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Seek First
Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky
Prime Bishop

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:31-33)

The above saying of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, was spoken to the His followers as a part of a larger teaching on many subjects, both spiritual and material. Within these teachings Jesus reminds His followers to be careful in their religious practices that they are performed for spiritual edification and not to impress others, but also Jesus teaches that we must be careful in regards to the material things of the world as well. It is important to note here that Jesus does not say that any sorts of things are really bad, but rather we must be careful in the things that we choose knowing full well what the outcomes are.

In reality what the passage above seeks and what the entire teaching of the sixth chapter of Matthew points to is the correct ordering of our lives. This ordering is for our spiritual practices, as well as our material lives. This issue also comes to the forefront when we begin to take a look at our participation in the corporate worship of our Holy Church. We know that we are each called to be a part of the weekly worship of Almighty God and within that worship we seek to be united with Jesus Christ through the reception of the

Holy Eucharist, through hearing the Word of God preached to us and through joining with the community of faith, the Body of Christ, that is God’s Holy Church.

We learned this when we were first studying our catechism and they are listed in the Prayer Book of the P.N.C.C., contained in the list of the Commandments of the Church and the Holy Days of Obligation. The Holy Days of Obligation list all of the Sundays of the Year as well as the Solemnities of the Nativity, the Circumcision, the Ascension and All Saints. The Five Commandments of the Church further direct us in its first point to: Participate in Holy Mass and hear the Word of God on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. In regards to these lists I have always thought that the concept of framing them as Commandments or Obligations doesn’t really express the fullness of what Jesus is teaching above. It is a first step because all of this is truly important for us, but it goes far beyond a mere obligation. If considered correctly, the worship of Almighty God is necessary for us because it allows us to be in a connection with the source of our being and the goal of our lives.

Now they are certainly given to us as the expectations of what it means to be a Catholic Christian in the world today. If we call ourselves a Catholic Christian, a Polish National Catholic, then we should be as full a part of the activities of the Church as possible. We should be a full and active member of the

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Publication Information**

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Email articles and photos to secretarytopb@pncc.org and to godsfield@pncc.org. If your submission was successfully delivered via email, you will receive an acknowledgement email stating that your submission was received. To ensure clarity of graphics, please send JPEG or TIFF formatted pictures with a resolution of at least 300 pixels per inch. **Please identify individuals in photographs or caption photographs.**

Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:

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community of faith with which we have united ourselves. While it can be framed as an obligation, maybe in the spirit of the teaching of Jesus above it might be better framed as a correct ordering of our priorities and our lives. We can say that since we must “seek first the Kingdom of God” then the things of God, the worship of God, the joining in community with God’s people, must come first as well. If we are seeking first, the Kingdom of God, then our attendance at Holy Mass, the weekly worship of God’s people together on Sunday, is not something that we must get out of the way on Sunday morning, or something we must grudgingly accomplish, but rather we can see that we are playing a role in the most important work that there is, the building up of the Kingdom of God which is found all around us.

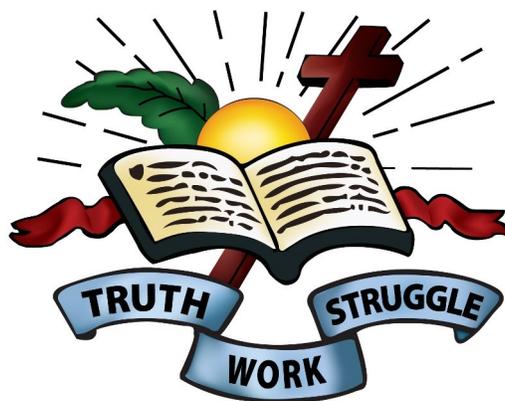
I think that it is especially important for us to remember these concerns when the summertime rolls around. I suppose that I, like many of my brothers in the priesthood, notice that there is a significant reduction in the number attending Holy Mass as soon as school is out and the summer is here. While many tell me that they are away on vacation, I am smart enough to know that they aren’t away for the entire summer. I also know that it’s not true that a significant portion of a parish community is away on vacation at the same time.

Now I also know that there is really no evil intent in what is happening here. It’s just that many people don’t really give it much thought at all. When summer comes around many people finally have the chance to do many of the things that they have been waiting for all year. I know that it is just that many people prioritize their summer activities and unfortunately the worship of Almighty God is not at the top of that list. But we must also admit that there is a problem here. Jesus said, “Seek first the Kingdom of God,” and an important part of that seeking is to participate in the corporate worship of the community and the receiving of the Sacraments. We must also know that this is to be a full part of our lives, just like all of the important things we do as a family. While school may be over and a chance for some leisurely activities has arrived, we don’t just stop all of the

things that are vital to our lives. We still must take care of our homes such as cleaning and doing laundry. We still must take care of our bodies, eating healthy food and getting exercise and going to the doctor when we need to. I suppose the question is, what about our spiritual life? What about our spiritual health? If we are seeking first the Kingdom of God and we know that the worship of God is a vital part of our spiritual life, then we just can’t put it aside, no matter what the reason. In fact when we begin to hold our Sunday worship in the right light, we will certainly feel that no week is quite right, if Sunday worship is not a part of it. And even further, we come to know that all of the good things that we do and the spiritual moment we have will flow from the strength that we receive in Sunday worship and the reception of Holy Communion.

So my brothers and sisters, now that the summertime is upon us, I encourage all of you to take some time and to take stock of what the priorities of your life are. Are you truly putting God and His Kingdom as a first point within your daily and especially weekly activities? If not, now is the time to make a change. Commit yourselves to be a part of the worshipping community of the Church. Commit yourselves to commune with Jesus Christ in the reception of the Holy Eucharist. Commit yourself to edifying yourself in listening to the Sacrament of the Word of God. Commit yourself to the joy that is to be found in uniting with the Catholic Christian community at Holy Mass and in fellowship. All of these things can be yours if only you choose to put them first and make them a priority. Yes, it’s summertime and the ‘living is easy,’ but we must also know that the important things of life must still be accomplished every day and every week. When we can come to see our time together in worship as a true joy and come to see the reception of Holy Communion as a necessary point of strength in our lives then we can see beyond the obligations we have as Catholic Christians to a place where we are seeking first for God’s Kingdom within our own lives and the lives of our family.





2019 Special Synod

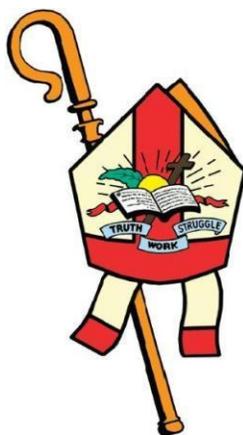
St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA

Friday, October 25, 2019

We are now three months away from the 2019 Special Synod to be held in Scranton, PA. We will gather in order to elect two candidates for bishop. At the present time those who have accepted their nomination have returned their materials to the Office of the Prime Bishop and the Nominations Commission will begin to examine the material. Following the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church, they will gather at the National Church Center in Scranton, PA on August 6, 2019 to vet the nominees and prepare information which will be sent to all parishes and published within the next edition of God's Field.

Mandates are being sent to the Diocesan Bishops this week and letters with Registration forms and hotel information will be sent to all parishes. Registration forms must be submitted for each delegate. If there are any questions or concerns in regard to the preparation for the Special Synod, please contact the Office of the Prime Bishop.

I encourage all to remain in prayer as the Church continues in its work to elect Candidates for Bishop, especially I ask for prayers on August 6, 2019 when the Nominations Commission will meet with the nominees. I also ask that the delegates continue to prayer and preparation as the time of Synod approaches.



Hotel Reservation Information

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

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

Hampton Inn Scranton at Montage

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

30 rooms blocked at \$105.00/night.

Room: 2 Double Beds

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

Courtyard Scranton Wilkes-Barre (Marriott)

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

20 rooms blocked at \$109.00/night.

Room: 2 Double Beds

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

Spring Hill Suites by Marriott Scranton Wilkes-Barre

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

30 rooms blocked at \$114.00/night.

Room: 2 Queen Beds and a pullout double sofa

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

Comfort Suites

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

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

Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council of the P.N.C.C.

Scranton, PA

Michael R. Mietlicki, Secretary, Supreme Council

(Continued from June issue, Volume 97, Issue No. 6)

Report of the Diocesan Bishops

The Report of the Bishop of the Buffalo Pittsburgh Diocese

The Supreme Council reviewed the submitted report of Bishop John Mack that included the status of the diocese, diocesan clergy, statistics, finances, structure, organizations, his diocesan calendar, specific parish achievements and challenges. Summarizing his report, Bishop Mack provided detail of the current parish successes and challenges and outlined the events the Buffalo Pittsburgh Cathedral will host and sponsor to celebrate its 125th Anniversary in 2020. The Buffalo Pittsburgh Diocese will also be hosting the next Youth Convocation.

The Report of the Bishop of the Canadian Diocese

Prime Bishop Mikovsky is the current Diocesan Bishop of the Canadian Diocese. The Supreme Council reviewed the submitted report of Prime Bishop Mikovsky that included the status of the diocese, diocesan clergy, statistics, structure, specific diocesan challenges and the diocesan financial challenges. Summarizing his report, Prime Bishop spoke about the geographic distance between the parishes in the eastern and western areas of Canada and the challenge it presents. He also outlined the work currently underway to update the bylaws of the diocese. During discussion, the status of Cathedral Place, now known as Bishop Joseph Nieminski Residential Corporation, was noted.

The Report of the Bishop of the Central Diocese

The Supreme Council reviewed the report of Bishop Bernard Nowicki DD, Diocesan Bishop. It included his episcopal calendar, Discipleship, clergy and deacons of the diocese, parish property sell-offs, diocesan finances, parish achievements and challenges. Summarizing his report, Bishop highlighted the clergy deficit problem as the most compelling issue. As a result of future clergy retirements, more parishes in the diocese will need to share pastors with other parishes. A demographic study will be conducted. Its purpose is to determine where the people of the diocese live to strategically consider parish placement and investment and to use the human capital of the

clergy of the diocese most effectively. The Com-mack LI property is still for sale. Litigation in Perth Amboy, NJ has concluded. The diocese now awaits the judgement of the appeals court in this matter. The property in Perth Amboy will be sold once the judgement is known.

