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New Year Comes Flying

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

As we begin the year 2022, we do so with a little trepidation, but also much hope. I suppose that this is true for each and every year, but it is especially true now after all that we have been through in the past two years of pandemic, significant difficulties and great change to our world and to our lives. As I knelt in prayer on the first day of this New Year, on the Solemnity of the Circumcision of our Lord on January 1, I was thinking of the words to the hymn that we sometimes sing only on this one day of the year, “New Year Comes Flying.” It was the third verse specifically that spoke to me on this holy day:

How shall we find Him? How shall we know
our Jesus, Lord?

In humble wrappings, not in rich velvet, see Him
there.

Now of course we know that these words are speaking to our Lord being found in the manger in Bethlehem by those, such as the shepherds, that sought Him out. Although He is born as the King of kings and Lord of lords, He was found in a humble manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes, not in the rich velvet of an earthly king. There was certainly a reality to the humble wrappings of Jesus at His birth.

But as we consider where we each stand within our own spiritual and religious lives, maybe these words will speak to us as well. Maybe there is also another sort of humble wrapping.

Throughout the past two years many of us have been challenged by the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic

has had the effect of causing a fracture in our worship life, especially in our reception of the Holy Eucharist. We were all cautioned to be careful within our lives in order to keep ourselves isolated and safe from the virus. But a consequence of this action, this isolation, is that we became isolated from the worshiping Body of Christ, isolated from each other in accomplishing the work of the Church and most significantly isolated from receiving our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

At several points during this pandemic time, I was moved as I distributed Holy Communion to those who had not received the Holy Eucharist for a significant period of time: some approached the Eucharist with tears in their eyes; some told me how receiving Christ present in the Eucharist filled a longing that went unfulfilled for a long time; some told me that they just missed being with Jesus in the Eucharist. It was truly a gift to be present for these situations and it made me grateful that I could help facilitate this true spiritual experience in their lives and also grateful that as a priest I was always able to celebrate Holy Mass and have access to Christ present in the Holy Eucharist.

But as I have had the opportunity to reflect on these moments of communion, I have thought that while I can be grateful for always having access to the Eucharist and being able to celebrate Holy Mass, there was still something great that was missing in our collective worship and religious experience this

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year. We need to remember that Christ is present to us in many ways within the Church. Certainly, we know that Christ is truly present in the Holy Eucharist, but that is only the first step of being Eucharistic people. There are other ways that He is present to us as well. Within the worshiping community, Christ is present in the proclamation of the Word, as well as the Sacrament of the Word of God. And beyond that, when we gather together He is also present, since in that gathering we become the actualization of the Body of Christ in the world today. It is exactly this message that we hear on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time this year. St. Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians tells us: “You, then, are the Body of Christ. Every one of you is a member of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:27) And here St. Paul is speaking both of the worshiping community and all of the actions of the Church beyond it. In the section of the letter preceding these words, St. Paul was speaking concerning all of the various parts of an individual human body. How each of them is important, in fact vital, for the full functioning of the body. St. Paul then follows by listing some of the parts of the body in the Church at that time: apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers, healers, assistants, administrators and those who speak in tongues. Again these roles speak, not only to the community in worship, but to all of the actions of the Body of Christ, the Church.

In the hope that we share as we find ourselves at the beginning of a New Year and in considering the hymn given above, to find the Lord in “humble wrappings” let us all consider small and humble ways in which we can once again fully return to the Body of Christ.

The Future Direction Subcommittee of the Supreme Council has chosen a focus this year on the Holy Eucharist. During the pandemic time many chose, for a variety of reasons, to stay away from the worshiping community of the Church and therefore deprived themselves of the Holy Eucharist. While some certainly do have a longing in their hearts and souls for the presence of Christ in Holy Communion, so many also don't realize the centrality of the reception of Christ in the life of a Catholic Christian. The

receiving of Holy Communion is the summit and central point of everything we are and everything we do as the Church. We must, therefore, take the time to seek the Lord in the humble wrappings of our time at Holy Mass, our time seeking the forgiveness of God in the Sacrament of Penance, our time in hearing the Word proclaimed to us, and especially in our time in approaching the Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

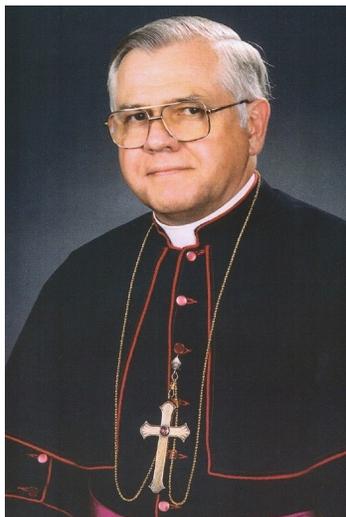
In this return to the Lord, we can then begin to once again take up our full places as members within the Body of Christ. As we receive the Holy Eucharist, we are members of the worshiping Body of Christ which gathers at Holy Mass, offering praise and thanksgiving to God the Father, being strengthened by His Holy Word and then sent forth to extend that body of Christ into the world.

In this we do not seek for anyone to be either careless or reckless. There will certainly be health challenges and concerns in the days, weeks and months to come. But truly this has always been the case and through it all the Church has continued to worship God, receive Christ present in the Eucharist and accomplish the ministry of Christ to the world. Things should be not at all different at this time. We must still gather for the Eucharist, we must still gather for Holy Mass, we must still accomplish the ministry that Christ has given to us all.

Although I have never been a big fan of resolutions at New Years, I do encourage each and every one of you to make one resolution for this year of 2022. Let's make this a year of being Eucharistic people. Let's be people who are active and vital parts of the community gathered for Holy Mass, people who recognize and receive Christ present in the Holy Eucharist, people who hear His Word at Mass and then put those words into action within our lives, people who give thanks to God, for each opportunity to worship, opportunity to work, opportunity to be a member within the Body of Christ that is the Church. Let's be Eucharistic people, in our reception of Holy Communion and in all that we do as the Body of Christ in the world today.

As Eucharistic people, let's let each and every action, word and thought of every day of our year and our lives, be the “humble wrappings” where Christ resides.

† śp. Most Rev. John F. Swantek
Prime Bishop Emeritus



The Most Rev. John F. Swantek, 88, Prime Bishop Emeritus of the Polish National Catholic Church, entered into the eternal rest of the Lord on January 7, 2022 at home surrounded by his family. He leaves behind his wife, Arlene (Miskiavitch) Swantek and his loving family.

Born in Cheshire CT, on May 15, 1933 he was the son of the late Felix and Elsie (Simmons) Swantek. Prime Bishop John was reared in the faith and received his first Sacraments at St. Casimir's Parish in Wallingford, CT. He attended local schools and graduated from Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, CT. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy in 1966 from Clark University in Worcester, MA and a Master of Arts degree in philosophy in 1974 from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT.

Prime Bishop John attended Savonarola Theological Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood of Christ in the Polish National Catholic Church on September 1, 1958 by Bishop Joseph Soltysiak at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, NH.

His first parish assignment was Holy Trinity Parish in Webster, MA from September 1958 to November 1968. It was there that he met his wife, Arlene. He became the pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Westfield, MA from November 1968 to February 1979. It was during this time that Bishop John was elevated to a Senior Priest. He was installed on September 29, 1975 by Bishop Walter Slowakiewicz and served as the Administrative Senior of the Central Seniorate of the Eastern Diocese.

In the Eastern Diocese the then Fr. Sr. Swantek served on the Eastern Diocesan Council, the National Commission on Liturgy, the Theological Commission and the School of Christian Living Commission. He also served as a member of the local Clergy Association and in Westfield, MA he was involved in the establishment of the Westfield Drug Council, where he sat many evenings on the drug hotline. He also served as an instructor at Savonarola Theological Seminary in Scranton, PA training seminarians in their pursuit of Holy Orders.

