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Following Jesus, Our Example

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky
Prime Bishop

During this time of year, following the Solemnity of Epiphany, when the Church enters a period of Ordinary Time, a main focus is the calling of the first disciples and followers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Within the Synoptic Gospels, following the beginnings of our Lord's teachings, Jesus encounters those who would be the first disciples and challenges them to follow Him. In Matthew's Gospel (Matt 4:18-19) we read: "As He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea – for they were fisherman. And he said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fish for people.'" Throughout the Gospels we know that Jesus would later challenge others as well, but each time, essentially with the command, "Follow Me."

Again we know from Scripture that in a very real sense, these first disciples would leave all that they had and all that they knew to follow our Lord and Savior. But was only this physical aspect the extent of what Jesus meant in this command and challenge? As we follow the ministry of Jesus through the Gospels, we realize that in fact the physical was only the beginning. The disciples looked to Jesus as their example in all of the aspects of their lives: in how they interacted with each other, in what they thought, in how they acted and in what they taught others. The disciples were called to "follow Jesus" in just about every aspect of living.

As a part of the Future Direction program for 2019: Discipleship, we are called to consider exactly how the concept of following the example of Jesus and then being an example to others fits into our faith life

and faith journey. Throughout the pages of Scripture, we see the powerful actions of Jesus in showing those around Him the way they are to act and live. As just an introduction to this way of life, we will examine five aspects of the example of our Lord: Serving, Suffering, Forgiving, Living and finally Loving. In looking to these examples, we can then begin to see how we can then be living examples to others.

A very powerful example of Jesus serving others is given to us within the Gospel of John when Jesus washes the feet of the Apostles at the Last Supper. This example is so important in fact that the Church has enshrined it within the ceremony of the Mandatum to be celebrated on Holy Thursday. "After [Jesus] had washed their feet, had put on His robe, and had returned to the table, He said to them: 'Do you know what I have done for you? You call Me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.'" (John 13:12-15)

One can imagine that the Apostles were astonished by what Jesus had done for them at this moment. Within this culture, the washing of feet was considered to be the obligation of the lowest of servants, it's not something that even two friends would do for each other, let alone your master and teacher. This example was not only one to encourage the Disciples to serve one another in every possible way, even the

(Continued on Page 3.)

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Email articles and photos to secretarytopb@pncc.org and to godsfield@pncc.org. If your submission was successfully delivered via email, you will receive an acknowledgement email stating that your submission was received. 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:

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lowest ones, but it also encouraged the Disciples to examine their own thoughts to see if in their daily living, they put themselves above others and thought themselves better than others.

For us today this is just as much of a challenge. While we are often Disciples of Jesus who attend worship and contribute to good causes, have the teachings of our Lord, really entered our hearts so that we can look upon every other person that we encounter as a child of God and a true brother or sister in Christ? This is the example that we are called to follow in Jesus and it is one that we need to model for those around us as well. We must examine within ourselves what we think of others and then how we treat others based on this. Are we following the example of Jesus as we strive to be examples for others?

Jesus is also an example for us in dealing with suffering. And in this I do not only mean that suffering that we must endure when faced with an illness or critical condition. It is rather the kind of everyday suffering that we must deal with in being a Christian, a follower of Jesus. We are certainly all aware that the Christian life is not one that is highly prized by many within our culture or society at the moment. This is certainly a change from many years ago and it seems to be accelerating in recent times. As a response to this it can be easy to hide our Christianity and our Christian example, just to "get along" within our world today, but again Jesus shows us a different way as explained within the First Letter of Peter: "But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in His steps." (1 Peter 2:20b-21) St. Peter here reminds us that Jesus chose to follow the way of God which led to the Cross and the forgiveness of sins not considering the consequences. We too are called to follow in the same way. Our only consideration must be the way of God which is righteousness and holiness. Now we may be mocked and criticized for this action, and in our world today it may even go beyond this, but we must follow the example of Jesus to seek to please God first.

In the aspect of forgiveness, it is often difficult for many to follow the example of Jesus. In our daily dealings with other people we often find ourselves feeling justified in our hatred and dislike of others

remembering some real or imagined slight or action that was done against us. But if we think about it for even just a moment, when we pray the Lord's Prayer daily, we pray to God saying "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." This theme is found throughout the letters of the New Testament; for instance St. Paul writes: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." (Colossians 3:12-13) This reminds us that following the example of Jesus is about allowing us to change and grow to be more and more like Him each and every day. If we desire to have the good things that God desires to give us, to be a "chosen one of God," to be 'beloved of God,' to share in His 'kindness,' then we must do the difficult work of being, "humble, meek and patient," as well as being forgiving.

Jesus is also our example in ways beyond just the individual actions of forgiving, suffering and service. He is to be the model for our entire life. Everything we think, say and do should in some way or other be modeled on the example and pattern of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In the period right after the Solemnity of Christmas, the weekday reading for Holy Mass are taken from the First Letter of St. John. This very short letter is one that I think is excellent for us to read and reflect on in any season where we desire to grow closer to our Lord. It has had a great effect on my spiritual life as it allows me to consider, not just specific actions within my life, but everything that I am about and everything that I think, say and do, measuring it against the example and life of our Lord. One short example is this: "Now by this we may be sure that we know Him, if we obey His commandments. Whoever says, 'I have come to know Him,' but does not obey His commandments, is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; but whoever obeys His word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we may be sure that we are in Him: whoever says, 'I abide in Him,' ought to walk just as He walked." (1 John 2:3-6)

Through this reading and many others within this letter, I find it a challenge to how well I am following Jesus. Oftentimes I, probably like many of you, think that I'm doing alright within my spiritual and faith (Continued on Page 14.)

The Continuing Anglican G4 Churches and The Polish National Catholic Church Dialogue Meeting

The inaugural meeting of the Continuing Anglican G4 Churches – CAG4C (Anglican Church in America – ACA, Anglican Catholic Church – ACC, Anglican Province of America – APA, and the Diocese of the Holy Cross – DHC) and the Polish National Catholic Church – P.N.C.C. met on January 14-15. This historic meeting was hosted by the CAG4C at Saint Barnabas Anglican Church in Dunwoody, Georgia with the Right Reverend Chandler Jones as Rector.

In attendance for this inaugural meeting were the Primates of all Churches: the Most Reverend Brian Marsh – ACA, the Most Reverend Mark Haverland – ACC, the Most Reverend Walter Grundorf – APA, the Right Reverend Paul Hewett – DHC, and the Most Reverend Anthony A. Mikovsky - P.N.C.C.

The Dialogue members for the CAG4C in addition to the Primates included the Right Reverend Chandler Jones, Right Reverend Stephen Strawn, Right Reverend Alexander Webb, Reverend Canon Robert Bader, Reverend Canon William Bower and Seminarian Creighton McElveen served as the G4 Secretary. The Co-Chairman for the G4 is the Right Reverend Paul Hewett. The Dialogue members for the Polish National Catholic Church in addition to the

Primate were the Right Reverend Paul Sobiechowski as Co-Chairman, Right Reverend John E. Mack, Very Reverend Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr. – P.N.C.C. Ecumenical Officer, Reverend Henryk Wos and the Reverend John P. Kowalczyk, Jr. as Secretary for the P.N.C.C. The Anglican Catholic Church in Canada represented by the Right Reverend Craig Botterill was also in attendance.