The Report of the Bishop of the Eastern Diocese

Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Diocesan Bishop, presented his report to the Supreme Council. It included clergy appointments in the diocese, diocesan statistics, the financial status of the diocese, specific parish achievements and challenges, the Bishop's travel calendar, the organizations in the diocese, the diocesan newsletter, the Bishop's commission work and parish visits. Summarizing his report, Bishop announced the diocese is planning a one-day diocesan synod in October 2020 in Fall River, MA. He also announced a grant program that will be implemented to assist parishes of the diocese establish mission and ecumenical events within their communities. Over \$30K has been budgeted for this program.

The Report of the Bishop of the Western Diocese

The Supreme Council received the report of Prime Bishop Mikovsky, the current Diocesan Bishop of the Western Diocese. It included his activities since taking responsibility of the diocese upon Bishop Bilinski's passing. Summarizing his report, the Prime Bishop thanked Father Senior Rafalko and Father Senior Nowak for their work in supporting the day to day work of the diocese.

He also thanked the clergy of the diocese for their work in supporting diocesan programs during this challenging time.

The Supreme Council unanimously accepted the reports of the Diocesan Bishops with its thanks and appreciation for their dedicated work.

Commission Reports

History & Archives Commission Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the report of Mr. Joseph Seliga, Commission Chair, that included a detailed description of commission activities. During discussion, the excellent work of the commission along with its chairman, Joseph Seliga, was noted.

Mr. Seliga spends a week in Scranton every month staying at the seminary to save money. Volunteers are needed. Work can be done remotely. For example, volunteers could write and submit histories of their parishes. Translators are also needed. This can be done remotely. Two priests are presently translating all of Bishop Hodur's writing in *God's Field* into English. These will be published as a collection. It was also noted the archives area has been reconfigured to use the space more efficiently.

National Commission on Liturgy Report

The Supreme Council examined the commission report submitted by Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr. its chairman. The report described the commission's program of work, specifically its work on the missal and the ritual. These are being translated in Spanish and Polish. The history and meaning of the rites and rituals are also being included so they could be used as a teaching tool.

National Mission & Evangelism Commission Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the report submitted by Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Commission Chair. The commission sponsors annual workshops hosted in regional areas of the P.N.C.C. to encourage local participation. All workshop sessions were videoed and distributed to parishes in the past via DVDs. Going forward these will be placed on YouTube. An audio of the abridged history of the P.N.C.C. will also be created. Likewise, a comprehensive fifteen-part series on the history of Christianity, Catholicism and the P.N.C.C. is also being transcribed. Once completed it will be videoed and distributed to all parishes with a manual that could be used for adult educational discussions. During discussion, the focus on a program to start new parishes as suggested in the report was examined. Taking the initiative and risk to go to new places to bring Christ to all peoples through the Church is what Our Lord told His disciples to do. Determining where these new parishes can be started so priests are available to serve them is key to achieving success. This requires research and planning and would be a worthwhile program for each diocese to undertake.

Church Doctrine Commission Report

The Doctrine Commission did not meet since the last Supreme Council Meeting. Its next meeting is during the week of May 6, 2019.

National Committee on Scouting Report

A report was not submitted to the Supreme Council. Prime Bishop reported the commission appointed at the 2018 Synod is taking steps to reinstitute scouting within the P.N.C.C. They are looking to expand the annual boy and girl scout camporee sponsored by the Eastern Diocese into a national event. There are scouting organizations in parishes throughout the P.N.C.C., but their existence might not be known to the committee. Parishes that have a scouting organization are encouraged to contact Father Adam Czarnecki, National Scouting Chaplain, at St. Valentine's Parish in Northampton, MA. The scouting program is invited to host gatherings at the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center in Waymart, PA. Scouting and the specific P.N.C.C. Scouting Awards need to be promoted throughout the P.N.C.C.

National SOCL Commission Report

A prepared report was submitted by Father Charles Zawistowski, Commission Chair, and reviewed by the Supreme Council. The commission is focusing on two projects: a series of lessons on reverence for all ages and a post confirmation curriculum to keep young adults engaged in parish life after they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Summarizing the work of the commission, Prime Bishop mentioned that the late Bishop Bilinski was very actively involved in the development of the post confirmation curriculum. His work has been preserved and the commission will continue to develop this project. The commission meets entirely by video / teleconference which allows for more frequent meetings.

Sacred Vocations Commission Report

The Supreme Council examined a prepared report submitted by Father James Konicki, Commission Chair, that included descriptions of the commission's activities and programs. Prime Bishop reported the commission continues to work on many important projects that will keep Sacred Vocations front and center as a focal point for parishes and families. The work of the commission will create the atmosphere to support vocations, but it doesn't create vocations. Families create vocations through their emphasis on Christ and the Church. If we are going to have priests for the Church, it will be the families of the Church that will make that happen. June is Sacred Vocations Month and a time to express appreciation to the Clergy of the P.N.C.C. for their ministry.

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(Supreme Council P.N.C.C. - Continued from Page 7.)

Clergy Salary & Benefits Commission Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the commission's prepared report submitted by Cathy A. Bilinski, Commission Chair. The commission hasn't met since it was just appointed at the 2018 Synod. The notice of the 2.8% COLA salary adjustment was sent to all parishes of the P.N.C.C. This cost of living adjustment is mandated by the synod for all clergy. A clergy survey is planned to determine what benefits are received and what benefits are desired. The Supreme Council asked the commission to provide further guidance to the Prime Bishop and the Diocesan Bishop on the Severance Benefit passed at the 2014 Synod.

Constitution Commission Report

A prepared report submitted by Father John P. Kowalczyk, Jr., Commission Chair, was reviewed by the Supreme Council. Since the commission was just recently appointed it has not met. The commission plans on working on proposed changes early enough so that they can be published and discussed well before the next general synod.

The Supreme Council unanimously accepted the commission reports with its thanks and appreciation to the dedicated commission members.

Organizational Reports

National United Choirs Report

The Supreme Council received reports by Lydia Hohn, NUC Chair, Dr. Neil Stahurski, Music Commission Chair, and Cathy A. Bilinski, Music Scholarship Committee Chair.

Bishop John Mack, Chaplain of the National United Choirs, highlighted the important work of the NUC. The NUC Convention and Workshop will be hosted by the Cathedral of the Buffalo Pittsburgh Diocese this summer. A concert of sacred music dedicated to the late Bishop Peplowski and the late Bishop Bilinski will be a highlight of the three-day event. The Prime Bishop indicated the Music Commission is focused on liturgical music projects. The Music Minister Handbook was recently completed by the Music Commission. These were sent to each parish. The National United Choirs of the Western Diocese underwrote the printing and distribution of the handbook. Cathy Bilinski, Chairwomen of the Music Scholarship Committee reported in recent years, the number of applications received by the committee

has dropped. Parishes are reminded to encourage those in the parish who are taking music lessons to apply.

United Y.M.S. of R. Report

A prepared report was submitted by Nick Kazinetz, President of the Y.M.S. of R. Central Committee. The Supreme Council examined the report that included descriptions of its activities and programs, namely, a men's retreat, the fund-raising campaign for the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center, an extended Kurs, a convention, a bowling tournament, a golf tournament and fraternal / community activities. The Prime Bishop highlighted the national programs sponsored by the United Y.M.S of R. Five new branches were organized during the past year which is very encouraging. The upcoming Men's Retreat was noted as a special time where the men of the church gather to discuss the spiritual aspects of their lives and the challenges society presents. The Kurs is another wonderful event sponsored by the Y.M.S. of R with a great staff and a tremendous program. The Kurs will be extended this year to nine days. Children and teens aged eight through seventeen are invited to attend the Kurs. Another wonderful program being sponsored is the *90 for 90 Fund Drive* for the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center. On the 90th Anniversary of the facility, the Y.M.S. of R. is leading this drive to raise \$90K for retreat upgrades including a new pool. A convention will be held in October.

National United Youth Association Report

A prepared report was not submitted.

Report of the National Youth Chaplain

The late Bishop Bilinski was the National Youth Chaplain. The Prime Bishop reported a National Youth Chaplain has not yet been appointed but candidates are under consideration for this important role. During discussion it was noted the upcoming youth convocation to be hosted by the Buffalo Pittsburgh Diocese was recently discussed at the Buffalo Pittsburgh Clergy Conference. As a result, it proposed to the Supreme Council that the program of the upcoming youth convocation, considering the Future Direction theme of Discipleship and its crucial promotion and nourishment within a family, be expanded to include family members in addition to youth. This proposal doesn't set aside the current components of the youth convocation that has been very successful and treasured but expands its program to include parents

thus bringing family and discipleship together. This would also expand participation by lowering the age of a participant since parents would be attending and would help with identifying chaperones. The Supreme Council debated the pros and cons of expanding the audience of the very successful Convo. While the proposal for a family-oriented gathering is a great idea and should be considered as a future separate program, it is important the P.N.C.C. continue to host an event solely focused on teens. Any combination of this event with a program for adults must consider the opinion of our youth offered through the UYA. The UYA has offered its assistance to the Buffalo Pittsburgh Diocese as it plans the program for the 2020 Youth Convocation.

National United Women's Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament (SAMBS) Report

The Supreme Council examined the report submitted by Cindy Whitehead, President of SAMBS. A convention of this body will be conducted on the weekend of May 4, 2019. At this convention delegates will decide a program of work. It was reported the *Polka* may be published electronically in the future.

The Supreme Council unanimously accepted the commission reports with its thanks and appreciation to the dedicated organization members.

Dialogue Reports

The P.N.C.C. – Roman Catholic Dialogue Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the report submitted by the P.N.C.C. Chair, Bishop John Mack that included descriptions of dialogue activities. The dialogue meeting takes place annually and both churches come to the dialogue table as equal churches. Bishop Mack thanked his commission members for the preparation they do prior to the meetings. The participation of Prime Bishop Mikovsky and Prime Bishop Emeritus Swantek was noted and appreciated.

The P.N.C.C. – Anglican Church of North America [ACNA] Dialogue Report

The Supreme Council examined the report submitted by P.N.C.C. Chair, Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, that included descriptions of dialogue activities. While the ACNA Dialogue is currently suspended one meeting was conducted with the G4 group [The Anglican Catholic Church, The Anglican Church in America, The Anglican Province of America and The Diocese of Holy Cross]. Bp. Sobiechowski thanked

his commission members for their dedication.

The P.N.C.C. – Orthodox Dialogue Report

The Prime Bishop reported a dialogue with the Orthodox Church of America [OCA] has not materialized as hoped. Consequently, a dialogue with another Orthodox group will be pursued.

