



Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Volume 99

July 2021

Issue #7

## Come and Rest a While

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

As we continue our journey through the Sundays of Ordinary Time, we have been focusing heavily on the issue of faith. Over the past several weeks we have heard our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, chastise the Apostles for their lack of faith in the boat. We have heard Him tell the woman with the hemorrhage that it was her faith that healed her, and in last week's Gospel we heard Jesus exclaim that He was amazed at the lack of faith of those who should have known Him the best.

It is with this background that we encounter the Gospel reading for this past Sunday taken from the Gospel of St. Mark, chapter 6, when the disciples returned from their being sent out by Jesus to preach repentance and to heal and drive out unclean spirits. The Gospel tells us: "The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told Him all what they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat." (Mark 6:30-31)

While we may pass over this statement and get to what we might consider the heart of this passage, the part where Jesus begins to teach the crowd because there was a vast number of people and they were like "sheep without a shepherd." (Mark 6:34b) we really must spend a bit of time considering these words, especially as during this recent pandemic, many of us have spent some time away from our Lord because of various lockdowns and concern over the virus.

The eating of a meal together within the culture of our Lord Jesus Christ was a very important part of

daily living, and it was so very much more than just an opportunity to grab a bite to eat when you are hungry. We really do not consider meals much like this anymore since oftentimes, even those who live within the same household don't eat together. Rather each person has many other important things to do and they just grab something to sustain themselves either from their own refrigerator as they are leaving the house to go to some important event or grabbing a quick fast-food meal on the way. Eating together has become somewhat of a luxury and, for many families, it is only done maybe on Sunday for dinner and for larger families only at special occasions like holidays. Within our own culture, we now have so many other ways to remain connected with cell phones and a large number of different social media we can always know what our friends and family are doing, even if we can't come together for a meal.

This was not the case for Jesus and His followers. They needed some time alone to get reconnected after the Apostles were out on this mission journey to preach, teach and heal. It is for this reason that Jesus told them to "come away to a deserted place to share a meal with Him." Several aspects of this phrase are important and would be easily recognized by anyone from the culture of our Lord. Each of them is important for us as well even though they are not as readily apparent.

First the followers of Jesus are asked to "come away." This is something I would imagine that many of us can understand. Our lives have become so busy that we each would love a little time away from all

(Continued on Page 3.)

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Publication Information**

**The deadline for article submissions is the 1st of the month;** online publication date is mid-month. Submissions received after the 1st will be included in the following month's issue.

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:

God's Field  
Polish National Catholic Church  
1006 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505-4109

**Identification Statement**

**The Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church, GOD'S FIELD - ROLA BOŻA, is published monthly for the U.S. \$48.00; Canada \$62.00; Foreign \$87.50 per subscription year (March through February) by**

**Polish National Catholic Church  
1006 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505-4109**

Individual issues of *God's Field* are available for purchase from the National Church Center for \$2.00 each (pickup) or prepaid \$4.00 each (U.S.); \$5.25 each (Canada); \$7.30 (Foreign).

**Send payments and address changes to:**

**GOD'S FIELD  
1006 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505-4109**

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Opinions expressed in various articles published in *God's Field* do not necessarily reflect the doctrine of the P.N.C.C.

**Inside this Issue**

Come and Rest a While- Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky .....	1
Balance - Rev. Jim Konicki.....	4
Future Direction July Message.....	5
Can You Help the Archive Complete Its Straż Collection? - History & Archives .....	6
2021 United Y.M.S. of R. Men's Spiritual Retreat -- Rev. Jason Soltysiak.....	8
Honor Your Father .....	12
Donations to the Clergy Pension Fund.....	20
Central Diocese .....	10
Eastern Diocese .....	14
Western Diocese.....	17

(Come and Rest a While - Continued from Page 1.)

the demands and responsibilities we each have. Even in the time of the recent pandemic, families were spending extra time in helping children with school-work at home, and I too can say that my workload of meetings did not diminish, but rather increased. While video conferencing has certainly been a blessing during this pandemic allowing the Church to continue its work, it has also allowed me to have several meetings in one day without any time to spend moments of genuine connection with other people during them. It also challenges us to make sure that prayer is a part of each of these meetings as it is sometimes so easy to just want to get to the heart of the issues or problems without first seeking to call upon the Lord for His guidance and help.

Because of this we each need some time to “come away” to be with our Lord. Among other things, for us as Catholic Christians, this should mean some time to gather for Holy Eucharist where we can spend some time in quiet prayer, connect with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament reposed upon our altars and ultimately receive Him in Holy Communion.

During the pandemic when our church attendance was restricted and while many of us were concerned about our health and safety, we might have taken a step back from these things. But now that vaccines are available, now that we understand the virus better and now that we can protect ourselves, it is time for us to once again “come away” from our daily lives to spend a little time with the Lord at church.

Secondly Jesus calls them to a “deserted place.” In our lives today we might ask the question, why would I want to go to a place like that? Well, this is really a bit of code for those in the know in Jesus’ day. A “deserted place” is a place where one can go and encounter God. To this end we know that John the Baptist preached in the wilderness, that Jesus went into the desert after His baptism and often He went away by Himself to spend time in prayer and encounter God the Father. Jesus is calling His followers to a place where they can spend time with each other and more importantly with Almighty God. The Apostles had been busy doing the work of God in preaching repentance, in dispelling unclean spirits and in healing. And though all of this is the work of God, they also needed to be connected to the source of all this work, God Himself.

