



Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Volume 99

March 2021

Issue #3

To Reflect on Passiontide

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

As we approach the last two weeks of the Lenten season, the time we know as Passiontide, our general focus seems to change a little within our prayers and devotions. While throughout the entire Lenten season we are focused on the passion and death of our Lord, especially as we celebrate devotions such as Stations of the Cross and Bitter Lamentations, in these last weeks that focus is intensified. One way this occurs is because we veil the Crosses within our parish churches. We do this so that the effect will be intensified when they are unveiled on Good Friday, but our attention is also drawn there exactly because the Crosses are no longer visible to us.

On Passion Sunday this year, we read in the Holy Gospel from Saint John: "Among those who had come up to worship at the feast of Passover were some Greeks. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him: 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew; Philip and Andrew in turn came to inform Jesus." (John 12:20-22) At first it must be noticed that these Greeks that are mentioned are not Greek-speaking Jews, of which there were many, but rather they were Hellenists, they were from outside of the Jewish faith, but were being drawn to the worship of the one God as expressed through the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We also must consider their request, their desire to "see" the Lord Jesus. As we reflect upon what they

ask, we know that it must be more than just to witness and experience what is going on. If that was all they wanted, they would not need to ask the Apostles. Many countless hundreds or even thousands had witnessed the miracles of Jesus, whether His healings or His deeds of power like feeding thousands. In the same way a very large number of people had heard His teaching. If this is all they wanted, they would not have to seek out Philip or Andrew, they would only have to join the crowd of the hundreds that followed Jesus everywhere He went.

We know that these Greeks were looking for something more, they were looking for a more intimate and close encounter with Jesus. They wanted to have some personal interaction with Jesus, not only to see Him in the most basic way, but rather to see, and know and understand, all that He is about.

It is speaking to this desire that Jesus goes on to respond to these Greeks when they are brought to Jesus by Philip and Andrew: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I solemnly assure you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit. The man who loves his life loses it, while the man who hates his life in this world preserves it to life eternal. If anyone would serve Me, let him follow Me; where I am, there will My servant be. Anyone who serves Me, the Father will honor." (John 12:23-26)

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**Email Addresses
for the
P.N.C.C. Offices**

The email addresses for the staff of the National Church Center and *God's Field* are:

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky
pbmikovsky@P.N.C.C..org

Secretary to Prime Bishop — Julie Orzell
secretarytopb@PNCC.org

P.N.C.C. Treasurer — Joan Scheuneman
treasurer@PNCC.org

God's Field - Rola Boza Editor — Julie Orzell
godsfld@PNCC.org

Questions or concerns? Call us at 570-346-9131 or 570-346-2125.

***God's Field — Rola Boza*
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 godsfld@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 BOZA**, 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**

CONTROLLER:

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

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

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(To Reflect on Passiontide - Continued from Page 1.)

Our Lord Jesus Christ speaks on His approaching suffering and death. This is the more intensified focus on the passion and death of which we spoke at the beginning, but here we also see the reason for this suffering. The grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies that other grains of wheat may come forth. Because of the suffering and death of Jesus, the forgiveness of sins accomplished will be abundantly available to all those who seek to unite their life to His. Jesus says here that the servant of Christ must be where Christ is. And He means this in much more than a physical sense. Although these followers asked to see Jesus and be close to Him, Jesus says that all followers, all the partakers from His suffering and death, must be close to Him, in His actions of love, devotion and sacrifice for others; they must be close to Him in His thoughts and teachings, learning and then teaching others to more closely follow our Lord; they must be close to Him in their love for all of God's creation and especially those with whom we share our journey through life.

Towards the end of this Gospel passage Jesus says: "My soul is troubled now, yet what should I say – Father save Me from this hour? But it was for this that I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name!" Then a voice came from the sky: 'I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.'" (John 12:27-28) These words remind us that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ went voluntarily to His suffering and death upon the Cross. As God's Son He was certainly able to call upon His Heavenly Father to save Him from this tremendous suffering, yet He submitted Himself to the will of the Father to accomplish our salvation.

But the following words of the passage are of great importance. God the Father says from heaven: "I have glorified it and I will glorify it again." It is often taken that this refers to the fact that the name of God had been glorified in the work, miracles and deeds of power that were a part of the ministry of Jesus, and that the name of God would be glorified again in the death and resurrection of Jesus. But maybe we can see that there is something even more here. While it is certainly true that the name of God

has been glorified in the miracles and works of Jesus, and for us it has also been glorified in the death and resurrection of our Lord from the dead. But the words can still be said, "I will glorify it again."