Prime Bishop Swantek was elected as a candidate for bishop at the XV General Synod, held in Chicago, IL in October 1978. He was consecrated bishop on November 30, 1978 at St. Stanislaus Cathedral by the then Prime Bishop, Most Rev. Francis Rowinski. The co-consecrators were Bishop Joseph Nieminski, Bishop Anthony Rysz and Prime Bishop Emeritus Thaddeus Zielinski. Also consecrated that day were Bishop Thomas Gnat and Bishop Joseph Zawistowski. Bishop Swantek became the Bishop Ordinary of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese and pastor of the Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Buffalo, NY where he took up residence in February 1979.

At the XVII General Synod held in Manchester, NH in 1986, Bishop Swantek was elected as the fifth Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church. He relocated to Scranton, PA and was formally installed on

November 23, 1986 at St. Stanislaus Cathedral.

During his tenure as Prime Bishop, he had the opportunity to travel to various countries and in his travels he met with Pope John Paul II, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Queen Elizabeth and Mother Theresa. He also had the opportunity to travel to the Holy Land and celebrated Mass in Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

In the fulfillment of his office, Prime Bishop John served as the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the P.N.C.C., the rector of Savonarola Theological Seminary and was active within all of the Commission work of the Church. He also attended the conventions, workshops and retreats of the various organizations of the Church, the Women's Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament which he served as chaplain, the Young Men's Society of Resurrection, the National United Choirs and the National Youth Association. He had a great joy in working with the youth of the Church and attended many National Youth Convocations throughout the years. As Prime Bishop he also held a position on the Board of Directors of the Polish National Union of America.

After two consecutive 8 year terms as Prime Bishop, he retired from his position, but remained active in the religious and spiritual life of the Scranton, PA area and throughout the Church. He also continued to serve the Church on various National Commissions and on the Polish National Catholic – Roman Catholic Dialogue. During his years as priest, senior priest, bishop and Prime Bishop, he touched the lives of thousands of members of the Church and served as a spiritual father to many clergy and laity.

Prime Bishop John was an avid sports fan and enjoyed watching tennis, golf and soccer on television. He was a huge New England Patriots fan and thought Tom Brady could do no wrong. He also loved the Boston Red Sox and got the chance to celebrate World Series victories with his children and grandchildren. He spent much of his time in his favorite chair reading. He read the Bible daily, but also enjoyed biographies, non-fiction and fictional stories.

Prime Bishop John enjoyed spending time with his family and attended numerous baseball games, dance recitals, violin concerts and various school events. He enjoyed Sunday dinners with his wife, Arlene, children and grandchildren and he loved the spontaneous visits from his grandchildren throughout the week. He looked forward to receiving his Sunday phone calls from his son so they could discuss sports and updates with the family. Many days were spent laughing and sharing stories about the past and present. His sense of humor was with him until the end of his life. His contagious laugh will always be remembered.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Felix Swantek; a brother-in-law, David Burke; a brother-in-law Richard Fecteau; and a sister-in-law, Kim Swantek.

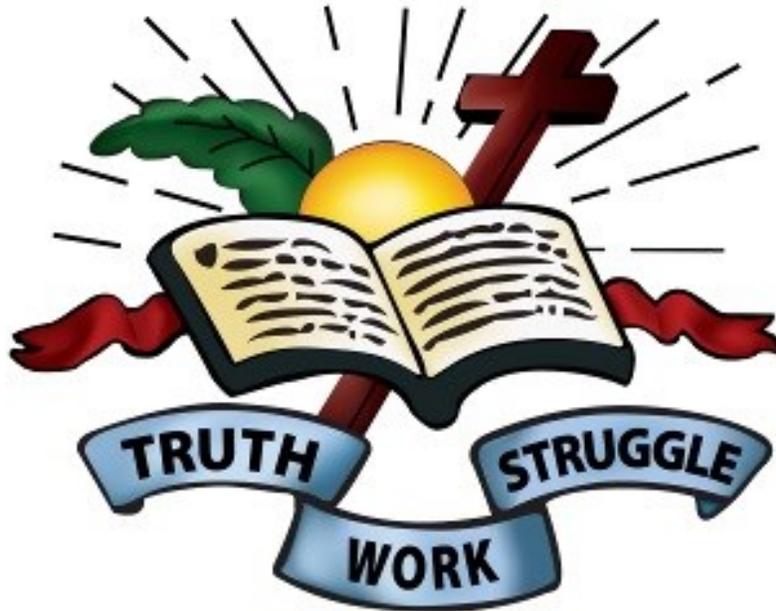
He is survived by his wife, Arlene; a daughter, Lynn and husband, Kevin Pfohl; a son, John and wife, Wendy Swantek; a daughter, Leslie and husband, William Doyle; and a daughter, Melissa Swantek; grandchildren, Nicholas, Elizabeth, Matthew and Olivia Pfohl, Cameron and Casey Swantek, Abigail and Andrew Doyle, Kaitlyn and Celeste Gingerlowski; Gerald Swantek and companion Ronald Salka; Glenn and wife, Amy Swantek; Nancy Burke and Alice Fecteau; nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank everyone who visited, called and sent cards.

Prime Bishop John F. Swantek did lie in repose at St. Stanislaus Cathedral beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 14, 2022 where family and friends were received until 7:00 p.m. A Requiem Vespers service was celebrated at 7:00 p.m. by Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese of the P.N.C.C.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, January 15, 2022. The Invitatory before Mass was sung by Rt. Rev. John Mack, Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese of the P.N.C.C.; Mass was celebrated by Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Bishop of the Central Diocese with the homily preached by Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, the present Prime Bishop of the Church. The committal service at St. Stanislaus Cemetery was celebrated by Rt. Rev. Jarosław Rafalko, Bishop of the Western Diocese of the P.N.C.C.

Following the Funeral Mass and committal, the family and faithful gathered in St. Stanislaus Youth Center for fellowship and a continued time of remembrance.

Financial Obligations for the Parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church (For the Year 2022)



Each parish and each member of the Polish National Catholic Church has material obligations to fulfill in support of the ministry and mission of the Church. This article highlights the financial requirements of the Church as they stand at the present time. These include the decisions that were made at the last General Synod held in October 2018.

All are reminded to review Article XXI of the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church which addresses Church Funds. Each parish of the Church must act in accordance with this Article of the Constitution.

General Fund Dues

During the XXIV General Synod held in October of 2014 the synod delegates voted to set the General Fund dues at \$100.00 per member. This amount was unchanged by the 2018 General Synod. This figure will continue until the next General Synod in 2022. An important point for the parish to remember, noted in Article XXI, Section 4, is that the Parish is responsible to contribute \$100.00 for each member on its parish roll. Although the Parish may collect funds from its membership in various ways, either through direct assessment (dues), or Sunday collections or a pledge system, the \$100.00 is the responsibility of the Parish for each member. According to Article XXI, Section 16 of the Constitution, these funds that are collected must be submitted to their Diocesan Treasurer quarterly.

6% Levy

Along with the above obligation, each parish must also submit funds according to the 6% levy. According to Article XXI, Section 3 of the Constitution, six percent (6%) of Parish Dues (counting only that part kept by the Parish), regular Sunday and Holy Day collections must be submitted to the National Church via their Diocesan Treasurers. According to Article XXI, Section 16 of the Constitution this 6% Levy on funds that are collected is to be submitted to their Diocesan Treasurer quarterly.

Special Collections

A number of special collections are identified either in the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church or are mandated through Synodal Action of the Church.