This is true for us today as well. Hopefully within our daily lives we also find time to continue to do the work of God that is all around us. We encourage each other in our good works and in our virtuous lives. We help each other along through acts of mercy and loving kindness. But we must remember that we also need to be connected to the source of this good Christian life and that is God Himself. For us that “desert place” where we connect with Almighty God is our parish church. That is the place where we can put aside the worries and demands of our very busy lives, for just a few moments, and connect with God: God the Father, Who created us in love; God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who showed us such great love in going to the Cross and leading us in the way of Resurrection; God the Holy Spirit, Who continues to sanctify us and strengthen us in our pilgrimage of life. It is within our parish church that we worship Almighty God and receive Him in the Holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This brings us to the last part of this call from our Lord, to share a meal with Him. Now for us Catholic Christians, we know that He calls us to no ordinary meal. He calls us to gather at the altar, the table of the Lord, to share the heavenly meal of the Holy Eucharist. We receive there the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and become one with Him in this Sacred Banquet.

My brothers and sisters, during this past time of pandemic, many of us have lost sight of the importance of coming away to a deserted place to share a meal with the Lord. We have lost the importance of gathering within our parish churches to worship God and receive Him in Holy Communion. In the weeks and months to come, as we continue to put this pandemic behind us and return to our full daily lives, take seriously the call of our Lord given to us in the Gospel to “come away to a deserted place,” take seriously the call to “share a meal with Him.”

Make sure that as we return to full life we often “come away to a special place to share a meal with Jesus and His followers.” Come to church to worship God, receive Him in Holy Communion and connect with Jesus sharing a Christian Catholic life with the Body of Christ, His Church.

## Balance

**Rev. Jim Konicki, Chair, P.N.C.C. Vocations Commission**

Ah, summertime is here, and it is time to layback and relax (at least a little), enjoy the weather, and engage in fellowship with our parish families and our wider church family. It is in these times that God offers us the chance to restore balance.

In Mark 6:31 Jesus recognized the strain that was on Himself and His disciples. They were literally working non-stop, day and night. So, He invited them to: *“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”* Jesus, in His humanity, knew what exhaustion and pressure were. He knew the heart, mind, and physical needs of each person. While He expected discipline and full engagement in doing the work of the Kingdom, proclaiming the Gospel, and in prayer and study, He also expected we take the time to appreciate each other and His Father's creation, that we rest.

St. Paul, in writing to the Church at Corinth, noted that his work and worry were constant. In 2 Corinthians 11:28 he said: *And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.*

St. Paul was probably the biggest go-getter in Church history. He was constantly on the move. His commitment to the gospel would not let him waste a moment. If Paul wasn't establishing Churches, proclaiming, and traveling, he was writing, taking up collections to help other Churches, and sewing tents to earn a living. Even when he was in prison, he was busy. Yet, there was a period of between six and thirty-six months where we have no record of his doing anything. This occurred between his second missionary journey and his third. It can be assumed that this was a period of rest and recovery in his life.

Jesus calls us to work toward an ideal, His gospel ideal. That process, which we call sanctification, must be continual and must be human. Jesus did not come to save robots.

Being truly human means we must strike a balance in the discipline of our life. We must not be so rigid that we work ourselves to death, for if we do that, we will miss the still, quiet, and restful moments where Holy Spirit speaks to us, where we adjust course and reflect. Similarly, we must not be so chill that God's work goes undone. He needs us engaged and active.

So it is in the vocational life. There must be balance in the work of priests and deacons. We make ourselves available 24/7 for those in need and in times of emergency. We are attentive to our responsibilities to the community in times of tragedy where we must respond quickly and offer a safe haven to pray, cry, and reflect. We rejoice with those rejoicing and sorrow with those sorrowing. We know that reconciliation of sinners must be available, the word must be proclaimed and taught, and that we must offer again and again the Divine sacrifice instituted by our Lord and Savior. So too we must (and I am being emphatic here in saying must) take the time to refresh and renew, to quiet ourselves, and re-prepare.

All this said, there are areas in our gospel lives that cannot tolerate balance. In essence it is this: We must always be the image of Jesus to the world, the bearers of the Holy Spirit. We must be all-in for Jesus. We cannot go off and forget Christ. We cannot take a break from living the gospel way. We cannot set Jesus or His family, the Church, aside for a bit.

Certainly, in their time of rest in the secluded place, the disciples did not ignore Jesus. Would they ever say, ‘Leave me alone Jesus?’ Certainly, in the time Paul took to rest, he did not forget Jesus nor ignore his missionary imperative. Would he ever say, ‘Come back another day, I don't want to talk about Jesus?’

God offers us the chance to restore balance. Let us do it rightly this summer. And if, in this time of re-balancing you hear the call to the special graces imparted to those who will step forward as priests and deacons, text or call me at 518-522-0944 or E-mail me at [frjim@holynamencc.org](mailto:frjim@holynamencc.org).



## Future Direction July Message

### St. Paul: Early Life and Transformation

As we have reached the halfway point of Discipleship 2021 – in July we focused on St. Paul and his early life and transformation to a disciple of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

#### Holy Scriptures

Scripture:

Acts 21:17-22:21; 2 Corinthians 11:16-33; 12:7-10

**Reflection and Action Item:** St. Paul readily admits that he has “a past.” But we all do, don’t we? With him, though, we are called by Jesus to turn our backs to our sinfulness and our faces toward Him that we might live in holiness and righteousness and, in doing so, lead others to Him as well. This will not always be easy for us, just as it was often a struggle for the Apostle. Yet, the love of Jesus compels us to keep trying. Each week this month, make some personal or family sacrifice (e.g., fasting from a meal, abstaining from a favorite food or recreational activity, etc.) that those who have not yet come to know Jesus as their Lord may come to see and embrace the salvation and peace that He alone offers.

