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He Saw and Believed

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

After our time in proceeding through the season of Lent seeking to unburden ourselves of sin and growing closer to the Passion, Suffering and Death of our Lord, we now come to the joyous celebration of the Resurrection, Jesus rising from the dead and rising to life again. In our Gospel on Easter morning we hear the recounting of Mary Magdalene and the Apostles encountering the first aspect of the rising of Jesus, the empty tomb.

“Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away, so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple and told them, ‘The Lord has been taken from the tomb! We don’t know where they have put Him!’ At that Peter and the other disciple started out on their way toward the tomb. They were running side by side, but then the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He did not enter but bent down to peer in, and saw the wrappings lying on the ground. Presently, Simon Peter came along behind him and entered the tomb. He observed the wrappings on the ground and saw the piece of cloth which had covered the head not lying with the wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed.” (John 20:1-8)

Although found among different people within the Gospel, we see a progression in the encounters of Mary Magdalene and the Apostles. Mary comes to the tomb, sees the stone moved and concludes a rational answer, that the body has been stolen. She

goes to tell the Apostles, concerned that something has happened. Peter and John then run to the tomb. John sees the wrappings and immediately does not make any conclusion. Peter comes and enters the tomb to investigate. Even with investigation, no conclusion is made by him. It is when John enters the tomb and takes some time in reflection that a conclusion is made, “He saw and believed.”

This is not the conclusion of a rational decision, but rather it is the conclusion of faith and trust. John had heard the teachings of Jesus throughout His entire ministry. He had seen the miracles of our Lord throughout His ministry. He stood at the foot of the cross reflecting on the predictions that Jesus gave regarding the sort of death He had to bear. In the short time since the crucifixion, John may also have reflected on our Lord saying that after three days He would rise.

It was with this background and with this faith that John approached the tomb, so when he saw the wrappings and the cloth which covered the head, he could say with faith and trust that Jesus had been raised. He said this with the faith and trust that he had gained walking with Jesus in his daily life.

In the many weeks that are to come in the Easter season we will encounter the appearances of the risen Jesus to the disciples. He will come to them in the Upper Room on the evening of the resurrection and again the following week to encounter Thomas. He will meet them near the Sea of Galilee. And during

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Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:

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the weekday readings at Holy Mass in the times after Easter we will encounter each and every appearance of the risen Christ. But we must remember that it all begins in the faith and trust of John at the empty tomb.

So as we now reflect on the journey that each one of us is on as well we find ourselves in a similar position. We too have walked with Jesus hearing His teachings, through the celebration of Holy Mass, through the catechetical teachings we have received, through the living examples of the faithful Christians around us. We have encountered the miracles and blessings of our Lord as well. Again we have encountered them at Holy Mass and within homilies, but even further in our very lives as God's blessings have been showered upon us in the possibility to receive Jesus present in the Eucharist and to accomplish His work together within the body of Christ.

Just as John had sat close to Jesus during the celebration of the Last Supper, we too have had the opportunity to be ever close to Jesus during the celebration of Holy Mass especially as we have received His presence in the Holy Eucharist. So we see within our religious journey we have walked in the same way of John the Apostle, so then we must come to the moment of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning with exactly the same faith and trust: we must see and believe.

On Easter morning at Holy Mass within our parish churches, we have a representation of the empty tomb where there will be wrappings. But we also see, with the eyes of our heart, the wrappings of sin and selfishness that Jesus has wiped away from our lives as well. The cloth which covered the head of Jesus is cast aside as well. Within our lives the covering which blinds us by our seeking to put our trust in any place other than Jesus, is also removed. It is He alone upon Whom we can count. He is the author of life; He is the One Who accomplished our salvation.

