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## Love and Mercy in the Family of Christ

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky  
Prime Bishop

As this issue of God's Field goes to press, we find ourselves in the middle of two important solemnities for the Polish National Catholic Church. On the second Sunday of September, this year September 8, we celebrated the Solemnity of Brotherly Love and on the second Sunday of October, this year October 13, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Christian Family. We can see in the celebration of these important feast days and through reflection on the Scriptures that are presented to us that there is certainly a connection, especially in how we are to put these teachings of the Gospel into our daily lives.

Within the Gospel reading for Brotherly Love, we hear our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, approve the insight of the lawyer who answered concerning the most important commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27) But of course we know that just knowing the right words is not enough; Jesus goes on to tell the parable of the Good Samaritan in an answer to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" And the challenge that Jesus makes to us all is when He tells the lawyer who acknowledged that the Samaritan who showed mercy was the true neighbor, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:37)

So today, with our schooling within our parishes and the sermons that we have heard through the years, it would be difficult for any of us to say that we are un-

aware of what is expected of us. We know that we are to be the people that show love, first and foremost to Almighty God and then, because of this love of God, to extend this love and show mercy to those around us, our neighbors. But we also know that somehow, we are falling short of the standard that we know is the way of Jesus Christ. We lament with St. Paul, "I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do." (Roman 7:18b-19)

Because of this we must seek ways in which we can strengthen ourselves to do what is right; to worship Almighty God and then show love and mercy to those around us. First and foremost, we seek this strength within the sacramental life of the Church. We come to the altar of God to seek forgiveness of our past unfaithfulness and sin, through the Sacrament of Penance. The Sacrament calls us to be honest with ourselves and more importantly honest to God that we have fallen short of our call to follow Jesus. In this acknowledgement and in seeking to follow more closely the ways of Christ, we will receive the forgiveness of God, which allows us to move forward in our Christian way of life.

We also seek the strength found within the presence of Jesus Christ within the Holy Eucharist. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ showed the ultimate love for each of us in giving His life in the sacrifice of the Cross, taking upon Himself the sins of the world. He

(Continued on Page 3.)

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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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has given us this love and sacrifice within the Holy Eucharist celebrated within our parish churches. In the participation of Holy Mass and in the reception of the Eucharist, we are strengthened to unite ourselves more closely to Jesus Christ and begin to model our own lives after His.

These two Sacraments are certainly a vitally important part of our spiritual journey, and it is for this reason that we are called to the worship of Almighty God each week wherein we receive forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and then unite ourselves to Jesus in the Eucharist. But there is at least one point that has been lacking here.

In everything that has been described above it could be seen that all of this is somehow just a personal relationship between that one person and the Lord. This is something that I often hear when people say to me things like, "Well, I can pray at home." We certainly cannot receive the Sacrament of Penance at home and Holy Mass isn't celebrated there either, but also this is not what Jesus intended for our worship or religious life. We are called to gather for worship, called to partake of the Sacraments and called to live a Christian life, together as a Christian Family. It is for this reason that the second feast of the Fall season, the Solemnity of the Christian Family is of great importance in reminding us to join with the entire Christian Family and be strengthened also in the body of Christ that is the Christian Catholic Church. Here Saint Paul again reminds us, "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (1 Corinthians 12:27) Yes, our individual relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is important, but in another way we are also more fully the body of Christ when joined together with the Church, the Christian Family.

During the Solemnity of the Christian Family we read from the Gospel of Saint Luke, the Scripture telling of Jesus traveling to Jerusalem when He was 12 years old. We know the story wherein Jesus stays behind in the temple and is found debating with the teachers. When His parents find Him, He tells them, "Why were you searching for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" (Luke 2:49) But also

following this, "He [Jesus] went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them." (Luke 2:51)

While we could see this as only concerning the Holy Family, or an individual family and its members, we can also look much deeper. Jesus puts the things of God first and therefore reminds us to do the same. He stays behind to remain in the temple. This shows us that when we gather as the Christian family in our parish communities, we must be concerned, first and foremost, with the worship and works of God. Yes, our time in joining together in social contacts is nice, but it is not the reason we gather, we gather to worship God and do His work. The social contacts are rather a wonderful outcome of the time that God's people spend together.

We also see in the Scripture reading from St. Luke on the Solemnity of the Christian Family that we are all in some sense responsible for and to each other. At the end of the reading Jesus is obedient to St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary. He accompanies them home to Nazareth and stays with them. While He could have reminded them at this point that as God's only Son, He had a special job to do and it didn't entail them, rather He walked with them. And we know that the outcome is that the Blessed Virgin Mary and other members of the family of Jesus were a part of His ministry throughout His life and were present during the ministry of the Early Church following Pentecost.

This reminds each of us that we too are to accompany each other in the journey of life and encourage each other in the Christian way. We are to include each other in the work of Christian ministry and work together to live a life worthy of Christ.

So my brothers and sisters, during this time in September and October when we celebrate the Solemnity of Brotherly Love and the Solemnity of the Christian Family, let us reflect on these feasts together. Let us live a life of love of God and for each other. And then let us extend this love and live it together strongly within the Christian Family spreading it to a world which needs the love of Christ so solely.



## 2019 Special Synod of the P.N.C.C.



As we now find ourselves in September, the time for the Special Synod on Friday, October 25, 2019 is fast approaching. I remind all parishes to submit the pink and yellow portions of their Mandates and also to submit the Registration Forms together with payment. All delegates are also responsible for making their own hotel reservations.

Information regarding Fr. Sr. Jerry Rafalko, who was found fit as a Candidate for Bishop by the Nomination Commission, was sent to all parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church. This information is also available online in the pages of God's Field at [pncc.org](http://pncc.org).

As Article XII.B. Election of Candidates for Bishop, section 3, allows that "additional names for nomination for candidates for Bishop may be made from the floor and submitted to the Nomination Commission for its examination," priests who are considering this must have all of their information ready for review by the Nomination Commission, and enough copies for distribution to the Synod delegates.

All Polish National Catholics are also encouraged to remain in prayer for the descent of the Holy Spirit on the work of the Synod and its delegates, both clergy and lay. The selection of a Candidate for Bishop is the most important work of the Synods and we pray that the delegates will hear and respond to the voice of Almighty God in their decisions. We also pray for the candidates, whoever they may be, that God will grant them strength and wisdom to lead His Holy Church.



### Spójnia Sunday

Sunday, September 22, 2019 the Polish National Catholic Church celebrates Spójnia Sunday remembering in prayer the past and present membership and work of the Polish National Union. It will commemorate the historic association of the Polish National Union and the Polish National Catholic Church, as well as serve to reaffirm the commitment of the P.N.U. in its many fields of Christian endeavor. (Article XXVI, Section 2 of the Constitution and By Laws of the Polish National Union)

On Sunday, September 22, 2019 as the P.N.C.C. celebrates Spójnia Sunday, let us always remember to support the efforts of our sister organization as the P.N.U. continues to support the members, clergy and parishes of the Church. For more information on the Polish National Union, please contact your P.N.U. Branch Secretary, visit the website [pnu.org](http://pnu.org), or call the P.N.U. Home Office at 800-724-6352 for more information.

