



A Child is Born for Us, A Son is Given Us **Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop**

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, You have increased its joy; they rejoiced before You as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.”

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:2-6)

These words of the Prophet Isaiah are proclaimed to us when we gather for the first Mass of the Nativity of our Lord on the evening when He was born. They are the first reminder that since the fall of humanity, the world was waiting for a Savior. They speak to the expectation of the people of Israel as they awaited the Messiah. But they are not just words for the past, they are words as well that speak to the longing of the hearts of all humanity for our Lord Jesus Christ. The reading begins with people in darkness, in fact deep darkness. I suppose that as we have come through a difficult time within the past year and a half, we might be able to empathize with this in a much more concrete way. But I think that the darkness of our pandemic world is only one place of darkness when in fact we encounter many. Loneliness, despair and isolation have been a part of our

pandemic world, but these feelings can be felt by many who may have little hope and little connection to the God Who loves them. And of course there is also the darkness of sin that is a constant part of our human experience.

As we reflect on this reading, it is exactly this connection that we seek; we seek to have our sins forgiven and partake of the light of life. We desire to truly know our Creator and to have a relationship with Him. The reading from Isaiah reminds us that when we find this knowledge and this relationship, there will be great joy.

This joy is encountered in two separate ways, the joy as at the harvest and the exultation when dividing plunder. We can think of this as the joy of something that we have worked for and the joy of an unearned gift, because coming to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord is both of these things. We have come through the season of Advent and its time of preparation. We have heard the words of the prophets preparing us; we have encountered the message of John the Baptist telling us to get our lives on a straight path so that we can more fully welcome the Messiah; we have encountered the Blessed Virgin Mary, with her resounding ‘yes’ to God giving us the example of how we are to approach this Christmas season. Hopefully we have worked hard in our time of preparation and now with the birth of the Savior we rejoice as at the harvest.

But we also know that the gift we have received is beyond anything we have earned or deserve. We have received the gift of the very presence of God

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**God’s Field — Rola Boża
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Himself. Although we have spent time in preparation this gift is far above and beyond anything that we could have expected. We are called to receive the presence of Christ into our world and into our lives with the joy of finding a great unexpected treasure.

In this great gift to us God begins to clear away all that separates us from Him. The “yoke of our burden” is removed. As a part of our human condition, we each share the burden of weak and sinful humanity, but in the birth of Jesus, God is united with humanity and comes to lift that burden.

This message that we encounter when we gather for worship at Holy Mass on the Nativity, and in fact each time we gather, is a joyous mystery that must be shouted from the rooftops. In fact, the angels give it voice on that Christmas night when, “suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favors.’” (Luke 2:14) This verse is proclaimed to us in the Gospel for this day and remains with us in the Gloria at Mass throughout the year.

But Jesus Christ comes to us in the Nativity, not as a conquering victor, but as an infant child. We know that the time of sacrifice and victory will come, but for now we can only stand and behold the mystery: the invisible God becomes visible as a small child; the almighty God is born as a weak infant; the unknowable God lies before us in the manger. Through this day’s Nativity, God has visited His people, and we rejoice because God has chosen to come to us.

My brothers and sisters, we certainly know that there

will continue to be darkness within our world, until the time of the final victory of Jesus Christ. But we also know that because the Christ Child has come to us there is also a light in our world. It is the light of the presence of Almighty God with us. It is the light of the eternal presence of the Creator. It is the light of the Savior of humanity. It is the light of the One Who brings salvation to His people. It is the Light of Christ. Jesus Himself tells us, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

As we gather in our parishes to worship Almighty God, the loving Father, Who sent His Son Jesus Christ to us as a gracious gift of light, let us begin to put the deeds of darkness, the ways of darkness and the times of darkness behind us. Let us, with the presence of Christ in our lives, follow Him Who shows us the way as the Wonderful Counselor. Let us follow Him Who rules our hearts and minds as the Mighty God. Let us follow Him Who loves us as the Everlasting Father. And let us follow Him Who brings peace to our lives and to our world as the Prince of Peace. Let us follow Him Who is the Light of the World.

To my brother Bishops, to the Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, to the Deacons and all the Faithful, I extend to you all my wishes that at this Christmas we will come to more fully know, love and worship our Lord Jesus Christ, and that His presence will bring Peace, Happiness and Joy into your lives and into our world. May the blessings of the Christ Child be present to you in this holiest of seasons and may He remain with us all in the New Year.



Military Chaplain's Corner — Picatinny Arsenal Prayer Luncheon

Fr. Dr. Stan Jasiurkowski

Picatinny Arsenal Religious Support Office hosted the 1st quarter Prayer Luncheon on November 2, 2021 at the Golf Club. The theme for this spiritual Prayer Luncheon was “The Armor of God: Building our spiritual resiliency.” This event was open to all Picatinny Arsenal Garrison employees to give them the opportunity to take time to pray, reflect on this important topic, and build resiliency which is anchored in Christ. Chaplain (LTC) Stan Jasiurkowski welcomed all participants and led them in prayer. In his opening remarks, the Picatinny Arsenal commanding general, Brigadier General William Boruff stressed the importance of spiritual development and practices by soldiers, civilians and their families as those practices build our resilience and the ability to face challenges in our lives and to overcome them.



SGT Whimple prays for our leaders.

fact if we do; we expose ourselves to discouragement and doubt. Practicing religion and spirituality in our lives enable us to build inner strength, make meaning of experiences, behave ethically, persevere through challenges, and be resilient when faced with adversity in life. This is what Paul calls putting on the full armor of God. We cannot expect a soldier to be effective on the battlefield, despite wearing the most technologically advanced gear, if he or she does not exercise and train for battle every day. The same principle applies to our religious and spiritual life. Therefore, we must get in shape, get involved in life around us and make a spiritual or religious commitment to grow strong by the grace of God. Each one of us can make an honest assessment of the strength of our connection to God, our connection to community, including our own Family, and our conscience, which is the source of our moral and ethical judgment. If there are deficiencies, we must focus on building or re-building these connections to be ready and resilient. The whole event was closed by the benediction and the announcement of the upcoming spiritual event.



General William Boruff addresses participants.

His remarks were followed by a special song: “Your Ways Are Higher Than Mine” sang by Ms. Nataly Fernandez. As the name of the event indicates, there was a series of prayers starting with a prayer for our nation led by retired CSM Larry Taylor, followed by a pray for our leaders led by SGT Jacqueline Whimple, and culminated by a prayer for our families led by Ms. Alberta Cole. The Scripture reading selected for this occasion came from Ephesians 6:10-17.