Our Lord desires to glorify His name in the thoughts, words and deeds of His people today. It is of vital importance that each of us has this in mind as we approach these last days of the Lenten season. During these days we will focus our attention upon what Jesus has done for us in His emptying Himself and going to the Cross in radical loyalty to the will of the Father. St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians tells us: "Your attitude must be Christ's, though He was in the form of God He did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather, He emptied Himself and took the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men. He was known to be of human estate and it was thus that He humbled Himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a Cross." (Philippians 2:5-8) We will spend much time in considering that He did this all for each of us, especially as we gather for prayer on Holy Thursday at the Mass of the Last Supper, on Good Friday as we remember and honor the sufferings of Jesus and His death on the Cross, on Holy Saturday as we prepare ourselves in entering the prophesies that speaks of the Lord's redemption, and finally on Easter Sunday when we celebrate the ultimate victory of Jesus.

In the gathering of our parish communities in the worship of God as the victorious Lord; in the works of love and charity that we accomplish, alone and within our parishes, not only in the Lenten season, but beyond it through the entire year and within our entire life; in the love, mercy and dedication that we share as followers and disciples of Jesus, the name of God is still being glorified in our world today.

My brothers and sisters, as we enter into these last days of Lent and join ourselves with the sufferings and death of our Lord, let us also be preparing ourselves to join in His resurrection, knowing that in following Jesus, in all our thoughts, words and actions, each and every day of our lives, the name of Almighty God will be glorified in our lives joined to Jesus Christ.

A Sermon for an Annual Meeting

Then He reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son – Genesis 22

Let us erect three booths on this site - Mark

How fitting it is for us that today's readings are so perfect for a day on which we will call our congregation together to exercise some of the most important precepts of our Church. Lay involvement in the life, direction and growth of our denomination was always at the forefront of what Fr. Hodur envisioned when he began formulating the precepts and then later, the constitution of our denomination. My first quote speaks of the extreme faith – the absolute trust that Abraham must have had with God. This is not “God asked Abraham for a small favor” kind of request. Did you notice the severity of the very first sentence?? God put Abraham to the test. How many of you like to take tests? Come on; be honest! We remember them from back in our school days We didn't like them then and we don't like them now - at least for most of us non-geniuses. But this wasn't a spelling test or a math test, it was a test of faith; a test of Abraham's faith. We might think that this stoic figure from the Old Testament wouldn't have any problem fulfilling what God had asked of him – except – this time God is asking Abraham for the VERY LIFE OF HIS SON! He's telling him to take him up to a high mountain and to offer him up as a holocaust to God. Now normally the offering would be a ram or a sheep or a goat, but no; this time it's his son, Isaac. Now Isaac is not told of his fate. He even carries the wood for the fire that would burn the offering. Abraham, probably with tears in his eyes, draws his knife and is ready to plunge it into his son when God's messenger tells him to stop. “Do not lay your hand on the boy.” Later the voice says that because of his Faith; because he was willing to sacrifice his son for God; God will bless Abraham abundantly and give him many descendants. All this, the voice continues, because *you obeyed my command*.

I really wonder how many of us would have done the same, going to the point of slaying one of our children in obedience to the will of God. I'm not sure

that I would have that depth of faith. I'm not sure that I would have that absolute and complete trust in God's wisdom and give complete control of my life over to Him or the life of one of my children. Yet, aren't we all at least a little similar to Abraham? Perhaps not in our holiness or faithfulness but in the very fact that we face prompts from God every day. They may not be as dramatic as giving up the life of one's child on the altar of sacrifice, but God does call us to obey His will. He calls us to do things for Him. This may mean being of service to others, proclaiming His Word or His kingdom in our daily walk with God. He calls us to Sacrifice (we use that word a lot, don't we?) to Sacrifice ourselves for others. This may take many shapes and forms and situations; but nonetheless the opportunities abound if we really look for them. The question then becomes – how deep is our faith? How deep is our commitment to God and to His Son – Jesus Christ?? How much are we willing to sacrifice to bring Jesus to the world??