The following Special National Collections are to be taken in every parish of the Polish National Catholic Church for the following purposes:

- December 26, 2021 – Solemnity of Humble Shepherds – For the Seminary Fund
- January 2, 2022 – For the Mission Fund
- January 30, 2022 – Music Scholarship Sunday – For the Music Scholarship Fund
- February 6, 2022 – For the Mission Fund
- March 6, 2022 – For the Mission Fund
- March 13, 2022 – Institution of the P.N.C.C. – For the National Church Center
- April 3, 2022 – For the Mission Fund
- May 1, 2022 – For the Mission Fund
- June 5, 2022 – For the Mission Fund
- June 19, 2022 – Father’s Day – For the Clergy Pension Fund
- July 3, 2022 – For the Mission Fund
- August 7, 2022 – For the Mission Fund
- August 28, 2022 – Youth Sunday – For the Youth Fund
- September 4, 2022 – For the Mission Fund
- September 11, 2022 – Solemnity of Brotherly Love – For Spójnia, Inc. (Bp. Hodur Retreat Center)
- October 2, 2022 – For the Mission Fund
- October 16, 2022 – Heritage Sunday – Outreach to Poland Collection
- November 6, 2022 – For the Mission Fund
- December 4, 2022 – For the Mission Fund
- January 1, 2023 - For the Mission Fund
- January 8, 2023 - Solemnity of Humble Shepherds – For the Seminary Fund

The funds from these collections are also to be submitted by the Parishes to their Diocesan Treasurers. According to Article XXI, Section 17 the Treasurer of each Diocese is to forward the appropriate funds to the Treasurer of the P.N.C.C. within 30 days.

Parishes are also reminded, according to Article XXI, Section 16 of the Constitution that “all monies collected and received by a Parish Committee from the sources of income in Section 3 of this Article (i.e. General Fund dues, 6% Fund, and Special Collections) shall be paid quarterly to its Diocesan Treasurer.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the collecting or payment of these funds to the Diocesan Treasurers or the National Church, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Prime Bishop.

Closing of the Church’s Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year of the Church ends on February 28, 2022. Each parish must submit the funds collected from the various sources (General Fund Dues, 6% Levy and Special Collections) in 2021 to their Diocesan Treasurer who will then forward the correct portion to the National Church Center. To be included in the 2021-2022 financial statements of the Church, funds must be remitted to the Diocesan Treasurers and then transferred to the National Church Offices by February 28, 2022.

Future Direction January Message

DISCIPLESHIP

2022

PNCC



DISCIPLESHIP: 2022

BEING EUCHARISTIC PEOPLE

**PNCC FUTURE DIRECTION - ACTION PLAN FOR PNCC PARISHES
BASED ON THE EFFORTS OF THE 24TH & 25TH PNCC GENERAL SYNODS**

Continue to develop and emphasize Discipleship through 2022: *Focusing on the importance of receiving our Lord in the most Holy Eucharist for the strength to faithfully follow Him in word and action.*

During 2022 we hope more will return to in person worship and an active participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord in Holy Communion. As this is the central aspect of our worship – our Catholic Christian living will have its root therein. We will reflect on different aspect of the Eucharist and how we can live daily as Eucharistic people . Please see the monthly Future Direction messages regarding this effort with reflections for living this out daily.

JANUARY – PREPARING TO RECEIVE OUR LORD IN THE EUCHARIST

FASTING, PRAYERS BEFORE AND AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Reflection and Action Item:

Receiving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist is a sacred and important moment for which we should be prepared. This is not something to take lightly as we are receiving Jesus to strengthen us on our earthly journey in the way that God has planned for our salvation. We must prepare to meet Jesus by fasting, prayer and participation in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass.

From PNCC Prayer Book:

Fasting is an ancient religious tradition, helping one focus on the needs of the soul over the needs of the body; the need for Christ over the needs of self. As Jesus said during His own forty-day fast, “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” Fasting before

communion helps us properly prepare for the solemn and reverent receiving of His sacred Body and Blood. Fasting before Communion is not primarily an act of Penance, but one of homage to our Lord.

The faithful are required to fast for two hours before receiving Holy Communion. This means eating no food of any kind (except when necessary with medication) and drinking nothing except water. Exceptions to this fast are when someone has a medical condition that requires eating or drinking, when someone has diabetes, when a woman is pregnant, when the Eucharist is taken to someone who is sick, homebound or dying. This does not discourage the pious practice of fasting from midnight.

Action Item: Remember to fast and offer the Prayer before Holy Communion prior to beginning of Holy Mass and then remember to offer the prayer after Holy Communion from the prayer book.

Also consider a few minutes reading page 8 of the Mass Book prior to the beginning of Holy Mass.

When approaching the priest for Holy Communion make sure to do so reverently.

FEBRUARY – ACTIVELY ENGAGE THE FORTHCOMING PRE-LENTEN SPIRITUAL PREPARATION PROGRAM – BOTH THE PERSONAL AND PARISH COMPONENTS

MARCH – IMPORTANCE OF THE EUCHARIST - CATECHISM REMINDERS AND REFLECTIONS

Scripture: John 6:51-58; Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Reflection and Action Item: In the PNCC the moment of receiving Holy Communion is sacred and holy. Our practice is that only those men ordained to Holy Orders may distribute the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Their hands are consecrated as are the Chalice, Paten and Intinction used during Holy Mass. Following the words of consecration, the priest keeps his thumb and index finger together as he has touched the divine. Communion is administered with reverence under both species – the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ are received by the faithful. A beautiful and precious moment. Let us reflect this month on just what this moment means by recalling some of our catechism questions.

362) Why does Christ give us His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist?

Christ gives us His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist:

- 1) To unite us with Himself in Holy Communion.
- 2) To remain ever on our altars, as a proof of His abiding love for us.
- 3) To unite us with our heavenly Father.

364) What is Mass?

Mass is the Sacrifice of the New Testament, in which bread and wine is consecrated into the Mystical Body and Blood to God through the ministry of a priest, for a perpetual commemoration of Christ's Sacrifice upon the Cross, offered once and for all time.

365) When was the Sacrifice of Mass instituted?

The Sacrifice of Mass was instituted at the Last Supper, when Jesus commanded His Apostles to do what He had done, that is, to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood.

And having taken bread, He gave thanks and broke, and gave it to them, saying: "This is My Body, which is being given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In like manner He took also the cup after supper, saying: "This cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which shall be shed for you." (Lk 22:19-20)

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(Discipleship 2022- Continued from Page 9.)

366) What is the place of Mass in the Polish National Catholic Church?

In the Polish National Catholic Church Mass is the central point of worship and life, in perfect continuity with the teaching of the Apostles and practice of the primitive church. The Sacrifice of Christ upon the Cross is the supreme act of love.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that, whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (Jn 15:13)

When we take part in the Mass, we are called upon to offer ourselves with Christ to God, through our own acts of faith, love and sacrifice.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (Jn 15:13)

376) Why do we offer the Sacrifice of the Mass?

We offer the Sacrifice of the Mass:

- 1) To adore God.
- 2) To thank Him for all the benefits He bestows upon us.
- 3) To ask His blessing.
- 4) To obtain His mercy for the living and the dead.
- 5) To apply the merits gained on Calvary to the Church in general, and to individual souls, in particular.

390) Why does Jesus Christ come to you in Holy Communion?

Jesus Christ comes to me in Holy Communion so that He may:

- 1) Unite me with Himself.
- 2) Strengthen me in the practice of good works.
- 3) Strengthen the divine life which I first received in baptism.

Schedule Mass for Healing

Schedule and conduct Lenten Retreat (*in person or on Zoom*)

APRIL – THE LAST SUPPER – DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

Scripture: John 13:1-15

Reflection and Action Item: On Holy or Maundy Thursday we hear about the Last Supper, the Passover Meal our Lord celebrated with His disciples from John's Gospel. What is important for us to realize in this most important passage of Holy Scripture is how Jesus yokes receiving His Presence in the Eucharist to a life of serving others. In God's Word we hear how during this most sacred meal during which the Holy Eucharist was instituted our Lord taught them to wash the feet of others. To serve and wash others feet is tied directly to receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord. Receiving Holy Communion should compel us to action as servants and disciples of our Lord – living as He commanded. “*You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.*”

Action Item: Strengthened by receiving the Holy Eucharist, allow Christ to live in you by your works of love and mercy to others, especially those in need. During this month offer three works of mercy or deeds of kindness for others in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MAY – DEVOTION TO THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

Scripture: John 6 (Bread of Life Discourse); Luke 1:36; John 1:14

Reflection and Action Item:

During the month of May we honor the Theotokos (The Mother of God – The Blessed Virgin Mary). We do this in part through the Liturgical Worship of the Church, one paraliturgical service we celebrate is May Devotions. The Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The Blessed Virgin Mary gave her consent to God through the Archangel Gabriel: “Behold I am the servant of the Lord, be it done unto me according to your word.” Then, “The word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Mary’s yes to God resulting in receiving Jesus into her heart, mind, body and soul and we receive Jesus in our hearts, minds, bodies and souls in receiving Holy Communion and adoring his presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

From PNCC Prayer Book:

Make our dear Lord in the Blessed Sacrament your constant thought; remember that He is your friend; tell Him all your sorrows; go often in the week, if only for a few minutes, to relieve your mind in trouble, and you will find that the hardest trials will seem to pass away in a moment. Go to Him always, you will wonder at the fullness of the comfort and support which you will receive, and at the clearness of the answers that will come in time of doubt. Place your cares into the hands of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and they will become light, very light.

