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To Revitalize the Spirit **Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky,** **Prime Bishop**

As the end of the summer comes around I always find myself in a wonderful spiritual mood. This is especially true in a year such as this when we have just recently come through the week of Convo 2018. For a week at the end of July, I, together with the other bishops and some clergy of the Church, had the wonderful opportunity to be with a number of youth and adult chaperones who are passionate and excited about the work and ministry of the Polish National Catholic Church. It is truly a time that is uplifting.

One of the most frustrating things about the work of ministry is the fact that oftentimes many people are not all that excited about attending the celebration of Holy Mass and the worship of our Lord. I certainly feel that the hour I set aside for worship is the best hour of my day. And as Prime Bishop, this is something I have the opportunity to do most every day. It is the time where I feel my strongest connection to Almighty God and it is the place where I find strength to go about all of the other work of the day. It is something that is so vitally important to me and yet, I see that in a regular parish setting, not that many people join in that feeling with me.

But during the week that I spend at Convo and all of the other youth events of the Church something entirely different occurs. At Convo 2018 at the end of July, as well as the Kurs Encampment at the beginning of July and this year's Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat this week in Massachusetts, the youth, and the adult chaperones with them, are excited and pas-

sionate about being a part of God's Holy Church. This partaking includes the celebration of Holy Mass, but it is also so much more. We all spend time learning about God's ways in the world, we celebrate prayer services and throughout the day we are joined together for many different types of activities, meals and service to others. For these few days, be it at Convo or Kurs or a Diocesan Youth Retreat we are truly one body in Christ.

I am reminded of the words of St. Paul given to us in his letter to the Romans: "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another." (Romans 12:1-5) These words of the letter of Saint Paul are so powerful because we lived them out very strongly, even if only for a short time.

St. Paul tells us to present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. He tells us not to

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Email Addresses for the P.N.C.C. Offices

The email addresses for the staff of the National Church Center and *God's Field* are:

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky
pbmikovsky@pncc.org

Secretary to Prime Bishop — Julie Orzell
secretarytopb@pncc.org

P.N.C.C. Treasurer — Joan Scheuneman
treasurer@pncc.org

God's Field - Rola Boża Editor — Julie Orzell
godsfield@pncc.org

Questions or concerns? Call us at 570-346-9131 or 570-346-2125.

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Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:

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CONTROLLER:

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

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be conformed to this world. We do this by taking some time away. Away from our so-called normal lives, to get away with our friends and others we know and love, to spend a week, or at least a few days in spiritual worship. This worship goes beyond just the fact that we will gather for Holy Mass and moments of prayer during these days, but it is rather that in and through this time away our attitude will change. Everything that we will do for this time, the Celebration of Mass, the prayers, the learning, the times of togetherness, the joy that we will share, are all about living our lives in a way that is holy and acceptable to God, not because of any particular action that we might do, but rather just because each action is focused on the knowledge and worship of God and service to His people. These days away at Convo, or Kurs or a Retreat are truly special times because of all this, but then unfortunately it comes to an end and we must each go back to our daily lives.

The thing is though that if we really take an examined look at our lives we see that a whole lot may not really change when this occurs. Yes, a week of activities planned by others is over, but when we look at the actions that we have done for the week, much of it might be very similar. There are still moments of worship and prayer, and of course if these times are diminished we can always resolve to keep a more aggressive regimen of prayer. There will be the moments that we will spend with others working and learning. There will time of leisure, when we have a bit of fun or share meaningful moments such as meals or other time together. So we can ask again, what truly has changed?

Maybe the only thing that changes is our attitude and view of what really is occurring. St. Paul reminds us that “we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.” We know that we can live out these words because we certainly can do it for some time away on retreat.

Maybe we need to think a little harder about how we live all of the other seemingly mundane moments of our lives as well. Maybe we need to focus a little harder on living as St. Paul told us to in his letter to the Ephesians. St. Paul says: “I therefore, a prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” And while some may say that it is too difficult a thing to live like this, everyone who spent some time away at one of these events will say that it certainly is not, because they witnessed it, if only for a short time.

And we know that God continues to give us the strength to accomplish the good things that He intends for His people. We know therefore that this attitude can certainly be extended into every moment of our lives. So again we ask the question, why not?