**Schedule** Mass for those Grieving

**Song Recommendation:** “Keep on Hoping” by *Riley Clemmons*

#### A Prayer for Courage – PNCC Prayer Book

Let us pray.

Almighty God speak to our hearts whenever courage fades.

Sustain us with an unyielding trust and steadfast faith,

so that we may not be afraid to profess or defend our faith in You.

May we stand with the same courage and perseverance of Your holy martyrs

as we face the challenges placed before us.

Renew us with Your unfailing love and fill us with hope in Your eternal purpose.

Enlighten us to look beyond the temporary things of this world to You,  
the Source of all courage.

We ask this through Your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.



## Can You Help the Archive Complete its *Straż* Collection?

One of the many goals of the Archives of the Polish National Catholic Church [P.N.C.C.] is to obtain three copies of every P.N.C.C. published document. The P.N.C.C. Archives would like to maintain three copies of each document to insure access by researchers and against damage or loss of any single copy. The most likely place for copies of P.N.C.C. published documents are the clergy and members of the P.N.C.C. This year the Archives is beginning a program to obtain documents that it does not yet have.

One of the P.N.C.C. published documents is *Straż* [*The Guard*]. As you know, *Straż* was the first official newspaper of the Polish National Catholic Church. As such, it contains many articles about the activities of the Church, its members and clergy. It is a valuable asset and resource for anyone looking for information about the P.N.C.C. and its members and parishes. The P.N.C.C. Archives would like to complete its collection of *Straż*.

Our collection is incomplete. We would like to obtain copies of these missing issues:

For 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, All Numbers.

For 1950s, All except for Number 44 in 1958.

For 1960, Numbers 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 through 22, 34 through 46, 48 through 51.

For 1961, All Numbers.

For 1962, Numbers 1 through 29, 31 through 47, and 49.

For 1963, Numbers 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 30 through 52.

For 1964, Numbers 1 through 38, 41 through 52.

For 1965, All Numbers.

For 1966, Numbers 1 through 12, 14, 15, 17 through 36, 38 through 52.

For 1967, Numbers 1 through 6, 8 through 52.

For 1968, Numbers 1 through 24, 26, 28, 29, 33 through 52.

For 1969, Numbers 1 through 29, 33 through 52.

For 1970, Numbers 1 through 21, 23 through 37, 41, 43 through 52.

For 1971, Numbers 1 through 3, 5 through 14, 16 through 31, 33 through 36, 38 through 43, 45 through 51.

For 1972, Numbers 1 through 9, 20 through 36, 39 through 42, 44, 46 through 52.

For 1973, All Numbers.

For 1974, All Numbers.

For 1975, All Numbers except Number 34.

For 1976, Numbers 1, 6 through 35, 37 through 52.

For 1977, Numbers 1 through 33, 36 through 38, 40 through 52.

For 1978, Numbers 1 through 8, 10 through 33, 35 through 45, 48, 50 through 52.

For 1979, All Numbers except Number 37.

For 1980, All Numbers except Number 34.

For 1981, Numbers 1 through 7, 9 through 20, 22 through 52.

For 1982, Numbers 1 through 3, 5 through 38, 40, 42 through 52.

For 1983, All Numbers except Number 36.

For 1984, All Numbers except Number 34.

For 1985, All Numbers.

For 1986, Numbers 2 through 27, 30 through 39, 41 through 52.

For 1987, Numbers 1 through 7, 12 through 15, 17 through 31, 33, 35, 36, 38, 39, 42 through 45, 47 through 49, 52.

For 1988, Numbers 2 through 5, 7, 9 through 26, 28 through 32, 33, 51.  
For 1989, Numbers 2 through 7, 9, 10, 13 through 15, 18 through 35, 37 through 52.  
For 1990, Numbers 1 through 24, 26 through 44, 46 through 48, 50.  
For 1991, Numbers 15, 20 through 22, 24 through 31, 41 through 44, 50.  
For 1992, All Numbers except Number 43.  
For 1993, All Numbers except Number 40.  
For 1994, Numbers 1 through 31, 34 through 37, 45, 46.  
For 1995, Numbers 6 through 37, 39 through 50.  
For 1996, Numbers 1 through 24, 26 through 30, 37 through 50.  
For 1997, Numbers 1 through 8, 13 through 15, 17 through 28, 30 through 35, 37 through 50.  
For 1998, Numbers 1 through 11, 13 through 21, 23 through 50.  
For 1999, Numbers 2 through 6, 9 through 22, 24, 26, 29 through 50.  
For 2000, All Numbers except Number 47  
For 2001, All Numbers.  
For 2002, Numbers 1 through 11, 13 through 30, 32, 34, 36 through 39, 41 through 43, 45 through 48.  
For 2003, All Numbers.  
For 2004, All Numbers.  
For 2007, All Numbers except Number 12.  
For 2008, All Numbers.  
For 2009, All Numbers.  
For 2010, All Numbers.  
For 2011, All Numbers.  
For 2012, All Numbers.  
For 2013, All Numbers.  
For 2014, All Numbers.  
For 2015, All Numbers.  
For 2016, All Numbers.  
For 2017, All Numbers.  
For 2018, All Numbers.  
For 2019, All Numbers.  
For 2020, All Numbers.  
For 2021, All Numbers.

