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Giving Thanks
Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky,
Prime Bishop

During this month of November our thoughts and minds often turn to the topic of thanksgiving. The holiday itself fills much of our thoughts at this time, but unfortunately within our wider culture, the true meaning of this holiday does seem to be slipping away from us. I have noticed on television that, although there are certainly black Friday sales to be had, there is very little mention of the Thanksgiving holiday they follow; and of course these sales only support the most secular aspects of the Christmas season as well, the gift giving.

Maybe the problem is that our culture does not encourage people to consider their dependence on others and especially on God. We are people who have been taught from a very young age to “pull yourself up by your own bootstraps” and we prize one who is a “self-made man or woman.” But if we really give a bit of thought to all of this we will certainly have to recognize that many others have a significant effect on our lives. It certainly may not be the same individuals for each one of us, but that part does not matter. We know there is certainly someone, be it parents, teachers, friends, mentors or many others, who influenced and supported us.

The time of thanksgiving reminds us that we need to be grateful for those who have brought us to the place that we are today. There still might be many things that are not as they should be with our lives, but certainly there are good things that have come through the presence of others. This should also spur

us on to try and accomplish the same for others that we might know or meet. Certainly there are those within our lives or within our circles who might need some help or especially encouragement. It is often those small aspects of encouragement and letting someone know that they are thought of and cared for that can make a great difference.

And of course if we have this sense of gratitude and thankfulness for the people who are around us, then certainly it must be to an even greater degree for the presence of Almighty God Who is constantly within our lives. It is during times like these that I am drawn to the writing of St. Paul on giving thanks, in his letter to the Colossians.

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (Colossians 3:12-17)

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It is good for us to examine this portion of Scripture as it reminds us of the true essence of thankfulness, because oftentimes we only consider it on the most superficial level. When someone might ask us if we are thankful, we would most probably say 'yes', but this thankfulness does not go very deeply. We might only be thankful thinking that most good things are a happy accident as it turned out fortunate for us or someone we love.

But again, true thankfulness goes much deeper. It goes to the level of relationship. St. Paul reminds us of the attitude that we must have which leads to a life of thankfulness, "heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." These aspects of our daily life must be nurtured in order to live and spend our lives with others. Notice also that each of these virtues is directed towards another. We must have compassion for another person, show kindness to another person, be humble in regards to our dealing with others, be gentle to others and show patience with others. Then St. Paul goes a step further, "bear with one another" and "forgive one another." Unfortunately we often think of the word 'bear' here to mean only 'put up with', but again it goes beyond that. 'Bear' means to 'carry and support' showing that we must live our common life more deeply. And an important part of that common life is also forgiveness. St. Paul then goes even one step further, reminding us to 'put on love' and have the 'peace of Christ'. We must also remind ourselves here that the love that is spoken of is the all self-sacrificing love that Christ showed to us in His coming to earth and His sacrificial death.

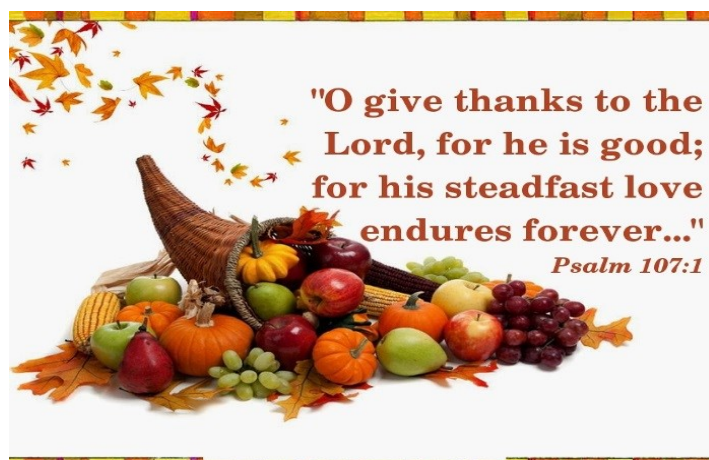
It is then with this attitude that St. Paul finally tells us in quite plain words, "And be thankful." True thankfulness flows from the relationship that we have with Almighty God in our nurturing of the virtues spoken of above. It is then because of this relationship with Almighty God and our Lord, Jesus Christ, we can then seek to have deeper relationships with others.

St. Paul also tells us that this thankfulness should and will then penetrate every aspect of our lives. It is not something that we only take out for a special holiday set apart for thanksgiving. We are called to "teach

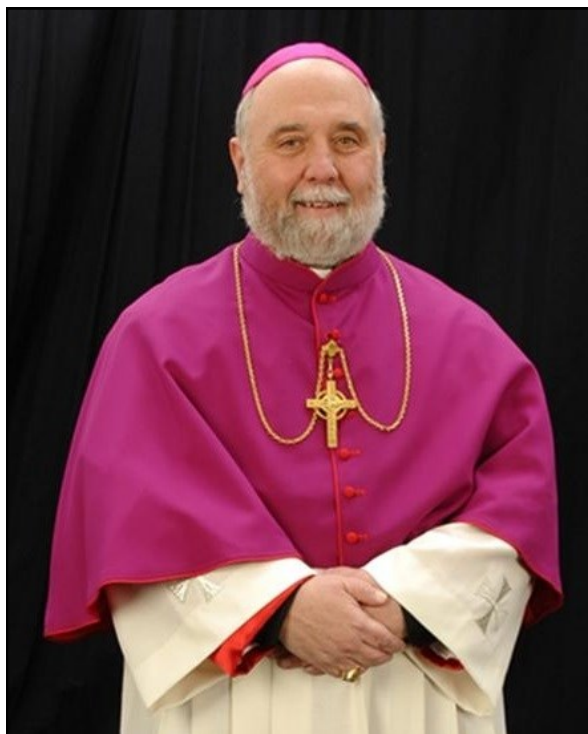
and admonish one another," and to do this, not for one day only, but for a lifetime. And we do this, not as one superior to others in the faith, but rather as one who desires to create an atmosphere where virtues are lived and supported. We are called to sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in our hearts to God. Now certainly we do this when we gather for worship within the Church, but again this goes further. This speaks to an attitude of heart as we go about our everyday life, in fact we know the expression "a song in my heart," to mean an interior joy in someone that shows through in their daily life.

And then lastly we hear the words that most strongly speak to thanksgiving. "And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." We should be motivated in our thoughts, words and actions by our relationship to Jesus Christ and therefore we think and act in His name. We think and act in a way which gives glory, honor and thanks to Almighty God, Who created and sustains us. And because of this relationship to God, we also show thankfulness in helping and encouraging others.

As we approach this national holiday of Thanksgiving, let all of these things be foremost within our hearts and minds. Let's give thanks to God for the many blessings we have received. Let's give thanks to those motivated by love and faith to be a part of our Christian life and Christian formation. But let us also know that this thanks should not only last for a day, but rather be a way of life. Become people of "heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" and as St. Paul says, "And be thankful."



† śp. Rt. Rev. Stanley M. Bilinski



With great sadness, but with strong faith in Christ's triumph over death, we acknowledge the entrance into the eternal rest of the Lord of the Rt. Rev. Stanley M. Bilinski, Jr., Diocesan Bishop of the Western Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church and pastor of All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL on Friday, November 2, 2018, the Commemoration of All Souls.

Bishop Stanley is survived by his wife, Deborah, nee Petrosky, his children, Joshua and Hannah, brothers Charles (Cathy) and Robert (Christine), niece, Lauren and nephews, James, Jake and David. He is preceded in death by his parents, Stanley and Clara (Kronen) Bilinski and his sister, Karolyn Alexis.

Bishop Stanley received his earliest Sacraments at Our Savior on Golgotha Parish in Detroit, MI and attended schools there. He graduated in August 1976 from Wayne State University with a BA in Physics before attending Savonarola Theological Seminary for his studies for ordination. Bishop Stanley also received a MA in Education from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY in 1985.