In his message, Chaplain Jasiurkowski explained that spiritual resilience gives us the ability to recover from adversity and continue in life's pursuits no matter the problems and obstacles we encounter. Most of the time, we face challenges, problems and obstacles in life, but the good news is that we don't have to rely on our own strength to deal with stressors, in

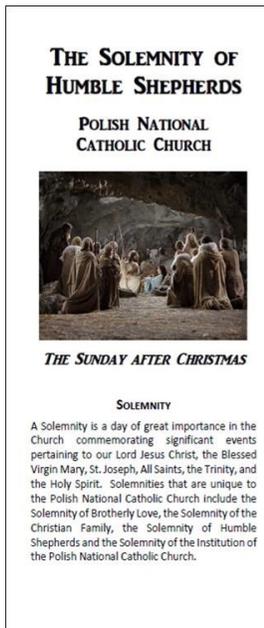


Chaplain Jasiurkowski preaches about spiritual resiliency.



Picatinny Arsenal Prayer Luncheon Participants

The Solemnity of Humble Shepherds Pamphlets Available to Parishes



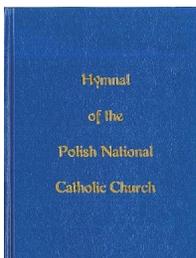
The Solemnity of Humble Shepherds is Sunday, December 26, 2021. A full color brochure describing this unique P.N.C.C. feast is again available for purchase from the Office of the Prime Bishop.

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

(All prices include shipping costs.)

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

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



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Future Direction December Message

As we begin the Holy Season of Advent we focus on our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph and their willingness to say Yes to God's will as our Savior Jesus Christ entered into human history born as one of us.

Holy Scriptures

Scripture:

Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-23; Luke 2:1-7, 22-52

Reflection and Action Item:

The Holy Family of Nazareth is the chosen instrument by which the Savior entered into human history. The Blessed Mother and St. Joseph are the first group of disciples—indeed, the first domestic Church—for they heard and believed the Good News and then together responded in humble obedience to the will of the Father, even when things were not easy. They sacrificially put Jesus first and show us what we can become if we but do the same.

Their family life is the first, greatest and clearest example of the kind of cooperation that we too are called to give to God's grace as He seeks to make Jesus present in the world through us. Every day this month, recite the Daily Family Prayer, asking the Blessed Mother of God and St. Joseph to pray for your family and all the families of the Church.



Prayers for Families

God, our Heavenly Father, You have blessed each of us with the gift of family that through our family life we may learn to love and care for others. Open our eyes to recognize in all people the bonds of kinship. May we unselfishly serve them who with us have been made co-heirs with Christ. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

Loving Father, we desire to live as Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in peace with You and with one another. By their intercession, may we be strengthened to live like the Holy Family and to face the challenges of life. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scholars' Conference and P.N.C.C. Studies Update

It is with pleasure that I announce that the P. N. C. C. History and Archives Commission decided in the summer of 2020 that the Annual Scholars' Conferences would be restarted after a hiatus of 16 years; the next Conference would be held on October 23, 2021. Lists of possible Colleges and Universities and possible contact persons were made. Requests for papers were sent to organizations in the United States, Canada and Poland.

The Scholars' Conference, number 26 was held on October 23, 2021. The conference was held via ZOOM, the online video program. Three papers were presented. The first paper was *A History of Holy Name of Jesus Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church* presented by Rev. James A. Konicki.

Father Konicki, son of Louis T. and Rita (Nowak) Konicki, was born and raised in Buffalo. He grew up with his sister Andrea, as well as his grandmother Mariana (Opach) Nowak and aunt Angeline Nowak.

Father Konicki attended Wadhams Hall Seminary-College, and Canisius College. He graduated from Canisius College with an Associates in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

Father Konicki worked for the New York State Department of Labor for over thirty years, starting as an auditor and rising to the position of Director of Unemployment Insurance (UI) integrity and Employer Services with over 350 staff. In that position he was appointed as a member for the National UI Integrity Center of Excellence Steering Committee and was a member of the Federal-State Oversight Committee for the Internal Revenue Service's QETP program.

Father Konicki was ordained Deacon on April 2, 2005 by Rt. Rev. Kazimierz Grotnik at Blessed Virgin Mary of Częstochowa parish in Latham, New York after receiving the various minor orders at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Cathedral in Scranton, Pennsylvania. As deacon, Father Konicki served in parishes throughout the Central Diocese. In December 2011 he began guiding Holy Name of Jesus Parish. On December 6, 2014, he was ordained to the

Holy Priesthood by Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Mikovsky at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Cathedral in Scranton, Pennsylvania. His first Holy Mass was celebrated on Sunday, December 7, 2014, at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Schenectady, New York.

As a priest, Father Konicki was incardinated into the Central Diocese and appointed administrator of Holy Name of Jesus Parish. He was installed as Pastor on June 2, 2019 by Very Rev. Marian Pocięcha, Administrative Senior of the Mohawk Valley Seniorate in the presence of Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Ordinary of the Central Diocese.

Father Konicki serves in various capacities in the Church and Diocese. He was appointed National Vocations Director and to the Polish National Catholic – Orthodox Dialog Commission following the XXV Holy Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church in 2018. Since 2016 he has served as chaplain for the annual Kurs Youth Encampment. He was appointed Diocesan Youth Director, is a member of the Diocesan Council, and is a member of the Diocesan Enlivening sub-commission and review panel.

Father Konicki's interests include cooking, genealogy, civics, travel, and Polish history, language and culture. He has served on the Board of numerous not-for-profit and charitable institutions. He is married to Renee (Rogers) Konicki and has three children, Adam Joseph, Victoria Rita, and Stephanie Margaret.

The second paper was *A History of Resurrection of the Lord P. N. C. C. in Edwardsville, PA* by Rev. Dr. Czesław Kuliczkowski. Rev. Dr. Czesław Kuliczkowski completed studies for the priesthood at Savonarola Theological Seminary of the P. N. C. C. and was ordained by the Most Rev. Thaddeus F. Zielinski, the third Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church. He continued his education at the Christian Academy of Theology in Warsaw, where he earned his M.A. and Th.D. degrees.

For health reasons, Father Kuliczkowski retired from his 30-year-long pastoral ministry and enjoys different hobbies and passions, among them fine arts, creative writing, genealogy, history, studies of nature and travel.