The CAG4C and P.N.C.C. dialogue members met on Tuesday evening with an informal dinner at 6:00 p.m. The dialogue began on Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. chaired by the Right Reverend Paul Sobiechowski. Introductions and the items of the agenda were then discussed, primarily the Affirmation of Saint Louis. Holy Mass was celebrated by the Most Reverend Anthony A. Mikovsky, prior to lunch. This was followed by a lengthy discussion on the Union of Scranton as presented by the Very Reverend Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr. and the Most Reverend Anthony A. Mikovsky.

The CAG4C - P.N.C.C. Dialogue will continue on June 18-19, 2019 at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster, NY and will be hosted by the Polish National Catholic Church.

Submitted by Rev. John Kowalczyk





19th National Mission & Evangelism Workshop
“Identity: Who We Are in Christ”
Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT
Friday, March 29, 2019 – Sunday, March 31, 2019
Tentative Schedule

Friday, March 29, 2019

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Registration at Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT

5:00 p.m. – Opening Session – Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Very Rev. Joseph Krusinski

5:15 p.m. – Icebreakers – Bishop John Mack

6:00 p.m. – Dinner

7:00 p.m. – Survey, retrospective of “I Am a Church Member” – David Kost, facilitator

8:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer

Return to Hotel

Saturday, March 30, 2019

Breakfast at the hotel

8:45 a.m. – Morning Prayer

9:15 a.m. – Session I – Introducing “Models of the Church” – Prime Bishop Mikovsky

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – Session II – Sacrament, Body of Christ, People of God – Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich

10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. – Discussion

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. – Session III – Herald of the Gospel – Rev. Robert Koerber

11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. – Discussion

12:00 p.m. – *Group Photo, Lunch*

1:00 p.m. – 1:40 p.m. – Session IV – Servant – Kathy Nemkovich

1:40 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Discussion

Break

2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Session V – Presentation by local ministry leader, Pastor Victoria Triano from Southington, CT

3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. – Q & A

Break

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. – Open Q & A

5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Celebration Panel

6:30 p.m. – *Dinner*

7:30 p.m. – Commissioning Service

Sunday, March 31, 2019

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Mass

Breakfast with Holy Trinity Parish Congregation

10:30 a.m. – Concluding Remarks – Prime Bishop Mikovsky

Hotel Registration

Individuals are responsible for hotel payment

Comfort Suites, 64 Knotter Drive, Southington, CT 064892

Phone 860-276-3100

Code: Polish National Catholic Church

Hotel Rate: \$105.00 per night plus tax

Hotel Rate Expiration Date: March 8, 2019

Workshop Registration

Postmarked on or before March 15, 2019

2019 Workshop Registration Fee: \$75.00

Postmarked after March 15, 2019 - \$95.00

Make checks payable to: **Holy Trinity Parish**

Send Registration Forms to:

Holy Trinity Parish, 200 Summer Street

Plantsville, CT 06479-1119

If there are any questions please contact:

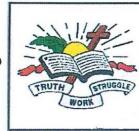
Very Rev. Joseph Krusinski

Phone: 860-628-0736

Email: revjoe49@aol.com


IDENTITY: WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

**19TH NATIONAL MISSION & EVANGELISM WORKSHOP
POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
MARCH 29 - 31, 2019
HOLY TRINITY PARISH - PLANTSVILLE, CT**



2019 MISSION WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____

Name of your Parish: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
email: _____

Travel Plans:

Car: _____ Van: _____ Bus: _____ Airplane: _____

Airport – Bradley International Airport – Windsor Locks, CT (BDL)

Arrival Time & Date: _____

Departure Time & Date: _____

Do you need transportation to/ from the airport? Yes: _____ No: _____

Airline: _____ Flight # & Time of Arrival: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ (In case of a travel problem)

Workshop Registration Fee

- \$75.00 (per person) Workshop Registration Fee.
- \$95.00 (per person) Workshop Registration Fee (Postmarked after March 15, 2019).

Please make your check payable to: Holy Trinity Parish

Mail your registration to: 2019 Mission and Evangelism Workshop

Holy Trinity Parish
200 Summer Street
Plantsville, CT 06479-1119

We pray that you will consider joining us for the 19th National Mission & Evangelism Workshop of the P.N.C.C., and we look forward to your attendance.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Commission Chair - Parish Phone: (313) 365-5191; Email: nowak@netscape.com

Very Rev Joseph Krusinski, Pastor, Holy Trinity Parish - Parish Phone (860) 628-0736; Email: revjoe49@aol.com

Teaching by Example

As we begin this second month of Discipleship: 2019 we focus on teaching by example. We, as disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, continue to learn from His example in our reading and hearing of the Sacred Scriptures. How Jesus lived. What He taught. As His disciples today we need to teach others by example – teach them about the One that teaches us. It is not by forcing or guiltling someone into following Christ but rather by the way we chose to live – showing Jesus living in and through us – in a nutshell being Jesus to others!

During this month our Holy Church is calling us to take a look at our lives and find a way we can role model the life of Christian discipleship – being Jesus to others. A great way to do this is living the Virtues. Living a virtuous life, we know is living a good and righteous one. The seven Heavenly Virtues are Faith, Hope, Charity Fortitude, Justice, Temperance and Prudence. How do we live these virtues on a daily basis? Which ones can we enhance during this month and teach others by your example – just as Jesus teaches us by His example?

Remember St. Paul's words to the Colossians (3:12-14): *As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*



This month it is suggested that we organize and attend some type of informal, faith-based discussion gathering for adults within our parish or cluster of parishes. This idea (which originated from one of the Synod discussion groups) is to use some form of “contemporary ministry” to accomplish the goal of “Increased spirituality through a welcoming Church family that, through worship of God, will bring us closer together.” Some suggestions for what this setting might be are: Soup, Sandwich, and Sermon; Wine and Spirits; Potluck Dinner and Discussion; Book Club and Bubbly....and you get the idea.

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(Teaching by Example - Continued from Page 7.)

