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Prayer

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

As we continue through this Year of Commitment within our Polish National Catholic Church, at the halfway point of July we focus on prayer. For many of us during the summer months things tend to slow down a bit. School is over for the young, and we look forward to leisurely weekends and possibly even a bit of time away on vacation. But this time of year, when we can take a bit of time away, is also a great time to consider our life of prayer and if we are truly living as we are taught by the earliest followers of Jesus Christ.

Now many of us might say, “I go to Church on Sundays and Holy Days, of course I’m spending time in prayer.” This is certainly a great start and it fulfills the obligations that we have taken upon

ourselves as faithful Catholic Christians, but if we consider the example of the first Christians, we see that it is really only the beginning.

Within the Acts of the Apostles, we read about the spiritual life of the very first Christian community. It says, “They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.” (Acts 2:42) And of course we know that, on top of this, these early Christians were also attending the worship of the temple in Jerusalem. Each of these aspects of this community is in fact an important part of our prayer life in the modern world. We begin with the “teaching of the apostles.” We know that this speaks of what the earliest and closest followers of Jesus taught others when they went out into the world following the day of Pentecost. This same teaching has now come down to us within the pages of Scripture and the tradition of the Church which is based on Scripture. Now each of us hears the words of Scripture when we come to Church for the celebration of Mass. But as the passage from Acts mentions, are we devoted to it? This being devoted to the teaching of the Apostles, found within the words of Holy Scripture, begins with listening to the readings at Mass and is extended with the homily that is preached immediately afterwards. This is the Sacrament of the Word of God, where we encounter Christ as we begin to comprehend His way of living and His will for each of our lives. But this is not the end of it, either. As a part of our prayer life or spiritual life do we spend time in contemplation of what we have heard during Holy Mass on Sunday?

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Email Word or Publisher articles and JPEG photos to secretarytopb@pncc.org and to godfield@pncc.org.

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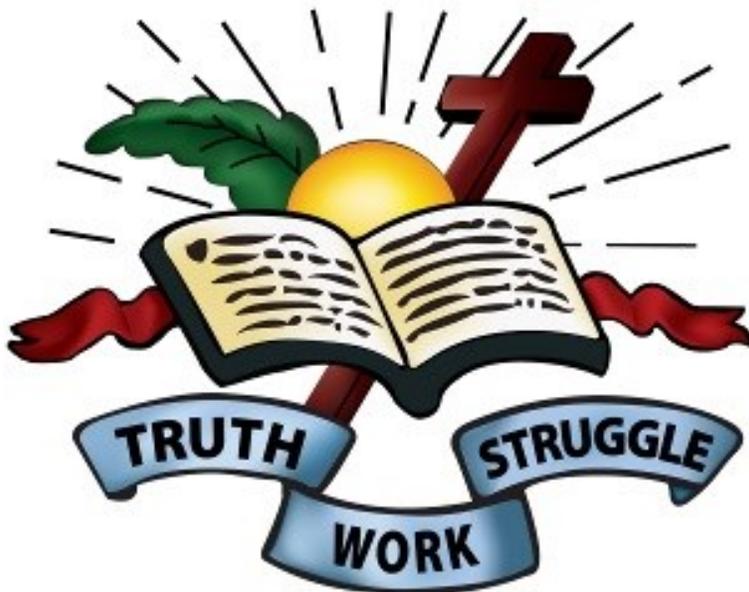
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(Prayer - Continued from Page 1.)

The second aspect found within the life of the first Christians found within the Book of Acts is the “communal life.” The definition of communal is “shared by all” or “cooperative.” Both of these aspects should be a part of our prayer life as well. As Christians we must realize that we are all children of God the Father and all brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ and therefore whenever we gather together for prayer, a time of reflection, or even any other work or action of our parish community, we are also expressing this great truth, that we all stand as children before a loving Father Who desires to be with us and help us.

The third aspect of the passage from Acts mentions, “the breaking of bread.” This portion is the one aspect that refers to the celebration of the Holy Mass. These earliest Christians “broke bread” within their homes, being faithful to the example of Jesus, Who told us all to celebrate the Eucharist “in memory of Him.” This may be the one aspect that is easiest for us to fulfill, but even here, do we ever think about the effects of Christ’s presence within us during the rest of the week?

The last aspect of the passage is that these Christians were “devoted to prayer.” This passage does not speak of the of the communal worship of the community together at the temple, or even about coming together for the celebration of the Eucharist, as these things have already been mentioned separately. This prayer must be something else. In this regard we can now turn to the writings of St. Paul who was teaching the new converts to Christianity about the sort of life believers should lead. This sort of teaching is found throughout his many letters.

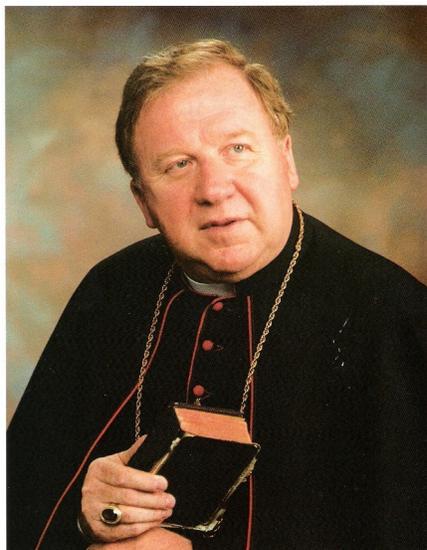
In probably one of the best know passages concerning prayer from the First Letter to the Thessalonians we read, “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything: retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.” (1 Thes 5:16-18) St. Paul is certainly not speaking about structured prayer in common or liturgical prayer, because he speaks of doing these things constantly and without ceasing. We see the same teaching and concern in St. Paul’s Letter to the Colossians: “Persevere in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving; at the same time, pray for us, too, that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak

of the mystery of Christ.” (Col 4:2-3) Here we, along with the Colossians, are asked to persevere in prayer and do so while being watchful. We must realize that St. Paul is not speaking just about some action that we might do, even if several times or many times a day. If we are truly to “pray without ceasing,” and “persevere” in it, then what we need to do is learn to make everything we do a part of our life of prayer.

In reality we need to have a shift in our usual way of thinking. The way most people usually live their lives is to carve out a little bit of our time each week for God. It begins with the hour we set aside for Holy Mass on Sundays, and if we want to try to expand that, we augment it by possibly adding another Mass during the week, or setting aside some time for Bible reading, or silent reflection. But this causes us to think that throughout our week, we have a bit of “time for God” and the rest is “time for us.” St. Paul challenges us to make a radical shift. “Pray without ceasing” is the key to this thinking. We must try to make everything that we do a connection to God the Father, our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We can begin this in a somewhat regimented way: always saying a short prayer before we begin a project or work, always saying a prayer before we get in our car and when we arrive at our destination, praying each morning when we rise and each night before we retire for bed, remembering our loved ones in prayer whether they live under our roof or are anywhere else around the globe. But even this is only the start. We are called to “persevere” in it. Again, as St. Paul says in his Letter to the Romans: “Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.” (Romans 12:11-12) We are not to grow slack and rather be fervent. We must learn to make every moment of our lives a connection to God. There can’t be “time for God” and “time for me” but rather every moment must be a “time for me serving God, following God and listening to God.” In this way our time of the celebration of the Holy Mass and the receiving of Holy Communion will not just be the fulfillment of our “time with God,” but rather it will be the beginning of a whole week with God. In this time we will prepare and strengthen ourselves to live a life for God throughout the entire week to come.

Again, St. Paul tells us: “I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but (Continued on Page 28.)

† **śp. Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Gnat**



Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Gnat, Dunmore, PA, retired Bishop of the Eastern Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church, died Wednesday, June 21, 2017, at Geisinger Mt. View Care Center in Scranton, PA. He and his wife, the former Katherine Stanczyk, celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary April 4, 2017.

Born in Milwaukee, WI, he was the son of the late Walenty and Rose Radecki Gnat.

He completed his studies for the priesthood at the Savonarola Seminary in Scranton, Pa., and was ordained a priest of the Polish National Catholic Church on Sept. 18, 1958, by the late Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski in historic St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton.

From September 1958 to 1959, Father Gnat was assistant pastor at St. Stanislaus Cathedral. In February 1959, Father Gnat was assigned as pastor of St. Francis PNC Parish in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C., and for a time served as administrator of Holy Cross PNC Parish in Baltimore, Md. During his pastorate in Washington, D.C., Father Gnat represented the Polish National Catholic Church in many instances. He assisted at the laying of a wreath on Woodrow Wilson's tomb and a wreath at the bier of the Ambassador to America at the Polish Embassy in Washington. He also attended the Installation of the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Father Gnat also represented the Church and the official newspaper of the Church (*Rola Boza*) at the State Department meeting on foreign policy for non-governmental organizations and at the White House Conference of Civil Rights. He was also a representative on the Na-

tional Council of Churches, participating in June 1970 during its general board meeting. While in Washington, he studied at the American University.

In 1978, Father was appointed a senior priest, and also in 1978 at the General Synod of the P.N.C.C., he was elected a bishop of the church and consecrated a bishop in St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, by the late Prime Bishop Francis Rowinski on the Feast of St. Andrew on Nov. 30, 1978.

