.S. of R. Chaplain Rev. Carmen Bolock and Rev. Jim Konicki, Kurs chaplain.

The 90th Anniversary festivities also included the dedication of the renovated pool complex. The \$95,000 project included a new pool and surrounding grounds. At the pool's blessing the Prime Bishop told the campers that if they wanted to claim to "be the first" to jump into the new pool they should all leap at once at his count of three. Considering the full attendance at the Kurs, it turned out to be quite a splash!

The success of the 90th anniversary Kurs encampment, as stated by the present Prime Bishop, was achieved by "the quality of leadership."

At the helm of the Kurs is Y.M.S. of R. President Nick Kazinetz, Treasurer Andrew Humphreys, Nick Cimino and Kevin McConlogue who work at the recreational complex at the direction of the Spójnia, Inc. Board. On the anniversary Kazinetz was righteously proud of the immaculate condition of the camp, which was achieved through their hard labor and that of other volunteers. "I find it ironic that 90 years later, our facility is still here and you have to wonder where the road will take us next. I have been, saying for years that we are rounding the corner and it is beginning to show," Kazinetz said.

Paul Gorgol, a Spójnia, Inc. director, who took time from his business to spend the full nine days, and a little more at the camp, stated: "I am amazed by Bishop Hodur. His vision for Spójnia Farm is the same now as it was 90 years ago."

Andrew Humphreys, another head Kurs camp counselor, said, "I was really excited to see at the 90th celebration a full parking lot and standing room only for the Mass."

Senior Camp Counselor and Spójnia, Inc. Director, Stacey Crispino Shrive summed up the spirit of the Kurs by saying, "There is no place I would rather be than with my Kurs family."

The success of the 90th anniversary was also made possible by persons who spoke through their volunteerism. Mrs. Rose Kazinetz and her dedicated kitchen staff of Jessica Kazinetz and Stacey Shrive somehow managed to prepare an abundance of savory food to satisfy the crowd at the 90th celebration.

The Kurs staff labored up until the last minute to make sure everything at the camp was in place and functioning for the 90th Anniversary. We were joined by a former Kurs counselor, Air Force Major Garrett Grochowski, who spent his last days in the United States at the camp before being deployed on an overseas mission to preserve our freedoms..

Others deserve recognition as well, and they will be mentioned in a future article on the Kurs Encampment. We want to thank Prime Bishop Mikovsky, and all members of the Spójnia, Inc., board for their continued commitment to the Spójnia Farm property for future generations to enjoy.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT TO KEEP BISHOP HODUR'S DREAM ALIVE THERE NEEDS TO BE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AS WELL AS VOLUNTEER LABOR.

FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BISHOP HODUR RETREAT AND RECREATION CENTER, DONATIONS MAY BE MADE TO THE '90 FOR 90 CAMPAIGN, 207 GRASSY ISLAND AVE., JESSUP, PA., 18434.

THE CAMPAIGN'S GOAL IS TO RAISE \$90,000.00 IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY. THE FUND DRIVE, SO FAR, HAS ACHIEVED 50% OF ITS GOAL AND WILL END DEC. 31, 2019.

90 for 90 Campaign Donors July 2019

Gold Circle donors \$1,000 or more

Stacey, Jeff and Tanner Shrive-Kurs Counselor and Spójnia, Inc. Director

Silver Circle donors \$500 or more

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jr. and Rose Kazinetz-Kurs Cook

Kristen Di Martino Kurs Counselor

Paul and Donna Gorgol-Kurs Counselor and Spójnia, Inc. Director

Holy Name of Jesus National Catholic Church, Schenectady, NY

Marissa Grochowski-Kurs Counselor

Bronze Circle Donors- \$90 or more

Jennessa Dalton-Kurs Counselor

Sol De Mexico Bar and Grille LLC Rhode Island-(Jennessa Dalton)