As some may shy away from either organizing or attending something like this – something that might take us out of our usual comfort zone, below are some suggestions to consider and will hopefully help you to say YES to trying to hold a gathering as we are all called to Discipleship: 2019:

1. Prevent the thought of trying something new from overwhelming you or others in your parish by focusing on just doing this ONCE to begin with. Don't worry about building out a whole schedule for these gatherings. Just plan the first one and then see what happens. Build from there.
2. TRY IT one time. To try just once should be the universal theme whenever we are presented with something different or new. How many times have we attempted to get a child to try a new food, or convinced our spouse to try a new restaurant? This is no different. No one is asking for a lifetime commitment of your Friday evenings here...just one.
3. Construct a setting that can help people to visualize that this will be something different and not the same old same old, we've tried this before, been there done that, church thing. If you can, create a casual setting in your church hall using comfortable chairs, accent tables, an area rug, plants and flowers or whatever you have available, to coincide with when you introduce the idea of this gathering. Let people see that the setting will be something different and more relaxed.
4. Gather input from the adults in your parish about when to have this gathering and what the format might be. Introduce a short survey one Sunday and ask the adults to complete the anonymous survey during coffee hour. Use this information to help determine the best date/time for your first event, asking just a few simple questions, such as:
 - Will you attend the Wine and Spirits, faith-based discussion gathering? Y/N
 - If yes, which of the following dates/times work best for you? Give two to three specific options and then include an "other" option and let them fill in the blank.
 - If you will not attend, can you provide some insight as to why not? For example, work schedule, no transportation, on vacation.
 - Do you have any suggestions for this type of gathering?
 - If childcare may be an issue in getting some of the adults in your parish to commit to even one time, consider having the kids come along and they can watch a movie together in another room. Naturally this is all dependent upon the age of the children and what resources are available, but the message here is to try and find a solution that will work for everyone for this one time.
 - Once a date and time is finalized, continue to promote this event. Email the parishioners with friendly reminders as the event approaches. Send out a postcard reminder such as a "Save the Date" kind of thing. Make a big deal about this gathering, reminding people how important their participation is.
 - If you are from one of our smaller parishes, try coordinating something with nearby P.N.C.C. parishes or at a Seniorate level if that works.

Reach out to the Future Direction sub-committee if you have questions or need more information on how to organize an informal, faith-based discussion. Send your email to futredirection@pncc.org.

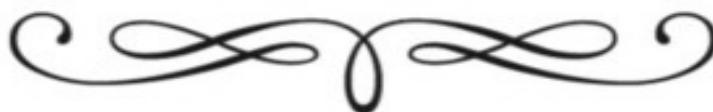
As for the topic it had been suggested at Holy Synod to refresh our faith – perhaps a teaching or section from our Catechism or a Gospel passage and how this relates to our living as disciples each and every day of our lives to get the discussion started.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, *Prime Bishop*

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., *Chairman*

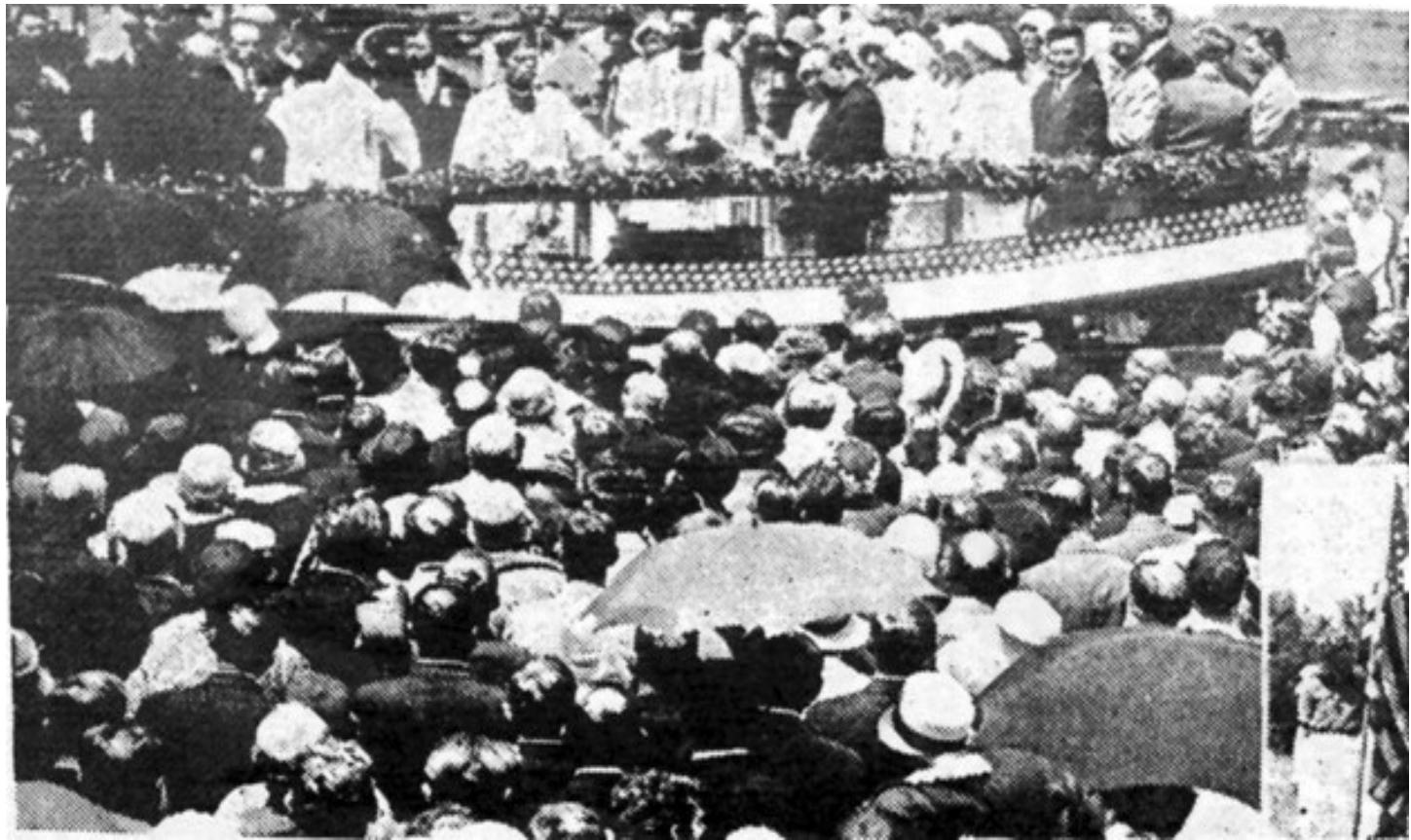


Spójnia Farm “90 for 90” Campaign
Appeal Letter for the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center
Nick Kazinetz-President United Young Men’s Society of Resurrection

It is with great pleasure that I am writing a letter of Appeal for the United Y.M.S. of R. Winter Service Project-“90 FOR 90 Campaign,” in which the United Y.M.S. of R. is raising \$90,000.00, in honor of the 90th Anniversary of Spójnia Farm and The Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center (BHRRC).

In the last issue of ***God’s Field*** you read an Appeal from Paul Gorgol, and I am extremely excited to be working with Paul and the Spójnia, Inc. Board to make the necessary upgrades needed at the BHRRC for the future generations of campers. Currently the United Y.M.S. of R. has raised over \$16,000.00. The donations and the generosity of the P.N.C.C. members are happening, but we still need your help and support.