### Polish National Union – Cheers to 111 Years!

The P.N.U. is celebrating the 111<sup>th</sup> year of "Providing Security and Enriching Lives through Faith, Service and Culture." As a part of the celebration, the P.N.U. has developed an annuity promotional rate that allows those interested to celebrate with them. Now through September 30, any new annuity account is eligible for a one-year promotional interest rate of 3.25% for deposits starting at \$1,000 through \$11,110. Deposit \$11,111 or more and take advantage of the anniversary rate which is 4.36% or 1.11% higher than the current promotional rate. Contact your Branch Secretary or District Director, visit the Polish National Union online at [pnu.org](http://pnu.org), email at [info@pnu.org](mailto:info@pnu.org), or call the Home Office at 800-724-6352 for additional information and details.

## 2019 Music Scholarship Awards Announcement

*Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him. Praise the Lord with the harp, make music to Him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully and shout for joy! - Psalm33: 1-3 NIV*

Make a joyful noise! Here are the recipients of the National United Choirs Music Scholarships for 2019:

**Tyler Bagshaw** - Polish National Union Award \$900  
Holy Family Parish, McKeesport, PA  
voice, organ, piano

**Kaitlyn Gingerlowski** - Polish National Union Award \$300  
St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish, Scranton, PA  
violin

**Claire Gitner** - Junior Incentive Award \$100  
All Saints Parish, Sterling Heights, MI  
piano

**Madison Gradowski** - George Balcar Award \$1000  
All Saints Cathedral Parish, Chicago, IL  
Voice

**Devin Junko** - Bishop Eugeniusz Magyar Award \$900  
Holy Trinity Parish, Washington, PA  
piano, organ

**Victoria Konicki** - Cecilia Shumlas Award \$1000  
Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Schenectady, NY  
piano

**Matthew Moritz** - Edward F. & Frances A. Bi-  
aloglowicz Award \$1000  
St. Mary's Parish, Parma, OH  
cello

**Christina Supinski** - Bishop Francis Bonczak Youth Award \$700  
Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Schenectady, NY  
viola

8 Awards totaling \$5,900.00

Since inception: 1,103 Awards totaling \$322,885.00

Congratulations to these talented people! They have received a special gift from God, have acknowledged that gift and have used it to glorify God in their parish and the P.N.C.C.

The awards were announced during intermission at the National United Choirs Music Workshop Concert held at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster, NY on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. Participating in the workshop was recipient Tyler Bagshaw of Holy Family Parish in McKeesport, PA.



Lydia Hohn – NUC President, Rt. Rev. John Mack – NUC Chaplain, Tyler Bagshaw – PNU Award Recipient, Cathy Bilinski – Scholarship Administrator

Our scholarship program has been so successful because of the generous donations we receive from the faithful of the P.N.C.C. Thank you for your support and we hope we continue to be so blessed with funding and talented applicants.

Submitted by Cathy Bilinski

Information on the scholarship program can be found online at: [nucmusicsscholarship.weebly.com](http://nucmusicsscholarship.weebly.com)

Questions can be addressed to [nucscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:nucscholarship@gmail.com)



## **90 for 90 Campaign**

### **If Everyone Does Their Part**

The United Y.M.S. of R.'s 90 For 90 Campaign has reached 60% of its goal - raising \$90,000 to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Spójnia Farm! The money will be used to continue recent improvements to the Bishop Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center. In 2019 alone we have installed a new heating and air conditioning unit to make activities and sleeping sooooo much nicer, a new swimming pool with energy efficient equipment and a shade pavilion have been completed, a walking trail of the camp that features the original site of Ustronie and a portion of the D&H railroad has been groomed, and the driveway has been regraded and paved. There is more to do, including air conditioning in the dining hall, a playground for the kids, a new chapel, new air hockey and pool tables, various maintenance items and much, much more is on the drawing board. If everyone that attended a camping event at Spójnia Farm contributed \$90 we can achieve these goals and more. If you have already contributed, THANK YOU – but now tell a friend or relative who may also have enjoyed times at the camp. If you haven't contributed yet, please consider a \$90 donation or more if you are able, hold a fund raiser at your parish, or ask your parents to help.

Donations can be made to:

**90 for 90 Campaign**  
**207 Grassy Island Ave**  
**Jessup PA 18434**

Dates for 2020 are already filling fast because people are seeing the progress and want to revisit, relax and create new memories at Spójnia Farm. If you are interested in renting the Retreat Center next year, call the Bishop Hodur Retreat Center at 570-840-9108.

As a Church, WE CAN DO THIS!! Help us reach our goal!

Thank you

#### **Bronze Circle Donors- \$90 or more**

Nicholas R. Gerardi-Kurs Counselor  
 PNU CFO John III and Julie Andrzejewski  
 Tim and Val Alexin  
 Karen Durkin  
 Michael Mludzik -Kurs Counselor  
 Larry and Kathy Chockley  
 Kristen Di Martino  
 Holy Trinity Parish, Southington, CT.  
 Beata Samousik  
 Steven Kolenski  
 Justin Daviault  
 Jessica Cricket Panek  
 Olivia Nevolas  
 Allie Alpert  
 Nick Cimino-Kurs Counselor



## Sonya Gruszecki's Donations to the P.N.C.C. Archives

The Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.) Archives is a repository for information about the P.N.C.C., its history, its organizations, its parishes and its people and then be made available to the public for their research. Its collections are in thirteen categories.

(1) Records of the Commissions and Committees of the P.N.C.C. [reports, meeting minutes, membership lists, budget requests and allocations, financial records, publications, audio and video recordings].

(2) Publications of the P.N.C.C. for liturgical purposes [mass books, catechisms, choir books, liturgical calendars, special services].

(3) Publications of the P.N.C.C. for organizational purposes [P.N.C.C. Constitutions, General and Special Synod Proceedings and other information printed for use at the Synod such as reports, histories and advertisement books, audio and video recordings].

(4) Publications of the P.N.C.C. for informational purposes [P.N.C.C. Studies, Straż, Trybuna, Rola Boża, Przebudzenie, School of Christian Living publications, group newsletters such as clergy wives, clergy, seminarians, diocesan, and audio and video recordings].

(5) Parish records [anniversary books, newsletters, bulletins, Parish Committee and Annual Parish Meeting minutes, membership lists, financial records, budgets, activities lists, newspaper accounts for parish events, baptism, confirmation and burial lists, audio and video recordings].

(6) Correspondence of members of the P.N.C.C. [letters to and from clergy and laity]

(7) Historical publications [P.N.C.C., Parish, Diocese].

(8) Publications of P.N.C.C. choirs [analog and digital audio recordings, song sheets and books, recordings, concert lists, meeting minutes, membership lists, financial records, budgets, activities lists, newspaper accounts, audio and video recordings].

(9) Publications of P.N.C.C. dioceses [Diocesan Synod Minutes and other information printed for use at the Synod, such as reports, histories and advertisement books].

(10) Newspapers and magazines with articles about the P.N.C.C., its clergy and laity.

(11) Papers, Books and Magazines [About the P.N.C.C., Sermons, Tracts, Plays, Religious, General].

(12) Artifacts [liturgical garments, objects used by the clergy, photographs of Synods, clergy, laity and parish and church events].

(13) Memorabilia [Clergy remembrance cards, ordinations, parish and church events, such as ground breaking, dinners, breakfasts, church anniversaries, pastors anniversaries].