I mentioned earlier some aspects of our denomination. What sacrifice did it take for those people in 1897 to begin the P.N.C.C.? It took great sacrifice. They suffered hardships, scorn, loss of businesses, loss of income, even loss of family – sometimes their own brothers and sisters and parents didn't speak to them if they became members of the P.N.C.C.. They knew Sacrifice first hand! Today people are soft and complacent. They take things for granted. Even in non-Covid times, three-quarters of our membership don't show up for the annual meeting. On any given Sunday I would guess that more than half don't attend church. Do we really think that God will bless us abundantly (as the book of Genesis says today) and make our descendants as countless as the stars – if we are lacking in faith and practice? I hardly think so.

The other quote I began with speaks about what we call the Transfiguration of Jesus in front of Peter,

James and John. To me, the most important sentence is when Peter says: “Let’s build three booths to commemorate this momentous event.” Granted for many, many years the Jews only had a traveling church of sorts; tents in which they would house the Ark of the Covenant that contained the 10 commandments and other relics. They longed for the day that the Temple could be restored and there would be a suitable edifice to place the Ark. Yet was it needed? I never remember ever reading in scripture that God was requesting it. Whenever they went into battle they carried the Ark before them. We do read stories of battles in which they were outnumbered 10,000 to 1,000 in troop strength; and guess what? They were victorious! I think that they were thinking only of themselves. We’d be more comfortable - others would look at our temple and say: Wow – these are really holy people! Sometimes the motivation behind building a great structure; be it a church – a university – a museum – a library – a sports venue - is to provide a testimony to ourselves. In the sports world, there is usually a huge fee (called naming rights) that a huge corporation pays per year for advertising purposes. Yet we still have a few exceptions: Joe Robby Stadium and Lambeau Field in Green Bay. After we complete our “masterpiece” we say to all: O Look! This is what I (we) were able to accomplish. Look at how great a leader I was. And don’t kid yourself - It happens in the church as well on a regular basis. And God either weeps or laughs. So I look upon the remark of Peter, the supposed first predecessor to today’s popes as totally in opposition to the faith that we see in Abraham. Abraham wanted only to be obedient and faithful to the Lord God. Peter on the other hand was caught up in the moment. He probably even missed the significance of this glorious moment when Jesus was Transfigured before him. He may have thought: Hey, this will be a great tourist attraction! People can make pilgrimages here. We can even set up some shops for trinkets and souvenirs and maybe a Tim Hortons. Think of the profit! Maybe this was the beginning of

the mindset that buildings and bank accounts are more important than true faith and worship. The voice from the cloud brings him back to reality when it says: “This is my Son – Listen to Him” and I add the words – “and not to the voice of ego in your head!” I believe many writers today call this a “wake-up call.”

In His final trip to Jerusalem before His crucifixion and death, Jesus looks over the city and laments: Jerusalem, Jerusalem. Would that I gather you up like a mother hen gathers her chicks to her breast. A modern-language version next says: “You see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left on another which will not be torn down!” Jesus was speaking of many buildings in that city, but was specifically referring to the Temple at Jerusalem – it wouldn’t survive – and history bears it out – it was destroyed – all except for the west wall on the perimeter. And the western wall was actually part of the expansion project by Herod the Great. He wanted to make the second temple even larger. Bigger is better, of course! The moral of the story; don’t be enamored by buildings. Surely we can take pride in what we have accomplished, but it must be for the Glory of God and the building of His Kingdom on earth. God doesn’t care about beautiful buildings. He created the world from nothing; surely He could snap his fingers and in an instant create ten thousand copies of this edifice. What He does care about is beautiful and loving hearts. He cares about people (maybe even a few Christians) who have faith. He cares about committed people who sacrifice their lives (there’s that word again!) not to continue a parish, a denomination or a building but to continue Christ’s Mission of saving mankind. May we this day pledge to deepen our faith, our commitment, our sacrifice, not to the physical things of this earth, but to bringing the Spiritual World – the presence of God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, to all mankind. Then and only then will we have the faith of Abraham within us as well. Amen

Vocation Donuts

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

My family knows I love donuts. Pački Day – I'll be there. Road trip and we have to stop at Dunkin or Tim Horton's. A few years back Krispy Kreme came to Upstate New York and wow. Now, I was not unfamiliar with Krispy Kreme because for years on my trips to New York City I would stop at the little hidden away Krispy Kreme stand in Penn Station. I'd always bring a box of their classic donuts plus a selection of Boston Creams home. Surprisingly, most did make it home. Unfortunately, the whole host of Upstate Krispy Kreme's closed one day. Here today, gone tomorrow. Fortunately, that little hidden away stand at Penn Station is still there.