Upon consecration, he became Diocesan Bishop of the Eastern Diocese, comprised of parishes in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, and also named as pastor of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, N.H. Bishop Gnat continued in this position from Nov. 30, 1978, until Nov. 2011, at which time he retired, and he and his family moved to Dunmore, Pa. Until his illness and medical problems started in 2016, Bishop Gnat and his wife attended as many high school plays, community theater productions and religious concerts as they could, enjoying the excellent talents in Pennsylvania. They also did a lot of sightseeing, going to Williamsport, Pa., a ride on the Hiawatha, the Dorflinger Glass Museum, the Yuengling Brewery and a scenic boat ride around Lake Wallenpaupack, to name a few.

Bishop Gnat was active in many of the Polish National Catholic Commissions, such as the Liturgical, Bishop Hodur Biography and the School of Christian Living. He was chaplain of the National United Choirs, a position he held for many years, and a member of the Hymnal Commission. He was well known for his love of music and singing.

Bishop Gnat was well-respected for his knowledge of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church and was called upon many times to interpret these laws. During the synods of the P.N.C.C., Bishop Gnat was asked to conduct many synod sessions, especially those having to do with the Constitution of the P.N.C.C.

Also surviving are one son, Joseph Walenty Gnat, Dunmore; one brother, Carl Gnat and wife, Sheila, Fort Myers, Fla.; one sister, Geraldine Gnat, Redwood City, Calif.; numerous nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by three infants, a daughter and twins, a daughter and son.

A vesper service was conducted at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA on Monday, June 26th and his Funeral Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, June 27, in the Cathedral by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky together with Bp. John Mack, Bp. Paul Sobiechowski, Bp. Stanley Bilinski, Bp. Bernard Nowicki and Prime Bishop Emeritus John Swantek. Interment was at the St. Stanislaus Cathedral Cemetery in Scranton, PA.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Clergy Pension Fund, c/o Chancery of the Western Diocese, 920 North Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068.

† śp. Very Rev. Stanley Skrzypek



Very Rev. Stanley Skrzypek, 82, Pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Polish National Catholic Church, Passaic, NJ, entered into eternal life on June 25, 2017. Born in Pustynia-Kozlow, Poland, Fr. Sr. Skrzypek graduated from Panstwowe Liceum in Krakow, Poland, in 1952, Theological Institute of Krakow in 1956, and Savonarola Theological Seminary in Scranton, PA in 1958. Ordained a priest in 1959 by Bishop Leon Grochowski, Fr. Skrzypek, was elevated to title Father Senior in 1972 by Bishop Anthony M. Rysz. Fr. Senior Skrzypek served many parishes in New York and Pennsylvania and was appointed Pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Polish National Catholic Church in November 1997. Fr. Sr. Skrzypek also served as the Ecumenical Officer for the P.N.C.C. for many years. Fr. Sr. Skrzypek was the beloved husband for 48 years of Frances A. (Pilzys).

Visitation was held on Sunday, July 2, 2017, at Saints Peter and Paul Parish and a Vesper Service was held at the parish that evening.

The Funeral Mass was Monday, July 3, 2017, at the Parish. Mass was celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, DD, Bishop of the Central Diocese of the P.N.C.C., with the Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the P.N.C.C., and the Most Rev. John Swantek, Prime Bishop Emeritus, in attendance.

Interment was at East Ridgelawn Cemetery, Clifton, NJ. In lieu of flowers, donations made to Saints Peter and Paul P.N.C.C., 126 River Dr., Passaic, NJ 07055, in memory of Fr. Sr. Skrzypek, would be greatly appreciated.

What You Can Do to Tell People About the Polish National Catholic Church

In June Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky received a telephone call from a lady in the Cleveland, Ohio area saying that the Cleveland Public Library did not have any information about the Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.). She requested that some books about the P.N.C.C. be sent to the Cleveland Public Library. This was an interesting idea. Perhaps this would be an effective way to publicize the P.N.C.C. The P.N.C.C. does not have a working committee or commission that disseminates information about the Church. However, we do have parishes throughout the country. This was an opportunity to ask parishes throughout the country for their help.

There are just a few ways for people to get information about the P.N.C.C. They could visit one of our churches and speak to someone. They could read of the P.N.C.C. from a newspaper article. They could attend an open house at a parish. They could speak to a friend who is a P.N.C.C. member. They could read a copy of *God's Field*. Or, they could read a book about our Church at their local library if the library had such a book.

In New Jersey, Public Libraries are operated either by municipalities or counties. Each has their own rules and regulations regarding donated books for their collections. Each parish should be best able to determine what these rules and regulations are in their community. In my County Library, Mercer County, New Jersey, donations are reviewed by the head of the Reference Department. He looks at the books and determines how they will fit in their collection of books. If donations to your local library are accepted, the parish may be able to paste a label with *Donated by*, with its name, address, telephone number, website address and telephone number on the inside cover.

The P.N.C.C. Book Department has many books and pamphlets available for purchase. The P.N.C.C. Book Department Catalog which describes the books and lists the price of the books, as well as an order form listing the price of the books, can be downloaded from the P.N.C.C. website's **Organization** page under the P.N.C.C. Book Department section. (Shipping costs for the books are not included in the pricing.) The book department will provide the ship-

ping information to you if you email or call in your order. (Shipping costs depend on the weight of the books and the method of shipping).



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There are several books dealing with the history of the P.N.C.C. The three that come to mind are:

- (1) *An Abridged History of the Polish National Catholic Church* (\$2.75), a 52-page abridgement of the NSOCL lessons contained in 214-page *The History of the P.N.C.C.* and the 198-page *The Solemnities of the P.N.C.C.* This abridged history focuses on the life of Bishop Hodur and the unique history of the P.N.C.C.
- (2) *The Origin and Growth of the Polish National Catholic Church* (\$5.00) by Rev. Stephen Włodarski, Ph.D. includes information on Immigration of Poles to America; Religious and Church Life of the American “Polonia;” the Origin of the P.N.C.C. (1987-1907); the Growth of the P.N.C.C. (1908-1972); ideology of the P.N.C.C.; Synods; Confession of Faith of the P.N.C.C.; and

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Supreme Council of the P.N.C.C. Meets to Review Church Programs

Scranton, PA

Michael R. Mietlicki, Secretary, Supreme Council

(Continued from Volume 95, Issue No. 6.)

The Upcoming General Synod

The Prime Bishop introduced the topic and invited open discussion to determine how the upcoming synod will build off what was started at the last synod, namely, Future Direction.

During discussion, the following observations were made. There is a general desire to keep the cost of the synod low so parishes can afford to send at least one delegate. The goal is to increase participation in the synod. Consequently, the length of the synod will be studied. Likewise, a venue that is affordable and conducive to a synod will be selected. The next General Synod is hosted by the Western Diocese. The venue of the synod does send a message. A religious setting such as a retreat center would portray a positive message. The synod must be efficient. Synod materials must be distributed well in advance of the synod so delegates can properly prepare. Videos on YouTube could be utilized for this preparation. This will reduce the time required for business and allow the delegates to focus on other important agenda items. The General Synod should be inspiring. The Supreme Council should be the entity focused on the business aspect of the operation of the P.N.C.C. By announcing the synod well in advance it is hoped younger delegates will then be able to adjust their schedules and attend. Some synod agenda topics included education, missions, developing a deep spirituality in the P.N.C.C., creating a PNC brand and strategic planning. The delegate plays an important role in the success of the synod. This is an important lay ministry and the responsibilities of a delegate need to be clearly defined. Communication following the synod is also key. Following a synod letters and email / newsletter inserts should be mailed to each parish so they understand what transpired at the synod. Since the P.N.C.C. Constitution authorizes the Prime Bishop to appoint a Rules Committee that determines the way the synod is conducted, the synodal rules and the responsibilities of the delegates, he appointed such a committee to begin synodal preparations. The committee will work closely with the Western Diocese and Supreme Council. The goal is

to announce the site and dates of the 2018 General Synod in October 2017.

Discussion for the Good of the P.N.C.C.

The following observations were noted for the Good of the P.N.C.C. There is a need to increase the spirituality of members of the P.N.C.C. There is great power in the P.N.C.C.'s recognition of the Word of God as a Sacrament. The P.N.C.C. views the Gospel as a Call to Holiness. Everything within the P.N.C.C. must advance the Gospel and as such the cause of the Church. All parishes must present its worshippers something meaningful, something that will make them become more God-like. We are the people of God working to become more like Him through the death and resurrection of Jesus. While this purpose is well documented in the publications of the P.N.C.C., the message needs to be articulated throughout the parishes of the P.N.C.C. Many members live their Faith as a Polish National Catholic out of habit not out of conviction. We do need to determine how we brand ourselves. The most important question is "Who are we?" What are we at our core? What are our shared values? What is it that we do that is relevant to Christians and non-Christians. Our Christian Faith is our core value and focus. Polish National Catholics need to be proud of who they are. We may need to update its identity as described in the P.N.C.C. Constitution. Our original identity may have been a haven from oppression and to be an enclave of cultural advancement and appreciation. We are now making a shift to one of non-papal Catholicism with a multi-cultural composition. The Cathedral in the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese is in the process of implementing a 'Yes You Can' sign campaign to promote a positive brand. Could this campaign be standardized for use in the entire P.N.C.C.? Certainly, once people are drawn into one of our parishes, the people must be the sign and the message. There must be community outreach in every parish no matter what the average age of the parish. One of the hallmarks of the P.N.C.C. is not only what we believe and how we worship but also our strong fellowship programs. For whatever reason, the spirit of that fellowship has not been passed on. We need to be laser

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(Supreme Council Minutes - Continued from Page 8.)

focused to understand how we rekindle that spirit of fellowship. In the past, society supported commitment to the Church. Today society and all types of social and sporting activities compete with the Church.