Donations to the P.N.C.C. Archives make this a possibility.

Sonya Gruszecki was a lifelong member of the P.N.C.C. She also worked for the Polish National Union (PNU) for many years. Sonya began keeping a scrapbook in 1950 on the events occurring in her parish, Holy Trinity Parish, in Throop, PA, as well as the entire Church. Fortunately her family packed these scrapbooks and sent them to the P.N.C.C. Archives in nine boxes. Her scrapbooks were catalogued in 2018 and 2019; all tolled about a month's work of data entry, into an Excel file. They comprised 1,093 separate items, catalogued in 10 categories: Newspaper articles (430), Photographs (238), Synods (124 books, documents and other items), Holy Trinity Parish (92 items), Books (94), General Documents (82), Correspondence (13), PNU (10), Straż (4 issues), Memorabilia (2 items), and God's Field (1 issue). The types of items collected by Sonya Gruszecki are listed in the following paragraphs.

The 430 newspaper articles were clipped from The Scranton Times (32), The Scranton Sunday Times (3), The Scranton Tribune (7), The Scrantonian (16), God's Field (7), Straż (49), Mid Valley News (2), American Polonia Reporter (1), Rola Boża (5), Sunday Independent (1). They were from the following years: 1950 (1), 1951 (1), 1952 (1), 1953 (2), 1954 (2), 1955 (1), 1956 (1), 1957 (5), 1958 (8), 1959 (16), 1960 (25), 1962 (16), 1964 (31), 1965 (2), 1967 (3), 1968 (33), 1969 (75), 1970 (25), 1972 (32), 1978 (20), 1979 (3). These newspaper articles covered many topics. Here is a sample of the articles: Death and Funeral of Prime Bishop Grochowski; Centennial of Holy Trinity Parish in Throop, PA; Polish Christmas; Polish Easter Basket; Meeting of the Supreme Council; P.N.C.C. Anniversary; 70th Anniversary of

(Continued on Page 8.)

(Sonya Gruszecki's Donations to the P.N.C.C. Archives - Continued from Page 7.)

St. Marys' Parish, Duryea, PA; Installation of Prime Bishop Zielinski; Crusade 72 For the New Spójnia Home for the Aged; Seminarians to be ordained to the priesthood; Death of Father Valadka; Y. M. S. of R. Bowling League; Installation of Right Rev. Daniel Cyganowski; Reception for Rev. William Chromey; United Choirs Concert in the Central Diocese; Golden Jubilee of the Y. M. S. of R.; Holy Trinity Parish honors Very Rev. Sr. F. Banas; Ordination Service of Rev. Leonard Koshinski at St. Stanislaus Cathedral; 492 Register for Parley of Polish National Youth; Marii Konopnicka Society; 36th Annual Y. M. S. of R. Olympic Meet; Spójnia, District 1; Minor Orders Conferred; Ordination Service at St. Stanislaus Cathedral (Rev. Matthew A. Buba - Fall River, MA); Obituary of Very Rev. Stanley Shuman; Eleventh National Convention-PNU; PNC to Organize Parish in Moscow, PA; Annual Election Conducted by St. Stanislaus Church; Halloween Party at the P.N.C.C. Parish in Washington, D. C.; Annual Election Conducted by St. Stanislaus Church; 7th Annual Parish Picnic, St. Francis Parish; Confirmation Class at St. Adalbert's Parish; First Holy Communion at St. Adalbert's Parish; Polish National Bishop Supports JFK on Rights: Agrees It Is Moral One; Central Committee of United Girls' Sodalities of the Blessed Virgin Mary with Bishop Rysz and Rev. Pyzowski; Palm Sunday Mass set in Holy Trinity Church; Fifty 54 young people of Buffalo Cathedral Parish at Holy Trinity; Flag Ceremony at Y. M. S. of R. Recreation Park; Choir Honors Pastor on 12th Anniversary; Polish National Church Plans General Synod; Ordained to the Holy Priesthood, Rev. Stanley Skrzypek; 2 Area Churches Damaged by Fires; Interior View of Fire Damaged Throop Church; Officials and Scouts of Troop 48, St. Stanislaus to see ball game in Philadelphia, PA; 32nd Annual convention of United Polish Girls Societies; Holy Sacrament of Marriage of Rev. Jon Kotula; Ordinations, Rev. Jan Swiątek, Rev. Thomas Gnat; Polish National Relief Unit Negotiate Contract for Helping Needy in Poland - Father Banas returns from Europe; Cardiac Attack Fatal to Bishop (Bishop Joseph Kardaś); A New Laborer in the Vineyard of Christ, Rev. Thaddeus Peplowski; Bishop Blesses Renovated Dickson City Church; Spojnia Farms Christmas Party; 37th Annual Convention of the United Choirs, South Brooklyn, NY, Holy Cross; Rt. Rev. Eugene Magyar: Co-consecrator of three newly elevated Bishops; in consecration ceremonies June 1968; Charter Members of

Holy Trinity, Throop, PA; Youths Question Bishop on Controversial Problems as Polish National Rally Concludes; Bishop Rysz to Celebrate Outdoor Mass; Remember Way Back - Confirmation Class 1951, Linden, NJ; Intercommunion Commission - Anglican Episcopalian; Dedication of New Bell, St. Adalbert's Parish, Dickson City; 44th Anniversary of the Lithuanian National Catholic Church; Golden Jubilee Banquet 1906 -1956 - The Rev. Dr. T. A. Czarkowski honored; Savonarola Theological Seminary, Scranton, PA; five students elevated to Major Orders; Church Blessing Service Sunday, Throop Edifice Remodeled After Fire Last Year; and 'Polish' In Name May End. There are others. You may have similar or different topics of events in your parish and Diocese covered by your local newspapers.

The 238 photographs included in Sonya's scrapbook are of bishops, priests, Y. M. S. of R. Bowlers, PNU Directors and Board Members, District 6 delegates to the 22nd PNU Convention, PNU Education and Youth Board, Scranton Circle Choirs in the West Side High School, First Communion Class, United Y. M. S. of R. Convention, Toronto, Canada, Rev. Słysz getting an award, Fr. Jozef Klimczak, Triennial Convention of United Ladies Adoration Societies of Most Blessed Sacrament of Polish National Church, Ladies Adoration Societies of Most Blessed Sacrament of Scranton, Throop, Dickson City, Fr. Fryderyk Banas Polish National Church, Annual Banquet Y. M. S. of R. Ladies Auxiliary Bowling League, Bishop Julian Pekala in Dickson City, Annual Bowling Banquet Y. M. S. of R.; Play by Dramatic Club Scranton Area, School Display; Choir on stage; Clergy, in Buffalo, NY; Most Rev. Leon Grochowski to officiate at dedication of church in Middleport, PA; Annual Fourth of July Mass at Spójnia Farm; Installation of Robert M. Nemkovich as Prime Bishop of the P.N.C.C.; Twenty-First Synod Photographs, Young parishioners of Holy Trinity Parish; Organizers of Holy Trinity Parish; Christmas Play; Holy Trinity Parish; First Holy Communion photo; Holy Trinity Church; Parish Committee; Church interior; Holy Trinity Church; Fr. Banas at the altar; Clergy Conference in 1964; Kirby House; Glen Summit, PA; Church Interior after fire, taken Sunday after the fire; Charter Members of Holy Trinity, Throop, PA; Mass in redecorated Holy Trinity Parish, Throop, PA; Seminarians and Teachers standing before Bp. Hodur Memorial Plaque in Lecture Hall.