You can help to publicize the many wonderful aspects of the Polish National Catholic Church and help others to understand and appreciate our gem by donating the missing Straż issues.

Please send any or all of the above listed copies to the P.N.C.C. Archives at the National Church Center, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA, 18505.

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



## 2021 United Y.M.S. of R. Men's Spiritual Retreat

Rev. Jason Soltysiak

The Fourth Annual Bishop Stanley Bilinski Memorial United Y.M.S. of R. Men's Spiritual Retreat took place from Thursday afternoon, June 17 through lunch on Saturday, June 19 at the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center on Spójnia Farm in Waymart, PA.

The retreat planning sub-committee met eight times over a 5-month span to get this event in order. This included schedule planning, adjusting for Covid protocols, theme, sessions, activities, giveaways, marketing, liturgy-planning, and more.

Fr. Jason Soltysiak (Pastor, St. Mary's Parish, Parma, OH) was the retreat master and head of the planning sub-committee. He was joined by: Fr. Carmen Bollock (Pastor, St. Mary's Parish, Duryea, PA), Fr. Jim Konicki (Pastor, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Schenectady, NY), Deacon Jim Ploskonka (Western Diocese), Andrew Humphreys (Member, St. Adalbert's Parish, Dickson City, PA), Dave Pecynski (Member, Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral- Parish, Lancaster, NY), and Nick Kazinetz (United Y.M.S. of R. President and Member, Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA).

The theme for this year's retreat was "How to Move On", based on St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, chapter 4 verses 31-32: "*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*" The goal of the retreat was to allow presenters to take on the task of addressing "moving on" from their personal experience with the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

Deacon Jim provided an orientation on Wednesday night that was sent to all participants via email, priming them for Thursday's opening session. Those who arrived Wednesday for planning & set-up were treated to a dinner of wings and pizza with a night that concluded with evening prayer, song, and a campfire.

Thursday's opening session allowed those in-person and online to mingle together. Fr. Jason provided an opening prayer and explanation of the theme while Andrew Humphreys provided a fun icebreaker game. Whereas the vast majority of the group was digital

last year, this year we rarely had more than a half-dozen to a dozen online. We did enjoy 21 men in-person for each session, including representatives from all four American P.N.C.C. Dioceses.

We shared our first retreat meal together afterward (we shared quite a bit of food together!), a delicious Italian dinner of baked ziti - one with meat sauce, the other with sausage, peppers, and onions. After carbing up, we retreated back to the Retreat Center, where our first presentation began, titled "Home Alone", with Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk (Pastor, St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN). Fr. Sr. spoke of the peaks as well as the valleys of being "home alone". He asked early how we felt at the beginning of the pandemic, making note of the words... versus how we feel now, versus how we feel with the knowledge of Christ's great proclamation that we are never alone: "I am with you always!"

Thursday evening wound down with the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, led by Fr. Jim Konicki. The Sacrament was processed to our chapel room, readied for adoration our entire retreat. After some time in adoration, we returned to the main hall for a virtual evening prayer led by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski (Bishop of the Eastern Diocese and Pastor of Holy Trinity Cathedral Parish, Manchester, NH). The night concluded with a bonfire and some snacks.

Friday was our only full day of retreat, and it began for many around the newly-installed coffee bar in the retreat center. There, pot-after-pot of coffee was consumed while the guys shared stories around the table. Upon the arrival of Bishop Bernard Nowicki (Bishop of the Central Diocese and Pastor of Saint Stanislaus Cathedral Parish, Scranton, PA), we pre-pared for Holy Mass, celebrated by Bishop Nowicki. Fr. David Gaydos (Central Diocese) served as homilist, offering a few thought-provoking stories in his sermon. Breakfast followed Mass, featuring French toast sticks, fruit salad, sausage, and more.

Fr. Scott Lill (Pastor, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Lilly, PA) virtually led our second session of the retreat, focusing on forgiveness. He provided tactics



and avenues to go about to answer the spiritual question of our theme of “how to move on.” At Noon, Bishop Jerry Rafalko (Bishop of the Western Diocese and Pastor of All Saints Cathedral Parish, Chicago, IL) joined our retreat to lead us in a guided Rosary prayer. Fr. Jason called upon Bishop John Mack (Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese and Pastor of Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral Parish, Lancaster, NY) to bless the rosaries that were given as retreat gifts to the retreat participants.

A lunch of pizza and salad was served, with our big military panel session following. Fr. Jim Konicki served as moderator of a panel featuring Polish National Catholics who had served in our Nation’s military: Very Rev. Brigadier General Bob Pleczkowski (Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese), Major Garrett Grochowski, Fr. John Cramer (Pastor, Holy Trinity Parish, Kewanee, IL), and Fr. Bernie Lattner (Western Diocese). They each detailed their unique service as well as some of their personal experiences from their worst and best days. After each speaker’s opening statement, the floor was open for questions from the attendees.

Upon the conclusion of our panel, we had a couple hours of free time before dinner. Some men threw beanbags around, some hiked the grounds, some caught up on some zzz’s, some drank coffee and shot the breeze, and some stopped by the chapel for adoration. The Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky (Prime Bishop, P.N.C.C.) honored us with his presence during this time. After this time of refreshment, we were treated to a cookout by the pool. Though it was a bit too chilly to hop in, we enjoyed a seemingly endless supply of hot dogs, cheeseburgers, sweet and hot sausage patties, corn on the cob, pasta salad, and more. Our cook for the week, Nick Kazinetz, was tested especially at this meal as “last call” turned out to be merely a suggestion...

