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Admiration or Discipleship

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

In this the second half of the month of June, we have now entered into the season of Ordinary Time. We have passed from the celebration of our Lord and Savior conquering sin and death in His resurrection from the dead. We have passed through the short season of the beginnings of the Church with Pentecost and the solemnities of the Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi, and now we come to the time of year when we focus most strongly on the ministry of our Lord. We will hear His teachings, we will encounter His miracles and we will find ways in which He leads us to more fully enter into our relationship with God.

On June 13, 2021, the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, we heard a teaching of our Lord on the Kingdom (Reign) of God. This Sunday's Gospel reads: "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." (Mark 4:26-29)

Although we may know a little more at this point in history than our ancestors regarding the germination and production of seeds and plants, yet the underlying reality is still the same. Even in the small gardens we plant, how many of us will find that the plants seem to grow without our even noticing it.

A second parable of that day it also given: "[Jesus] also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all seeds on earth; yet when it is sown

it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.' With many such parables He spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; He did not speak to them except in parables, but He explained everything in private to His disciples." (Mark 4:30-34)

In another agricultural parable, our Lord shows His followers that the kingdom of God upon the earth is part of a great divine and human work. God will take even the smallest of actions by the faithful and multiply them into great works for salvation.

Parables such as these are an important part of what occurs in this Ordinary Time season. We hear the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and through them we begin to know and comprehend the designs of Almighty God for His creation and especially for us as His beloved children. But the reality is that as we consider these teachings in isolation we can fall into the trap of treating Jesus only as a wise teacher. We fully assent to what is said, but we somehow treat the truth of the teaching separately from the truth that is the very person of Jesus Himself.

We run the risk of only being admirers of Jesus rather than disciples and followers. The definition of 'admirer' I retrieved from the internet is 'someone who regards someone or something with respect, or warm approval.' I suppose that there is really not much wrong with this view in considering the teachings of our Lord, we certainly do have great respect for Jesus, but somehow the idea of warm approval doesn't seem to go far enough. We would not say of someone we truly loved that we only have 'warm approval' for them.

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Another definition of 'admirer' from the Webster's Dictionary is 'someone who thinks highly of someone or something often in a somewhat impersonal manner.' It's here that we can really begin to see the deficit in being only an admirer of Jesus. As we encounter the teachings of Jesus we can be ones who take them as true statements regarding a life of faith and living. We can even go a step beyond that and say that we will use them as the guiding principles for our own lives. And while all of this may be true, it really is not enough. If we only have this view concerning the teachings of Jesus, we are admirers of Him, or admirers of His teachings. But in reality Jesus calls us to so very much more. He does not want only admirers, He wants disciples.

To be a disciple means to be a 'convinced adherent.' In the ancient world a disciple was one who not only learned the teachings of his master, but imitated every practical detail of his life. It was an interaction always with a real living person and not only his teachings. From our religious point of view it means to have a living relationship to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It goes far beyond just assenting to the teachings of Jesus. It is rather a sincere and deep loyalty to the person of Jesus Christ and everything about Him.

We are confronted with this when we consider the Gospel reading for the Sunday immediately following. On the Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time, we again read from the Gospel of Mark immediately following the above parables. In this Sunday's Gospel we read: "On that day, when evening had come, He said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took Him with them in the boat, just as He was. Other boats were with Him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But He was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him up and said to Him, 'Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?'" (Mark 4:35-41)

In this Gospel passage we are not presented with any teaching of Jesus, but rather we are called to contemplate this miracle and consider the question of the

Apostles, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and sea obey?'" Of course it was not really a question for them, especially at the time the Gospels were finally written. For one schooled in the ways of the Bible, we know that the One Who is creator and controller of the chaos that are the wind and seas is God Himself. We are confronted within this Gospel passage with the question of do we accept Jesus, not just as a wise teacher, but as truly God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

And further we are challenged to show that in accepting this, has it truly changed our lives? Are we truly and fully committed to the person, the message and the way of Jesus Christ in the world? It is for that reason that Jesus asks the questions, both of the disciples then and us now, "Why are you afraid?" and "Have you still no faith?"

Devoting ourselves truly to Jesus Christ will drive all fear from our lives. If we place Him at the center of our daily living, at the center of our family life, our work life and of every part of our life, then we will have absolutely nothing to fear. This, of course, does not mean that everything will be easy and painless. Certainly not. But it does mean that we will be standing beside the author of life and the One Who will safely bring us into the safe harbor of His kingdom. We are challenged to be loyal to Him first and foremost in all aspects of our daily living. This goes far beyond considering Jesus as only a wise teacher, to acknowledging Him as the author of all life and especially our own lives. It calls us to acknowledge with St. Paul, "And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law." (Galatians 2:16b) "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ Who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

In this is discipleship, moving beyond acknowledging and admiring the teachings of Jesus, to rather more fully come to the place where we are totally dedicated to Him and His way in the world. To be able to say "it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." This is what we are called to in discipleship. To unite with the author of our creation, the One Who loves us and gave Himself for us. Let us seek to unite ourselves to Christ in all things, to truly be His disciples.

Vocación Sacerdotal: Buscar un momento para estar a los pies del Señor y escuchar su llamado.

Rev. Antulio A. Alvarado, Pastor, Divine Word Parish, Chicago, IL

Desde los inicios de la historia de salvación Dios creador nos llamó a la existencia haciéndonos a su imagen y semejanza (Gen 1:26). Por eso es muy importante estar abiertos a la gracia (amistad) con Dios para poder descubrir cuál es su voluntad en nuestra vida personal, familiar y como sociedad.

La mayor Gloria de Dios es que el hombre viva (San Ireneo), y en atención a esto. Por eso su Hijo y nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo se hizo hombre y tomo nuestra condición humana para enseñarnos el camino que nos lleva a la verdad, la vida y la verdadera libertad (Juan 10:10 y Juan 14:6).

Al inicio de su Ministerio, nuestro Señor Jesus consciente de la tarea tan importante; quiso llamar a sus 12 Apóstoles para estar con Él y después enviarlos a predicar la Buena Nueva de la Salvación no solo al pueblo judío sino a toda la humanidad (Marcos 3: 13-19 y Mateo 28:19).

La Misión de predicar el mensaje de Salvación siempre ha sido para la Iglesia una tarea principal para lograr que los hombres y mujeres a través de los tiempos conozcan la Palabra de Dios, a su Hijo Jesus y, creyendo en El tengan vida en su nombre (Juan 20:31).

Después de fundamentar con pasajes de la Sagrada Escritura es importante centrarnos en la intención de este artículo.

Muchas veces, en nuestra vida diaria estamos llenos de actividades, preocupaciones y obligaciones por cumplir como miembros de una familia y ciudadanos responsables. Pensamos que debido a todas estas actividades nunca tenemos tiempo para nosotros mismos y mucho menos para nuestra vida religiosa y relación personal con Dios. Esta es sin duda una excusa común que nos impide estar a los pies de Nuestro Señor Jesus para escuchar su Palabra, recibir su amor, ser testigo del mayor encargo que podemos recibir: Ser testigos de su Resurrección y predicarlo con alegría por todo el mundo (Lucas 24: 46-53).

Cierto es, que la Misión de predicar la Victoria de Cristo sobre la muerte y su Gloriosa Resurrección es una tarea confiada a todo miembro bautizado en nuestra Iglesia. Tenemos que reconocer que el mandato directo de Jesus de Enseñar, bautizar e ir por

todo el mundo es para sus Discípulos y sus sucesores. En atención a este mandato es muy importante que a lo largo de la historia haya hombres dispuestos a cumplir con su vida esta tarea confiada por el mismo Señor Jesus.