The 126 item Synod materials include: Registration Form; Mandate; Delegate Badge; Additional Information for attendees; Tentative Daily Schedule; Questionnaire; Pre-Synodal Committee Meeting; Rules and Regulations; Minutes; Proceedings; Collections started by the P.N.C.C. Commission on History and Archives; Proposal to Reform National Church Funding; Resolution; Summary of the 21st General Synod for Holy Trinity Parish by Sonya Gruszecki; Post Synod Survey; Report of the Diocesan Bishop; Inaugural Mass; The Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church as amended through the 18th General Synod; Criteria for the Nominations Commission; 16th Diocesan Synod Mass Hymn Booklet; Commission Reports - Hospitalization, God's Field, Clergy Salary & Benefits, Seminary, SOCL, Mission, National Youth, Liturgy, History & Archives, Scouts; Advertisement Book; 1998-2002 Financial Reports; Pamphlet - Be An Active Church Member; Pamphlet - Sharing Your Faith; Morning Prayer Service; Paper - A Doctors Ministry, Bridging Science and Spirit; Synopsis of the 16th General Synod; Synodal Papers for XV General Synod: Religious Communities and the P.N.C.C., Mission, SOCL, Intercommunion, Constitution Amendments, Matrimony, Homosexuality; Clergy Salary and Benefits Comm. Clergy Hospitalization Commission; Spójnia Home For the Aged Crusade 72 Report; Ecumenism; Report-Budget & Finance Commission; Future Directions Survey and Central Diocesan Synod Pictorial Album.

The 92 items about Holy Trinity parish, Throop, PA are: Annual Parish Meeting; Pastors Report, Annual Parish Meeting; Financial Statements from 1959 to 2016; Monthly Meeting; Parish History; Parish Dues Payments, 1977-1996; Participation in Throop Centennial 1894-1994; an article about Father Banas to bless flags at Holy Trinity Parish; Fire at Holy Trinity Parish, exterior photo; Fire at Holy Trinity Parish, interior picture; article parish committee officers Holy Trinity Parish; Dedication Program of newly decorated church and Letter from Bp. Rysz appointing Fr. Chromey as pastor of Holy Trinity Parish.

The 94 books and booklets include: Triumph Over Adversity by the Bishop Hodur Biography Commission; Pictorial Album by the Central Diocese; The Crisis of the Polish-Swedish War 1655-1660 by Karol Marcinkowski; The March of Faith by the Central Diocese; Journeying Together in Christ by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana and Bishop Anthony M. Rysz;

The Constitution and Laws of the P.N.C.C.; Centennial of Bishop Hodur's Ordination 1893-1993 by Rev. Casimir Grotnik; Spiewniczek by the Komisje Oswiaty I Mlodziezy, PNU; Hodur: A Compilation of Selected Translations by Theodore L. Zawistowski; Unity of Church and Spójnia; The Polish Heritage in America by Irena Jasinski and Donna Kuliczkowski; Be An Active Church Member by the Central Diocese; Church Growth, What Everyone Should Know about by the Central Diocese; About the P.N.C.C. by the Central Diocese; The a-b-c's of Parliamentary Procedure; Open Letter by Most Rev. Leon Grochowski; Straż - Sword and Shield of the P.N.C.C. and the PNU by Laurence Orzell; Our Way of Life by Bishop Francis Hodur; Christmas the Polish Way by Robert Strybel; Polish Proverbs by Helen Stankiewicz Zand; The Polish National Catholics by William Whalen; The Church Answered Your Questions by Rev. Leonard S. Koshinski; A Guide to Conversion: For Our Separated Brethren of the Polish National Church by Most Rev. Henry Klonowski; The Polish National Catholic Church by Helen Buckley; A Short History of the Life and Struggles of Bishop Hodur by Rev. Bolesław R. Bąk; Immigration, Separation, Healing by Rev. Bogdan Milosz; Souvenir Program Book, Blessing of Rebuilt Church; 35th Annual Y. M. S. of R. Field and Track Meet; 84th Annual Y. M. S. of R. Track and Field Meet; 65th Anniversary, 1898-1963, St. Adalbert's Parish, Dickson City, PA; 65th Anniversary, 1898-1963, St. Mary's Parish, Duryea, PA; Golden Anniversary, Y. M. S. of R. Branch No. 1; The P.N.C.C. by Rev. Thaddeus Zielinski; Our Pride: Spójnia Farm and Home for the Aged, 1929-1979 by Laurence Orzell; Know How to Defend Your Faith by Very Rev. John Yurcisin, American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Diocese; The Idea of Regeneration Became a Reality by Rev. Edward Narbutowicz; 2003 Proceedings of the 27th General Convention Polish National Union of America (Spójnia); Diocesan Concert, Program, First District United Choirs, P.N.C.C., Central Diocese; Rule of Life by Rev. Albert Tarka; By Laws of the All Saints Russian Orthodox Greek-Catholic Church of Olyphant, PA; Maria Konopnicka by Rt. Rev. Joseph Jaworski; Welcome To the Polish National Catholic Church by the Central Diocese Mission and Evangelism Commission; Invitation To Walk The Light by Rev. Albert Tarka; Response to Roman Catholic Church Bishop, Henry Klonowski invitation to conversion; P.N.C.C. Ad-

(Continued on Page 10.)

(Sonya Gruszecki's Donations to the P.N.C.C. Archives - Continued from Page 9.)

ministration by Bp. John Misiaszek; The P.N.C.C., brochure by Helen Buckley, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA; Spójnia, A Brief History; Synodalny Spiewniczek, Songs for 11th Synod; 60th Anniversary, P.N.C.C.; The P.N.C.C. in the United States from 1897 to 1980 by Hieronim Kubiak; The Confession of Faith and the Eleven Great Principles of the P.N.C.C.; Spiewnik by Ks. Bp. F. Bonczak; P.N.C.C. Studies, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1989, 1990; Księga Pamiatkowa 33; Centennial Album 1897-1997; The Sacraments by the United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Central Diocese; Album 1897 - 1957, History of the P.N.C.C. by the P.N.C.C.; Throop 1894-1994, by the Borough of Throop; The Growth of a Church by Deacon Robert William Janowski; Works and Writings of First Bishop Franciszek Hodur; Man of Destiny: A Pictorial History; and Diocesan Concert, First District by the Central Diocesan United Choirs.