Following dinner, we enjoyed a question-and-answer session, led by Deacon Jim Ploskonka, featuring Rev. Dr. Henryk Wos (Pastor, Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI). Deacon Jim sat comfortably on an easy chair, while peppering Fr. Henryk with questions that served as a “get to know you” session. Fr. Henryk detailed his calling to vocations, his life as a “man in a house of females”, and facets of his unique ministry. Upon conclusion of this fourth session, Prime

Bishop Mikovsky led us in an Evening Prayer Service of remembrance & Litany of the Dead for our fallen brothers of the Y.M.S. of R. To close our evening, we had a little history lesson provided on Spójnia Farm while we munched on some cheese, kielbasa, chips, and other assorted bedtime snacks that we’d never eat that late if we were at home.

Saturday morning began with the raising of the flag and morning prayer, prepared and led by Fr. Carmen Bolock. Breakfast was served, and we returned for our fifth and final session, led by Prime Bishop Mikovsky. He provided a point of view on “moving on” during the pandemic; the information he gathered from sources, how he was able to work with his brother bishops, the inclusive work of both presidential administrations throughout, and what influenced decisions he made on behalf of the Church.

Upon the conclusion of this session, Fr. Jason celebrated Holy Mass of the Word of God, honoring Bishop Stanley Bilinski in his role of teaching homiletics in our Church for so many years. Concelebrants included Fr. Sr. Kowalczyk, Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid (Pastor, Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA), Fr. Carmen Bolock, and Fr. Jim Konicki. Fr. Jason was assisted by Deacon Jim Ploskonka and Sub-Deacon Justin Daviault (Eastern Diocese). Prime Bishop Mikovsky and Bishop Mack were seated in the Sanctuary. Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak (Pastor, St. Joseph’s Parish, Westfield, MA) served as homilist for Mass, detailing how whenever we remove the slights that are evident in our theme scripture (anger, bitterness, etc.), the Word of God can fill those gaps.

Concluding the service was the reposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament from our chapel to the tabernacle, led by Fr. Sr. Kowalczyk. With the blessing of Jesus, ever-present in the Sacrament, our retreat officially concluded, with a decadent “lunch of leftovers” served as men packed their vehicles and left in the early afternoon.

Many praises and Thank-yous could be said for all who attended and provided leadership throughout the retreat; simply, it was a return to normalcy with the ability to have time away from home and unique opportunities of worship for many. We very much look forward to holding the 5th iteration of our retreat next June at Spójnia Farm.

## Central Diocese

### Father's Day, Clergy Appreciation, and a 50th Wedding Anniversary

#### St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA

Sunday, June 20th, was packed full of celebrations at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish in Scranton, PA. Beside honoring our fathers and appreciating our clergy, Bishop Bernard and Barbara Nowicki celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with special touches throughout the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

Mass began with three preludes played by the trio of Jule Supplee on violin, Jean Supplee Brubaker on cello and Dale Houck on flute.

Before the Prayers of the Faithful, Bishop Bernard and Barbara came forward in front of the altar where they renewed their vows. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky bestowed a blessing on them for their 50 years of marriage.

At the Offertory, Rebecca Elfman sang a solo, accompanied by the Supplee String Ensemble. For Communion, the trio again played a selection and Gary Richards sang a solo, accompanied by Rebecca Elfman on the organ. Jack Partyka also accompanied the Opening and Closing hymns on the trumpet.

After Mass, the congregation was invited to the Parish Hall for coffee and cake sponsored by the parish ANS Society. Before the beautiful cake commemorating Father's Day, Clergy Appreciation and the 50th Anniversary was cut and distributed, Kathy Michalina, parish ANS Society president, welcomed everyone and provided poetry readings to commemorate each special occasion celebrated on this day.



### In Honor of the Graduates

#### St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA

Sunday, June 27th, was the day that St. Stanislaus Parish honored its 2020 and 2021 high school and college graduates.

During Sunday Mass Bishop Bernard Nowicki addressed the graduates quoting from the book, *Jesus Calling*, a copy of which each one of the graduates then received. Bishop Nowicki quoted from the chapter titled "Dare to be Different": "Jesus advises this: "Seek My face and you will find all you have longed for. The deepest yearnings of your heart are for intimacy with Me. [ ... ] You are simply responding to the tugs of divinity within you. I made you in My image, and I hid heaven in your heart. [ ... ] Do not be afraid to be different from other people. The path I have called you to travel is exquisitely right for you. [ ... ] To follow Me, you must relinquish your desire to please other people. However, your close-

ness to Me will bless others by enabling you to shine brightly in this dark world."

Following the Mass the graduates and the congregation were treated with cake and coffee.



## Father's Day at Holy Mother of Sorrows

Dupont, PA

On Father's Day, Sunday, June 20th, the A.N.S. Society of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish honored the congregation fathers and their families by sponsoring a free Father's Day Dinner (pick-up only). Special thanks to the following members for their work: Lois McHugh, Joyce Jopling, Adele Sabach, Mary Jo

Searfoss, Susan Baldan and Christine Wasko

Our gratitude goes to chef Dante Lafratte, who cooked everything. The meals included: ziti with meat sauce, tossed salad with dressing, Italian bread and a dessert.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



## Holy Mother of Sorrows Helps the Community

Dupont, PA

In June, Holy Mother of Sorrows parishioners and local town volunteers again organized and packed food for the monthly food distribution for the residents of Dupont and Suscon. Here are some photos

of the hard work that took place at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Hall in Dupont, PA.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



## Flag Flies High Again at St. Mary's Parish

Duryea, PA

During a recent windstorm in Duryea, the rope holding the American Flag on the pole outside of St. Mary's Parish was broken. Father Carmen Bolock, pastor, came out to go to the celebrate Daily Mass and found the rope lying on the ground and the flag stuck on the top of the pole. With the rope torn, there was no way to get the flag down. Fr. Carmen figured he'd have to wait for it to come down on its own. A day later it did land. The next problem was putting on a new rope and getting the flag back on the pole.