Por eso mismo nuestra Iglesia durante el mes de Junio dedica un importante esfuerzo por orar por más vocaciones a la vida Sacerdotal, agradecer el Ministerio y vida del Clero en servicio activo en cada parroquia y orar por el Eterno Descanso de todos aquellos que ofrecieron su vida en cumplimiento del mandato del Señor Jesus y reciban de El la Corona de Gloria merecida en el Reino de los Cielos. Haciendo eco de aquel pasaje de la Escritura: Siervo bueno y fiel entra ahora en la alegría de tu Señor (Mateo 25: 14-30).

Nuestra Iglesia siempre ha necesitado de Sacerdotes según el corazón de Cristo (Marcos 6:30, 6:37 y Juan 10:14). Que sean Pastores humildes y amorosos que conozcan sus ovejas, las alimenten y las conduzcan a la verdad, en su Hijo Jesus.

En cierta ocasión, alguien me pregunto porque yo decidí convertirme en Sacerdote. Mi respuesta fue motivada por mi vida religiosa familiar: el rezo del Rosario, los devocionales, la recepción de los sacramentos, la participación en Misa y en la vida Parroquial de mi Comunidad de origen. Pero el principal elemento es la oración personal ante el Santísimo Sacramento, la Confesión frecuente para cuidar mi vida de Gracia (Amistad con Dios) y la recepción de la Eucaristía como el principal regalo que un seguidor de Cristo puede recibir (Su cuerpo y Sangre, alimento de Salvación – Juan 6:54).

De esa cercanía, nació el deseo de acercarme a Jesus y poder yo realizar con mi vida y después con mis manos Consagradas por el Santo Crisma el misterio del que yo mismo era alimentado desde pequeño. Por eso mismo yo quisiera hacer una invitación formal a todo hombre con deseos e inquietud por estar aún más cerca del Señor a perder el miedo e invocar la luz y guía del Espíritu Santo para que nuestra Iglesia pueda seguir teniendo ministros que cumplan con su vida el mandato del Señor y se conviertan en Pescadores de hombres y mensajeros de la Salvación de Dios (Mateo 4:19 y Isaías 52:7).

Priestly Vocation: Find a moment to be at the feet of the Lord and listen to his call.

Rev. Antulio A. Alvarado, Pastor, Divine Word Parish, Chicago, IL

From the beginning of the history of salvation, God the creator called us into existence making us in His image and likeness (Gen 1:26). That is why it is very important to be open to grace (friendship) with God in order to discover what His will is in our personal, family life and as a society.

The greatest Glory of God is man fully alive (Saint Irenaeus). That is why His Son and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ became man and took our human condition to teach us the way that leads us to truth, life and true freedom (John 10:10 and John 14: 6).

At the beginning of His ministry, our Lord Jesus was aware of the important task that He had and He wanted to call His 12 Apostles to be with Him and then send them to preach the Good News of Salvation not only to the Jewish people, but to all humanity (Mark 3: 13-19 and Matthew 28:19).

The Mission of preaching the message of Salvation has always been a main task for the Church to ensure that men and women throughout the ages know the Word of God, His Son Jesus and, believing in Him, have life in His name (John 20:31).

After substantiating with passages of Sacred Scripture it is important to focus on the intention of this article.

Many times in our daily lives we are full of activities, worries and obligations to fulfill as family members and responsible citizens. We think that due to all these activities we never have time for ourselves, much less for our religious life and personal relationship with God. This is undoubtedly a common excuse that prevents us from being at the feet of Our Lord Jesus to listen to His Word, receive His love, be a witness to the greatest commission that we can receive from Him: To be witnesses of His Resurrection and preach with joy throughout the world His message of Salvation (Luke 24: 46-53).

It is true that the Mission to preach the Victory of Christ over death and the Glorious Resurrection of Jesus is a task entrusted to every baptized member of our Church. We have to recognize that Jesus' direct command to Teach, baptize and go throughout the world is for His Disciples and His successors. In view of this mandate, it is very important that

throughout history there are men willing to fulfill their lives with this task entrusted by the Lord Jesus Himself.

That is why our Church, during the month of June, dedicates an important effort to pray for more vocations to priestly life, to thank the ministry and life of the clergy in active service in each parish and to pray for the eternal rest of all those who offered their lives in fulfillment of the mandate of the Lord Jesus and receive from Him the Crown of Glory deserved in the Kingdom of Heaven. Echoing that passage of Scripture: Good and faithful servant now enter into the joy of your Lord (Matthew 25: 14-30).

Our Church has always needed priests according to the heart of Christ (Mark 6:30, 6:37 and John 10:14). May they be humble and loving shepherds who know their sheep, feed them and lead them to the truth, in Jesus.

On one occasion, someone asked me why I decided to become a priest. My response was that I was motivated by my family's religious life: reciting the Rosary, the devotionals, receiving the sacraments, participating in Mass and in parish life in my community. But the main element is the personal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, the frequent Confession to take care of my life of Grace (Friendship with God) and the reception of the Eucharist as the main gift that a follower of Christ can receive (His Body and Blood, Salvation food - John 6:54).

From that closeness was born the desire to get closer to Jesus and to be able to realize with my life and later with my hands, Consecrated by the Holy Chrism, the mystery that nourished me since my childhood. For this reason, I would like to make a formal invitation to every man who desires to be even closer to the Lord to not be afraid and to invoke the light and guidance of the Holy Spirit so that our Church can continue to have ministers who fulfill their lives on the command of the Lord and become fishers of men and messengers of God's Salvation (Matthew 4:19 and Isaiah 52: 7).



June is Sacred Vocations Month

For many years now the Polish National Catholic Church has celebrated the month of June as Sacred Vocations Month. The need for priests to serve the Church is always a concern and it is up to all of us to encourage young men to consider a Sacred Vocation. As faithful members of God's Holy Church, we all depend on the ministries of our parish priests. It is therefore the responsibility of all to bring men to the altar. All Polish National Catholics are encouraged to pray daily for the increase of Vocations.

Almighty and Eternal God, in Your plan for our salvation You provide priests as shepherds for Your people. Inspire men to answer Your call to become priests, because "the harvest is great but the laborers are few." Grant Your Church an increase of priests and keep them faithful in their love and service to You and the people entrusted to their care. Through their faith and ministry may Your light shine in the world and Your kingdom be built among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our High Priest. Amen.



Future Direction June Message

During June on our Discipleship 2021 journey we focus on Ruth and Naomi.

Scripture - The Book of Ruth: As a family, read together the short but profoundly beautiful Book of Ruth. It's only 4 chapters but is very rich. You could read it all in one sitting or divide it up as you like.

Reflection and Action Item: The story of Ruth and Naomi speaks to our hearts of the great dignity of family life and the call to be faithful to one another, come what may. This month reach out to a member of your own family with whom you have been out of touch for a while. Make that call you've been putting off for some reason or send a card with a note to catch them up on family happenings. This is a great chance for all of us to emulate the faithfulness of Ruth and Naomi!



Minutes of the 2021 Supreme Council Virtual Meeting

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

(Continued from May 2021.)

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.

Commission Reports

It was agreed by consensus that following the report presentations, one motion would be entertained to accept all reports.