Commission Reports

History & Archives Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Mr. Joseph Seliga, Commission Chair. The Prime Bishop encouraged all parishes to send its documents and records to this commission and they will review the information to determine its historical value. They can be sent to History & Archives Commission, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505.

National Commission on Liturgy

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Very Rev. John Kraus, Commission Chair. During discussion, it was noted the “Rites and Rituals, the Liturgical Year” was completed by the Eastern Diocese Liturgical Commission and accepted by the National Liturgical Commission.

National Mission Commission

The Prime Bishop reported Father Raymond Drada, Chair of the Commission, recently passed away. The Prime Bishop recognized Father Drada's hard work and dedication to this commission and missions within the P.N.C.C. The commission will reorganize following the upcoming workshop in New Jersey. During discussion, the following was noted. It is difficult for parishes to send people to these workshops because of travel costs. Consequently, they are hosted in different parts of the P.N.C.C. to encourage local parish participation. Videos of past workshops have been sent to parishes and should have been shared with parish committees. The Supreme Council recommended the videos be placed on a YouTube channel as well. The annual workshop is just one program of work of the commission.

Church Doctrine Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by the Doctrine Commission. The commission recently met and discussed the following topics: 1) The Question of the Ordination of Women, 2) Items for the Procedure for the Election of Candidates for Bishop, 3) Confirmation Catechism, and 4) Additional ethical issues to be included in the paper “To Live in the Spirit of God.”

National Committee on Scouting

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Mr. Richard Daum, Committee Chair. During discussion, it was noted scouting needs more support within the P.N.C.C. It is currently being revived in the Western and Eastern Dioceses. The goal is to see the National Committee on Scouting become a very active committee within the P.N.C.C. with an active chaplain and active board members from each diocese.

National SOCL Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Rev. Charles Zawistowski, Commission Chair. The commission is currently focused on creating curricula for post Confirmation education.

Sacred Vocations Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Rev. Scott Lill, D.Min., Commission Chair. Summarizing his report, Father Lill indicated Sacred Vocations is everyone's responsibility in the Church. He asked everyone to support the upcoming promotion campaign. He indicated the future PNC pastor may be bi-vocational since his financial support by the P.N.C.C. may not be feasible. This means that many of the roles a priest fills within the parish will need to be delegated to the laity. To support their families, priests will and do have to work outside the parish to the detriment of the Church. During discussion, the following was observed. Parishes will not grow when priests must focus on work outside the Church or are too over extended because they care for more than one parish. The lack of Vocations within the P.N.C.C. is a problem everyone needs to take to heart. There are many internal and outside cultural issues today that have negatively impacted Vocations. While we cannot control outside cultural issues we can control the internal ones that focus on respect for the clergy of the P.N.C.C. Parishes need to properly support their pastors. The lay leaders of the Church need to change this culture. The P.N.C.C. currently brings priests from Poland and Mexico to serve PNC parishes in the US but the immigration process is not easy and will probably get harder. In some instances, we spend more money on buildings and building maintenance than we spend on programs and spirituality in the P.N.C.C. Every member of the P.N.C.C. needs to pray for Vocations daily.

Clergy Salary & Benefits Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Beverly Basinski, Commission Chair. The diocesan synods held last year gave the commission the opportunity to promote the guidelines and survey participants. The survey results indicate clergy are not being treated fairly. Parishes are picking and choosing from the list of benefits approved by General Synods. This remains a problem. During discussion, the following items were noted. We need to make some tough decisions regarding the state of some of our parishes so we can begin to support our clergy with dignity. Our clergy are in the unfortunate position where their compensation plan is decided publicly. This does not occur in most other professions and may demotivate a man who is considering the Priesthood. One possible way to address this is to centrally administer the pastor's compensation package.

Constitution Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Judith Snyder, Commission Chair. During discussion, it was noted since we are aiming at limiting business discussion at the next General Synod and there are many items in the P.N.C.C. Constitution that need to be addressed that a special "constitutional convention" synod might be held for the strict purpose of discussing and amending the P.N.C.C. Constitution or a constitutional workshop be held with the resulting recommendations going to the General Synod for approval. Hard copies of the updated P.N.C.C. Constitution are being printed. The P.N.C.C. Constitution is available from the P.N.C.C. website.

Organizational Reports

National United Choirs

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of the NUC submitted by Lydia Hohn, NUC Chair. The report included a Music Commission Report from Dr. Neil Stahurski, Music Commission Chair and a Music Scholarship Committee Report from Cathy A. Bilinski, Music Scholarship Administrator. During discussion, the following was noted. Donations to the scholarship fund were encouraged. It was reported hymnals are available and should be in pews of every parish of the P.N.C.C. United Choirs continues to be active in the Western Diocese. The United Choirs Circle structure that brought so many people and parishes together in the past should be resurrected. The

Music Ministry Handbook will be available shortly. Each parish of the P.N.C.C. will receive a handbook once it is published. The Eastern Diocese will be hosting the upcoming Music Workshop in Manchester, NH. The workshop meets for 2 ½ days to educate Music Ministers of the Church and concludes with a concert. Members were encouraged to support the Music Ministry programs in their parishes.

United Young Men's Society of the Resurrection [Y.M.S. of R.]

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of the Y.M.S. of R. submitted by its Chair, Nick Kazinetz. The Kurs and Golf Tournament, programs sponsored by the Y.M.S. of R. are quickly approaching. Pamphlets for the upcoming Third Annual Golf Tournament were distributed. During discussion, it was noted that the youth miss the Track & Field Meet and the opportunity it provided to get together. In addition to the Kurs, the Y.M.S. of R. should consider hosting another youth focused event possibly at the Retreat Center in Waymart, PA.

National United Youth Association

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of the National UYA, submitted by Joseph Kowalczyk, President, as well as a report on the recently held Youth Convocation and Convo Newsletter submitted by Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr. The excellent program of the Youth Convocation hosted by the Eastern Diocese was acknowledged. It raised the bar high in giving the youth of the Church what the Church is and what it can be.

National Youth Chaplain

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of the National Youth Chaplain, Bishop Stanley Bilinski, Jr. During discussion, the following was observed. Bishop Bilinski, as the National Youth Chaplain, is available to consult with all dioceses regarding their youth programs. Diocesan Chaplains are encouraged to participate in external training programs. Youth need to be moved to ministries where they can take ownership or the Church or parish will not retain them. Future Direction community service projects that occur in each parish can be one such ministry. One of the top ten things millennials look for in a denomination is its community service program. The enthusiasm generated from youth convocations needs to be nurtured and supported. National statistics on the percentage of Convo participants who remain ac-

(Continued on Page 10.)

(Supreme Council Minutes - Continued from Page 9.)

tive in their parishes have not been captured. Some parishes did report very positive results regarding retention.

National United Women's Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament [SAMBS]

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of SAMBS submitted by Cindy M. Whitehead, President. The Society publishes Polka and is planning a women's gathering from October 18 to October 21 in Erie, PA. The gathering will feature both spiritual and fellowship activities.

Dialogue Reports

P.N.C.C. – RCC Dialogue

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of the P.N.C.C. – RCC Dialogue submitted by Bishop John Mack, Dialogue Co-chair. The dialogue team meets once a year with the next meeting planned for Scranton. Bishop Joseph Bambara of the Scranton Roman Catholic Diocese is the Roman Catholic Co-chair.

P.N.C.C. – ACNA Dialogue

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of the P.N.C.C. – ACNA (Anglican Church of North America) Dialogue submitted by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Dialogue Co-chair. It was noted the dialogue has come to agreement on 10 common statements from the Road to Unity booklet. These were sent to the ACNA College of Bishops for approval. The group also agreed on the role the Thirty-Nine Articles of Faith and the Eleven Great Principles play. The future direction of the dialogue will be determined when the ACNA publishes the results of a study on the ordination of women to the Priesthood. The P.N.C.C. will also be attending a combined synod of a Federation of Anglican Churches. The P.N.C.C. will be observers at this synod. During discussion, the wide global interest in the Union of Scranton and what is offers was acknowledged. The P.N.C.C. has a pure non-papal Catholicism that external groups seek. Likewise, through the efforts of the Nordic Catholic Church there is interest in Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, France and Germany.

P.N.C.C. – Orthodox Dialogue

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of the P.N.C.C. – Orthodox Dialogue submitted by its Chair, Bishop Stanley Bilinski, Jr. The P.N.C.C. sent a letter to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constanti-

nople requesting a dialogue and awaits a response.