Nathan and Kimberly Kalteski and Family

Rev. Jason, Natalie, and Brady Soltysiak

Frank and Jennifer Gerardi and Family

Mr. and Mrs. Albert and Donna Micka

Rev. David and Laurie Gaydos

The Wassman Family

Kenny, Sandra, Jeremy and Emily Nichols

James Nelson-Kurs Counselor

The Sznyter Family

Ned and Susan Kotula and Family

Paul and Darlene Baclawski

Mr. and Mrs. David and Rosemary Petrosky-Spójnia, Inc. Director

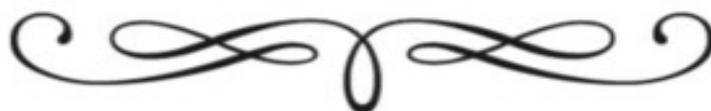
Y.M.S. of R. Branch 3 St. Mary's Parish Duryea, Pa

Karissa Kazinetz

Angelo Sr. , Jackie, Angelo Jr., and Gianna Conforti

Rev. Jim, Renee, Adam, and Victoria Konicki-Kurs Chaplain and Kurs Staff

Di Santo Family



"What I Received, I Passed on to You." Challenge Accepted! - Kurs 2019

The theme of KURS 2019 was inspired by the words of Scripture, 1 Corinthians 15:3: "For what I received I passed on to you," as well as the message from the P.N.C.C. Future Direction, Year of Discipleship. The focus being to take what you learn at KURS and pass it on to others.

While the KURS does offer a ton of fun and new friends, it also teaches participants about leadership, patriotism, and many aspects of our Church and an increasing relationship with Almighty God. Youth from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, New York, Maryland and even Poland attended this year's KURS taking part in the 90th Anniversary of the dedication of Spójnia Farm by Bishop Francis Hodur.

With over 80 attendees, ranging in age from 7-18, KURS 2019 was the largest in many years, maxed out only by the number of available beds this year. The youth of our Church are our future and it was shining bright over the 9 days of KURS. With all the fake news we see on TV or the Internet, it's amazing to see how these kids interact and behave; not only with each other, but with their counselors, lecturers and clergy - well-behaved, interested, truly friendly and kind, helpful, supportive of each other; and confident to step forward and volunteer or speak. Yes, they participated in the dedication of the new swimming pool - all of them getting to say they were the first to jump in, because they all did at once. And they played fun games like dizzy bat, awful waffle, tug of war, this sucks, and more. Some went on horseback rides, played Frisbee football or kickball; some went down the giant slip and slide, and everyone reported to the line when the whistle blew. Of course, there was the bonfire - an unbelievable bonfire this year - as it included the formal retirement of flags used at the camp by a junior ROTC. You could hear a pin drop it was so quiet - the youth couldn't have been more respectful of the ceremony and all involved. Outstanding!

Many activities filled the week, including the opening Mass on July 4th, celebrated by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, who also spoke of the 90 years Spójnia Farm has been in existence. Daily Masses and services had volunteers for altar servers and readers, and there was a very talented choir that seemed to get larger every day. Fr. Jim Konicki, KURS Chaplain, made sure they were part of the service, not just witnesses. Several dedicated clergy

from our church, including Prime Bishop Mikovsky, Fr. Jim Konicki, Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid, Fr. Sr. Don Wunderlich, Fr. David Gaydos and Fr. Sr. Lucian Urbaniak gave excellent lectures and took time with the kids, joining them at a lunch table to discuss their stay and learn their interests. To the clergy who took time out of their schedules - Thank you for taking time for our youth!

Campers all went on a hike of a new trail that tours the old apple orchard, the old path to Tasty Freeze, the D&H Railroad, and most importantly, where the original foundation of Bishop Hodur's house, "Ustronia," existed. The youth were amazed to see how Bishop Hodur's home at the farm sat on the highest point to overlook the entire farm. Pictures inside the Retreat Center added to the story, showing the dedication on July 4, 1929, Mass being celebrated in the orchard, the original Home for the Aged, and when the farm was actively producing milk, which the youth were interested in as well.