We all like what we like. We are willing to make the run necessary to get those donuts or pizzas or subs (ok hoagies) or dogs that are a step above. Is it worth the train trip to Penn Station? Is it worth the extra 90-mile drive to go to Buffalo and get a Ted's dog? I've done that more than once and it was worth it. I'd head to New Hampshire or Maine just to hit a certain lobster shack. The things we will do when we find something of value can be amazing.

It is remarkable – the things we will do for what we love and enjoy. There is one hidden away place, a great value, with the best stuff on earth. It isn't even a secret, and many should be headed there. That place is the diaconate and priesthood.

The most interesting thing about the drive to the diaconate and priesthood is that unlike the drive for donuts, dogs, subs and pizza – you do not have to go back again to get filled up. In living the vocation life, you remain filled with the special grace gift of God. You remain satisfied. You reach the conclusion that there is no distance too far because the going is more than worth it. You know what you have today will not be gone tomorrow. You know that your hands hold a food that not only fills you but also all who partake, and not just for a day but forever.

It is time to get on the road for the best stuff on earth. Feel free to call or text me at 518-522-0944 or E-mail me at frjim@holynamenc.org.

A Call to Martyrdom – A Vocations Perspective

Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59

The Martyrdom of Stephen

Stephen was filled with grace and power and began to work miracles and great signs among the people. But then certain people came forward to debate with Stephen, some from Cyrene and Alexandria who were members of the synagogue called the Synagogue of Freedmen, and others from Cilicia and Asia. They found they could not get the better of him because of his wisdom, and because it was the Spirit that prompted what he said. They were infuriated when they heard this, and ground their teeth at him.

But Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand. 'I can see heaven thrown open' he said 'and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' At this, all the members of the council shouted out and stopped their ears with their hands; then they all rushed at him, sent him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses put down their clothes at the feet of a young man called Saul. As they were

stoning him, Stephen said in invocation, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'

Deacon's Thoughts and Reflection:

In the early Church, martyrdom is a thought-provoking and fascinating topic to study, for numerous were the martyrs and too, in time its symbolism. A martyr is defined by the Word of God as, One who bears witness of the truth, and suffers death in the cause of Christ (Acts 22:20; Revelation 2:13; 17:6). There is a wide interlude in the reading taken from the Apostles' Acts, between Deacon Stephen's apprehension and his stoning – an authorized execution (?). Deacon Stephen's discourse is retrospectively not surprising that it led to his death, for it demonstrated with ample biblical references that throughout history the children of Israel had opposed God's blessings. It was consistent with their actions that they would challenge the Holy Spirit by rejecting Jesus.

St. Stephen's message was imperative in the development of the Book of Acts and another opportunity offered to Jerusalem, which is a mirroring of the Old Testament in the number of times Moses was disregarded by the Children of Israel. "The time has now come for the Good News to spread to Judaea and Samaria and the ends of the earth."

I can't imagine the emotions that might have been going through St. Stephen's mind, how each stone wounded his body – yet, he felt no pain, how the noise of the crowd –was inaudible to him and how the faces were in plain sight– yet, he could only see Jesus! This power and faith of St. Stephen is an amazing example of service and sacrifice. Service and sacrifice, something those who have been called to serve God and spread the Good News, make a life-long commitment to do, deacons included.

I have been asked over the past year, "how is it being a deacon?" My intent in answering that question is to share what Jesus Christ has been doing through me this year, and to share some of the amazing things that are happening in the work of the Church.

So, with that stated, the short answer to what is it like being a deacon... it is amazing! But amazing does not take into account the "why" behind the "what". So, let me expound why it has been amazing.

First and foremost the journey to my ordination began decades before, and like the Season of Advent, brings a sense of longing; this was something I longed to do for a very large part of my life. My first memory of wanting to become a priest was a dialogue between myself at the age of eight and Prime Bishop Thaddeus Zielinski. The account would be retold by my mother that I indicated I wanted to be a bishop (!), but Prime Bishop Zielinski indicated that I would have to become a priest first.

About that same age my Uncle Joe Szalkta, who built the original barracks at Spójnia Farm in 1933, gave me \$1,000.00 to put into an account to pay for seminary studies. At my childhood home in Pennsylvania, I used to practice serving at the altar on the top of my mother's piano, having Mass and intoning *Święty, Święty, Święty* (Holy, holy, holy) for Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament ...but these are stories for another time.