The Supreme Council unanimously approved the reports of the dialogue commissions and expressed its thanks and appreciation for their work.

Ecumenical Reports

National Council of Churches & World Council of Churches

Prime Bishop Mikovsky, as a Church leader, and Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Ecumenical Officer of the P.N.C.C., sit on the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches in the United States. They attend teleconference meetings of the board as schedules permit. The P.N.C.C. Ecumenical Officer does share documents and press releases from the World Council of Churches with P.N.C.C. bishops. These groups are mainly comprised of Protestant denominations. The P.N.C.C. is one of the founding churches of the World Council of Churches formed in 1946.

Christian Churches Together [CCT] in the USA

The P.N.C.C. participates as schedules permit.

Conference of European Churches

This conference is like the National Council of Church but in Europe. The P.N.C.C. is currently not a member of this organization. It sought membership in this group since it has churches in Europe. To gain membership each member church must agree to allow the P.N.C.C. to join. This group is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic and not welcoming to the P.N.C.C.

International Catholic Bishops Conference of the Union of Scranton

The 2019 Union of Scranton Convocation Newsletter was submitted to the Supreme Council by Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr., Ecumenical Officer of the P.N.C.C. Father Senior Nemkovich summarized his report highlighting the recent convocation held in Scranton. This convocation was a follow up to the introductory convocation held in Dublin Ireland in March 2018. Working groups that were appointed in

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(Supreme Council P.N.C.C. - Continued from Page 9.)

Dublin provided updates. Prime Bishop Mikovsky presented the Ecclesiology of the Union of Scranton. Very Rev. Geoffrey Neal, Vicar General of the Nordic Catholic Administration in the UK, spoke on Holy Orders and Apostolic Succession and Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr., Ecumenical Officer of the P.N.C.C., moderated a discussion on proposed additions to the document *Requirements for Communion with the Polish National Catholic Church*. A statement from the participants will be released shortly. The Convocation concluded with the Holy Sacrifice of Mass celebrated by Prime Bishop Mikovsky. Bishop Paul Hewett of the Diocese of the Holy Cross offered the homily. A third convocation will be held in the spring of 2020. Further study will focus on what it means to be a conciliar Catholic, where people gather together to make decisions. It could be decision making by bishops, clergy, a combination of bishops and clergy or a combination of bishops, clergy and laity. Further study will focus on Anglican Orders. During discussion, the amount of interest generated from the Facebook post of the recent convocation was noted. Releasing the convocation statement to Facebook could be a great way to educate people regarding the Union of Scranton, the P.N.C.C. and what it means to be a conciliar Catholic. It was reported the recent convocation received first page coverage in the local Scranton Times newspaper.

The Supreme Council unanimously approved the ecumenical reports with its thanks and appreciation to those involved in ecumenical activities of the P.N.C.C.

Medical Bridge to Poland

One new and two previous requests for grants from the Medical Bridge to Poland program will be considered by the Supreme Council once the details of the requests are collected.

The Special Synod

On April 12, 2019 via email, the Prime Bishop asked for the concurrence of the Supreme Council to call a Special Synod to elect Candidates for the Office of Bishop. That concurrence was granted, and the Prime Bishop has since published the Call of the Special Synod in *God's Field*. The sole purpose of this synod will be to elect Candidates for the Office of Bishop. It will be conducted for one day and the election will be supported by electronic voting. Following debate on the possible opportunities the need for bishops and the election provides the P.N.C.C., the

Website of the P.N.C.C.: pncc.org

Supreme Council concurred with the recommendation of the Prime Bishop and Diocesan Bishops that two candidates be elected. The Supreme Council also reviewed and approved the Criteria for Candidates for Bishop that will be used by the Nominations Commission. One criterium was passed to the Doctrine Commission for study and a definitive statement. The Nominations Commission will be composed of the Prime Bishop, Diocesan Bishops and one clergy and one lay from each diocese. Diocesan Bishops will name their diocesan representatives. While the P.N.C.C. Constitution allows for nominations from the floor of the synod, the Nominations Commission will still require all application documentation from those nominated in this manner. It was reported the Nordic Catholic Church will also be electing a bishop this year to replace Bishop Roald Flemestad who is retiring. The Nordic Catholic candidate and the two P.N.C.C. candidates will be consecrated at the same liturgy in the Spring of 2020 in the United States.

The Budget & Finance Committee Report

Joan Scheuneman, P.N.C.C. Treasurer, presented the proposed budget. The Supreme Council reviewed each category and line item. As in past years, the income component of the budget is a challenge to predict. Dues income is predicted to be the same for 2019 as it was in 2018. The amount of royalty income was reduced to approximately \$8K per month which has been the recent average. 2019 interest income is based on what was received in 2018. Some expense item fees were adjusted to more accurately reflect what was spent in 2018. Property taxes on the NCC will be lower by well over \$100K thanks to Prime Bishop's efforts and the success of the tax appeal. An additional \$10K for Clergy Hospitalization was budgeted for 2019. The Clergy Hospitalization budget is \$250K. Monies have been budgeted for the special synod. Total projected income is \$1,133,150. Total projected expense is \$1,123,879 resulting in a projected surplus of \$9,271. During discussion, a budget of \$5K for the Nominations Commission was added. It was noted a budget for consecration expenses is not needed since the consecration of candidates isn't planned until late spring of 2020. Since what is received from dues doesn't cover expenses, income from investments and other sources are relied on to operate the church. It may be necessary to revisit the amount allotted to the Clergy Pension Fund in the future or find another way to raise money since current funding is probably not enough. While it was

reported parish dues contributions to the general fund has improved, it is acknowledged some parishes continue to cheat the system by not sending \$100 per member. They might have a different view and would be more charitable if they understood how the \$100 was distributed and what programs it supports.

The 2019 dues allotment recommendation remains the same as 2018.

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

\$31K will be provided as clergy aid in 2019. This is the same amount provided in 2018. The Supreme Council approved the budget as revised.

New Business

No correspondence was directed to the Supreme Council. There were no requests for loans.

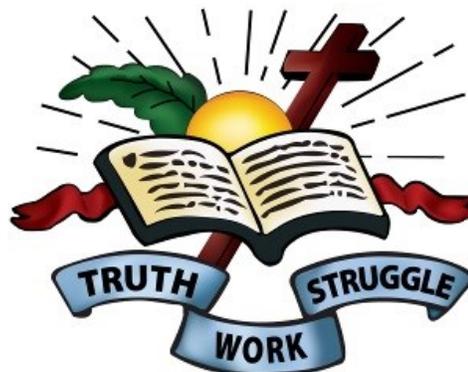
Discussion for the Good of the P.N.C.C.

A recommendation was proposed to use seminary funds to support a clergy continuing education program. This program could include webinars, semi-

nars and other professional development courses as well as possible financial assistance for advanced degrees. Every other denomination supports such a program. Examples of diocesan programs were described. Likewise, the program at Nashotah House was described. Following discussion, the Prime Bishop appointed a subcommittee to research programs that could then be presented to the seminary board for funding.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

The Prime Bishop thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their contributions during the meeting. The Eastern Diocese will host the April 2020 meeting. Prime Bishop offered the closing prayer. It was followed by the singing of the Church Hymn. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.



SPOJNIA CREDIT UNION
SHARE CERTIFICATE RATES
EFFECTIVE 04/01/2019

90 Days Share Certificate
 1.50% APR 1.508% APY

6 Months	1.50% APR	1.508% APY
12 Months	1.60% APR	1.609% APY
24 Months	1.70% APR	1.710% APY
36 Months	1.80% APR	1.812% APY
48 Months	1.90% APR	1.913% APY
60 Months	2.00% APR	2.015% APY

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 APR - Annual Percentage Rate
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P.N.C.C. Hymnal

Hard Cover \$25.00/each + \$5.00/each Shipping
 Spiral Bound: \$30.00/each + \$5.00/each Shipping

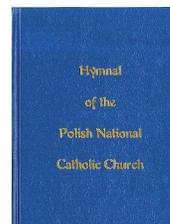
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	Brother	Rt. Rev. Stanley M. Bilinski
	Brother	Charles Zaranski Jr.
Deacon Dave & Roseanne Nichols	Father	William Nichols
	Father	Paul Koceski
Bob & Laraine Clark	Father	Albert Clark
	Stepfather	Ernest Bernier
	Pastor	Rev. Mark Gnidzinski
Ted Sarnoski	Pastor	Fr. Krzysztof Mendelewski
	Other	Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Kiska	Other	Bp. Paul Sobiechowski
Marian Sleczkowski	Pastor	Fr. Bruce Sleczkowski
	Father	Deacon Raymond Lagesse
	Father	Max Sleczkowski
Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd	Father	John M. Mietlicki
	Other	Most Rev. Emeritus Robert Nemkovich
	Other	Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich
Janet Swanger & His Children	Father	Joseph Kwiatkowski
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“Honor Your Father ” Campaign – 2019 (Received by 6/27/2019)

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 Other
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This is the list as submitted by the Clergy Pension Fund Committee, c/o Western Diocese, 920 North Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL. Please direct all inquiries regarding donations to the Clergy Pension Fund to the Clergy Pension Fund Committee at 847-698-0578 or westerndiocesepncc@gmail.com.