Bishop Stanley was ordained to the priesthood of Christ on May 2, 1979 in Saint Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA by the Most Rev. Francis Rowinski. Following ordination he served as pastor in St. Francis Parish in Washington, DC from June 1979 to October 1981; Holy Cross Parish in Baltimore, MD from March 1980 to October 1981; St. Augustine Parish in Virginia Beach, VA from June 1980 to October 1981; and Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish in Albany, NY from October 1981 to February 2002. During this time the then Fr. Bilinski oversaw the construction of the new parish church building in Latham, NY. Bishop Stanley then served as pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Schenectady, NY from February 2002 to April 2008; and St. Mary's Parish in Parma, OH from April 2008 to December 2012.

At the Special Synod held in Scranton, PA in 2012 the then Fr. Stanley was elected a candidate for bishop and he, together with Bishop Bernard Nowicki, was consecrated to the episcopacy by Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky on Friday, September 14,

(Continued on bottom of Page 8.)

The Funeral of Bishop Stanley Bilinski

All Saints Cathedral – Chicago, IL

"I am the Resurrection and the Life; those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." - *St. John*

Praise be the Lord Jesus Christ....

Niech Będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus....

Prsese sea el Señor Jesucristo



Prime Bishop Anthony, Bishops, my brothers in the Catholic and Apostolic priesthood, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus our Lord and especially you Debbie, Josh and Hannah and the family of our departed brother, servant and Bishop of the Church ✠ Stanley Bilinski. As we gather here today to celebrate the life of our brother Bishop Stanley, I want to focus for a moment on the words of Jesus from the Entrance Hymn of this Holy Mass from the 11th chapter of St. John where Jesus said: "I am the Resurrection and the Life." It may be in our reading of Scripture or recitation of the creed at Mass weekly that we don't always think about the importance of these words of our Lord that He is the Resurrection and the Life. But we should, for the Resurrection is the center and heart of our faith, it is who we are as our Lord's disciples – we are Easter people – People of the Resurrection. It is in Jesus's Resurrection and His words of the Gospel today – knowing that we are to follow Jesus and in so doing we are not to do our own will but the will of Him who sent Jesus – the will of God the Father in heaven and if we do that - our Lord tells us we will be raised on the last day. Today we find hope, solace and comfort in these word from Jesus. This is the heart of our Christian Catholic Faith that our brother and servant of the Church, Bishop Stanley was baptized into and lived so faithfully throughout his life. As St. Paul tells us in the second reading from his letter to the Romans, we were baptized in Christ's death so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life. That we too might share in the joy of the Resurrection. It is in these words of Holy Scripture that we know our brother Bishop Stan is on his way to that place that God has prepared for him, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

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(Funeral - Continued from Page 5.)

It is our faith in Christ Jesus our Lord and His Resurrection that we bring to mind today at this difficult time when Bishop Stan's earthly pilgrimage has come to an end. A friend, a brother, a mentor to me and so many: Stanley Bilinski had **that strong faith in Christ**, in the Resurrection and in the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I first met Bishop Stan of all places at a National Youth Convocation, Convo 82 here in the Western Diocese in Albion. I remember speaking with him and then playing volleyball with him. As a young teenager I could see how much he loved the Church and cared for the youth. And from that time, I said wow; what a priest.

He was called by God to serve Him as a priest of his church and Bishop Stan followed that call and dedicated his life to Christ and His Holy Church. He didn't follow his will in his life, but patterning his life after Christ's, he followed God's will for him. He served wherever the Church called him from Baltimore and Washington DC to New York, Ohio, Illinois and in between and touched countless lives as a dispenser of the Sacraments - where He as a faithful Catholic Priest and for the past 6 years as a Catholic Bishop, brought the presence and power of Christ to the people that our Lord had entrusted to his spiritual care. He was a vehicle that God used to bring the faithful in touch with the divine; a door to encounter the sacred. He also had the awesome responsibility and privilege of planning and overseeing the construction of a new Church facility in Latham, NY, a beautiful edifice to God's glory built under his pastorate and care. An incredible undertaking that he shared with me and our building committee when we visited there as we were looking to construct a new church facility a few years after he had done that with his people.

The joy he had in serving was so evident at our past Holy Synod just a month ago where he spoke so beautifully about what it meant for him to serve the Church; especially as a bishop conferring the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Orders. The passion he had in sharing those feelings showed so clearly how humbled and privileged he was to serve our Lord and His Holy Church.

As we reflect back over Bishop Stan's life there is so much to be thankful for, so many lives touched, so much work and ministry for the good of the Church accomplished I would be here all day to mention it all. He was so gifted in so many ways and shared those gifts in his service to our Lord, his family, the Church - which was his extended family, his brothers and sisters in the faith. An amazing advocate for our youth, he was our National Youth Chaplain for 36 years...36 years...and he was so excited to serve in that way. The amazing presentations he gave at Convos, Kurs, Youth Retreats and Youth Gatherings. He was cutting edge, bringing the latest technology to our Church through his presentations to our youth. He was able to share the faith in Jesus across so many generations and as the decades changed and youth changed through the years so did Bishop Stan - from the Baby Boomers, to Gen-Xers, Millennials and on. He always made it a priority to attend Youth Workers Conventions to learn new and innovative ways of youth ministry. And he shared that knowledge and wisdom with our Holy Church, not just in his service to the youth but in his countless articles in God's Field about Youth Ministry and being a resource for those who asked. The work he did with our youth was extraordinary! I remember how happy he was when our Church raised enough funds to purchase what was called "an ark of animals" for Heifer International: a group working to end hunger and poverty in our world. This gave animals and food to a community in dire need so that they could use them to produce their own food and improve their quality of life. This was through the NUYA which he served so well - and just to mention another incredible effort we are this very week wrapping up our collections for Operation Christmas Child: an effort of Samaritan's purse to give Christmas gifts to children in extreme poverty and need throughout our world. Just one of many efforts we do because of the leadership of Bishop Stanley. Being Jesus to others, especially those in need. Just with these two examples we see how Bishop lived the Gospel from this past Sunday; showing that love of God and love of neighbor in all that he did.

I can say from personal experience our youth looked up to and adored Bishop Stan. Generations touched in my family: Every Easter Morn for about the past ten years at 4:15 or 4:30 am when I got in the car to drive for Resurrection Mass at my second parish, my son Eric would say, "Dad, I just texted Bishop Stan 'Christ is Risen' ", and of course the response came back a bit later "He is Risen Indeed." Bishop Stan would always mention to me the next time I saw him whether at Council or the National Liturgy meeting: "Well, I knew it was Easter Morn as I got the 'Christ is Risen' text from Eric." And this is not unique to me and my family for I know so many of you

and so many of our youth have had these special moments and interactions with Bishop Stan. He was like a rock star to so many of our youth and I am sure that many middle-aged and younger church members are still faithful and dedicated to our Lord in part because of his love and influence. We see this in the love and respect the Y.M.S. of R. had for him as Bishop Stan supported so many track meets, bowling tournaments and other efforts.

Bishop Stan was a gifted musician and how he used those talents for our Holy Church; his work on the hymnal, Music Commission, and National United Choirs was so impressive - giving praise to God through song and always being a part of music workshops, conventions and promoting music ministry. The Rites used before Holy Mass this morning were set to Music by Bishop Stan. The preface of the Mass that will be sung in a few moments was put to music by Bishop Stan. He chanted the Litany of Saints for countless ordinations and consecrations prior to his own consecration.

In addition to his musical gifts Bishop Stanley was a gifted Liturgist and served on the National Commission on Liturgy for 32 years preparing countless projects for the worship and good of our Holy Church. He has prepared our Ordo for decades, worship and home calendars and so many rites of our Holy Church. Instrumental in the revision of our Missal and Ritual. And he was so proud that our P.N.C.C. is unique in that we have a 3-year set of Mass propers to match the cycle of readings and I remember his joy as he shared those propers and Mass prayers with CCT; a Ecumenical Liturgical Group called "Consultation on Common Texts" of which Bishop Stan was the P.N.C.C. representative and represented our Church so very well. I will miss those special times at our Liturgical Commission meetings and liturgies that we MC'ed together. One fond memory from the Synod in 2010 in Niagara Falls after Mass in honor of our Blessed Mother where we sang "Hail Holy Queen." Well that took on a life of its own and became "Hail, Holy One of Antioch, O My Stasiu" and it went on to sing of his singing, bowling, prayerful life, and goodness - verse 2 was added in 2012 about his role as bishop and of course his resemblance to St. Nicholas." He was so moved when our National Liturgical Commission sang this at the banquet following his consecration. I am not sure of anyone else who got a song written about them from our commission. A tribute from his brothers who respected and loved him very much.