The food was FANTASTIC. The cook, Mama Kaz, had to go shopping almost every day as they ate and drank everything in sight - I think Florida ran out of orange juice that week. An interesting note was how well everyone slept - with the new air conditioning in the Retreat Center, sleeping conditions were much more pleasant than the old hot and humid nights with bats flying overhead (oh, the good ol' days).

The counselors were top notch, doing a great job of planning and executing the entire 9 days so the kids had fun, but also learned along the way - even if it was chores which I'm sure many don't do at home. If your child attended the KURS, you should thank the counselors for their efforts. If you're thinking about sending your child (or grandchild) next year, you should know this is probably the best group of counselors your child could have - caring for them, but also teaching and leading them.

Though I had the great job of assistant cook and pot scrubber, I did get time to interact with the kids and at times, just sit back and watch. I was really proud of them. I think I learned more from these kids than they did from any of the adults, or maybe, we passed it on....

To see more of the week's activities, visit KURS on Facebook to see the many pictures and videos of KURS 2019.



Fr. Jim Konicki and Fr. David Gaydos celebrate Holy Mass.



Kurs 2019 Choir



Games and Activities make for a full day at Kurs 2019.



Campers having fun in the pool



Spójnia, Inc. and PNU Board of Directors and the United Y.M.S. of R. celebrate the dedication of Spójnia Farm on July 4th



Kurs 2019 Counselors and Staff



Bishop Hodur Retreat Center

Waymart, PA

This July 4th was the 90th anniversary of the dedication of Spójnia Farm by Bishop Francis Hodur back in 1929. It is truly amazing how he and the other early Polish National Catholics had the foresight to find this property in 1929, to provide a home and shelter for the elderly and youth of our Church. More impressive is the number of people that have experienced Spójnia Farm, from the early days when people used the farm to be self-sufficient, to the Home for the Aged, later the Manor, the many children's camps and KURS there have been, those that have worked at the farm, and the list is most likely endless. "The Farm" as most people call it, has left so many with great memories and it still is making them today.

Though time, of course, provides twists and turns, "The Farm" is now the Bishop Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center, and it is beginning a new growth phase. The Retreat Center recently had a new heating and air conditioning system installed. It was much appreciated by attendees of Holy Mass this recent 4th of July as well as the campers and attendees this summer. A new walking trail has been created to tour the grounds of the farm or get some exercise or meditate. The trail includes highlights of the apple orchard, the D&H Railroad and the original site of

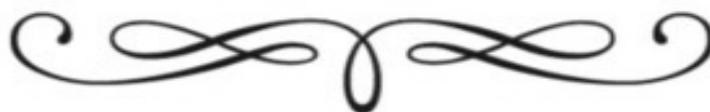
Ustronia. The driveway has been regraded and paved. The swimming pool, installed 40 years ago, was replaced with a new, updated look. More improvements are on the way for an already great facility and property. This facility should be the center of activities for our Church, its Dioceses and its Parishes, used for clergy conferences, organizational retreats (Women's SAMBS, Y.M.S. of R., U.Y.A., United Choirs and others), scouting functions, family reunions and celebrations. The summer calendar for 2020 is already receiving bookings, which is great news, but there are still time to plan an event, a vacation, or a seminar.

If you'd like to support the growth of this amazing property and facility, please donate to the 90 for 90 Campaign, celebrating 90 years of Spójnia Farm.

Donations can be made to:

90 for 90 Campaign
207 Grassy Island Ave
Jessup, PA 18434

And don't hesitate to spread the good word to friends and family members – the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center is shining bright at Spójnia Farm and needs everyone's continued support.



Central Diocese

Lunches Provided to the Homeless

The National Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity and Saint Joseph, Linden, NJ

As part of the parish's Future Direction program focused on community service, the parish funded and prepared over 100 brown bag lunches for the needy and homeless of New York City, Newark and Irvington, NJ in collaboration with the Bridges Outreach Organization in Summit, NJ. This event took place in August.

The items for the lunches were purchased through the generous donations of parish members.

