



Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Volume 99

May 2021

Issue #5

## A New Springtime

**Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop**

As I write this article for God's Field, the weather is finally starting to get wonderful and warm. It is often beautiful outside and even the rainy days remind us that new growth and a beautiful rebirth of nature is beginning all around us. Of course this reminds us that there is also another birth that we focus on this time of year. Sunday, May 23, 2021 is the Solemnity of Pentecost, the celebration of the birth of the Church.

In this Solemnity we remember the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the first apostles and then them going out into the world to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. The first reading for this Solemnity of Pentecost from the Acts of the Apostles recounts the story.

“Suddenly from up in the sky there came a noise like a strong driving wind which was heard all through the house where they were seated. Tongues as of fire appeared which parted and came to rest on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to express themselves in foreign tongues and make bold proclamation as the Spirit prompted them. Staying in Jerusalem at the time were devout Jews of every nation under heaven. These heard the sound and assembled in a large crowd. They were much confused because each one heard these men speaking his own language. They asked in utter amazement, ‘Are not all of these men who are speaking Galileans? How is it that each of us hears them in his native tongue? We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites. We live in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya around Cyrene.

There are even visitors from Rome – all Jews or those who have come over to Judaism; Cretans and Arabs, too. Yet each of us hears them speaking in his own tongue about the marvels God has accomplished.’” (Acts of the Apostles 2:2-11)

In this birth of the Church, there is much that we must concern ourselves with. We notice first that the presence of the Spirit makes a noise so that everyone notices. And yet it is not a noise that is entirely unfamiliar to those who heard it. It reminds us that we need to be on the lookout for the action of the Spirit around us in our world today. If we are looking for some sort of supernatural occurrence, it won't happen like that. God acts in and through the world that surrounds us, but if our eyes are open and attuned to the stirrings of the Spirit, we will see His action and comprehend that the Holy Spirit continues to be at work among us.

This shows us that as we see the rebirth happening all about us in this season, there is also much to remind us that now is the time for a rebirth of the work of the Church. And this is true within ourselves, within our families and especially within our parishes. It reminds us that all things come together for the work of God within our lives. We see that following the times of closure from the current pandemic, now things are truly starting to be relaxed and we can fully return to Church and, more importantly, to the work of the Church. In this, if we have eyes to see it, the first actions of the Spirit are taking place around us. But the thing is that we must see it, and then in response to that acknowledgement, begin to take ac-

(Continued on Page 3.)

**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.

**Inside this Issue**

A New Springtime - Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky ..... 1

May Devotions..... 4

How do Clergy Pray? - Rev. Jim Konicki ..... 6

Future Direction May Message ..... 7

Minutes of the 2021 Supreme Council Virtual Meeting ..... 8

Committees and Commissions of the P.N.C.C. 1904-1914 - History & Archives ..... 12

National United Choirs Convention and Workshop..... 14

Honor Your Father..... 16

Central Diocese..... 18

Eastern Diocese ..... 20

Western Diocese ..... 22

(A New Springtime - Continued from Page 1.)

tion. In acknowledging the work of the Holy Spirit, we can and must put ourselves at the Spirit's disposal to accomplish great things for God's kingdom.

A second thing we must notice is that the flame appeared which then parted and came to rest on each of them. It was the same flame, the same presence of the Spirit, that each of them partook in. It speaks of an equality among the gathered Apostles, in their ministry of announcing the Good News to the world, and in a larger way it speaks of an equality among all Christians who do the work of the Church today. "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of the one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:13) So each of us, as a follower of Christ, has a role in the body that is the Church. None of us is an afterthought to this work. Each of us is vital to this work of building up the body of Christ in the world today. Each of us has a gift to offer for the work of the Church. "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God Who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:4-7) This shows us that when we do some good work for the building up of the Church or the spreading of the Good News, it is actually the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and because of that equality of the actions of the Spirit, every bit of it is vital to God's work in the world.

Because of this none of us can say that what we have to offer is not needed, or that what we do within our role and life in the Church is of little value. It is all of great value because it is directed and prompted by the Spirit of God acting within us. In fact it is all absolutely necessary and vital to the witnessing that takes place in Christ's Holy Church.

The scene of the day of Pentecost also sees a crowd gathered to hear the Apostles as they begin to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ to a hungry world. Here is where things might have changed a little to our world today. Those Jews who heard the strong

driving wind were attuned to the actions of God around them, and so they gathered at the Spirit's prompting, even if they didn't fully understand. Today most people are so removed from recognizing the actions of God around them that they just can't see it. Therefore, the response of the Church must be to go out into the world and bring the work of the Spirit to them.

We see a bit of this in the fact that the Apostles rushed outside to begin to preach. They had been fearfully locked away, but then because of the presence of the Spirit, they could now fearlessly go out into the world and, through their work and action, witness to Jesus Christ to all that they met.

It is here that we must consider our world today, especially in that we are just coming to the point of once again taking up our mission and work to spread the message of Jesus Christ. In some senses we have been locked away. The pandemic had caused us to curtail our public worship and the public work of building up the kingdom of God. It had become a time of private introspection, a time of private prayer. But now as the medical community has said that we are able to resume our public life, first and foremost we must resume the public life of the Church. As the Apostles went out into the streets to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, we, as faithful members of our parish churches, must go out into our own communities to once again show the very life of Jesus among us in our works of worship, fellowship and community outreach.

I know that some of our parishes and communities of faith have done much to continue this work, at least in some limited capacity during the entire pandemic. Others, for a number of reasons, had to curtail this work to protect the health and safety of their members. But now is the time for all of us to emerge in stronger and more active ways. Now is the time for a rebirth, the time for a new Pentecost, where we can rededicate ourselves to the ways and works of God's Holy Church, shown to us by Jesus Christ and lived in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We will gather in our parish churches to celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost this Sunday. Let us all experience a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the work of each member and each parish of the entire Polish National Catholic Church.