74th Annual Y.M.S. of R./P.N.C.C. Bowling Tournament Results

Singles - Scratch Result

	Bowler Name	Div	High			Game -1-	Game -2-	Game -3-	Total	Scr	
			Avg	Game	Game					Total	Place
1	ARTIE GOLEMBESKI JR, S	MEN	213	235	226	235	174	635	635	1	
2	ROBERT BILINSKI, SPO	MEN	185	223	180	177	223	580	580	2	
3	BP JOHN MACK, SPO	MEN	187	194	163	177	194	534	534	3	
4	FR JASON SOLTYSIAK, SP	MEN	156	190	133	190	190	513	513	4	
5	JOHN SNIEZEK, SPO	MEN	169	183	151	170	183	504	504	5	
6	SUZANNE SNIEZEK, SPO	WOMEN	147	174	148	174	157	479	479	6	
7	ANDREW HUMPHREYS, SPO	MEN	167	170	142	170	158	470	470	7	
8	DAVE PECYNSKI, SPO	MEN	175	161	144	161	151	456	456	8	
9	REV JAROSLAW NOWAK, SP	MEN	133	192	143	117	192	452	452	9	
10	CINDY PECYNSKI, SPO	WOMEN	154	171	132	171	137	440	440	10	
11	RAY BIELSKI, SPO	MEN	140	189	131	189	112	432	432	11	
12	MIKE MLUDZIK, SPO	MEN	126	167	167	114	144	425	425	12	
13	VITO M. GERARDI JR, SP	MEN	145	144	144	135	130	409	409	13	
14	NICK KAZINETZ, SPO	MEN	138	165	126	165	115	406	406	14	
15	GREG FILIPOWICZ, SPO	MEN	122	145	140	145	116	401	401	15	
16	BEVERLY BASINSKI, SPO	WOMEN	137	138	138	136	125	399	399	16	
17	CAROL SEMBERTOVICH, SP	WOMEN	138	148	123	148	121	392	392	17	
18	CHRISTINE GICZKOWSKI,	WOMEN	143	140	132	140	98	370	370	18	
19	CHRISTINE BILINSKI, SP	WOMEN	118	139	114	116	139	369	369	19	
20	KATHY CHOCKLEY, SPO	WOMEN	116	135	113	111	135	359	359	20	
21	NICK SOLTYSIAK, SPO	MEN	122	141	123	141	90	354	354	21	
22	JOLANTA NOWAK, SPO	WOMEN	87	120	120	91	102	313	313	22	
23	CHRIS FILIPOWICZ, SPO	WOMEN	121	179	119	179		298	298	23	
24	JACK WALL JR, SPO	MEN	98	108	90	108	87	285	285	24	
25	DONNA LEE COLLYER, SPO	WOMEN	105	101	97	71	101	269	269	25	
26	LINDA BIELSKI, SPO	WOMEN	119	105	80	105	83	268	268	26	
27	LARRY CHOCKLEY, SPO	MEN	108	101	101	72	88	261	261	27	
28	CHESTER WALESKI, SPO	MEN	98	105	105	66	64	235	235	28	
29	DENISE CATHRO, SPO	WOMEN	63	113	27	113	73	213	213	29	

Singles - Handicap Result

	Bowler Name	Div	High			Game -1-	Game -2-	Game -3-	Total	HDCP	Series	HDCP	HDCP	Place
			Avg	Game	HDCP									
1	REV JAROSLAW NOWAK, SP	MEN	133	192	259	143	117	192	452	201	653	653	1	
2	JOLANTA NOWAK, SPO	WOMEN	87	120	233	120	91	102	313	339	652	652	2	
3	MIKE MLUDZIK, SPO	MEN	126	167	241	167	114	144	425	222	647	647	3	
4	FR JASON SOLTYSIAK, SP	MEN	156	190	234	133	190	190	513	132	645	645	4	
5	SUZANNE SNIEZEK, SPO	WOMEN	147	174	227	148	174	157	479	159	638	638	5	
6	ARTIE GOLEMBESKI JR, S	MEN	213	235	235	226	235	174	635		635	635	6	
7	GREG FILIPOWICZ, SPO	MEN	122	145	223	140	145	116	401	234	635	635	6	
8	ROBERT BILINSKI, SPO	MEN	185	223	238	180	177	223	580	45	625	625	8	
9	DENISE CATHRO, SPO	WOMEN	63	113	250	27	113	73	213	411	624	624	9	
10	CHRISTINE BILINSKI, SP	WOMEN	118	139	221	114	116	139	369	246	615	615	10	
11	RAY BIELSKI, SPO	MEN	140	189	249	131	189	112	432	180	612	612	11	
12	KATHY CHOCKLEY, SPO	WOMEN	116	135	219	113	111	135	359	252	611	611	12	
13	JOHN SNIEZEK, SPO	MEN	169	183	214	151	170	183	504	93	597	597	13	
14	NICK KAZINETZ, SPO	MEN	138	165	227	126	165	115	406	186	592	592	14	
15	JACK WALL JR, SPO	MEN	98	108	210	90	108	87	285	306	591	591	15	
16	BEVERLY BASINSKI, SPO	WOMEN	137	138	201	138	136	125	399	189	588	588	16	
17	NICK SOLTYSIAK, SPO	MEN	122	141	219	123	141	90	354	234	588	588	16	
18	CINDY PECYNSKI, SPO	WOMEN	154	171	217	132	171	137	440	138	578	578	18	
19	CAROL SEMBERTOVICH, SP	WOMEN	138	148	210	123	148	121	392	186	578	578	18	
20	VITO M. GERARDI JR, SP	MEN	145	144	199	144	135	130	409	165	574	574	20	
21	BP JOHN MACK, SPO	MEN	187	194	207	163	177	194	534	39	573	573	21	
22	ANDREW HUMPHREYS, SPO	MEN	167	170	203	142	170	158	470	99	569	569	22	
23	DONNA LEE COLLYER, SPO	WOMEN	105	101	196	97	71	101	269	285	554	554	23	
24	CHESTER WALESKI, SPO	MEN	98	105	207	105	66	64	235	306	541	541	24	
25	CHRISTINE GICZKOWSKI,	WOMEN	143	140	197	132	140	98	370	171	541	541	24	
26	LARRY CHOCKLEY, SPO	MEN	108	101	193	101	72	88	261	276	537	537	26	
27	CHRIS FILIPOWICZ, SPO	WOMEN	121	179	258	119	179		298	237	535	535	27	
28	DAVE PECYNSKI, SPO	MEN	175	161	186	144	161	151	456	75	531	531	28	
29	LINDA BIELSKI, SPO	WOMEN	119	105	186	80	105	83	268	243	511	511	29	

Doubles - Scratch Result

	Team Name	r	Div	Avg	High Game	Game -1-	Game -2-	Game -3-	Total	Scr Total	Place
1	A. GOLEMBESKI JR/V. GERARDI JR		DIV01	358	378	315	378	349	1042	1042	1
2	S. SNIEZEK/J. SNIEZEK		DIV01	316	378	351	378	301	1030	1030	2
3	R. NOWAK/R. BILINSKI		DIV01	318	321	319	294	321	934	934	3
4	C. GICZKOWSKI/D. PECYNSKI		DIV01	318	334	242	334	274	850	850	4
5	F. WALSH/B. MACK		DIV01	288	320	274	320	239	833	833	5
6	J. MCJURY/B. BASINSKI		DIV01	250	300	229	295	300	824	824	6
7	N. KAZINETZ/A. HUMPHREYS		DIV01	305	319	258	319	244	821	821	7
8	C. BILINSKI/C. PECYNSKI		DIV01	272	327	228	233	327	788	788	8
9	L. WALESKI/C. SEMBERTOVICH		DIV01	248	251	227	251	237	715	715	9
10	G. FILIPOWICZ/L. CHOCKLEY		DIV01	230	275	204	208	275	687	687	10
11	F. SOLTYSIAK/N. SOLTYSIAK		DIV01	278	258	258	207	185	650	650	11
12	C. WALESKI/R. BIELSKI		DIV01	238	227	227	194	222	643	643	12
13	K. CHOCKLEY/D. COLLYER		DIV01	221	220	206	216	220	642	642	13
14	J. WALL JR/M. MLUDZIK		DIV01	224	226	226	196	215	637	637	14
15	J. NOWAK/C. FILIPOWICZ		DIV01	208	231	192	210	231	633	633	15
16	D. CATHRO/L. BIELSKI		DIV01	182	203	187	189	203	579	579	16

Doubles - Handicap Result

	Team Name	Div	Avg	High Game	HDCP Game	Game -1-	Game -2-	Game -3-	Total	HDCP Total	Series HDCP	HDCP Total	Place
1	S. SNIEZEK/J. SNIEZEK	DIV01	316	378	462	351	378	301	1030	252	1282	1282	1
2	J. MCJURY/B. BASINSKI	DIV01	250	300	450	229	295	300	824	450	1274	1274	2
3	D. CATHRO/L. BIELSKI	DIV01	182	203	421	187	189	203	579	654	1233	1233	3
4	J. NOWAK/C. FILIPOWICZ	DIV01	208	231	423	192	210	231	633	576	1209	1209	4
5	A. GOLEMBESKI JR/V. GERARDI JR	DIV01	358	378	433	315	378	349	1042	165	1207	1207	5
6	G. FILIPOWICZ/L. CHOCKLEY	DIV01	230	275	445	204	208	275	687	510	1197	1197	6
7	R. NOWAK/R. BILINSKI	DIV01	318	321	403	319	294	321	934	246	1180	1180	7
8	K. CHOCKLEY/D. COLLYER	DIV01	221	220	399	206	216	220	642	537	1179	1179	8
9	C. BILINSKI/C. PECYNSKI	DIV01	272	327	455	228	233	327	788	384	1172	1172	9
10	L. WALESKI/C. SEMBERTOVICH	DIV01	248	251	403	227	251	237	715	456	1171	1171	10
11	F. WALSH/B. MACK	DIV01	288	320	432	274	320	239	833	336	1169	1169	11
12	J. WALL JR/M. MLUDZIK	DIV01	224	226	402	226	196	215	637	528	1165	1165	12
13	C. WALESKI/R. BIELSKI	DIV01	238	227	389	227	194	222	643	486	1129	1129	13
14	N. KAZINETZ/A. HUMPHREYS	DIV01	305	319	414	258	319	244	821	285	1106	1106	14
15	C. GICZKOWSKI/D. PECYNSKI	DIV01	318	334	416	242	334	274	850	246	1096	1096	15
16	F. SOLTYSIAK/N. SOLTYSIAK	DIV01	278	258	380	258	207	185	650	366	1016	1016	16



(Continued on Page 16.)

(74th Annual Y.M.S. of R./P.N.C.C. Bowling Tournament Results - Continued from Page 15.)