During the joyous Easter season that will unfold for us over the next many weeks, as we encounter again and again the Risen Jesus, let us realize that our relationship with that Risen Christ will continue to deepen and strengthen as we continue to be Eucharistic

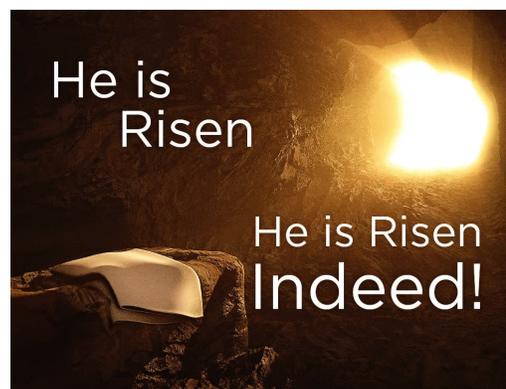
people who worship Him during Holy Mass. We will experience His presence within our lives as did the Apostles following the Resurrection. And if we fully embrace this presence of our Lord, we will be changed by it. We will become configured to Christ.

The Apostles changed drastically with the encounter of the Risen Christ. Before then they were afraid for their own lives, but afterward then lived only for Jesus, His way and His work in the world. As Eucharistic people, this too can be our experience if we put that same faith and trust in Jesus. When we receive Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist, when we hear His teachings and experience His presence, we will live our lives less for ourselves and more for Jesus and for others. Like St. John we will "see and believe."

But this "belief" will go much further than a mere assent of the mind, it is a belief which penetrates every aspect of our lives. It is not just for the moments of worship on a Sunday, but every moment of our lives become eucharistic, where thanks is given to God in our service to Him and to others, given in our love, given in our commitment to Christ's way in the world. We become Resurrection people who show forth in our thoughts, words and deeds the love and the life of Jesus.

To my brother Bishops, to the Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, the Deacons and all of the faithful of our Polish National Catholic Church, as well as to the Bishops, clergy and members of the Union of Scranton, I extend my blessings and pray that the Risen Jesus will bless you all profoundly. May the power of His Resurrection show forth in your lives of love and service to Christ and His Church.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!



Future Direction April Message

The Last Supper - Do This In Remembrance of Me

During April as we celebrate the Paschal Triduum – the heart of our Christian Faith with our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. Let us take some time to reflection on the amazing example our Lord gave us at the Last Supper by serving our Lord and showing our love for Him in the way we serve others.

Here is the link to watch a message by Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gutvQ4xWGeo>

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 in 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 act 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.

From: “*God’s Field*” No. 25, November 26th, 1938

**The Word of the Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church,
Francis Hodur, Bishop of the Central Diocese of the Church, to the Brothers in the Priesthood,
about the Friday Devotion called *The Devotion of God’s Love***

In the P.N.C.C. until 1923, devotions during the week were celebrated only on the first Friday of the month. In 1923, the first National Church in Cracow, Poland was established in the homeland – Poland – and in America, numerous parishes were created in the Western, Eastern and Central part of the United States. The clergy decided to celebrate devotions every first Friday of the month to document the growth of the Church and as a kind of new era in the development of the National Church.

The Devotion of God’s Love – as the name suggests – was supposed to gather the followers of the National Church to altars of the living God and to deepen and spread the teaching about love of God and neighbor, this most important principle of the Christian religion.

This devotion, where it was conducted and celebrated regularly according to the rules established in 1923, has brought blessed fruits to the faithful and to pastors as well.

It brought blessed results to the faithful because the teachings about the love of God, about the life of Jesus Christ, about His dedication to humanity, teaching about the Church, about sacraments and cardinal virtues of Christianity significantly deepened the knowledge of religion, its influence on the human soul and created a group of good people in the parish, ready to sincerely cooperate with the priest to strengthen the idea of the National Church.

The Devotion of God’s Love became an excellent opportunity for a priest to speak to willing souls and model them on the image of Jesus Christ. The priest has an opportunity to gather the people in his church for 52 Fridays a year, to teach them, to encourage them, to ignite their hearts with a special love for the Savior of the World and His Holy Mother, he has the opportunity to instruct young people and children and to lead them along the paths indicated by the Divine Master to perfection and a better life.