Ecumenical Reports

The Prime Bishop reported he and the P.N.C.C. Ecumenical Officer, Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr., are involved with these groups as their schedules permit. The P.N.C.C. is a member of the World Council of Churches, National Council of Churches of the United States as well as Canada and Christian Churches Together.

Budget & Finance Committee Report

The Proposed Budget

The Supreme Council reviewed the budget and narrative submitted by Martin Wachna, Jr., Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. Martin thanked the Prime Bishop, his office and the Treasurer for their work on the budget and reported all commission members have approved the proposed budget. The following budget items were highlighted. Projected income from dues was reduced from last year by 10%. Since 2018 is a General Synod year, there may be an increase in dues based on history. Nonetheless, a 10% reduction in dues is still anticipated. Budgeted legal fees were reduced by \$30K. Repairs to the National Church Center is estimated to be \$75K for the upcoming year. The budget for Clergy Hospitalization Insurance was reduced by \$10K to better reflect actual costs. Unfortunately, the projected budget for the upcoming year has a deficit of approximately \$65K. A withdrawal from investment accounts is anticipated in the coming year given the projected deficit.

The general budget dues allotment recommendation remains the same as last year.

Recommended General Fund Dues Apportionment:

Diocese	\$ 3.00
Youth	\$ 2.00
Clergy Hospitalization	\$ 40.15
Administration	\$ 46.60
Mission	\$ 1.00
Clergy Pension	\$ 7.00
Seminary	\$.25
TOTAL	\$100.00

Total clergy aid for the coming year totals \$18K. A plan to reduce the operating expenses of the National Church will be explored.

The Strategic Plan

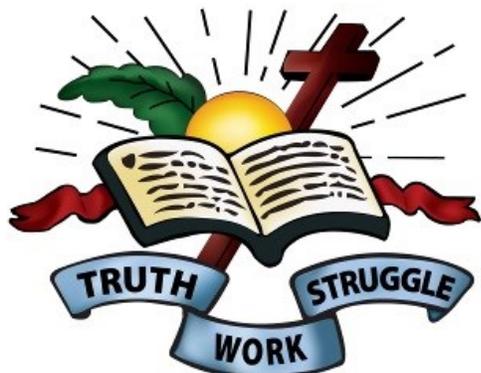
The Supreme Council discussed the need for a strategic plan. Strategic plans set long range goals and then employ incremental steps or programs to achieve these goals. There are many reference sources for strategic planning but most of them are focused on individual parishes. The Protestant Church has many sources. It was reported the Eastern Diocese recently began a strategic plan with goals of 12 to 16 years. The components of a strategic plan are a perfect topic for the upcoming General Synod and it would be a perfect topic for a National Clergy Conference. As a Church, we haven't done strategic planning before so we are exploring uncharted territories. Consequently, we should expect bumps in the road and be willing to learn from our false starts. Any strategic plan needs to be rooted in the spiritual life of the Church. Pastors set the spiritual tone in their parishes. A committee was appointed to begin a plan formulation.

Medical Bridge to Poland

Father Senior Gregory Mludzik presented a request for funds for medical equipment received from Mateusz Gola, MD, PhD, Ryszard Gola, MD and Andrzej Szwaja, MD. These doctors operate a clinic in the borough of Bobrowniki Poland. The request was reviewed and approved by the Supreme Council in the amount of \$16,800 for the equipment and \$3,700 for the necessary software. The donation will come from the Medical Bridge to Poland Fund established for this reason. The Supreme Council also appointed a committee to develop a strategy, parameters and guidelines for future donations from this fund.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

At the conclusion of the Supreme Council's two-day meeting, Bishop Stanley Bilinski, Jr. offered the closing prayer. It was followed by the singing of the Church Hymn.



(What You Can Do - Continued from Page 6.)

the Eleven Great Principles of the P.N.C.C. In an article in Volume 95, Issue #5 (May 2017) **God's Field**, this book is described in much more detail.

- (3) (3) *The Polish National Catholic Church P.N.C.C. — Its Rise and Growth; The Causes of its Break with Rome* (\$4.00) by Paul Fox, Ph.D. This book includes a Directory of P.N.C.C. parishes in U.S. and Canada in 1961. Its Appendices contain Holy Mass; Confession of Faith of the P.N.C.C.; Apostle's Creed; Nicene Creed; and the Constitution of the P.N.C.C.

The total cost for the three books described above is \$11.75 plus shipping.

Although it is not strictly about the history of the P.N.C.C., the 214-page book, *The Polish National Catholic Church in the United States of America from 1897 to 1980: Its Social Conditioning and Social Functions* (\$5.00) by Hieronim Kubiak is an English edition of the 1970 Polish publication that is a sociological study of the stages of development of the P.N.C.C. in the United States in relation to the social adaptation of Polish emigrants to the changing reality in America.

Another two books which you might consider donating to your local library describe the results of the dialogue between the P.N.C.C. and the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) between 1984 and 2002. These are:

1. *Journeying Together in Christ: The Report of the Polish National Catholic-Roman Catholic Church* (\$4.00), and
2. *Journeying Together in Christ: The Report of the Polish National Catholic-Roman Catholic Church, The Journey Continues* (\$5.00).

The first book covers the years between 1984 through 1989 and the second book covers the years between 1989 through 2002.

By reading the books listed here, local people will be better informed about the P.N.C.C.

If you do give books about the P.N.C.C. to your local library, let your parish members know that the books are there so that they can tell their friends and neighbors about their availability. Also notify the Prime Bishop and your Diocesan Bishop.

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



United Young Men's
Society of Resurrection
1006 Pittston Ave.
Scranton, Pa
18501



Call to the 73rd United YMS of R Convention

With this official notice, The United Young Men's Society of Resurrection is calling its 73rd Biennial Convention to be scheduled on **Saturday September 30th and Sunday October 1st, 2017 at All Saints Parish in Sterling Heights, Michigan** in the presence of Fr. Jaroslaw Nowak and all the faithful of All Saints Parish. The United YMS of R has a two-fold objective: first to unite the youth of the Polish National Catholic Church in God's name and in the name of the endeavor for the perfection of life.

In the words of the YMS of R's organizer Prime Bishop Francis Hodur, "Our society is what individual members desire it to be, based on our own will and effort, coupled with God's eternal plan in the microcosmic world in which we live and work. If we seek a particular course and prepare ourselves properly for this pilgrimage, then surely we shall attain our designated objective and our goal. We learn from history, religion, and human experience."

We desire that all Polish National Catholic Church youth never lose their link to our Polish Heritage and traditions of our past generations, but to reunite them through strong ties and shall stand ready to fulfill mutual tasks and obligations.

This effort is a lofty and noble one, worthy of the combined efforts of the young and the old- but particularly of the youth. The United YMS of R needs your help to carry out this mission and preserve our heritage and traditions.

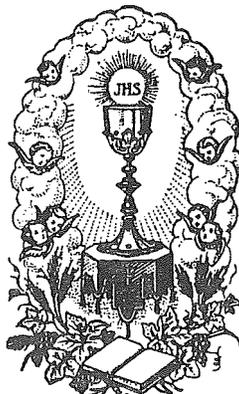
In order to realize this aim, it requires work and proper preparation, constant vigilance, and an energetic centralized administration. We need an organization committed to this cause; an organization that will unite the youth under one banner, inspire it with spirit and perseverance, and lead us to a brighter tomorrow.

The Young Men's Society of Resurrection is indeed such an organization. We cordially welcome the Bishops of the Polish National Catholic Church, the Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, and our YMS or R Brothers to our 73rd Convention.

Branches needing information can contact President Nick C. Kazinetz at (570) 604-2620, Robert Gieczkowski (716)-783-9596 or Financial Secretary Arnold Borc at (570) 654-8175.

**Nick C. Kazinetz President
United Young Men's Society of Resurrection**

Information and registration form can be found on the P.N.C.C. website at:
pncc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/2017ymsrpacket.pdf



Who Am I? - A Women's Conference

Women just love to come together to talk, laugh, cry, share a recipe, or perhaps seek advice. Often times we simply want to see a smile, feel a hug, and know that we have a friend. In today's world, we tend to overload our daily schedules with so many activities, which only results in overwhelming stress and a loss of direction. We lose sight of who we are and where our life's journeys are headed. Worst of all, we might not realize that help is needed to get us back on track.

We have all been on both the giving and receiving end at some point in our life, but we may also miss calls for help. To that end, the National United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament of the P.N.C.C. is sponsoring a women's conference entitled "Who Am I?" The National Board considers the conference a gathering, a getaway, a retreat, and an event all wrapped together to provide a venue for our women to learn, rediscover, and discuss topics that impact our daily lives.

The conference is open to all women of the P.N.C.C., and is not restricted to members of the ANS societies. We encourage our women to invite their sister, daughter, niece, neighbor or friend to attend with them as well, even if they are not a member of the P.N.C.C. The conference is being held in Erie, PA from Wednesday through Saturday, October 18 – 21, 2017, at the Erie Courtyard Marriott and Bayfront Convention Center.

