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A Look Forward in 2020

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky
Prime Bishop

As the Polish Christmas carol states “New Year comes flying...” and certainly already we find ourselves a few weeks into the year of our Lord, 2020. Although I certainly know that the New Year is really only an arbitrary point in time during the year, it is still an opportunity that allows us to consider new beginnings and another chance to put old ways behind us and start afresh.

Now I also know that the New Year is the time for making resolutions. Many of us will make plans to begin some new habit that is more healthful or fruitful for our lives. Maybe we will resolve to give up a bad habit, like smoking or overeating. Maybe we will resolve to pick up a new and better habit like a daily walk or joining the gym. While these certainly are laudable things and I certainly have done such things in the past, I really don’t spend that much time on such thoughts today. In fact I just read in the papers that since we are now three weeks into the New Year, it is right now the time when most people have just begun to give up on any resolutions that they had made at the beginning of the Year.

I think that this year I want to challenge all of us, myself included, to examine our spiritual lives and our seeking to follow our Lord, Jesus Christ, more closely to see where we can improve there. In this I am moved by the third verse of the carol mentioned above, “New Year Comes Flying.” It states: “How shall we find Him? How shall we know our Jesus, Lord? In humble wrappings, not in rich velvet, seek Him there.”

This is a reminder that while it is quite easy to make a grand resolution in our spiritual lives to challenge ourselves to reading Holy Scripture for an hour each night, or praying all of the Daily Office each day, this might be a little too much of “rich velvet,” and therefore won’t have much of a chance of having a real impact on our lives because we won’t be able sustain this resolution. We see that the hymn tells us that we will find our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in “humble wrappings.” We will be able to find Him in the small ways that we seek to follow Him more closely and since we will be able to sustain these small ways it will allow us to truly incorporate these new ways of growing closer to Jesus within our lives.

It is with this in mind that the Future Direction Subcommittee has chosen this year to focus our attention each month on different people that we encounter in the pages of Scripture and how each of them can lead us, even if only in one small way, to more closely follow Jesus. Like many of us, the people we encounter in the pages of Holy Scripture did not always live perfect and holy lives. Although they knew of the ways of God, some struggled to follow His commandments. Many were aware of the fact that God was calling them to a more holy life, but they were also aware that they had shortcomings and difficulties that kept them at a distance. It was an encounter with Almighty God, an encounter with Jesus Christ, that allowed them to put these things behind them and rather focus their attention on following Jesus more closely.

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**Email Addresses
for the
P.N.C.C. Offices**

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

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky
pbmikovsky@pncc.org

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

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

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

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

***God's Field — Rola Boza*
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CONTROLLER:

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

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This is exactly what each of us can do in examining our lives and asking ourselves pointed questions about how we can change one or two small things that will bring us closer to Jesus. It will then be in this “humble wrapping” that we can approach Jesus and find ways to be better disciples and more closely follow Him.

For just one small example, I take a few moments every morning before I leave for the office and read Morning Prayer as a part of the Daily Office. While I would certainly like to be more faithful in praying all of it during the seven times each day, this is at least something that I can do each morning. And in a way that makes it even more “humble” I can pray this Daily Morning Prayer on my cell phone even when not at home. While there certainly is something nice about opening up a beautiful Prayer Book and saying these prayers, when I am traveling or even just find myself in another room at home, there is no excuse. Like most of you, I always have my cell phone with me, but in this way it can be the source of my daily prayers and not just a source of social media.

And this is just one small example; there are certainly many others. In dealing with how we treat each other, we can begin right with the people we live with each and every day. With the ways we try to do good in our community we begin with just saying hello and being a friendly person to the people we encounter as we go about our daily life. Each of these is a small and humble way to begin to change our lives, but the reality is that it will be real change which moves us in the direction of being a better and more faithful disciple of Jesus.

The Future Direction Subcommittee this year will challenge us through a number of short YouTube videos concerning some of the people we encounter in Holy Scripture. Some we might know very well, and so the presentations will allow us to enter a little deeper into the life of this person and hopefully take away one small humble aspect that we can make a part of our own lives on our road of discipleship. If it is a person we do not know as well, then the presentation will allow us to see a new face within the Scriptures and to see the challenges that they encountered and how they met them. Within all of it there will be lessons for us and a chance to increase our own discipleship in one humble way.

Although over the past many years the Future Direction Subcommittee has changed the theme for each year in the hope of focusing on some different aspect of our Christian journey, following the lead of our General Synod in October of 2018, we are going to focus for a number of years solely on Discipleship. It is an important matter within our life as a believer and one that can be explored in many different ways. For all those who want to participate in this program of the Polish National Catholic Church, send a short email to FutureDirection@pncc.org to get on the distribution list or subscribe to the [P.N.C.C. Future Direction YouTube channel](#).

But of course the exploration is not the point; we are striving to be better and more committed disciples of Jesus, and this takes not only an examination of our lives, but also the commitment to actually change them through small and humble ways where we can grow closer to Jesus.