The undersigned presented this matter at the last two Synods – that is – the General Synod in Buffalo, NY of 1931 and the Special Synod of Chicago, IL in 1935, and after hearing reasons why the Society of God’s Love should exist in every parish of the P.N.C.C. and pastors should celebrate devotions of this name, bishops, priests and lay delegates gathered there decided unanimously that priests of the P.N.C.C. in Poland and in America will strive to organize the society of God’s Love in each parish and inform the Founder of this society – the Prime Bishop of the P.N.C.C. about it.

The Society of God’s Love has been established in many parishes since then, but not in all of them; priests celebrate the Devotion of God’s Love every Friday in many parishes; in some of them on the first Friday of the month only; in others – the Polish people belonging to the National Church don’t know anything about the Society of God’s Love or the Friday Devotion.

I turn to the Reverend Fathers, especially of the Central Diocese, for this reason, so that they would fulfill orders and decisions of these two Synods.

We are rightly proud of the fact that our P.N.C.C. is a synodal religious association that the priests and lay people gathered at the Synods act under the influence of the Holy Spirit and constitute important laws as did bishops of the first centuries of the Church at the councils of Nicaea, Constantinople, Ephesus and Chalcedon, and if so, then we should respect these holy laws and orders of the last two Synods of the P.N.C.C..

Let the whole world know that both the people and priests of the National Church understand perfectly that the future of this Church depends on their attitude to the laws of the Church and on execution of these laws. I presented this matter to the Reverend Brothers in the Priesthood to discuss it at the last meeting of the First Clergy Circle in Scranton, PA, and I urged those present there to help me carry out the resolutions of the Buffalo and Chicago Synods.

(Continued on Page 6.)

(The Word of the Prime Bishop of the P.N.C.C. - Continued from Page 5.)

I would like to add to the above remarks and recommend to the Brothers in the Priesthood that they will discuss and explain – during Friday Devotions at the end of this year, and next year of 1939 – the following topics:

Ten Commandments of God.

The Eleven Great Principles of the P.N.C.C.

Eight blessings.

Four cardinal, or essential virtues: prudence, justice, temperance and courage.

I sincerely hope that my words will not be ignored and that in a short time I will learn from the reports that in each parish of the P.N.C.C. in America and in Poland, the Society of God's Love is blooming, and every Friday, the devotion in honor of the Living God and Jesus Christ, our Lord is celebrated.

I also pay attention to the Brothers in the Priesthood and the lay people, who are interested in the Society of God's Love that its principles were repeated in *The God's Field* issued 22 on October 15, 1938.

Sincerely I remain in God,

Bishop Francis Hodur.

Translated and submitted by Rev. Robert Plichta

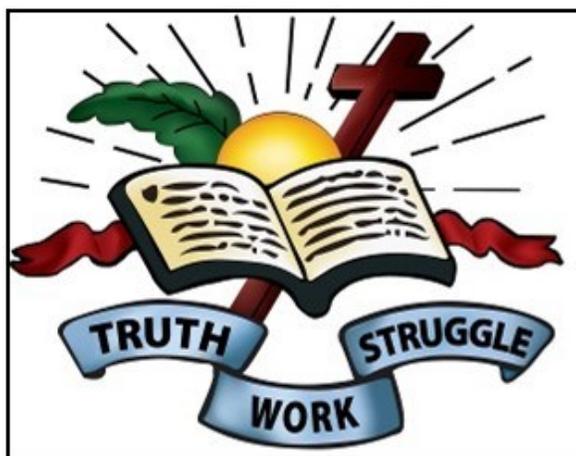
Amendments to the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church

The Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church states in Article XXIII: A proposal to amend the Constitution and Laws of this Church must be submitted in writing to the Constitution Commission at least six (6) months prior to the start of the General Synod, and shall be distributed to each Parish of this Church, together with the action taken thereon by the Commission, at least sixty (60) days prior to the start of the General Synod.