All Events 9 Games - Handicap Result

	Bowler Name	r	Div	Avg	Event S	Event D	Event T	Total	HDCP Total	Series HDCP	HDCP Total	Place
1	JOHN SNIEZEK SPO		DIV01	169	504	533	626	1663	279	1942	1942	1
2	GREG FILIPOWICZ SPO		DIV01	122	401	357	463	1221	702	1923	1923	2
3	JOLANTA NOWAK SPO		DIV02	87	313	304	266	883	1017	1900	1900	3
4	BEVERLY BASINSKI SPO		DIV02	137	399	479	454	1332	567	1899	1899	4
5	SUZANNE SNIEZEK SPO		DIV02	147	479	497	420	1396	477	1873	1873	5
6	MIKE MLUDZIK SPO		DIV01	126	425	344	415	1184	666	1850	1850	6
7	DENISE CATHRO SPO		DIV02	63	213	227	173	613	1233	1846	1846	7
8	ARTIE GOLEMBESKI JR SP		DIV01	213	635	608	589	1832		1832	1832	8
9	CHRISTINE BILINSKI SPO		DIV02	118	369	409	313	1091	738	1829	1829	9
10	REV JAROSLAW NOWAK SPO		DIV01	133	452	385	368	1205	603	1808	1808	10
11	NICK KAZINETZ SPO		DIV01	138	406	403	427	1236	558	1794	1794	11
12	FR JASON SOLTYSIAK SPO		DIV01	156	513	396	475	1384	396	1780	1780	12
13	RAY BIELSKI SPO		DIV01	140	432	367	437	1236	540	1776	1776	13
14	VITO GERARDI JR SPO		DIV01	145	409	434	433	1276	495	1771	1771	14
15	JACK WALL JR SPO		DIV01	98	285	293	270	848	918	1766	1766	15
16	CHESTER WALESKI SPO		DIV01	98	235	276	314	825	918	1743	1743	16
17	KATHY CHOCKLEY SPO		DIV02	116	359	341	287	987	756	1743	1743	16
18	ROBERT BILINSKI SPO		DIV01	185	580	549	478	1607	135	1742	1742	18
19	LARRY CHOCKLEY SPO		DIV01	108	261	330	284	875	828	1703	1703	19
20	DAVE PECYNSKI SPO		DIV01	175	456	460	542	1458	225	1683	1683	20
21	CHRISTINE GICZKOWSKI S		DIV02	143	370	390	392	1152	513	1665	1665	21
22	LINDA BIELSKI SPO		DIV02	119	268	352	311	931	729	1660	1660	22
23	ANDREW HUMPHREYS SPO		DIV01	167	470	418	474	1362	297	1659	1659	23
24	DONNA LEE COLLYER SPO		DIV02	105	269	301	233	803	855	1658	1658	24
25	CINDY PECYNSKI SPO		DIV02	154	440	379	424	1243	414	1657	1657	25
26	CHRIS FILIPOWICZ SPO		DIV02	121	298	329	393	1020	632	1652	1652	26
27	CAROL SEMBERTOVICH SPO		DIV02	138	392	350	344	1086	558	1644	1644	27
28	NICK SOLTYSIAK SPO		DIV01	122	354	254	326	934	702	1636	1636	28
29	BP JOHN MACK SPO		DIV01	187	534	519	454	1507	117	1624	1624	29
30	FR TOM WALSH		DIV01	101	XXX	314	305	619	594	1213	1213	30
31	LORRAINE WALESKI SPO		DIV02	110		365	304	669	540	1209	1209	31
32	JANICE MCJURY SPO		DIV02	113		345	336	681	522	1203	1203	32
33	PAUL KAZINETZ SPO		DIV01	125	XXX	XXX	407	407	225	632	632	33
34	JOHN LEWANDOWSKI		DIV01	89	XXX	XXX	269	269	333	602	602	34
35	ROSE KAZINETZ SPO		DIV02	80	XXX	XXX	241	241	360	601	601	35
36	JOHN SHANDROWSKI		DIV01	97	XXX	XXX	292	292	309	601	601	35
37	JESSICA KAZINETZ SPO		DIV02	96	XXX	XXX	288	288	312	600	600	37
38	HEATHER KAZINETZ SPO		DIV02	94	XXX	XXX	282	282	318	600	600	37
39	WANDA STASH SPO		DIV02	95	XXX	XXX	285	285	315	600	600	37
40	BLANK3 BLANK3		DIV01	200	XXX	XXX	600	600		600	600	37
41	BLANK BLANK NJ		DIV02	200	XXX	XXX	600	600		600	600	37
42	BLANK6 BLANK6		DIV02	200	XXX	XXX	600	600		600	600	37
43	BLANKCT BLANKCT		DIV01	200	XXX	XXX	600	600		600	600	37
44	ROB SHANDROWSKI		DIV01	92	XXX	XXX	275	275	324	599	599	44
45	PRIME BISHOP MIKOVSKY		DIV01	141	XXX	XXX	394	394	177	571	571	45
46	BLANK1 BLANK1		DIV01	200	XXX	XXX	XXX					46
47	BLANK2 BLANK2		DIV01	200	XXX	XXX	XXX					46
48	AIDAN DAVIOULT		DIV01	135	XXX	XXX	XXX					46
49	NATALIE KAZINETZ		DIV02	129	XXX	XXX	XXX					46
50	BLANK4 BLANK4		DIV02	200	XXX	XXX	XXX					46
51	BLANK5 BLANK5		DIV01	200	XXX	XXX	XXX					46



A Short History of the Life and Struggles of Bishop Francis Hodur – Part 1

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

This 88-page book has a Preface, Comments from Bishop Francis Hodur’s writings, 14 chapters, a Peroration, an Appendix, an Appeal and a short paragraph written by Bishop Francis Hodur titled *Remember!* This article will be about the first seven chapters. The other seven chapters will be in a subsequent review.

Preface:

“This book presents a living portrait preserving the full realism of the facts regarding the work of Bishop Francis Hodur and his co-workers, and their struggle with the elements which tried to imprison and enslave various sections of the Polish population in the United States. The material for this publication has been taken from church records and the newspapers.

The author has tried to grasp this history of a viral struggle for freedom of the soul in a clear and straight forward manner accessible to all readers

The latter years of Bishop Hodur’s activities have been generally touched upon, because they concern the present.”

We Confess:

In this section, the opening says that the founding of free religious institutions in the United States provided the opportunity for the Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.) to come into existence and flourish. Rev. Bolesław Bąk said *“Therefore, it follows that we are justified in placing the principles of the Declaration of Independence on an everlasting pinnacle alongside the laws of Jesus Christ pronounced on the Mount of Gelboim (Olives).”* He also said *“We believe with all our being that God created the Polish National Catholic Church so that it might be the source of truth and sound faith; the guardian of the oppressed, and the harbor of all who, in seeking the Highest Being are seeking the goal of their life on earth and of their life beyond earth.”*

Chapter 1: Early Years.

This chapter tells of the birth of Francis Hodur on April 1, 1866 in Zarki, Poland and of his early schooling in Zarki and Krakow. The four grade school in Zarki was closed because of a misunderstanding between the teachers and a Roman Catholic Priest. At age 10, it reopened, giving him an opportunity to begin his education. By age 13, he decided to go to Krakow to enter high school. Being poor, he struggled with earning money for school and living expenses by tutoring younger boys. He graduated with honors from High School in 1889. Francis Hodur then enrolled as a theological student at the University of Krakow. While there, he studied the Polish authors, Julius Slowacki and Adam Mickiewicz as well as studying the great reformers of the world and the causes and histories of social revolutions. He also participated in the evening debates of patriotic youth organizations. These activities were frowned upon by the Austrian Government, the Roman Catholic clergy and the Polish nobility. Francis Hodur’s name was removed from the list of students in Roman Catholic Theology; his seminary studies in Poland came to an end.

Chapter 2: Voyage to America.

This chapter talks about the migration of Poles from all three regions of partitioned Poland; Francis Hodur was among them. He realized that his opportunities were going to be as limited in Poland as they were for Rev. Stanisław Stojałowski and Ignacy Daszynski. He came by the lowest cost ship, a freighter. Landing at Ellis Island, he underwent a medical exam. A person who had someone who would guarantee his independence and furnish him with work was then allowed to leave the island; however, since he had no friends or relatives in America, he did not leave. Francis wrote a letter to the editorial staff of *Kurjer*, a Polish newspaper, explaining who he was and where he was located. The letter came to the attention of Rev. B. Gramlewicz, rector of the Nanticoke, PA Roman Catholic Church parish. He sent Rev. A. Zychowicz, his assistant, to bring Francis Hodur to Nanticoke. Rev. Gramlewicz requested of Bishop O’Hara, Bishop of the Scranton Diocese, that Francis Hodur be accepted at one of the Roman Catholic seminaries. He was accepted at St. Vincent’s Roman Catholic Seminary, Betty, PA. After a few

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(A Short History of the Life and Struggles of Bp. Francis Hodur - Continued from Page 17.)

months of intensive study, Francis passed all of the examinations and was ordained in the priesthood, at 27 years of age, on August 19, 1893, by Bishop O'Hara. He was assigned to be the assistant to a Scranton Polish Roman Catholic parish, then to a Slovak Roman Catholic parish, and finally to be the curate of the Polish Roman Catholic parish in Nanticoke, PA. He was an active priest, administering to the needs of the people in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ, while organizing activities for the people and publishing a newspaper. He became well known in the coal region and counseled people in the rectory in Nanticoke.

Chapter 3: The Peoples' Struggle for Freedom of Ideals.

The industriousness and devotion to religion saw the newly immigrant Poles organizing a great number of parishes, building beautiful churches, schools and shelters. However, to solidify control of their parishioners, the Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church at the 1883 Baltimore Synod passed a resolution giving title to all church buildings, schools and property to the Diocesan Bishops. Priests could also be removed at the whim of the Bishop without a canonical trial. *"If, sometimes, they lost patience and started an uprising, the priests and bishops would call the police and they would quickly bring about order. They were denied the right to assemble in protest before their own churches, because the bishop had the title to the buildings."* Parish uprisings took place in Chicago, IL, Cleveland, OH, Detroit, MI, Buffalo, NY and Scranton, PA. In Scranton, a Parish Committee sent a letter to Bishop O'Hara to inform the bishop of their grievances saying that if the conditions were not improved, the situation would lead to serious conflict. His response was *"Very Well!"*

On a Sunday in October 1896, the people tried to prevent Father Aust, the priest, from entering the church, because they felt that he was unworthy of conducting a mass. Police then began to assault the people, a riot ensued. Nine people were arrested. The disaffected people began thinking of building a new church. *"Bishop O'Hara agreed to this and even consented to bless the cornerstone, as if wanting to atone for the wrong which had come to them. In the end, however, he definitely refused to give his blessing."* The Committee then went to Rev. Hodur at the Nanticoke parish for counsel.

Chapter 4: A New Road.