History & Archives Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the report from commission chairman, Mr. Joseph Seliga that described in detail the work of the commission. Prime Bishop noted that while regular archives work continues, the commission has reestablished the Conference of Scholars. This event is scheduled for October 2021. Research paper topics are currently being received. The commission is attempting to create an Encyclopedia of the P.N.C.C. It was noted with appreciation that Mr. Seliga travels to Scranton from his home in New Jersey for a week each month to work on archives. He resides at the seminary when he is in Scranton instead of a hotel during this time to save the church travel expenses. Anyone who wants to help this commission in its work is asked to contact the Office of the Prime Bishop. Remote workers outside of the City of Scranton are welcomed.

National Commission on Liturgy

Father Senior Robert Nemkovich, Jr summarized his prepared report. The commission served as the master of ceremony for the consecration of Bishop Rafalko. Draft rubrics for priests and deacons assisting Holy Mass were sent to the bishops for their review. Weekly Order of Service documents were distributed to parishes during Covid-19. The bishops accepted a recommendation from the commission to establish a Word of God Sunday in the P.N.C.C. More information will be forthcoming from the Office of the Prime Bishop. It was in 1909 that the Word of God was recognized as a sacrament in the P.N.C.C. The Prime Bishop reported new hard cover Mass Books are in the process of being printed. The difference in

cost of publishing a flexible cover versus a hard cover book was minimal. Consequently, hard cover books will be published since they will last longer.

National Commission on Mission & Evangelism

In summarizing his prepared report that included current and future activities of the commission Father Senior Nowak, its chairman announced the upcoming two-day Mission and Evangelism Workshop to be hosted on Zoom. The commission has met four times in the past year via Zoom. In addition to preparing the annual mission workshops, the commission continues to focus on projects such as the P.N.C.C. Abridged History audio book and new member videos.

Church Doctrine Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report that included descriptions of the commission's activities and programs. The Prime Bishop is the chairman of this commission ex officio. Last year the commission published the paper "A Christian View of Gender". It is currently developing a statement of the P.N.C.C.'s view of Anglican Orders.

National Committee on Scouting

While a formal report was not submitted, Prime Bishop Mikovsky reported Bishop Sobiechowski is researching new medals that are needed for scouting awards.

National SOCL Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the report of this commission submitted by Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski, Chairman. The report described the commission's work process during Covid-19 and major tasks: post confirmation education and courses on Reverence in the P.N.C.C.

Sacred Vocations Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the report of this commission submitted by Father James Konicki, Chairman. Father Konicki has published vocation related articles in *God's Field* and has reached out to potential vocations that contact the Prime Bishop's Office. A monthly Zoom call for those interested in a vocation has been hosted. The Sacred Vocations Facebook page is active. The page currently has 197

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followers, an increase of 128 since last year. The commission continues to encourage prayers for vocations throughout all parishes and families of the P.N.C.C. During discussion of the report, it was noted PNC families must view vocations in high esteem so young men receive the encouragement they need at home to follow their calling. All too often, P.N.C.C. families discourage vocations. While the reasons behind this discouragement need to be honestly discovered, one reason may be the lack of adequate compensation provided a pastor.

Clergy Salary & Benefits Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the report of this commission. Cathy Bilinski, Chairwoman of the commission, indicated she received calls from parishes asking what comprised a clergyman's salary. Some thought social security, housing, and other benefits a clergyman receives are all part of the minimum salary calculation. The minimum salary figures are salary only and do not include benefits. A reminder regarding the COLA increases were sent to every parish at the beginning of the year. The salary and total compensation package a priest receives also influences those called to the Priesthood. Compensating a priest well is a sign of respect.

Constitution Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the commission report submitted by Very Rev. John Kowalczyk Jr, Commission Chairman. The constitutional changes made at the last synod have been reviewed and are ready for publication. The commission will focus on reviewing the entire constitution and identifying those pieces that are by-laws and possibly recommending they be separated from what are true constitutional statements. Any proposed amendments would need to be approved by a synod.

The Supreme Council unanimously approved all commission reports.

Organizational Reports

It was agreed by consensus that following the report presentations, one motion would be entertained to accept all reports.

National United Choirs

The Supreme Council reviewed the reports of the National United Choirs submitted by Lydia Hohn,

NUC Chairwomen, the Music Commission chaired by Dr. Neil Stahurski, and the Music Scholarship Committee administered by Cathy A. Bilinski. The music workshop will be hosted by Holy Cross Parish in Hamtramck MI in August and will both an in-person and virtual event. At the end of the workshop a concert will be held. In 2020, nine music scholarships were awarded for a total of over \$10K. To date, a total of 1,112 scholarships have been awarded with a total value of \$332,985. The Music Commission is in the process of publishing a hymnal supplement that will include music settings for "Service Music".

United Young Men's Society of the Resurrection [Y.M.S. of R.]

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Y.M.S. of R President, Nick Kazinetz that included descriptions of its activities and programs. It is hoping to conduct an in-person Kurs this year. The Bishop Stanley Bilinski Retreat will be conducted in June. This will be an in-person and virtual event held at the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center. The retreat committee requests all parishes to send the names of the deceased members of the Y.M.S. of R. to Deacon James Ploskonka, c/o St. Mary's Parish, 5375 Broadview Road, Parma, OH 44134. They will be remembered in prayer during the retreat.

National United Youth Association

The Council reviewed the report submitted by Rebecca Kotula, President of the NUYA. The NUYA plan to spotlight graduating seniors was well received. The Prime Bishop will contact Ms. Kotula and the National Youth Chaplain to determine how best to implement this program.

National Youth Chaplain

The Supreme Council reviewed the report of the Very Rev. John Kowalczyk, Jr, National Youth Chaplain. It will be impossible to conduct a July in-person youth convocation once again this year since the host site will not decide when they will open until June. Consequently, the National Youth Chaplain will be asked to prepare a robust program for convo age youth that will be offered virtually in July. During discussion, the following views were offered. It is recommended a robust program be planned for the

July Virtual Convocation especially since the youth would thrive on such a social / virtual media presentation. Youth programs should be conducted more than once or twice a year. The church needs to be in constant contact with the youth and engage them at every opportunity throughout the year or it will fail them. The techniques and programs acquired at National Youth Workers Conventions should be considered to stay in constant touch with the youth. The Eastern Diocese did have a safe in-person youth retreat last year during Covid-19. Another one is planned for 2021. The Western Diocese is also hoping to have an in-person youth retreat in 2021 but doing so will be based on the Covid-19 restrictions imposed by Michigan where it is to be hosted.

United Women's Society of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Cheryl Weinholt, President, which focused on its program of work. The Prime Bishop outlined the challenges the SAMBS faced during the year because of Covid-19.

The Supreme Council unanimously approved all organizational reports.

Dialogue Reports

It was agreed by consensus that following the report presentations, one motion would be entertained to accept all reports.

P.N.C.C. – RCC Dialogue

The Supreme Council reviewed the report submitted by Bishop John Mack, P.N.C.C. Chairman of the dialog, which included descriptions of dialogue activities. There was limited activity during the past year because of Covid-19 restrictions. A possible meeting will be scheduled in the Fall. During the past year, Bishop Mack, Bishop Mitchell Rozanski, the Roman Catholic Co-Chairman, and Father Senior Robert M Nemkovich Jr, P.N.C.C. Ecumenical Officer did conference with the Canadian RC Ecumenical Officer to discuss goals and accomplishments.