Fast forward 50 years...I have been afforded amazing blessings over the past year as deacon. Don't get me wrong – being blessed wasn't without a few trials, challenges, disappointments and opportunities to learn. Structurally I was pleased to assist our Bishop in serving as Chair of our Diocesan Synod. In the middle of a pandemic with an ever-changing direction on combating COVID, we were blessed by being able to reduce participation costs for the constitutionally required synod and as a result able to lift some financial burden to those throughout the diocese. Our parish of St. Mary's saw a savings of \$1,500.00. Even more of a blessing was the amazing presence of the Holy Spirit from Bishop Jerry's opening message and throughout all the proceedings.

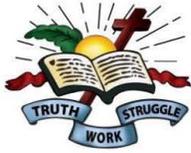
At the start of the pandemic and the unfortunate need to suspend in-person worshipping, I was blessed being able to share information about the history and hymns of our Church. I felt the love by all the positive notes and feedback. I was blessed being able to assist the amazing work Father Jason did in setting up Holy Masses and liturgies to bring the Gospel to so many. It was also a blessing being a part of our Polish Fest Drive-Thru dinner. Was it not amazing that we sold out of food on day 1 – lines upon lines to get to St. Mary's – awesome!

While I see the hand of God in all that has taken place, my amazement comes on a weekly basis as I am blessed to visit with each person who comes to our food ministry, about 275 per month. I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that His hand is holding mine in His ministry of taking care of those in need while I ask the questions: How are you doing? How was your past week? And how does your upcoming week look? These simple questions turn into a time of prayer, sharing of one's heart and a realization that God is working through me – this takes my breath away.

The time has now come for the Good News to spread! The miracles, prayers, songs and fellowship with Christ are amazing. The ministry of a deacon is awesome and I thank Christ Jesus for His gifts and blessings. May I humbly continue in His and your service.

Deacon Jim Ploskonka

This article was initially printed in the January edition of St. Mary's Parish of Parma, Ohio's monthly newsletter. It is reprinted with the permission of its author.



National United Choirs



35th General Convention/27th Music Workshop Concert & Auction

Prepare Ye Your Voice for the Lord

**Holy Cross Parish
2311 Pulaski Street
Hamtramck, MI 48212**

Convention – Wednesday, August 4th, 2021

Workshop (with Concert & Auction) – Thursday & Friday, August 5th & 6th, 2021

Convention Registration \$35 includes Mass, Dinner, Convention, and hospitality at hotel.

Workshop Registration \$115 includes music and supplies, lunch on Thursday and Friday, dinner on Thursday, hospitality at hotel on Thursday, reception after concert on Friday.

Lodging:

Hampton Inn & Suites
32420 Stephenson Highway
Madison Heights, MI 48071
248-585-8881

Room Rate: \$79 per night, plus taxes
Double or King rooms available

Call by **July 21, 2021** to reserve at room at this rate. Use the code **NUC**

Join us for a much-needed rejuvenation of our voices as we lift up our Lord in song! This workshop is dedicated to the memory of the late Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski, in recognition of his dedication to the National United Choirs of the Polish National Catholic Church.

Registration Form

Name _____
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 Email _____
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Voice: Soprano ___ Alto ___ Tenor ___ Bass ___

If you have special dietary needs, please email Cathy Bilinski, nucscholarship@gmail.com

Convention & Workshop	\$150 _____	Guest \$85 _____
Convention Only	\$ 35 _____	Guest \$25 _____
Workshop Only	\$115 _____	Guest \$60 _____

Make check payable to: **Detroit Circle - National United Choirs**
 Send form and payment to: Cathy Bilinski
 4051 Washington Crescent Drive
 Troy, MI 48085

DEADLINE IS JUNE 1, 2021

*Plans are being made for the Convention and the Workshop Sessions to be held on Zoom as well as in-person (not the concert rehearsals nor the concert).
 More details will follow on those registration costs and particulars.*



National United Choirs 2021 Music Scholarship Awards



Applications are now available! Are you currently taking paid music lessons for organ, piano, voice, or another instrument? Do you participate in the music ministry of your parish? If so, you may be eligible for a Music Scholarship from the National United Choirs.