While I know that we are not yet to the season of Lent with its strong focus on repentance, we are not that far off, either. Therefore, I want all of us to reflect on the word which is translated as repentance which is ‘metanoia.’ This Greek word means to change one’s mind or to change one’s course of life. It is through these small and humble actions that we can truly begin to “change our course of life.” To change it to one where Jesus is in the lead and we are truly His followers, His disciples. The Future Direction program this year will allow us to meet others who were on that journey as well; those who followed Jesus. When we reflect on their lives and their ways of discipleship, we are following the admonition of St. Paul, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1)

I encourage all of us to allow this to be a program for our spiritual resolutions for the New Year. Then hopefully and prayerfully we can truly say that 2020 will be a time for “New Year, New You.” But this new you will be one who more closely follows Jesus, and allows His life to fully live in you.

Wishing all of my brother Bishops, the Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, the Deacons, all Polish National Catholics and all people of good will a joyous New Year in which we will know Jesus more fully and love Him more dearly.



From the Office of the Prime Bishop



Financial Responsibilities of the Parishes of the P.N.C.C.

This short article is to remind the parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church of their responsibilities in regards to the National Church, each Diocese and also to the many organizations and causes within the Church that deserve our support. These financial obligations are set out in the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church and through the decisions of the General Synods, Diocesan Synods and Parish Meetings of the individual parishes. In this regard we encourage all Parish Committee members to consult the Constitution and Laws of the P.N.C.C. Article XXI in particular addresses “Church Funds.”

There are several parts to the financial obligations of the Church, each of which was decided via the representation of each of the parishes during the deliberations of a General or Diocesan Synod.

On the National Church level there are two responsibilities. These are the General Fund Assessment and the 6% Levy. During the XXIV General Synod held in October of 2014 the delegates voted to set the General Fund dues at \$100.00 per member. This was unchanged by the 2018 General Synod. This figure will continue until the next General Synod in 2022. An important point for the parish to remember, especially in Article XXI, Section 4, is that the Parish is responsible to contribute \$100.00 for each member on its parish roll. According to Article XXI, Section 16 of the Constitution, these funds that are collected must be submitted to the Diocesan Treasurer quarterly. These funds support all of the work of the National Church Center offices. It supports the Office of the Prime Bishop and the work of all of the National Commissions. One of the largest expenses is the reimbursement of the portion of the Health Insurance for the clergy of the Church. A portion also supports the Clergy Pension Fund.

Along with the above obligation, each parish must also submit funds according to the 6% levy. According to Article XXI, Section 3 of the Constitution, six percent (6%) of Parish Dues (excepting the \$100.00 of the General Fund Dues), regular Sunday and Holy Day collections must be submitted to the National Church via the Diocesan Treasurers. According to Article XXI, Section 16 of the Constitution this 6% Levy on funds that are collected are to be submitted to the Diocesan Treasurer quarterly. These funds support specific causes within the Church such as, the School of Christian Living, the Publication Fund, Parish Loans Fund and Clergy Aid Fund.

Each Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church also sets its own Diocesan Fund Assessment. This amount is set by each of the Diocesan Synods which were held in the Fall of 2016. Each Diocese collects a different amount and it is to be submitted quarterly to its Diocesan Treasurer.

A number of special collections are identified either in the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church or are mandated through Synodal Action of the Church. The following Special National Collections are to be taken in every parish of the Polish National Catholic Church for the following purposes:

For the year 2020 these collections are:

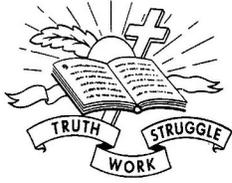
December 29, 2019	–	Solemnity – Humble Shepherds – For the Seminary Fund
January 5, 2020	–	For the Mission Fund
January 26, 2020	–	Music Scholarship Sunday – For the Music Scholarship Fund
February 2, 2020	–	For the Mission Fund
March 1, 2020	–	For the Mission Fund
March 8, 2020	–	Institution of the P.N.C.C. – For the National Church Center
April 5, 2020	–	For the Mission Fund
May 3, 2020	–	For the Mission Fund
June 7, 2020	–	For the Mission Fund
June 21, 2020	–	Father’s Day – For the Clergy Pension Fund
July 5, 2020	–	For the Mission Fund
August 2, 2020	–	For the Mission Fund
August 30, 2020	–	Youth Sunday – For the Youth Fund
September 6, 2020	–	For the Mission Fund
September 13, 2020	–	Solemnity – Brotherly Love – For Spójnia, Inc. (Bp. Hodur Retreat Center)
October 4, 2020	–	For the Mission Fund
October 18, 2020	–	Heritage Sunday – Outreach to Poland Collection
November 1, 2020	–	For the Mission Fund
December 6, 2020	–	For the Mission Fund
December 27, 2020	–	Solemnity – Humble Shepherds – Seminary Fund
January 3, 2021	–	For the Mission Fund

The funds from these collections are also to be submitted by the Parishes to the Diocesan Treasurers. According to Article XXI, Section 17 the Treasurer of each Diocese is to forward the appropriate funds to the Treasurer of the P.N.C.C. within 30 days.