P.N.C.C. – ACNA Dialogue

The Supreme Council reviewed the report submitted by Bishop Sobiechowski, P.N.C.C. Chairman of the dialog, which included descriptions of dialogue activities. Summarizing his report, Bishop Sobiechowski reported a zoom meeting did take place during the summer. The next in-person meeting will be hosted

by the cathedral in New Hampshire in early October 2021. An important discussion topic is apostolic succession.

P.N.C.C. – Orthodox Dialogue

There is currently no P.N.C.C. dialogue with the Orthodox Church.

Report of the Ecumenical Officer

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of Father Senior Robert M Nemkovich Jr, Ecumenical Officer. After the report was completed the P.N.C.C. was invited to be a part of the White House Office of Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnership which is chaired by Vice President Kamala Harris. The Prime Bishop and Father Senior Nemkovich attend these weekly virtual meetings of the committee. Information from these meetings is shared with the bishops.

The Council unanimously accepted the dialog reports and the report of the ecumenical officer.

The 2021 Proposed Budget

The Supreme Council reviewed and approved the proposed budget with the recommended changes. Two changes were recommended to the proposed budget. The first was an allocation to upgrade the computer hardware and software at the NCC. The server failed and an upgrade to cloud technology is necessary. A budgeted amount of \$10K was recommended. The second recommendation focused on clergy aid and the impact Covid-19 had on smaller parishes. \$48.K was recommended for clergy aid for 2021 up from \$38K in past years. Based on the discussion and agreement of the bishops on this issue, parishes requesting aid will face two requirements going forward:

- Parishes will receive this aid for a maximum of three years.
- Parishes will be required to submit a pastoral plan detailing how it will increase income, increase membership, and expand community outreach.
- Ten parishes / clergy will receive clergy aid in 2021.

The following dues allotment was approved for 2021 even though the Council acknowledged \$7 for the clergy pension leaves the pension fund woefully underfunded. With the current \$100 dues, any major

(Continued on bottom of Page 12.)

Honor Your Father on Father's Day

Clergy Pension Fund

Polish National Catholic Church



As we all remember all of the important father figures within our lives, we pray especially for those listed below. Thanks are also extended to all those who contributed to the Clergy Pension Fund's "Honor Your Father on Father's Day" program, as it continues to support those members of the clergy who have retired after many years of faithful service to God's Holy Church.

In Remembrance of Father, **Bernard Ewanko** by Christine (Ewanko) Avondet

In Honor of Son-in-Law, **Fr. Jason Soltysiak**, by Paul and Rose Kazinetz

In Honor of Pastor, **Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid**, by Paul and Rose Kazinetz

In Remembrance of Father, **Paul Kazinetz, Sr.** by Paul and Rose Kazinetz

In Remembrance of Father, **William Krajewski**, by Paul and Rose Kazinetz

In Honor of Son-in-Law, **Bishop Paul Sobiechowski**, by Mary Ann Kiska

In Honor of Pastor, **Fr. Kris Mendelewski**, by Ted Sarnowski

In Remembrance of Father, **Dr. John Gorgol**, by Michael and Mary (Gorgol) Mietlicki

In Remembrance of Father, **Michael J. Mietlicki**, by Michael and (Mary (Gorgol) Mietlicki

In Remembrance of Pastor, **Fr. Edward Sobolewski**, by Larry and Kathy Chockley

In Remembrance of Father, **Lawrence Marsh**, by Larry and Kathy Chockley

In Remembrance of Grandfather, **Chester Marsh**, by Larry and Kathy Chockley

In Remembrance of Grandfather, **Joachim Jedynak**, by Larry and Kathy Chockley

In Remembrance of Uncle, **John Jedynak**, by Larry and Kathy Chockley

In Remembrance of Uncle, **Albert Lane**, by Larry and Kathy Chockley

In Remembrance of Uncle, **Arnold Pillar**, by Larry and Kathy Chockley

In Remembrance of Council, **Phil Lane**, by Larry and Kathy Chockley

In Remembrance of Father, **Francis J. Golembeski, Sr.**, by Prime Bishop Anthony & Carol Mikovsky

In Remembrance of Father, **Anthony J. Mikovsky**, by Prime Bishop Anthony & Carol Mikovsky

In Honor of Husband, **Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky**, by Carol Mikovsky

In Honor of Brother, **Francis J. Golembeski, Jr.**, by Carol Mikovsky
In Remembrance of Brother, **Robert A. Golembeski**, by Carol Mikovsky
In Honor of Godfather, **Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky**, by Jacob Stankowski
In Remembrance of Father, **Leonard Cegelka**, by Richard Segiel
In Remembrance of Father, **Charles Zaranski, Sr.**, by Charles and Cathy Bilinski
In Remembrance of Father, **Stanley Bilinski**, by Charles and Cathy Bilinski
In Remembrance of Brother, **Charles Zaranski, Jr.**, by Charles and Cathy Bilinski
In Remembrance of Brother, **Bishop Stanley M. Bilinski**, by Charles and Cathy Bilinski
In Honor of Pastor, **Fr. Sr. Jaroslaw Nowak**, by Charles and Cathy Bilinski
In Remembrance of Father, **Clyde L. Sharik, Sr.**, by Debbie and Joe Parknavy
In Remembrance of Father, **Joseph R. Parknavy**, by Debbie and Joe Parknavy
In Honor of Father, **Joseph J. Parknavy**, by Joey, Jonathan and Joel Parknavy
In Honor of Pastor, **Fr. Bruce Sleczkowski**, by Debbie and Joe Parknavy
In Remembrance of Grandfather, **Clyde L. Sharik, Sr.**, by Joey, Jonathan and Joel Parknavy
In Remembrance of Grandfather, **Joseph R. Parknavy**, Joey, Jonathan and Joel Parknavy
In Remembrance of Father, **Andrew Siedlarczyk**, by Andrew Siedlarczyk
In Remembrance of Grandfather, **Maciej Siedlarczyk**, by Andrew Siedlarczyk
In Remembrance of Grandfather, **Andrew Kondis**, by Andrew Siedlarczyk
In Remembrance of Pastor, **Bishop Thaddeus Peplowski**, by Andrew Siedlarczyk
In Remembrance of Father, **William Nichols**, by Deacon Dave, Roseanne and Justin Nichols
In Remembrance of Father, **Paul Koceski**, by Deacon Dave, Roseanne and Justin Nichols
In Honor of Pastor, **Fr. Bruce Sleczkowski**, Ted and Janice Gibala
In Honor of Pastor, **Fr. Henryk Wos**, Our Savior's Parish, Woonsocket, RI
In Remembrance of Father, **Edward Goralczyk, Sr.**, by Edward Goralczyk, Jr.
In Remembrance of Father, **Walter Sobiechowski**, by Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski
In Remembrance of Father, **Stanley A. Kiska, Sr.**, by Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski
In Remembrance of Father, **Very Rev. Martin Wachna**, by Martin and Christine Wachna
In Remembrance of Father, **Chester Kolodziej**, by Martin and Christine Wachna
In Remembrance of Father, **Edward Michalina**, by Kathleen Michalina
In Remembrance of Father, **Bernard Krumenaker**, by Elaine Holsberger
In Remembrance of Father, **Louis Holsberger**, by Elaine Holsberger
In Remembrance of Husband, **John Holsberger**, by Elaine Holsberger
In Honor of Father, **Joseph G. Podrasky, Jr.**, by Gerald and Laura Siedlarczyk
In Honor of Father, **Matthew Siedlarczyk**, by Gerald and Laura Siedlarczyk

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(Honor Your Father on Father's Day - Continued from Page 11.)