## May Devotions

### Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary

May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Marian devotions honor our Mother, and the Mother of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Pray this Litany at home during this month.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
 Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.  
 God, the Father of heaven, Have mercy on us.  
 God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy on us.  
 God the Holy Spirit, Have mercy on us.  
 Holy Trinity, one God. Have mercy on us.  
 Holy Mary, pray for us  
 Holy Mother of God, pray for us  
 Holy Virgin of virgins, pray for us  
 Mother of Christ, pray for us  
 Mother of divine grace, pray for us  
 Mother most pure, pray for us  
 Mother most chaste, pray for us  
 Mother inviolate, pray for us  
 Mother undefiled, pray for us  
 Mother most amiable, pray for us  
 Mother most admirable, pray for us  
 Mother of our Creator, pray for us  
 Mother of our Savior, pray for us  
 Mother of good counsel, pray for us  
 Virgin most prudent, pray for us  
 Virgin most venerable, pray for us  
 Virgin most renowned, pray for us  
 Virgin most powerful, pray for us  
 Virgin most merciful, pray for us  
 Virgin most faithful, pray for us

Mirror of justice, pray for us  
 Seat of wisdom, pray for us  
 Cause of our joy, pray for us  
 Spiritual vessel, pray for us  
 Vessel of honor, pray for us  
 Singular vessel of devotion, pray for us  
 Mystical rose, pray for us  
 Tower of David, pray for us  
 Tower of ivory, pray for us  
 House of gold, pray for us  
 Ark of the covenant, pray for us  
 Gate of heaven, pray for us  
 Morning star, pray for us  
 Health of the sick, pray for us  
 Refuge of sinners, pray for us  
 Comforter of the afflicted, pray for us  
 Help of Christians, pray for us  
 Queen of angels, pray for us  
 Queen of patriarchs, pray for us  
 Queen of prophets, pray for us  
 Queen of apostles, pray for us  
 Queen of martyrs, pray for us  
 Queen of confessors, pray for us  
 Queen of virgins, pray for us  
 Queen of all saints, pray for us  
 Queen conceived without sin, pray for us  
 Queen of our nation, pray for us  
 Queen of peace, pray for us  
 Lamb of God, You take away sins of the world;  
 Spare us, O Lord.  
 Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;  
 Graciously hear us, O Lord.  
 Lamb of God, Your take away the sins of the world;  
 Have mercy on us.  
 Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.  
 Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Grant, we beg you, O Lord God, that we your servants may enjoy lasting health of mind and body, and by the glorious intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, be delivered from present sorrow and enter into the joy of eternal happiness. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions, but, in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

## How do Clergy Pray?

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

One of the most beautiful things about our Church and its clergy is the depth of relationships we enjoy with our parishioners. We all live and interact as a family – which is the essence of being the Body of Christ, the Church, one family with many members. People know and can sit down and have a chat with their bishop or the Prime Bishop. We can talk about everything from food to vacations to the state of our souls.

Many do not realize it, but it is not so in other Churches, particularly those with celibate clergy. One of the elements in the theology of celibacy is detachment from any close relationship. I recall from my days in Roman seminary the caution – ‘Do not cultivate relationships with your parishioners, you should not have close relationships with anyone.’ I was shocked.

In all of our closeness, one rarely discussed subject is prayer life. Perhaps we all feel (clergy included) it is too personal or very private. Perhaps we take Jesus’ admonition from Matthew 6:6 a little too literally: *But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private.*

So, how do those priests and deacons pray?

The first and greatest form of prayer is the Holy Mass. It should be offered daily (not just a Sunday thing). It is the universal prayer of the Church given to us by Jesus in which He joins with us, as the Canon states, “spiritually and bodily, in His whole being, and abides with us forever.” One of the great aspects of the Holy Mass is that when it is offered the entire heavenly host, all of the angels and saints are present in adoration, so even if no one appears to have shown up besides the priest, the church is filled to the rafters with people praying.

The other regular form of prayer used by clergy is the Daily Office (Liturgy of the Hours). Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer (Vespers), and Night Prayer (Compline) are the three most prayed. When praying through the Daily Office, all one-hundred fifty psalms are prayed over the course of the year. This Liturgy is not exclusive to clergy and all are invited to pray it. There are handy apps for your phone and websites where you can access the day’s prayers. Give it a try.

There are other devotional prayers and each member of the clergy, as with you, has their own style. This may be prayer during Eucharistic adoration, through scriptural reading, other holy reading, litanies, the Angelus, the rosary, centering prayers, the prayer of labor (yes, the work we do in and around the church. and in our daily lives is prayer too), or just engaging in conversational prayer. I personally prefer conversational prayer.

Since I’ve shown my cards, let me tell you about my style. It has been something that has always been part of me, a dialog with Jesus. I know He is there, ready to listen, and if I am quiet long enough, He can get a word in with me. So, I talk with Jesus, in my mind and heart. Troubles, joys, victories, everyday stuff, work, cooking, organizing, driving, family – I lay it all out there for Him. We talk – and even though it may seem one sided, that is where trust comes in, where relationship flourishes. Jesus is ever present, listening, keeping His promises, and a sure Rock to cling to.

There are a few conversations I have been having with Jesus for eleven years now.

One is the prayer I offer before I leave church. Lord, grant this parish growth, sustain it, and fill it to the rafters with people yearning to know, love, and serve you. Grant your Church many vocations to the priesthood and diaconate and bless the youth of our Holy Church.

The others are prayers I offer as I seem to make too many bulletins for a Sunday – a prayer of trust that they will be taken up by all the people who will come to the parish, and the prayers I offer for each parishioner and family by name as I prepare our monthly newsletter.

The words differ from time-to-time, but the themes remain, as does the most important element – trust – as we heard on the first Sunday in May: *“But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!”*

As we celebrate the month of May and Mary our Mother, who was a great example of prayer in the early Church and who continues to pray for us, take the opportunity to explore prayer, perhaps in new

(Continued on bottom of Page 7.)

## Future Direction May Message

### Bishop Joseph Padewski



During May we focus on Bishop Padewski, a martyr of our Holy Church. We remember him and all those who have lost their lives for their faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### Reflection and Action Item:

Bishop Joseph Padewski was consecrated a bishop in 1936. His efforts not only rebuilt the P.N.C.C. diocese of Poland, but fostered its growth. This growth was abruptly halted with the Nazi invasion of Poland, which began World War Two. During this period the missionary diocese in Poland once again saw the destruction of its churches and the imprisonment, torture and murder of its clergy. Fully three-fourths of the diocese was destroyed. Padewski was himself imprisoned and tortured. He was later released as an American prisoner of war, in exchange for a German general officer. He was sent back to America where he once again assumed the role of a parish pastor.