"After listening to their complaints and sorrows", Rev. Hodur advised them to continue to build the church and sign it over to the people. They returned to Scranton, continued to build the church and named it Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr. They also began a search for a priest who would continue the work; there were several priests in the area who were interested. Father Hodur was the unanimous choice of the Committee to invite. He accepted and on March 14, 1897, when the parish greeted him on his arrival, he said *"We will go forth without fear. The laws of the people are stronger and holier than the privileges of bishops and priests, so the Almighty God will intercede on your behalf. He, Who is the source of truth and all laws, will lead you to ultimate victory. Remember that I stand here before you without the knowledge or the will of the bishop. For that I will be excommunicated and persecuted, but I am not afraid of any excommunication or any punishment."* The 400 people in attendance were moved by his words and vowed to continue their fight. On the following Sunday, Bishop Hoban went to the Roman Catholic parish of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary and publically suspended Rev. Hodur and threatened his followers with horrible punishments in Hell. Several Jesuit Priests also arrived in Scranton; they gave religious gifts and made threats, to no avail. This act was followed by the publication of a paper called *"Przeгляд (Review)"* which reviled Rev. Hodur and his followers. To counter the attacks in *Przeгляд*, Rev. Hodur established his own weekly newspaper *"Straż (The Guard)"* in April 1897.

Chapter 5: Rome Is Deaf to Pleas and Entreaties

Rev. Hodur went to Rome to obtain leniency on behalf of Polish people in America. He had with him a petition signed by 5,000 wronged Polish immigrants. *"The documents which he carried, contained three basic proposals: (1) That ecclesiastical estates should be the property of those Polish parishes that built and support them; (2) That each parish be allowed to select a parish committee without the intervention of the Bishop and Curate; (3) That the Bishops should not assign a priest as curate of a parish without the consent of the people."* Before he went to Rome, he visited Poland and met with Rev. Stojałowski who advised him to first visit Rev. O. Cormier, the Papal Almoner. Rev. O. Cormier passed the petition on to Cardinal Ledochowski, the Propa-

ganda Prefect of the Faith. The Cardinal announced that the petition definitely could not be complied with. He also said that *“The rules passed at the Baltimore Synod and approved by his Holiness the Pope, Leo XIII apply to all Catholics without exception. Who listens to them and abides by them is a member of the church; who does not is an outcast of the church. So the Pope will do nothing for the Poles.”* Rev. Hodur took a circuitous route back to the United States because he was warned about a possible kidnapping. On March 13, 1898, after his return to Scranton, he reported to the parish on his mission to Rome. He asked them whether the rules passed at the Baltimore Synod were reasonable and if they could serve God and live happily as Poles and Christians. If so, he would notify the Roman Catholic bishop; but he would never return to Rome. The congregation said, three times, *“We will not return!”* Bishops O’Hara and Hoban proceeded to excommunicate Rev. Hodur and his followers. The excommunication document was read and explained from the pulpit by Rev. Hodur; after which he burned it and threw the ashes into a nearby creek. In an effort to break the spirit of the followers of Rev. Hodur, the Roman Catholic bishops had the excommunication document read from every pulpit and had the bells of every parish tolled. A storm of criticism then fell on the members of the P.N.C.C.; they were spat upon, had mud and stones thrown at them. They were refused work in mines and factories. *“All was being done at the instigation of the Roman Catholic Bishops and priests in the name of Christ our Lord and his Holy Church. By brutal force, lies and fanatical hatred they tried to sweep away from the city of Scranton those, who revered the truth and desired to remain free.”*

Chapter 6: Death in the Offing

“With Truth, Work and Struggle — We Will Be Victorious. The Slogan of the National Church”

This chapter starts with this statement, *“In those days the energies of the majority of the Polish Roman Catholic Priests were directed toward wealth; and in the mitres of Bishops. Christ’s Gospel of love, goodness, and justice ceased to be the theme of the preachers’ sermon.”* Rev. Hodur did not fit this mold; he left the Roman Catholic Church and organized the P.N.C.C. His followers were stirred to greater efforts by Rev. Hodur’s excommunication. The rest of the chapter relates what happened in the Roman Catholic parishes. Priests exhorted their pa-

rishioners to *“drive off Hodur’s heretics like mad dogs. He instructed that they throw stones if any of the heretics came to them hungry. If they should ask for a glass of water, give them poison.”* In another parish, the priest announced that a certain woman was possessed by the devil. *“He announced further that on Whitsuntide, the Jesuits would preach sermons, and after the High Mass, there would be held, in front of the church, an exorcism of the stricken woman.”* In the sermon, the Jesuit said that the Pope Leo XIII was given the Keys of Saint Peter in an unbroken chain. After the sermon, the local pastor asked of his parish, *“From whom does Hodur have the power of the Key, since they were taken away from him by Bishops O’Hara and Hoban? Therefore, his absolutions, his Masses and his blessings are not valid. Whoever breaks away from the Pope, breaks away from God, because the Pope is His successor on earth!”* A shout called out *“That is not true!”* The exorcism attempt then began. During and after these medieval prayers the woman did not even quiver, the prayers were read again. The woman stood like a statue. *“The priests exchanged glances of apprehension and the host turned to the surprised and mislead throngs of pious men and women and stated: ‘Tomorrow we will finish the ceremony.’ But the ceremony was never completed.”*

Chapter 7: Victory Of Truth

In addition to his pastoral duties, Rev. Hodur was the missionary for the new National Church; he gave speeches in neighboring communities and *“sheltered the people from the malice of the spiteful and prejudiced — from the strong, who would injure the weak.”* In addition he published the *Straz* newspaper. The National Church was attacked daily by Roman Catholic Priests and editors and also by Socialists. *“In the meantime, lively episodes were taking place in the neighboring Polish Roman Catholic parishes.”* The pastor in Duryea carried a gun while visiting the homes of parishioners to collect money for the church. Actions such as these caused the people in Duryea to follow the Scranton example; they began to organize a free church. On March 4, 1898, the Roman Catholic priest ordered the people to pray that the adherents of the National Church return to the Roman Catholic church. A courageous man arose and shouted *“Fellowmen, let us pray that God have mercy on us and free us from the Roman bishops, return to us our churches and give us Polish bishops.”* The

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Spójnia Farm “90 for 90” Campaign

by Stacey Crispino Shrive

The 90 for 90 Campaign has seen a lot of success the first 6 months of the year. Thank you to all of those who have generously donated. This month's article will be short, but next month we will have an update from Kurs 2019 and the Independence Day Celebration at Spójnia Farm. Some campers will tell you about their recent experience. We have 5 months left to keep collecting donations and keep pushing closer to our goal. Thank you again to all of our donors and supporters.

90 for 90 Campaign Donors June 2019

Silver Circle donors \$500 or more

Prime Bishop Anthony and Carol Mikovsky
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Kara Francis
Branch 73 YMS of R ,Holy Cross Parish Hamtramck MI- Held a Pancake Breakfast donating all proceeds
Transfiguration of our Lord Parish, Wallington NJ
Rev. Fr. & Mrs. Carmen G. Bolock -In loving memory of the departed Bolock and Harvilicz Families



**Continuing Anglican G4 Churches – Polish National Catholic Dialogue Meeting
Holy Mother of the Rosary P.N.C.C. Cathedral in Lancaster, NY June 18-19, 2019**



Front: Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky (P.N.C.C.); Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Co-Chairman (P.N.C.C.); Bishop Paul Hewett, Co-Chairman (Diocese of the Holy Cross); Bishop Chandler Jones (Anglican Province of America); Bishop Brian Marsh (Anglican Church in America).

Back: Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich Jr. (P.N.C.C.); Fr. Christian Tutor (Anglican Church in America); Bishop John Mack (P.N.C.C.); Bishop Stephen Strawn (Anglican Church in America); Rev. Canon Jonathan Foggin (Anglican Catholic Church); Rev. John Kowalczyk (P.N.C.C.); Rev. Henryk Wos (P.N.C.C.) and Rev. Canon Patrick Fodor (Anglican Church in America).



Central Diocese

The Altar of Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God at Sacred Heart of Jesus-Holy Cross, P.N.C.C.

New York Mills, NY



Altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God

The Sculpture carved by the Very Rev. Walter Madej, Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus-Holy Cross, P.N.C.C., New York Mills, NY.
Unveiled and Dedicated on Sunday, May 26, 2019

In early June 2018 I approached a very special and privileged time in my life when I began creating the sculpture that would speak the biblical story about the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God - an altar in her honor - which would be permanently installed at the right side in our church at Sacred Heart of Jesus—Holy Cross Parish in New York Mills, NY. This Project also included designing and re-opening the original emergency door, next to this new Altar, so that it would become part of the sculpture composition.

From the very beginning of this project I realized how my vulnerability, human weakness and shortages were blocking the driving energy in the carving process. With each stroke I slowly moved forward to

unleash the emerging metaphor of the biblical story of the “Woman Full Of Grace” in the History of Salvation. The incredible “drive of flow” in the carving process was telling me to direct the light toward the horizons in the Old Testament and the New Testament stories of the amazing mystery of the “Woman Full of Grace,” the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

The selected panels of cherry & oak were gradually becoming turned into the biblical metaphor speaking its voice, in deeper and deeper melodies, from the Old and New Testament, about the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Bible Story of the “Woman Full of Grace” begins “In the Garden” immediately after the Human



Fall into sin. The Book of Genesis 3:14-15 communicates God's Voice: *"The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this . . . I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed, he shall strike your head, and you shall strike his heel'."*

When looking at the right and left side of the lower part of the carved altar, one senses a feeling of that garden, where a dimmed purple-blue light travels through many shattered pieces of wood glued together into a panel and then carved as a metaphor for the echo of the "Lost Garden," like a broken mirror giving a nostalgic sound of longing to those glorious days turned into a tragic void, by human free will to consume bitter fruits from the "Tree of Disobedience and Evil," instead of pursuing the immortal fruits of the "Tree of Eternal Life."

But God the Father never stopped searching for ways of bringing the human family back to the "Garden." *"Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where Are You?' So he said, 'I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.'"* (Genesis 3:9-10) - God's searching voice echoes until now....