The campaign will conclude with a celebration on July 4, 2019, as all P.N.C.C. members and past campers are invited to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Consecration of Spójnia Farm. The United Y.M.S. of R. will host the annual Independence Day Celebration with Mass at 11:00 a.m. celebrated by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, with picnic to follow.



Consecration of Spójnia Farm July 4, 1929. Bishop Hodur and all the Faithful 90 years ago.

(Continued on Page 10.)



("90 for 90 Campaign" - Continued from Page 9.)

The 4th of July celebration is a good place to start my story. It is my first memory of Spójnia Farm. I was 4 years old in 1983 and my parents, Paul and Rose, (much younger in 1983), were meeting all of their "Spójnia buddies" from Buffalo, Scranton, Detroit, New Jersey, and little Nicky was being dragged around this new place all day.

There were cars parked everywhere. At Spójnia Manor, on the volleyball court, buses and cars parked alongside the road, in the apple orchard people were grilling, and there were just people everywhere. I remember the Y.M.S. of R. guys flipping chickens for their BBQ, the raffle and games in the back kitchen, the swimming pool, and kids running around with water balloons and shaving cream. I was hooked. I asked my parents to stay, and they said I had to wait until I was older. Of course, I was upset, so Mama Kaz would take me to "the old barracks" or "Schronisko dla dzieci" a few nights each year until I was older.

Finally in 1988, I stayed my first week for the Kurs. I had a great time and I never wanted to leave. The only time I left was when I fell off the top bunk and made my first trip to Wayne Memorial Hospital. I loved Spójnia Farm so much I stayed for the Altar Boys retreat. And then begged my mom and dad stay for another week for Scranton, and then Reading week. Before you knew it, a month went by and I was a Spójnia Farm regular at age 9.

I got to meet great people from all over the Church. I want to thank my first counselors, Paul, Mage, Ziggy, Kevin, Dale S., Sue M., Sue D., the late Bp. Stan Bilinski, Fr. Sr. Joe Krusinski, and of course Linda C. and Vikki B., our cooks. The older kids Ricky P., Eddie C., Bobby B., The Scanlon Twins - Dana and Dawn, Spoon, JC, Nate and Kelly who took care of this annoying 9-year-old, and even gave me the nickname, "Bisquit!" I was always looking forward to the next year of camp and could not wait until summer arrived.

Please view the video on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLjwvXWzgkA) – go to [United YMS of R, 90 for 90 Campaign](#) – or visit our [United YMS of R](#) Facebook Page and join our [KURS](#) Facebook Page, to remember your good times, or learn what the camp offers our youth today.

Thank you for your consideration of this important effort.

Mail donations to:

United Y.M.S. of R. 90 for 90 Campaign
207 Grassy Island Ave.
Jessup, PA 18434

Or **donate on line**, via Paypal at: <https://bit.ly/2BOXWoA>



Apocalypse of the Twentieth Century - Part I Historical-Sociological

This book was written by Most Rev. Francis Hodur in 1930 and translated into English by Metchie J. E. Budka, PhD in 1977. The English translation was edited by the Rev. Albert S. J. Tarka and the Very Rev. Louis W. Orzech and published by the Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.) under the direction of the Bishop Hodur Biography Commission. The book has 244 pages in two parts. Part I has 113 pages; it is the focus of this article. Part II will be discussed in a subsequent article.

This section begins with Introductory Remarks written by Bishop F. Hodur at Ustronie in 1930. The opening paragraph in the introduction talks about the changing times, the search for something “to create a more perfect society.” He said “The foundation of European-American society, resting on Greek, Roman and Jewish culture consists of religion, the family and the state.” He continues by saying that the religion of the past with its “inadequate interpretation of the gospel of Jesus Christ loses more and more adherents.” This results in fewer and fewer attendees. This same deterioration was happening at the family level. Change was also occurring to the meaning and character of the state.

Bishop Hodur lists 62 people whose writings and actions have affected world culture from Socrates to President Woodrow Wilson. He said that many people tried to “save this culture in various ways”... “They pronounce anathema against new ideas and deeds emerging from the mists of the future.” He said that he considered “The question whether religion is the source and the stimulus of human life, its inspiration and reinforcement, or simply a mummy galvanized by priests and those who have a stake in this work, enflames and tantalizes me, regenerates and troubles me.”

The call for unity has been trumpeted by the Church of Rome who wants to be the leader of Christendom. Bishop Hodur said that he will prophesy that the dreams of the friends of Rome will never be realized. “Rome once had an excellent opportunity to become the center of the visible world, a tool in the hand of Divine Province, but it lost this opportunity, bartered, gambled it away.” He said that the reformation in the XVIth century succeeded only in part and that it is up to the Christians of the XXth century. He said that he wrote this unpretentious book, not because he received a new revelation from God, “but because I

reveal God, I, dust and ashes, reveal to my fellow men the Creator, the Lord, Father and Goal of our common life.”

In seeking to examine the catholic world in 1930, the title of the first chapter is “The Roman Catholic Church dominates Christianity with the help of its theology and politics — It degrades human dignity in general and that of the layman in particular — It evokes general dissatisfaction.” The chapter opens with a discussion of the decline of the Roman Empire. Bishop Hodur attributes it to a loss of their spiritual and moral strengths and to the decline of the philosophical sense of inquiry. He said that the pagan world lacked a spiritual unity to bind people together, “unifies them internally, revives them, enkindles them, rouses them to great thoughts and acts and creates a harmonious whole out of varied nations.”

A new source of life came to replace the pagan world, Christianity. “This new manifestation is the product of two forces. The Divine life revealed in the person of Jesus Christ and the longing of the human soul.” He said that this manifestation came in three functions: 1. “All people, as God’s children, are to comprise one family. 2. It is a religion of rebirth and salvation. 3. It is to help man create on earth a perfect society called the Kingdom of God on earth.” He said that Christianity “did not resolve the most important problems of life, the principle questions for which Christ lived and died: The unity of men as children of God, their rebirth and the founding on earth of that ideal society, called the Kingdom of God.”

Bishop Hodur said that the Roman Catholic Church has not followed the rights of lay followers of Christ’s religion as stated in the Apostle Peter’s First Letter, directed to both the clergy and the laity: “But ye are chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people; that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” Lay people were not allowed joint rule in the affairs of the church nor allowed near the great altar. They sermonized about the fall of man, his rejection by God, and that the only way to salvation was through the Roman church.

Bishop Hodur next asks “Can man be held responsible for the Shortcoming and Sins of his ancestors.”

(Continued on Page 12.)

(Apocalypse of the Twentieth Century - Continued from Page 11.)

Moral Theology defines sin as being a result of a voluntary and conscious act, so how can he be held to something done not by him, but by an ancestor? "According to the teaching of most Christian Churches, and among them the roman Church, the human soul is called to life by a special creative act of God as the moment of man's conception. How then, as the teaching of the roman Church would have it, could the Lord God on each occasion create a human soul already emburdened by sin, guilt, inimical to God, favoring Satan and even subject to him?" Bishop Hodur offered these observations in contrast to what Roman Catholic pastors were teaching at that time.