Following World War Two, Bishop Padewski returned to Poland and worked to rebuild our diocese in Poland. He gained the church a legal status in 1946. A little while later, in the midst of his efforts, the communist government made a general persecution of the Christian Church. Bishop Padewski was taken by the authorities, imprisoned, tortured and ultimately murdered. The oral account of his death was provided to the church authorities by a cleaning woman who witnessed the torture Bishop Padewski endured. He died on May 10, 1951. At the age of 57, he became the first bishop-martyr of the Polish National Catholic Church. He was buried in Warsaw, Poland.

Almighty God, this month we remember the life of the first martyred bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, Joseph Padewski. He dedicated himself to the building up and restoring of our Catholic Church for the people of Poland. May the example of his life and death inspire us to share the same message to people of all nations, proclaiming Your Gospel and so extending Your kingdom here on earth.

Offer a Prayer for Bishop Padewski and all Martyrs who have given their lives for the faith. Support a person who is being persecuted for living out their faith either with your time, talent or treasure.

A brief video message on Bishop Padewski, given by Rev. Jason Soltysiak, can be viewed on the PNCC Future Direction YouTube Channel.

---

(How do Clergy Pray? - Continued from Page 6.)

ways. Talk about prayer with your bishop, priest, or deacon. Find out, and if in your prayers you hear the calling voice of Jesus to join the clergy as a priest of

deacon, don't just listen, act. Respond today by calling or texting me at 518-522-0944 or by E-mailing me at [frjim@holynamenc.org](mailto:frjim@holynamenc.org). You can also get info so you can join in on our monthly Zoom meeting.

## Minutes of the 2021 Supreme Council Virtual Meeting

Submitted by Michael R. Mietlicki, Secretary to the Supreme Council, P.N.C.C.

*Because of the Coronavirus [Covid-19] pandemic and the resulting national emergency and travel and meeting restrictions, the Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council was conducted on the evenings of April 27 and April 28 via video conference. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. EDT. Bishop Jarosław Rafalko offered the opening prayer.*

### Attendance

Members present were: Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky PhD, Rt. Rev. John Mack, Rt. Rev. Bernard J. Nowicki DD, Rt. Rev. Jarosław Rafalko, Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Very Rev. Gregory Młodzik, Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr., Very Rev. Jarosław Nowak, Rev. Zbigniew Kozar, Rev. Scott Lill, D. Min, John Andrzejewski III, Cathy A. Bilinski, Diane E. Cheek, Marilyn A. Folcik, Robert T. Giczkowski, Paul Gorgol, Bruce S. Kaniewski, Michael R. Mietlicki, David Petrosky, Raymond J. Pieczarka, Kathryn Nemkovich, Joan Scheuneman, Becki Vivacqua, Martin Wachna, Jr.

### Absent

Gemma Meharchand

### Guests

None

### Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the April 28, 2020 Meeting were approved with the following additions.

- The Financial Report of the Eastern Diocese and the Report of the Mission and Evangelism Commission were added to the list of received reports.

### Report of the Treasurer

Joan Scheuneman, P.N.C.C. Treasurer, submitted a financial report for the fiscal year March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021 that included balance sheets listing both current and fixed assets along with liabilities and equity, the investment schedule, fund summaries, and parish loans. Also presented were the seminary investment schedules, donations, church expenses as well as the schedule of parish receipts. The balance sheet did increase to \$8,546,881.65 in 2021 from \$8,018,903.45 in 2020. National dues from all dioceses totaled \$462,707.57. National Church Center donations totaled \$9,021.53. Donations to the Clergy Pension Fund were \$98,000.61 well below the needed funds to support clergy pensions. Rental income from the National Church Center was \$288,721.69. Royalty income totaled \$31,814.00

down from \$65,617.75 the previous year. Total Administration Fund income was \$1,070,821.05. Total Administration expenses totaled \$1,008,544.60. The 2020 financial status of the P.N.C.C. benefited from overall lower expenses because of travel restriction imposed by Covid-19, lower property taxes on the National Church Center, a Federal Government PPP loan / grant that reduced salary and benefit expenses and a loan payment of \$100K from Spójnia, Inc. Clergy hospitalization insurance costs were \$216K, the largest church expense. It was reported all dioceses paid all their obligations last year on time. Parish contributions to the Six Percent Fund are not consistent and remain a concern. It is both a diocesan and national church problem. Many smaller parishes are suffering financially because of Covid-19. The Prime Bishop thanked the Treasurer for her work and dedication. The report of the treasurer was unanimously accepted.

### The Audit Report

An audit of the fiscal period of February 28, 2019 through February 29, 2020 was provided by Cindy Whitehead CPA. A current audit of the financial record was not undertaken for the following reasons:

- The financial records are complicated and general ledger entries and monthly expense payments must be validated.
- The timeframe from the close of the fiscal year, the end of February, and the meeting of the Supreme Council, the last Tuesday and Wednesday as mandated by the P.N.C.C. Constitution, does not allow enough time for a complete audit.

Consequently, the audit of the current financial statement will take place in the coming months and will be presented to the Supreme Council in 2022. Regarding the audit of last year's financial record, minimal issues found were corrected. Cindy Whitehead continues to work with the P.N.C.C. Treasurer to institute financial reporting best practice. The Prime Bishop thanked Cindy Whitehead CPA for her auditing expertise, and the personal time she expends to complete the audit and implement best practice. The audit report for the 2019 through 2020 period was unanimously accepted.

### Investment Committee

A formal report was not submitted. The Prime Bishop reported the investments were moved to a fiduciary investment firm some years ago. Unlike a broker, a fiduciary is legally bound to operate in the church's best interest. It invests and highly manages the funds of the P.N.C.C. and receives payment based on the success of the investments. The Prime Bishop meets regularly with the company, most

recently via zoom, to review the investments and discuss cash flow needs. The detailed investment results were reported in the Treasurer's Report. Dividends realized last year were \$45,041.53. Realized gains totaled \$30,336.24. Market value of the investments increased by \$299,770.56. During discussion it was suggested some P.N.C.C. accounts could be restructured and grouped into one or several investment accounts thus improving the rate of return.