As the XXVI General Synod is slated to be held on October 19-21, 2022 within the Central Diocese, the six (6) month deadline for proposed amendments to the Constitution is April 19, 2022. Any proposal for amendment must be received within the Office of the Prime Bishop on or before that day.

Nomination of Candidates for Bishop

At this upcoming XXVI General Synod an election of Candidates for Bishop will be held. Nominations are now being accepted by the Office of the Prime Bishop, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505. A Nomination Commission will be chosen in the future to evaluate the nominees in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the P.N.C.C. and the guideline accepted by the Supreme Council.





Annual Easter Greetings



He is risen!
Death could not hold Him!
Supreme Council of the P.N.C.C.

We wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Blessed Easter!
Prime Bishop Emeritus Robert and Florence Nemkovich
Cape Coral, Florida

Happy Easter!
Michael R. & Mary A. Gorgol Mietlicki
Scotch Plains, NJ

Clergy Circle of the Western Diocese
Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski (Chair)
Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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

United Yong Men's Society of Resurrection
"Blesses is the one who trusts in the Lord,
Whose confidence is in Him." Jeremiah 17:7

The Adoration Society of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish,
Dupont, PA—Carol Bondurich, President
We wish you a Blessed Easter!

Wesołego Alleluja!
All Saints Cathedral Parish, Chicago, IL
Rt. Rev. Jarosław "Jerry" Rafalko, Pastor

Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish, Latham, NY
Rev. Mark A. Gnidzinski, Pastor
Wesołego Alleluja!

Joyous Easter Greetings!
Divine Providence P.N.C.C.—Norwich, CT
Rev. Krzysztof Rogalski, Pastor

Guardian Angel Parish, Los Angeles, CA
Fr. Andrew Machowski
Christ is Risen! Radośnych Świąt!

Glory to the Risen Lord!
Holy Cross Parish—Hamtramck, MI
Very Rev. Jarosław Nowak

Holy Cross P.N.C.C.—Syracuse, NY
Very Rev. Marian Pocięcha
Alleluia! He is Risen!

Holy Cross Parish, Ware, MA
Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas
Radosnego Alleluia! Zdrowych Świąt!

Holy Family Parish
1921 Eden Park Blvd., McKeesport, PA 15132
Alleluia! Christ has Risen!

Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral
Lancaster, NY
Christ is Resen—Let us Rejoice, Alleluia!

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA
Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid
He is Risen! Hoping your Easter is happy and blessed!

Holy Trinity Cathedral—Manchester, NH
Bishop Paul Sobiechowski
A Blessed Easter to everyone!

Wishing everyone a Blessed Easter Season!
Very Rev. Joseph Krusinski and parishioners
Holy Trinity P.N.C.C.—Plantsville, CT

Our Savior Chapel, Tripp Park, Scranton, PA
The Right Rev. Bernard J. Nowicki, Pastor
Alleluia—Christ is risen!

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

Resurrection Parish, Temperance, MI
Christ is risen!
Rejoice and be glad!

St. Casimir's P.N.C.C.—Lowell, MA
Rev. Andrzej Tenus, Pastor
Easter blessings to all!

St. John the Baptist P.N.C.C., Frackville, PA
Rev. Robert Plichta, Pastor
May there be peace on earth and have a blessed Easter!

Easter Greetings from the staff of *God's Field*.

Controller: Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky

Editor: Julie Orzell





Annual Easter Greetings



Wishing all our faithful friends a blessed
and grace filled Easter season
From your friends at St. Joseph's Parish in Stratford, CT

St. Mary Parish—South Bend, IN
www.stmarypnc.org
Wishing all a Blessed Easter Season!