Our good Bishop was a wonderful teacher, he loved to teach. He taught at our seminary for so many years. He was my professor of both Youth Ministry and homiletics and I must say how humbled and honored I am to preach at his funeral. And I am sure he is looking down and saying "Well pretty good Rob, but you could have said this or that better and a bit more clearly." He knew that we needed to give our best effort to God in all that we do but especially in preaching and celebrating the Liturgy of the Church. I know of many times where his travels would take him to various Masses, events, meetings, celebrations, conventions, tournaments, and he would still make the time to teach even if it was from his car on the side of the road as he instructed priests, deacons, faithful and youth in the Christian faith. He never said No to anything he could do for the good of the Church. He didn't do his will but the will of Him who sent him.

The other day I spoke with Bishop Roald Flemestad of the Nordic Catholic Church and he sends his prayers and condolences. Bishop Roald spoke about the times they had breakfast together at the Comfort Suites and appreciated Bishop Stan's constructive approach to the work and efforts of the Union of Scranton. He respected him greatly and will miss him dearly. I know when Bishop Stan and I spoke about the work our Church was doing in Europe through the Union of Scranton he was so excited that we were breaking new ground and sharing our precious genuine Old Catholic faith which the P.N.C.C. has faithfully maintained in our ever-changing world.

We know how much Bishop Stan loved his family – his wife Debbie, what a loving and wonderful wife he had – and what a great team you made. That was so evident just a few weeks ago with your tireless efforts to organize such a good and productive Synod for our Holy Church. He was so proud of Josh and Hannah – when at various church meetings and functions as one would ask about you - he just lit up with love and as he shared stories about what was going on in your lives, we could see what a proud and loving Father he was.

Debbie, as I told you last Friday on All Souls Day after Bishop Stan was called home to his Heavenly Father - as hard as it is for us and you especially – he is no longer suffering, he is now with God in Whom he dedicated his life to and **we are so blessed and we are better people** because we had to opportunity to share in his life.

(Continued on Page 8.)

(Funeral - Continued from Page 7.)

As we lay to rest our brother Bishop Stan may we have that same strong faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as he did and let us follow bishop's example; he used his gifts to serve our Lord, the Church and his family. In his honor and in his memory let us do the same, let us faithfully use the gifts and talents that God has given us for His Greater Glory. This will be a very fitting tribute that we can offer to honor our brother of blessed memory + Stanley Bilinski.

May the loving arms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ enwrap your hearts today and, in the future, especially you Debbie, Josh and Hannah and family. May the peace and love of Christ Jesus come into your hearts and minds and may God bless you and keep you in his care now and always.

I end with some most appropriate words of Holy Scripture from the Communion Verse of this Holy Mass from St. Matthew's Gospel – Well done my good and faithful servant Enter into the joy of your Master. *Amen.*

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr.
November 8, 2018

(† sp. Rt. Rev. Stanley M. Bilinski- Continued from Page 4.)

2012 in St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA. Following consecration, Bishop Stanley was assigned as Diocesan Bishop of the Western Diocese and pastor of All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL.

Throughout his priesthood and episcopacy, Bishop Bilinski was extremely active in the local community wherever he served as pastor. Besides this work, he also served on a number of Diocesan and National Commissions. He was involved in all but one of the Youth Convocations of the P.N.C.C. and served as the National Youth Chaplain of the P.N.C.C. from 1982 to the present. In regards to the youth he was also chaplain to several Kurs Encampments. Bishop Stanley was also a longtime member of the National Commission on Liturgy, The Music Commission and the National School of Christian Living Commission. He was an active participant in many Music Workshops, Mission and Evangelism Workshops and National Bowling Tournaments. He also served on the Central Diocesan Council and the Supreme Council. Besides his local ecumenical work, Bishop Stanley represented the P.N.C.C. on the national

ecumenical group, Consultation on Common Texts (CCT) for many years.

Bishop Bilinski laid in repose in All Saints Cathedral on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Wednesday, November 7, 2018 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Requiem Vespers were celebrated by Bishop John Mack, Diocesan Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. A homily was preached by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Diocesan Bishop of the Eastern Diocese. Remarks were also extended by Fr. Antulio Alvarado.

Before the Funeral Mass, the Requiem Matins were celebrated by Bishop Bernard Nowicki, Diocesan Bishop of the Central Diocese. The Funeral Mass was celebrated on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky. The Mass was concelebrated by the active bishops of the Church together with many clergy of the Western and Central Diocese. The Funeral homily was preached by Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr.

Memorial Donations are requested for the P.N.C.C. Clergy Pension Fund, 920 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.



A November Message from the Future Direction Sub-Committee of the P.N.C.C. Supreme Council

“And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” *Colossians 3:17*

As we continue in this Year of the Family across our Holy Polish National Catholic Church we focus during November on this quote from the second reading of the Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Christian Family about giving thanks. We are called as God’s Holy People to give thanks in both our individual and parish families.

We begin this month with the Solemnity of All Saints – a holy day of obligation where we honor those who have gone before us as an example of virtuous living as faithful and committed disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in His Holy Church. Which saints do we emulate in our lives?

We also celebrate a great national holiday of Thanksgiving on the 4th Thursday of November. How do we show thanks to God for all the blessings He has given us as a family and as a parish? One of the suggested Gospels for this day is that of the healing of the ten lepers (*Luke 17:11-19*). As you think about this healing during Jesus’ ministry, where do you place yourself? Are you like the one who made the effort to come and give thanks or like the nine that did not give thanks?

Let us during this special month make the time to give thanks. There are so many ways this can be done. Here are a few:

Send an actual note in the mail to someone: Open your heart and respond with love, no matter what; Praise and thank others – make the effort to say those two words; Share your gifts (time, talent, treasure) with others; Pay it forward with a kind deed; Give small but thoughtful gifts to say *thank you*; When you say *thank you*, actually mean it; Volunteer; Make a donation to the Church or a worthy cause in someone’s name; Be kind to others and give a helping hand.

On Thanksgiving Day make time to give thanks. Attend Holy Mass on this day as a family. Offer a special prayer on Thanksgiving Day.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (2010 P.N.C.C. Prayer Book)

Father all powerful, Your gifts are countless and Your goodness infinite.

We come to You, O God, offering our most humble and heartfelt thanks
for the many blessings we have received from You.

Open our hearts to the needs of others, so that we may share Your gifts in loving service.

Teach us to express our thanksgiving not only with our lips, but in all that we do.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Catholic Prayer Before the Meal

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts,
which we are about to receive, from Thy bounty,
through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

Thanksgiving Table Prayer

O Gracious God, we give You thanks for Your overflowing generosity to us.

Thank You for the blessings of the food we eat and especially for this feast today.

Thank You for our home and family and friends, especially for the presence of those gathered here.

Thank You for our health, our work and our play.

Please send help to those who are hungry, alone, sick and suffering war and violence.

Open our hearts to Your love that we may then share it with others.

We ask Your blessing through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Christmas the Polish Way - Boże Narodzenie po Polsku

This 72-page booklet, written by Robert Strybel in 1987 was published by the Education and Youth Commission of the Polish National Union of America (PNU). It can be purchased through the PNU in Scranton, PA

A Polish Christmas isn't a two-day religious affair, it is a two-month celebration, beginning at the start of Advent and continuing to Candlemas Day, Feb. 2nd. It is primarily a religious holiday, not a sales extravaganza. Mr. Strybel said, "Christmas has always occupied a special place for the people of Poland." Poles have many names for the Christmas season: Boże Narodzenie (God's Birth); Gwiazdka (the Little Star); Gody (festivities); and Godne Święta (Christmas holidays). Christmas trees are put up on Christmas Eve and no Kolędy (carols) are heard before December 24th, no house-to-house caroling occurs, no jasełka (nativity plays) are seen and the three kings do not get to the crèche until January 6th, their feast-day.