### **Future Direction**

The Supreme Council received the report of the Future Direction Subcommittee. The Prime Bishop thanked the members of this subcommittee of the Supreme Council in particular Father Senior Robert Nemkovich, its chair, who monthly manages the work of the subcommittee as well as those who record monthly videos. Many positive comments were received from members of the P.N.C.C. regarding Future Direction. Those throughout the P.N.C.C. who desire to record a monthly video should contact the Prime Bishop or Father Senior Nemkovich. Those who volunteer will receive help creating the video. The Report on Future Direction was unanimously accepted.

### **Clergy Hospitalization**

The Supreme Council reviewed the report of Julie Orzell, Plan Administrator that included a balance sheet, income, expenses, and individual reimbursements. The Prime Bishop acknowledged Julie's excellent work. This program is the single largest expense for the P.N.C.C. and is always increasing. Last year \$216K was invested in the program. A current challenge is identifying when the surviving spouse of a deceased clergyman passes. All are encouraged to report the death of a clergyman's surviving spouse to the Office of the Prime Bishop. The report on clergy hospitalization insurance was unanimously accepted.

### **Clergy Pension Fund**

The Council reviewed the prepared report. Prime Bishop Mikovsky noted his office now oversees the fund. The current goal is to strengthen fund reporting to better understand what financial support from the P.N.C.C. will be needed in the future to support clergy pensions. For the first time, the report listed those who are currently receiving a pension from the fund. Each month approximately \$25K is distributed in pension payments. Currently, the P.N.C.C. contributes approximately \$13K per month to support the financial corpus of the plan held at The Principal. This shortfall requires Principal stock to be sold on occasion to meet monthly pension payments. This raises a concern regarding the sustainability of the fund especially as more priests are expected to retire in the coming years.

Council members spent a good deal of time discussing possible funding sources as well as restructuring options.

When the pension was doubled from \$300 to \$600 per month all supportive funding such as the dues apportionment and individual contributions should have also been doubled but they were not thus creating the support shortfall. The PNU Clergy Annuity Program is another potential pension program available to clergy. Both parishes and clergy can make annual contributions to this annuity program.

The Supreme Council subcommittee charged with managing the pension fund will meet to research funding options and offer a plan to the Supreme Council at the 2022 Annual Meeting at the latest. Supreme Council members are open to conducting a special meeting focused solely on a discussion of the plan. Any changes that the church might consider to the pension plan in the future must continue to supply a pension to those who are receiving it today because they are counting on it in their retirement. The P.N.C.C. made a commitment to them and it must honor that commitment. The Supreme Council supported a recommendation to the Savonarola Seminary Board of Directors to use \$26K from its endowment income to support the pension fund. The report on the pension fund was unanimously accepted.

### **God's Field**

The Supreme Council reviewed the God's Field report submitted by the editor. Because of significant hardware problems at the NCC, it is not possible to upload *God's Field* to the website. It is only available for download from Facebook. The IT infrastructure at the NCC is in the process of being upgraded to cloud technology which will resolve the issue. The Prime Bishop thanked all who submitted articles for the publication and encouraged all parishes to submit articles regarding their activities. The report on *God's Field* was unanimously accepted.

### **Savonarola Theological Seminary**

Prime Bishop Mikovsky reported those in late vocations are studying for the priesthood throughout the dioceses in different creative ways. Consequently, the seminary building is not the center of study for the priesthood as it was previously. It is used for short periods of time for more focused study conducted by Prime Bishop Emeritus Swantek and Father Senior Dawid, the Vice Rector.

### **The Polish National Union**

Martin Wachna, Jr, PNU CEO and John Andrzejewski, PNU CFO, provided a verbal status of the PNU, its programs, and the impact Covid-19 had on the organization. During the past year monies were added to its surplus. The annuity program has been extended through September 2021. The annuity and life insurance programs for the clergy of the P.N.C.C. are still available. In addition to the annuity program and life insurance at birth, the PNU

(Continued on Page 10.)

(Minutes of the 2021 Supreme Council Virtual Meeting - Continued from Page 9.)

could be viewed as a niche company that provides insurance products focused on final life expenses. A five- or ten-thousand-dollar life insurance policy offered by the PNU is the perfect product to cover funeral and cremation expenses. The PNU Board of Directors has determined that beginning June 1, districts, following CDC guidelines, can begin in-person meetings and activities. A State of Pennsylvania audit is in its final stages with no apparent issues. The PNU continues to promote membership benefits such as the Spójnia Credit Union and the soon to be started travel club. The PNU has also recently partnered with the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation which allows PNU members to apply for full blown academic scholarships for undergraduate and post graduate studies. This in addition to the stipends offered through the PNU Youth and Education Fund. The United States is currently experiencing a baby boom, so it is a perfect time for grandparents and parents to offer PNU annuities and life insurance products as a birthing gift. The more products the PNU sells the more financial support it can provide the P.N.C.C. Its current support for the P.N.C.C. allows the P.N.C.C. to do things it would not otherwise be able to, that is, conduct building and remodeling programs. The report on the Polish National Union was unanimously accepted.

### **Spójnia, Inc.**

Prime Bishop Mikovsky summarized his prepared report. As Prime Bishop he services as President of Spójnia, Inc. The CEO of the Polish National Union serves as Vice President of the board. Spójnia, Inc. oversees the Bishop Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center, the land that is rented to a horse riding stable, a single-family rental property and fields that are under a forage agreement with a local farmer. While the closing and sale of the manor was a sad event, it has resulted in Spójnia, Inc. being in the black for the first time in over forty years. Recent estate bequests to Spójnia, Inc. have also contributed to this. Consequently, loans are being paid off and capital improvements are being made to the retreat center. A new pool was installed. A garage is being built. AC was installed in the retreat center buildings. Other short-term renovations are planned. Spójnia, Inc. is in a particularly good financial position. Polish National Catholics and parishes are invited and encouraged to use the facility for social events. The Spójnia, Inc. report was unanimously accepted.