In Remembrance of Grandfather, **Joseph G. Podrasky, Sr.**, by Gerald and Laura Siedlarczyk

In Remembrance of Grandfather, **Nuncio Martino**, by Gerald and Laura Siedlarczyk

In Honor of Pastor, **Fr. Dr. Scott Lill**, by Joseph and Phyllis Podrasky

In Remembrance of Father, **Joseph Podrasky, Sr.**, by Joseph and Phyllis Podrasky

In Remembrance of Father, **Nuncio Martino**, by Joseph and Phyllis Podrasky

In Remembrance of Father, **Joseph Podrasky, Jr.**, by Joseph and Phyllis Podrasky

In Remembrance of Father, **Walter Dzielski**, by Robert Dzielski

In Remembrance of Father, **Francis G. McGuire**, by Mary Guzic

In Remembrance of Father, **Leo V. Smith**, by Jim Smith

In Remembrance of Grandfather, **Francesco Gigiello**, by Jim Smith

In Remembrance of **Very Rev. Joseph L. Zawistowski**, by Very Rev. Thaddeus Dymkowski

In Remembrance of **Bishop Joseph Zawistowski**, by Very Rev. Thaddeus Dymkowski

In Remembrance of Father, **Harold Eckevrode**, by Rick and Martha Link

In Remembrance of Father, **Merle Link**, by Rick and Martha Link

In Honor of Pastor, **Fr. Dr. Scott Lill**, by Helen and Richard Lear

In Remembrance of Father, **Ferdinand Sady**, by Helen and Richard Lear

In Remembrance of Father, **Karl S. Lear**, by Helen and Richard Lear

Please remember the Fathers' Day collection taken on June 20, 2021 in the parishes of our Polish National Catholic Church to benefit the Clergy Pension Fund. God bless you all for your thoughtfulness.

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

reallocation of funds to the clergy pension fund will result in defunding other necessary functions. Pension funding requirements will only increase since the average age of clergy is increasing.

Recommended General Fund Dues Apportionment:

Diocese	\$ 3.00
Youth	\$ 2.00
Clergy Hospitalization	\$ 40.15
Administration	\$ 46.60
Mission	\$ 1.00
Clergy Pension	\$ 7.00
Seminary	\$.25
TOTAL	\$100.00

Salaries and benefits were reviewed. Recommended salary adjustments were approved. The Council also replaced the 20% extra mortgage payment requirement from income realized from gas royalties to a cap

of \$5K. The Prime Bishop thanked Joan Scheuneman, the P.N.C.C. Treasurer, for her work on the budget.

Correspondence to the Council

No correspondence was received.

Request for Loans

There were no requests for loans.

New Business

The Supreme Council extended its appreciation to the Prime Bishop and Diocesan Bishops for the leadership they provided during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Concluding its business, the meeting was adjourned. The Prime Bishop thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their contributions during the meeting. Bishop Rafalko offered the closing prayer.

Commissions and Committees of the P.N.C.C. from the Third General Synod (1914) to the Seventh General Synod (1946)

The General Synod is the highest body of authority in the Polish National Catholic Church. Its purpose is to address all matters of interest to the Church as a whole. Often, special committees and commissions are named to study specific areas of concern and to offer solutions to the Synod for resolution.

The following is a selection of the work of various General Synod committees and commissions from 1914 to 1946 plus some personal observations.

The Third General Synod (1914)

Seminary Commission

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.

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.

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 *Straz*. The Seminary Commission is to give a report of its activities every quarter, published in the *Straz*.

All the parishes of the National Church will take up a special collection New Year's for the funding of the Seminary.

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.[i]

Each of these four points were discussed separately and accepted by the Synod as presented, except for the fourth. The Synod passed a motion that each parishioner is obligated to pay 25 cents annually for the Seminary.

Bishops Commission

The Bishops Commission proposed the election of three suffragan bishops to help Bishop Hodur in his work. During the discussion, Fathers Grochowski and

Zawadzki spoke against this proposal. Father Grochowski said that it would be better to free Bishop Hodur from being the pastor in Scranton. Bishop Hodur took the floor and explained why the Synod should elect suffragan-bishops, simultaneously noting that after coming into agreements with the priests, he presented as candidates for suffragan-bishops Fathers: Franciszek Bonczak, Walenty Gawrychowski, Józef Plaga and Walenty Cichy. In addition he also proposed that Father Bronisław Krupski become the rector of the Seminary, and that Father Leon Grochowski become the diocesan secretary. The body accepted with enthusiasm Bishop Hodur's presentation. After that, the Bishop officially announced the election.

Mission Commission

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 Bonczak 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.

Liturgical Commission

The Liturgical Commission 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: 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.[ii]

Confession of Faith Commission

At the Third General Synod, as the head of the Confession of Faith Issues Commission, Bishop Hodur

(Continued on Page 14.)

(Commissions & Committees - Continued from Page 13.)

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 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."

Relationship with Other Churches Commission

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.

Constitution Commission

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

Polish Schools

At the Sept. 29 and 30, 1927 meeting of the Supreme Council, Father A. Baczewski, citizen Paprowicz of Lowell and citizen Filipczak of Philadelphia spoke about the concern that parents should see to it that their children should not abandon their education at Polish schools.

World's Fair Commission

Poland built its own pavilion at the 1939 World's Fair in New York. Apparently Prime Bishop Hodur saw this as an opportunity to publicize our Church, because he suggested that the P.N.C.C. should participate in the New York World's Fair. At the Nov. 16, 1938 meeting of the Supreme Council he asked for a Committee to be organized in the name of the National Church, Spojnia and our organizations to cooperate with the All-Polish American Committee. A motion made by Bishop Grochowski, seconded by Father Senior Rene Zawistowski, to call such a Committee to action and to begin to work was passed. Bishop Hodur saw the Emigration to the United States as a part of the Polish Nation, and that our Church should support the efforts of Poland and with a suitable appearance document not only its cultural

bonds to the Motherland but also its vitality on American soil. Any information on the meetings and the results of this committee would add to the tremendous insight into Prime Bishop Hodur's ability to publicize our Church and would be greatly welcomed by the P.N.C.C. Archives. Does any reader have a copy of the book prepared by the Polish Government about their pavilion and exhibits?

Commission on the Education of Priests

As a problem arose, many times a Commission was named to resolve it. One of these was the continuing education of the clergy. At the Nov. 26-27, 1934 meeting of the Supreme Council a Commission was created to develop a book for priests, with theological, philosophical, legal, social, etc. as chapters. This Commission was composed of the following persons: Bishop Francis Hodur, Bishop Leon Grochowski, Bishop Jan Jasinski, Father Lesniak, Father Józef Zawistowski, Father Teofil Czarkowski and Father Jan Misiaszek. This Commission was given the right to add such persons as will be necessary to gather and develop the material. The P.N.C.C. Archives would like to have a copy of the book that was prepared.

Interorganizational Council

At the April 7, 1938, meeting of the Supreme Council, its first subject of the afternoon session was the Convention of the Interorganizational Council. Bishop Francis Hodur presented the matter and after the members of the Council expressed their thoughts, it was resolved to participate in the Convention and send six representatives but not to enter the directorate. The participants and groups of the National Church camp at the Convention that they will be representing were: Bishop Leon Grochowski - for the clergy of the National Church, Bishop Coadjutor Jan Misiaszek - for the Seminary, Mr. Bronisław Wysocki - for the Polish National Union, Mr. Jan Mikuta - for the Youth, Emilia Sznyter - for United Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and Stanisław Staruszkiewicz for the Straż newspaper. A motion was made, seconded and accepted that the recommendations of the First Bishop, by which representatives of the National Church are to conduct themselves. That was all that was reported. The P.N.C.C. Archives would be pleased to hear from anyone who has information about this Convention, such as: who sponsored it, what was its purpose, when was it held, where was it held, what was the outcome, what other organizations were asked to participate, and what other groups attended?