St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN
Pastor-Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr.
Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!
Cathedral Parish of St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr
Scranton, PA

St. Stephen the Martyr Parish
Very Rev. Donald E. Wunderlich, Pastor
Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

St. Valentine Parish, Northampton, MA
Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
Życzenia Radosnych Świąt Wielkanocnych!

Radosnych Świąt !
Polish National Union of America
Board of Directors and Staff

Polish National Union of America
District 1 — Northeast PA
May you have a blessed Easter!

Polish National Union District Six
Christine Wachna, District Director;
Officers and Members — Happy Easter!

Happy Easter!
Spójnia Credit Union
Board of Directors and Staff



"Cast a Net" Contest

**Help your Parish by
Becoming fishers of members**

Here's the bait:

5 members & \$25,000 or more of insurance earns \$500
10 members & \$50,000 or more of insurance earns \$1000
15 members & \$75,000 or more of insurance earns \$1500
20 members & \$100,000 or more of insurance earns \$2,022

Contest runs from January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022

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20 Year Endowment policies over \$15,000 earn double member count
Annuity Policies over \$25,000 earn triple member count

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The Home Office of the PNU at (1-800-724-6352)

For more details



Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

Resurrection – Fact or Fallacy?

Rt. Rev. John Mack, Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

Somewhat of an odd title one might think for an article written for a church publication. Perhaps not so odd if we realize that we live in a world that questions almost everything today, and rightly so, some might add. Get the facts from a reliable source before you dive in with both feet. Don't believe everything you read in the newspaper. Some cynics today would say: don't believe anything you read in the newspaper or on the evening news for that matter. Yet, what can we believe? What can we trust in during this oftentimes confusing and chaotic process we call our lives? What can we cling to in order to anchor our lives?

Tantamount to the faith of all Christians is the belief in the resurrection of our Lord. Not only His resurrection, but the possibility of our own resurrection both of soul and body when Jesus comes a second time to claim His kingdom. Scoffers and disbelievers contend that we Christians are simply duped by a fictional story of a man that lived over two thousand years ago. They would say that Jesus was a good man, healed some people, fed the hungry and then died. That's it, in their opinion. They may even point to His own disciples, who at times were not models of faith and belief. They may point their finger at Thomas and quote his words: "Unless I see the nail marks in His hands, and put my finger where the nails were, I will not believe." The rationalists of the 21st century would say: "It isn't plausible – It didn't happen." But what if it did happen? A week later, Thomas was with the other disciples and we know of the poignant words of Jesus. "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas' eyes were then opened to the Resurrected Lord and he exclaimed: "My Lord and my God!" Still others would say that the words of Scripture prove nothing. It was just self-hypnosis; wishful thinking by the apostles. We can counter their argument by pointing to these facts.

The body was missing. If the Jews could have found it, they could have silenced the preaching concerning Jesus' resurrection that filled Jerusalem. Yet they could not produce a dead corpse. **The body was stolen.** The Romans had no motive. The Jews had no motive. What about the apostles; maybe they stole the body. What about the sentries, the Roman guards that were posted at the entrance to the tomb for the explicit purpose of not allowing anyone to disturb Jesus' grave? Add this to the fact that the apostles themselves initially did not believe the news that the women excitedly shared with them early on that Easter morning. **The risk of testimony.** If the disciples had stolen the body, you wouldn't expect them to risk their lives to spread the news. People are not willing to go to their deaths for what they know is not true. But the disciples put their very lives on the line, and nearly all of them were eventually martyred for the faith. They certainly believed in the Resurrection of Christ. **The church grew exponentially in Jerusalem.** In the very city where Jesus was crucified, the number of followers of Jesus grew from a few dozen into thousands upon thousands soon after Jesus' resurrection. They believed that it was true. **Contemporary documents from antiquity.** Thallus the Samaritan, Tacitus and Pliny all contain references to Jesus in their writings. Jewish historian Josephus writes about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. They knew that something important had happened and thus they recorded it for future generations.