Bishop Hodur's next comments were about the Roman Church's relationship of their priests' relationship to the wealth and pleasures of the world. He believes that these are contrary to Christ's teachings about caring for the poor. He provides many biblical references; Luke 6:20, 6:24-25, Matthew 5:6, 5:13, 6:33, 6:24, 19:23, James 2:5, 5:1-3a and 1 Timothy 6:9. He also quotes numerous saints: St. Gregory - "The only wealth which can make us truly happy is virtue. Therefore if you wish to be happy, seek the goods that are everlasting."; St. Jerome - "Wealth is the result of robbery if not by the one who possesses it then by his predecessors."; St. Ambrose - "The land was given equally to the rich as to the poor as a commonality. Why is it you who are rich gather it for yourselves alone?"; St. Chrysostom - "The one who conquers in himself the desire for riches, becomes truly richer than others. The wealthy and the avaricious are like thieves who block the way of the passers-by and rob them." St. Basil - "Oh you the unhappy rich, what will you say before the judgement of God. You cover the walls of your houses with rugs and tapestries while your neighbors live in nakedness and misery! You decorate dray horses with pendants and permit people to go in rags! You fill your granaries with masses of grain which vermin ruin, but you do not feed those who starve!"

Bishop Hodur said that the chief reason for the persecution of Christians was their belief in equality, brotherhood, justice and the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God on earth. These were directly opposed to pagan principles. The emperors and their followers tried to destroy Christianity by imprisoning Christians, making martyrs of them with their deaths at the roman games. They failed.

The emperor Constantine tried a different tack, that of the Tempter. He needed to draw the followers of the new religion to him. In 313 A.D. Constantine proclaimed the Edict of Milan, which recognized the Christian religion equal to the pagan. He continued next with the role of leader and protector of the Church. The emperor Constantine and the Eastern bishops were not able to control Arius, an Alexandrian priest, "who maintained that Christ is not equal to God the Father, neither in substance nor in nature, but rather is the most perfect of all creatures, deified by his life and a martyr's death on the cross."

The Council of Nicaea was called by the emperor Constantine in 325 A.D., in consultation with Sylvester, the bishop of Rome, to reconcile the differences between the factions of Christianity. At this council, the conclusion was that the views of Arius were in error and that those of Athanasius were representative of the views of the majority of the Catholic Bishops. "The influence of Constantine on the Church was decisive in two respects: in the dogmatization of the Church and the removal of social concern from the life of the Church." Bishop Hodur quotes John Chrysostom, the Bishop of Constantinople "You say that the poor are wastrels and therefore suffer poverty. But, you who are rich, are you so overworked? Do you not gather the fruits of the labors of others, inherited from your ancestors? Do you not burden others with exhausting labor so that you may consume the fruits of others efforts in your idleness, luxury and dissipation?"

Constantine didn't want to see the pagan economic system of exploitation of the laboring people change "to a Christian socio-religious system based on communalism of land and workshops and on the responsibility of both employers and employees before God." At this point there were no classes nor differences in privileges among the believers. Constantine then tells the bishops of the Church that there are young bishops, deacons and "millions of restless dreamers who are not satisfied with eternal salvation after death, in heaven, but want to taste it now, on earth." He told them that we must stamp out this hydra. He continued with a statement that their responsibility must be to watch over the purity of faith and nip in the bud everything which counters ecclesiastical orthodoxy and discipline. He said that he would strengthen their position by making "The Most Very Reverend Bishops equal in level and rank with the governors of Ro-

(Continued on bottom of Page 21.)

God's Field
Appeal for Easter Greetings — Please Note the Deadline Date!

The deadline for submission and payment of Easter Greetings is **MARCH 1, 2019**. Greetings will be published in the April issue but we want to be sure that your greetings are in on time to be published!

The cost for publishing Easter greetings for individuals, parishes and organizations is \$20.00. Due to space constraints in the page setup of the *God's Field*, greetings are limited to up to three (3) lines of text.

Example greetings:

The Adoration Society of St. John's Parish, Everytown, USA

Eve Adams, President

We wish everyone a Blessed Easter!

St. John's Parish, Everytown, USA

Rev. Adam Adams, Pastor

Wesolego Alleluja!

An online form can be found on the pncc.org

website at: pncc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/online_greeting_form_2018.pdf

ALL GREETINGS, ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENTS, MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2019 IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE APRIL ISSUE. We no longer publish greetings submitted without payment, so please be sure to send in your payment with your greeting or it will not be published.

Please send **3-line greetings**, along with payments in the form of check or money order payable to God's Field, to:

God's Field - Easter Greetings
 National Church Center
 1006 Pittston Avenue
 Scranton, PA 18505

2019 Easter Greetings for God's Field

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 (U.S \$20.00 check or money order for each greeting, payable to God's Field)***

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

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Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

(Following Jesus, Our Example - Continued from Page 3.)

life. But then I read the challenge of: "Whoever says, 'I have come to know [Jesus],' but does not obey His commandments, is a liar." Now certainly I, like many others, sometimes struggle with the commands of Christ, so it calls me to reexamine my complacency within my faith and to strive more zealously to follow the example of Jesus.

Lastly we can look to the example of the love of Jesus Christ for each and every one of us. In this regard, I must always remind myself that when the term 'love' is spoken of here it is the 'all self-sacrificing love' that is meant by the term within the pages of Scripture. This love is expressed to us in the actions of Jesus and brought to our attention in the writings of the Apostles. Again St. John's First Letter challenges us to put this love into action: "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." (1 John 3:16-18) The fulfillment of this love, the following of Jesus in this example, causes us to consider all the actions of our lives. It demands that we examine whether or not we are living and modeling the 'truth of Christ,' which is love, at every moment.

And of course as we consider whether or not we are following the example of Jesus, we must also realize that in following His example, we are becoming examples for others with whom we share our lives and those we come into contact with in our community. I am led here to a powerful Scriptural reading from St. Paul's First Letter to Corinthians. I am reminded that in studying this passage while I was in Seminary many years ago, our Scripture Professor, Father

George Dimopoulos said that if all of Scripture was lost and only this passage remained, it would be enough for the Christian Church. St. Paul tells us: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

In examining this passage it serves as an excellent way to see if we are truly following our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and being an example of His love. If we are really being that example of love, we should be able to place our own name in each place where 'love' is mentioned within the passage. How does it sound to us when we read it that way? When we place our own name within it does it ring with truth, or are there places that we need to refocus our efforts? We can in this way really examine our lives and ask ourselves, "Am I patient?" "Am I kind?" "Am I not envious or boastful, arrogant or rude?" "Do I not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rather rejoice in the truth?" And lastly, "Do I bear all things and endure all things" for the sake of others who are around me and those who share my life's journey?