Fr. Bolock went and bought new rope to rehang the

flag. The top of the pole was out of Father's reach. He contacted Excelsior Truck Company #1 of Duryea to ask for some assistance. After explaining the dilemma to Chief Jeff Hughes, Father was assured that a crew would gladly help.

One evening the crew came and restrung the rope and had the American Flag flying high again. Father Carmen thanked the Company for all of their help.

Father Bolock is a member of Germania Fire Company where he serves as Chaplain and Fire Police.

Submitted by Rev. Carmen Bolock



Pat Bolock watches as the firemen from Excelsior Truck Company attach a new rope to the flagpole at St. Mary's Parish.

### Honor Your Father Clergy Pension Fund Polish National Catholic Church Second List



In this list of names received after the June 1, 2021 deadline we continue to remember all of the important father figures within our lives and pray especially for those listed below. Thanks are also extended to all those who contributed to the Clergy Pension Fund's "Honor Your Father on Father's Day" program. Please remember that although the Father's Day Collection for the Clergy Pension Fund has passed, donations to this important cause are always accepted and appreciated.

In memory of father, **Orville C. Kruse**, offered by Gail L. Perz.

In memory of father **John W. White**, offered by Patricia Temesi

In memory of pastor, **Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski**, by the Joseph L. Urban Family

In memory of father, **Richard Urban**, by the Joseph L. Urban family

In honor of pastor, **Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid**, Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA

Please remember the needs of the retired clergy of the Polish National Catholic Church and support the Clergy Pension Fund with your donations.

**Clergy Pension Fund  
Polish National Catholic Church  
1006 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505**

## † śp. Gloria (Shiner) Dymkowski



With sadness we note the passing of Gloria Debra Shiner Dymkowski, age 74, of Wilkes-Barre, PA, on Saturday May 15 at midnight, with her husband, the Very Rev. Thaddeus J. Dymkowski at her side.

Gloria was born in Scranton, PA, daughter of the late Wanda Zackowski Shiner-Baden. She attended St. Stanislaus Cathedral School and graduated from Scranton Technical High School, Class of 1963.

Gloria and the Rev. Thaddeus Dymkowski were married in 1967 in St. Stanislaus Polish National Catholic Cathedral by the Most Rev. Leon Grochowski. Gloria was the supportive and faithful wife of Father Dymkowski as they served P.N.C.C. parishes in Lawrenceville, NJ, Niagara Falls, NY and Holy Cross Parish, Wilkes-Barre, PA. She was a SOCL teach, Youth Choir member and Youth Organization member as a youth at St. Stanislaus. Cathedral, Scranton.

Gloria was also a member of Spójnia Home Office Branch and Vice President of the Holy Cross Blessed Sacrament Adoration Society and she also sang in the Holy Cross Parish Choir. In recent years she was employed by Catherine's Clothing, Hess Department Store and PNC Bank call center of Wilkes-Barre.

In addition to her husband, Gloria is survived by her loving children, Lea Buffy Sypniewski and husband Thomas, Huntingdon Valley, PA; Thad John Dym-

kowski and wife Amy, Willington, CT; and Sarette Tiffany Dymkowski, New Britain, CT; loving grandchildren Anthony and Alexandra Dymkowski of Willington, CT; brothers Carl and Chester Shiner, half brother Gary Shiner and wife Lenore, half sister Arline Maros and husband Mike; nieces and nephews.

The funeral was held Saturday, May 22 from the Nicholas Chomko Funeral Home with Mass offered in St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, by the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop. Seated in the sanctuary were also Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Rev. Boguslaw Janiec and Rev. Robert Plichta. Assisting during the liturgy were Rev. Carmen Bolock and Rev. Janusz Lucarz. Present also were the Very Rev. William Chromey and Very Rev. Lucian and Mrs. Urbaniak.

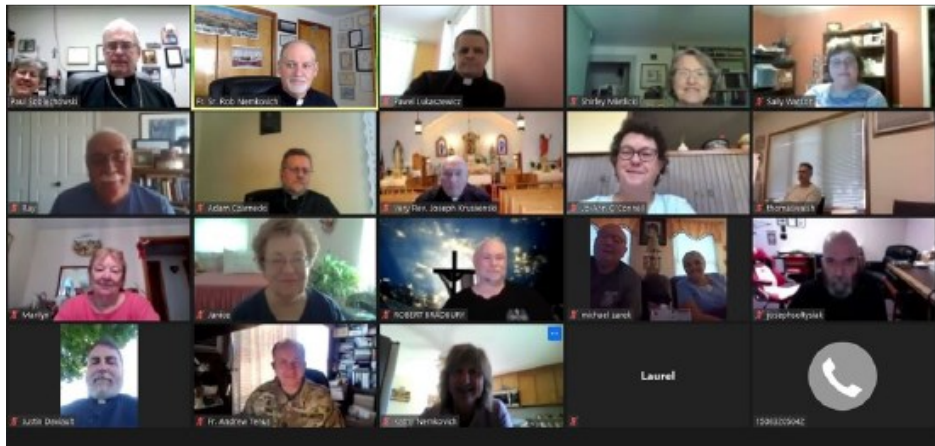
Gloria's remains were interred at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Cemetery, Scranton, on June 19th in the family plot. Conducting the Burial Service was the Very Rev. William Chromey. Two beautiful inspirational hymns were offered by Madison Zahorski, granddaughter of Father Senior Chromey.