All necessary criteria, instructions and forms can be downloaded from the scholarship website: www.nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com

Deadline for submission is May 1, 2021.

Pastors, Organists, and P.N.C.C. members: Please encourage those eligible in your parish to apply to this very rewarding program that has provided financial assistance to so many people in the P.N.C.C. over the past 54 years.

Any questions can be submitted to: Cathy A. Bilinski, Music Scholarship Administrator,
nucscholarship@gmail.com

Laity of the Polish National Catholic Church

The Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.) is comprised of two groups with different ministries, clergy and laity. Both have contributed to the development and growth of the P.N.C.C. As such, those members of the laity should also be identified and their actions recognized in the P.N.C.C. Encyclopedia. The P.N.C.C. Encyclopedia will include members of the laity who have made a contribution to the success of the P.N.C.C. There have been many outstanding lay leaders, both men and women; some were members of the various National and Diocesan Commissions and Committees of the P.N.C.C. and some served in local parishes. Each provided the impetus for change which improved the Church or their community. Through their efforts the P.N.C.C. has obtained: a functional Clergy Pension System, a Clergy Salary and Benefits program, a National Church Center, a Line Item Budget program, an active United Choirs organization, a program for the development of church organists, organization of Scout troops in a parish, participation in Boy Scout and Girl Scout religious medal programs, a Zlot program for many years on Labor Day in Scranton, PA, Parish Level Fund Raising Activities, an Illinois Vacation Center in the Western Diocese, a Florida Vacation Center in the Western Diocese, a Pennsylvania Vacation Center in the Central Diocese, Dedicated Parish Committee Members, the Medical Bridge to Poland, Relief programs for Polish Suffering following World War 1 and World War 2, Sponsorship of Immigrants following World War 2, Home for the Aged and Disabled, Bishop Hodur Retreat Center, Y.M.S. of R. Bowling Tournaments, Y.M.S. of R. Golf Tournaments, development of Eastern Diocesan Archives, development of Western Diocesan Archives, development of Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocesan Youth Programs, development of Eastern Diocesan Youth Programs, development of Western Diocesan Youth Programs, development of Central Diocesan Youth Programs, Creators of Parishes, completed restoration of a parish that has been damaged by fire, flood or some other natural catastrophe. In addition, there were people who served in offices of the church, like P.N.C.C. Treasurer, Secretaries of the Supreme Council, Presidents and Officers of the Polish National Union. These are

only a few listing for lay activity within the Church. I am sure that you can think of many others.

Members who aided their community would include elected officials, such as mayors, town council persons, and others; appointed municipal or county officials, participants in not for profit organizations, participants in charitable activities, offices in Labor unions, persons who were killed in World War 1, World War 2, the Korean Police Action, Vietnam and other United States wars. The Encyclopedia would like to include them and give them the recognition that they deserve.

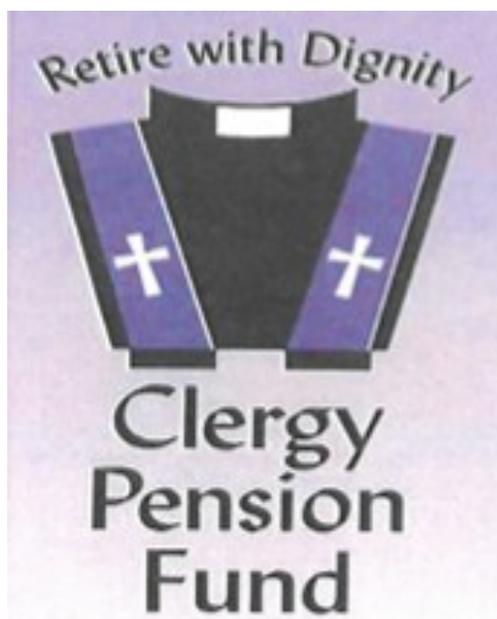
Your help is needed to identify these people. Please identify those who you would like to see included along with a description of their activity and send their names and activities either to Joseph Seliga at seliga1@optonline.net or to the Secretary to the Prime Bishop at secretarytopb@pncc.org.

I hope that this article will encourage people to send in names of lay members of the church who either improved the Church or their community so that their names would be included in the Polish National Catholic Church Encyclopedia.