Bridges Outreach of Summit, NJ, founded in 1988, provides meals to the needy of New York City, Newark and Irvington every week. Over 2,000 volun-

teers each year help deliver 65,000 meals, seasonal clothing and necessities without question and with genuine respect, every week.

This is the second of three parish community service projects planned for 2019. Earlier in the year the parish provided food for active duty men and women returning from their duties abroad and returning to the USA at Newark Liberty Airport. In November and December, a Christmas Toy Drive will be conducted for local needy families.

Kenneth E. Matz is Chairman of the Parish Committee. Father Jan Kosc is Pastor..

Submitted by Michael R. Mietlicki



Parish volunteers gather with Father Jan Kosc, Pastor, in front of over 100 brown bag lunches prepared for the homeless.



“Dupont Weekend” at Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center

Waymart, PA

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA, again sponsored a “Dupont Weekend” for all our parishioners and friends at the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center in Waymart, PA on July 26-28, 2019.

This outing serves as a spiritual, recreational, and fraternal activity to help unite the members of our congregation. Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor, celebrated Holy Mass for everyone in attendance in the evening on Saturday, July 27th.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Very Rev. Donald Wunderlich Installed as Pastor at St. Stephen the Martyr Parish Reading, PA

On Sunday, August 11, 2019, Rev. Donald Wunderlich was formally installed as pastor of St. Stephen the Martyr Parish in Reading, PA, and elevated to Senior Priest of the Philadelphia Seniorate of the Central Diocese

The Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Bishop of the Central Diocese, P.N.C.C., celebrated Mass and administered the honors. Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop, P.N.C.C., attended the special Mass. A reception was held in the Parish Hall following Mass.



Congratulations and Welcome to Very Rev. Donald Wunderlich! Sto Lat!



Merrill's Marauders

Scranton, PA

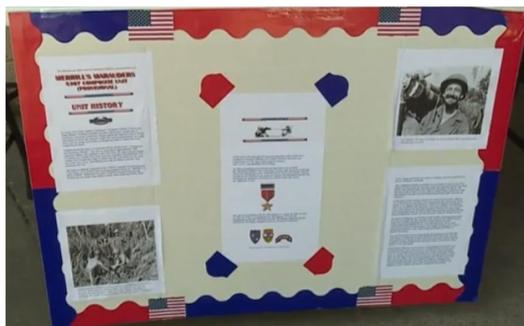
Members of St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish had some guests at their annual Second Sunday of July Picnic at the Y.M.S. of R. Park in the Minooka Section of Scranton, PA - Wendy Belaski and Julie Esty from the Dunmore Cemetery Dearly Departed Players of Dunmore, PA. Their purpose was to collect signatures to present to the United States Congress to encourage the passing of the "Merrill's Marauders Congressional Gold Medal Act."

This is a nationwide effort. Merrill's Marauder's were an all-volunteer United States long range penetrations special operations jungle warfare unit which fought in the South-East Asian theatre of World War II. The Unit became famous for its deep penetration missions behind Japanese lines, often engaging Japanese forces superior in number. There was a plan to

get these "expendable" group of 3,000 men into the fighting, but none to get them out.

At the end of the mission only 130 Marauders out of the original number were fit for duty. Many were killed and the rest of the remaining Marauders still in action were evacuated to hospitals due to tropical diseases, exhaustion and malnutrition. Six members of the Marauders were from Lackawanna County and one of them, Michael Sevensky, is buried in the St. Stanislaus Parish Cemetery. Michael was the son of the late Bernard and Johanna Zigmunt Sevensky.

Prime Bishop Mikovsky was the first to sign one of the petition cards. Julie and Wendy collected signatures and answered questions. WNEP, the local ABC news station, was also on hand to cover the kick-off of this ongoing mission to further recognize this valiant group of soldiers.