Jesus, my God, I adore You, here present in the Sacrament of Your love.

Divine Redeemer, Who in Your infinite goodness has been pleased to give Your precious Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist, I adore You with the most profound respect. I thank You for all the favors You have bestowed upon me, especially for the institution of this Most Holy Sacrament. As You are the source of every blessing, bestow Your benediction upon me, my relatives and friends. Bless my Church, bishops, priests, deacons and all those for whom I pray (*especially ...*). Let Your blessing flow abundantly and may it be felt in the souls of those who cannot come here to receive it. May the weak and tempted feel its power wherever they may be. Let all feel its influence, moving them to come to You. O Lord, grant me a strong love of You, a hatred of sin, a greater respect of grace, and great zeal for your honor and glory and for my sanctification and salvation. Amen.

My Lord and my God!

Blessed and praised be the most holy and divine Sacrament now and forever. Amen.

Action Item: Offer this reflection from our PNCC Prayer Book weekly during this month giving reverence and respect to the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Schedule Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary with Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Schedule Zoom video conference: Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

JUNE – THE SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

Scripture: John 1:1-14; John 6:35-53; John 15:1-8; Matthew 26:18-20, 26-29

Reflection and Action Item: On Thursday after the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, the Catholic Churches around the world celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, also known as the Solemnity of the Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ.

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi is a religious manifestation and confession of Christian and Catholic faith. By the presence and active participation in the liturgy Catholics publicly profess their faith in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This is a time when Catholics show their love for Christ by honoring Him in a public way and show their love for their neighbors by bringing the Lord and Savior closer to them.

On that day, after celebrating the Eucharist the faithful go in a solemn procession with the Blessed Sacrament to four altars.

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The Solemnity of Corpus Christi has been solemnly celebrated in parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church since her organization. It was adapted from Western Catholic tradition and is strongly connected with our faith in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The procession associated with the feast day may be performed on the feast day itself, the Sunday within the octave, or any day throughout the octave. The Sequence within the Mass is said for the octave of this feast.

Processions held within the octave are often combined parish and/or seniorate celebrations. They usually incorporate the local branches of the United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Action Item: Attending the Parish or Seniorate Corpus Christi Mass and Procession giving thanks and praise to God for His precious gift of the presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

Remember Clergy Appreciation Weekend & Sacred Vocations Month, pray that the Lord Jesus will send more priests and deacons to his Church, and be sure to show your gratitude to your parish clergy by some meaningful gestures of appreciation.

JULY – ALTAR SERVERS – ST. TARCISIUS

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Reflection: In our celebration of the Holy Mass, our altar servers play such an important role. Consider just how much they do in serving God and the Church by assisting our priests and deacons during the Sacred Liturgy. They carry the cross and lit candles during processions, carry and handle the incense in procession and during the Mass, present the wine and water to the priest during the preparation of the gifts, wash the hands of the priest, ring the bells during the consecration, and hold the patten as the faithful receive the Most Sacred Body and Blood of our Lord. Our altar servers participate in the Mass by joining in the spoken responses and the singing of the hymns and music of the Mass. In doing all of these things with piety and attention, though, our altar servers fulfill a commission that we may sometimes overlook: they set a good example for us of true, loving piety for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

St. Tarcisus, known as the “boy martyr of the Eucharist” was a young Christian in the Church of Rome in the 3rd Century, whose love and reverence for Christ's true and abiding presence in the Eucharist inspired him with the courage to give his life for our Lord! He is an ideal Patron Saint for our altar servers and an inspiration to all. His traditional feast day is August 15 but is secondary to the Solemnity of the Dormition and Assumption of the Blessed Mother. St. Tarcisus, pray for us!

Action Item: Here is an article about St. Tarcisus at the end of which you can assess your own reverence for the Holy Eucharist.

Schedule Sometime this month recognize all of your parish's altar servers: list their names in the bulletin, acknowledge them at the end of weekend Masses, pray for them by name during the General Intercessions, etc. Have a reception/picnic for the whole parish to thank them for their service and example of reverence to the Holy Eucharist.

Schedule Mass for those Grieving

AUGUST – SINGING OUR FAITH IN EUCHARISTIC HYMNS

Scripture: (Ephesians 5:19-20) Sing psalms and hymns in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection and Action Item:

If given some time to think, I am sure that most of us could name a large number of Church hymns that we know by heart. The singing of hymns has been a part of our Christian celebrations whenever we gather for Holy Mass and at the many other devotions within our parishes. These hymns are certainly beautiful and we are often moved in a deeply spiritual way when we hear them or sing them. Some of these hymns are only used in certain seasons of the Church year, but there are also hymns that speak to certain Catholic Christian realities, in particular, the Eucharistic Hymns. These hymns almost serve as a mini-catechism speaking truths that we all hold about what occurs when we gather for Holy Mass and when we receive Holy Communion. Just looking at one Eucharistic Hymn within our PNCC Hymnal “Hallowed Be Forever” allows us to see many aspects of our faith. This hymn contains lines such as “Hallowed be forever, Living Host Divine” showing us that the living Christ is present to us at Mass and in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. “Sacrament Most Holy, by which we are fed,” reminds us that in the reception of Holy Communion we are sustained and strengthened by the presence of Jesus. Another hymn “Jesus, My Lord and Savior” sums up exactly what we do each time we gather for Mass: “Jesus, my Lord and Savior, here I would worship Thee. All that I have I give Thee for Thou didst die for me. Here in this Bread of Heaven, here in this Host divine, thanksgiving, praise and honor be every moment Thine.” Each of these Eucharist hymns says something to us and to all who hear us about our faith in Christ Jesus, present to us during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Action Item – Sing along with the hymns when gathered during the celebration of Mass. Also taken a favorite Eucharistic Hymn, such as “Hallowed Be Forever” or “Jesus, My Lord and Savior” and sing it, either by yourself or with your family, each day.

SEPTEMBER – THE EUCHARIST IN THE DECLARATION OF SCRANTON

Scripture: (Acts 2:46-47) Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home, and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

Reflection and Action Item:

The Declaration of Scranton formulated and accepted by the P.N.C.C. Bishops on April 28, 2008 and later accepted by the Clergy Conference and the General Synod, helps guide the Church in its relationships with other Christian bodies. The document has allowed us to enter into fruitful and real ecclesial relations with the Nordic Catholic Church in Scandinavia and the rest of Europe. The largest and most vital paragraph of this document speaks to our faith in the Holy Eucharist and the celebration of Mass, which must be a part of any agreement that we have between Churches.

Important aspects of our faith are spoken of within this paragraph: Holy Mass is “the true central point of Catholic worship.” We confess that we receive “the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.” When we gather for Mass we also know that we unite ourselves with “the one offering which Jesus Christ makes in Heaven.” During the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we participate in a true connection between heaven and earth.

This paragraph also shows us that when we gather at Holy Mass as a parish, there is also something else that occurs. It allows us to come together and unite ourselves to each other. The Holy Eucharist is “at the same time, a sacrificial feast by means of which the faithful in receiving the Body and Blood of our Savior enter into communion with one another (1 Cor. 10:17).” This reference to the First Letter to the Corinthians is recited during the Contemporary Rite of Mass, “Because there is one bread, we who are many, are one body, because we all partake of the one bread.” This one body, our parish church, is also Christ present in the world today in another way. All that the parish does, in the worship of God and in service to God’s people, especially those within our local communities, is participating in the work of Jesus Christ in the

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world today. What we do at Holy Mass allows us to extend the presence of Jesus Christ, outside our Church walls.