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He participated in and presented papers at many conferences and workshops of the P. N. C. C. and other forums. For a number of years he has contributed articles and papers to the Archival Center functioning under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gorzow - Zielona Gora (Poland). Since April of this year, Father Kuliczkowski has been engaged in historical research and publication efforts of Professor Stanislaw Nicieja, long-time Rector of the University of Opole (Poland), Dean of the Faculty of Philology, biographer and historian.

The third paper *The Polish National Catholic Church of America: Poland's Religious Reformation Movement?* was given by Theodore Zawistowski. His paper today is an expanded version of a paper delivered at the University of Gdansk, Poland, in 2018. Theodore Zawistowski was first chairperson of the P. N. C. C. Commission on History and Archives – 1979, The Organizer of first H&A Scholars Conference – 1980, First editor of P. N. C. C. Studies – 1980, Editor, compiler and/or translator of a number of historical books published by the Polish National Catholic Church Central Diocese, the Eastern Diocese, the Bishop Hodur Biography Commis-

sion, and the P. N. C. C. Commission on History and Archives, Former Editor of *Straż*, Taught sociology at Savonarola Theological Seminary, and at the Worthington Scranton Campus of Pennsylvania State University for 25 years.

The proceeding of the Scholars Conference will be available on You Tube later this year. The papers presented will also be published in a future P. N. C. C. Studies.

With the restarting of Annual Scholars Conferences, it was decided by the P. N. C. C. History and Archives Commission to publish as many papers as possible for the six Conferences held in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. However, not all of the papers were available. Those that were available were edited and prepared for publication by Jill Sarbenoff, a member of the Commission. It is being edited by Jill Hedwig Sarbenoff and will be published in 2022.

Beginning with Scholars Conference held on October 23, 2021, an issue of P. N. C. C. Studies will be prepared, printed and once again include all of the papers presented at the Annual Scholars Conferences.

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



2022 Liturgical Reference Calendar - Ordo Orders Now Being Accepted

The 2022 Liturgical Reference Calendar – Ordo is now available for ordering. The cost of the Liturgical Calendar is \$12.75 per book for pick-up orders or \$16.00 per book for mail orders to U.S. (Please note that additional shipping costs may accrue for large volume orders to the U.S., depending on weight and distance shipped. Additional shipping costs will be invoiced accordingly.)

The cost of the Liturgical Calendar is \$12.75 per book, PLUS SHIPPING COSTS for mail orders to Canada. (Please email secretarytopb@pncc.org for Canada shipping costs prior to ordering your calendar(s).)

To order your 2022 Ordo(s), please fill out the order form, below, and mail it with your payment. Your paid Ordo(s) will be shipped to you as soon as they return from the printer (late November/early December).

No phone orders or email orders will be shipped until full payment has been received.

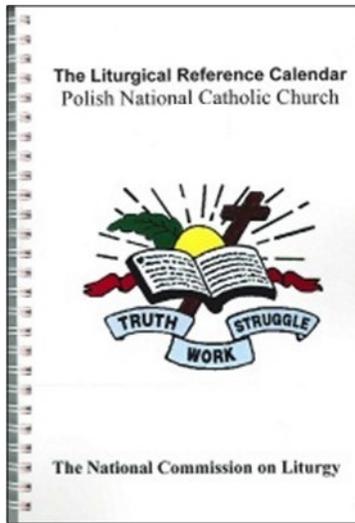
We appreciate your support for this very important P.N.C.C. liturgical reference calendar.

Detach invoice, below, complete and send with payment to

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2022 Home Liturgical Wall Calendar Orders Now Being Accepted

The Polish National Catholic Church has full color 2022 home liturgical calendars for sale on a first-come, first-served basis. This calendar with original photographs for each month includes information concerning P.N.C.C. holy days. We urge you to order calendars for your parishioners as soon as possible because our supply will be very limited.

Calendar prices have increased slightly due to an increase in paper and printing costs. Shipping costs have also changed. The chart below can be used for calculating your costs.

Quantity	Cost per Calendar	Calendar Cost Subtotal	U.S. Shipping	U.S. Total	Canada Shipping (USD)	Canada Total (USD)
1	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$2.25	\$6.25	\$14.25	\$18.25
2	\$4.00	\$8.00	\$3.25	\$11.25	\$21.25	\$29.25
3	\$4.00	\$12.00	\$3.25	\$15.25	\$21.25	\$33.25
4	\$4.00	\$16.00	\$3.90	\$19.90	\$21.25	\$27.25
5	\$4.00	\$20.00	\$3.90	\$23.90	\$21.25	\$41.25
6	\$4.00	\$24.00	\$3.90	\$27.90	\$21.25	\$44.25
7	\$4.00	\$28.00	\$4.50	\$32.50	\$33.00	\$61.00
8	\$4.00	\$32.00	\$4.50	\$36.50	\$33.00	\$65.00
9	\$4.00	\$36.00	\$4.50	\$40.50	\$33.00	\$69.00
10	\$3.95	\$39.50	\$5.20	\$44.70	\$44.75	\$84.25
11+	\$3.95	\$43.45+	*Depends on package weight & recipient's geographic location*		*Depends on package weight & recipient's geographic location*	

*An invoice for shipping costs will be included in your shipment.

PLEASE NOTE that an additional \$30.00 is required for ad setup for a sponsor.

Please place your order and send in your payment (payable to P.N.C.C.) as soon as possible to: P.N.C.C. Center, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505, so that we can ship your calendars to you before the New Year. Hurry and get your order and payment in because this year's stock is limited, and once we have run out of stock, no more will be printed! You must pay for your calendars in full prior to us shipping them to you.

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*PLEASE NOTE: We cannot predetermine the cost of shipping on orders of 11 or more calendars because this cost is calculated by weight and geographic location of recipient. You will be invoiced for this cost in your shipment.