There have been many questions about the Polish National Catholic Church over the past years; about our Church, its beliefs, organization, activities, societies, committees, commission, mission activity, ecumenical activities, parishes, clergy and lay members. At the present time there is no single source of information about the Polish National Catholic Church. The Polish National Catholic Church History and Archives Commission plans to fill this void with the preparation of an Encyclopedia of the Polish National Catholic Church. The content of the Encyclopedia has been given and described in the series of articles written by Joseph F. Seliga and published in *Rola Boża* (God's Field). Our Prime Bishop, Most Reverend Anthony A. Mikovsky, has given the Polish National Catholic Church History and Archives Commission permission to begin preparation of the Encyclopedia of the Polish National Catholic Church.

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

Honor Your Father



We pray for all fathers, both lay and clergy, past and present, to express our gratitude, remembrance and love for all they have done for our families and for our Church.

For continued support of our Clergy Pension Fund and to acknowledge ALL FATHERS, we will publish in the June issue of God's Field — Rola Boza your name and the name of the father you wish to acknowledge or remember.

For each acknowledgement or remembrance, we are requesting a minimum donation of \$25.00, payable to the Clergy Pension Fund P.N.C.C.

We feel that this will have a two-fold affect, by acknowledging or remembering OUR FATHERS, LAY OR CLERGY, for all they have done for us and also to bolster our Clergy Pension Fund in order to show our continued support for our Clergy/our Church Fathers who make so many sacrifices each day in service to our Church.

All donations received go toward the Clergy Pension Fund of the Polish National Catholic Church.

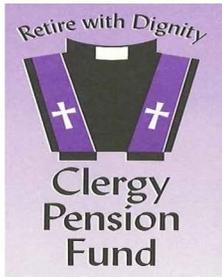
Please complete the form on the opposite page and submit it prior to June 1, 2021, along with your minimum donation of \$25.00 per name, to the

Clergy Pension Fund
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

Please make checks payable to the "Clergy Pension Fund P.N.C.C."

Thank you for your support.

P.N.C.C. Clergy Pension Fund Committee



Honor Your Father on Father's Day

(Limit of one name per minimum \$25.00 donation)

I wish to remember (please circle) my Pastor, Father, Grandfather, or Other _____

I wish to remember (please circle) my Pastor, Father, Grandfather, or Other _____

I wish to remember (please circle) my Pastor, Father, Grandfather, or Other _____

I wish to remember (please circle) my Pastor, Father, Grandfather, or Other _____

Remembered by: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____



God's Field

Appeal for Easter Greetings

The deadline for submission and payment of Easter Greetings is **APRIL 1, 2021**.

The cost for publishing Easter 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.

Example greetings:

The Adoration Society of St. John's Parish, Everytown, USA
Eve Adams, President
We wish everyone a Blessed Easter!

St. John's Parish, Everytown, USA
Rev. Adam Adams, Pastor
Wesołego Alleluja!

ALL GREETINGS, ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENTS, MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 1, 2021 IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE APRIL ISSUE. We no longer publish greetings submitted without payment, so please be sure to send in your payment with your greeting or it will not be published.

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 - Easter Greetings
National Church Center
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

2021 Easter Greetings for God's Field

***Please send to the above address your greetings and payment before April 1, 2021.
(U.S \$20.00 check or money order for each greeting, payable to God's Field)***

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____



Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Central Diocese

Life at Holy Cross Parish Wilkes-Barre, PA

This year has been difficult on all parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church. The usual annual dinners, festivals and many activities were cancelled due to the virus pandemic. With attendance and collections down, Holy Cross Parish of Wilkes-Barre, PA developed various ideas and fund raisers to help.

A Pizza Certificate Project was held, with John and Deborah Zlotnicki in charge. They also conducted the Lenten Clam Chowder Sale which also was profitable for the parish.