This book gives suggestions on how to make the Christmas season memorable for your parish and you.

The booklet contains the five sections: Foreword (Przedmowa), Prelude, Advent (Adwent), Christmas Eve (Wigilia), and 40 Days of Christmas

Prelude

In November, the grain harvest is over; and preparations begin for the long winter ahead. These were community events and neighbor women meet at one house to do them together. St. Martin's Day, November 12th was the feast-day which once signaled the approach of Advent. One legend was that after Martin's election to Pope he suggested that the people feed on geese, which saved them from famine. In Poland, this resulted in feasts of goose and sauerkraut dishes. These feasts were "the autumn equivalent of a pre-Lenten Zapusty (Mardi gras)"; both are periods of penance and fasting. There are two sayings in Poland which are associated with this day, if it snows on that day, there won't be a white Christmas, and winter isn't far away.

St. Catherine's Day, November 25th "was regarded by Polish folk tradition as a day of fortune telling." The primary concern was with the marital prospects

of eligible maidens. The girls would place names of possible spouses on cards and place them under their pillows. In the morning, they would pull one at random. At dinner on this day, girls would reach under their plates and touch either a green leaf, or a rosary or a matron's cap. Which one they touched first would foretell whether they would have a life of spinsterhood, the convent or married life, respectively.

When Advent was shortened from eight weeks to six weeks St. Andrew's Eve, November 25th became the start of Advent, the season for fasting, penance and prayer. This gave the unmarried girls another opportunity to tell their fortunes with games. One was the pouring of either lead or wax into a basin of cold water and looking at their shapes for clues on prospective bridegrooms.

Advent

Advent now begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. Robert Strybel said that "It is a time set aside for penance, fasting and special religious devotions to prepare the soul and body to worthily celebrate and profoundly experience the mystery of Christ's birth."

Since Christ is the light of the world, candles are lit on the Advent wreath and on the roratka. The roratka is a candle lit at the daily early morning mass called roraty. Advent wreaths are made of evergreen on Saturday before advent begins. They are either placed as the centerpiece on the table or hung on the ceiling above the table. Each wreath has four candles, the first lit before dinner on the first Sunday. The wreath is blessed with the following prayer "Almighty God, bless this Advent wreath which awakens in us the hope of receiving the unfading wreath of glory. Though Christ Our Lord. Amen." Holy water is then sprinkled on it.

Roraty (early morning Advent Mass) is celebrated every day in the early morning before daybreak. The roratka is a tall paschal-like candle which symbolizes "the Blessed Virgin who gave us Christ."

Krakow crèches come in various sizes and content. They are made in early December and in the market square in Krakow there is crèche making contest. Robert Strybel describes how to make a crèche. The book includes three photographs of crèches.

St. Barbara's Day, December 4th comes in the pre-Christmas season. She is particularly revered by miners in Poland. It doesn't have a particular connection with Christmas.

St. Nicholas Day, December 6th is the feast-day of the man who comes down from heaven on his day to leave gifts "and treats under their pillows, next to their beds on in their shoes." If they meet him at their parish, he asks them about their behavior, quizzes them about their catechism or may ask them to kneel or recite a prayer. He may also give them a treat, an apple, orange or a honey-spice cake. There are two pictures of a celebration of St. Nicholas, one in the Opole region and one in a parish in Warsaw. Included is a St. Nicholas Day song [music and text in both Polish and English].

The book includes a couple of pages on how to make Christmas ornaments such as silvery, be-ribboned walnuts, paper chains, straw stars, treat cones, paper stars and hollow-egg ornaments.

Christmas Eve

Robert Strybel opens this section with the following "In a very real sense, Wigilia is what being Polish is all about. Rather than just another festive occasion, it is more of a mood, a feeling, a frame of mood, a feeling, a frame of mind that gives one a sense of belonging and deeper meaning, the conviction that all is right with the world, at least this one time a year." He said that many Poles would rather work on Christmas Day rather than on Christmas Eve. He also said "The oplątek ritual has endured in the most dire circumstances, even if the inmates of Nazi concentration camps and Polish freedom-fighters encamped in snow-covered forests had to use stale black bread for this purpose."

There are five pictures in this section: Hand-made Christmas tree ornaments, placing grain in corners of the room, Wigilia supper in a peasant cottage and babcia breaking oplątek with her grandson.

The Christmas tree made its way from Germany to Poland in the 19th century. It caught on in Poland because of a custom in southern Poland of hanging the top of a spruce or fir upside down from the rafters and decorated with ribbons, paper ornaments and sweets. In peasant cottages of old, when sweets, nuts, raisins and honey-spice cakes were rare, children would eye the sweets in waiting for the time when they could sample these treats. In Poland, the tree is not brought into the house and trimmed until

December 24th. They are not lit until after supper. The tree is not taken down in most households until January 6th, the feast of Three Kings. In more tradition minded households, it is kept up until the official end of the Christmas season, February 2nd, Candlemas Day.

The room where the Wigilia is to held is prepared by putting sheaves of unthreshed grain in all corners of the room, the Christmas tree is set up in the Boży róg (God's corner) where the families most treasured holy picture are located. Hay would be put on the table top to signify Jesus's humble birth. The family's best china, crystal and cutlery would be set out for use. The oplątek is put in the place of honor in the center of the table. Robert Strybel said that "It is customary to leave one empty space at table in memory of a departed loved one, who will never break oplątek again. But in the spirit of true Christian charity, it may be offered to a traveler who unexpectedly knocks at the door, a widow, elderly person or other soul who would otherwise have to spend this evening alone."

The Christmas Eve celebration begins when the first star appears in the sky. Children are given the job of looking for this first star. Dinner begins with a candle being lit, a recitation of St. Luke's gospel account of Jesus's birth, grace is said, and followed by sharing of the oplątek, beginning with the oldest family member, and continuing by age though everyone else at dinner. It is a moment for forgiveness when past grudges are forgiven. Dinner has an odd number of meatless dishes, seven (peasant), nine (nobility) or eleven (aristocrats) depending on the wealth of the family. The book contains nine pages of recipes for Wigilia.

Christmas Caroling is widely done throughout Poland. Robert Strybel said that a Catholic magazine said that nearly 2,000 different Kolędy have been written down or published since the 16th century. Polish radio and television do not broadcast Kolędy until Christmas Eve.

In the old Polish tradition, no presents were exchanged on Christmas. Because of the disappearance of Poland during the 19th century, influences from Germany, Russia and Austria came into being. "One such custom was the German originated belief that the Christ Child himself leaves gifts beneath the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. (Incidentally, Kris Kringle, another name for Santa Claus, is a corruption of the dialectical German Christ-Kindl, or

(Continued on Page 12.)

(Christmas the Polish Way - Continued from Page 11.)

Christ Child.)” It is now common to exchange gifts on Christmas Eve. Poles usually ask “How did you spend the holiday” not “What did you get for Christmas.”

The rest of this section describes other traditions and lore about Wigilia in Poland.

The Shepherd's Mass is the culmination of Christmas Eve. Carol concerts preceding the mass in many Polish American parishes in the United States are not done in Poland. Instead, the carols are interspersed throughout the mass, “Precisely at the stroke of midnight a hush falls over the congregation, the lights are often dimmed and the choir hauntingly intones “Wśród nocnej ciszy” as a figure of the Infant Jesus is solemnly borne in procession and placed in the manger.”

After mass is concluded, families go home, some eating some meat now that the fast is over. If your family no longer practices these old Polish Christmas traditions, you can restart them by using the content of this book as a guide. I can remember eating ham after returning home from Christmas Eve Mass.

This segment continues with a discussion of a public Wigilia, which usually happens shortly before Christmas and how to set it up. This could be a new event for your parish.