Chopin 2019

18th Winners Concert and Awards Ceremony

September 15, 2019

2:00PM

Admission: \$10.00
(\$8/students & seniors over 65)

Tickets available at the door
250 Old Maxwell Road | Latham (BVMC Church)

The Capital District Council for Young Musicians will hold the 18th Annual Frederic Chopin Piano Competition on Saturday, September 14, 2019. Twenty-seven participants are registered. The Competition will be adjudicated by Dr. Charis Demaris and Dmitri Novgorodsky from Ithaca College School of Music. The winners and 1st runners-up will perform at a community concert on Sunday, September 15th.

The John A. Cetnarowski-Cetner Awards will be presented at the Winners' Concert, after which a dessert reception will follow where the audience can meet the winners.

Winners receive cash prizes: **Chopin Master \$1,000; 2nd Place \$500; Etude Award \$200**
Chopin Apprentice \$500; 2nd Place \$200; Mazurka Award \$100
Chopin Novice \$100; 2nd Place \$50

Several past winners from the Chopin Piano Competition have gone on to study at Juilliard School of Performing Arts, Crane School of Music, and the Eastman School of Music and have played on such prestigious stages as Carnegie Hall and Tanglewood.

The performers will play on a Steinway Concert Grand donated by Artist Pianos in Latham.

The Capital District Council for Young Musicians (CDCYM) is a nonprofit organization devoted to providing opportunities for young musicians and sponsors the Annual Chopin Piano Competition.



Western Diocese

Northcentral Seniorate of the Western Diocese Seniorate meeting and Corpus Christi Celebration

St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN

On Thursday, June 20th, 2019, at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN, the Feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated. The celebration began with Vespers officiated by Father Charles Zawistowski. The Eucharistic procession to the four altars followed the Vespers.

The procession took place inside of the church and the church vestibule because the weather had not cooperated earlier that day. The main celebrant was Very Rev. Jarosław (Jerry) Rafalko, Administrative Senior of the Northcentral Seniorate; assisted by Rev. John Kowalczyk, Pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish; Rev. Charles Zawistowski, Pastor of St. Mary Parish in South Bend, IN; and Rev. Antulio Alvarado, Pastor of Divine Word Parish in Chicago, IL. Joseph Kowalczyk was the altar server during the celebration. The parish choir, under the direction of Dr. Walter Bielat, provided music during the celebration.

The following parishes had lay representatives at the celebration: St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN; Our Savior Parish, Hobart, IN (also known as New Chicago, IN); and Divine Word Parish, Chicago, IL.

Prior to the Corpus Christi service, there was a meeting of the Northcentral Seniorate of the Western Diocese. Representatives of the Seniorate and several guests enjoyed a spaghetti dinner prior to the business part of the meeting.

Thanks are expressed to the members of St. Michael the Archangel Parish for providing everyone in attendance with a tasty dinner. Thank you to Chris Danielkiewicz for a nicely written article.

Bóg Zapłać. Muchas gracias.

Submitted by Very Rev. Jerry Rafalko



Western Diocese Women’s Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Meet Holy Trinity Parish, Kewanee, IL

On Saturday, June 22, 2019, Holy Trinity Parish in Kewanee, IL, hosted a meeting of the Western Diocese Women’s SAMBS. Prior to the meeting all attendees came together at the church for the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, a short private adoration, the Litany to the Most Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

The church service was officiated by the Diocesan Chaplain of the Ladies Adoration Society, Father Senior Jerry Rafalko. The business part of the meeting was conducted in the Church Hall.

At the beginning of the meeting, the new officers of the Western Diocese Women’s SAMBS were sworn in to their respective offices for the next four years

by Very Rev. Rafalko: Karen Ream, President; Carol Entas, Recording Secretary; Janet Schumacher, Treasurer.

Following the meeting all in attendance enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the Holy Trinity Parish Women’s SAMBS. Thank you, Holy Trinity Parish in Kewanee for hosting this meeting.

The fall season meeting of the Western Diocese Women’s SAMBS will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at Divine Word Parish, Chicago, IL. The WD Women’s SAMBS are also planning a one-day retreat in the spring at St. Mary’s Parish in Parma, OH on April 17, 2020.

Submitted by Very Rev. Jerry Rafalko