Parishes are also reminded, according to Article XXI, Section 16 of the Constitution that "all monies collected and received by a Parish Committee from the sources of income in Section 3 of this Article (i.e. General Fund dues, 6% Fund, and collections) shall be paid quarterly to its Diocesan Bishop.

It is the hope that with a better understanding of these collections of the Church each member will join together to support all of the good work that is being done through the Polish National Catholic Church. “Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth or rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:20-21)

If anyone has questions or concerns regarding the financial matters of the Church, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Prime Bishop.



SAVE THE DATE!



2020 NATIONAL
YOUTH CONVOCATION

JULY 20 - 24TH

MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

(HOSTED BY THE BUFFALO-PITTSBURGH
DIOCESE)

PLAN ON ENJOYING 5 DAYS OF SPIRITUAL
GROWTH, FUN! FELLOWSHIP!

SEE OLD FRIENDS!

MEET NEW FRIENDS!

MORE INFO TO FOLLOW!

An Index to Rola Boża - God's Field, Volume II, 1954 - 1970

This book has two volumes. It was compiled by Rev. Casimir J. Grotnik; Volume I was published in 1989 and Volume II in 1991 by the Polish National Catholic Church Commission on History and Archives and the Bishop Hodur Biography Commission. Volume II covers the contents of the official organ of the Polish National Catholic Church from 1954 to 1970.

Any person who is looking for information on the Polish National Catholic Church, its dioceses, seniorates, parishes, clergy, members and commissions and committees should start with the two indexes prepared by Rev. Casimir J. Grotnik, one for Rola Boża - God's Field and another for Straż. The Index for Straż will be described in future articles. This article will cover Volume II of the index for Rola Boża - God's Field 1954 - 1970. It has 455 pages. The use of the index is covered in the explanations segment. To use the book to locate which issue of Rola Boża - God's Field, one finds the following information, such as 4 (1926) 7 s 99. This means volume 4, 1926, number 7 and page 99.

The table of contents is as follows: Foreword, Index of Authors, Index of Names, Necrologies, Geographical Index and Subjects. The Subjects Include: Advent; Aid to Poland; All Soul's Day; American Feasts; Anglican Church; Baptism; Bishops of the Polish National Catholic Church; Boys Defenders, Children and Youth, Scouts; Christmas; Christmas Pastoral Visit; Church Societies; Clergy of the Polish National Catholic Church; Confirmation; Council of Churches; Croatian National Catholic Church; Easter; Ecumenism; Episcopal and Polish National Catholic Church; Episcopal Church; Eschatology; Eucharist; Feasts of the Polish National Catholic Church; Girl's Society; God's Field; Index of Parishes; Ladies Adoration of The Most Blessed Sacrament Society; Lent; Lithuanian National Catholic Church; Liturgy of The Polish National Catholic Church; Maria Konopnicka Society; Mary Mother of Jesus; Matrimony; Mission of the Polish National Catholic Church; Music, Songs, Choirs; Old Catholic Church; Orthodox Churches; Penance; Philippine Independent Catholic Church; Poland; Polish Art; Polish Catholic Church; Polish Customs; Polish History; Polish National Alliance; Polish National Catholic Church in Poland; Polish National Catholic Church; Polish National Union; Polish School, Polish Language; Polonia; Protestant Churches; Roman Catholic Church;

School of Christian Living; Slovak National Catholic Church; Spojnia Home For The Aged; Supreme Council; Synods of the Polish National Catholic Church; Theological Seminary; Women; Word of God; Young Men's Society of Resurrection; and Young People Society. The table of contents is also listed in Polish.

As you can see, there are many topics to be researched. A person just starting to use this index probably would start at the back of the book by checking the separate indexes. The first is a twenty-five (25) page listing of authors, pseudonyms and cryptonyms which has twelve hundred and forty-five (1245) entries. Next is a nineteen (19) page listing of the names of people which has nine hundred and seventy-five (975) entries. The third listing is the four (4) page summary of the one hundred and ninety-nine (199) obituaries which are in the issues of Rola Boża - God's Field. The index of geographical reference comprise fourteen (14) pages and has two hundred and seventy-five (275) entries. Twelve (12) pages comprise the index for the sixty three (63) different subjects covered by the issues of Rola Boża - God's Field.