We are honored to have Dr. Donna Yarri, Professor of Theology at Alvernia University, as our conference leader and keynote speaker. Dr. Yarri joined the Alvernia faculty 17 years ago and has earned numerous awards for research and teaching excellence. She is a researcher and educator in the areas of religion and science, medical ethics, religion and popular culture, social justice, and ethical treatment of animals. She has presented papers at numerous conferences and has published several articles and three books.

During the course of the conference, Dr. Yarri will lead us through a three-part journey relating to "caring of oneself," "caring of family" and "caring of the Church and community." Each conference day is filled with a variety of lectures and activities as well as ample breaks in between sessions. The words of the day will be – Relax, Reflect, and Reconnect – allowing you to attend as many sessions as you wish over the three days.

The National Board is excited to bring this conference to our Church women and we pray you will plan to attend. Conference information, forms and brochures have been sent to all P.N.C.C. parishes and ANS societies. The [conference schedule](#) and [registration form](#) can be found on the [P.N.C.C. website](#) and in the spring and summer editions of the Polka. We look forward to seeing you in Erie!

“Honor Your Father on Father’s Day” Campaign – 2017 (After 6-12-17)

- Edwin Kinach – Dale and June Wyant
- Walter A. Bielat - Remembered by Wally Bielat and Maggie Hurley
- Denis O. Hurley – Honored by Wally Bielat and Maggie Hurley
- Fr. John Kowalczyk, Pastor – Honored by Wally Bielat and Maggie Hurley
- William Wysocki - Remembered by Rev. and Mrs. John Kowalczyk
- John Kowalczyk, Sr. - Remembered by Rev. and Mrs. John Kowalczyk
- Fr. John Kowalczyk – Honored by Jeanette, Stephen and Joseph Kowalczyk
- Fr. Sr. Anthony Wisniewski - Remembered by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wisniewski
- Fr. Sr. Martin H. Wachna – Remembered by Martin and Christine Wachna
- Chester Kolodziej – Remembered by Martin and Christine Wachna
- Fr. John Kowalczyk, Pastor – Honored Martin and Christine Wachna
- Fr. John Kowalczyk, Pastor – Honored by Leo and Linda Hallal
- Frank Bugaski – Remembered by Don F. Bugaski
- John Pikor – Remembered by Don F. Bugaski
- Frank Bugajski – Remembered by Don F. Bugaski
- Henry Pikor – Remembered by Don F. Bugaski
- Fr. Sr. Edward Meus – Remembered by Eva Meus, Children and Grandchildren
- Fr. Jan Wilczek – Remembered by Joanna, Ryan, Adam, Aiden, Gaby and Maya
- For all priests in need – Honored by Arlene Grady
- Joseph Korch – Remembered by Janet Korch
- Fr. Sr. Zbigniew R. Dawid, Pastor – Honored by Holy Mother of Sorrows P.N.C.C.
- Fr. Sr. Jaroslaw Nowak, Pastor – Honored by Robert and Christine Bilinski
- Bishop Stanley Bilinski - Honored by Robert and Christine Bilinski
- Fr. Mark Swoger, Pastor – Honored by Holy Trinity SAMBS, Washington, PA
- Deacon Dave Nichols – Honored by Holy Trinity SAMBS, Washington, PA
- Fr. Felix Pyzowski – Honored by Holy Trinity SAMBS, Washington, PA
- Bishop John Mack – Honored by Holy Trinity SAMBS, Washington, PA
- Fr. Sr. Robert Nemkovich – Honored by Mr. and Mrs. Vasco R. Pacheco
- Fr. Jan Wilczek – Remembered by Mr. and Mrs. Vasco R. Pacheco
- Stanley Bilinski, Sr. – Remembered by Chuck and Cathy Bilinski
- Charles Zaranski, Sr. – Remembered by Chuck and Cathy Bilinski
- Bishop Stanley Bilinski - Honored by Chuck and Cathy Bilinski
- Zbigniew Jan Malinowski – Remembered by Zbigniew Malinowski
- All Fathers - Remembered and Honored by Zbigniew Malinowski
- Prime Bishop Emeritus Francis Rowinski – Remembered by Stephanie Rowinski
- Charles Pravda – Remembered by Barbara Radicek
- Alex Ustaszewski – Remembered by Elmer and Dolores Ustas
- George Cheslock – Remembered by Elmer and Dolores Ustas
- For all Fathers and Grandfathers - Remembered and Honored by Gordon and Pat Bialasik
- John Dykas – Remembered by Maryann and Michael Zarek
- Theodore Zarek – Remembered by Maryann and Michael Zarek
- Bishop Thaddeus Peplowski – Honored by Lorraine C. Stempniak and Richard Gramza
- John Godleski – Remembered by Rosalie F. Clark and Godleski Family
- Adam Panfil – Remembered by Rosalie F. Clark and Godleski Family
- Fr. Sr. Joseph Krusienski, Pastor – Honored by Henry D. Clark
- Harry Bernardoni – Remembered by James Bernardoni
- John Bernardoni – Remembered by James Bernardoni
- John Swantek – Remembered by James Bernardoni
- Fr. Sr. Joseph Krusienski, Pastor - Honored by James Bernardoni
- John M. Mietlicki – Remembered by Dr. Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd
- Most Rev. Franciszek Hodur, Organizer – Remembered by Janice F. Klimczak
- Edward Folcik – Remembered by Janice F. Klimczak
- Most Rev. Franciszek Hodur, Organizer – Remembered by Janice F. Klimczak

- John T. Knapp - Remembered by Janice F. Klimczak
- Fr. Joseph C. Klimczak - Remembered by Janice F. Klimczak
- Stephen Mendrzychowski – Remembered by Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Mendrzychowski
- Ernest Cardin – Remembered by Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Mendrzychowski
- For all Fathers – Dianne E. Lobart
- Walter Sobiechowski – Remembered by Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski
- Stanley A. Kiska – Honored by Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski
- Stanley W. Bielizna – Remembered by Diane Bielizna and Stanley Bielizna
- Walter Bielizna – Remembered by Diane Bielizna and Stanley Bielizna
- Deceased, Retired, Active Clergy of the Polish National Catholic Church – Linda Wilk
- Fr. Jason Soltysiak – Honored by Bill Zychowski
- Dr. James Ploskonka – Honored by Nate Ploskonka
- Fr. Jason Soltysiak – Honored by Nate Ploskonka
- Harold Sadowski – Remembered by Ronald Sadowski
- Bishop Stanley Bilinski – Honored by Ronald Sadowski
- George Kindel – Remembered by Helen Kindel Peck
- Fr. Sr. Thaddeus Dymkowski – Honored by Chester F. Lubecki
- Fr. Edward Sobolewski – Remembered by Nancy Wisbiski
- Stanley Kowalewski – Remembered by Estelle B. Graczyk
- John Mulka – Remembered by Donna and Diane and Family
- Walter Janusz – Remembered by Wanda Janusz
- Edward J. Folcik – Remembered by Marilyn A. Folcik
- John T. Knapp – Remembered by Marilyn A. Folcik
- Walter S. Knapp – Remembered by Marilyn A. Folcik
- Fr. Joseph C. Klimczak – Remembered by Marilyn A. Folcik
- Fr. Sr. Joseph Krusienski – Honored by Walter and Sue Bush
- Joseph Maycan – Remembered by Dian and Robert R. Maycan
- Fr. Paul Zomerfeld – Honored by Bernice Vitacco
- Edward Zomerfeld, Sr. – Honored by Bernice Vitacco
- Fr. Sr. Jarosław Nowak – Honored by Marty and Cindy McGurk
- The Gielata Family – Honored by Bernice B. Borkowski
- Fr. Sr. Jarosław Nowak – Honored by Chris and Karen Cremean
- Peter Socha – Remembered by Dorothy Stahelski
- Marion Jezierski – Remembered by Larry and Gloria Bawol
- Marion John Bawol – Remembered by Larry and Gloria Bawol
- Joseph G. Podrasky, Sr. – Remembered by Joseph Podrasky, Jr.
- Nunzio Martino – Remembered by Joseph Podrasky, Jr.
- Rev. Dr. Father Scott Lill – Honored by Joseph Podrasky, Jr.
- Vincent Smith – Remembered by Myrtle and Pat Haines
- Joseph Podrasky, Sr. – Remembered by Myrtle and Pat Haines
- Fr. Scott Lill – Honored by Myrtle and Past Haines
- Harold Eckanrode – Remembered by Rick and Martha Link
- Merle Link – Remembered by Rick and Martha Link
- Eugene Doraz – Remembered by Joanne Oliveira
- Arthur Oliveira – Remembered by Joanne Oliveira
- Bishop Stanley Bilinski – Honored by Richard La Londe
- Jerry Felski – Remembered by Joanne Gramza, Jerry Felski and Arthur Felski
- Stephan Nyczak – Remembered by Joanne Gramza, Jerry Felski and Arthur Felski
- Prime Bishop Emeritus Francis C. Rowinski – Remembered by Turner, Hughes and Rowinski Families

On behalf of the Clergy Pension Fund Committee, may I take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your concern for the Program, as well as your respect for those you have asked to be remembered or honored. As written, this list reflects those names that were received in the mail since the publication of the June 2017 God's Field. On my behalf, I will include these remembered in my private prayer; again, my deep thanks and appreciation.