When we consider the facts, we come to the realization that Jesus' resurrection from the dead is actually more plausible than any other explanation. Ultimately we must personally ascent to belief in the bodily Resurrection of Jesus. We must be the modern-day apostle named Thomas who exclaimed: "My Lord and My God." How do we accomplish this? Simply by our calling to be the presence of Christ in the world today; We are to be "Easter People," filled with faith and joy and love for all His creation. How we accomplish this is left up to us. Everyone has individual gifts and talents and abilities to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to spread the "Easter Story." It is by our witness and testimony that thousands more may share the light and love of Jesus. Those walking in darkness can see the fullness of light and life that Jesus brings. I return to the original question I posed at the onset. Resurrection: Fact or Fallacy? The traditional greeting that we share amongst one another during the season of His Resurrection is the answer. "Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed." May your life always bear witness to this truth!

Wesolego Alleluja! Easter Blessings to One and All!



Central Diocese

Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen, Indeed!

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

When we greet each other at Easter we usually offer the default common greeting of “Happy Easter.” As a greeting, doesn’t it seem a little mundane, something akin to “Have a nice day?” It so easily trips off our lips, doesn’t it? Well thank God for the Polish and generally Eastern European and Orthodox Easter greeting that’s equal to so wondrous a Solemnity of our Faith as the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I’m referring to the well-known Easter greeting of “*Chrystus zmartwychwstal!*” “Christ is risen!” Then the recipient of that greeting responds assertively and with joy in his heart, “*Prawdziwie zmartwychwstal!*” “He is risen, indeed!” It’s obvious this Eastern European greeting is no simple desire for the recipient of it to go out and have a good time: Have a nice day! Happy Easter!

Rather, this greeting is a full-throated proclamation drawing the greeter and the recipient into the very center of the mystery of our faith in Christ risen from the dead for our salvation. In your greeting to me on Easter Sunday of “Christ is risen!” and in my response to you of “He is risen, indeed!” we are, in that moment, the Church alive, proclaiming and giving exultant witness to our common faith in the risen Lord. The simplistic phrase, “Happy Easter,” falls woefully short of accomplishing anything like that.

Maybe, just maybe, this Slavonic Easter greeting isn’t used regularly among us because it obliges a very public witness of our faith, indicating vividly the content of what both of us truly believe. When others observe us greeting each other in this way, we might feel self-conscious. What if those who hear us make this exchange expect to see the essence of that greeting reflected in our lives? Indeed, when you extend this greeting to me, it elicits from me a response that publicly reveals us sharing that faith, and uniting us in a specific style of living our lives.

Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen, Indeed!

From this Easter forward, then, as Polish National Catholics, I enjoin you to witness enthusiastically to your living the Catholic faith by proclaiming our traditional Resurrection greeting. As Polish National Catholics, we just don’t hope everyone’s Easter is happy. Instead, we profess the reality of Jesus, God’s Christ, risen from the dead, in whom we place our faith and hope; and this faith moves you to proclaim to me that “**Christ Is Risen!**” I, in response, am moved to gladly and gratefully respond to you, “**He Is Risen, indeed!**”

May you all experience a glorious, blessed and uplifting celebration of our Lord’s resurrection this coming Easter Day, along with its blessed afterglow throughout the entire Easter season.



Scranton Seniorate Lenten Retreat

Dupont, PA

The Scranton Seniorate Lenten Retreat was held at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA on Saturday, March 19, 2022. Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid welcomed all attendees and introduced the theme of the retreat. Fr. Janusz Lucarz led the morning prayers. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky had the opening presentation “Being Eucharist People.” A second presentation was given by Bishop Bernard Nowicki, “Do this in remembrance of Me”.

Following the presentations, all enjoyed lunch and fellowship in the Parish Hall. A delicious lunch was prepared by Carol Bondurich and David M Petrosky. After returning to the church the sacrament of penance was administered by Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid. Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament was conducted by Fr. Carmen Bolock. The Litany of the Blessed Sacrament was read by Fr. Walter Placek, concluding the retreat.