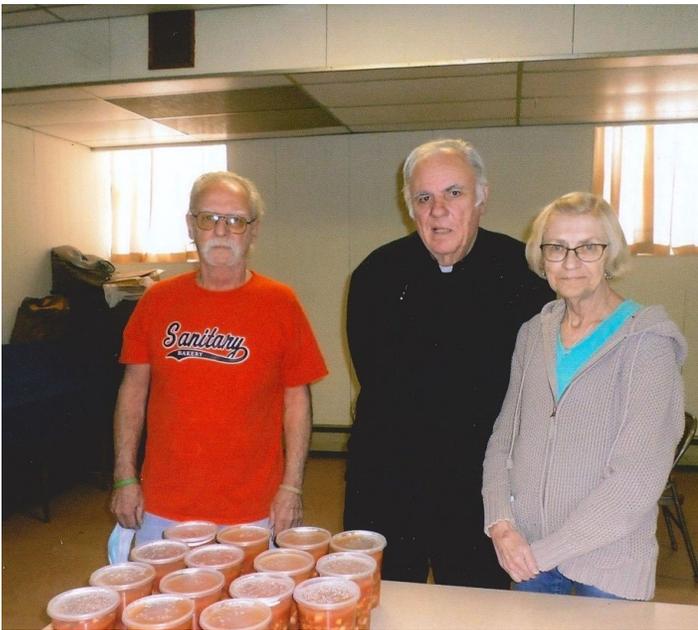
A Quarter Lenten project was announced by the parish ANS Society, with Mrs. Arline Rosenko and Mrs. Gloria Dymkowski at the helm. The Society is re-

questing 25 cents per day for the 40 days of Lent, totaling a \$10.00 donation to the parish from each donor. This project's title is "Can you spare a quarter?"

In February the parish ANS Vice president, Mrs. Gloria Dymkowski, through her cousin, Mrs. Michele Torquato, had kindergarten school children send Valentine art work to the Wesley Village Nursing Home in nearby Jenkins Township, PA.

Much appreciation and many thanks to everyone who supported these recent activities of Holy Cross Parish.

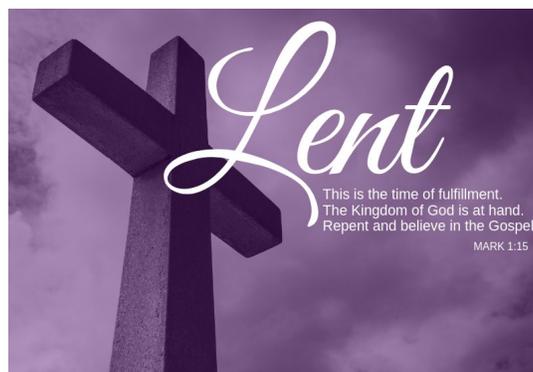
Submitted by Mrs. Gloria Dymkowski



John Zlotnicki, Very Rev. Thaddeus Dymkowski, Pastor and Deborah Zlotnicki conducted the Clam Chowder Sales Project at Holy Cross Parish.



Very Rev. Thaddeus Dymkowski and Mrs. Michele Torquato who delivered art work to the Wesley Village Nursing Home



Eastern Diocese

Another Successful Souper Bowl of Caring at Blessed Trinity Parish
Fall River, MA

On Sunday, February 7, the second Pre-Lenten Sunday, Blessed Trinity Parish concluded its successful SouperBowl of Caring Drive. Two SUVs were filled with over 1,250 cans and boxes of food donations that were dropped off to the Citizens for Citizens Food Pantry to help those in need.

Thanks to all who supported our 2021 SouperBowl of Caring. A great result and effort as Discipleship 2021 continues!



Lenten Day of Caring at Blessed Trinity Parish
Fall River, MA

Saturday, February 27, was an inspiring Lenten Day of Caring and Service for some of the Blessed Trinity Parish Youth. "Serving with a Heart like Jesus" was the theme for the day. We served and cared for our homeless, many who are sick; those in nursing homes; local healthcare workers and First Responders.

We were blessed to share the Love of our Lord with so many across the local community on this day. The pictures speak for themselves. Blessed beyond measure. Discipleship 2021!



Western Diocese

10,000 Served! St. Mary's Parish, Parma, OH

As 2021 began, a meeting was held to determine the future of the Food Ministry program at St. Mary's Parish in Parma, OH. It was decided that the weekly meals should continue.

On Wednesday, February 10, The Food Ministry served the 10,000th meal of the program since 2013, when this ministry started.

Unbeknownst to Deacon Jim Ploskonka, his family planned a surprise for him on Sunday, February 21. Right before he was to chant the dismissal to conclude Holy Mass, Fr. Jason Soltysiak, pastor, "hushed" him.

Fr. Jason acknowledging the event of the 1,000th meal served from weeks prior and invited two of the deacon's grandsons up to the sanctuary to present to him and the parish a beautiful plaque honoring the ministry and the sacrifice of time and treasure.

The meal has continued on since with even greater numbers! We are thankful for the support and look forward to honoring the program again once meal number 25,000 is served...in late 2024 or so!