The 82 General document items include: General Clergy Conference; Church will be led by Bishop Zielinski; P.N.C.C. Calendars from 1992 to 2013; Track Meet attracts 20 Buffalonians; parishioners' names and addresses, St. Adalbert's Parish, Dickson City, PA; Beloved Polish Kolenda Will Ring Out Tonight, St. Stanislaus, Scranton, PA; Roman Catholic P.N.C. churches try to heal old wound; Gift Card thanking Frank Gruszecki for \$100.00 donation to Central Diocesan Chancery building fund; 35th Anniversary, Our Saviour's Parish, Trenton, NJ; 50th Anniversary, Heart of Jesus Parish, Bayonne, NJ; 5 items of the Ethnicity Committee of National United Choirs, Wigilia, Matki Boskiej Zielnej, Wielkanoc, Hej Kolenda and Trech Krol; Church Directory 1997; Polish National Catholic Church, Our Faith, by Rt. Rev. Walter Słowakiewicz; What is the Polish National Catholic Church by Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Gnat; Financial Statement, 1962-2001 - St. Stanislaus, Scranton, PA; Financial Statement, 1989-2011 - St. Adalbert's Parish, Dickson City, PA; Financial Statement, 1974 - All Saints Russian Orthodox,

Olyphant, PA; First Youth Convocation of the P.N.C.C., Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, Buffalo, NY; Invitation to Installation Ceremonies for Very Rev. Banas; Invitation to Ordination and First Mass, Blessed Virgin Mary, Fall River, MA; Polish National Youth Council Visit to Washington, D. C.; United Girls' Sodalities, Central Committee Spring Bulletin; Ordination Ksiądz Marcell Pytlarz; Concert in commemoration of Gen. Casimir Pulaski, United P.N.C.C. Choirs, District 1, Tamaqua Armory, Tamaqua, PA; Souvenir - The Dedication of the Monument of Christ, St. Mary's Parish Cemetery, Duryea, PA; 40th Anniversary Banquet Program, Holy Trinity Parish, Throop, PA; Dedication Program for newly redecorated Holy Trinity P.N.C. Church; Thirty-Fifth Anniversary of the Y. M. S. of R. Branch No. 4, St. Adalbert's Parish, Dickson City, PA; 60th Anniversary, Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, Buffalo, NY; Złoty Jubileusz Ks. Biskup Leona Grochowski-go; 25 anniversary of ordination to priesthood for Rev. Stanley Carl Shuman, St. Mary's Parish, Duryea, PA; 20th Anniversary of the Ordination of the Very Rev. Sr. Fryderyk S. Banas and Testimonial honoring the Very Rev. Senior Fryderyk S. Banas.

In keeping with Sonya's wishes, daughters Amy and Cara Gruszecki, along with their dad, Sonya's husband, Frank Gruszecki, packed and shipped the nine boxes to the P.N.C.C. These will be a treasure trove for anyone researching the Holy Trinity Parish as well as the events that took place in the P.N.C.C. during the years of her scrapbooks.

I only wish that other people would have kept records such as these and send them to the P.N.C.C. Archives. You can use the listings as a guide to what documents can be collected. At a previous General Synod, I made a proposal that each Parish Committee establish a position of Parish Historian to be the collector of information on their parish. Unfortunately, the motion was defeated. I still think that it is a good idea for each parish to have a Historian.

Joseph Francis Seliga,



## Central Diocese

## Holy Mother of Sorrows Annual Dożynki/ Harvest Festival

### Dupont, PA

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish held its 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Harvest Festival/Dożynki in Dupont, PA, on Sunday, September 8, 2019. It took many days and many people to prepare for this event and to continue this beautiful and meaningful Polish tradition.

The Harvest Festival began with the blessing of the Harvest Wreath in the big tent by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor. Rev. James Konicki, from Schenectady, NY, accompanied him.

Live music was provided by Joe Lastovica and the Polka Punch. Homemade Polish and American food: potato pancakes, pierogi, wimpies, haluski, clam

chowder, gołąbki, kielbasa, chicken wings, french fries, funnel cakes, baked goods, homemade pies, pastries and pączki drew many to our Festival and were sold out or almost sold out by the end of the festival.

Dożynki day featured many games and activities: Instant Bingo, Big Raffle, Basket Raffle, Jar Game, Bounce House and face painting.

We would like to thank all our patrons, corporate sponsors and most of all, our hardworking volunteers for making this event successful.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor



Parish Children and Adults at the Wreath Ceremony



Festival volunteers

## Memorial Garden Celebrates (the) Life of Wallington's Emily Desbiens

Joshua Jongsma, North Jersey Record, Published September 10, 2019

Emily Desbiens is far from forgotten at her church (parish).

Desbiens, a 20-year-old Wallington resident, died about a year ago in a (tragic) car accident. On Sunday members of her church, Transfiguration of Our Lord (Parish) on Hathaway Street (Wallington, NJ), dedicated a new garden in her memory.

Amanda Maciag, and Michael Mludzik, members of the church, thought of the garden as a way to honor Desbiens.

Mludzik's father (Fr. Sr.) Gregory is the pastor of the church.

"The memory garden is not to mourn the passing of our loved ones, but to celebrate their lives and the contributions they made to their families, friends, the community and their church," (Very Rev.) Gregory Mludzik said in a prepared statement.

"During her short lifetime, Emily did much to support our church, participating in many activities and fundraisers, including serving as a Sunday School teacher. Her warm smile brought comfort to us all and her many good deeds inspired everyone she met."

Desbiens recently finished her junior year at William Paterson University before her death. She was a member of Delta Phi Epsilon sorority.

She died in a crash at the intersection of Paterson and Mount Pleasant avenues in June 2018.

At Wallington High School, she played softball and was a cheerleader. She graduated in 2015.

"Our family has been deeply touched by the outpouring of kindness and caring that everyone has shown in their remembrance of Emily," her mother Beverly Desbiens said in a statement. "I know she would be grateful for the creation of this lovely spot where



"Emily's Garden" A Memorial for our Beloved friend Emily Desbiens, was dedicated to Emily at 10 am on Sunday, September 10, 2019, at The Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish in Wallington, NJ.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone involved in the making of this memorial. Thank you to those who were generous enough to make a monetary donation. Thank you to those who gave suggestions and their input. Thank you to those who came out day after day and physically helped build this amazing project. ALL of your efforts and hard work will live on forever, through this special place, a beautiful memorial garden, dedicated to our angel, Emily.

Michal Mludzik

## Eastern Diocese

## “Discipleship at the 2019 Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat Camp Howe, Goshen, MA



On a hot and humid August Sunday, the 46th annual Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat began at Camp Howe in Goshen, Massachusetts. “Discipleship” was the theme and more than 40 youth, adults and clergy from 10 parishes across the Eastern Diocese gathered for a wonderful, inspiring and faith-filled retreat.

The retreat began with a prayer service on Sunday, August 18, 2019. During the service the American, P.N.C.C. and youth retreat flags were raised. Everyone gathered in the rec hall for the opening session led by our diocesan youth chaplain, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich. After a quick overview of the week and a review of the camp rules, Joanne Oliveira led the group with some fun and exciting Ice Breakers. The youth had many laughs as each told the group some fun and exciting facts about themselves, and had some fun getting to know our new campers and renewing old friendships. A special Penitential Service for youth with the Sacrament of Penance was celebrated by Fr. Sr. Rob – the theme for the service was set with the opening song “Forgiveness” by Matthew West. All of the youth and some of the adults went to private confession during the appropriate time of the service. After giving out the 2019 Youth

Retreat T-shirts our camp movie night featured popcorn and “Camp Cool Kids” - a movie that addressed bullying; “Spencer” (a character who was bullied) was chanted many times during the remainder of the retreat. This movie gave a great message not to bully and how if we all work together we can overcome. After evening prayer there was the first of a few thunderstorms we encountered in the Berkshire woods.