### **National Church Center**

John Andrzejewski, Building Manager, submitted a two-year report listing income, expense, rental space and maintenance projects. Currently there is nine hundred square feet available to lease with another tenant reevaluating its space due to Covid-19. Based on the analysis another seventeen hundred square feet could become available. During the past year, the focus was to operate the building under the Covid CDC guidelines so it could remain open. In the year to come some maintenance projects are planned. These include possible outside surveillance cameras, upgraded glass packs, carpet replacement, parking lot seal coating, painting and refurbishment of the front windows and an upgraded fire alarm panel. The reduced property tax on the building greatly reduced building expenses. The possible rental of the basement was discussed. This would require extensive renovation costs, additional parking at the building and a storm water study and storm water storage. Funds will probably not be available to build out the basement until the building mortgage is paid. Building signage is also in need of an upgrade. An upgraded digital sign could be a beneficial promotion and marketing tool given the traffic on Pittston Avenue. The cost of which could be shared by the P.N.C.C., the PNU, Spójnia, Inc. and the Spójnia Credit Union. Further research into upgraded building signage will be conducted. The Supreme Council unanimously agreed to extend National Church Center rent abatement to the Polish National Union. The CFO of the PNU also serves as National Church Center building manager thus saving the P.N.C.C. the annual cost of building management. In exchange, the P.N.C.C. offers the PNU rent abatement. The National Church Center report was unanimously accepted.

### **Website Report**

The Supreme Council reviewed the report submitted by Fred Aebli, Chairman of the Website Commission. The report included website and social media statistics and recommendations. The much-improved new website was implemented. Its focus is to inform visitors of the P.N.C.C. and make them want to worship with us. The website bookstore will be installed shortly. More improvements to the site will continually be made including information on the Polish National Union, the Spójnia Credit Union and the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center. The Prime Bishop thanked Mr. Aebli for his contribution and the

free services to the church he coordinates from interns at Penn State University where he teaches. The need for a part time social media marketing resource was proposed. This will help expand the church's social media presence beyond Facebook to reach a younger audience. This will take a commitment of time to make sure the information is timely and interactive on these other venues. The person must be a member of the P.N.C.C., a person who understands the P.N.C.C. Hiring someone for twenty hours per week would be ideal but may take a little time to realize given the cost. The Prime Bishop will further explore the idea with Fred Aebli and Rebecca Kotula, President of the NUYA. The website report was unanimously accepted.

### **The Residence of the Prime Bishop**

The Prime Bishop reported no projects were conducted in 2020 but two will be considered in 2021. One is to repair the driveway where a water leak was fixed. The other is to correct a moss problem on the roof of the residence.

### **The Report of the Prime Bishop**

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky PhD summarized his prepared report that covered his official calendar, his daily spiritual and administrative activities, ecumenical activities, Union of Scranton, national church matters, Medical Bridge to Poland, Savonarola Seminary, *God's Field*, financial issues, national commissions, a list of priests who died during the past year, standard organizations, sacramental celebrations, the PNU, Spójnia, Inc., and the Future Direction Subcommittee. Covid guidelines were developed in consultation with CDC doctors and the bishops of the church. The consecration of Bishop Rafalko and his installation as the Bishop of the Western Diocese was a highlight even though the celebration was restricted because of Covid-19. A failed attempt to process a Medical Bridge to Poland Grant because of Covid-19 overseas money transfer restrictions will be attempted in a few weeks. The entire corpus of the Arthur W. Zabierek Scholarship was received. Three \$5K annual scholarships will begin in September 2021 once the criteria are finalized. Semi-monthly video conferences established with the diocesan bishops during the pandemic will continue during the coming year. The report of the Prime Bishop was unanimously accepted.

### **The Report of Diocesan Bishops**

It was agreed by consensus that following the report

presentations, one motion would be entertained to accept all diocesan bishop reports.

### **Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese – Bishop John Mack**

The Supreme Council reviewed Bishop Mack's report that included diocesan statistics, finances, diocesan structure, organizations, specific parish achievements and challenges. In summarizing his report, Bishop highlighted the following items. The diocese's biggest challenge is the lack of priests. And with the aging of current priests the situation will only get worse. Through the leadership of Father Dr. Matt Kawiak, the diocese embarked on a creative "thinking out of the box" plan to solve the problem which included advertising clergy openings in Indeed, Zip Recruiter and other venues. A PowerPoint onboarding presentation was developed to inform potential candidates about the P.N.C.C. Likewise, online tutorials are being developed as a training tool. While a candidate has yet to be successfully selected, the process has been a great learning experience and a positive one. In the future having a priest serve more than one parish will not be the exception but the norm and this will not be good for the growth of parishes. The opening of a mission in the Las Vegas area where Polish National Catholics have moved, or winter is being explored. The Covid pandemic has put a strain on many smaller parishes of the diocese.

### **Canadian Diocese – Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky PhD**

In summarizing his prepared report on the status of the Canadian Diocese, the Prime Bishop noted the bishops are discussing options to manage the parishes of the Canadian Diocese. In the future the diocese will need to sell the Welland parish property following its closure. Priest shortages also impact the work of the diocese. The parish in Brandon, MB currently has no priest. As a result of Covid-19 restrictions the parishes in western Canada are still not allowed to celebrate in-person liturgies. In eastern Canada, parishes are open but are restricted to ten individuals including clergy and organist. Travel to Canada is also prohibited.

### **Central Diocese – Bishop Bernard Nowicki DD**

Bishop Nowicki's report on the status of the Central Diocese highlighted his episcopal calendar, the priests and deacons of the diocese, parish property sell-offs, parish achievements and challenges. As re-

(Continued on bottom of Page 13.)

## Committees and Commissions of the P.N.C.C. - 1904 to 1914

This is the first in a series of articles about the Committees and Commissions of the Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.) that have been called into existence. This series covers the period from First through the Third General Synods.

Our Church has been an innovator of many religious and secular activities for Catholics. However, many are either not well known or even known at all. Sometimes there is information about why the various Committees or Commissions came into existence, but not always. In some cases there was only the mention of the creation of the Committees or Commissions, with no follow up on the effectiveness or their results or even when they ended. The P.N.C.C. Archives needs your help. Since its beginning, Committees and Commissions came into existence in the P.N.C.C., each to fill a need at that time. The P.N.C.C. Archives has little information on many of them. Others are well known. The P.N.C.C. Archives hopes that our readers will be able to donate: members' names, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, reports, letters and memorabilia to the P.N.C.C. Archives to rectify this lack of documentation. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Future researchers of these Committees and Commissions will be able to get a better understanding of their research as a result.