My dear brothers and sisters, there is important work that must be done, in each and every one of your lives and within our Holy Church as well. And God is calling us to change and reform our lives so that we can accomplish the work that He has set before us. That work is to build up the Kingdom of God, and to accomplish it right within our own lives and this means within our families and within our parishes. I encourage all to take seriously the words of St. Paul, to live in humility and gentleness, to make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit, to seek to bond our lives together in peace. It can be accomplished in your life if you choose to follow the way of Jesus Christ, not just for a moment, not just for an hour on Sunday morning, or even just for a week away on retreat, but for a lifetime. It can also be accomplished within our parishes, if we will band together, as one in body in Christ, and as this one body, witness to, love and serve the Lord. Again, I suppose the one question is, what is stopping you?



**XXV General Synod of the P.N.C.C.
Our Truth, Our Work, Our Struggle, Our Victory
October 1-3, 2018 – Belleville, IL**

As we will soon be in the month of September, the XXV General Synod is a little more than a month away. Because of this I know that now is the time of making sure that everyone is registered with the Western Diocese and that Mandates for delegates are received. To this end, I remind all that the deadline for registration is at the end of August. Please make sure that all of your parish and organizational delegates are registered by that date. Materials have been sent to all of the parishes of the Church and they can also be found on the 'Events' tab on the Church's website, pncc.org.

From the list of those registered, the Office of the Prime Bishop will soon begin to send out the Synod reports. All of the reports, as well as the proceedings from the last synod in 2014 will be sent on a USB flash drive. If you desire to have a printed copy of the reports, this can be done from the flash drive at any commercial copy center, or on your home computer. The Office of the Prime Bishop will not be making hard copies as it is a tremendous expense.

Lastly I continue to encourage prayer for our Holy Synod, for the bishops and all the clergy, and for all of our lay delegates. There is much important work that needs to be done as we chart a way forward to continue to build up the Kingdom of God with our Polish National Catholic Church.

O Holy Spirit, as the moments of Holy Synod approach, inspire and enlighten our bishops, clergy and delegates. As You descended upon our Lord Jesus Christ at the moment of His baptism, descend once again upon His body, the Church. In the preparations that will take place and in the proceedings that will occur, let all gathered in Holy Synod, listen to Him Who is our Lord. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with the Father and the same Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

2014 Constitutions Available

"The Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church" booklet, as revised at the XXIV General Synod in Erie, PA, is available from the P.N.C.C. Book Department.

"The Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church" should be in the hands of all members of the P.N.C.C. but above all by those who serve on the Parish Committees and other organizations.

Orders may be submitted via email to secretarytopb@pncc.org, by calling (570) 346-9131 or by writing to:

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

The cost is \$3.00 per copy plus \$1.75 (US)/\$2.95 (Canada) postage and handling. Shipping costs for multiple copies will vary, depending on shipping method (USPS or UPS), weight and distance of shipment.

Downloadable and printable pdf versions of "The Constitution and Laws of the P.N.C.C." can be found on the website, pncc.org, by selecting the *Beliefs and Principles* option from the *Who We Are* dropdown menu on the home page.

Convo Participants Visit the Office of the Prime Bishop at the National Church Center, Scranton, PA

July 25, 2018



The Chapel in the National Church Center



The Frank Bednash Library in the National Church Center

The Importance of Youth in the Family and the Church

Future Direction Subcommittee

Across our Holy Church August is a month where we focus on our youth and their importance in the Body of Christ – The Church and the family. Let us pray and encourage them by our example to grow in our Christian Catholic faith.

When parents have a child their lives are forever changed – the newborn baby becomes an immediate priority for the parents. It is truly a blessing to have the opportunity to raise children and an important part is to raise them with belief and faith in God.

Here are a few ways to raise your children in our Polish National Catholic faith:

Put our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ first in your life. We teach our children not only in word but also by how we choose to live. We can set a great example for them by putting Jesus first – this means Jesus is a priority every Sunday. This is shown in our participation at Holy Mass and our support of the Church. Make sure that your children are a part of the parish family – teach them the importance of being part of a Christian community and attend Church regularly with them. If this is not that important to you then they will quickly pick up on this.

Read the Bible with them and teach them about God – both in word and your actions.

Pray for and pray with your children. Teach them the importance of time in prayer at the beginning and end of each day and before and after meals.

Show them what a Christian should look like by the way you choose to live – as Jesus tells us, we are in the world, but don't belong to this world. Show them this example by the way that we live and the way that we love others, regardless of how others are and what they may have done to us. They will know we are Christians by our Love.

Serve others with your children. Volunteer with them to help others – especially those in need. Again, setting the example following the teachings and examples of Jesus in your lives.

Encourage Godly and good influences in their lives. This begins with selecting Godparents who are faithful and active members of the Church. Show them examples of others who live good and upright Christian lives.

Teach them the meaning of discipleship by being disciples of Christ. Live and share your faith by example, not just with your children, but with those whom you encounter in life.