Annual Christmas and New Year Greetings



*Rejoice and be glad!
Christ the Savior is born!
Bishop Paul & Karen Sobiechowski*

*We wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year!
Prime Bishop Emeritus Robert and Florence Nemkovich
Cape Coral, FL*

*Merry Christmas!
Michael R. & Mary Gorgol Mietlicki
Scotch Plains, NJ*

*Wishing You a Blessed Christmas Season!
Clergy Circle of the Western Diocese
Bishop Jerry Rafalko, Priests and Deacons*

*Eastern Diocese United Women's Society
Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Diocesan Bishop
Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Chaplain*

*The Adoration Society of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH
Susan Bodner, President
Happy & healthy holiday!*

*United Young Men's Society of Resurrection
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
May the Lord Jesus Christ grant you Peace, Love and Hope.*

*All Saints Cathedral Parish
Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko, Pastor
Blessings, love and peace to all this Christmas!*

*Blessings at Christmas and throughout the New Year!
Church of Resurrection, Brooklyn, NY
Fr. Andrzej Koterba & Parish Committee*

*The members of Divine Mercy P.N.C.C., Las Vegas
We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas!
We hope you will visit us in sunny Las Vegas!*

*Wesołych Świąt!
Divine Providence Parish
Rev. Christopher Rogalski, Pastor
Guardian Angel Parish, Los Angeles, CA
Fr. Andrew Machowski
May the birth of Christ bring blessings to us all!*

*Rejoice - the Savior is Born!
Holy Cross Parish—Hamtramck, MI
Very Rev. Jarosław Nowak, Pastor*

*Holy Family Parish
1921 Eden Park Blvd, McKeesport, PA 15132
Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!*

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Annual Christmas and New Year Greetings



*Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral
Lancaster, New York
Christmas Blessings to all!*

*Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish
Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor
May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you today and throughout the New Year!*

*Holy Trinity Cathedral — Manchester, NH
Bishop Paul Sobiechowski
Christmas blessings from our parish family.*

*Holy Trinity Polish National Catholic church, Washington, PA
Rev. Mark S. Swoger, Pastor
God's Blessings for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year.*

*Rejoice, Christ is Born!
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish, Lilly, PA
Rev. Dr. Scott Lill, Pastor*

*Our Savior Chapel — Tripp Park, Scranton, PA
The Right Rev. Bernard J. Nowicki, Pastor
May the love of our Lord and Savior fill your holidays with joy!*

*Our Savior Parish, Dearborn Heights, MI
Rev. Henry Galas, Pastor
Have a very Merry Christmas!*

*Our Saviour's Parish
Woonsocket, RI
Rev. Henryk Wos, Pastor*

*Resurrection Parish, Temperance, MI
Very Rev. Jarosław Nowak, Administrator
May God bless you at Christmas and throughout the New Year!*

*St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA
Fr. Andrzej Tenus, Pastor and Parish Committee
Christmas blessings and Happy New Year!*

*St. John the Baptist Parish - Frackville, PA
Rev. Robert Plichta, Pastor
May you have a safe and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

*St. John the Baptist P.N.C.C.
Rev. Bogusław Janiec
May have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!*

*Wishing you a Blessed Christmas Season!
St. Mary Parish — South Bend, IN
www.stmarypncc.org*



Annual Christmas and New Year Greetings



St. Mary's Parish, 200 Stephenson St, Duryea, PA

Rev. Fr. Carmen G. Bolock, Pastor

May you have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

*For a Child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders;
and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

St. Mary's Parish, Parma, OH

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN

Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr. - Pastor

May the Christ Child bless you today and always.

St. Paul Parish, Belleview, FL

Rev. Mark J. Niznik

Many blessings to all during the Christmas season!

Christmas Blessings to all!

*Cathedral Parish of St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr
Scranton, PA*

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish, Reading, PA

Very Rev. Donald E. Wunderlich, Pastor

May you have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

St. Valentine's Parish, Northampton, MA

Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor

May the birth of Jesus bring blessings to us all!

Christmas greetings from

SS Peter & Paul's Parish, McAdoo, PA

Rev. Bogusław Janiec, Pastor

Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, Wallington, NJ

Very Rev. Gregory Mludzik, Pastor

Wesołych Świąt! Merry Christmas!

*We at Spójnia Credit Union wish you and yours
a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

www.spojniacreditunion.org

Polish National Union

Board of Directors & Staff

Wishing all a Blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!

Polish National Union of America

District 1

May you have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Wishing all a joyous Christmas!

PNU District 2

Leslie Pietrowitz, District Director

Polish National Union District Six

*Christine Wachna, District Director, Officers and Members
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese**Christmas Message from the Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, P.N.C.C.
Rt. Rev. John Mack**

A bright light will shine to the limits of the earth. Many nations will come to you from afar. – Tobit 13: 11

We enter again into the season of Advent in anticipation of the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. It is a season in which we can become easily distracted, as we go about accomplishing all the items on our “to do” list. It almost seems to be a mad race to the finish line of Christmas Day. Yet, if this is all we accomplish during these days of Advent, then we have surely missed the point. We need to set aside time for prayer, for reflection and for the preparation of our souls for the coming of Christ.

I recently had the opportunity to visit the newest parish of the PNCC, Divine Mercy Parish in Las Vegas. I was there for the dedication of the parish building and for the reception of tonsure and minor orders of a new cleric who is enrolled in the diaconate program. The opening of a new parish is somewhat similar to the arrival of a new baby. Parents who have been blessed with children know all the details that have to be attended to. There are items to buy, a nursery to prepare, a crib to assemble and a myriad of other items on the list. It is no different with the preparation for beginning a new parish. Fr. Adam Kotas is the pastor at Divine Mercy Parish. He is an enthusiastic and energetic priest who likes to make his people smile. He gives very enthusiastic sermons and uses God's revealed Word to touch people's hearts directly. His sermons give people hope that God is always there for you and that even in the darkest of times, He will not forsake you. One of the main themes of Advent is that by our Lord's Incarnation in human flesh, light overcame the darkness of the world. The prophet Isaiah writes:

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” There were many instances along the way to the opening of Divine Mercy Parish that might be categorized as “darkness.” These forces of darkness could only be countered by the appearance of the light of Christ. That great light manifested itself on many occasions during the journey. Some people might categorize them as chance occurrences or fate or coincidence. Fr. Adam prefers to call them God-incidences. What is a God-incident? It's when God shows up to solve a problem, remove a roadblock or shed new light on a problem that seems to have control over us or over a situation. Take for example the unavailability of a U-Haul truck to bring the contents of the parish in Linden, New Jersey back to Las Vegas. The Linden parish had closed and Bp Nowicki graciously offered the contents to Fr. Adam. When he received pictures of what was available for his new church, his eyes were as big as a child's eyes on Christmas morning. He said: “I can use all of this.” It was near the end of July, but because of the busy summer moving season, a truck would not be available until early September in that area. Quite disappointing to hear. Remarkably, as Fr. Adam stood at the counter, the phone rang. It was a person who was cancelling a twenty-six foot truck previously reserved. It was available by the second day. God-incident for sure.

We know that God springs into action on many occasions in our lives, our families and in our parishes.