We thank our organist, Jan Cwikla. In attendance were parishioners from Dupont, Scranton, North Scranton, Dickson City and Duryea.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Administrative Senior of the Scranton Seniorate



Eastern Diocese

Where Are You Looking for Jesus?

Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese

In Luke's rendition of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter, we find the words spoken by one of the two angels that were stationed at the tomb. The angel said, "... *'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.'* Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest." (Luke 24: 4 – 9)

"Why do you look for the living among the dead?" is a question filled with meaning. The obvious answer is that Jesus is alive and the tomb is a place for the dead. But there's more going on.

Luke 24:4 is asking, "Where do we look for Jesus?" During this year, the PNCC is asking: "Are you a Eucharistic person?" Our answers to both questions require that we believe in the living Jesus Christ Whom we receive in the Holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ, consecrated at Holy Mass.

Belief in this is not enough. We must live the truth of this belief. We must live our lives knowing we live in Jesus' presence at all times. Belief does not mean simply acknowledging a teaching. Believing is living the reality of God in us and we in God. Jesus told His disciples, "I am with you always." We find Jesus in the eternal present. God said that His Name is "I AM."

The disciples on the road to Emmaus recognize Jesus in the breaking of bread. Peter, John and five of the Apostles recognize Jesus in the miraculous catch of fish, The apostle Paul sees the living Christ on the Damascus Road.

Jesus appears to Thomas in the upper room, telling him, "Do not doubt but believe." (John 20:27). Jesus continues to Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." (John 20:29).

Christians are a people who live with Jesus in the present. For Christians, what matters is not what happened in the past. Rather they concentrate on what is happening in the present. Christians find Jesus in the present. Our Lord told a would-be-follower, "Let the dead bury their own, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:60).

Therefore, let us be a Eucharistic People. Let us be alive in Jesus, the resurrected King. Jesus is not in an empty tomb. Jesus is alive in believing hearts and souls. God enters the believer at baptism and confirmation. In sharing Jesus at Communion, one becomes the Body of Christ. All who receive Holy Communion are one in the Body of Christ.

The joy of Easter is the living Jesus abiding in us. We are made one through Christ. The Great I Am, Creator of all, abides in us and we in Him.

This is the joy of Easter. May the living Christ be in your hearts. May the resurrected Lord be Your constant companion. Go forth and proclaim the greatness of our God.

Together with all the clergy and faithful of the Eastern Diocese, I wish to everyone who reads this message an Easter of joy! ***Chrystus zmartwychwstał ! Prawdziwie zmartwychwstał ! The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!***



Eastern Diocese P.N.C.C. Northeast Seniorate Lenten Retreat

Woonsocket, RI

The Eastern Diocese of the P.N.C.C. Northeast Seniorate Lenten Retreat for our southern area parishes was conducted on March 5, 2022, at Our Saviour's Parish in Woonsocket, RI.

It was truly an uplifting time in prayer, worship, meditation and reflection on our Lord's Passion and Death that has brought salvation to us all. Thanks to Fr. Henryk Wos and his parishioners for hosting the retreat, and to the presenters who brought everyone attending closer to Jesus on this Lenten Journey.

This retreat was held a second time on March 12th at St. Casimir's Parish in Lowell, MA for the northern parishes in the Eastern Diocese.