August 26th is Youth Sunday in our P.N.C.C. – plan a special event this day. On this Sunday have a special blessing of your parish youth. Have a blessing of the youth and their backpacks as they begin a new school year. Speak about the importance of living as Jesus teaches: Have a special message to them this Sunday and encourage them as disciples of our Lord and members of our P.N.C.C. to put this into practice by making a pledge against bullying. (See P.N.C.C. Youth Pledge Against Bullying, next page.)

Our Church regularly plans special and sacred time to teach and encourage our children/youth to grow in their love and service of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and His Holy Church. Convo 2018 and Kurs recently transpired; diocesan Acolyte retreats and Youth retreats and gatherings are still coming later this month. Encourage your children and those in your parishes to participate in these life-changing youth activities. Make sure they participate in our School of Christian Living programs as well.

Here are some prayers to offer:

Prayer for Parents: (*P.N.C.C. Prayer Book 2010*)

Loving God and Father, You gave me my child (children) and I am committed to bring him (her, them) up in the Church in love of You. Assist me in this sacred duty. Teach me what to give him (her, them) and what to withhold; when to correct and when to refrain; when to be gentle and when to be firm. May my child

P.N.C.C. Youth Pledge Against Bullying



I, _____, am a disciple and friend of Jesus, a Polish National Catholic and a member of _____ Parish. Knowing this, I sincerely promise that:

- I will respect all people at all times, because that is what Jesus wants me to do;
- I know this includes even those who may be different than me or who may disagree with me about something;
- I will never be a bully by harming or hurting another person on purpose with my words, actions or even by using a phone, tablet or computer;
- If I have been doing this, I will stop immediately and apologize to all those I have been hurting;
- I will speak up immediately when I am bullied or see someone else being bullied and will tell my parents, teachers, guidance counselors or another adult I trust;
- I will reach out to others who are bullied to show them kindness and try to get them help to stop the bullying;
- I will be a friend whenever I see bullying and will be a good example of kindness and respect to everyone I meet;
- I will pray for an end to all bullying and for all who are involved including all those who are bullied, their families and even the bullies;
- With Jesus' help and Blessed Mother's example to follow, I will keep this pledge wherever I am: at home, in school, on the school bus, out on the playground and on the sports field.

(children) grow in Your grace and in piety. By word and example may I lead him (her, them) in the ways of faith, wisdom and love. I pray that I may fulfill my parental responsibilities that You have placed upon me, so that my child (children) may be faithful to You and Your Church. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Prayer for Youth: (*P.N.C.C. Prayer Book 2010*)

Loving and kind Father, because You created us in Your image and likeness and determined that one generation should follow another in order to continue life, keep in Your tender and steadfast care the youth of the Church. May they come to know and understand that true happiness can be attained when they live in harmony with Your teaching. May they, like our Lord and Savior in His youth, grow "in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor." Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A Child's Prayer: (*P.N.C.C. Prayer Book 2010*)

Heavenly Father, You gave me my parents and commanded me to love, honor and obey them in all things. Give me Your grace, so that I may respectfully fulfill Your commandment to honor my mother and father (guardians). May I also love and respect my siblings, friends, teachers and relatives. Remove from me all pride, rebellion, stubbornness and carelessness. Create in me a clean heart and mind. Keep me strong in my faith, so that I may continue to grow in Your grace and in wisdom each day. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

2018 NUC Music Scholarship Awards

The 2018 Music Scholarship Awards were announced at the University of Scranton during CONVO 2018 on Thursday, July 26th. Pictured below are five of the recipients who attended CONVO.



Cathy Bilinski, Scholarship Administrator; Kaitlyn Gingerlowski; Madison Gradowski; Bishop John Mack, NUC Chaplain; Christina Supinski; Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky; Lauren Lightcap; Victoria Konicki

2018 Music Scholarship Awards

Tyler Bagshaw

Holy Family Parish
McKeesport, PA
Piano

Bishop Eugeniusz Magyar Award \$150

Bishop Francis Bonczak Youth Award \$250

Victoria Bradbury

Blessed Trinity Parish
Fall River, MA
Vocals

Bishop Francis Bonczak Youth Award \$100

Kaitlyn Gingerlowski

St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish
Scranton, PA
Violin

Bishop Walter Slowakiewicz Award \$300

Madison Gradowski
All Saints Cathedral Parish
Chicago, IL
Vocals

George Balcar Award \$100
Bishop Francis Bonczak Youth Award \$500

Victoria Konicki
Holy Name of Jesus
Schenectady, NY
piano

Adam Pikulski Award \$250
Emil Swantkowski Award \$150
Bishop Francis Bonczak Youth Award \$450