40 Days of Christmas

The Polish Christmas season starts on Christmas Day and ends on February 2nd, Candlemas Day. Christmas Day is a day for feasting, most of the dishes are cold except bigos, these include carp in aspic, ham, kielbasa, pate, roast pork loin, sliced turkey or turkey in aspic, plus salads, relishes and various Christmas cakes. There is no specific number of dishes. Christmas carols are also sung. Some families visit other churches to view the different crèches in them.

On the second day of Christmas, December 26th, St. Stephens Day, is a holy day of obligation. Caroling parties traveling house to house would bring good cheer. My recollection of my childhood days, was that friends would visit one another starting at one house and ending at the last friend of the group. At each house, there would be carols sung, eat something and drink something. At each house the children would show off their gifts. At my first Christmas away from home in the US Navy, on a ship in the Mediterranean, my Mother and Father, brother,

Aunt, Uncle and cousins made a Christmas Carol record and sent it to me. It made my Christmas.

The third day of Christmas, December 27th isn't a legal holiday any more, but it is celebrated in the countryside, beginning with mass and followed by visiting friends and bringing caroling to more people.

The origins of kolędnicy (caroling parties), szopka (crèche), and jasełka (nativity play) go back to St. Francis of Assisi who came up with the idea of re-enacting the nativity. A description of the makeup of the caroling parties follows in this section of the book. There are three photographs of kolędnicy (caroling parties).

Jasełka is the old Polish word for manger is the name given to a Nativity Play. This section describes the play which can be done in your parish church.

Herody is a comical King Herod skit. This section gives the words spoken by the several characters. Thus was done in my parish in Bridgeport CT, where I grew up. I played the part of King Herod at least once when a child.

New Year's Eve is yet another part of the Christmas season. In days of old in Poland, this was a day for fortune telling, primarily to predict the marriage opportunities of girls. Now it is a day for parties and balls. New Year's Day begins with mass and in followed in the Olden days by home entertaining and gift giving.

The Feast of Three Kings January 6th is a very important Christmas holiday. It is a holy day of obligation. Special carols are sung at mass. This is the day that the three wise men are added to crèches in church and also those in homes. At one time the faithful brought gold rings, coins and medallions to church to be blessed. These would later be given to their children. Also blessed were incense, myrrh (a coniferous tree resin used as incense and for medicinal purposes) and chalk. The blessed chalk is used to inscribe K+M+B, the initials of the Three Kings, and the year over a doorway of the faithful. This was also the day for clergy to begin their annual pastoral visits, when he usually receives offerings. .

The Almond King game is also played on this day. A cake with chopped almonds and one whole almond is served at a party. The person who gets the whole almond is declared the Almond King for the day. The

(Continued on bottom of Page 13.)

19th Mission Workshop

Save the Date!

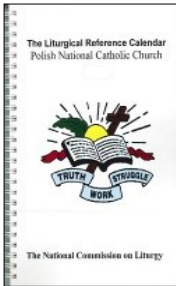
Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 19th Mission Workshop, **“Identity: Who We Are in Christ.”** Sponsored by the National Mission and Evangelism Commission, the Workshop will take place at **Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, CT, on March 29-31, 2019**, beginning on Friday afternoon and ending early in the day on Sunday.

Participants’ group discussions at the last Workshop generated the ideas which will be further explored in this one, and more details will follow soon.

Plan to get involved and interact with others who want to see their parishes thrive and grow in Christ.

Further information on this event will be posted on P.N.C.C. website’s organization and commission events page as details become available.

The 2019 Liturgical Reference Calendar



Orders for the 2019 Liturgical Reference Calendar – Ordo – are now being accepted. The cost of the Liturgical Calendar is \$12.75 per book for pickup-up orders or \$15.50 per book for mail orders to U.S.; \$22.75 USD per book for mail orders to Canada. To order, please fill out the order form, below, and make check or money order payable to *The Polish National Catholic Church – LRC* and send to:

*The Polish National Catholic Church – L R C, Attn: Secretary to Prime Bishop
1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505-4109*

2019 ORDO Order Form			
Clergy/Parish Name and Shipping Address:			
Description of Item	# of copies	Cost per Item	Subtotal
2019 Liturgical Reference Calendar (Ordo); Includes shipping cost: \$15.50 U.S.; \$22.75 Canada			
2019 ORDO			Total Remitted
TOTAL DUE			
Please make check payable to: Polish National Catholic Church – LRC			
<i>Thank you for your payment.</i>			

(Christmas the Polish Way - Continued from Page 12.)

Almond King gets to pick an Almond Queen. He is then addressed as Your Majesty and gets to order the other guests to do something - sing a song, recite a poem, do a dance, bark like a dog, etc.

The season also has a group of Turonie (mid-winter carolers) who dress up as animals, such as a shaggy wild Ox (Tur), wolves, bears and storks. They sing some traditional carols and a special song begging for gifts. This book contains one of the oldest songs in Polish and in English translation.

Candlemas Day, February 2nd is the last day of the Christmas Holiday in Poland. The faithful bring their candles to church to be blessed.

I hope that you read this fine pamphlet to get a better understanding of the Polish customs and folklore and give you some ideas on actions that can be done in your church and in your home. It brought back a lot of wonderful memories for me, spanning more than 60 years.

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

2019 Home Liturgical Calendars

The Polish National Catholic Church will have a *limited* number of full color 2019 home liturgical calendars for sale on a first-come, first-served basis later this year. This calendar with original photographs for each month includes information concerning P.N.C.C. holy days.

You can pre-order your calendars for your parish or yourself by using the chart below to calculate costs. Your order will be shipped as soon as the calendars become available (late November/early December). Thank you for your continued support of this Church-wide endeavor.

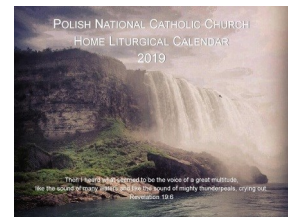
Quantity	Cost per Calendar	Calendar Cost Subtotal	U.S. Shipping	U.S. Total	Canada Shipping (USD)	Canada Total (USD)
1	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$2.00	\$5.50	\$3.50	\$7.00
2	\$3.50	\$7.00	\$2.75	\$9.75	\$5.00	\$12.00
3	\$3.50	\$10.50	\$2.75	\$13.25	\$7.00	\$17.50
4	\$3.50	\$14.00	\$3.25	\$17.25	\$8.00	\$22.00
5	\$3.50	\$17.50	\$3.25	\$20.75	\$9.00	\$26.50
6	\$3.50	\$21.00	\$3.25	\$24.25	\$10.00	\$31.00
7	\$3.50	\$24.50	\$3.75	\$28.25	\$12.00	\$36.50
8	\$3.50	\$28.00	\$3.75	\$31.75	\$13.00	\$41.00
9	\$3.50	\$31.50	\$3.75	\$35.25	\$14.25	\$45.75
10	\$3.25	\$32.50	\$4.25	\$36.75	\$15.25	\$47.75
11+	\$3.25	\$35.75+	*Depends on package weight & recipient's geographic location*		*Depends on package weight & recipient's geographic location*	

*An invoice for shipping costs will be included in your shipment.

PLEASE NOTE that an additional \$30.00 is required for ad setup for a sponsor (quite often a funeral director) and specific parish information regarding Sunday services, telephone numbers, name of pastor, etc. Orders will not be customized if fee is not included.

Please place your order as soon as possible so that we can ship your calendars to you before the New Year. Total payment (including calculable shipping costs) must accompany order. If you pick up your order at the National Church Center, there will be no shipping charge.

SEND PAYMENT AND ORDERS TO:
Polish National Catholic Church
Attn: Julie Orzell
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109



Complete and send in order slip with your payment. Only pre-paid calendar orders will be shipped.

You will be invoiced for shipping costs if they must be calculated at the time of packing.