Monday began with the celebration of Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich. During the Mass both + Bishop Stanley Bilinski and + Jason Fairclough were remembered in prayer (it was 16 years ago that Jason lost his life as he traveled home from our youth retreat). During his sermon, Fr. Sr. Rob encouraged the youth to serve as an example of discipleship for others by the way they live their faith in Christ Jesus, our Lord. After breakfast the first session on our retreat theme was given by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich: “Come Follow Me.” The youth read and learned about the call of the first disciples and were reminded that Jesus continues to call them today. The youth listed various ways that they could

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("Discipleship at the 2019 Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat - Continued from Page 13.)

follow Jesus at home (by praying, not sinning, reading Scriptures, saying Grace, honoring their parents, helping out and forgiving siblings); follow Jesus at school (by doing what they are told, praying for friends, being nice, following the Golden rules, respecting others and being true to yourself); follow Jesus with their friends (by sharing, standing up for them, helping them, being nice, praying for them, calling them out when they are wrong, helping them not to sin, not to make bad choices and telling them about Jesus) and following Jesus on Social Media (by following your Church posts, not posting mean things, sharing things about Jesus, retweet/share positive messages, don't cyber bully and post against negative things). The first activity was led by Joanne Oliveira. The youth were broken up into smaller groups and created lists of three ways they could respond to various situations which they would encounter growing up and how they would address them as Jesus' disciples.

Our second session was presented by Kathy Nemkovich on "Ambassadors of Love and Mercy." Kathy (dressed as a superhero - Mary the Mother of God) burst into the room filled with the Spirit! She gave many examples to the youth of how they, as Jesus' disciples, could be super-heroes to others by "teaching, caring, loving, feeding, clothing, praying, forgiving and being kind." The youth all then received a mask and a cape and were encouraged to allow Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit to empower them to change the world with the powers Jesus gives to them!

After our group picture with our 2019 Youth Retreat shirts (great job Paul Gorgol!) Joanne Oliveira led the group in our second activity. The youth made hands of change - learning that together Jesus disciples can change the world. Afterward a special presentation was made to Terrie the Camp Director at Camp Howe. This retreat was the 25th Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat that was held at Camp Howe. Fr. Sr. Rob thanked the Camp Board and their great staff for so many years of hosting our retreat and providing a great place with wonderful support for our diocesan youth through the years. A special recognition award was given to Camp Howe from the Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat and was placed in the rec hall above the fireplace next to the Camp Howe sign.

After our camp lunch the participants enjoyed an afternoon of free time. There were many who ventured

up the 45-foot-high climbing wall; great job to so many who made the wall look like climbing a ladder. There was time for swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding, archery, arts and crafts, gaga ball, jump roping and much more. The famous Country Store was opened for business and the youth enjoyed their snacks as always - thank you Brenda!

Cleric Justin Daviault gave the evening session, "Called to Serve." He spoke to the youth about how God has called many to serve such as Samuel, Jeremiah, Paul and others. Cleric Justin spoke about the many opportunities that our youth have to serve in the Church today and encouraged them to do so. He spoke of his own journey where after many of years of hearing the call to serve he entered the deacon program to serve God and the Church in this way.

Joanne led the group in Christian Olympics. Thanks to Joanne, Julie, Joanna, Natalie and Brenda for leading these games of the 46th camp Olympiad: Chair basketball (huge hit again), Lemon roll, cotton ball game and others.

Bishop Paul Sobiechowski led the group in evening prayer and the younger campers were off to bed while the older ones gathered around the campfire and spent some time star gazing on a crystal clear evening up in the Berkshire mountains.

Tuesday began with Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich celebrating Holy Mass for Vocations. He spoke about the importance of service for all in the Church but in a special way for those men who are called to serve as priests and deacons. Vocations fliers were made available to our young men and boys.

Community Service was the next morning effort as our youth gave back to 4-H Camp Howe. They made beautiful mosaic signs "Welcome to Camp Howe" out of tiles. Once finished the youth enjoyed many team-building activities teaching them the importance of depending on one another and being there for others. Thanks to the great Camp Howe staff for teaching such important lessons as working together and depending upon one another to accomplish a given task. These are some great life skills for our youth.

After lunch, our youth were able to go out in God's creation and enjoy swimming, paddle boarding, archery, arts and crafts, the adventure high ropes course, paddle boarding, whiffle ball and more.

Fr. Paul Lukaszewicz presented the next session on "Teaching by Example: Emulating Jesus." Fr. Paul began with singing "Here I am Lord" and explained the meaning of this song. He spoke about a computer game from his first computer and how that taught him to imitate - showing the youth that they are to imitate Jesus and this is the way to lead and teach others by following our Lord's examples. The session concluded with the electric guitar and the song "Open the Eyes of My Hear Lord." After the session it was off to Williamsburg and the Greenhouse Ice Cream stand where our Youth Retreat participants, along with the Camp Howe staff, enjoyed ice cream and time in fellowship and fun. Thank You to District 3 of the Polish National Union of America for sponsoring our annual ice cream social during the retreat.

When we got back up the mountain to Camp Howe Joanne led the evening game. The youth were broken up into two groups and played a catechism review game. Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich led the annual candle-light service; a beautiful time in prayer and worship under the stars up in the mountains. The youth then enjoyed some time around the campfire and of course playing some cards in the dining hall.

Holy Mass of the day began Wednesday at Camp Howe. Our next session on Praying as Jesus' Disciples was given by Julie McLean with help from a couple of youth in her SOCL Class, Kaylana and Vicki. They spoke about the importance and power of prayer and gave the Prayer Process with 7 steps. They stressed the importance of taking 10 minutes each day to pray. Everyone then participated in The Prayer Process with these steps: Gratitude, Awareness, Significant Moments, Peace, Freedom, Others and Pray the Our Father. Cards were given to all participants and the session concluded with praying the Our Father.

It was then off to Spare Time Bowl for a couple of strings of bowling. The youth and adults had a wonderful time bowling and laughing and having great fun. Another big Thank You to District 3 of the Polish National Union for sponsoring this bowling trip. There were many strikes made and our younger ones found creative ways to use the bumpers to get those scores up. The afternoon was spent in free time where the high ropes, swimming, paddle boarding, archery, arts and crafts and gaga ball were bustling. This was the last after-noon of activities for the Camp Howe Staff for the season and the water ropes

were brought in - a sure sign the beautiful fall and football season is almost upon us :)

After some great chicken parm, Fr. Sr. Joe Soltysiak gave the final session of Youth Retreat 2019: Living as Mature Disciples today. Fr. Sr. Joe competed with an intense thunderstorm and massive rain but nonetheless gave 14 Scriptural examples for how to live as Jesus' disciples today.

On the final evening of camp, we had our annual campfire; but due to a couple of inches of rain in less than a hour, the camp fire was held in the rec hall. The Camp Howe staff did a great job with skits, songs and stories. The Bear Hunt, The Moose, Rattlin Bog, repeat after me songs and other camp songs were quite a hit. S'mores and popcorn popped on the campfire were then enjoyed with the Camp Howe Staff.