Rt. Rev. Stanley M. Bilinski, Chair, Clergy Pension Fund Committee

Constant Prayer

Rev. Michal Gitner

It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." (Lk 11:1 NASB).

A strange request by Jesus' disciples, as one would assume Jewish men were familiar with synagogue religious services. Is that a clue that they were asking for something that nobody taught them before? Were they dissatisfied with just 'saying' their prayers or reciting the Psalms?

Most of us have absorbed the idea of prayer as an action, a behavior, a recitation, a private time in which we think devout thoughts - and almost always with the assumption that this somehow pleases God. Sure it does, since God seems to be easily pleased. But the biblical God is seeking and wanting union with us much more than we are seeking union with God. This is the theme of themes of the whole biblical text, or as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel says, "God is seeking man."

When Jesus goes into the desert for forty days (Matthew 4:1–11), he does not recite prayers or read the Hebrew Bible (the printing press had not been invented yet!) The Gospels make no mention of Jesus reciting any formula prayers, except at the Last Supper where he and his disciples likely sung the Hallel, or Psalms 113–118 (Matthew 26:30) at the close of the Passover meal.

However, we read about Jesus "leaving the house early" and "going apart to a lonely place to pray" (Mark 1:35). Could it be that it is much easier to live in this state of conscious, loving union with God when there is nothing else competing for our attention?

Hence, if prayer is understood as conscious loving union with God, and with a person in front of me,

then we touch the deepest meaning of it. In that sense prayer becomes a way of being in the world, a stance, a way of connecting.

All prayer is practicing for prayer. No one really knows how to pray, as Paul states "We cannot choose words to pray properly, so the Spirit expresses our pleas in a way beyond words—and God knows." (Romans 8:26–27). Without an inner life, our outer prayer will soon become superficial, ego-centered, and even counter-productive on the spiritual path.

Jesus' own teaching on prayer is very direct:

He warns his followers about the very real dangers of public prayer or "standing up in the synagogues" (Matthew 6:5), as he puts it.

You should go to your private room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in that secret place." (Matthew 6:6)

"In your prayers, do not babble on as the pagans do, thinking that by using many words they will make themselves be heard. Do not be like them!" (Matthew 6:7)

What all of these teachings of Jesus seem to say is that we probably need "unsaying prayer," the prayer of quiet or contemplative prayer, to balance out all "saying prayer."

Jesus never emphasizes posture, timing, or gesture—only intention—which is why we can indeed "pray constantly" (1 Thessalonians 5:16), for it is: God is the one who loves and prays through us, Jesus shares and participates in this flow with and in his Body (that is us!), and the Spirit keeps it all moving, dynamic, alive—and always flowing outward!

(Based on *Prayer in the Catholic Tradition: A Handbook of Practical Approaches*, Robert J. Wicks by Franciscan Media)



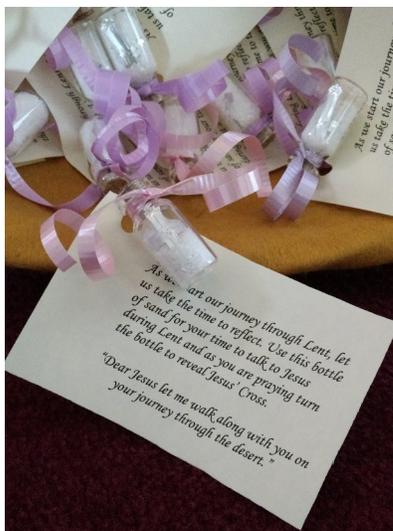
Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

Lenten Journey at Holy Trinity P.N.C.C.

Woodlawn, NY

Holy Trinity Parish had a Lenten Diorama this year which changed weekly to capture the Scriptures during Lent. This idea was brought to light by one of our parishioners, Maria Heftka. Maria Heftka and Donna Spencer brought our Lenten Scriptures to life in these dioramas and we would like to share them with all of you.

During the first week of Lent we distributed small glass containers containing a cross and sand. A prayer was attached to the container.



The diorama was of Jesus being tempted by a serpent, representing Satan, in the desert. Golgotha was always in the background, as that was Jesus' final destination.



During the second week the light was not on Satan but on God's message from the cloud. In Scripture we find that it wasn't AT&T or Google that invented messages from the Cloud, it was God who started it centuries ago, as He spoke to the disciples "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." And the Cloud was lit up with His message for us.



During the third week we visited the lady at the well with Jesus, and here we took the light away from the cloud and illuminated the running water from a pitcher into the well.



(Continued on Page 18.)

(Lenten Journey - Continued from Page 17.)

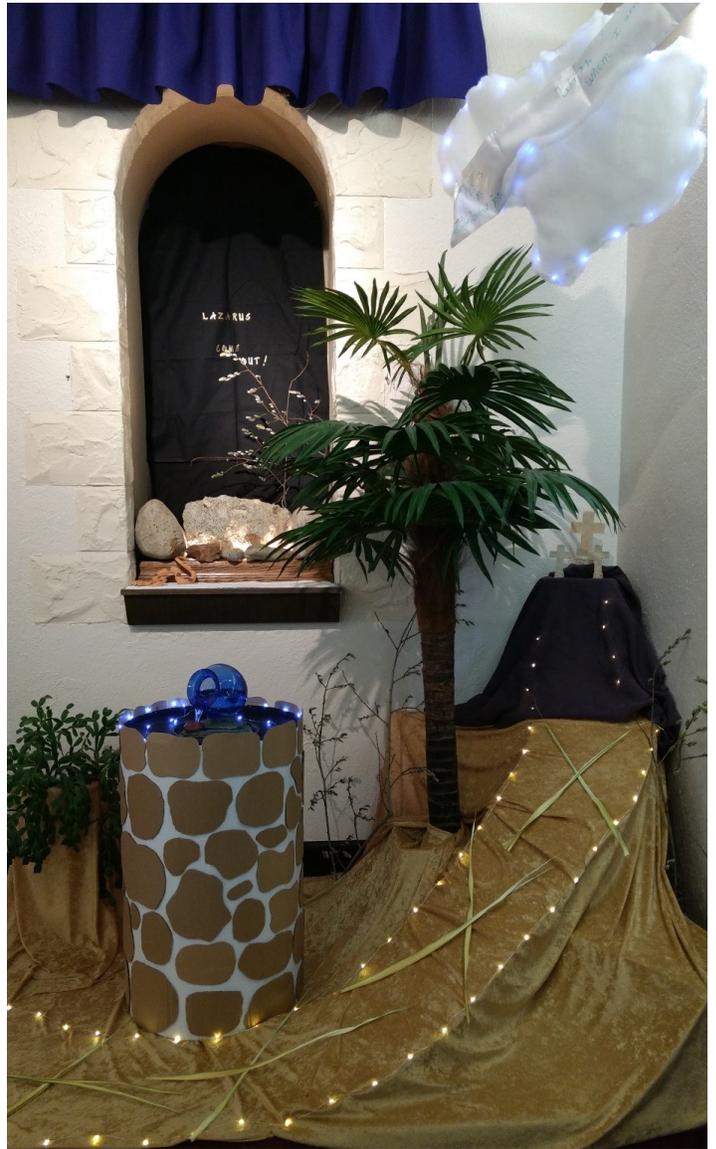
During the fourth week the focus was on Jesus helping the blind man to see. We lit up a road in the diorama to illustrate that the blind man is able to see the path that he is now on; to be a follower of Jesus and a witness to His miracles.



During the fifth week we went with Jesus to the tomb of Lazarus, who had been dead for 4 days now. Here we created a dark tomb where Jesus says to Lazarus, "COME OUT." And Lazarus is awakened from dead and comes out of the tomb.

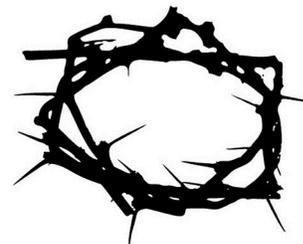


On Palm Sunday Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem by the people who spread palm leaves on the road on which He traveled. At this time we lit up all the scriptures in the diorama to reflect on all those weeks of Lent and all the challenging things that Jesus had experienced and wondrous miracles He performed.



And yet His journey was not done - in the distance on His path we still are reminded of His sorrowful destiny on Golgotha.

Submitted by Maria Heftka



Holy Trinity Happenings Washington, PA

Vacation Bible School was held June 12-15, 2017, at Holy Trinity Parish, Washington, PA. There were 28 participants Pre-K through 5th grade. The evening program focused on our call to be God's Super Heroes.

The VBS committee worked this year on offering the parents of our VBS families an experience as well. Deacon Dave Nichols and his wife, Rosanne, put together a coffee bistro where parents could spend time while their children were involved in the no-cost VBS program. A big thank you goes out to our VBS committee for their dedication and also to our entire parish for their support of this evangelization project.



(Continued on Page 20.)

(Holy Trinity Happenings - Continued from Page 19.)