Twenty Commissions were either in existence or were established at the Second Synod. They were: (1) Commission on Administration and Discipline, (2) Matter of Bishops Commission, (3) Celibacy Issues Commission, (4) Church Mission Commission, (5) Confession of Faith Issues Commission, (6) Constitution Commission, (7) Commission on Division into Dioceses, (8) Education Commission, (9) Commission for Election of Bishops, (10) Humanitarian-Social Commission, (11) Liturgical Commission, (12) Liturgical Books and Publications Commission, (13) Marriages and Divorces Commission, (14) Commission for National Church Matters in Poland, (15) Publications Commission, (16) Matter of Rites Commission, (17) Relationships with other churches Commission, (18) Seminary Issues Commission, (19) Seminary Commission, and (20) The Commission for Territorial Division. You can see from their names that many came into existence to formalize and propose organizational concepts to be later accepted by a Synod and incorporated into the Constitution and

Laws of the P.N.C.C. Some Commissions had a short life and others were still in existence through the Seventh Synod held in Scranton. The P.N.C.C. Archives would like to have copies of the documents produced by these Commissions, namely: meeting agendas, meeting minutes, correspondence, names of members, reports made and publications produced by them.

The Commissions that either presented reports or papers at the Second Synod, held in 1909 in Scranton on September 28th and 29th were: Constitution Commission and the Seminary Issues Commission. At this Synod the Constitution Commission was asked to develop a new Constitution for the next Synod.

By the Third General Synod, the Seminary Commission had prepared a plan for the development of a seminary. "Father Krupski presented the following points for consideration by the delegates. 1. The Bishop will appoint a permanent Seminary Commission composed of five members within thirty days after the Synod. This Commission will prepare a plan on how to gather the necessary Fund for the establishment for a permanent Seminary. 2. The Seminary Commission will see to it that in each parish a committee will be organized for the purpose of gathering funds for the establishment of a permanent Seminary. Each parish will give a reply to the Seminary Commission by July 1, 1915, as to what it can do in this matter. The result will be published in *Straż*. The Seminary Commission is to give a report of its activities every quarter, published in the *Straż*. 3. All the parishes of the National Church will take up a special collection New Year's for the funding of the Seminary. 4. For the support of the Seminary each parish is obliged to pay 25 cents annually for every family according to the number of families represented in the mandates to the synod." Each of these four points were separately discussed and accepted by the Synod as presented except for the fourth. The synod passed a motion that each parishioner is obligated to pay to pay 25 cents annually for the Seminary.

At the Third General Synod (1914), the report of the Commission on Mission was read by Bishop Hodur. He said that "The mission of the P.N.C.C. in America is threefold: first, spiritual and moral, having as goals the winning of the Polish people in America for the Church of Christ, or such spiritual and moral state in which Christ would be the content of human life. The

second goal of the mission is to defend the Polish immigrant before the encroachments of elements inimical to us. The third goal is the winning of the Polish Nation to the ideals of the Free Church.” His definition was unanimously accepted. Father Bończak then moved that the Bishop nominate a Commission having as its purpose the preparation of the mission of the National Church in America as in Europe. The motion carried.

The Liturgical Commission, at the Third General Synod, proposed that Polish language replace Latin for Masses in every parish. This proposal was accepted unanimously. The editor’s explanatory footnote at the bottom of the page noted that “Although Polish as the language of the Mass and other services was introduced in Scranton in 1901, Latin also continued to be used there until 1917. The last parish to stop using Latin seems to have been the Slovak Parish in Passaic, NJ, in the 1960s, which then began to use English before it accepted the use of the Slovak language.”

At the Third General Synod, as the head of the Confession of Faith Issues Commission, Bishop Hodur said that “The Confession of Faith of the P.N.C.C. is

a repetition, completion and explanation of the Apostolic Creed and Niceo-Constantinopolitan Creed, embraced in expression of the twentieth century, applied to the aspirations of the latest epoch.” The paper and Confession of Faith were accepted unanimously in its entirety and without amendment. The Editor’s footnote on this page noted that “Under the provisions of the Constitution and by-laws in effect at the time, two-thirds majority was required for the resolution of religious issues; the Constitution was later amended at this Synod to require unanimity.”

The Relationships with Other Churches Commission’s conclusion, which it presented to the Third General Synod, was that the National Church should assume a friendly stance towards other Christian Churches, with those it is to be understood, which do not under the cover of friendship lie in wait to denationalize the Polish soul.

I found it interesting that during the discussion of the Constitution Commission at the Third General Synod, both the pastor of and the delegate from the Hungarian parish in South Bend, IN spoke in both English and Hungarian.

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

(Minutes of the 2021 Supreme Council Virtual Meeting - Continued from Page 11.)

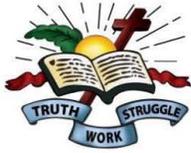
quested, the Supreme Council concurred with the closing of Holy Spirit Parish in Little Falls, NY and the Polish National Catholic Parish of Holy Trinity & St. Joseph in Linden, NJ. These parishes contacted Bishop Nowicki indicating they were no longer able to sustain their parishes. The shortage of clergy is also impacting the Central Diocese. Eight priests in the diocese now serve two parishes. The diocesan synod was rescheduled to November 2021 because of Covid-19. If the pandemic in-person restrictions are not lifted by then, video conference technologies will be employed to conduct the synod. The diocese is also preparing for the national synod in 2022 which also marks the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the P.N.C.C. The synod will be hosted in Scranton and may include a national anniversary celebration. With the closing of four and a potential fifth parish in the diocese, an influx of monies will be realized from the sale of property. Consequently, the diocese has established a diocesan council subcommittee on Church Growth. The focus of the committee is to determine the ways the income used from the sale of the property can be reinvested within the diocese to

support parish growth and enlivenment. The goal of the program is to see life come out of loss. Parishes that apply to the program will receive funds up to \$5K to be used on both spiritual and membership growth activities. These monies will not be used to sustain a parish. The parishes of the diocese are reawakening following the pandemic in their own ways and according to the timetable that makes sense for them.