It is these things that we need to consider when we speak of Jesus calling us to "follow Him." He still calls us today, and through our lives and example, He is also calling others. Let's be the ones who take the example of Jesus seriously. Let us pray to Almighty God that we will follow in the footsteps of Jesus as we serve others, suffer with and for others, forgive others and through an entire life of following Jesus, ultimately truly love others. This is the way of our Lord Jesus in the world, and it is the way to truly know Jesus, and ultimately abide with Him both now and forever.

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Central Diocese

WREATHS *across* AMERICA

St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish, Scranton, PA

At Noon on Saturday, December 15, 2018, many people gathered at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Cemetery and at more than 1,400 American memorial sites (including Arlington National Cemetery), as one nation to "Remember, Honor, and Teach."

The Cathedral Youth Association sponsored "Wreaths Across America" at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Cemetery.

The ceremony was opened by Don Blackledge, with prayers and remarks by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky and Bishop Bernard Nowicki. Judge Thomas Munley of the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas, and our own Fred Aebli, a Retired Major in the Marine Corps, spoke about our veterans and their dedication and service to our country.

With participation in Wreaths Across America, "we show a united front of gratitude and respect across the United States of America as we remember the Fallen, honor those who serve and teach our children the value of Freedom."

Before the wreaths were placed on the individual graves of our veterans, seven wreaths were placed in front of the Grotto of Christ Benign. Six wreaths were in memory of those who served and are serving in the different branches of the military: The United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. The final wreath was laid in honor of the 93,129 United States Armed Forces members whose last know status was either Prisoners of War or Missing in Action.

After the ceremony, the many participants, which included the young people from the Cathedral UYA, Cathedral parishioners and participants from our local community, placed wreaths on over 470 graves at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, as well as over 30 that were ordered to be placed on graves at other cemeteries. Each wreath is a gift of appreciation from a grateful America.

May God Bless those veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice, all veterans past and present and all service men and women today who are still working to keep our country free.



St. Stanislaus Cathedral SOCL News

Scranton, PA

Lighting the Advent Candles

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the SOCL students were the active participants in the lighting of the Advent Wreath ceremony before Mass.

The Pre-K and Kindergarten class had the honor of lighting the Advent candles, while the older students sang an Advent song, "A Waiting Carol," which included the use of small percussion instruments played by the young men of the older class. It was a moving experience to see the littlest ones helping to light the candles.



Happy Birthday, Jesus

For the first three Sundays in Advent, the Pre-K and Kindergarten Classes were learning about the Birth of Jesus, starting with the announcement to Mary that she was to have a Baby, to the birth of Jesus and the angels announcing the birth to the shepherds.

On the last Sunday in Advent, a birthday party for Jesus, complete with cupcakes and a visit from St. Nick, was celebrated. Everyone sang Happy Birthday to Jesus and even ended with singing Sto Lat, which is always sung at a Polish birthday party.

A Model Wigilia

In a response to a request from the older students of the School of Christian Living to learn more about our traditions, both the young people and adults participated in a model Wigilia, Christmas Eve supper in Poland.

Mrs. Barbara Nowicki started the program with an explanation of the customs of Wigilia, along with a YouTube video of a traditional Wigilia in Poland, with the "babci" preparing the meal.



The program continued with a reading of the poem, "Wigilia," by Robert Strybel, which focuses on Polish Christmas Eve traditions from the preparation for Wigilia through attending Pasterka (Shepherds' Mass). As the poem was read, the teachers handed the SOCL students all the elements needed for Wigilia, including the straw, white tablecloth, candle and the sharing of the blessed opłatek.

Next the teachers displayed replicas of the various dishes served for Wigilia, after which everyone enjoyed some real makowiec (poppy seed cake).

Święty Mikołaj visited with a gift and candy cane for the SOCL students, followed by everyone singing some Polish Christmas carols to symbolize attending Pasterka.

The program ended with another YouTube video of a modern Wigilia in Poland.

We thank all the teachers, Barbara Nowicki, Lu Ann Kaszuba, Jessica Notari, Tera Notari, Kim Herrera, Miranda Rybek and Christina Nasser, for making this Advent season, Birthday Party for Jesus and Model Wigilia a meaningful time for the SOCL students and parish. As the last line of the poem states:

"May the joy of Wigilia, so Polish and dear,
Be with you and your family throughout the New
Year!"

Submitted by Lu Ann Kaszuba



Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Activities Dupont, PA

Christmas Nativity

Teachers and children of the SOCL of Holy Mother of Sorrows, Dupont, PA prepared a Christmas Nativity which was presented on Christmas Eve, before the 4:00 PM Mass. The following children and adults were involved: Faith Ziobro, Hannah Yuschovitz, Alex Orluk, Maci Piccolino, Layla Marks, Mia Piccolino, Gianna Conforti; teachers: Stephanie Shumlas, Jack Wall and Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid.



Parish ANS Society Elects New Officers

The Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish ANS Society (Adoracja Najświętszego Sakramentu - Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament) held its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 in the Frank Bednash Memorial Hall, Dupont, PA. The following officers were elected: Carol Bondurich-President; Mary Ellen Stevens-Vice-President; Stephanie Shumlas- Treasurer; Mary Jo Searfoss - Recording Secretary.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



First Row: Donna Micka, Stephanie Shumlas, Carol Bondurich, Mary Ellen Stevens, Joyce Jopling;
Second Row: Eleanor Bruno, Rose Kazinetz, Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid, Christine Wasko, Mary Jo Searfoss

Y.M.S. of R . Annual Installation Meeting and Dinner

Y.M.S. of R. (Young Men's Society of Resurrection), Branch # 2, of Holy Mother of Sorrows Polish National Catholic Church in Dupont, PA, held its Annual Meeting and Installation Dinner on . The elected officers are: Jack Wall Jr. - President; Anthony Shumlas - Vice-President; Nick Kazinetz - Recording Secretary; Atty. Andrew Shumlas - Treasurer; Carl Cwikla - Financial Secretary; Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid – Chaplain.



Seated: David Fritz, Sr.; John Bondurich, Jr.; Anthony Shumlas; Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid; Jack Wall, Jr.; Atty. Andrew Shumlas; Carl Cwikla; Arnold Borc; Standing: David Fritz, Jr.; Jeff Baldan; Al Micka; Paul Kazinetz, Jr.; Jack Wall, Sr.; Angelo Conforti, Jr.; Gary Bondurich, Angelo Conforti, Sr.; Eugene Jendrey; Paul Kazinetz, III; John Bondurich, III; Mitchell Megliola; Jan Cwikla; Paul Kaspriske, Jr.

Rev. LT COL Stanley Jasiurkowski to be Deployed to Afghanistan

Recently promoted Brigade Chaplain, Rev. LT COL Stanley Jasiurkowski, will soon be deployed to Afghanistan for a period of 9 months. We pray that God will watch over Fr. Jasiurkowski and keep him safe during his deployment, and we ask that everyone keep him and all of the members of the Armed Services, especially those actively deployed, in your prayers.