Holy Trinity Parish, Washington, PA, recently celebrated our 2017 graduates, Jacob Areford, Kayla Szolek and Courtney White. The celebration was held on June 11th at Sunday Mass. Fr. Mark Swoger is shown offering a blessing to the graduates. (Jacob is absent from picture). The yearly parish celebration asks God's blessing upon our graduates as they embark on a new chapter in building God's kingdom. The parish also celebrated the graduates with a cake after Mass.



Holy Trinity Parish welcomed Micah Matthew McDonough to our faith community on June 25th at Sunday Eucharist. He was baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Micah is the son of Eric and Kira McDonough.



Submitted by Rev. Mark Swoger

Central Diocese

Thousands agree, the 15th Annual PolishFest was *Fantastyczny!*

Latham, NY

The Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish’s 15th PolishFest 2017 was the best yet! Held June 2-4 at the Parish in Latham, NY, the festival drew an estimated over 6,000 guests.

On behalf of the Parish and Fr. Mark Gnidzinski, we would like to thank our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, for attending the festival and the Polish National Union for its past sponsorship! We also thank Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Schenectady, NY, and Rev. James Konicki for participating in the festival.

Plumpy’s Pierogies, Inc., of Jessup, PA made over 20,000 pockets of love for PolishFest, to the delight of our festival goers!

Last, but not least, we would like to thank all of our parishioners and friends who worked so hard to plan and work at the event. Our success would not be possible without the cheerful support of our people!

Here are some photos of PolishFest 2017! Follow us on Facebook at PolishFestNY and on Twitter @PolishFestNY to be the first to know about our plans for 2018!

Submitted by Anntonette Zembrzusi Alberti



Our Beer Garden volunteers, Karah, Chrissy, and Jim, offered six varieties of Polish Beer.



Spa City Violin & Viola Studios Slavic String Concert



Pierogi Line



(Continued on Page 22.)

(PolishFest - Continued from Page 21.)



Children of the parish, Madeline and Abigail Fazziola, present Bishop Nowicki with roses.



Festival goes and volunteers from our sister Parish, the Holy Name of Jesus Parish, in Schenectady, NY



US Congressman Paul Tonko and members of the Albany Tulip Queen's Court



Madeline and Abigail Fazziola



Thomas J. Zembrzuski, Sr. and Polish-Fest Chair, George Urciuoli



Slovak Egg Decorating Demonstration — Duane Susi tries his hand at Zuzana Lundeen's creations.



Fr. Mark and Parish Chair George Urciuoli presented a donation of \$3,000 from our tip jars, to Logan Strong, an infant who is suffering from a rare brain cancer.



Eastern Diocese

2017 Eastern Diocese Acolyte Retreat — Committed to Serve Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI



“Committed to Serve in our Holy Church” was the theme of our sixth annual Eastern Diocese Acolyte Retreat held on June 26, 2017. On a beautiful summer day 30 altar servers, adults and clergy gathered with our bishop, The Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, at Our Saviour's Parish in Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

The retreat began with Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul. Our diocesan youth chaplain, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich and host pastor, Fr. Henryk Wos concelebrated. Cliff Nemkovich served as the lector for the Mass and acolytes from Woonsocket did an outstanding job of serving at the Altar with Reverence and Commitment. Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich proclaimed the Gospel and preached the Sacrament of the Word of God to the Acolytes. Fr. Sr. reminded them that our purpose is to serve Christ —that He is the vine and we are the branches, our Lord is the one we need to pattern our lives after. The servers were reminded about the most important role they play

during the Holy Mass when we are privileged to receive the wonderful gift of Christ truly present in the Eucharist. During the Mass, prayers were offered for † Bishop Thomas Gnat and † Fr. Sr. Stanley Skrzypek, who recently passed away. May they rest in peace.

Following a group photo all enjoyed some outstanding Dunkin Donuts provided by our host parish.

The Acolyte Retreat reinforced our Year of Commitment across our P.N.C.C. in 2017 with a special focus on the Institution of the P.N.C.C. The Altar Servers enjoyed watching the Convo 2016 presentation on the life of Bishop Hodur, the organization and purpose of our holy Polish National Catholic Church. Some of those who took part in leading roles in this presentation were with us for this retreat and enjoyed the accolades they were given.

(Continued on Page 24.)

(Eastern Diocese Acolyte Retreat- Continued from Page 23.)

Fr. Henryk Vos gave a presentation on serving with reverence and commitment. Fr. Henryk pointed out some dos and don'ts for the acolytes and reminded them about the great privilege it is to serve at the Lord's table and be so close to the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. He also encouraged some of the older servers to continue to give instruction to newer Altar Servers.

After grace offered by Fr. Robert Fredrickson, the altar servers were treated to a great lunch for youth – pizza.

The third and final presentation of the retreat was given by Fr. Robert Koerber. Fr. Koerber spoke on "I Chose You". Some time was spent speaking to the men and boys gathered about how God calls particular men to the ordained Priesthood and that they should be open to that call in their lives. Fr. Koerber then spoke about all have various roles to serve the Church and God calls all to fulfill these and work for the realization of His Kingdom. The servers were

reminded they need to embrace the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and be witnesses to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our acolytes, clergy and laity then traveled to the beautiful Lincoln Woods State Park. A great time was enjoyed on this gorgeous day where many of the Altar Servers spent time swimming. A few made the walk around the lake. Some quality refreshing time with some incredible sights of God's beautiful creation.

Thanks and appreciation are given to Fr. Henryk Vos and our host parish, Our Saviour's in Woonsocket for their fine hospitality and to all the clergy gathered: Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, Fr. Robert Koerber, Fr. Robert Fredrickson and Fr. Henryk Vos. Six diocesan parishes were represented: Central Falls, RI; Fall River, MA; Webster, MA Manchester, NH; Stratford, CT and Woonsocket, RI.

Submitted by Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr.

St. Valentine's Parish Graduates 14 Polish Language Class Students - 2017!

Northampton, MA

After successful participation in the Polish language course of study, fourteen students were awarded diplomas, Tuesday, May 30, 2017 in our parish. These conscientious students have attended class taught by Father Adam, every Tuesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. since September, 2016. Students learned sentence construction, enhanced their Polish vocabulary and Polish speaking skills and learned some Polish hymns for every major occasion on the Church calendar as well as some folk songs. Also, students learned many things about the solemnities in the Polish National Catholic Church and much historical information about Poland. In addition, students participated in Lenten Services (Gorzkie Zale) and May Devotions. It was not all work – there was some fun - a Christmas celebration, Zapusty celebration and our end of the year graduation celebration.

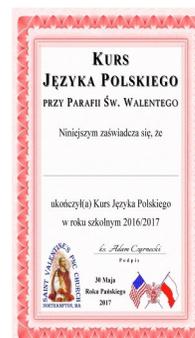
Graduates included: Robert Gibowicz, Tessie Gibowicz, Linda Golash, Michael Lambert, Barbara MacEwan, Alberta Martin, Francis Martin,

Amelia Matuszko, Krysia Newman, Paula Pavelcsyk, Dorothy Smarz, George Smarz, Laurie Smarz and Barbara Wilda.

Classes for the next academic year will begin September 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Valentine's Church. If you want to learn the Polish language, please join our class in the Fall – it is a great place to be on Tuesday evenings.

Please Note: The students extend a sincere thank you to Father Adam for his willingness to instruct the Polish Class

Submitted by Krysia Newman



St. Valentine's Parish Polish Dinner

Northampton, MA

On Sunday, June 11, 2017, St. Valentine's Parish, Northampton, MA held its 10th Annual Polish Dinner in the Parish Hall.

The menu consisted of traditional Polish fare (gołąbki, cabbage and cheese pierogi, cabbage with spareribs, kiełbasa, ham, home fries, horseradish, rye bread/butter, pickles, chruściki, dessert and beverage). The buffet style dinner was served to nearly 140 people.

This Polish Dinner event presents our Polish Heritage through our sumptuous Polish food prepared by our parishioners.

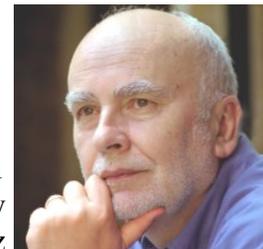
Raffles were held with many great prizes from our parishioners, friends and local businesses as well as a 50/50 raffle. Most importantly was that our parish hall was jam-packed with our parishioners, parishioners and clergy from some of our sister parishes, members of the local community and many members of the Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton who enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of conversation, laughter and friendship.

Thank you to everyone who worked so very hard to make this event successful, to those who provided raffle prizes and to our guests for supporting the Polish Dinner. Dziękujemy!