Western Diocese**Easter Message****Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko, Bishop of the Western Diocese**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in in Christ,

Christians worldwide are celebrating a Holy Week and Easter quite unlike any in living memory. Given the realities of the COVID-19 global pandemic first, then now the military conflict in Ukraine with the loss of life, economic impacts, grief, and social disruption that these have formed, it may seem wrong to celebrate. However, we are called at this time more than ever to live by a faith that proclaims the power of life over death and light over darkness. Indeed, this has been the task of the followers of Jesus from the very beginning. The evangelist Mark recorded in his Gospel the confusion and anxiety of the women who went to the Lord's tomb on Easter morning. Everything was very fresh in their minds and hearts; the brutal crucifixion, death, and burial of Jesus. Going down on Easter morning to Christ's tomb, they also had an immediate, practical concern: who would move aside the heavy stone blocking the entrance to the tomb? Yet when the women arrived, they found that the job had already been done. The stone had been pushed aside. These women received a message from an angel who told them they were looking for Jesus in the wrong place. He had been raised from death to life, for no tomb could hold him.

Image yourselves coming along these women to see Christ's tomb on Easter morning. The same question as was there in the minds of these women would be in our hearts as well: "Who will roll away the stone for us?" We would have even more questions in our minds. "When will this crisis be over?" "What will happen to my job, income, livelihood?" "How will the world be changed due to all that is going on now?" But faith in a God of mercy and love certainly re-frame those troubling questions. Our faith always assures us that we can bear even the heaviest burdens by God's grace and strength. And as these women went forth from the tomb on Easter day, let us as the Church go forward with a message of hope and encouragement, the message that proclaims the victory of life over death, the triumph of hope over despair. The disciples of Jesus celebrated that first Easter behind closed doors. But closed doors could not keep the Lord Jesus out, any more than a heavy stone could seal him in. We are confident that the Lord is with us during these difficult times so much that we are bold enough to celebrate these Easter mysteries. May our faith sustain us during this crisis, hope assure us of better times to come, and mutual love strengthen us to face the tasks ahead as a Church and society.

May God bless you and yours with much love and abundant faith in this Easter.



Milwaukee Area Parishes Hold Lenten Retreat

South Milwaukee, WI

The Lenten Retreat of the Milwaukee area parishes was held on Saturday, March 19th at Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in South Milwaukee, WI. Very Rev. Bogumil Czaja, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Fr. Carlos Aranda, administrator of St. Mary's Parish in West Allis, WI, and Fr. Gabriel Flores Zavala, Resident Priest of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Milwaukee, WI, made presentations on the theme, "Being Eucharistic People."

Clergy and parishioners walked the Way of the Cross and the retreat concluded with a Penitential Service and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. A soup and sandwich luncheon was enjoyed by participants after the retreat.

Lauren Kaniewski

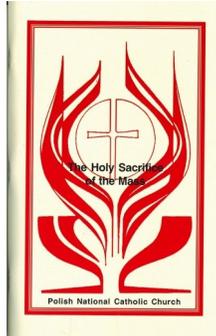


Presentation on the Holy Eucharist in Spanish by Fr. Gabriel Flores, translated by Fr. Carlos Aranda



Way of the Cross led by Deacons Tom Opala and Jon Meus

Holy Mass Pew Books Available



The Pew Books, entitled “The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass,” that are in use throughout the Polish National Catholic Church are once again available from the National Church Center. This is the first reprint since 2006, 16 years ago. Because of this long period of time and also due to the increased costs of materials and printing, the cost per book is \$6.00. We have also solved a concern that has been presented to us in the past. The cover of these Pew Books is made of a material that cannot be torn and will not tear through at the staples. Therefore, this book is much more durable than those printed in the past.

The shipping and handling cost for a single Pew Book is \$2.40 USD First Class USPS to U.S., and \$4.00 USD First Class USPS to Canada.

If you wish to purchase a single book, please mail a check or money order for \$8.40 USD (U.S.) or \$10.00 USD (Canada) to:

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

For larger quantities or for parish orders, please contact the Office of the Prime Bishop at (570) 346-9131 or secretarytopb@pncc.org. If the books must be shipped, we will determine the best method and inform you of the cost of shipping, so payment can be submitted prior to the books being shipped.

If there are any questions concerning these Pew Books please contact the National Church Center.