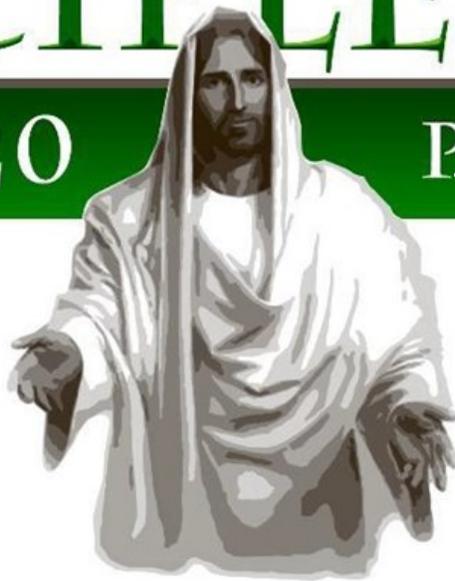
The subjects and numbers of articles, in parentheses, in each of these four thousand five hundred and twenty (4520) subjects included in this index are: Advent (237); Aid to Poland (255); All Souls Day (33); American Feasts (159); Anglican Church (15); Baptism (3); Bishops of the Polish National Catholic Church (30); Boys Defenders (1); Children, and Youth, Scouts (264); Christmas (134); Christmas Pastoral Visit (1); Church Societies (4); Clergy of the Polish National Catholic Church (245); Confirmation (2); Council of Churches (29); Croatian National Catholic Church (1); Easter (97); Ecumenism (20); Episcopal and Polish National Catholic Church (8); Episcopal Church (18); Eschatology (6); Eucharist (12); Feasts of the Polish National Catholic Church (48); Girls Society (51); Index of Parishes (11); Ladies Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society (316); Lent (89); Lithuanian National Catholic Church (7); Liturgy of the Polish National Catholic Church (29); Maria Konopnicka Society (103); Mary Mother of Jesus (39); Matrimony (9); Mission of the Polish National Catholic Church (30); Music, Concerts, Choirs (472); Old Catholic Church (56);

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DISCIPLESHIP

2020

P.N.C.C.



DISCIPLESHIP: 2020

P.N.C.C. FUTURE DIRECTION - ACTION PLAN FOR P.N.C.C. PARISHES BASED ON THE EFFORTS OF THE 24TH & 25TH P.N.C.C. GENERAL SYNODS

Continue to develop and emphasize Discipleship through 2020: *Our purpose is to strengthen all members in their following of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This will give us a better sense of ourselves as the Church. During 2020 we will examine the lives of some of the early disciples of our Lord and their discipleship virtues to see what we can learn from them and apply to our daily living.* Please see the monthly Future Direction messages regarding this effort with reflections for living this out daily.

Questions for Reflection each month: Name a few important “discipleship qualities” that the figure(s) demonstrate? Which one would you personally like to better emulate? How can you begin to practically do so in your daily life?

These questions could also be used in the parish for a monthly adult reflection session on the figure(s) noted below.

JANUARY – JOHN THE BAPTIST: FORTITUDE, HUMILITY

Matthew 3:1-17; John 1:15-36, 3:22-30

Reflection Question: *John the Baptist called others to repent and prepare for the Lord Jesus. How can you, as a disciple, help others take their relationship with our Lord more seriously? **Begin planning/implementation** of the Parish Assessment*

FEBRUARY – SIMEON AND ANNA IN THE TEMPLE: PIETY, COMPASSION

Luke 2:22-38

Reflection Question: *Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah and told others in the Temple about Him. Can you come up with 2 practical ways by which you can do the same? **Schedule** Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education*

MARCH – MARTHA AND MARY OF BETHANY: PRAYERFULNESS, SERVICE

Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-45

Reflection Question: Martha and Mary together give us a balanced model of the aspects of our discipleship. Do you have this same balance of prayer and service in your daily life? What can you do to achieve it?

Schedule Mass for Healing

Schedule and conduct Lenten Retreat

APRIL – MARY MAGDALENE: FAITHFULNESS, FORTITUDE

Luke 8:1-3; Mark 15:33-47; John 20:1-18

Reflection Question: Mary Magdalene was faithful to our Lord even at the foot of the Cross and so Jesus rewarded her with being the first witness to his Resurrection. How can you better follow her example of unconditional faithfulness to Christ in your own life?

MAY – ST. PETER: HUMILITY, TRUST

Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 26:31-35; John 21:1-19

Reflection Question: Peter did not feel worthy to accept the Lord's call and he was right. Yet, he followed and Jesus used him to boldly proclaim the Gospel to others and to give the greatest witness in his martyrdom. How can you overcome your own sense of unworthiness and embrace God's great plan for you?

Schedule Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

JUNE – SAINTS JAMES AND JOHN: SONS OF THUNDER, APOSTLES OF LOVE

Mark 3:13-19; Luke 9:28-36; Matthew 20:20-28

Reflection Question: Jesus taught the “Sons of Thunder” that true honor and greatness come from putting the needs of others before your own and becoming a servant. Do you sometimes do things so that others will see you doing them instead of doing them out of love? How can you better learn the lesson that James and John learned as disciples of Jesus?

Remember Clergy Appreciation Weekend & Sacred Vocations Month

JULY – ST. PAUL: REPENTANCE, FORTITUDE AND SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE

Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-20; Romans 8:18-27; 2 Tim 4:1-8

Reflection Question: Paul understood the sacrifices that had to be made for the sake of the Gospel and he willingly made them. Have you ever been called to sacrifice something as a disciple of Jesus? How can you prepare this month to be able to give up things of the world for the sake of the Eternal Kingdom of God?

Schedule Mass for those Grieving

AUGUST – THE CANAANITE WOMAN: PERSISTENCE, HUMILITY

Matthew 15:21-31

Reflection Question: The Canaanite Woman persisted in her request for healing even when Jesus tested her faith. How do you respond when you petition the Lord through prayer but don't receive an immediate response?

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(Discipleship: 2020- Continued from Page 9.)