Bishop Paul Sobiechowski began our final day of retreat celebrating Holy Mass for Discipleship. This Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich and Fr. Paul Lukaszewicz. In his sermon, Bishop thanked everyone for attending the retreat and spoke about the importance of living as Jesus lived; he asked the youth to tell at least two people this Sunday about their experiences at Youth Retreat 2019 and to invite friends to come to the retreat with them next year. Thanks to Cleric Justin Daviault who assisted at all the Retreat Masses and proclaimed the readings. Thanks also to our Altar Servers: Dylan, Gabby, Jakeb, Zack, Vicki, and Kaylana.

At our last meal at Camp Howe for 2019 the participants sang their 11th and final grace of the retreat, to the tune of the doxology: "For food and health and happy days - accept our gratitude and praise - in serving others Lord may we - repay our debt of love to Thee. Amen."

After camp cleanup, everyone gathered for our closing session, led by Fr. Sr. Rob. He thanked all the youth for attending and all the chaperones, session presenters and activity leaders for their work for the youth of our diocese. He reminded the youth to live as faithful disciples of Jesus; to put into action the lessons learned this week.

The 2019 Camp Spirit Award (this is given each year in memory of Jason Fairclough, remembering his camp spirit and looking out for others) was awarded to Nicholas Richard from Holy Cross Parish in

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("Discipleship at the 2019 Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat - Continued from Page 15.)



Central Falls, RI. Nicholas' name was later added to the plaque and he will be remembered at future Eastern Diocese Youth Retreats. Congratulations Nick - well done!

Thanks are given to Bishop Paul, the session presenters, our activity coordinator Joanne Oliveira, our country store manager Brenda Richard, to our Eastern Diocese Women's Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society for their generous annual donation to our retreat, to District 3 of the Polish National Union and to all the chaperones who gave of their

time to make Youth Retreat 2019 an outstanding success! Thanks also to Natalie Chmielewska for her wonderful pictures and to Julia for making lizard key chains for all the Camp Howe Staff!

The retreat ended with a prayer service and the lowering of the American, P.N.C.C. and Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat flags. We are excited to announce that Youth Retreat 2020 will again be held at Camp Howe in Goshen, Massachusetts beginning on Sunday August 16, 2020 – this will be our 47th Annual Diocesan Youth Retreat. The countdown on some smart phones for Youth Retreat 2020 has already begun! For more pictures of the retreat as it unfolded, please see our Facebook page:

**Eastern Diocese Youth**

We are excited to announce our next diocesan youth event will be our Winter Youth Gathering/Lock In - Friday, December 27th to Saturday December 28th at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA. We will begin Friday afternoon and lock ourselves in at Blessed Trinity and wrap up this winter retreat late Saturday morning. It should be a great time. God bless, live as faithful disciples and we look forward to seeing you all again at Youth Retreat 2020.

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich - Diocesan Youth Chaplain



## 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 on the God's Field page ([pncc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/online\\_greeting\\_form\\_2019.pdf](https://pncc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/online_greeting_form_2019.pdf)).

ALL GREETINGS, ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENTS, MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 30, 2019 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.

## August Happenings at Blessed Trinity Parish Fall River, MA

On Sunday, August 11, 2019, Blessed Trinity Parish conducted its annual Summer Clam Boil after Holy Mass. The hall was full of very hungry people who left happy and satisfied after the delicious meal. Thank you to all who supported and prepared for this annual event!



On Youth Sunday, August 25, 2019, 21 backpacks and 5 backpack tags were blessed after Holy Mass.



On Sunday, August 18, 2019, 16 altar servers were at our altar during Holy Mass to wish Cliff Nemkovich best wishes as he embarks on his journey in service to our country in the United States Coast Guard. Following Mass we had a special coffee hour for Cliff. Semper Paratus! Fair Winds and Following Seas. God bless you, Cliff!



Later in the evening on August 25th, 11 Blessed Trinity Parish representatives attended the Annual Light The Way Walk for Suicide Prevention at St. Thomas Church in Taunton, MA. It was a blessing to help in this effort by walking, registering folks and serving pizza afterward!



On Saturday morning, August 24, 2019, a group of members of Blessed Trinity Parish gathered together to chop and sauté 200 pounds of onions for our upcoming Polish Food Fest in October. Many thanks!

## Solemnity of Brotherly Love at Blessed Trinity Parish Fall River, MA

On Sunday, September 8, 2019, the Solemnity of Brotherly Love, we blessed our wonderful Sunday School teachers and students as we began our School of Christian Living 2019-2020 year at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA. May they grow in their love and service of our Lord and others through our Holy Church.

We also remembered in prayer those who died on 9-11 and those who have been affected by the recent Hurricane Dorian. Prayers were also offered for World Suicide Prevention day on September 10th.



## Holy Name of Jesus Parish Celebrates 90th Anniversary

### South Deerfield, MA

On Sunday, August 25, 2019, the Holy Name of Jesus Parish in South Deerfield, MA, celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its inception. A special Anniversary Mass of the Eucharist was celebrated by Prime Bishop, Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, along with Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop of Eastern Diocese P.N.C.C., Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Administrative Senior of the Central Seniorate of the Eastern Diocese P.N.C.C., Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas, Pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Ware, MA and Rev. Robert M. Koerber, administrator of Holy Name of Jesus Parish.



At 10:30 am, Prime Bishop Anthony intoned the Processional Hymn “Blessed is He Who Trusts in God Almighty”; church bells were rung; and leading the procession from the steps of the rectory to the church were Mr. Wayne Shaw, crucifer and senior altar server; Women’s Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament (SAMBS) members; and altar server Mr. Braeden Tudryn, carrying the bells.



Approaching the sanctuary, Bishop Sobiechowski was greeted with the traditional bread and salt by Mr. Eric Dibrindisi, Vice Chair of Holy Name of Jesus Parish. Mr. Bill Girardi, Chair of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, welcomed Prime Bishop Mikovsky with bread and salt by Mr. Bill Girardi, Chair of the parish. Mr. Girardi asked for Prime Bishop’s blessing upon our Church.

“The Hymn of Faith” was intoned as the clergy came before the main altar. This hymn was written by the Most Rev. Francis Hodur, the first bishop of the P.N.C.C. Holy.

The Holy Mass of the Eucharist was celebrated in the Traditional Rite, as it was first celebrated in 1929. Prime Bishop Mikovsky then incensed the Altar of Sacrifice. Ms. Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd read from the Book of Isaiah the Prophet and Mr. Bill Girardi read from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. Very Rev. Soltysiak asked for a blessing from Prime Bishop and then read from the Gospel of St. John, where Jesus prays to the Father for “Oneness.”



Prime Bishop offered an inspirational sermon on the merits of “reflecting Jesus” day by day.



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(Holy Name of Jesus Parish Celebrates 90th Anniversary Continued from Page 19.)

The clergy gathered at the Table of the Lord to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist during the Canon of the Mass.



The clergy again came before the Main Altar and the Hymn of the Polish National Catholic Church, "Through the Years," or "Tyle Lat," was sung in Polish as well as English. The Recessional Hymn, "Hymn of Resolve," was intoned as all left the church.