We need only to be faithful, to trust in Him and to remember to pray to Him. We have, in the last two years, been beset by much darkness in our lives and in our world. It is during these times that our faith is tested the most. It is also during these times as well, that so many opportunities for joy and love and service magically appear all around us. We need only to act upon God's promptings in our lives. I hope and pray that this Christmas season will be full of light and joy in your personal lives and in your families. As the Messiah came to earth over two thousand years ago, He still comes to those who look for Him. Christmas can be every day of our lives, if we walk closely with our Lord. Look for those God-incidences in the world around you. Look for ways in which you can be the light of Christ to others. It is then that you will know the fullness of joy and peace that is only possible through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May your Christmas Season be one filled with His blessings and grace.

Central Diocese

Christmas Message from the Bishop of the Central Diocese, P.N.C.C.**Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki**

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Christmas is coming very soon. For those of us who believe, the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem represents nothing less than victory: the victory of light over darkness; the victory of hope over despair; the victory of love over hatred; the victory of peace over conflict; the victory of gratitude over misery and the victory of obedience over disobedience. The birth of Jesus Christ, Son of God, son of Mary, brings profound goodness to our world, each year and all year. But how could something like this happen? Indeed, how *did* something like this happen? It happened because Mary and Joseph listened for God's direction in their lives, and were open to God's prompting and leading

You couldn't have missed hearing the scripture passages read to you at our Masses during the Advent season of preparation that tell you that both Mary and Joseph were told of "God's plan" – Mary by an angel, Joseph in a dream. These are bible passages of the season that describe for you that while Mary and Joseph did not fully comprehend, they still opened themselves completely to God's will and cooperated with God's will. That obedience not only changed their lives forever but yours, and mine, as well!

We try to do everything to proclaim the Christmas message well: Christmas music; Christmas décor; Christmas gifts; Christmas sharing; Christmas food. All of this is really about love and goodness; and isn't love and goodness at the heart of Christ's saving message to us?

I sincerely pray that each and everyone of you, like Mary and Joseph, would listen for God's direction in your lives, and be open to God's prompting so that you yourselves would experience the love of Christ at Christmas! And most importantly, I pray you share that Christmas gift of Christ's love with others every day, by word and deed.

I deeply wish you rich blessings this Christmas and throughout 2022.



XII Synod of the Central Diocese Held at All Saints Parish Rome, NY



On November 12 - 13, 2021, the delegates of the XII Synod of the Central Diocese came together in fellowship and reflection on the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Fun & Fellowship at Holy Name of Jesus Parish Schenectady, NY

On Saturday evening, November 6th, the members of Holy Name of Jesus Parish gathered for a pizza party, games, and a movie night. The evening was sponsored by the Y.M.S. of R. using funds Branch 56 won by collecting the most clothes nationwide in our winter 2019 service project. Clothes were collected in 2020 but were not counted. We once again collected clothes for the 2021 Y.M.S. of R. Winter Clothing Drive.



Holy Mother of Sorrows November Activities

Dupont, PA

On Saturday, November 6th, Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA, held a free Appreciation Dinner for the First Responders and Veterans (from Dupont, Avoca, Hughestown and Pittston Township) in the Frank Bednash Memorial Hall.



Community Thanksgiving Prayer Service Participants

The parish Thanksgiving food distribution was held on Thursday, November 18 at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Hall in Dupont, PA.



Parishioners and town volunteers packed about 100 food bags for the local residents.

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish held a Thanksgiving canned food drive for the local “Meals on Wheels” program. The drive concluded on November 19th and a portion of the food was directly delivered to the “Meals on Wheels” location in Pittston, PA, by parishioners and friends. We thank all for their contributions.
Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Thanksgiving Food Drive Volunteers



Parish Volunteers for the Appreciation Dinner

The 13th Annual Community Thanksgiving Prayer Service was held on Sunday, Nov. 21 at 5 PM at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA. Parishioners from Holy Mother of Sorrows P.N.C.C. Parish, Sacred Heart of Jesus R.C. Parish and all who live in Dupont and surrounding areas attended.

Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid presided over the service. Mayor of Dupont, Dan Lello welcomed everyone who gathered in church. Readers were: Ann Marie Paddock, David M Petrosky, David Fritz and Lois McHugh. Both parish choirs were combined and were accompanied by Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish organist, Jan Cwikla.

Delicious refreshments, prepared by the parish ANS Society ladies, were served after the service in the Parish Hall.



Combined Choirs

Eastern Diocese

A Patristic View of Christmas

Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski

In his Christmas sermon Saint John Chrysostom, a great Father of the Church wrote: *“Behold on Christmas a new and wondrous reality. The angels sing and the archangels blend their voices in harmony. The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt Christ’s glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth and man in heaven. He Who is above now for our redemption dwells here below, and we who are lowly are by divine mercy raised up. Bethlehem this day resembles heaven, hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices. Ask not how. For where God wills, nature yields. For He willed. He had the power. He descended. He redeemed. All things move in obedience to God. This day He Who is born and He Who is becomes what He is not. He is God become man, yet not departing from His Godhead.”*

Saint John Chrysostom calls Christmas a “new and wondrous reality.” The reality of which he speaks is the Incarnation. A theological term referring to that moment in time when God became man in the person of Jesus, the Christ.

Saint John wrote this Homily for Jesus’ Nativity well before the symbols of Christmas were adopted by the Church. The Christmas tree, carols, nativity sets and the other traditions of Christmas were introduced to help us focus on the central point of the Incarnation. With time however, we began to give greater importance to the traditions than to the reason they were introduced. Today the average Christian contemplates more over the hymn “O Little Town of Bethlehem” than the spiritual Incarnate reality the hymn speaks of.

But the Fathers of the early Church were focused like lasers on the Incarnation. In his Treatise Against Heresies, Saint Irenaeus writes: *“There is one God, who by his word and wisdom created all things and set them in order. His Word is our Lord Jesus Christ, who in this last age became man among men to unite end and beginning, that is, man and God.*

“The prophets, receiving the gift of prophecy from this same Word, foretold his coming in the flesh, which brought about the union and communion between God and man ordained by the Father. From the beginning the word of God prophesied that God would be seen by men and would live among them on earth; he would speak with his own creation and be present to it, bringing it salvation and being visible to it...”

Irenaeus continues... *“By his own powers man cannot see God, yet God will be seen by men because he wills it. He will be seen by those he chooses, at the time he chooses, and in the way he chooses, for God can do all things. He was seen of old through the Spirit in prophecy; he is seen through the Son by our adoption as his children, and he will be seen in the kingdom of heaven in his own being as the Father. The Spirit prepares man to receive the Son of God, the Son leads him to the Father, and the Father, freeing him from change and decay, bestows the eternal life that comes to everyone from seeing God.*

“As those who see light are in the light sharing its brilliance, so those who see God are in God sharing his glory, and that glory gives them life. To see God is to share in life.”