SEPTEMBER – ST. BARNABAS: GENEROSITY, FORTITUDE

Acts 4:32-37, 9:22-27, 14:8-20, 15:1-29

Reflection Question: Barnabas was called "son of encouragement" by the Apostles. In what ways can you follow his example and encourage others this month on their own journeys as disciples of Jesus?

Schedule Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

OCTOBER – THE HOLY THEOTOKOS: HUMILITY, GENTLENESS, COMPASSION AND EVERY VIRTUE

Luke 1:26-56, 2:1-19; John 19:25-30; Acts 1:13-14, 2:1-4

Reflection Question: The Mother of God is the first and greatest disciple of her Son, faithful from the Annunciation to the Ascension and then still prayerfully present with the Church at Pentecost. How can you better emulate her consistent faithfulness to God when faced with both great sorrows and times of joy?

NOVEMBER – ST. MATTHEW: SELF DISCIPLINE

Matthew 9:1-13, 10:1-42; Matthew 5:1-12, 25:31-46

Reflection Question: When Jesus called Matthew the tax collector to follow Him, he did so despite what others said about him. Have you ever been the one to deem someone else unworthy of being a disciple of Jesus in some way? How can you overcome such perceptions and instead help strengthen others in their discipleship?

Schedule Mass and Breakfast for those who serve

Schedule Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

Report of the Parish Assessment

DECEMBER – ST. JOSEPH – PROTECTOR OF THE LORD: OBEDIENCE, TRUST, PATIENCE

Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-23; Luke 2:39-52

Reflection Question: St. Joseph was obedient to the will of the Father even when asked to do some very difficult things. Have you struggled to embrace God's will for your life in the past? How can you spiritually prepare to more fully surrender your life as a disciple of Jesus?

Schedule and conduct Advent Retreat/Penitential Service

PARISH ASSESSMENT – PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL

Steady and lasting *Growth* in “readiness” to reach out and welcome others to our Church and Parishes.

What and how will it be done: Focus on two project areas for parishes to systematically put their house in order both physically and spiritually. Some parishes are better maintained than others, but no parish is ever complete. Just as in our own spiritual lives there is always room for improvement, and we are never complete. We must keep moving forward in some way.

Phase 1: The outcomes of this phase would be twofold: first, the plan itself and then the actual execution of the plan resulting in improved grounds and church building.

Phase 2: The outcomes of this phase would also be twofold: first, the assessment and plan itself and then the actual execution of the plan resulting in improved (or at least confirmed satisfactory state of) the liturgical life of the parish.

Final outcome: Parishes with increased internal readiness that leads out to external growth in membership; feeling a sense of humble and grateful pride at what God had helped them accomplish and a growing sense of healthy confidence that they are truly ready to welcome others who are seeking a spiritual home.

This is really grounded in the observation that perhaps we are not as ready as we might think to welcome new growth in membership and the notion that every parish can and must continue to improve itself.

SPECIAL MASSES

Again have at least two Special Masses and open them to the community. This would be in addition to our Sunday Mass. During Lent have a Mass for Healing and invite all those who are ill, hurting spiritually or emotionally to attend and spend time in prayer, to hear God's Word and receive Christ in the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Anointing. Use the Mass for Healing during Lent – this will be emailed to all clergy as a reminder at the beginning of Lent.

In the fall (November) have a Mass to Salute those who Serve - for your first responders/those in military service and Veterans. This Mass could be followed by a meal to honor those who serve/who have served. You could also have a Mass in time of tragedy when the need may arise in your community or our nation. These could be followed by a time of fellowship and food at the parish.

You could also schedule a Mass for those grieving any time during the Church Liturgical Year.

Welcome the community to these Masses by promoting them in your local media and newspaper, as well as fliers and social media. Invite other local groups to join you for these Masses.

CONTINUE THE BUSINESS FREE ZONE

For 10-15 minutes prior to the celebration of Holy Mass have a time where the pastor is unavailable for Church business and that no other things are being discussed but a focus on the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. This will continue to bring an enhanced spirituality and reverence for the Eucharist to our parishes. Encourage use of the introductory pages of the Mass booklet – *especially page 8* as well as prayers from our Prayer Book preparing for Holy Mass and Confession.

CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Short two minutes messages by various members speaking to our Year of Discipleship on YouTube. Continue to post monthly messages to our Facebook page and videos to YouTube and ask our members to share them. We hope more will be reached and encouraged to participate in these efforts. Parishes should have a presence of Social Media to promote their Special Masses and events. Consider streaming Holy Mass live on the internet and use these tools to promote the work of the parish. Pastors are also encouraged to record and share their Masses and Para Liturgical Services.

ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION

WINE AND CHEESE CLUB OR SOUP, SANDWICH AND SERMON

Continue to gather for adult education and formation in our Christian Catholic faith. Perhaps you could use the questions for reflection from the monthly figures for 2020 above. This can be done via the Soup, Sandwich and Sermon Concept, Wine and Cheese Gatherings concept (based on the Pub Theology: Beer, Conversation and God), using a Book Club format or even via online.