### **Eastern Diocese – Bishop Paul Sobiechowski**

The Council reviewed Bishop Sobiechowski’s report regarding the status of the Eastern Diocese that included specific parish achievements and challenges, his travel calendar, the organizations in the diocese, the diocesan newsletter, his commission work, and parish visits. In highlighting his report Bishop announced the Enfield CT parish will be closed. All the activities taking place in the diocese are listed on the diocesan website <https://easterndiocesepncc.org>. *The Messenger*, the diocesan newsletter, also contains this information. A one-day Zoom synod was

(Continued on bottom of Page 15.)



## National United Choirs



### 35<sup>th</sup> General Convention/27<sup>th</sup> Music Workshop Concert & Auction

*Prepare Ye Your Voice for the Lord*

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

Convention – Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Workshop (with Concert & Auction) – Thursday & Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Voice:           Soprano \_\_\_   Alto\_\_\_   Tenor\_\_\_   Bass\_\_\_

If you have special dietary needs, please email Cathy Bilinski, [nucscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:nucscholarship@gmail.com)

Convention &amp; 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.*

(Minutes of the 2021 Supreme Council Virtual Meeting - Continued from Page 13.)

conducted in the diocese in 2020. The Committee on Strategic Planning remains active within the diocese. Monthly meetings are conducted with the Administrative Seniors of the diocese. There will be two active reserve chaplains in the diocese: Rev. Andrzej Tenus, who is an Army Chaplain and Rev. Henry Woś who is studying to become a Navy Chaplain.

### **Western Diocese – Bishop Jaroslaw Rafalko**

In summarizing his formal report on the status of his diocese, Bishop Rafalko noted the church fire that recently occurred in Minneapolis. The church building was destroyed. The parish is celebrating Sunday Mass in the parish hall that is across the street from the church. Their healing process has just started. Bishop Rafalko plans a visit to the parish following

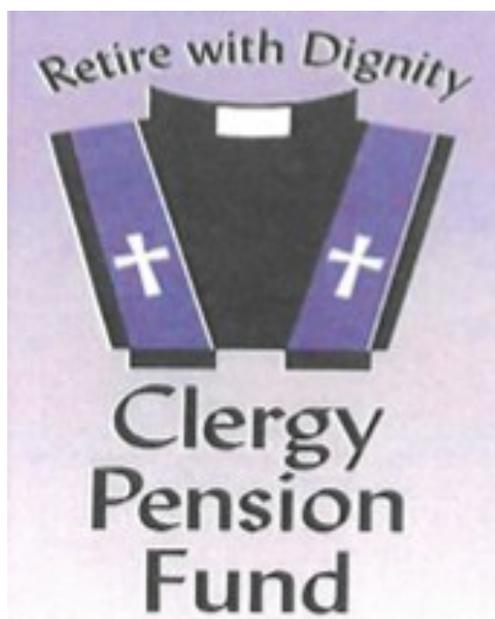
Mother's Day. The parish in Milwaukee is being reopened. It will be a Spanish parish. The Western Diocese will initially support the parish. The parish board has been presented to the State of Wisconsin for acceptance. Over thirty people attended the first Mass. The Western Diocese also is faced with clergy shortages. Because of the many immigration challenges the diocese is seeking priests that already live in the United States. The diocese conducted its synod via Zoom. One parish is in the process of closing. Another is considering a merger.

All reports from the diocesan bishops were unanimously accepted.

The Prime Bishop's Office will be sending a letter to all parishes asking them to collect funds to support the Minneapolis church that suffered a recent fire.

(Minutes will be continued in the June issue of God's Field.)

## 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.

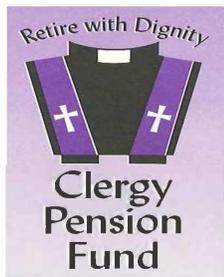
Please complete the form on the opposite page and submit it prior to June 1, 2021, along with your minimum donation of \$25.00 per name, to the

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/honor (please circle) my Pastor, Father, Grandfather, or Other

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Remembered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

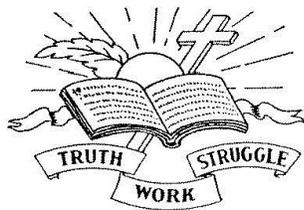
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the "Clergy Pension Fund P.N.C.C." and submit the completed form with your minimum donation of \$25 per name, to the

Clergy Pension Fund Committee  
1006 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505  
570-346-9131

## Central Diocese



## Central Diocese

*of the Polish National Catholic Church*

*515 East Locust Street*

*Scranton, PA 18505-1710*

*The Right Reverend Bernard J. Nowicki, DD – Bishop Ordinary*

Chancery Office (570) 341-5150 Fax (570) 341-5151

Rectory Office (570) 343-6017

Dear Parishes, clergy and laity of the Central Diocese,

According to Article VII – Part C (the Diocesan Synod) of the PNCC constitution, I now publish as diocesan bishop the call to synod for the Central Diocese.

I hereby call the XIII Diocesan Synod of the Central Diocese to convene on November 12 & 13, 2021. The synod will take place at All Saints Parish in Rome, NY in the Mohawk Valley Seniorate. Synod planning and the formation of the various pre-synodal committees will be the responsibility of the parishes within the Mohawk Valley Seniorate. The number of lay delegates to which a parish is entitled is determined by the General Fund and Diocesan dues submitted for 2019. All parishes must fulfill their full financial obligations to the general church and to the diocese in order to send lay representation to the diocesan synod. We ask that all parishes and organizations elect and send their respective representatives to serve as delegates to our diocesan synod.

Registration information, mandates and agendas will be forthcoming. We look forward to your input and direction as we chart the course of our Diocese for the next four years. Please keep our planning for this occasion and the continued work of our Central Diocese in your prayers, that God will direct and guide all that we do.

We look forward to seeing our diocesan family at All Saints Parish in November, 2021. May you, your family, friends and parishes have a safe and healthy spring and summer and we will see you in the fall at Holy Synod.