This year we will jointly experience the traditions and symbols of Christmas in our churches. My hope is that, while appreciating them, we can also experience Christmas’ deeper spirituality. The Early Fathers of the Church had none of the trappings of Christmas that we have today. But they had a depth of spiritual understanding that made the celebration of Christmas truly life changing.

Saint Leo the Great wrote, *“For unless the new man, by being made in the likeness of sinful humanity, had taken on himself the nature of our first parents, unless he had stooped to be one in substance with his mother while sharing the Father’s substance and, being alone free from sin, united our nature to his, the whole human race would still be held captive under the dominion of Satan. The Conqueror’s victory would have profited us nothing if the battle had been fought outside our human condition. But through this wonderful blending the*

(Continued on bottom of Page 31.)

Holy Trinity Cathedral Parish Helps Out Local Community in November

Manchester, NH

During November Holy Trinity Cathedral Parish, Manchester, NH, conducted its Sweats for Vets drive, collecting all kinds of sweatshirts and sweatpants to be given to local veterans in need through the [Liberty House](#) in Manchester, NH. Also during November

the Cathedral Parish collected canned food items which were delivered to the Blessed Sacrament Church to be distributed for the citywide food drive for hunger.



Bill Zygadla delivered Sweats for Vets items to Liberty House.

Free Lunch Continues at Our Saviour Parish

Woonsocket, RI

With the assistance of the Eastern Diocese grant program, Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI, was determined to put more of an effort into its nearby community. Beginning in October 2020, the parish started a free community lunch the third Saturday of every month. November 2021's lunch consisted of delicious homemade American Chop Suey. Approximately 75 free lunches were distributed, via drive

through, to anyone who shows up for this wonderful community event.

Thank you to the team who helped with the November Free Community Lunch on Saturday, November 24th: Debbie Boucher, Edmund Fox, Patricia Kaczorowski, Mary Fournier, Chris Kozlik, Lexi Kozlik and Ella Kozlik.



Polish Food Sale at Our Saviour Parish

Woonsocket, RI

On November 13th Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI held a Drive Thru Polish Food sale. The very successful event was held instead of the parish's annual bazaar. Everyone lined up for the Polish Dinner Plates and the food was sold out in no time.

Many thanks to all the dedicated parishioners and friends who helped with preparation and distribution of the orders. It could not have been done without their help, enthusiasm, and dedication in all aspects of the event.



Craft Fair at Holy Trinity Parish

Webster, MA

On Saturday, November 13, 2021 Holy Trinity Parish held its annual Craft Fair in the Parish Hall. A lot of vendors expressed their interest and appeared that day at the parish with their products.

The event was very successful. People who visited us enjoyed the delicious food, lovely crafts, great raffles, and plenty of baked goods.

Thanks to all parishioners and friends of the Holy Trinity Parish for their hard work and dedication.



Blessed Trinity Parish November Activities Fall River, MA

On Sunday, November 7th, the parish youth filled Operation Christmas Child Boxes after Holy Mass.



On Wednesday, November 10th, the parish provided 25 hearty lunches to local veterans in need at the Fall River Veterans Center. Thanks to all who donated so many items for this important discipleship effort. We also dropped off some new socks, underwear and Patriots and Red Sox sweatshirts, and included special invitations to our Thanksgiving Day Community Turkey Dinner.



Veterans Day, November 11th, began with Holy Mass giving thanks and prayers for our Veterans. In the afternoon Fr. Sr. Rob participated in the Fall River Veterans Day celebration. It was great to see and thank so many veterans on a beautiful afternoon at Battleship Cove in Fall River as we honored those who have served. May God bless those who have and those who are serving.



Sunday, November 14th marked the culmination of the annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox effort at both Blessed Trinity Parish and Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI: Thanks to all who supported this effort to give a gift to children who live in extreme poverty in our world this coming Christmas. A tremendous discipleship effort and success at both of the parishes!



On November 16th, Blessed Trinity Parish was happy to welcome some great folks from the Fall River Veterans' Kitchen to our parish kitchen to cook 250 pounds of turkey for their Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner. Fr. Sr. Rob enjoyed spending some time in the afternoon carving a few turkeys and helping in this wonderful event in Fall River.

(Continued on Page 22.)

(Blessed Trinity Parish November Activities - Continued from Page 21.)

On November 17th Father Senior Rob helped serve over a hundred Thanksgiving Dinners to many local veterans with the Fall River Veterans' Kitchen and the Fall River Veterans Council at the Corky Row Club.



The Thanksgiving Brunch and Parcel Post Auction at Blessed Trinity Parish was held after Holy Mass on Sunday, November 21st. The event was held to benefit the parish Scholarship Fund.



On Thanksgiving Day, November 25th, the parish was blessed to serve 150 turkey dinners to people in need or alone on this day. Thanks to our amazing volunteers for this year's annual Blessed Trinity Fall River Thanksgiving Community Turkey Dinner. On Sunday, November 28th, the First Sunday of Advent



the parish concluded its 2021 Prayer Blanket effort with nearly 200 handmade fleece prayer blankets made with love for children in need in Fall River. The prayer blankets will be delivered by the Fall River Police Department on the Saturday before Christmas. Thanks to those who made these - especially Mrs. Marie Gorgol (St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish, Scranton, PA) who made 90 as she turned 90!



Western Diocese**Christmas Message from the Bishop of the Western Diocese, P.N.C.C.****Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw “Jerry” Rafalko**

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” (Lk 2:11)

...This is the news of great joy that we, as Christians, are called to share with all of humanity. This is what Christmas is all about, the birth of Christ, our Savior, and Lord. We are celebrating the Incarnation of God as a reality and not as a mythological story.

The ultimate truth that we celebrate at Christmas is summarized in one of the most often quoted verses from St John’s Gospel: “ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life” (Jn 3: 16).

God’s love for us, with all our deficiencies and failures, remains the central message as we reflect on the events around the birth of Jesus.

For those who celebrate the birth of Christ as the coming of the Savior and embrace the Gospel, this annual observance provides the opportunity to be grounded once again at the very core of our being, to understand that the purpose of all humanity is to live in the knowledge of the love of God.

The Angels sang, when they appeared to the shepherds, “peace on earth on those of goodwill”.