(Continued on Page 12.)

(Discipleship: 2020- Continued from Page 11.)

TWO DAYS OF SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Lent and one other (Advent) Pick a day during the seasons of Lent and one other time in 2020 to spend in retreat and prayer. This can be done on either a parish or seniorate level. Ideas for the Retreat include: Mass of the Day, special Lenten/Advent service of Penance, Scripture Readings/Reflections and Meditations, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament; For Lent: Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Lamentations, etc. This can be open and advertised to the local community.

COMPLETE AT LEAST SIX COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

It is important that the six projects be done in the local community of the parish so that these efforts will create a greater presence of the parish in the community.

Various options include but are not limited to: blood drives, a project to aid an assisted living facility, or other care facility i.e. nursing home , group home; volunteering for a special needs event; having a Mass or event for your local widow's group; aiding a family crisis center, food drives, serving a free meal for the community, providing a community breakfast/meal for First Responders – for Veterans; prayer blanket ministry, clothing drive for the community, sponsoring a local family in need, and/or responding to a particular need in the local community, etc.

***The 5 Themes for the Future Direction of our Holy Church
from the
24th P.N.C.C. General Synod
and further expanded upon at the 25th P.N.C.C. General Synod***

I. Growth and Membership

II. Increase Spirituality

III. Lifelong Learning

IV. Sacred Vocations

V. Community Involvement

(An Index to Rola Boza - God's Field, Volume II, 1954 - 1970 - Continued from Page 7.)

Orthodox Church (9); Penance (11); Philippine Independent Catholic Church (3); Poland (26); Polish Art (13); Polish Catholic Church (193); Polish Customs (15); Polish History (90); Polish National Alliance (5); Polish National Catholic Church in Poland (12); Polish National Union (97); Polish School, Polish Language (110); Polonia (162); Protestant Churches (27); Roman Catholic Church (126); Roman Catholic Church, Polish Clergy (16); School of Christian Living (153); Slovak National Catholic Church (8); Spojnia Home for the Aged (43); Supreme Council (20); Synods of the Polish National Catholic Church (160); Theological Seminary (158); Women (8); Word of God (6); Young Men's Society of Resurrection (154); and Young People Society (45).

You can get an understanding on what was important to the Polish National Catholic Church by checking the number of articles for these sixty-one (61) topics.

Sixteen topics had from 1 though 9 articles, There were nine articles from 10 through 19. There were six topics from 20 through 29 articles. Four topics had between 30 through 39 articles and between 150 and 159, three between 40 and 49 and between 90 and 99, two between 50 and 59 and between 160 and 169, and one at 89, 103, 110, 126, 134, 193, 237, 245, 255, 264, 316, and 472.

I urge you to use this book many times; there are many topics and subjects that are not well known in the church. It provides primary records to prepare papers that would shed light on the activities of committees, commissions, clergy and members of the Polish National Catholic Church. Keeping a democratic church has never been easy. It needs our constant attention. Only by remembering our history will we be able to prosper and grow. Joseph Francis Seliga, Chair, P.N.C.C. Commission on History and Archives

National United Choirs

Music Scholarship Sunday

On January 26, 2020, please give generously! Since its inception, 1,103 scholarships have been awarded in the amount of \$322,885.00. Sincere gratitude is extended to all who have and will donate. You have made and will make a difference in the musical life of your parish and our Church. Donations can also be made on a year-round basis by sending your check to the NUC treasurer, Rev. Mr. Jim Ploskonka, 349 Justo Lane, Seven Hills, OH 44131.

Just note in the memo line that the donation is for the scholarship fund.

Parish Treasurers: Please submit your parish donations to the scholarship fund to your diocesan treasurer by the end of your first quarter so they can be forwarded in a timely manner for use in the 2020 awards. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!



2020 Music Scholarship Awards

Applications for the 2020 Music Scholarship Awards are now available! Are you currently taking paid music lessons for organ, piano, voice or another instrument? Do you participate in the music ministry of your parish? If so, you may be eligible for a Music Scholarship from the National United Choirs.

All necessary forms and instructions can be downloaded from the scholarship website at nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com. Deadline for submission is May 1, 2020.

Pastors, Organists, and P.N.C.C. members: Please encourage those eligible in your parish to apply to this very rewarding program that has provided financial assistance to so many people in the P.N.C.C. over the past 53 years.

Any questions can be submitted to: Cathy A. Bilinski, Music Scholarship Administrator, nucscholarship@gmail.com.

Music Scholarship Sunday January 26, 2020

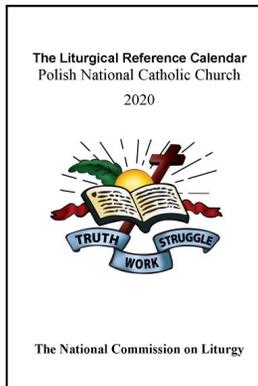


Help support future musicians in the P.N.C.C. by giving generously to the Music Scholarship Fund. Your donations truly make a difference!

Give thanks for those that are currently using their talents serving the music ministry in our parishes.