The Echo of God's longing Voice "Where Are You?" leaves a nostalgic trace on every page of the Bible, of which several metaphoric expressions I attempted to capture in carving inside the lower section of this altar:

- The White Flame in "Burning Bush" (Exodus 3: 2 } symbolizing the "Presence of the Lord" in directing the exodus from slavery to the promised land. The white flame having power to split waters of the sea into the dry passage of exodus.
- God's Promise heralded "the rising Easter sun" by the "White Dove" above roaring waters of deluge during Noah's time.
- The altar floor has a 12-point star as the metaphor of the Messiah's birthplace, the Bethlehem manger.
- The biblical words from Isaiah, *"The People who walked in Darkness have seen a Great Light"*.

All these hand carving suggestions metaphorically speak the bible language of God's New Covenant, the Gift of Salvation, which God brings to His people in the Birth of Jesus Christ the Savior, born *"by the Ho-*

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(The Altar of BVM of God - Continued from Page 23.)

ly Spirit and of the Virgin.” In this Gift of Salvation God chooses “the Woman Full of Grace” to play the “Key Role” in bringing that “Great Light” to “People of Good Will.” Her words to the Angel Gabriel: “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word,” (Luke 1:38), opens the door for “The Great Light” to enter into the Human History. Her “Let it be as the Lord wants,” (in Latin: “Fiat”), begins the New Testament, or New Covenant toward “the New Heaven and New Earth.”

This carving of this altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, “The woman full of grace,” created by my hands for this church, is my humble attempt of honoring the mother of my Lord, Jesus, Christ, the Messiah, and humbly asking for her intercessions.

The upper carving of the Altar continues to speak the Story of “A Great Light.”



That “Great Light,” like the rising sun, emerges on the horizon of the earth, giving hope for all things new. New Life! New Beginning! New Hope! “the New Heaven and the New Earth.” The center carving shows the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, the Woman Full of Grace, in her sacred pregnancy. She comes forth with the “White Flame of Exodus,” as “The Ark of New Covenant.” (Ref. to the Old Testament Biblical story of the “Ark of the Covenant” with Flame in Front of Exodus that the people of Israel carried toward the Promised Land).

She is “Dressed in the Sun” embracing in Adoration the Infant Baby of Her Womb. The engraved Biblical Words: “And Blessed is the Fruit of Your Womb” (Luke 1:42) intentionally situated at Her knees as a prayer, more than a message, proclaiming the Mystery of Human Life, created by God. *And Be-*

hold! – as the Very Sacred Gift of Life From the Beginning of Its Conception! This carved metaphor speaks loudly and penetrates deep into the core of people’s hearts for all generations. It may intend to lead further with its message suggesting this earth in perpetual pregnancy, and in Agony of Delivery of the Mystery of Human Life, and in birth bringing forth its “fruits of the womb,” born of the Holy Spirit and of Human “Fiat.”

The last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation 12: 1-9, 13 gave me the explicit direction to carve this portion of the Altar, the vision of the “Woman Full of Grace In the Rising Sun,” the vision which moved me very deeply every time I approached the carving: - “And a great portent appeared in heaven, a Woman Clothed With the Sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars, she was with child and she cried out in her pangs of birth in anguish for delivery...”

That “Great Light,” “The Rising Sun,” and the “Pregnant Virgin” carries its spotlight into the center point: The Infant Baby “Jesus Christ the Son of the Most High” in the Womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God! - She embraces the Infant Baby, the Fruit of Her Womb, in Adoration and Love. This generates in Her Immaculate Heart the Fullness of God’s Grace. The gesture of Her extended right hand gives the feeling of “Igniting the Earth” with the “Light of the World” Who is Jesus Christ the Messiah, - and of inviting All Children of God on this Earth to embrace “Him,” and walk, not in Darkness, but in that “Great Light” on the wonderful journey to the fullness of life - “the Resurrection and Life Everlasting.”

On the right side of the carving of the Pregnant Blessed Virgin Mary I placed the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Child Jesus on the carved podium and above the crown carving as the votum of honor. The parish purchased this statue in the ‘70s and it was the center of the previous Altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and now on the new Altar Composition this statue is a new metaphor that speaks the new message to the people.

Above the carving door in the carved niche the Icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary the Lady of Czestochowa” has been permanently set in as “the Pilgrim’s Icon”. There is a pilgrim’s story behind this antique icon. A lady parishioner in her 90s, shortly before her passing away, had brought the

Family Icon of Blessed Virgin Mary the Lady of Czestochowa, (“Obraz Matki Bozej Czestochowskiej”) to me, Pastor of the parish, with the request of keeping the Icon, for she was afraid her young generation family may get rid of it through a garage sale, or throw it away. I couldn’t believe the words I heard her speaking.



She told me the story about how her grandmother, as a young girl at age of 10, was sent by her parents to America, the “New and Better World,” so she could have a “better” life. Boarding that child of 10 years old on the ship, her parents gave her the Icon with these words as a farewell: “Niech Cie ta Matka Najswietsza Czestochowska prowadzi bezpiecznie w ten nowy swiat”,-“ *May this Icon of Blessed Mother the Lady of Czestochowa protect you in the new world*”. For three generations this Icon did the protecting mission in the Family, until her surrender when facing her own death and the uncertainties of what might happen to her Family Religious Treasure.

From the first day the Icon was placed on the Altar in the church. The Bishop, when visiting the Parish, blessed and named this Icon “The Pilgrim’s Icon”. Now in this new Altar “The Pilgrim’s Icon” found a permanent place of Honor to continue the “mission” of its Pilgrimage in the “New World” of protecting the pilgrims.

The Pilgrim’s Icon, located in the niche above the door, directs attention to the carved motives on the seven panels of the door, the Story of God Creating the World in seven days. (Genesis 1:1-2:4). The carving of the center panel door, “*Sunday*”, brings to light the final vision of God’s Creation: “*Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it...*” (Genesis 2:3).

There were many “Inspiring Voices” directing me in the carving of this Altar, the way it is presented.

The first impulse in my thinking was, that in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary there was nothing more heavenly and beautiful, then when She, as being pregnant, had been carrying in Her Womb the Baby Messiah, “*the One Who is to Come,*” waited for in this world for so long.

The second enlightening was a conviction, that Her Blessed Pregnancy has inspired, transformed, and encouraged millions of pregnant women throughout many generations with the Creative Light from God the Creator in courageously carrying the “Fruit of the Womb” with Love, Hope, and Faith, as the Miraculous Sacred Human Life.

Another inspiration, which assisted and directed me in my carving time, was through my still fresh memories from my Seminary years in Gdansk, Poland.

In the month of May during my 6 years study time, we, the Seminary Students, had each year one “Majowka Day,” an all-day journey on foot to the village Matemblewo, a 10-mile walk through the hills and forest trails to the little shrine in the forest on the side of the road, up on the hill where there was a shrine of the Pregnant Blessed Virgin Mary. Upon arrival, we sang the Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary, meditated, and had a picnic. Birds of the forest were singing along with us; from the village, some of the residents joined us in singing and for the picnic afterwards. They were telling us stories of many miracles that happened, especially to the young women during their pregnancies. It was a very special day “the Majowka Day,” (the Day of May). That little shrine in Matemblewo village still stands at present, as it was standing 50 years ago, neatly fenced around and richly dressed with fresh flowers. With the exception, that now behind that little old shrine, down deeper in woods, there has been developed a religious campus: the new large brick church, built in the 70s, and the sizable building next to it, the “Dom Samotnej Matki” (Home of Lonely Desperate Mother).

Many times, as the story goes, the nuns running this orphanage home found the infants left behind at the door, or a desperate young pregnant mother knocking at this door begging for assistance at this difficult time. The rejected children found a home there, and

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(The Altar of BVM of God - Continued from Page 25.)

the desperate, helpless pregnant young women found support and help to get their lives back with their precious children.

So, It was a very special privilege and incredible experience for me as I created this altar. There were moments of crossing through many difficulties and uncertainties, numerous stumbling points, and even helpless feelings as if I were going nowhere. I guess, it is a reality of every little or big talent trying to emerge through a thick layer of human vessel and blossom in the light.

When those difficult moments visited me in my studio, I knew it was time to stop working, time to take a rest, and humbly wait for the light and direction to be able to continue on.

Surprisingly, the light and direction kept coming steadily, mostly in the middle of the night.

The moments of excitement and surprises, singing and listening to the inspiring music or biblical stories have filled the carving time and the space of my shop (studio), which is the old shed resembling the poor Bethlehem Manger Shed rather than the working place for an artist.

In conclusion I want to express my deep gratitude to my Lord Jesus Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God for helping me to design, carve, and install this Altar.

From the starting point to the very end the work on this project has been marked with “the touch of the Angels”, I may say at least. Ironically, most of it was coming from the outside of the parish, considering though the parish was benefiting the Altar.

The very first gift of wood for the upper section of this Altar, came from the North Hudson Wood Craft Co of Dolgeville, NY. The Owner of the Company, Mr. Jeff Sliwka, personally delivered the gift donation, the 4 laminated panels of cherry wood, 2” x 28” x 76”, the specified order I made to the Company few months earlier, with an understanding to pay for the order and for delivery. Mr. Jeff Sliwka has donated not only the cost of delivery, but all the 4 panels. The day of that delivery I consider not only “the touch of the Angel” day, it was the day giving me “the wings of the Angel” for my work on a project.

Dear Jeff, I sincerely Thank You! You have donated much more, these panels now carved are “singing” to

the Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God!

My Loving Thank You I want to express to my Immediate Family, and my Friends, for all the support, help, and prayers. Surely, without YOU the work would be impossible to complete.

Thank You! God Bless You All!

Fr. Walter M. Madej, Sculptor



Sketching on the surface to “see” more on the Journey



Crowning of Carvings



First Holy Communion

The P.N.C.C. of Holy Trinity and St. Joseph, Linden, NJ

On Sunday, June 23rd, Nicole Kanu received her First Holy Communion during the 9 a.m. Mass. Father Kość, Pastor, preached the Word of God on the importance of the Eucharist in our lives and personally addressed Nicole. The parish also celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi on this Sunday. The Parish ANS Society treated family and friends with a cake

following mass. Mary A. Gorgol Mietlicki instructed the communion class.

Nicole is the daughter of Dr. Donald and Viktoriya Kanu and the granddaughter of Aloysius and Anastasia Kanu.

Submitted by Michael Mietlicki



Family and friends of Nicole Kanu gather in front of the parish following the service.



Sto Lat! To Sophie Barnes
Holy Cross Parish, Woodland Park, NJ



Holy Cross Church parishioner, Sophie Barnes, recently celebrated her 100th birthday with her family and friends at Holy Cross Parish. Her birth date is April 10, 1919.