Memorial contributions in memory of Gloria may be made to the P.N.C.C. Clergy Pension Fund, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505

Submitted by Very Rev. Thaddeus Dymkowski

## Eastern Diocese

### 2021 Eastern Diocese Annual Council Meeting



On June 5, 2021 the members of the Eastern Diocese Council met via Zoom for their Annual Meeting. The Meeting was opened by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski and the opening prayer was offered. The Council received several reports from different diocesan Commissions, groups, and organizations and several administrative and pastoral matters were addressed.

The Council approved the donation of \$25,000 to the Clergy Pension Fund of the P.N.C.C. The Council also approved the matching of all funds donated by

Eastern Diocesan parishes to the Pension Fund through the end of 2021.

The Council also approved the donation of \$5,000 each to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Minneapolis, MN, and Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in San Antonio, TX, to aid these parishes that suffered destruction and loss over the past months. The meeting ended with the concluding prayer.

Rev. Henryk Vos

### Conferral of Minor Orders of Acolyte and Sub-diaconate To Cleric Justin Daviault Blessed Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT

On May 22, 2021 at the Blessed Trinity Parish in Plantsville, CT the Holy Mass was celebrated by the Right Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, diocesan bishop, assisted by the priests of the diocese. During the Mass, the Minor Orders Of Acolyte and Sub-diaconate were conferred by Bishop Sobiechowski upon Cleric Justin Daviault.

The sermon was preached by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski. In his homily, Bishop Paul focused on the dignity and responsibility in the ministry of Sub-deacon. He also emphasized on the necessity of prayer for the priestly vocation in the Polish National Catholic Church.

The celebration was followed by delicious Lunch offered to all participants.

Congratulations to Sub-deacon Justin and his family! We wish you many blessings as you work in God's field.

Rev. Henryk Vos



## June at Blessed Trinity Parish Fall River, MA

On June 5th, Blessed Trinity Parish was honored to host the Polish American Veterans (P.A.V.) Massachusetts State Convention. Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr. offered Holy Mass for the veterans and gave the Invocation during their Installation of new elected P.A.V. Officers. May God bless them and all who served and serve our country.



to 2:30 pm. Over 150 boxes given out on this first day!



On Sunday June 6th, Corpus Christi Sunday, six children received First Holy Communion at Blessed Trinity Parish. It was a glorious day as Maya, Adriana, Logan, Enrik, Connor and Maks received Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist during Mass on this day.

May God bless them and may they be faithful disciples of our Lord through His Holy Church.



On June 12th, Blessed Trinity Parish and the Father Kelly Neighborhood Association took part in the June Fall River city cleanup. Volunteers cleaned up Father Kelly and Chew parks, Kosciusko Square and the PAWV monument.

It was wonderful to work with Fall River's Mayor Coogan and his administration to make the city look better.

The Father Kelly Neighborhood Association meets at Blessed Trinity on the third Monday of the month to make a difference in our community. Blessed to be a part of this wonderful group.



On June 10th, Blessed Trinity Parish commenced participation in the South Coast Local Lunchbox Program in Fall River, MA.

This program gives out free meals to kids 18 and younger on Mondays and Thursdays from 12:30 pm

(Continued on bottom of Page 16.)

## 2021 Eastern Diocese Altar Server Retreat

### Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA

On June 24th Altar Servers from four Eastern Diocese parishes gathered for the 10th annual Diocesan Altar Server Retreat at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, Massachusetts.

The theme of the retreat followed the ongoing efforts of the P.N.C.C. Future Direction Committee and focused on Discipleship 2021; specifically Mother

Teresa and the importance of the Christian Family today.

Thanks to the Altar Servers from Blessed Trinity Parish; Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI; St. Joseph's of Stratford Parish in Stratford, CT; and Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, CT, for making the time to learn and grow in the Apostolic and Catholic Faith.



(June at Blessed Trinity Parish - Continued from Page 15.)

On Sunday, June 13th, the parish closed its 2020-2021 School of Christian Living Year.



On Father's Day, June 20th, the parish concluded its latest Food Drive. Thanks to all who supported this effort to help those in need in our community.





**Western Diocese**

**All Saints Cathedral Polish National Catholic Church Hosts Polish Picnic  
Chicago, IL**

On June 13th, All Saints Cathedral Polish National Catholic Parish hosted a family picnic featuring entertainment by the very talented dancers and musicians from the “Wici” Song and Dance Company. This company, under the direction of Bogumila Nedzka-Sciazkom, is made up of performers of all ages who promote folklore through song, dance, and music. The picnic began with the traditional Polish aristocratic dance - the Polonaise.

Mrs. Magdalena Solarz, choreographer and artistic director of the group “Wici”, chaired the committee overlooking the competition for the most beautiful flower wreath - swietojojanski wreath. First Runner Up of the 2021 May 3rd Parade in Chicago, IL, Monica Lebensztejn, was also a very welcome guest.

The picnic opened with a performance of the Polonaise, followed by several wonderful musical and dance selections. Various games and face painting activities were available for the children to enjoy, and gifts were provided for participation in competitions and games.