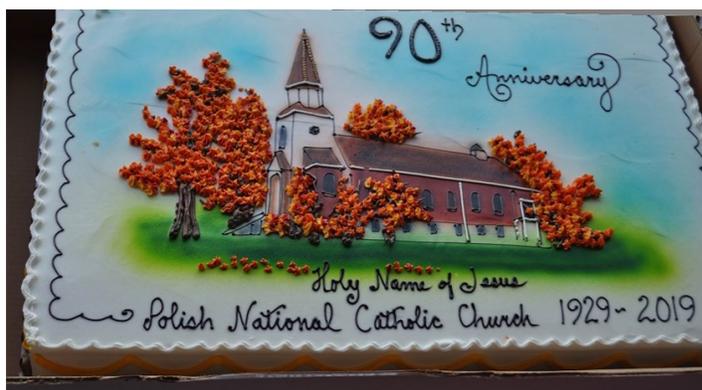
At the end of Holy Mass, Bishop Paul offered his thoughts on this special day as he remembered the Feast of St. Bartholomew as well as the Feast Day of Mary of Czestochowa - two feast days, one preceding our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the other following our celebration.



Fr. Koerber then offered words of appreciation to the clergy who gathered to celebrate the Anniversary Mass. He also thanked parish organist, Ms. Barbara Stahelski, and the members of the Echo Choir for their beautiful musical selections, as well as the members of the Women's SAMBS, the altar servers and all who gathered.

Father Koerber then called upon Mr. Pempa Tsering, a world-renowned Tibetan musician from the Boston area, who performed on flute the hymn "Weary of Earth" written in 1866 by S.J. Stone, an Anglican clergyman.

Following the Mass there was an informal gathering at the Polish American Citizen's Church in South Deerfield. A pulled pork BBQ dinner and music from the Rhythm Band of CT was enjoyed by all. This event was catered by the DY BBQ of South Deerfield, MA along with contributions from Bub's BBQ of Sunderland, MA. Two special cakes were prepared by Gregory's Bakery of Hadley MA. There also were many beautiful gift baskets!



Our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was blessed by God with beautiful weather; a day of sunshine, low humidity and perfect temperature.

Special words of appreciation to Ms. Karen Sobiechowski for her musical assistance; to Mr. Jonathan Boschen, from the Frontier Access Cable Television who videotaped our celebration for local cable access channels and YouTube; and also to Mr. Eugene Kulas, from Holy Cross Parish, Ware, MA, who took many pictures of our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

Submitted by Rev. Robert Koerber

## St. Joseph's Dożynki — A Festival of Thanksgiving

Westfield, MA

St. Joseph's P.N.C.C. in Westfield, MA held its annual Dożynki — Polish Harvest Festival on Sunday, September 8, 2019.

This year's festival at St. Joseph's was held from Noon to 4:00 p.m. at the parish social center and parish grounds. The harvest wreath, which was blessed during the 8:00 a.m. Mass, was brought to the festival with a procession starting at 2:00 p.m. A 9/11 Remembrance Service was also held.

A Dożynki program, highlighted by the St. Joseph's Dożynki Dancers, pictured below, performing traditional Polish folk dances, followed. The St. Joseph's Dożynki Dancers is a group of young people from St. Joseph's Parish.

Polish music was played throughout the festival and the day's events also included games for all ages as well as plenty of delicious traditional Polish and

American fare.

As we celebrate Dożynki, we are reminded of the old Polish traditions concerning the feast. A mound-shaped wreath ("wieniec" or "snop") made of grain, herbs, flowers, fruits and vegetables, adorned with red and white ribbons, is blessed by the priest on the day of the festival. The Dożynki singers, representing "peasants," bring the wreath to the festival and present it to the landlord and his wife ("Pan" and "Pani"). Special harvest songs are offered and then there is a time of merriment, dancing and feasting.

Mr. Trent Taylor, Chair of the Parish Committee, and Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, pastor, extend a most cordial invitation to all to attend next year's Dożynki. We are sure that you will have a most enjoyable family time!

Submitted by Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak



## Western Diocese

## Holy Cross Parish Collects School Supplies Hamtramck, MI



Holy Cross Parish PTO, Hamtramck, MI, spent the summer organizing and collecting donations of school supplies for Horizon Alternative Education High School in the Hamtramck Public School District. Local Hamtramck firefighters were also very generous with the parish's project.

Our Pastor, Very Rev. Nowak, and parishioners helped unload 3 vehicles full of pencils, pens,

folders, notebooks, glue, highlighters, markers, calculators and so much more.

The principal and staff of the school were excited and grateful for our donations. We wish their students and staff many blessings for the new school year.

Thank you to anyone and everyone who supported this project.



## Rev. Charles Zawistowski Celebrates 25 Years as Pastor and 30 Years as Priest

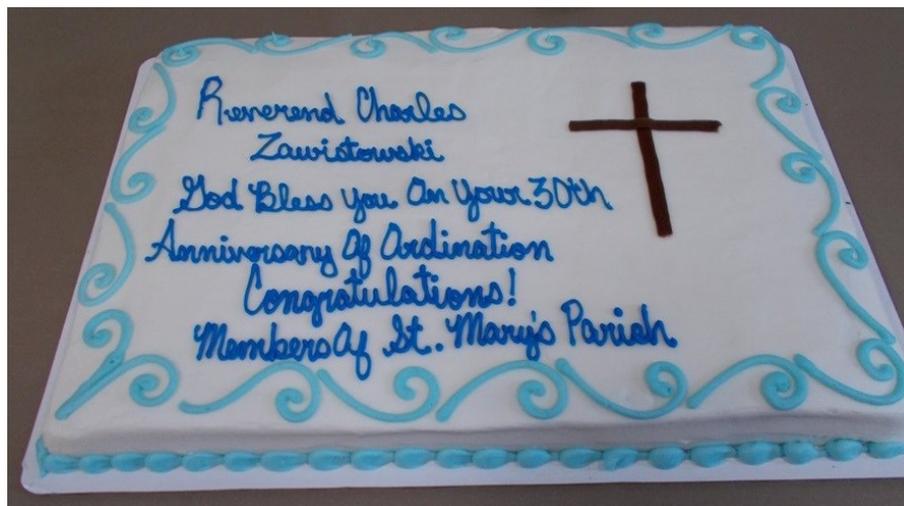
St. Mary Parish, South Bend, IN

On Sunday, September 8, 2019, St. Mary Parish parishioners celebrated Father Charles Zawistowski's 25th Anniversary as Pastor of the parish as well as his 30th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood.

Presentations to Fr. Charles were made by Kathy, Parish Committee Chair, and long-time parishioner

Clarence, an elder with the Pokagon Tribe of Potawatomi Native Americans. Gifts included a chasuble for Christmas, a decorated cake, cards, flowers and other presents.

Congratulations to Fr. Charles! Sto Lat!





### A P.N.C.C. Celebration, the Solemnity of the Christian Family — Sunday, October 13, 2019

The P.N.C.C. is again offering to the parishes a full-color brochure describing the Solemnity of the Christian Family, a unique feast of our Church. This is a perfect point of information to include in welcome packets or to have in bulletin racks.

The brochures are available for purchase from the P.N.C.C. Book Department:

25 brochures:	\$8.50
50 brochures:	\$15.00
75 brochures:	\$21.50
100 brochures:	\$27.50

(All prices include shipping costs.)

Checks, payable to P.N.C.C. Book Department, should be sent to:

P.N.C.C. Book Department  
National Church Center  
1006 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505