Prayer for Those in the Armed Forces

O Lord God, the strength and protection of all who put their trust in You, bless and watch over the men and women of our armed forces who protect our nation and defend freedom and liberty throughout the world. Protect them from all harm, deliver them from the enemy and bring them safely home. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A Book of Devotions and Prayers, Polish National Catholic Church, Page 92

Eastern Diocese

“Make Room in Your Heart” at the 2018 Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Gathering and Lock-In

A rainy windy day did not keep folks away from the 2018 Winter Youth Gathering and Lock-In on Friday, December 28 and Saturday December 29, 2018. Thirty-five youth, adults and clergy from across our Eastern Diocese gathered at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA, for this special time of prayer, learning, fellowship and fun with their brothers and sisters in the faith.

Our Youth Chaplain, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, welcomed everyone and then this Youth Gathering began with a prayer for the time together and to remember our National Youth Chaplain, +Bishop Stanley Bilinski. (A picture of Bishop Stan was in the hall for this retreat.) Joanne Oliveira led a reflection/examination on how the youth have incorporated the Year of Family in their individual and parish families since our Diocesan Youth Retreat this past August. It was wonderful to see some of the great things our diocesan youth have been doing to live their Catholic faith.

We received a visit from the angel Gabriel (Kathy Nemkovich) who spoke to us about the conversation with the Blessed Virgin Mary. Gabriel spoke about how our Blessed Mother “Let It Be” done unto her as God had asked. Gabriel told us that we as well must let God’s will be done in our lives, and Gabriel then introduced the kids to the Beatles classic song “Let It Be” as a tool to help easily remember what we are to do when we have faith and hope.

An activity was then led by Kathy Nemkovich and Joanne Oliveira on making special Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Gathering Ornaments with the verse of Luke 2:11 “For unto us is born this day...a Saviour which is Christ the Lord” and a picture of Jesus, Mary and Joseph at the stable in Bethlehem.

We received a special visit from “Shep” (Dylan), a shepherd who was there the night Christ was born, to



help Fr. Sr. Rob talk about the Holy Masses of the Christmas Season. The youth learned about “Lex Orandi – Lex Credendi” – what we pray is what we believe and what God, our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church are teaching us during these Masses. We discussed the three Masses of Christmas, the Feast of St. Stephen and John,

the Memorial of Holy Innocence and the Solemnities (Holy Family, Humble Shepherds, Circumcision of our Lord, Holy Name of Jesus and Epiphany). The presentation ended with an introduction to the theme of our P.N.C.C. for next year: Discipleship: 2019.

We next made Prayer Blankets with love and care for children in need in Fall River. (These blankets were blessed during the closing Mass of the Winter Gathering.) Thanks to our wonderful chaperones who helped out in this important effort to help some children in need and to let them know that they are loved and prayed for.

PNU District 3 sponsored a pizza party and everyone enjoyed some great local pizza. Please remember the support that the sister organization of our Church, the Polish National Union (PNU), gives to our Church and consider becoming a member if you are not one already. After everyone had more than enough pizza we gathered in Church for a group picture. Bishop Paul then shared some personal reflections with our youth.

The Magi was our next presentation given by Fr. Pawel Lukaszewicz. Fr. Paul spoke about the Wise Men, the Solemnity of Epiphany and how our homes can be blessed during the Epiphany season. (20 C+M+B 19 or 20 K+M+B 19). He concluded his presentation by bringing out his guitar and leading everyone in singing “We Three Kings.”

Game Time featured Team Jesus and Team Christ as the youth on each team had five seconds to answer

(Continued on Page 20.)

(“Make Room in Your Heart” - Continued from Page X19.)

questions about the presentations they had heard and participated in during the Winter Youth Gathering. It was very nice to see how much they learned during this time together.

Fr. Paul and his guitar returned, and we enjoyed singing several Christmas Carols — many religious and a couple of secular ones, as well. We had quite the diocesan youth choir — it was great to hear and see their enthusiasm in singing their hearts out!

Another staple of our annual gathering is Nativity Bingo. Everyone had a blast playing to see who would win, get four corners and fill a card. Many laughs were had and some interesting gifts were won.

The Ice Cream Sundae Social was a big hit. Sundaes of many kinds were created by our youth and adults and gallons of ice cream just disappeared. Thank you again to PNU District 3 for sponsoring our ice cream social.

After all the blow-up mattress and sleeping bags were in place, and popcorn and chips were at the ready, everyone enjoyed the movie “The Star.” If you haven’t yet seen it – it is worth your time and effort to do so. After the movie and a couple of big bags of popcorn, Fr. Sr. Rob led everyone in evening prayer.

Saturday morning came quickly, and after deflating the mattresses, folding up the sleeping bags and straightening up the parish hall, all gathered for the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. Fr. Sr. Rob celebrated Mass on this the Solemnity of the Holy Family. In his brief homily he spoke about the importance of the Holy Family, how they are the example for all families to follow by saying “Yes to God” and that we need to

make sure that we “Make Room in our Hearts” for our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. Fr. Paul concelebrated Mass with Fr. Sr. Rob and Cleric Justin Daviault assisted. The readings were proclaimed by Deacon Candidate Bob Bradbury and Cleric Justin. After Mass the prayer blankets were blessed.

A fantastic breakfast was served after everyone sang the traditional camp/youth retreat grace. Thanks to Bev, Laurie, Jim and Jessica for cooking us delicious pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage and of course – donuts.

Fr. Sr. Rob thanked all the youth for making the time for Jesus. He thanked the adults for chaperoning and especially Fr. Paul who made the effort to be there for our youth!

Our diocesan parishes represented were: Blessed Trinity – Fall River; Holy Cross – Central Falls; Holy Mother of Rosary - Chicopee; Holy Trinity – Plantsville; Our Saviour’s – Woonsocket and St. Joseph’s – Stratford and Holy Trinity Cathedral – Manchester. Clergy participating: Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Fr. Paul Lukaszewicz and Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our diocesan Acolyte Retreat in June and at Youth Retreat 2019 at Camp Howe in Goshen, Massachusetts from August 18-22. This year our youth can again bring a friend with them to Church Camp! Save the date and plan to join us.

Have a blessed New Year 2019 as we begin Discipleship:2019 in our Holy Church. Let us always make room in our hearts for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Submitted by Very Rev. Robert N. Nemkovich, Jr.



Frank & Dorothy Kaffel Scholarship Awarded to Jo-Ann O'Connell

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH



On Sunday, January 27, 2019, Jo-Ann O'Connell, RN, received the Frank & Dorothy Kaffel

Scholarship. She was presented this scholarship by Committee Chair, James, Krolkowski. Ms. O'Connell is about to embark on her third trip working with Project Helping Hands in Cambodia.

Project Helping Hands is a non-profit organization that sends teams of volunteers to provide medical care and health education for people in developing countries. In order to participate in this worthwhile endeavor, Ms. O'Connell must raise \$5,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing medical supplies.

If you would like to assist her, please make your donation payable to Jo-Ann O'Connell and mail it to Holy Trinity Cathedral, 166 Pearl Street, Manchester, NH, 03104.