For more information on the scholarship program, visit nucmusicsscholarship.weebly.com

2020 Liturgical Reference Calendar of the P.N.C.C. (Ordo)



Although we are sold out of the 2020 Home Liturgical (Wall) Calendars, the 2020 Liturgical Reference Calendar — Ordo is still available for purchase. The cost of the Liturgical Calendar is \$12.75 per book for pick-up orders or \$15.50 per book for mail orders to U.S.; \$22.75 per book for mail orders to Canada. (Please note that additional shipping costs may accrue for large volume orders depending on weight and distance shipped. Additional Shipping costs will be invoiced accordingly.)

To order your 2020 Ordo, please fill out the order form, below, and mail it with your payment. Your Ordo(s) will be shipped upon receipt of your payment.

As you are aware, over the past several years we experienced a steady decline in donations for the printing of the LRC, and also several parishes requested additional Ordos and did not pay for them, so the National Church has been continually losing money on this project. Unfortunately, because of this, every person and parish is now required to pay for the 2020 LRC prior to us shipping you a copy (or copies). No phone orders or email orders will be shipped until full payment has been received. No exceptions.

We appreciate your support for this very important P.N.C.C. liturgical reference calendar.

Detach invoice, below, complete and send with payment to
The Polish National Catholic Church – L R C
Attn: Secretary to Prime Bishop
 1006 Pittston Avenue
 Scranton, PA 18505-4109

Your order will be shipped as soon as they become available.

Please detach, complete and return this bottom portion only with your remittance.

2020 ORDO Order Form			
Clergy/Parish Name and Shipping Address:			
Description of Item	# of copies	Cost per Item	Subtotal
2020 Liturgical Reference Calendar (Ordo); Includes shipping cost: \$15.50 U.S.; \$22.75 Canada			
2020 ORDO			Total Remitted
TOTAL DUE			
Please make check payable to: Polish National Catholic Church – LRC			
Thank you for your payment.			

God's Field

Appeal for Easter Greetings

The deadline for submission and payment of Easter Greetings is **APRIL 1, 2020**.

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

Wesołego 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 APRIL 1, 2020 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

2020 Easter Greetings for God's Field

***Please send to the above address your greetings and payment before April 1, 2020.
(U.S \$20.00 check or money order for each greeting, payable to God's Field)***

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____



Don't Forget to Renew Your *God's Field* Subscription for 2020 - 2021!

The 2019 - 2020 *God's Field* subscription year ends after the February 2020 issue. March 2020 - February 2021 *God's Field* subscriptions are now available to individuals and parishes. Although printing costs have increased, the subscription rate is still \$48.00 per year for 12 issues to U.S and \$62.00 per year for 12 issues to Canada. Single issues of *God's Field* are still available for purchase from the National Church Center for the new rate of \$2.25 each (pickup) or prepaid \$4.00 each (shipped within the U.S.) and \$5.25 each (shipped to Canada). These rates will remain in effect until further notice.

Please note that the gratis online version of *God's Field* will continue to be available to everyone on our website at pncc.org.

We do not accept groups of individual parishioner subscriptions from parishes, nor do we accept multi-year subscriptions. Individuals are responsible for ordering and pre-paying for their own personal subscriptions annually. Prepaid annual gift subscriptions from individuals for another individual are accepted.

Individuals and parishes who wish to start an annual subscription or who wish to continue to receive an annual subscription to *God's Field* must fill out the form, below, and send a check or money order in USD, payable to God's Field, along with current name and full mailing address. Please include zip+4 (U.S.) or postal code (Canada) to ensure delivery of your subscription; if you do not include a complete, valid mailing address including zip+4 or postal code we cannot guarantee delivery by the Post Office. Only prepaid subscriptions will be mailed, so please send in annual subscription payments prior to the end of the subscription year so that your subscription continues to be sent to you. If your annual subscription is not prepaid, you may experience a gap in monthly issues of *God's Field*. Parishes and individuals may copy and use the form, below, and send with payment to:

God's Field
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

Thank you.

The Staff and Management of *God's Field*—*Rola Boza*

God's Field Annual Subscription Form March 2020 - February 2021

Name:	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Make check/money order payable to God's Field. Return form & payment to: God's Field 1006 Pittston Avenue Scranton, PA 18505	
Street Address:	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>		
City:	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>		
State/Province:	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>		
Postal Code:	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Renewal or Subscription (Circle One)	
(Zip+4)	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Check No. and Amt: <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	
		\$48.00 U.S./ \$62.00 Canada	

Central Diocese

December at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish
Dupont, PA

On Friday and Saturday, December 6th and 7th, Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish volunteers made pierogi for Christmas Eve Supper - Wigilia. Everyone who participated enjoyed the work, fellowship and laughter.

A St Nicholas Brunch was held on December 8, 2019 at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont PA. This event was free of charge to all parishioners. Special thanks to Carol and John Bondurich for decorating the Church Hall and preparing everything for this event.

During the Brunch we had an unexpected visit from St Nicholas, who treated the kids with gifts and gave adults candy canes.

We also want to thank all parishioners for bringing toys for the "Toys for Tots" collection project in our church.