Fourth Synod (1921)

Education Commission

The Fourth General Synod established an Education Commission, whose purpose was to especially assist in the further education of the younger priests. Named to the Commission were three Bishop-elects: Bonczak, Gawrychowski, and Cichy. This collegium together with Bishop Hodur is to prepare a plan for the further formation of the clergy.

Additional Commissions

The Fourth General Synod unanimously accepted Bishop Hodur's proposal for the following Commissions: 1. Commission for Territorial Division; 2. Commission for Election of Bishops; 3. Commission for National Church Matters in Poland; 4. Seminary Commission; 5. Press Commission.

Second Special Synod (1924)

Division into Dioceses

At the Second Special Synod (1924), the Commission on Division into Dioceses concluded that the territory embraced by the P.N.C.C. should be divided into three dioceses: 1. Central, 2. Eastern and 3. Western.

Sixth General Synod (1931)

Commission on Administration and Discipline

It was reported in the minutes of the Sixth General Synod (1931) that the Constitution and the Discipline Commissions were merged into a Commission named the Commission on Administration and Discipline. This Commission's members presented amendments to the Constitution.

Seventh Special Synod (1935)

Many Commissions

At the Seventh Special Synod held in Chicago (1935) thirteen Commissions were accepted by the Synod, namely: 1. Order, 2. Religious Renewal, 3. Confession of Faith, 4. Schools, 5. Uniform Liturgy and Rites, 6. Rights and Duties of Lay Members, 7. Expanding the Activities of the Topical Organizations of the National Church, 8. Administration, 9. Mission in America and Poland, 10. Maintenance of the Clerical Seminary, 11. Publications and Literature, 12. Corrections and Amendments to the Constitution, 13. Grievance Commission. The P.N.C.C. Archives would like to receive any information and documents that readers of this article have.

These include, names of members, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, reports, papers and other publications of these Commissions.

Seventh General Synod (1946)

At the Seventh General Synod, the Budget Commission brought a list of four motions be considered by the Synod. These were settled by the Synod. The Friends of the Polish National School Society, proposed that children of non-members of the National Church be accepted in parish schools. The Commission on Constitution and Amendments proposed a few changes. These were accepted with the understanding that the Constitution of the National Church remains in principle unchanged in its main content with minor correction and changes will be reported by the church council and then the constitution would be changed.

Additional members of the following Commissions were named because some members were not present at the Synod: Constitution Commission, Commission for the Relationship of the National Church in America with the Church in Poland and the School Commission. Reports were given at this Synod by the following Commissions: 1. Constitution and Confession of Faith, 2. Administration of the P.N.C.C., 3. Relationship of the National Church in America with the Church in Poland, 4. Seminary, 5. Mission in America and Poland, 6. Literature of the P.N.C.C., 7. Liturgy - primarily the introduction of the English language. 6. School Commission, 7.

Commission on Topical Societies, 8a. Commission on Relations with other Confessions, 8b. Commission of the Relationship of the P.N.C.C. to the Polish National Union. The presenter was given permission to make a motion that the Synod accept the report.

Polish and English

In place of a paper by the Liturgy Commission's proposal for the use of the English language, the First Bishop expressed his opinion and exhorted the Synodal Chamber to treat the matter with particular exactness and dispassion. The First Bishop said: "The Polish Language is the language of the P.N.C.C. and will remain so always, however and wherever it will exist, The English language will be auxiliary, because we live in America, in a country where we have much to be thankful for and we wish it well. We must take into consideration the conditions in which we live." The First Bishop noted that it is necessary in some cases to introduce the English language. "The pastors may do this with the understanding of the diocesan bishop, without curtailing the Polish language." There is no coercion, nor command, nor prohibition. "The diocesan bishop decides only by

(Continued on bottom of Page 22.)

Canadian Diocese

St. John the Baptist Cathedral

Toronto, Canada

Fr. Kozar receives Community Award

On April 25, 2021, Rev. Zbigniew Kozar, pastor of St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Toronto, Ontario, received the Community Award from MJKO 2020.



MJKO Commitment to Community Award

On the MJKO (Mentoring Juniors Kids Organization) Facebook page it states: “Rev. Zbigniew Kozar is the MJKO Commitment to Community Award winner! Most people in the Parkdale community know him as ‘Father’ or ‘Pastor.’ He is not only MJKO’s landlord but also our friend. He’s always offering a lending hand and helps the neighboring seniors building. He’s a trusted community figure in Parkdale. We’re happy to have him as our 2020 MJKO Commitment to Community Award winner.”

The entire Polish community, as well as the Parkdale Community and St. John’s parishioners congratulates Fr. Zbigniew Kozar for his achievement with this Community Award.



Fr. Zbigniew Kozar receives the MJKO 2020 Commitment to Community Award..

MJKO

MJKO (Mentoring Juniors Kids Organization) is a Parkdale charitable organization in the neighborhood of St. John’s Parish. It was co-founded by Ibrahim and Miranda Kamal and they coach the youth to be champion boxers. MJKO provides the following to over 1,500 participants annually: 1) a fun and inclusive atmosphere for children to engage in athletics with certified coaches; 2) An innovative approach to youth mental health, using the sport of non-contact boxing as a tool for coping with mental health related challenges such as aggression, trauma, anxiety, depression, grief and suicidal thoughts; 3) Access to nutritious food at every program; 4) A free March break and summer day camp for children ages 5-18; 5) Volunteer programs, mentorships and paid employment opportunities for youth.

MJKO joined with St. John’s Parish in February 2019, Rev. Zbigniew Kozar helped this organization by providing space to MJKO. They also have other charitable organizations that help the kids in the community. Second Harvest donates food to MJKO and to the Seniors every week.

St. John’s Activities

Every year, St. John’s parishioners celebrate significant events such as: Christmas Day, Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Canadian Thanksgiving Day, birthdays, weddings and many more events. Since the coronavirus, the Church has been in lockdown and we have not been having any gatherings or celebrations.

In past times St. John’s had various community activities such as Bingo Senior Club, After Six Group – the Filipino, MJKO and many more. The Bingo Senior Club is where the community seniors enjoyed playing bingo every Thursday. They also enjoyed some wonderful food with many volunteers to help them. Each Thursday 30 to 50 meals were served. Unfortunately since the lockdown at the beginning of 2020 there have been no events and no bingo.

St. John’s Parish looks forward to the ending of the lockdowns, so that all can once again gather at the church for worship and fellowship.



Leonor Gaette preparing meals for the Bingo Senior Club at St. John's Parish in 2020.

The Year 2020-2021

The entire world has certainly been devastated with the pandemic. Many lives were lost during the time of this deadly virus and many more were affected. Places of worship, like St. John's Parish, were forced to be in lockdown, the whole of Ontario is still in lockdown since March 2020.

When the lockdown occurred in March 2020, it was during the Lenten Season. In the municipality of Toronto, when the Church was in complete lockdown, Rev. Zbigniew Kozar helped the seniors in the community by providing them with groceries. The MJKO and Fr. Kozar have been continuously helping those who are vulnerable due to Covid-19. Fr. Kozar is loved by all those who know him. He is a friend and father to all.