2019 P.N.C.C. Calendar Order Form

<u>Shipping Information</u>	<u># of Calendars</u>	<u>Cost of Calendars</u>	<u>Ad Fee (if applicable)</u>	<u>Shipping Cost (if calculable)*</u>	<u>Total Enclosed</u>
Name					
Address					
City, State Zip Code					

*PLEASE NOTE: We cannot predetermine the cost of shipping on orders of 11 or more calendars because this cost is calculated by weight and geographic location of recipient. You will be invoiced for this cost in your shipment.



God's Field Appeal for Christmas Greetings

It is not too early to start thinking about publishing your Christmas greetings in the December issue of *God's Field*.

In past years your responses to our appeals have been very enthusiastic and we sincerely hope your generosity and support will continue this year.

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

An online form can be found on the pncc.org website at: pncc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/online_greeting_form_2018.pdf

ALL GREETINGS, ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENTS, MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 30, 2018 IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE.

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

God's Field - Christmas Greetings

National Church Center

1006 Pittston Avenue

Scranton, PA 18505

Thank you for your continued support.



2014 Constitutions Available

“The Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church” booklet, as revised at the XXIV General Synod in Erie, PA, is available from the P.N.C.C. Book Department.

“The Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church” should be in the hands of all members of the P.N.C.C. but above all by those who serve on the Parish Committees and other organizations.

Orders may be submitted via email to secretarytopb@pncc.org, by calling (570) 346-9131 or by writing to:

Book Department

P.N.C.C.

1006 Pittston Avenue

Scranton, PA 18505

The cost is \$3.00 per copy plus \$1.75 (US)/\$2.95 (Canada) postage and handling. Shipping costs for multiple copies will vary, depending on shipping method (USPS or UPS), weight and distance of shipment.

Downloadable and printable pdf versions of “The Constitution and Laws of the P.N.C.C.” can be found on the website, pncc.org, by selecting the *Beliefs and Principles* option from the *Who We Are* dropdown menu on the home page.

100th Anniversary of Polish Independence

November 11, 2018, marks the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence. After 123 years of division in the Russian, Austrian and Prussian partitions, the Polish state reappeared on the map of Europe. That November day fulfilled the dream of several generations of Poles who worked for a free and sovereign Poland, often shedding their blood and suffering imprisonment or exile. Numerous uprisings and armed insurgencies, passive and active resistance, and even efforts to change Poland at the grass roots level, failed to produce any final effect due to the situation in Europe. Despite differing interests and local conflicts, the three partitioning powers: tsarist Russia, Austro Hungarian Empire and Prussia (and later the German Reich) made sure not to disturb the status quo in Europe, because it ensured that the issue of Polish statehood was buried forever.

For decades it seemed that nothing short of a miracle was needed in order for Poland to be reborn. "We ask you, Lord, for a world war for the freedom of nations," wrote Adam Mickiewicz, the greatest Polish poet and national bard, in exile in Paris in December 1832. The prayer in "The Books and the Pilgrimage of the Polish Nation" expressed the Poles' hopes for the outbreak of a great conflict that would shatter the European balance of power that had been established at the Vienna Congress following Napoleon's downfall in 1815.

In the autumn of 1918, it seemed that the miracle had finally happened. The extremely brutal and bloody world war that had started in 1914, had destroyed the old order. Tsarist Russia fell first. Ravaged by the Bolshevik revolt and plunged into the chaos and barbarity of a civil war, it ceased to be important as a military power as early as 1917. Military defeats and an archaic social and political structure led to the breakup of the Austro Hungarian Empire. After the final offensive in France failed, the German forces began losing their advantage over the Allies starting in August 1918 and were forced out of France. Chaos took over the country, revolutionary sentiments grew, and as a result Germany was forced to sign an armistice in Compiegne. Suddenly, in November 1918, the three partitioning powers who had occupied Polish territories for 123 years were defeated, engulfed in internal chaos and incapable of dictating their own

will to the Poles. Of course, this does not mean that independence had descended on the Poles from heaven, or that they had received it as a gift. Those November days yielded the fruit of years of effort of many patriots who, creating their own unique miracle of independent and sovereign Poland.

On January 8, 1918, President Thomas Woodrow Wilson presented the United States Congress with his own vision for Europe after the anticipated Allied victory. During his speech, he made some extremely important comments about Poland. "An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant," proclaimed the famous "13th Point" of the President's speech. Over the following months, those words became the most important rallying point in Poland's efforts for independence: so important that the United States with its idealistically minded President became a real player on the European continent, at the head of the victorious Entente. It is safe to say that without President Wilson's involvement in Polish affairs, the map of the Second Polish Republic would have looked quite different.

Wilson's 13th point and such widespread interest would have been impossible without the involvement of Ignacy Jan Paderewski. The great pianist and composer achieved worldwide renown as a piano virtuoso, the "King of Pianists." Although he had been involved in working for Poland's independence earlier, he devoted himself to the cause more intensely upon the outbreak of World War I. He used his popularity to raise funds for such causes as aid for war victims, and when he came to the United States again, before each concert he told the audience about the need for the establishment of an independent Poland. Through Presidential adviser col. Edward House, he contacted President Wilson himself in January 1917, giving him a memorandum on Poland, which became the basis for the demand for the "establishment of an independent Polish state with access to the sea."

No less important was Paderewski's involvement in the Polish National Committee formed in Paris in August 1917, in which he worked with Roman

Dmowski. The goal of the Committee was to revive the Polish state in cooperation with the Entente countries: the governments of France, Great Britain and Italy recognized the Committee as the representative of the Polish émigré government and Polish interests. The Committee's work was extremely useful during the negotiations at the Paris Peace Conference, at which Polish Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Ignacy Paderewski represented Poland along with Roman Dmowski. On January 29, 1919, the famous "Mr. Roman" delivered a five hour speech (which he translated simultaneously into French and English) presenting Poland's border demands, which made a tremendous impression on the audience. On June 28, 1919, Paderewski and Dmowski signed the Treaty of Versailles, which formally restored Poland to the map of Europe.

Paderewski also supported the formation of the Blue Army under the command of Gen. Jozef Haller, which included over 20,000 Poles from the United States and Canada, recruited under the direction of Dr. Teofil Antoni Starzynski. In 1919 Paderewski supported Gen. Tadeusz Rozwadowski's idea of forming an American Legion, which would fight against the Bolsheviks in Poland. These activities produced the Polish American Kosciuszko Squadron. In addition, Paderewski personally knew Herbert Hoover (future United States President), who organized aid for war ravaged Poland; thus we can see that Paderewski was at the forefront of the struggle for an independent Poland in those crucial times.

Of course, the diplomatic efforts in the Allied drawing rooms would not have been so effective without the active campaign in Poland as it moved toward independence. Here the major figure was Jozef Pilsudski, the future First Marshal of the Republic of Poland. In November 1918, the legendary Commander of the Legions was the only person who had any chance of uniting all the diverse independence organizations in the country under his leadership. And he took advantage of that opportunity for the benefit of Poland. Released from a German prison, Pilsudski arrived in Warsaw, where on November 11, 1918, he assumed command of the emerging Polish Army. On November 14, Pilsudski proclaimed the establishment of the Republic of Poland, and two days later he notified the Great Powers of the foundation of an independent Polish state. On November 22, 1918, Pilsudski assumed the high-

est authority of the Republic of Poland as Head of State, and he held that position until December 1922.

In November 1918 and the following months, Pilsudski's position in Poland was unquestionable. The socialist Ignacy Daszynski (who resigned as Prime Minister, dissolving the Provisional People's Government of the Republic of Poland), and the Peasant Party's Wincenty Witos, who obtained peasant support for an independent Poland, deferred to Pilsudski for the country's common welfare. The work of Wojciech Korfanty, affiliated with the national movement made possible the successful struggle for the inclusion of Greater Poland and Upper Silesia in the newly established Polish State. General Tadeusz Rowadowski successfully fought for Poland's eastern borders in the early months of Polish independence. American pilots from the Kosciuszko Squadron supported gen. Rozwadowski in his battles in the Galicia province. The Greater Poland Army was established under the command of gen. Jozef Dowbor Musnicki to fight for Poland's western borders. The Blue Army brought from France by gen. Jozef Haller provided the fledgling Poland with the support of well trained and well equipped soldiers.