If we want peace to reign in the world, that peace has to start existing within us. To live the love and peace that Christmas announces, we have to learn to concretely show respect towards each other in the way we talk about each other and what we write on social media, which may be detrimental to the well-being of others.

Let us enjoy ourselves this Christmas, let us strengthen the ties that bind families together, but let us also find some time to reflect on our lives and see whether there are areas where we need to revise and change our behavior so that the love and peace which Christmas is meant to bring with it is realized in the way we live.

I wish you all a very joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year.



Western Diocese -Youth Gathering '21 at Bellwether Farm Wakeman, OH

On July 26th through the 29th the youth of the Western Diocese spent some time together at the beautiful Bellwether Farm in Wakeman, OH, for the diocesan Youth Gathering. Young people, clergy, and adult members from the Western Diocese joined together to experience a closeness to God through meditations, reflections, presentations, games, recreational fishing and evening candlelight services.

Prior to the final benediction of the Youth Gathering, Bishop Jerry Rafalko, Bishop of the Western Dio-

cese, distributed to each person present a candle decorated with the logo of the Diocesan Youth. Bishop Jerry asked all in attendance to be the light of Christ in the world. He asked all young members of the Church to go to their parishes and light more hearts of young people for Christ. During the final candlelight service, everyone went outside to watch their special, sparkling candles and to sing "Shine Jesus Shine."

Submitted by Rt. Rev. J. Rafalko



Western Diocese Clergy Retreat and Conference

Mundelein, IL

On November 15, 16, and 17, 2021 the Western Diocese clergy gathered together at Joseph and Mary Retreat House in Mundelein, IL for their annual retreat and conference. The retreat master, via Zoom, was the Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese. Bishop Nowicki addressed and lead discussions on some very meaningful topics during the retreat.

Following the conference, 15 clergy gathered at the retreat house while other clergy participated via Zoom, to share their pastoral experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. The participants divided into

two groups to discuss various pastoral ideas for moving ahead in our parishes. Following the discussions, representatives of these groups provided reports and recommendations for ongoing pastoral work. One of the recommendations was for Diocesan Bishop Jerry Rafalko to visit every parish of the diocese to further address the new pastoral ideas that were discussed during the retreat.

All clergy enjoyed Traditional Polish Cuisine provided by Bishop Jerry Rafalko.

Submitted by Rt. Rev. J. Rafalko



Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko - The First Anniversary of Consecration

All Saints Cathedral, Chicago, IL

On Sunday, September 12, Bishop Jerry Rafalko, Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese, P.N.C.C., celebrated Holy Mass in Polish at All Saints Cathedral, Chicago, IL. The Mass was to commemorate and celebrate the First Anniversary of Bp. Jerry's Consecration as a Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church.

The Polish Group "Moc Poludnia" prepared an artistic program to honor Bishop Jerry Rafalko.

A reception, prepared by Bishop Jerry and his wife, Leslie, followed the celebration of the Holy Mass. The Cathedral presented Bishop a cake in honor of the celebration.

Submitted by Rt. Rev. J. Rafalko



Dożynki Celebrated at All Saints Cathedral Chicago, IL

On Sunday, September 19th All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL, celebrated its first Harvest Feast, "Dożynki." Bishop Jerry Rafalko invited the Polish music group "Moc Poludnia" to play traditional songs for the event, and there were also many guests invited from nearby parishes.

During the procession to the altar, traditional harvest baskets were presented. Guests from Holy Trinity Parish in Kewanee, IL, Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Entas, presented the first basket. Following the Entas were:

representatives of the Polish community, All Saints Cathedral Parish PTO and Sunday School. The traditional bread basket was presented by the Chair of the All Saints Cathedral Parish. Following Holy Mass, "Moc Poludni" presented a concert of traditional harvest songs.

Following the harvest songs a traditional Polish meal, prepared by Leslie Rafalko, was enjoyed by all.

Submitted by Rt. Rev. J. Rafalko



Rt. Rev. Rafalko begins the procession.



Zofia Stawiak & Gary Kurzynski



Mr & Mrs. Chuck Entas



Judie Szydowski & Marek Torbiarczyk



Elevation to Minor Orders

All Saints Cathedral, Chicago, IL

Two young men of the Western Diocese are now Clerics of the Polish National Catholic Church. Douglas Michael Scott and David Zbigniew Talaga received Tonsure, the Order of Porter and the Order of Reader conferred by Bishop Jerry Rafalko during the Holy Mass of the Word of God on Saturday, November 13, 2021 at All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL.

Cleric Doug is the son of Mary and the late Charles "Scotty" Scott of All Saints Cathedral. Cleric David

is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Zbigniew Talaga of Our Savior Parish in Mosinee, Wisconsin.

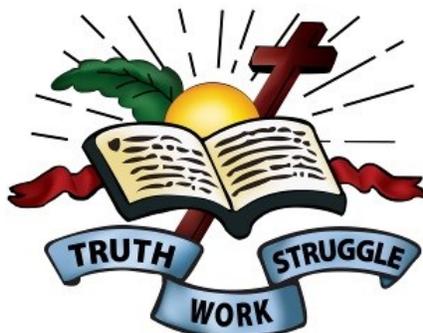
God Bless Cleric Doug and Cleric David as they continue their service to the people of the P.N.C.C. and their ministries as members of the Clergy.

A video of the Holy Mass and Elevation to Minor Orders can be found on the [All Saints Cathedral PNCC YouTube Channel](#)

Submitted by Judie Szydowski



Very Rev. John Kowalczyk, Cleric Douglas Scott, Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko, Cleric David Talaga



Operation Christmas Child at All Saints Cathedral Parish

Chicago, IL

The parishioners of All Saints Cathedral Parish, Chicago, IL, collect items for Operation Christmas Child throughout the year. This effort, coordinated by Jill Lindenmuth, features various types of items for collection each month. This year, the generous people of All Saints Cathedral Parish gave enough items to fill 128 boxes. The boxes were packed on November 13th by members of the Cathedral Youth Organization.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Operated by Samaritan's Purse, boxes have been delivered to more than 188 million children in 170 countries and territories around the world. All Saints Parish has provided thousands of boxes over the years to this most worthwhile cause.

Submitted by Judie Szydowski



Seated: Michael Lindenmuth, James Lindenmuth, Joey Scott. Standing: Kara Lindenmuth, Cleric Doug Scott, Khloe Medrano, MaryJane Scott, Jill Lindenmuth, Steve Lindenmuth, Margaret Rowinski, Katy Scott, Bishop Jerry Rafalko



Investiture in North West Seniorate - Western Diocese

SS Peter & Paul Parish, South Milwaukee, WI



On Sunday, October 3, 2021 the faithful of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in South Milwaukee, WI, along with the members of PNU District Six, celebrated the investiture of Father Senior Bogumil Czaja as the Senior of the Northwest Seniorate, and his 25th anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood.