Action Item – Read the Eucharistic (6th) paragraph of the Declaration of Scranton as well as the Scripture quotes cited. Spend some time at Holy Mass reflecting on what actually occurs when we gather to worship God and receive His Son in Holy Communion

Schedule Zoom video conference: Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

OCTOBER – CLAIRE OF ASSISI

Scripture: Philippians 3:8-14, Matthew 19:27-29

Reflection: St. Clare of Assisi, whose August 11, came from a wealthy family which was devoted to our Lord within the Church. Tradition tells us that, after hearing St. Francis preach, she felt God's call to follow Jesus is a way similar to Francis' and embrace a life of detached poverty, simplicity, chastity, and prayer. Her family was against this, but she firmly held onto the call of the Holy Spirit and pursued this vocation along with other women whose leader and example she became to the point that they referred to her as "alter Franciscus"—"another Francis."

When St. Clare's life became challenging or overwhelming, when she grew tired or even afraid, she ran into the arms of Christ in the Eucharist. In this way, she is a wonderful example to all of us as disciples of Jesus, Whenever the unique pathway of discipleship that God has set out in front of each us becomes rocky or ridden with holes, and we feel like we can go no further and might even like to give up, we can go to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and receive our strength. St. Clare, pray for us!

Action Item: Here is St. Clare's Prayer to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist:

Every weekend this month, get to Mass early or stay a while after Mass and pray it to our Lord Whose true and abiding presence is in the tabernacles of our churches.

Schedule: October is also the month of the Holy Rosary, so schedule a time for the members of the Parish Family to gather in church and pray the Holy Rosary in the presence of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

NOVEMBER – CYRIL AND METHODIOUS

Scripture: Mark 6:34-44

Reflection Prayer: St. Cyril and his brother St. Methodius were born in the early 9th century in what is today Greece within a devout Christian family. They both dedicated their lives to Christ within the Church living this out many different ways—including Cyril's being a professor in a University and Methodius becoming the abbot of a monastery—but they are best known for being "the Apostles to the Slavs." Called by the Holy Spirit and sent by the Church as missionaries to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the peoples of Eastern Europe, the brothers traveled to what was then called "Great Moravia" which included territories that are today part of Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Serbia. There they had great success in founding churches and training new clergy, preaching to the people, baptizing them and feeding them with the Body and Blood of the Lord. In order to translate the Scriptures—starting with the Gospels and the Psalms—and liturgical texts of the Church into the language of the Slavs, they even devised an alphabet. Although it has passed through some stages of development over the many years, is still used today in many languages.

The spiritual (and even cultural influence) of these brothers on so many of us within the Polish National Catholic Church cannot be overstated. It is as if Jesus saw so many people hungering for Him, and asked Cyril and Methodius to go and feed them on his behalf, and because they willingly and sacrificially did, the Slavic people have been encountering Christ in the proclamation of the Word and in receiving Him in the Most Holy Eucharist for over 1,150 years! St. Cyril and St. Methodius, pray for us!

Action Item: Follow the loving and courageous example of “the Apostles to the Slavs” and share your own faith with some else in this simple way: Invite them to come to Mass with you.

Schedule Mass and Event (Breakfast) for those who serve

Encourage Giving to those in need on Giving Tuesday

Schedule Drive of Collection to help homeless veterans in some way

Schedule Zoom video conference: Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

DECEMBER – THE EUCHARIST: THE HEART AND CENTER OF WHO WE ARE

Scripture: (Ezekiel 36:26-27) A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit in will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you and make you follow my statutes.

Reflection and Action Item:

As we were all beginning to once again open up our parish churches following the most difficult parts of the pandemic, I had the opportunity to distribute Holy Communion to a number of individuals who had not received our blessed Lord in Holy Communion for some time. I remember seeing the tears of joy in their eyes as they approached the altar to receive Jesus and how moved they were to be united, at that moment, with our Lord. These individuals were aware that up until that time they were missing something precious and holy within their lives.

It is so very easy for each of us to lose track of exactly what are the most important things in life. First and foremost of these things must be the worship of God in the Holy Eucharist and the reception of His Son in Holy Communion. When we do not participate in this central point in our lives or when we do not attend to it the way we should, we begin, in fact, to have “stony hearts.” God desires that we come to Him in worship and in love; He desires that we are united to Him in the reception of Holy Communion. He seeks to put within us “hearts of flesh,” hearts renewed under His continuing creative power and love.

In order to us to be true and faithful Catholics, true and faithful followers of Jesus Christ, our worship and participation at the Holy Eucharist is essential. It is our worship of the God Who created us, our union with the Lord Who loves us and gave Himself for us upon the Cross. It is the opportunity to join with others into the one body of Christ on earth to accomplish His work and build the kingdom of God. It is truly the heart and center of who we are and all that we are, as individuals and as parishes together. In fact, it is the heart and center of all creation.

Action Item – After the reception of Holy Communion at your parish church, pray the Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion from the PNCC Prayerbook and contemplate the great gift you have received as Christ comes to you in Holy Communion.

Schedule and conduct Advent Retreat/Penitential Service

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PARISH ENGAGEMENT– PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL

As we move towards a post-Covid world we need to encourage a return and renewal of our worship and building the Kingdom of God with the opportunities presented to us. While continuing to encourage vaccination, all parishes should return to all previous as well as additional discipleship activities/engagement. This should be done by the parish committee, other committees and groups of the parish following the Bishops Covid guidelines and CDC guidance. .

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

As we focus on the Holy Eucharist in 2022 make time for Eucharistic Adoration in the parish. Stress the importance of this time in prayer and reflection before the Most Blessed Sacrament. Pray the Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament either corporately or privately during this time.

INCREASE PARISH SPIRITUALITY

In addition to Eucharistic Adoration. Consider purchasing PNCC Prayer Books for the pews in your parish. Also provide daily prayers and reflections for different Liturgical Seasons of the Church Year.

For 10 minutes prior to the celebration of Holy Mass have a time when the pastor is unavailable for Church business and that no other things are being discussed but a focus on the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. This will continue to bring an enhanced spirituality and reverence for the Eucharist to our parishes. Encourage use of the introductory pages of the Mass booklet – *especially page 8* as well as prayers from our Prayer Book preparing for Holy Mass and Confession.

COMPLETE AT LEAST EIGHT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

It is important that parishes continue their outreach into the local community. This year we are to increase the project by another one and making it eight. These efforts will create a greater presence of the parish in the community. Even during this ongoing pandemic there are many opportunities and ways that we can live out our discipleship and put our faith into action bettering our local communities and thus our world.

SPECIAL MASSES (IN PERSON)

Again have at least two Special Masses and open them to the community. This would be in addition to our Sunday Mass. During Lent have a Mass for Healing and invite all those who are ill, hurting spiritually or emotionally to attend and spend time in prayer, to hear God's Word and receive Christ in the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Anointing. Use the Mass for Healing during Lent – this will be emailed to all clergy as a reminder at the beginning of Lent.

In the fall (November) have a Mass to Salute those who Serve - for your first responders/those in military service and Veterans. This Mass could be followed by a meal to honor those who serve/who have served. You could also have a Mass in time of tragedy when the need may arise in your community or our nation. These could be followed by a time of fellowship and food at the parish.

You could also schedule a Mass for those grieving at any time during the Church Liturgical Year.

Welcome the community to these Masses by promoting them in your local media and newspaper, as well as fliers and social media. Invite other local groups to join you for these Masses.

CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Begin or continue to post regular messages to your parish Facebook – Instagram pages and appropriate videos to your parish YouTube page. Ask your members to share them through their social media accounts as well to reach more people. Keep your websites current and user friendly. Take advantage of the opportunities that technology offers to promote our precious faith and how this faith is lived in the work and ministries of your parish.

ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION

VIDEO CONFERENCING, WINE AND CHEESE CLUB OR SOUP, SANDWICH AND SERMON

Continue to gather for adult education and formation in our Christian Catholic faith. Perhaps you could use the reflections from the monthly figures for 2022 above. This can be done via Zoom, Internet Conferencing, the Soup, Sandwich and Sermon Concept, Wine and Cheese Gatherings concept (based on the Pub Theology: Beer, Conversation and God), using a Book Club format or even via online.

DAYS OF SPIRITUAL RETREAT AND

Lent and one other (Advent) Pick a day during the seasons of Lent and one other time in 2021 to spend in retreat and prayer. This can be done on either a parish or seniorate level. Ideas for the Retreat include: Mass of the Day, special Lenten/Advent service of Penance, Scripture Readings/Reflections and Meditations, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament; For Lent: Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Lamentations, etc. This can be open and advertised to the local community either in person or virtually.

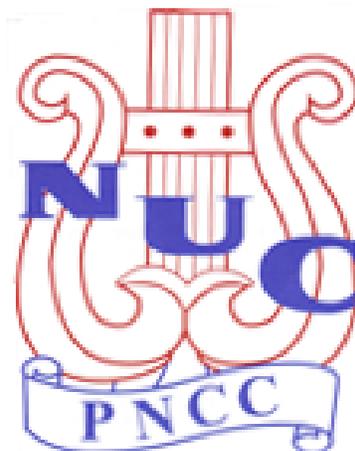
DAY OF CARING AND SERVICE

Pick a day to designate as a day of caring and service living out your discipleship as a parish family. After beginning with prayer there are many things you can do. Caring cards for those sick and in nursing care, put together something for the homeless (food or clothing), prayer blankets for those in need, treats for our health care workers or first responders. There are just a few things that could be done for those in your parish and local community to show your love of God by showing kindness and love to them.

The 5 Themes for the Future Direction of our Holy Church from the 24th PNCC General Synod and further expanded upon at the 25th PNCC General Synod

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>I. Growth and Membership</p> <p>III. Lifelong Learning</p> | <p>II. Increase Spirituality</p> <p>IV. Sacred Vocations</p> <p>V. Community Involvement</p> |
|---|---|





National United Choirs Music Scholarship Sunday

2021 continued to be a challenging year. As our parishes opened back up, many saw a return of their parish choirs. The NUC was even able to hold its Music Workshop in early August at Holy Cross Parish in Hamtramck, MI. With the newest Omicron variant of the Covid -19 Virus raging across the country our hope is for everyone to use common sense and take all necessary precautions to stay safe. How this will affect our music ministries will remain to be seen. We are moving forward with our planning for a successful year ahead.

Music Scholarship Sunday is January 30, 2022. Please consider donating to this worthy program. Since it began in the previous century, \$340,835.00 has been awarded to 1119 members of our P.N.C.C. Your donations have helped so many people improve their musical skills to the benefit of our beloved parishes. Our Church is blessed to have this scholarship program and to have so many past and present recipients still providing their talents for the Glory of God!

Donations can also be made on a year-round basis by sending your check to the NUC treasurer:

Rev. Mr. Jim Ploskonka
349 Justo Lane
Seven Hills, OH 44131

Just write in the memo line that the donation is for the scholarship fund.

Parish Treasurers: Please submit your parish donations to the scholarship fund to your diocesan treasurer by the end of your first quarter so they can be forwarded in a timely manner for use in the 2022 awards. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!

National United Choirs 2022 Music Scholarship Awards

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

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

Deadline for submission is May 1, 2022.

Pastors, Organists, and P.N.C.C. members: Please encourage those eligible in your parish to apply to this very rewarding program that has provided financial assistance to so many people in the P.N.C.C. over the past 55 years.

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

Submitted by Cathy A. Bilinski

Preserving the History of the P.N.C.C.

One way of preserving the history of your parish and the P.N.C.C. is by recording information from your parishioners and clergy of all ages. This can be done either aurally with a voice recorder or visually with a video recorder, or both. It is an exciting way to preserve the history of your parish and of the P.N.C.C. This is a program which can be used in both long-established parishes and new parishes. These histories will augment printed books and diaries.

The last time I published an article about an oral history program was in 2014. It can be a valuable way of getting a record of a parish and P.N.C.C. history. The program would also be a valuable way to implement a program of publicizing the P.N.C.C. by obtaining information from the newest parish members. Questions for these newest P.N.C.C. members that come to mind are: 1. What attracted you to the P.N.C.C.? 2. How did your friends view your joining the P.N.C.C.? 3. What did you do to start the parish? 4. How did you get information about the parish?

The United States Army's Heritage and Education Center at Carlisle has had an oral history program for World War 2 Veterans for many years. These supplement the written material that they have in their archives. Rutgers University, in conjunction with the New Jersey National Guard, also has had an oral history program for all Veterans. There is even a professional association for oral historians and others interested in oral history, Oral History Association (OHA). The P.N.C.C. Commission on History and Archives would like to have an active oral history program of recorded interviews with clergy and lay people of the P.N.C.C. so that the historical events of our parishes are not lost forever.

The interview process begins with a request to interview a person. Explain that the purpose of the interview is to obtain their impressions as a member of the P.N.C.C. and that these interviews are being done throughout the P.N.C.C. Before the interview, explain how the interview will be done and give the interviewee a copy of the sample questions. Ask the interviewee for a specific date, start time and duration and keep to the agreement.

The interview should be conducted with questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer. Don't ask more than one question at a time. Don't ask long questions. Do not interrupt a good story because you have thought of a question, or because your narrator is straying from the planned outline. Try to establish at important points in the interview where the narrator was or what his or her role was in the event. Don't be judgmental or dispute what you are being told. Start with noncontroversial questions; save the delicate ones, if there are any, until later in the interview. Don't let the interviewee tire, keep interviews between 45 minutes and two hours. Keep the interview informal, non-judgmental and non-confrontational. After a specific response, ask other leading questions. All questions should be open-ended (not able to be answered with a simple yes or no). You should be a facilitator. Don't interrupt the interviewee. Don't worry about chronological order or sequencing of topics.

What is needed to participate is an interviewer, a person to be interviewed, a recorder, either a digital recorder or a video camera with a microphone, a blank videotape, spare batteries for the recorder, a cloth to set the microphone on, an extension cord, or a cell phone, a question set to begin the discussion, and a release signed by the person interviewed which permits the use of the tapes by the P.N.C.C. Commission on History and Archives. Most types of electronic equipment have built-in microphones. However, if you have and can use a separate microphone, with an on/off record switch, you will have a better, noise free pickup, and easier control of the start and stop of recording. A cloth to rest a microphone on will reduce background noise. Be sure to have fresh batteries at start of interview. Have an extension cord with you at the start. Bring a note pad.

The interviewer should ensure that the equipment is ready for the interview; bring spare tapes and batteries (if electrical power is not available). Before beginning, check location of interview to reduce possible background noise sources (squeaking chairs, rustling paper, radio off, TV off, etc.). Locate the recorder in an unobtrusive place, out of sight during interview

(Continued on Page 20.)

(Preserving the History of the P.N.C.C.- Continued from Page 19.) (on floor, near interviewer, power cord out of the way from being kicked or pulled out of the recorder). Connect the recorder to wall outlet for electrical power (battery operation is a second choice; use fresh batteries at the start of interview, alkaline type batteries last longer). Locate microphone on a cloth to reduce noise pickup if the surface it is on is hard (ensure that pickup is satisfactory after placement of the microphone). Check quality of pickup before starting interview. Interviewer should state at the beginning of tape: his or her name, date of interview, name of interviewee and location of interview. If more than one tape is used, give tape number also (starting with tape 2). This can be done before meeting for the interview. Ask the interviewee for a brief biographical description (first tape only). Start the interview by asking a few general questions about the person's life history and background. Interviewer state at end of tape: this is the end of the interview with (name of interviewee and interviewer). Thank the interviewee for giving the interview.