Wanda Tobias, in charge of the Bingo Senior Club meeting at St. John's Parish in 2020.



Fr. Zbigniew Kozar delivering groceries to those in need.



The Bingo Senior Club at St. John's Parish. Unfortunately no meetings have taken place since 2020

This article was submitted by Anita Chen, who lives in the neighborhood of the parish and joined St. John's in 2018. It was Fr. Kozar and Lilac Cana who brought her to the Parish. Ever since she has been an active member of St. John and respects Fr. Kozar as her own father.

Central Diocese

Tonsure and Minor Orders for Robert Karoscik St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA

Tonsure and Minor Orders were bestowed upon Robert Karoscik on Wednesday, May 12th in St. Stanislaus Cathedral at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Karoscik is from St. Adalbert Parish in Dickson City, and has been studying to become a deacon in the Polish National Catholic Church. Bishop Bernard Nowicki was the main celebrant with Prime Bishop Mikovsky, Father Senior Chromey, Father Senior Dawid, Father Bolock, Father Urbaniak, Father Plichta and Father Janusz present in choir.

With the bestowing of tonsure, Bishop cuts some hair from the candidate in five places in the form of a cross as a sign of religious devotion entering into the clerical estates.

At the beginning of Mass, the minor orders of Porter, whose duty is to ring the bell, to open the church and hold open the book for those reading the Word of

God; Reader, who is to read for the preacher of the Word of God; Blesser, who has the right to bless bread, food and all those things which the faithful will ask to bless; and Acolyte, whose duty is to light the candles and lights in the church and to prepare the wine and water for Holy Mass, were bestowed upon Cleric Karoscik.

Mass continued with Dr. Krystle Karoscik, Robert's daughter, and Cleric Robert reading the lessons, Deacon James Ploskonka reading the gospel and David Humphreys reading the intercessions. Madison Zahorsky and Bryan McClary were cantors accompanied by parish organist, Becky Elfman.

Congratulations and God Bless Cleric Robert Karoscik on his road to becoming a Deacon, and also his wife, Donna and daughter, Krystle.



Front: Very Rev. William Chromey, Pastor, St. Adalbert's Parish, Dickson City, PA; Rev. Carmen Bolock, Pastor, St. Mary's Parish, Duryea, PA; Cleric Robert Karoscik; Rev. Janusz Lucarz, Assistant Pastor, St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish, Scranton, PA; Rev. Robert Plichta, Pastor, St. John the Baptist Parish, Frackville, PA; Rear: Deacon James Ploskonka, Seven Hills, OH; Very Rev. Lucian Urbaniak, Pastor, Resurrection of the Lord Parish, Edwardsville, PA; Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop; Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Bishop, Central Diocese; Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor, Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Activities

Dupont, PA

On Sunday, May 30, 2021, we honored the heroic men and women of the Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish congregation who served in the Armed Forces of our Country during World Wars I and II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, and in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Presentation of Arms with a gun salute and taps was done by the Greater Pittston AMVETS. The me-

morial service, which included a reading of all veterans' names, was conducted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid and Paul Kaspriskie, Jr.

Fellowship and refreshments occurred after the service in the Parish Hall. Special thanks to Lois McHugh and Rose Kazinetz for preparing and decorating the hall for this occasion.



(Continued on Page 20.)

(Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Activities - Continued from Page 19.)

On Sunday, May 23rd, the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA, met to discuss and plan their Father's Day Dinner. The dinner to honor all fathers and their families will be available for pick-

up only after the June 20th 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday Masses. The menu for Father's Day will be ziti with meat sauce, tossed salad with dressing, Italian bread and a dessert.



Members of the Y.M.S. of R. of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish recently met to officially announce that the 58th Annual Open Pit Chicken Barbeque (takeout only) will be held on Saturday, July 17,

2021 on the parish grounds at 212 Wyoming Avenue, Dupont, PA, from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. (or until sold out). The dinner includes: half a chicken, French fries, coleslaw, roll and dessert. Donation is \$12.00.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Eastern Diocese

Blessed Trinity Parish May Events

Fall River, MA

On the 5th Sunday of Easter, May 2nd, Blessed Trinity Parish wished Eric Nemkovich a happy retirement after more than 20 years of serving faithfully as an Acolyte at the Altar. He was presented with a comfortable Yeti chair after so many years of kneeling.

On Saturday, May 8, 2021, retired parish acolyte Dr. Eric Nemkovich graduated with honors from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) University in Boston, MA, with a Doctorate of Pharmacy. May God bless Eric as he helps to care for and heal others.



Very Rev. Nemkovich with Eric



Dr. Eric Nemkovich

The parish also made and blessed a prayer blanket for someone dear in need of prayers.

Sunday, May 23rd marked the end of the collections for the Parish Baby Shower. For several weeks parishioners collected diapers, formula, wipes and onesies to donate to local families and single parents in need. There was a great response to this baby shower as Discipleship 2021 continues.



Putting the Finishing Touches on a Prayer Blanket



Some Members of Parish Mission & Outreach Committee

(Continued on Page 22.)

(Blessed Trinity Parish May Events - Continued from Page 21.)
On Monday, May 24th, Pentecost Monday, Fr. Sr. Nemkovich dropped off items from the parish Baby Shower to the People Inc. Children's Center and to Citizens for Citizens. The donations were collected to help families and single parents in need within the local Fall River, MA, community.



People, Inc. Children's Center Donations Drop-off



Citizens for Citizens Donations Drop-off

(Commissions & Committees - Continued from Page 15.)
the location.” In the broader meaning of the use of the English language in the P.N.C.C., the diocesan bishops must come to an understanding with the First Bishop. The principal rites are to be in the Polish language. Bishop Hodur said, “Wherever the Church will exist, the Polish language will be in it always, because this is the holy of holies.” A motion was made and seconded to accept the opinion of the First Bishop as a report and to close the discussion. The motion carried.

Literature Commission

The Literature Commission proposed to publish the second volume of *Prace i Pisma*, by Bishop Hodur.

Fall River, MA Mayor, Paul Coogan, stopped by to address everyone attending the parish Memorial Day celebration after Mass on Monday, May 31st.



Fr. Sr. Nemkovich Says Prayer after Memorial Day Mass



Mayor Coogan Addresses the Group on Memorial Day

The Editor's notes added that Volume 1 was published in 1939. Volume 2 was published in 1984. The English translation of both volumes in one book was published in 1984.]

Sources:

- The Polish National Catholic Church, Minutes of the First Eleven General Synods, 1904-1963, translated by Theodore L. Zawistowski, Compiler and General Editor, Casimir J. Grotnik., East European Monographs, 2002.
- The Polish National Catholic Church of America, Minutes of the Supreme Council 1904-1969, translated by Theodore L. Zawistowski, Compiler and General Editor, Casimir J. Grotnik., East European Monographs, 2002.

Joseph Francis Seliga,
Chair, P.N.C.C. Commission on History and Archives
Edited by Theodore Zawistowski

Western Diocese

Come, Holy Spirit

Renata Kutek

Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko and Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski visited Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Minneapolis, MN on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021, following the devastating fire that destroyed the 107 year old church on April 19, 2021.

Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko and Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski celebrated Holy Mass along with current pastor, Rev. John Kutek, and parish friend, Rev. Andrew Stonina, on a very meaningful day, Pentecost Sunday. Our Diocesan Bishop, Jerry Rafalko, chose this special Sunday to visit the parish to show its members his support in this difficult time, as well as to pray for a united and successful future for Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish.