November 11, 1918, is one of the most important dates in the entire history of Poland. It was the crowning achievement for the efforts of many generations of Poles who had dreamt of their own sovereign country. It is also an extraordinary example of a great unification around a common goal: a free Poland, with a territory inhabited in the majority by Polish people and with free access to the sea. Disputes arising from deep political divisions were set aside as everyone strove toward the common goal. We can say that the Polish patriotic leaders were up to the task, taking excellent advantage of the favorable international situation resulting from the Entente's victory in World War I and the collapse of the state structure of the partitioning powers. That maturity and solidarity made it possible to win independence in November 1918, and later to fight for the borders of the new republic and defend it from the Bolshevik invasion in August 1920. I hope that this article collected from the books of Modern History of Poland will give you a greater knowledge of the persons who contributed the most to Poland regaining its independence.

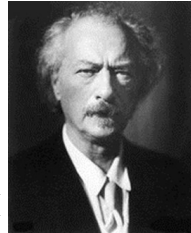
Collected and submitted by Very Rev. Gregory Mludzik

Tworcy Polskiej Niepodlegosci Fathers of Polish Independence

“Nie zginie Polska, nie zginie! Lecz zyc bedzie po wieki wiekow w potedze i chwale. Dla was, dla nas i dla calej ludzkosci.”

Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860 – 1941) pianista i kompozytor, dzialacz niepodleglosciowy. Jako wirtuoz fortepianu zyskal swiatowa slawe. Po wybuchu I wojny swiatowej zaczal prowadzic szeroko zakrojona dzialalnosc na rzecz niepodlegosci Polski. Dzieki tym wysilkom, prezydent Stanow Zjednoczonych Woodrow Wilson opowiedzial sie za powstaniem niepodleglego Panstwa Polskiego. 25 grudnia 1918 r. Paderewski przyjechal do Poznania co spowodowalo wybuch zwycieskiego Powstania Wielkopolskiego. Jako owczesny premier i minister spraw zagranicznych Polski w dniu 28 czerwcz 1919r. Podpisal Traktat Wersalski.



“Poland shall not perish but it will live forever in greatness and glory for you, for us, and for all humanity.”

Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860 – 1941) – pianist, composer and independence activist. He achieved worldwide fame as a piano virtuoso, the king of pianists. Upon the outbreak of World War I, he began conducting wide-ranging activity on behalf of Poland's independence. Thanks to these efforts, United States President Woodrow Wilson supported the formation of an independent Polish state. Paderewski came to Poznan on December 25, 1918, which caused the outbreak of the victorious Greater Poland Uprising. As Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Poland, he signed the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919.

“Chcemy Polski niepodleglej, abysmy tam mogli urzadzic zycie lepsze i sprawiedliwsze dla wszystkich.”

Jozef Pilsudski



“We want an independent Poland, so we can plan a life that is better and more just for everyone.”

Jozef Pilsudski

“Nalezy stworzyc niezawisle panstwo polskie, ktore winno obejmowac terytoria zamieszkane przez ludnosc niezaprzeczalnie polska, ktoremu nalezy zapewnic swobodny i bezpieczny dostep do morza i ktorego niezawislosc polityczna i gospodarcza oraz integralnosc terytrialna nalezy zagwarantowac paktem miedzynarodowym.”

13 punkt z programu pokoju prezydenta Wilsona wygloszonego w oredziu do Kongresu Stanow Zjednoczonych, 8 stycznia 1918r.



“An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.”

The 13 point of president Wilson's peace program, delivered in a speech to the United States Congress, January 8, 1918.



Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese**Holy Family Parish Happenings****McKeesport, PA**

The Sacrament of Confirmation was conferred onto eight Holy Family parish members by the Rt. Rev. John Mack, Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese during the 9:00 a.m. Mass on October 21, 2018.

The Sacrament of Confirmation conferred upon to Melanie TRUDY Buzelli (sponsor Bozena Ki-

jowski), Jack THOMAS Foster (sponsor Michael Foster), Jacob MATTHEW Ghetian (sponsor Frank Pociask), Leonard MICHAEL Guy (sponsor Donald Newcamp) Jack FRANCIS Lazar (sponsor Shawn Davis), Nicholas JOHN Jackson (sponsor Garrett Zaucha), Jenna CAROLINE Ruoizzi (sponsor Hannah Jobes) and Stanley MAXIMILLIAN Szatkowski (sponsor Francis Szatkowski).



Bishop John Mack, Father Bruce Slezkowski, Confirmands, Sponsors and Acolytes

Matilyn Marie Collins, daughter of Robert and Kari Gadzich Collins, was baptized during the 11:00 a.m. Mass in Holy Family Parish on October 21st.

Pictured are Godparents Alexandra & Taylor Abbott with Matilyn and Fr. Bruce Slezkowski at the beginning of the ceremony.



(Continued on Page 20.)

(Holy Family Parish Happenings - Continued from Page 19.)

The annual Religious Forum of the Central and Southern Deaneries was held Sunday, October 21 at Holy Family Parish, McKeesport, PA.

A religious service celebrating the Litany of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction was conducted by Bishop John Mack. Father Michael Selep, Chaplain of the SAMBS, preached the homily. Clergy seated were the Very Rev. John Rencewicz, II, Fathers Scott Lill, Joseph Mazurkiewicz, Bruce Sleczkowski and Deacon David Nichols.

Sub-Central SAMBS president, Ginny Barrick, and Sub-Central SAMBS secretary, Rosalie Clark, lit candles in memory of the sisters who died during the past year.

After the service the women went downstairs to the Parish Hall where Cathy Trumpe, president of Holy Family SAMBS, gave a welcome address. Rev. Dr. Scott Lill offered the Invocation and then everyone enjoyed a delicious meal.

Once everyone was finished with the dinner, Mrs. Jimmie Caughron presented a two-segment program entitled "Joy of the Lord." Mrs. Caughron is a Christian motivational speaker in the Pittsburgh area who presents humorous characters, puppetry, song and her own personal testimony.

Bishop Mack then spoke briefly to the women and Fr. Senior John Rencewicz, II, gave the closing prayer.

Submitted by Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski



Bp. Mack blesses the congregation with the Blessed Sacrament.



Ginny Barrick and Rosalie Clark light candles in remembrance of the deceased sisters.



Women from the Central and Southern Deaneries at worship



Jimmie Caughron speaks about the "Joy of the Lord."



Central Diocese

**Love of God Award Presented to Merrit Nash
Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA**

Merrit Nash of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA, completed all the requirements to earn the Cub Scouts' Love of God Award.

The Love of God emblem is a recognition that the Polish National Catholic Church gives to the Cub Scouts for advancement in religious knowledge and spiritual development. Its purpose is to help the recipient become more aware of God's presence in his daily life, especially within his home and

community. The medal shows people his love for God and our Church.

Merrit received this medal from the Committee on Scouting of the Polish National Catholic Church. He was presented with this award by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor, during High Mass (Solemnity of the Christian Family), on Sunday, October 14, 2018. Congratulations, Merrit!

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Mary Azaravich Nash (mother), Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Merrit Nash, Joseph Azaravich (grandfather)



Western Diocese

Remembering Summer Activities

St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN

We began the summer with the Feast of Corpus Christi. On June 3, 2018 the parish celebrate the feast of the Body of Christ with a solemn procession to the four altars which symbolized the four corners of the earth. Each altar was adorned with candles, flowers and Jesus on the cross.

The feast of Corpus Christi is one time when our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is exposed not just to faithful Catholics but to all the world. This is a time when Catholics can show their love for Christ in the Real Presence by honoring Him in a very public way. It is also a wonderful way in which we can show our love for our neighbors by bringing Our Lord and Savior closer to them

The solemn procession began with the processional cross, the ladies from the Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament with candles that symbolize the light of Christ and then Father Kowalczyk with the body of Christ in the monstrance.

At each altar prayers were said and hymns were sung. What a better way to begin summer than with sharing Christ with all of our neighbors and parishioners.