After the Interview is over, complete a Data Sheet [Name of the interviewee, street address, City, State, Zip code, Date of Birth, Place of Birth, City, State, Country, Postal Code, Date of Interview, Place of Interview, City, State, Number of Tapes, Interview Status, either Completed or In Progress] and Release Forms and store these documents with the completed tape. Review all recordings to see if follow-up questions can be formulated for the next interview. If possible you should prepare notes (after the interview) describing what went on in the interview: your perception of the interviewee, your relationship to the interviewee, with comment as the effect your perception of and relationship to the interviewee could have affected the interview, a description of the physical location and circumstances of the interview, and your thoughts on additional topics or questions to explore in the next interview.

It is not difficult to do. The question set I provide further in this article has been prepared as a guide to help begin the thought process of the participants. This is by no means an exhaustive list. The intent of the questions are to obtain the impressions of events and activities that the participants in the oral history

program witnessed or participated in.

Here are some sample questions. Some of these questions are for the older parish member. Others can be used with new and longtime parish members. Some are for members of the clergy.

A. For all members of the Polish National Catholic Church.

- What were your thoughts before, during and after hearing Bp. Hodur speak for the first time?
- How did your parish get started?
- What were the reasons that caused your parish to become a part of the P.N.C.C.?
- Who were the people who started your parish?
- How has your view of the Polish National Catholic Church changed over the years?
- What controversial topics or ideas strengthened the Church?
- What controversial topics or ideas weakened the Church?
- What controversial topics or ideas strengthened your parish?
- What controversial topics or ideas weakened your parish?
- What do you remember about each of the General Synods that you went to?
- What do you remember about each of the Diocesan Synods that you went to?
- What difficulties did your parish have to overcome through the years?
- What did your relatives think about your parish?
- What did your friends think about your parish?
- What did your relatives think about the P.N.C.C.?
- What did your friends think about the P.N.C.C.?
- What clergyman, bishop, priest or deacon made an impact in your life?
- What person in the P.N.C.C. made an impact in your life?
- What do you remember about your parish in your early years?
- What were your first impressions of the clergy you met?
- What do you remember about special events in your parish (For example: ground breaking, picnics, ba-

zaars, new priests, a new building, First Holy Communion and Confirmation)?

- When did you join the parish?
- Were your parents members of the P.N.C.C.?
- How many members were there when you joined your parish?
- Have you been a member of the Parish Committee? If so, what offices did you hold?
- Have you been a member of one or more of the societies of the church, SAMBS, Y.M.S. of R., Maria Konopnicka Society, Children of Mary or others.
- Were you an altar boy or girl?
- Were you a member of the choir?
- Were you a reader (lector), a greeter or an usher in church?
- Where will you be buried?
- Did you work around the church, (maintenance, cleaning, cooking, or landscaping)?
- Did you serve in the armed forces? If so, what branch, when and in what capacity?
- When and where were you baptized, receive your first holy communion, and confirmation?
- Are you married? If so, where were you married?
- Do you have children?
- Have those children remained as members of the P.N.C.C.?
- What did you do for a living?

- If retired, what did you do afterwards?

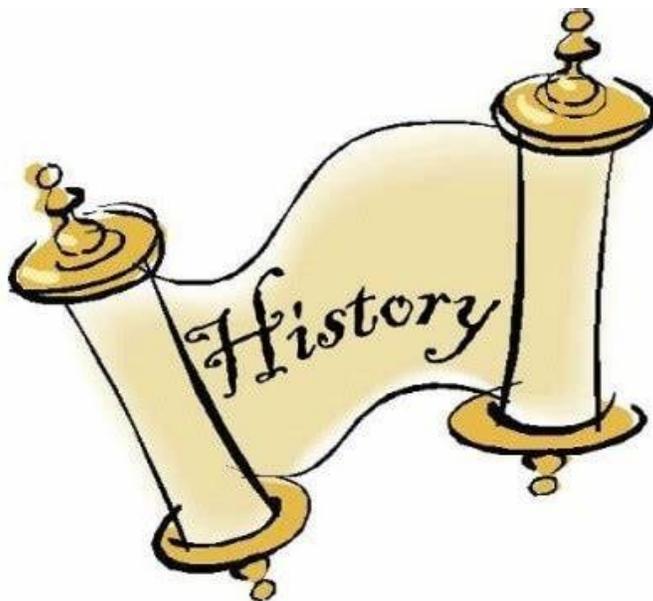
B. For Clergy of the Polish National Catholic Church.

- What event made you think of becoming a priest?
- What person made you think of becoming a priest?
- What were your thoughts of life as a seminarian?
- How did you feel in your first parish as pastor?
- What were the differences between the parish life of the different parishes that you served?
- What dioceses were your parishes in?

The release form is very simple; date of interview, printed names and signatures of the interviewer and the interviewee and any special restrictions set by interviewee. The release form text is “I hereby give to the P.N.C.C. Commission on History and Archives for whatever scholarly purpose may be determined, the tape recordings, transcriptions and contents of this oral history interview.”

I hope that you can get an Oral History program underway in your parish. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Joseph Francis Seliga,
Chair, P.N.C.C. Commission on History and Archives
seliga1@optonline.net



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 we receive your full payment.

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

*The Polish National Catholic Church – L R C
Attn: Secretary to Prime Bishop
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109*

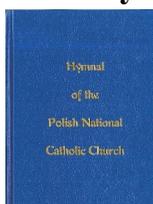
Your paid order will be shipped as soon as we receive your payment.



Please detach, complete and return this order form with your remittance.

2022 ORDO Order Form			
Clergy/Parish Name and Shipping Address:			
Description of Item	# of copies	Cost per Item	Subtotal
2022 Liturgical Reference Calendar (Ordo); \$12.75 pickup; \$16.00 w/U.S. Shipping; \$12.75 PLUS SHIPPING TO CANADA			
2022 ORDO			Total Remitted
TOTAL DUE			
Please make check (in U.S. Dollars) payable to: Polish National Catholic Church – LRC			
Thank you for your payment.			

P.N.C.C. Hymnal



Hard Cover \$25.00/each + \$5.00/each Shipping; Spiral Bound: \$30.00/each + \$5.00/each Shipping

Send check or money order in USD,
payable to **National United Choirs**, to:

**P. Kazinetz
736 Beechwood Drive
Olyphant, PA 18447**

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.

Thank you for your continued support of this Church-wide endeavor. If you pick up your order at the National Church Center, there will be no shipping charge.

(Detach here, complete and send in order slip with your payment.)

Only paid calendar orders will be shipped.

If you have a sponsor paying for your calendars, please inform them that they must pay for the cost of the calendars prior to them being shipped out.

We will send invoices only for extra cost of shipping)

(You will be invoiced for shipping costs if they must be calculated at the time of packing.)

2022 P.N.C.C. Calendar Order Form

<u>Shipping Information</u>	<u># of Calendars</u>	<u>Cost of Calendars</u>	<u>Ad Fee</u> (if applicable)	<u>Shipping Cost</u> (if calculable)*	<u>Total Enclosed</u>
Name					
Address					
City, State Zip Code					

***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.

Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

Holy Family Parish in 2021

McKeesport, PA

The pandemic threw a monkey's wrench into the activities of Holy Family Parish, as it did everywhere. But fortunately, the parish has returned to normal activities, but on a lesser scale than normal.

The year 2021 marked the 100th Anniversary of the organization of Holy Family Parish in McKeesport, PA. Although a grand celebration was planned, the realization of participation would be smaller than we had hoped for, due to pandemic concerns. It was decided that the 100th Anniversary would be a parish affair only with the celebration of Holy Mass on the Solemnity of the Christian Family followed by the opening of the Time Capsule buried in front of the church, followed by a small coffee and cake reception.

Unfortunately, we were disappointed when we opened the capsule and found it was destroyed by water damage. We were able to recover a few items, but much was lost.