Sophie remembers the time when the first Holy Cross Church was built in Paterson, NJ, 93 years ago. She was a member of the parish choir for many years.

We are grateful for her dedication to the Church and parish throughout the years. Having Sophie and her family celebrate her 100th Birthday with the parish will be fondly remembered.

We wish her God's blessing of good health and happiness for many years. Sto Lat! Sto Lat! (100 years! 100 years!)

Submitted by Rev. Joseph Cyman

Sto Lat

Eastern Diocese

Discipleship at the 2019 Eastern Diocesan Acolyte Retreat

Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI

On June 25, 2019, 30 altar servers, clergy and adults from 7 parishes across the Eastern Diocese gathered at Our Saviour's Parish in Woonsocket, Rhode Island for the 8th annual diocesan Acolyte Retreat.

The Retreat began with Mass for Discipleship, celebrated by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski. The Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Sr. Joe Soltysiak, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, Fr. Robert Koerber and

Fr. Henryk Vos. Cleric Justin Daviault assisted Bishop and proclaimed the readings. Fr. Sr. Joe gave the sermon where he focused on how the altar servers can be Jesus to others by living as He lived and taught – by being disciples today. Mentioned was the Westfield parish preparing and serving dinner for 60 at the Westfield Food pantry just the evening before our retreat – discipleship in action.

After some donuts and bagels, the servers gathered for their first presentation on Discipleship. Fr. Sr. Rob spoke about the importance of who they follow in their lives and put forth Jesus as the best example. Our Lord is there for us, knocking at our doors but we need to let Him in and follow Him by living as He taught – a life based on love. For others will know we are Jesus' disciples by the way we love. Everyone recited the words to "I have decided to follow Jesus" and the presentation ended with a song/video from Chris Tomlin: "I Will Follow". An instant classic was Fr. Paul from the video speaking about being a disciple as this puppet resembled a certain other Paul when he was a few years younger :)

An activity on *Discipleship: Following Jesus* was led by Joanne Oliveira. The servers came up with vari-



ous scenarios and ways that they can follow Jesus. They were encouraged to "Do Something," "Right Now" and to "Be the One!"

Serving for Eucharistic Processions was the next presentation given by Fr. Henryk. After some explanation and questions the youth conducted a Eucharistic Procession for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

Everyone then enjoyed some quality time and renewed friendships while enjoying a delicious lunch of some wonderful local Woonsocket pizza. After lunch the altar servers gathered for the final presentation on *Serving for Para-Liturgical Services*. Fr. Robert Koerber gave a hands-on approach as the servers went through the motions for serving at May Devotions – the Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary and Stations of the Cross. After the presentation we went to Walnut Hill Bowl for a great afternoon of bowling.

We then returned to our homes and parishes strengthened in our discipleship and enhanced in our ministry of serving our Lord at His Altar and in His Holy Church. A special thanks to Fr. Henryk Vos and Our Saviour's Parish for again hosting the retreat this year.

Remember: "If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples" (John 13:35) for Jesus is "the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through [Him]" (See John 14:6). Let us be Jesus' disciples today and follow Him always!

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich Diocesan Youth Chaplain



Pre-Convention Committee
 31st General Convention
 Polish National Union of America
 Host District 6

The Polish National Union of America will meet for its 31st General Convention aboard the Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship Allure of the Seas from September 29 to October 6, 2019. District 6 will be hosting this Convention.

More than a traditional "ad book", this year we are celebrating our fraternalism with a virtual scrapbook. The committee invites you to include your greetings, messages, memorials or personal advertisements in this book. Rates for space are as follows:

Full Page	\$100
Half Page	\$ 60
Quarter Page	\$ 30
Patron (text only)	\$ 15

Please send greetings and advertisements along with the enclosed form and check made payable to "PNU DISTRICT 6" to the following address:

PNU Convention Program Book
c/o Christine Wachna
421 South Church Road
Bensenville, IL 60106

The deadline for responding is July 15, 2019. Material received after this deadline cannot be guaranteed for publication. Material can also be emailed to me at pnuofadist6@att.net with a follow up of your check to the above address. We appreciate your prompt response in support of our program book.

In fraternal spirit,

Christine Wachna

Christine Wachna
 Director - District Six
 Polish National Union of America



Pre-Convention Committee
 31st General Convention
 Polish National Union of America
 Host District 6

31st General Convention Scrapbook “Celebrating Fraternalism”

It’s more than a traditional “ad book”. Let’s celebrate our fraternalism with this virtual scrapbook! We encourage you to submit any number of pictures from your District and Branch activities over the years. Be sure to include as many captions and names as possible and indicate which picture(s) are to be included in your purchased space. Actual photos will be returned (if requested).

We would like to purchase the following space:

(8.5 x 11 page size)

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Half Page | \$ 60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter Page | \$ 30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (text only) | \$ 15 |
- Check here if you want your photos to be returned

Contact Name (Please Print): _____

Organization Name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

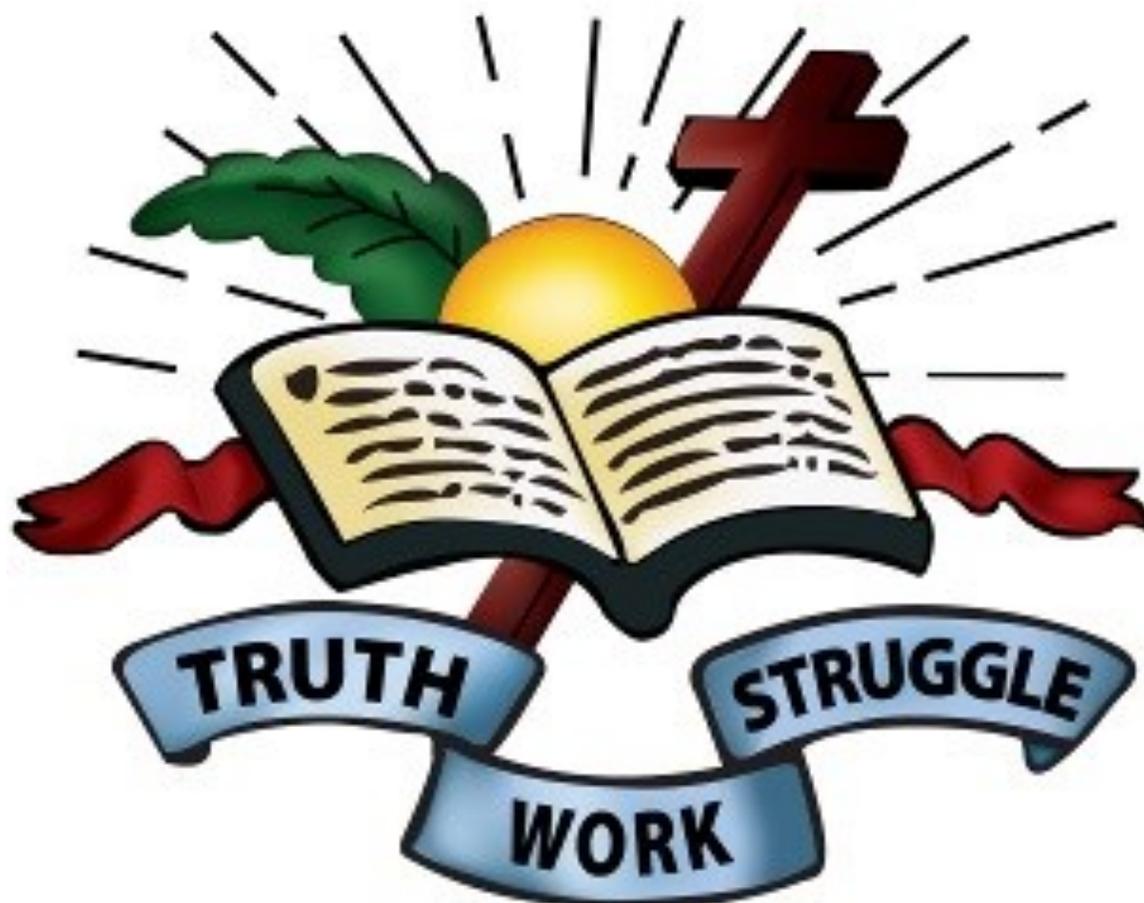
By submitting this request for space in the book, I agree that the Polish National Union of America may use the enclosed photographs for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and web content.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please enclose a copy of your greeting or ad and make checks payable to “PNU DISTRICT 6” and mail to:

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 Bensenville, IL 60106

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(A Short History of the Life and Struggles of Bp. Francis Hodur - Continued from Page 19.)

people prayed in accordance with this man's request. Shortly thereafter they asked Rev. Hodur to present his case. He did and *"In the end, his idea dominated the fear of persecution and excommunication by the Roman Church. In a short time, there arose a National Church in Duryea. A National Church was similarly organized in Dickson City. During an organizational Meeting where Rev. Hodur spoke, a Roman Catholic Priest broke in with a mob of Rosary devotees and cried: "Whoever believes in the Holy Father, follow me." In didn't affect the meeting at all and in 1898, a National Church was built in Dickson City. The text lists other churches that joined the National Church: Baltimore, MD, and Bayonne, NJ. It also said that there were already free, non-Roman Catholic churches in the following cities: Chicopee, MA; Webster, MA; Lowell, MA, Fall River, MA; Buffalo, NY; Chicago, IL; East Chicago, IL; St. Louis, MO; and Duluth, MN. Rev. Hodur moved slowly to rid the National Church of undesirable Roman Catholic practices; two of these were (1) collecting money before people entered the church and (2) the*

system of private confession with cards [these were sold by Priests around Easter.] "After discussing the matter with the people, Rev. Hodur abolished these 'Roman Catholic ideas.'" At a church meeting in Scranton on December 16, 1900, Rev. Hodur said "Every nation has its treasure given by God; thus it should always turn its eyes and hearts to this treasure. Such a treasure for us, among other things, is our beautiful Polish language." The Straż announced that the Christmas Midnight Mass in 1900 would be read for the first time in the Polish language.

I urge you to read this book several times. Each time will add more to be learned from it. It relates the life of the organizer of the P.N.C.C. and a history of the early days of the church. Reading this book will also bring to life the struggles that your parents and grandparents lived through to make and keep the P.N.C.C. a reality. Keeping a democratic church has never been easy. It needs our constant attention.

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