The message from Bp. Jerry and Fr Charles was: “You are not alone. We are with you along with the Western Diocese and the whole Polish National Catholic Church.” Their kindness and support was felt by all during the whole visit, and especially during the emotional Holy Mass and post-Mass social visits.



Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski, Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko and Rev. John Kutek celebrate Holy Mass as Josh Lach assists.

The Holy Mass was celebrated at the Parish Hall, Pulaske Auditorium, which was not affected by the fire as it stands across the street from the church. The hall has been transformed into a chapel, and contains many items salvaged from the rubble, including the original altar. The hall has been used for Masses and other church needs since the fire.



Bishop Rafalko Addresses the Congregation

A large number of positive emotions were shared on this day and days thereafter.

Parishioner Candy Lach explained: “Bishop Jerry came forward greeting everyone like family and delivered a beautiful message, as if he pulled it from our hearts. It was healing to hear our grief in his words. Fr. Charles and Rev. Andy both sent messages of strength. It was clear that the death of our church building wasn’t the end of Sacred Heart Parish. The light falling on our surviving altar and the cross of Jesus with His arms broken off, both damaged and recovered after the fire, is a constant reminder as Fr John said, that now we are here to be Jesus’ arms.”

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(Come, Holy Spirit - Continued from Page 23.)



The Congregation at Holy Mass on Pentecost Sunday

Parishioner Jeff Ray commented: “The Bishop’s support, and the fact of actually coming here in person, as well as his sermon, were very inspirational.”

Parishioner Janet Ray commented: “Bishop Jerry’s sermon moved me to tears as you could feel the power of his words coming from the heart.”

Parishioner Kevin Tuma also noted: “The Bishop’s visit helped everyone feel supported, and the heartfelt words of wisdom ensured those present that we are not alone”.

Jerry Michelizzi, Chairman of the St. Josephat’s Parish in Duluth, MN, also present with a group of his fellow parishioners, expressed: “We all enjoyed meeting Bishop Jerry and Fr. Charles - visiting with them was wonderful. It meant a lot to me and made me feel very Polish/Italian when Bishop Jerry gave me the Polish/American flag pin to put and wear proudly on my shirt.” Jerry is an Italian, and has been a wonderful chairman of the parish for many years now.

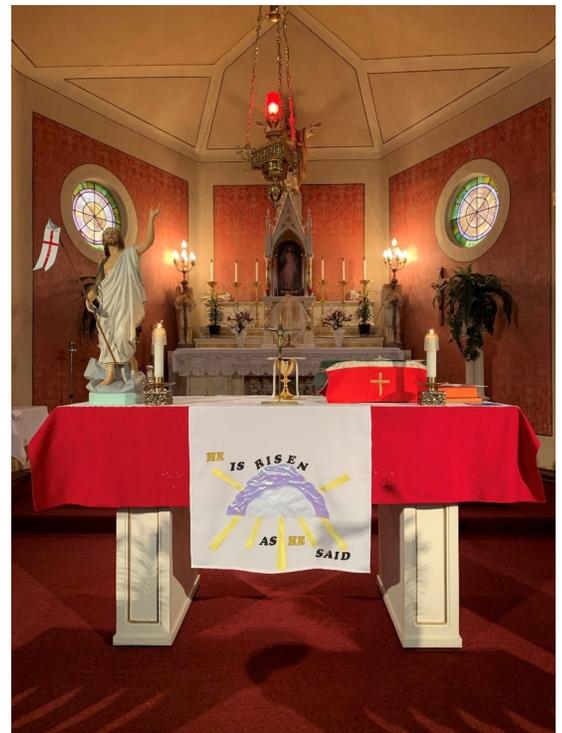
Sacred Heart of Jesus members, along with Fr. John, would like to thank Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko and Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski for their visit to the parish, their kind words, prayers and support.

They would also like to thank the whole Polish National Catholic Church throughout the United States for the outpouring of support, heartfelt letters of encouragement, prayers and donations to the church in this difficult time. As the Parish still sifts through the rubble of where the church once stood, any donation can be made on: www.gofundme.com/help-sacred-heart-rebuild-our-church or by check to 420 22nd Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418.

God Bless You and Bóg zapłać.



Some of the parishioners from St. Josephat Parish with Fr. Sr. Charles, Fr. John and Bp. Jerry



Pictured above are inside views of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish church prior to the fire.

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Inside Views of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish One Day After the Fire



Pulaski Auditorium was transformed into a chapel after the fire. Pictured are some of the items salvaged from the church (original altar, statue of Sacred Heart of Jesus, cross of Jesus, Christ on the cross with no arms).



EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMISSION

Polish National Union of America

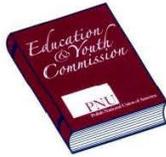
Fraternal and Benefit Society

1006 Pittston Avenue

Scranton, PA 18505

website: www.pnu.org

Email address: EYC@pnu.org



Summer 2021

Dear Friends:

As we approach summer it is that time for our annual PNU Education and Youth Commission appeal for your prayerful support of our stipend program. This annual program of our commission benefits our PNU college students who meet the requirements. Although we are coming to the end of the Covid 19 pandemic, we decided in place of our annual raffle we are again issuing an appeal letter for donations to help support this important fraternal effort.

The three great cardinal virtues are faith, hope and love. Charity as an act of genuine heart-felt love is so closely related that it is sometimes employed in the sense of love and is regarded as one of the three great virtues. Charity in its various implications and forms of action must hold a high place in the life of every Christian.

The members of the Education and Youth Commission of the Polish National Union of America ask you to prayerfully consider giving a gift that will be used, appreciated and always remembered by our younger members going to college or schools of higher learning.

Over the past years, thousands of deserving students have received stipends from our Commission. For the 2020-2021 school year 25 students received stipends. On behalf of these grateful recipients, we thank you for taking to heart the words: "And now faith, hope, and charity abide, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." *1 Corinthians 13:13*

Please make your charitable donation to the **PNU Education and Youth Commission** and send it to the above address. May God bless you; your family and we again thank you for your prayerful consideration of this appeal.

Fraternally Yours in Christ,

Mary Ann Stankowski, *Chairperson*

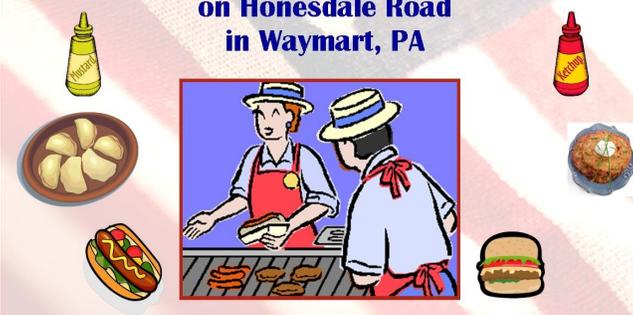
Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, *Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church*

Martin Wachna Jr., *Chief Executive Officer of the Polish National Union*

Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich Jr., *Vice-Chairperson*

Carol Mikovsky, *Secretary*

Celebrate
the upcoming
Fourth of July
on Saturday, July 3, 2021
at
Spójnia Farm
on Honesdale Road
in Waymart, PA



Outdoor Holy Mass —11:00 AM
followed by
Picnic
Plenty of Food
&
Plenty of Family Fun



*A FATHER'S DAY
BLESSING*
*Blessed is the Father
who lets the Lord
be his guiding hand,
Whose faith brings
his family courage,
Whose wisdom comes from God,
And whose children
still stand and honor him.*