(Continued on Page 16.)



(December at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish - Continued from Page 15.)

In anticipation of Christmas, Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish grounds were beautifully decorated. Special thanks to Nick Kazinetz for hanging all of the outdoor Christmas lights and to Paul Kaspriskie, Nick Kazinetz & Angelo Conforti for setting the outdoor Manger. Also we would like to thank those who decorated our church for Christmas on Sunday, December 22, 2019.

On Christmas Eve, before the 4:00 p.m. Mass, parish children presented a nativity program to a near-capacity crowd at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish. The following children participated: Mia and Maci Piccolino, Layla and Gino Marks, Merrit and Myles Nash, Hannah Yuschovitz, Grace and George Morgan, Alex Orluk, Stella Hawk. Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid, with the assistance of Jack Wall, Sr., prepared this program.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Happy **NEW YEAR**

*You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11

Looking Back



Annual Fall Sports Dinner after Labor Day Field & Track Meet, St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA, 1970

Seated: +Leon Gorgol, +Prime Bishop Thaddeus Zielinski, +Fr. Stephen Gnas, +Joe Kwiatkowski, +John Boczar
 Standing: Fr. Dennis Ruda, Jim Kwiatkowski, Lou Ann Matylewicz, Lisa Rysz, +Francis Golembeski, Michael Mietlicki,
 Joe Grezenda (Major League All Star pitcher, guest speaker)



Parish Family of the Church of the Transfiguration, Wallington, NJ, Vacation Week at Spójnia Farm, 1960

Seated in center, Fr. John Kata, Chaplain for the Spójnia Home for the Aged, and
 Fr. John Kotula, Pastor of the Church of the Transfiguration Parish

Eastern Diocese

“Angels Among Us” at the 2019 Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Gathering and Lock-In Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA



The 2019 Winter Youth Gathering and Lock-In was held at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA, on December 27-28, 2019. 30 youth, adults and clergy from across the Eastern Diocese gathered for this special time of prayer, learning, fellowship and fun with their brothers and sisters in the faith.

Eastern Diocesan Youth Chaplain, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, opened the gathering by welcoming everyone and leading everyone in prayer. A special pizza party was sponsored by PNU District 3.

The theme of this year’s youth gathering was “Angels Among Us.” Songs, presentations, reflections and activities focused on this year’s youth

gathering theme of “Angels Among Us.”

Presenters this year were Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese; Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr.; Rev. Paul Lukaszewicz, Pastor of Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish in Chicopee, MA; Joanne Oliveri and Kathryn Nemkovich.

Youth gathered from Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA; Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI; Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish in Chicopee, MA; Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, CT; St. Joseph’s of Stratford Parish in Stratford, CT; and Holy Trinity Cathedral Parish in Manchester, NH participated in this year’s Winter Youth Gathering and Lock-In.



Western Diocese

SOCL Christmas Program & PTO Party

St. Mary's Parish, Parma, OH

On Sunday, December 22, after celebrating Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent, the parish was treated to a performance of the SOCL students, put together by our dedicated teachers, Mrs. Amy Dreger and Mrs. Susan Boehnlein.

The parish traversed to the Hall to enjoy this short play, practiced and rehearsed during December. Then, as a tremendous surprise, Jolly ol' St. Nick showed up to Parma 3 days early, treating the children in attendance to a variety of gifts.

And speaking of gifts...as we've grown accustomed to - and spoiled by - the PTO, led by Debbie Moritz and Marge O'Connor, hosted the entire parish for their annual Christmas Party and Basket Raffle.

The gifts were tremendous and plentiful, and the food, from bagels to donuts to juice to coffee to everything in between, was a Christmas treat. God bless all who were involved in making this a special day in the parish life of St. Mary's.



Christmas at St. Mary's Parish

Parma, OH

Christmas at St. Mary's Parish in Parma, OH, was a wonderful occurrence, as usual. Our first Christmas Mass was held at the turn of the clock from the 24th to the 25th, with the first candles in the pews being lighted at Midnight.

Our Midnight Mass was a High Holy Mass, featuring procession with lighted candles, the blessing of the manger and lighting of the Christ Candle, and incensation of the Altar, the Gospel, and the Gifts of God:



the offering of bread and wine as well as His faithful in attendance at Mass.

Our second Christmas Mass was at 10:00 a.m. This year was the first that the parish's clergy trio were able to wear their matching Christmas vestments which depict the Nativity Scene on the front side, while the back design is of the moment of the Epiphany, with the Magi presenting their gifts to the Lord.



St. Mary's Parish Pot Luck Dinner

Parma, OH

Members of St. Mary's Parish in Parma, OH, have grown quite accustomed to potluck luncheons, usually around Christmas, Easter, and in the autumn.

This past parish Christmastime potluck was held on Sunday, December 29, the P.N.C.C. Solemnity of Humble Shepherds. We had only one Mass at 10:00

a.m. that morning, with parishioners supplying a luncheon afterward.

As is parish custom, the pastor and the parish chairperson broke bread with each person coming up to the smorgasbord, breaking the blessed opłatek and wishing the best to everyone.