Prior to the celebration of Mass and in the presence of family and friends, the Right Reverend Jarosław Rafalko imparted the blessings and responsibilities, as well as all the symbols of the office, to Father Senior Czaja .

All of the Senior Priests of the Diocese were present for this special occasion: Very Reverend Jarosław Nowak (North East Seniorate - Michigan & Ohio), Very Reverend Charles Zawistowski (Chancellor of the Western Diocese) and Very Reverend John Kowalczyk (North Central Seniorate - Illinois, Indiana & Missouri). Additional clergy attending from the Chi-

cago area included: Reverend Antulio Alvarez (Divine Word - Chicago), Reverend Jacek Orzechowski (Ss. Cyril & Methodius- Chicago); attending from Wisconsin: Reverend Marion Talaga (Our Savior - Mosinee), Reverend Al Bosari (St. Mary's - West Allis), Reverend Gabriel Flores Zavala (Holy Name of Jesus - Milwaukee) and Deacon Thomas Opala (St. Mary's - West Allis).

A reception was held in the Church Hall following the Investiture and Holy Mass. CEO Martin Wachna was invited to offer words of congratulations on behalf of the PNU. Father Senior Czaja was so grateful for the support of the PNU since he and his family came to Chicago. District Six helped make their first Christmas together in America very special through the "Christmas Angels" program.

Congratulations Father Senior Czaja on your elevation!

Submitted by Rt. Rev. J. Rafalko

Operation Christmas Child at St. Mary's Parish

Parma, OH

On Sunday, November 14, St. Mary's Parish's weeks-long Operation: Christmas Child collection concluded. Many parishioners provided filled boxes and placed them upon St. Mary's Altar, while others gave a donation to help out the shipping costs.

Our Youth Group (along with help from the SOCL) has a tradition of filling a number of boxes on the last Sunday before all the boxes are collected. Ms. Evonne Pryer spent a portion of the previous week purchasing supplies for the kids to use in filling the boxes.

After 9am Sunday Mass, after cake and juice, the kids set off for their morning School of Christian

Living. The younger boys enjoyed a substitute with Mrs. Cathy, while the older kids spent a portion of their lesson making Christmas Cards to go in the boxes.

After the cards were made, 41 boxes were filled with toys, labeled, and provided with cards from our kids. The following week, after a 9am weekday Mass, the boxes were blessed by Fr. Jason and Ms. Evonne delivered them to our drop-off point.

God bless all who made sure that 41 children across the world would have something to open on Christmas morning!



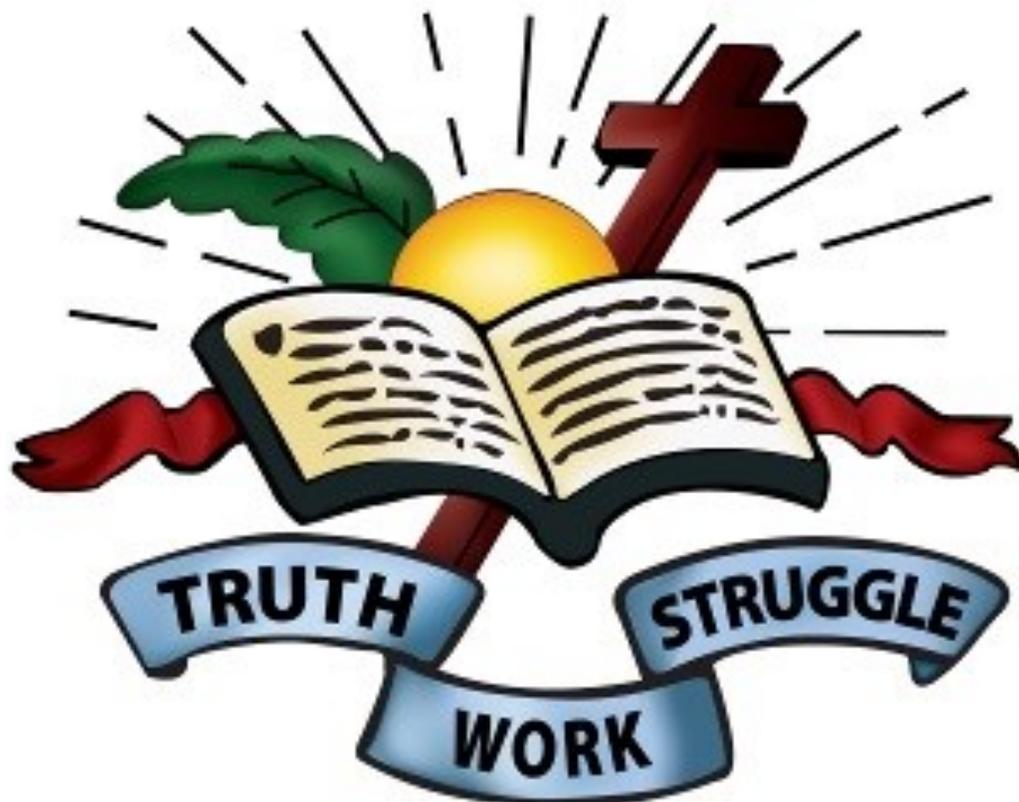
For unto us
 a child
 is born,
 to us
 a son is given
 Isaiah 9:6

(A Patristic View of Christmas - Continued from Page 18.)

mystery of new birth shone upon us, so that through the same Spirit by whom Christ was conceived and brought forth we too might be born again in a spiritual birth; and in consequence the evangelist declares the faithful to 'have been born not of blood, nor of the desire of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.'"

There is much cause for us to rejoice this Christmas! Let us rejoice in the Incarnation. God took on the human state that one day, humanity could be joined to God. The Christ Child of Christmas is the God-Man, through whom we receive healing and redemption.

On behalf of all the clergy and faithful of the Eastern Diocese, my family and myself, I wish to all of you a most blessed and joyful Christmas. *Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia! ¡Feliz Navidad!*



*God's Blessings on the Solemnity of the
Nativity of Our Lord.
Peace and Blessings in the New Year 2022.*



The Staff of God's Field
Controller:
Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky
Editor:
Ms. Julie Orzell

Blessings and Best Wishes for a Joyous Christmas
and a Happy New Year!
Supreme Council, Polish National Catholic Church