The event was supervised by the pastor of All Saints Cathedral Parish, Bishop Jaroslaw/Jerry Rafalko and his wife, Leslie. About 200 people attended. A wonderful time was had by all. Everyone enjoyed the sunny weather, the Polish and Swedish cuisine, the entertainment and games and the beautiful green area of All Saints Cathedral picnic grounds.

Please visit Jerry Rafalko’s Facebook page for more pictures and movie clips from this picnic.

Submitted by Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko



**“Wici” Dance Group**



**Magdalena Solarz, Monika Lebenstein, Bogumila Sciazko, Magdalena Wojcik**



**Bishop Jerry Rafalko and Bogumila Sciazko**



**Monika Lebenstein with Musicians**

## Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw Rafalko Administers the Sacrament of Confirmation

Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw Rafalko, Bishop of the Western Diocese, recently administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to two groups at Divine Word Parish in Chicago, IL.



Bishop Rafalko also recently administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a group of young people at SS Cyril & Methodius Parish in Chicago, IL.



## Safe Access

### St. Mary Parish - South Bend, IN

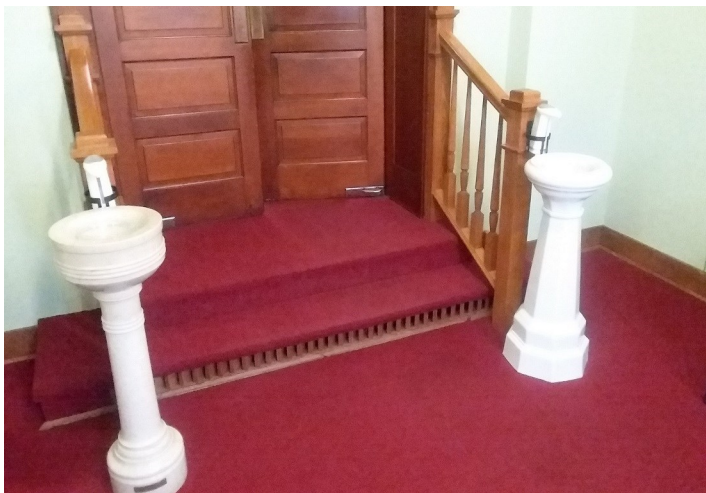
Many may not remember a severe flu pandemic our nation faced about 8 years ago. It was so severe that the county health department asked churches to empty their Holy Water fonts, so as to not aid in the spreading of the virus. After a couple of months, the “all clear” signal was given, but I wanted to be prepared in case a similar situation repeated.

We all know what we have been through with this current pandemic, and once again our Holy Water fonts were emptied. But the problem was not with the Holy Water, but with the delivery system - a common bowl that everyone dips their hands into. I therefore found a way that the faithful could access Holy Water in a safe way, through the use of a

“touchless” method. I found affordable devices that are activated by breaking a plane. I blessed them, filled them with Holy Water, and placed them by the Holy Water fonts, as pictured. Our faithful are happy to use them, and are grateful that they can access Holy Water safely - even in a pandemic. As far as we know, we are the first church in South Bend to use this method. We are happy to share our knowledge with any of our sister parishes in the P.N.C.C. who would like to safely make Holy Water available at all times.

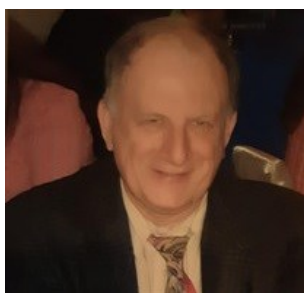
May Holy Water never need to be removed again!

Submitted by Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski



### † śp. Donald Casimir Chodkowski

SS Cyril & Methodius Parish, Chicago, IL



Donald Chodkowski passed away on January 9, 2021 in Chicago, IL. He is survived by four loving sisters, Donna (Michael) Ross, Lin (Tom) Moline, Debra (Tom) Perlman, Sandy (Don) Sandin, and eight nieces and nephews. Don was preceded in death by parents, Stanley Richard Chodkowski, Irene (nee Kobelinski) Chodkowski, and two dear brothers, Gerry and Rich Chodkowski.

Don lived his entire life in Chicago except for his service to the Peace Corps after graduating Loyola University. He was devoted to the Church, especially Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish, where he was a lifelong member. Don was Chairman of the Parish Committee for many years. He wore many hats and helped so many. Don was a caring and generous person in all that he did. Don will be missed by many.

Don’s funeral was presided over by Bishop Jerry Rafalko.



## Donations to the Clergy Pension Fund

Polish National Catholic Church — January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021

Chopin Choir, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH	\$250.00
Eastern Diocese – Pension Fund Parish Collection Match	\$476.70
Donations in memory of sp. Helen Mayhoff	\$400.00
Linda and James Knight	\$50.00
Paul and Rose Kazinetz, Olyphant, PA	\$100.00
Insurance Policy Beneficiary – sp. Jennie Mihalko	\$192.00
Barbara & Gerald Spitzer in memory of sp. Gloria Dymkowski	\$25.00
Linda Wilk in memory of sp. Gloria Dymkowski	\$100.00
Carol & John Klimek in memory of sp. Gloria Dymkowski	\$10.00
St. Stanislaus Blessed Sacrament Society, Scranton, PA	\$500.00
Prime Bishop & Carol Mikovsky in honor of the 50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Bp. Bernard and Barbara Nowicki	\$100.00
In memory of sp. Gloria Dymkowski by family, relatives and friends	\$1,520.00
Kathleen Michalina in memory of sp. Gloria Dymkowski	\$50.00
Most Rev. Robert & Florence Nemkovich in memory of sp. Gloria Dymkowski	\$50.00