During July the Parish participated in the annual Cedar Lake Summerfest and the Lake County Agricultural Antique Tractor Show. The purpose of participating in these festivals is to assist with outreach to the community regarding the Parish and all of its offerings and to assist the parish with financial growth.

We at St. Michael's believe that we are serving the Lord with our work. As stated in Colossians 3:23-24,

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

Much fellowship, fun, determination and hard work took place during these festivals. The parish prepared months in advance with our delicious homemade Archangel Pierogi, Polska Kielbasa and Gołabki.



On August 26, 2018 the parish celebration the elevation of Mason Martisauskas from Altar Server to Acolyte. In his new role as Acolyte he may light the altar candles and assist with other duties at mass and sacred ceremonies.

Mason received his new white alb and cincture. The parish is very proud of Mason and all of his accomplishments within the parish.



Submitted by June Wyant

School Supply Drive 2018

Holy Cross Parish, Hamtramck, MI

Holy Cross Parish's PTO, organized its 12th annual school supply drive this past summer. Parishioners, family, friends and the community came together and purchased school supplies for the Early Childhood Elementary School in the Hamtramck Public School District. They were delivered to the school on August 28, 2018, just before the start of the school year. The school staff was delighted to receive our donations. At the October 10, school board meeting,

Superintendent, Mr. Thomas Niczay gave us special recognition and thanked us for our efforts.

Our school supply drive was organized by Sunday School director Nancy Wisbiski and pastor, Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak. We delivered thousands of supplies of paper, pencils, notebooks, back packs and much more. We also donated winter coats, hats and mittens for the students who might not have any.

Submitted by Kathy Chockley



Holy Cross Parish pastor Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak and parishioners with all the school supplies collected



Hamtramck School Board President Maggie Srodek, Very Rev. Nowak, Superintendent Mr. Niczay, Kathy Chockley, Nancy Wisbiski, Brianna Davis, Larry Chockley

A Busy Summer and Fall for All Saints Parish

Sterling Heights, MI

JULY – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL was presented by the Friends of Sunday School. Eighteen children attended and had a great time experiencing “The Rolling River Rampage.” Each day they participated in learning about Jesus through activities beginning with bible study, related crafts, science projects, outdoor games, theme snacks and celebrating Jesus through music and song. Thank you to the Gloria Bawol for heading up this great event and for all the ladies who volunteered to help with all the activities.



SEPTEMBER – VINTAGE BRIDAL FASHION SHOW & TEA LUNCHEON was presented by the A.N.S Altar Society. Sixty guests enjoyed a delightful afternoon at a mock wedding fashion show featuring 22 vintage bridal gowns, bridesmaids and flower girl dresses dating from the 1930s through present day. They were from the collection of Rosanne Brelowski who also acted as Mistress of Ceremonies during the show. Our lovely models were young ladies from the parish and a few family and friends of our parishioners.



Vintage Bridal Fashion Show Models and Escorts

Ushers for the afternoon were members of All Saints Y.M.S. of R. group who looked quite dapper in their tuxedos as they ushered guests into the church at the beginning of the afternoon and later helped serve the luncheon.



Vintage Bridal Fashion Show Ushers

Following the fashion show our guests retired to the parish hall which was decorated as a wedding reception to enjoy punch while strolling through display tables featuring vintage bridal and wedding photos of friends and families from as far back as 1901 through the present. They were also able to enjoy trying on and purchase beautiful tea party hats which were handmade and displayed by Donna Kenske.

The luncheon was then served consisting of Michigan cherry chicken salad served on a bed of lettuce with tomato, croissant, fruit kabobs and flavored teas. For dessert everyone was served wedding cake. A wonderful time was had by all. Chairpersons for the event were Sharon Stachurski and Carol Szydlowski. Thank you also to all the A.N.S. ladies who hosted the tables and helped prepare for the event.

OCTOBER – BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS was held the beginning of October and chaired by Marcia & Dwight Berend. Father Robert Fredrickson presented a short service focusing on St. Francis of Assisi and, of course, our furry pets whom he blessed each one and their family individually at the end of the service. Afterwards, there were refreshments for the families and special treats for all the animals. Marcia also made special “treat packages” for each animal to take home. Thank to Marcia, Dwight and Father Robert for presenting this special day for our beloved pets.



Guests at the Blessing of the Animals

A PUMPKIN BASH was held celebrating Halloween. It was chaired by Father Robert, his wife Kathy and also Sharon Stachurski. After Sunday Mass, all the children gathered in the church dressed in their favorite costumes to partake in games like ping pong, spider ring toss, Halloween bingo, ghost ball toss. There was pumpkin carving and painting projects and Halloween cookie decorating. Lunch was served with hot dogs, chips, cupcakes and punch with spooky floating hands and eyes. The afternoon concluded with everyone receiving goodie bags and Father Robert giving a closing blessing. A fun time was had by all.



COUPLES NIGHT OUT was hosted by Father Robert and Kathy for couples of the parish. The evening began with appetizers and a delicious roast beef dinner prepared and served by Father Robert and Kathy. The tables were decorated with fresh floral fall centerpieces and candlelight creating a warm and cozy ambiance for the evening. Following dinner Father Robert spoke briefly on the importance of taking time to enjoy relaxing activities with our spouses. We then watched a short video which focused on the difference in the thought processes of women and men which was very funny and oh so true. The evening concluded with us being served delicious “homemade” apple pie ala mode and fellowship. What a great night out was had by all. Thanks Father Robert and Kathy for making this event so special.



To see additional photos/videos from these events, visit our parish Facebook page at [All Saints Polish National Catholic Church of Sterling Heights, MI](#).

Article & photos by Sharon Stachurski



90th Anniversary of Holy Trinity Parish

Kewanee, IL



This year 2018 marked the 90th Anniversary of Holy Trinity Parish in Kewanee, IL, an impressive milestone and testimony to the strength of our parish community. To commemorate our 90th Anniversary we planned an exciting year of festivities that brought together all of our parishioners. At this special time in our parish's history, we celebrated our past, recognized Christ's presence amongst us, and continued to look forward to our bright and faithful future together.

With our celebration of the Anniversary Mass September 15th and Jubilee Gala banquet at the Kewanee Dunes we concluded a year-long celebration of 90 years of faithful service to God and people.

During the Holy Mass concelebrated by Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski Ordinary Bishop of the Western Diocese, Very Rev. Jerry Rafalko Pastor of the Holy Trinity Parish and the clergy from Northcentral Seniorate we thank many who helped make this year of celebration happen. First we thank God for his faithfulness and grace over these years which have included both jubilation and tribulation. We gave thanks for those who have come before us over the last 90

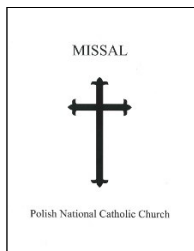
years, we thank all who devoted many hours to helping with this celebration, and the parishioners of the future. With great joy in our hearts we thank Prime Bishop Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky for his presence at our celebration and for preaching the Word of God, our Diocesan Bishop Stanley Bilinski and clergy gathered for this celebration. We were also honored with the presence of Carol Mikovsky and Deb Bilinski and some members of Chicago parishes. We thank Polish National Union "Spojnia" for their beautiful wishes and the gift.

A special Thank you to our Music Director & Organist Carolyn Cathelyn and the Holy Trinity Choir, readers, altar servers, Ladies Adoration Society, Parish Committee, Anniversary Committee, and Mirocha's Hillside Florist for beautiful flowers in the church and the banquet hall.

And to all who have participated in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, as we give thanks to Almighty God for the many things He has done for us in these 90 years. May He continue to pour out His graces and blessings upon the people of Holy Trinity Parish for many more years.

Submitted by Very Rev. Jaroslaw Rafalko





P.N.C.C. Missal Now Available in Electronic Format

The electronic version of the P.N.C.C. Missal is now available for purchase by P.N.C.C. parishes or clergy from the P.N.C. C. Book Department. The cost is \$75.00 for the complete Missal on a USB Flash Drive.

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