Jo-Ann is truly humbled and grateful to be given this opportunity and would be extremely appreciative of any assistance provided.



On the Web: projecthelpinghands.org

On FB: [Project Helping Hands](#)

(Apocalypse of the Twentieth Century - Continued from Page 12.)
man provinces or generals of the army; I permit them to wear senatorial cloaks with purple binding. Instead of adorning your head with a simple headband you can wear, my Holy Fathers, a princely miter, the symbol of power and dignity and arm your right hand with a crozier which as carried centuries ago by the high priests of the Egyptian god Heketah, the Greek Zeus and our Roman Jove." The Emperor and the Bishops come to an understanding.

Bishop Hodur continued with a discussion and examples of the accumulation of wealth by Popes, Cardinals, Bishops, Archbishops, and Monasteries. "The curse of God and man, however, always follows great material wealth, for wealth is rarely gained by hard and honest work, industry or thrift of the person who possesses it, it usually comes through theft, plunder, exploitation and deceit." The next section describes the trade in indulgences [money in pay-

ment for remission of sins, past, present and future] by which the acquisition of funds permitted the acquisition of wealth by Popes, Cardinals, Bishops, Archbishops, and Monasteries, construction of bridges and cathedrals. This led up to the nailing to the door on October 31, 1517 of the Wittenberg university church Martin Luther's ninety-five (95) statements condemning the sales of indulgences.

This is followed by descriptions of the roman churches attempt at saving the papacy. None of the efforts was directed towards making the Church more Christian and consequently the Church was not regenerated. This part concluded with a discussion of the Reformation.

I encourage you to read this book for a better understanding of Bishop Hodur's thoughts on the development of the Polish National Catholic Church

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

Western Diocese

Toy Drive Holy Cross Parish, Hamtramck, MI

The Mission Committee at Holy Cross Parish in Hamtramck, Michigan held a toy drive during November and into the beginning of December. We collected 160 toys that were delivered directly to **Friendship House** on December 11, 2018, and given to their low-income client families before Christmas. **Friendship House** Executive Director Cathy Maher could not thank us enough for our generous donation and dedication to the city. Most of their clients cannot afford to give their children a gift for Christmas.

Friendship House gave away over 400 toys to children for Christmas this year, all collected from their generous donors. They also provide 64,000 pounds of food to families in need each month. The Holy Cross Mission Committee would like to thank our pastor, Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak for his support, parishioners and friends who donated toys for this community service project.

Submitted by Kathy Chockley



Holy Cross parishioners and pastor Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak with all the toys collected



Holy Cross parishioners Kathy Chockley and Pat Frick deliver 160 toys to **Friendship House** warehouse.

From the Bishop of the Western Diocese, P.N.C.C.

According to Article IX, Section 13 of The Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church, Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Acting Bishop of the Western Diocese, P.N.C.C., suspended Rev. Robert Fredrickson as a priest of the Polish National Catholic Church as of February 4, 2019.

NOTICE TO PARISHES

If your parish is in need of financial assistance and you seek to request Clergy Aid 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 before March 15, 2019,
 along with all of the required
 supporting financial documentation.

The Diocesan Bishops must forward all parish requests to the Office of the Prime Bishop no later than March 20, 2019.

(PLEASE NOTE: Requests sent by Buffalo-Pittsburgh or Central Diocese parishes directly to the Office of the Prime Bishop and not through the proper Diocesan Bishop will be returned to the parish. This may result in delayed paperwork and missed deadline submission.) Western Diocese or Canadian Diocese submissions can be sent to the Office of the Prime Bishop as he serves as acting Diocesan Bishop for these dioceses.

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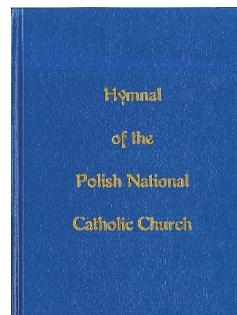


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Prayer for Bishop Francis Hodur
from the Mass for Departed Bishops (2006 P.N.C.C. Missal):

Let us pray.

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Who did assure Your holy Apostles that the highest reward awaits those who strive zealously for the continuance of the Kingdom of God on earth, receive into Your glory the soul our Your servant, Francis Hodur, Bishop of Your Holy Church.

Have compassion on him as You had compassion on the erring Apostles. Mindful of his desire to bring souls to You, reward him with eternal happiness. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Most Rev. Franciszek Hodur

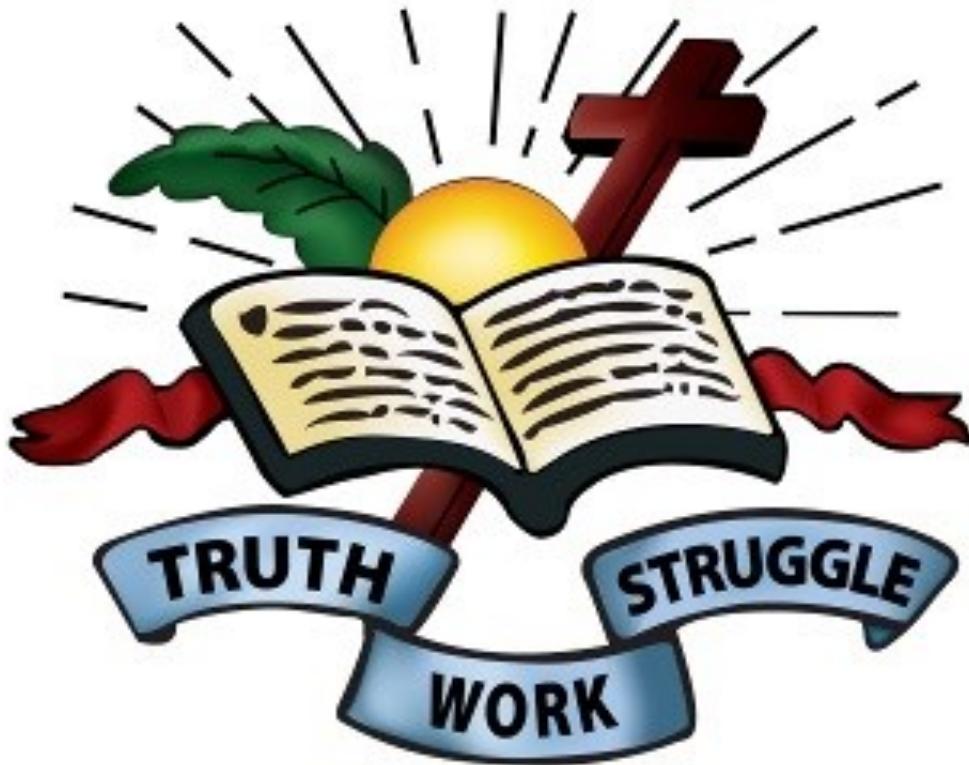
Founder and First Prime Bishop

of the

Polish National Catholic Church

Born: Sunday, April 1, 1866

Died: Monday, February 16, 1953



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