Yours in Christ,

+ *Bernard J. Nowicki*

Rt. Rev. Bernard J. Nowicki, DD  
Bishop of the Central Diocese

## Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Community Service

### Dupont, PA

On Thursday, April 22nd, Holy Mother of Sorrows parishioners, along with pastor Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, joined with town volunteers to organize, sort

and pack food bags. This is a monthly food bank distribution that assists residents in need in the Dupont and Suscon, PA municipalities.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Volunteers Packing Food Bags



Holy Mother of Sorrows volunteers Lois Morreale, Rose Kazinetz, Lois McHugh, Al Micka, Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid

## Music is a Blessing at St. Stanislaus Cathedral

### Scranton, PA

During the entire time of the pandemic St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr, Cathedral in Scranton, PA, has been blessed by the devotion of its cantors and organists, who have continuously provided music for all of the liturgies of the Church.

These wonderful musicians share their talents and time to enhance the worship for the faithful each week on Sundays at all the Masses.

They are also present for all special services such as All Saints Day, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, and Tenebrae, to name a few.

We are indebted to their dedicated service, which the cantors perform voluntarily, on a rotating basis. Some may take their selfless service for granted, unaware of their tireless weekly preparations and service.



Lisa McConlogue, Gary Richards, Joan Scheuneman, Rebecca Elfman, Barbara Nowicki, and Jack Ostroski

## Eastern Diocese

### Our Saviour Parish Helping the Community

#### Woonsocket, RI

Every third Saturday of the month, volunteers from Our Saviour Parish in Woonsocket, RI, get together for the parish's monthly "Free Lunch Saturday" to prepare and distribute hot soup, snacks and bottled water to community members. The monthly drive-through event takes place between the hours of 11 am and 12:30 pm (or until the food runs out).



Parishioner Lonnie Watson makes delicious homemade soups for the community to enjoy, and volunteers Katherine Caranci, Debbie Boucher, Edmund Fox, Anna Prymak, Mary Fournier and pastor Rev. Henryk Wos help with preparation and distribution. Cleric Justin Daviault and his son Aidan (from Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, CT) also have assisted with this community event.



This Lenten season Our Saviour's Parish provided some support to the Woonsocket Shelter for single women and families with children who are homeless. Pillows, twin sheet sets and blankets, deodorants, razors, baby wipes and other items were collected. We collected hundreds different items. Thank you to Sally for delivering them to the needy families. Thank you to all who supported this endeavor.



Thanks also to everyone who supported and contributed to our March 27th Polish Food Drive-Thru Sale. The event was a huge success. We served 118 cars and sold all our delicious food: pierogi, golabki, fried cabbage with kielbasa and bread, cabbage soup, babka, and apple pie!



## St. Casimir's Parish Distributes Easter Boxes to Locals in Need

Lowell, MA

The ANS Society of St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA, and Lowell City Councilor, Sokhary Chau spent Palm Sunday distributing Easter boxes to area families in need.

Each box included a ham, glaze, a bag of potatoes, a

bag of carrots, peas, pineapple, rolls and Easter candy.

Distributing food to local families in need is a long-time activity of the ANS.



ANS President JoAnn Menzia with her grandson and Councilor Chau.



### Easter Greeting

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH - Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Pastor  
 Chair - Raymond J. Pieczarka; Vice Chair - Stefan Swiadas; Treasurer - Frances Dobosz;  
 Recording Secretary - Jo-Ann O'Connell; Financial Secretary - Nancy Reilly



## Western Diocese

### Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Fire

Minneapolis, MN



**Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church Before the Fire**



Photo Credit CBS

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church After the Fire**

On Monday evening, April 19th, 2021, as Rev. John Kutek was sitting down to his dinner in his rectory, he received a call that no pastor ever wants to receive. His beloved parish church since 1993, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Minneapolis, MN, was on fire.

Before the fire got out of hand, some of the neighboring parishioners attempted to save some things from inside the church. The flames moved too quickly, however, and these stalwart individuals were unable to rescue many of the beloved items, and they had to abandon their cause for their own safety.

Firefighters were quick to respond to the call and arrived to fight the blaze, but the fire quickly spread to multiple parts of the church. Although firefighters were able to knock down the fire, the roof collapsed, causing heavy damage to the church structure. Thankfully, no one was injured during the melee. Investigators still have not been able to discern the cause of the fire.

By Wednesday, parishioners were able to get into the burned out structure to dig out, salvage and clean whatever soot-, smoke- and water-damaged relics that they could recover; items such as statues, chalices, stations of the cross, crucifixes and the altar. Some of items are more than 100 years old, and were part of this congregation since it became a Polish National Catholic Parish in 1914.



Photo Credit CBS

**Some of the Items Salvaged from the Church**

At 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 25th, only 6 days after the devastating fire, Pastor John Kutek celebrated Mass for his parishioners in the Parish Hall across the street from the church.

"It's too soon to say anything about plans, right now we want to heal our wounds," Fr. Kutek said of the future. "We would like to wait for lead from above. God will give us an answer what to do next."

An investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing.



Rev. John Kutek celebrates Sunday Mass for his congregation in the Parish Hall.

Donations in support of the parish can be mailed to:

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish  
420 22nd Avenue NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

## St. Mary's Parish Serves Lenten Dinners

Parma, OH

In March two Lenten Dinners were served by St. Mary's Parish, Parma, OH. The month of March featured the second and third of three Lenten Dinners. The first Lenten Dinner was in February, and featured a fish fry.

On Friday, March 12th, a very well-received and delicious second Fish Fry Drive-Thru, led by George Ziefle, was distributed. The dinner featured beer battered fish, fries, coleslaw and dessert. An additional shrimp cocktail was also available, for the more discerning palates.

On Friday, March 26th, a Pierogi Dinner Drive-Thru, featuring bardzo przyjemne homemade pierogi, a cup of vegetable soup, side vegetable, applesauce and dessert was distributed. This was a co-chaired dinner made possible by Susan Boehnlein and Patti Dotson-for.

All-in-all, about 400 dinners were served during the three Lenten Dinners served. God bless all volunteers and patrons!



St. Mary's Parish volunteers prepare and pack Drive-Thru Lenten Dinners.