A new water and airtight capsule was buried on The Solemnity of the Humble Shepherd, which is to be opened in 2071. Buried was a personal letter to the future congregation providing parish statistics, history and the names of the priests who served Holy Family Parish in the first 100 years. Also included were published booklets, anniversary programs, over 2000 pictures on flash drives, greetings from parishioners and requiem prayer requests to be prayed upon opening since most of us will not be alive. Many personal articles were also included. We thank the Jaycox-Jaworski and Willig Funeral Homes for helping to find a secured capsule and for the new plaque placed over the burial site



In 2021 we were able to honor our 2020 and 2021 High School and College Graduates with a special Baccalaureate Mass. During the 2021 year, 4 children were baptized.

Congratulations Graduates

This year we will be acknowledging the graduates of our parish for both the 2020 and 2021 graduating classes.:

Class of 2020

Fred Angel Jr. Geneva College with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and Bachelor of Science in chemistry.
Jenna Rouzzi McKeesport Area High School
Jacob Ghetian Elizabeth Forward High School
Stanley Szatkowski Gateway High School

Class of 2021

Abbey Foster University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
Matthew Nemeec California University of PA Bachelor of Science in Business Management
Jack Foster Avonworth High School
Benjamin Jackson Norwin High School
Jack Lazar Thomas Jefferson High School



Jacob Ghetian, Jack Foster and Jack Lazar will also be presented with an Acolyte Service Cross and be inducted into the Holy Family Parish Sacristan order for their years of service at the altar..

The Graduates



Emily Ann Davidson Baptism



Elias Nelson & Easton James Canova Baptism



Brynlee Adora Baldelli Baptism

We also celebrated the marriage of Angela Jobses and Michael Mayfield (pictured, left) in 2021.



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(Holy Family Parish in 2021 - Continued from Page 25.)

Since our local charities do not accept used clothing, the Y.M.S. of R. men responded to the National Y.M.S. of R. call by working in conjunction with local WTAE TV station by collecting for their annual Project Bundle Up. Although the pictured check reads \$3,250.00, we actually collected \$3,500.00 which was presented at the Project Bundle Up telethon. During the telethon, WTAE presented a program piece on Holy Family Parish to local viewers.



Holy Family Parish also collected gifts for children during Advent.

Along with the Marine Corp's Toys for Tots Program and The Center for Victims in McKeesport, PA, we were able to make Christmas a more joyous event for many children this year.



After a two year absence, the Holy Family Parish Society of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament held a Wigilia Luncheon. In past years, the parish Wigilia was open to the public, but this past year it was decided to keep this luncheon on a parish scale. The women were very happy with the turn-out and are looking forward to next year.



The parish elected our 2022 Parish Council during the November Annual Meeting. The 2022 Holy Family Parish Council are the following: Chair, Ted Gibala; Vice Chair, Donald Newcamp; Recording Secretary, Janis Gibala; Financial Secretary, Terry Kleckner; Treasurer, Sharon Kish; Directors: Carol Burlikowski, Leonard Guy, Dr. Edward Goralczyk, David Kost, Helen Mulac, and Brian Stahurski; Alternates: Janice Griffiths, Frank Pociask; Auditors: Patricia Bagshaw; absent from photo were Kathy Guy, Marian Sleczkowski; Tribunal: Janet Korch, Rosalie Clark and Bonita Zaucha



Submitted by Rev.
Bruce Sleczkowski

Central Diocese

Holy Mother of Sorrows December Activities and Events

Dupont, PA

From October 10th through November 28th, Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish members collected items for the annual Y.M.S. of R.-sponsored Winter Clothing Drive. Once the drive concluded, parishioners gathered on December 2nd to organize, pack and deliver the clothing to the Keystone Mission in Scranton, PA. Many thanks to everyone who donated items and to those volunteers who worked on this very important project for the local community.



In conjunction with the Feast of Saint Nicholas, which is observed on December 6, Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish held a free breakfast with St Nicholas for all parishioners. All children received gifts. We thank everyone who prepared the hall, food and cleaned up afterward.

Saint Nicholas is known for his generous giving. He sold all that he owned, giving the money to the poor. He dedicated his entire life serving and caring for the sick and suffering. He is known for his many miracles and love and compassion for the poor and children.



(Continued on Page 28.)

(Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Activities and Events - Continued from Page 27.)



Children of the Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA, portrayed a Living Nativity scene on Christmas Eve, before the 4:00 pm Mass. The following participated: Mia Piccolino, Maci Piccolino, Hannah Yuschovitz, Ben Yuschovitz, Layla Marks, Gino Marks, Grace Morgan, George Morgan, Merrit Nash, Myles Nash, Alex Orluk, Karissa Kazinetz and Stella Hawk. Debbie Bilinski and Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid prepared the program.



Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Eastern Diocese

Blessed Trinity Parish December Events
Fall River, MA

The Blessed Trinity Parish Youth Group Spaghetti Supper was held on the evening of December 4th. A wonderful time was had, as great food and fellowship was enjoyed by all. The Advent Penitential Service followed, during which a prayer blanket was blessed so that it could be given to a parishioner in need of healing.



On Sunday, December 12th (Gaudete Sunday), the youth of Blessed Trinity Parish presented the Living Nativity after Holy Mass. The parish wrapped up its annual Christmas Toy Drive on this date, as well. Many thanks to the youth for the beautiful pageant, and to everyone who donated to the toy drive.



It was a busy Monday, December 13th at Blessed Trinity Parish. The Fall River Police Department helped to pack up the Christmas Toys and filling the FRPD Emergency Services vehicle. Over 150 prayer blankets were also bundled for the Toy Frive distribution. Thanks to all for supporting and working on these very special community events.



On December 16th the parish held a Christmas Toy Drive 2021 Wrapping and Pizza Night. Thanks to everyone who helped to wrap over 50 bags with hundreds of toys for children in need in the local city this Christmas.



(Continued on Page 30.)

(Blessed Trinity Parish December Events - Continued from Page 29.)

December 18th was a beautiful day at Blessed Trinity Parish as the Parish Hall served as the wrapping and distribution center for the Fall River Police Toy Drive, with support from the Fall River Firefighters. Many thanks to everyone who helped to wrap several thousand toys for children in need across the city of Fall River, MA. The kids enjoyed wrapping toys and enjoyed their ride along in the FRPD Emergency Services Truck and Fire Trucks. The spirit of Christmas and giving was in the air today in Fall River. Words cannot do justice to what was done today and the love and hope given to others.

There was an early morning drop-off of items on December 20th for the Blessed Trinity Advent-Christmas food drive to Citizens for Citizens. These were gifts for our Lord as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Thanks to everyone who donated to this effort. Discipleship continues



December 22nd was an amazing day as The Fall River Veterans' Kitchen held their Christmas Veterans Luncheon at Blessed Trinity Parish Hall. During the luncheon, the Veterans Kitchen was presented with an \$11,000 gift from the Massachusetts Polish American Veterans and a \$1,000 gift from Home Depot to support the ongoing efforts of the organization. A wonderful time to share the Joy, Love and Hope of Christmas together.



Western Diocese

St. Mary's Parish Y.M.S. of R. Collects Clothes Parma, OH

Branch #29 of the Y.M.S. of R. of St. Mary's Parish in Parma, OH, took part in the National Y.M.S. of R. clothing drive. This is an annual event that involves all branches of the Polish National Catholic Church's Y.M.S. of R. to publicize a clothing drive and distribute the collected items to a local charitable organization. Branches are then encouraged to tally up what they collected and submit the numbers to the National Y.M.S. of R. in order for them to keep a running tally. Branches are actually awarded by how much they collect with a bit of a "kick-back" from the National Y.M.S. of R. in order to further the progress of their respective branches.

Thanks to all who donated and to the devoted men who spent a morning collating, counting, collecting,



and bagging the clothing. God bless you all! The items were locally donated to the "Rise in Love Center of Cleveland," a local organization designed to simply help those in need.

St. Mary's Parish PTO Christmas Party Parma, OH

The PTO of St. Mary's Parish, Parma, OH, held its Christmas Party on Sunday, December 19th. After Sunday worship that included a Penitential Service, everyone gathered to enjoy each other's company, as

well as enjoy tasting various foods beyond the usual coffee hour fare. St. Nick himself arrived afterward, with his arms full of gifts and candy for the parish children.