Submitted by Kryisia Newman



Adam Zagajewski



Adam Zagajewski urodził się 21 czerwca 1945 roku we Lwowie (obecnie Ukraina). Jego ojcem był Tadeusz Zagajewski, a jego matką była Ludwika Zagajewska, z domu Turska. W tym samym roku Rodzina Zagajewskich została wyrzucona przez Ukraińców z Lwowa i przesiedlona do Polski centralnej. Zagajewscy przenieśli się do Gliwic, gdzie Adam ukończył V Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. Andrzeja Struga. Następnie studiował psychologię i filozofię na Uniwersytecie Jagiellońskim w Krakowie. Później uczył filozofii na Akademii Górniczo-Hutniczej w Katowicach. Jako poeta zadebiutował w 1967 roku wierszem *Muzyka*, wydanym w czasopiśmie *Życie Literackie*. Wydawał swoje prace, a także recenzje w czasopismach takich jak: *Odra* (1969-1976) i *Twórczość* (1969, 1971-1973). W tym czasie zaangażował się w ruch literacki *Nowa Fala* znany również jako *Pokolenie 68*. Celem grupy było "stawianie czoła fałszowaniu rzeczywistości i przywłaszczaniu języka przez ideologię komunistyczną i propagandę". Po podpisaniu *Listu 59* jego prace zostały zakazane przez polskie władze komunistyczne. W 1978 był jednym z założycieli i pierwszych wykładowców Towarzystwa Kursów Naukowych. W 1982 roku wyemigrował do Paryża. Powrócił do Polski w 2002 roku wraz z żoną Mają Wodecką i mieszka w Krakowie. Jest członkiem Stowarzyszenia Pisarzy Polskich.

Jego dzieła literackie uzyskały uznanie na całym świecie i zostały przetłumaczone na wiele języków. Recenzent Joachim T. Baer w *World Literature Today* zauważył, że motywy Zagajewskiego to "noc, sny, historia i czas, nieskończoność i wieczność, cisza i śmierć". Tytuły jego zbiorów poezji sugerują niektóre z tych zagadnień: *Tremor* (1985), *Mistycyzm dla początkujących* (1997) i *Bez końca: nowe i wybrane wiersze* (2002). Jego wiersz *Spróbuj opiewać okaleczony świat*, wydrukowany w *The New Yorker*, stał się sławny po atakach z 11 września.

Zagajewski prowadził warsztaty poetyckie jako wykładowca w Studium Literacko-Artystycznym na Uniwersytecie Jagiellońskim w Krakowie oraz kurs twórczego pisania na Uniwersytecie w Houston w Stanach Zjednoczonych. Obecnie jest wykładowcą na Uniwersytecie w Chicago i członkiem jego Committee on Social Thought.

Adam Zagajewski was born 21 June 1945 in Lwów (now Ukraine). His father was Tadeusz Zagajewski and his mother was Ludwika Zagajewska, née Turska. The Zagajewski family was expelled from Lwów by the Ukrainians to central Poland the same year. They moved to the city of Gliwice where he graduated from Andrzej Strug V High School. Subsequently, he studied psychology and philosophy at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. He later taught philosophy at the AGH University of Science and Technology. In 1967, he made his poetic debut with *Music*, a poem published in *Życie Literackie* magazine. He published his works as well as reviews in such magazines as *Odra* (1969–1976) and *Twórczość* (1969, 1971–1973). During this time, he became involved in the *New Wave* literary movement also known as the *Generation of '68'*. The aim of the group was "standing up against the falsifications of reality and the appropriation of language by communist ideology and propaganda". After signing the *Letter of 59* his works were banned by communist authorities in Poland. In 1978, he was one of the founders and first lecturers of the Scientific Training Association. In 1982, he emigrated to Paris, but in 2002 he returned to Poland together with his wife Maja Wodecka, and resides in Kraków. He is a member of the Polish Writers' Association.

His literary works have received international recognition and have been translated into many languages. The reviewer Joachim T. Baer noted in *World Literature Today* that Zagajewski's themes "are the night, dreams, history and time, infinity and eternity, silence and death." The titles of his collections of poetry suggest some of these concerns: *Tremor* (1985), *Mysticism for Beginners* (1997), and *Without End: New and Selected Poems* (2002). His poem *Try To Praise The Mutilated World*, printed in *The New Yorker*, became famous after the 11 September attacks.

Zagajewski used to teach poetry workshops as a visiting lecturer at the School of Literature and Arts at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków as well as a creative writing course at the University of Houston in the United States. He is currently a faculty member at the University of Chicago and a member of its Committee on Social Thought.

Dziewczynka Vermeera

Dziewczynka Vermeera, teraz sławna,
Patrzy na mnie. Perła patrzy na mnie.
Dziewczynka Vermeera ma usta
Czerwone, wilgotne i błyszczące.

Dziewczynko Vermeera, perło,
Niebieski turbanie: jesteś światłem,
a ja jestem zrobiony z cienia.
Światło patrzy na cień z wyższością,
Wyrozumiale, może z żalem



Vermeer's Little Girl

Vermeer's little girl, now famous
watches me. A pearl watches me.
The lips of Vermeer's little girl
are red, moist, and shining.

Oh Vermeer's little girl, oh pearl,
blue turban: you are all light
and I am made of shadow.
Light looks down on shadow
with forbearance, perhaps pity.

Transl. by Renata Gorczyński

Muzyka słuchania z tobą

Music I heard with you was more than music...
Conrad Aiken

Muzyka słuchania z tobą
zostanie na zawsze z nami.
Poważny Brahms i elegijny Schubert,
niektóre piosenki, czwarta ballada Chopina,
kilka kwartetów o rozdzierającym
serce brzmieniu (Beethoven, adagio)
i smutek Szostakowicza, który
nie chciał umierać.
Wielkie chóry w pasjach Bacha -
jakby ktoś nas wołał
i żądał od nas radości,
czystej i bezinteresownej,
radości, w której wiara
jest czymś oczywistym.
Pewne fragmenty Lutosławskiego
ulotne tak jak nasze myśli.
Śpiew czarnej śpiewaczki bluesa
przeszywał nas jak lśniąca stal -
choćby dobiegał nas gdzieś na ulicy,
w zakurzonym, brzydkim mieście.
Niekończące się marsze Mahlera,
głos trąbki otwierającej piątą symfonię
i pierwsza część dziewiątej
(ty go czasem nazywasz "malheur"!)
Rozpacz Mozarta w Requiem,
jego pogodne koncerty fortepianowe,
które nuciłaś lepiej niż ja -
ale o tym dobrze wiemy.
Muzyka słuchania z tobą
zamilknie razem z nami.



Music Heard with You

Music I heard with you was more than music...
Conrad Aiken

Music heard with you
will stay forever with us.
Grave Brahms and elegiac Schubert,
a few songs, Chopin's third sonata,
a couple of quartets with heart-
breaking chords (Beethoven, adagio),
the sadness of Shostakovich that
didn't want to die.
The great choruses of Bach's Passions,
as if someone had summoned us,
demanding joy,
pure and disinterested,
joy in which faith
is self-evident.
Some scraps of Lutoslawski
as fugitive as our thoughts.
A black woman singing blues
ran through us like shining steel,
even though it reached us on the street
of an ugly, dirty town.
Mahler's endless marches,
the trumpet's voice opening Symphony no. 5
and the first part of the Ninth
(you sometimes call him "malheur!").
Mozart's despair in the Requiem,
his buoyant piano concertos--
you hummed them better than I did,
but we both know that.
Music heard with you
will grow still with us.

Transl. by Clare Cavanagh

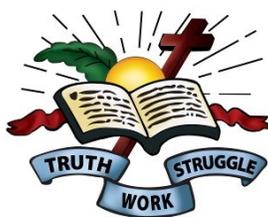
(Prayer - Continued from Page 3.)

be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2) It is in this sense of a living sacrifice that we are speaking about giving all to God. We are to be transformed. We are to change our way of living and thinking so that our prayer life goes beyond our actions to rather show the sort of people we are. We should not only be people who pray, but rather be people whose whole life is prayer.

So my brothers and sisters, members of the Polish National Catholic Church, let us begin this journey to an expanded and fuller life of prayer. Let us be like that first community of believers in the Book of Acts. Let us devote ourselves to “the teaching of the apostles,” knowing the Scriptures well and reading them to know better the ways of God. Let us devote ourselves to “the communal life” as we come together

to worship God within our Church and work together to build up His kingdom. Let us devote ourselves to “the breaking of bread” as we come to know Jesus Christ within the Holy Mass, hearing His Word in the Scriptures and the Sacrament of the Word of God and receiving Him in Holy Eucharist. Let us devote ourselves to “the prayers,” as we live our lives, not only marked with moments of prayer, but rather make them lives of unceasing prayer. Lives which are connected to the God Who loves us at every moment.

In this Year of 2017, the Year of Commitment within the Polish National Catholic Church, let us commit to prayer, in every form that we know it, the liturgical prayer of our parish communities, the moments of spoken prayer within our daily lives, but also the desire to make all that we do a connection which is pleasing to Almighty God and therefore a prayer of the heart that loves and follows God.



Holy Mother of Sorrows
Polish National Catholic Church
Dupont PA

DOZYNYKI
POLISH HARVEST FESTIVAL

**41st ANNUAL HARVEST
FESTIVAL**

"Dożynki"

SUNDAY

September 10, 2017

Holy Mother of Sorrows

212 Wyoming Avenue

Dupont PA

From 11 AM till 8 PM

**Blessing of the Harvest
Wreath at 2 PM**

**Joe Lastovica & Polka
Punch
from 3 to 6 PM**

**Polish and American
food all day long:
potato pancakes, haluski,
gołabki, pierogi,
wimpies, clam chowder,
kielbasa, etc.**

**Big Raffle, Jar Game,
Instant Bingo, Craft**