Olivia Kotelnicki
All Saints
Sterling Heights, MI
trumpet

Junior Incentive Award \$100

Lauren Lightcap
Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral Parish
Lancaster, NY
Flute

Polish National Union Award \$50
Bishop Francis Bonczak Youth Award \$750

Matthew Moritz
St. Mary Parish
Parma, OH
Cello

Bishop Francis Bonczak Award \$300
Edward F. and Frances A. Bialoglowicz Award \$300

Rachel Quirbach
St. Casimir Parish
Lowell, MA
Guitar, Piano, Vocals

Bishop Francis Bonczak Award \$2000

Christina Supinski
Holy Name of Jesus Parish
Schenectady, NY
Viola

Bishop Francis Bonczak Youth Award \$400

With these awards the National United Choirs Music Scholarship Program has given \$316,985.00 to 1,095 musicians since its inception in the mid 1960s. Our funding comes from the continued generosity of our faithful P.N.C.C. parishioners who recognize the need for talented organists, singers, and instrumentalists to enhance the liturgy at Mass and special programs throughout the Church. We are truly grateful for your support.

The scholarship window for the 2019 awards opens January 1, 2019. Visit nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com for more information.



“Honor Your Father ” Campaign – 2018 (Received after 6/19/2018)

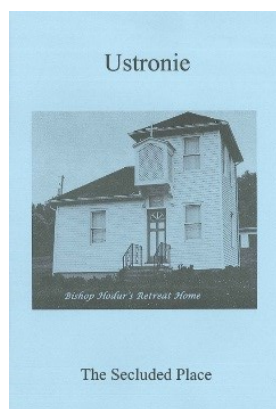
- David Petrosky, Grandfather – Honored by Joshua and Hannah Bilinski
- David Petrosky, Uncle and Godfather – Honored by Joshua and Hannah Bilinski
- Vincent Smith – remembered by Myrtle Haines
- Rev. Scott Lill- honored by Myrtle Haines
- Harold Eckenrode – remembered by Martha and Rick Link
- Merle Link – remembered by Martha and Rick Link
- Leo V. Smith - – remembered by F. James Smith
- Most Rev. Francis C. Rowinski – remembered by Turner, Hughes and Rowinski Families
- Andrew Swierkosc – remembered by Rudy and Cindi Smolka
- Walter Smolka - remembered by Rudy and Cindi Smolka
- All Fathers – honored and remembered by Gordon Bialasik
- Joseph Maycan – remembered by the Maycan Family
- Robert R. Maycan - remembered by the Maycan Family
- Dean R. Maycan – honored by the Maycan Family
- Steve Lindenmuth - honored by the Maycan Family
- Roger Heath, Sr. – Remembered by Teri Heath
- Edward Stark – remembered by Teri Heath
- Michael J. Deao – remembered by Lawrence and Debra J. Deao
- George E. Tokarcik – remembered by Lawrence and Debra J. Deao
- Bishop Thaddeus S. Peplowski — remembered by Lawrence and Debra J. Deao
- Father Henryk Wos – honored by Our Savior's Parish, Woonsocket, RI
- Bishop Paul T. Sobiechowski – honored by Stanley and Maryann Kiska
- Father Krzysztof Mendelewski – honored by Ted Sarnoski
- Bishop Paul T. Sobiechowski – honored by Ted Sarnoski
- Father Marion Tarnowski and all Clergy – The Most Holy Name of Jesus (Slovak), New Jersey
- Edward S. Pilarski – remembered by Lottie Pilarski
- Martin Michalczyk – remembered by Gary and Jean Kurzynski
- George Kurzynski - remembered by Gary and Jean Kurzynski
- John Jablowicz - remembered by Gary and Jean Kurzynski
- Eugene Jablowicz - remembered by Gary and Jean Kurzynski
- Stanley Kowalewski – remembered by Estelle Graczyk
- For Bowlers past, present and future / from the 73rd Annual P.N.C.C./Y.M.S. of R. Bowling Tournament, Carbondale, PA – remembered and honored by all present, especially
 - United Y.M.S. of R. of the P.N.C.C.
 - Dave and Cindy Peczynski
 - Robert and Christine Bilinski
 - Robert and Christina Giczkowski

On behalf of the Clergy Pension Fund Committee, may I take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your concern for the Program, as well as your respect for those you have asked to be remembered or honored. As written, this list reflects those names that were received in the mail after 19 June. On my behalf, please know that those named have been remembered in my private prayer. We are blessed to have received over \$5,300. Again, may I offer deep thanks and appreciation.

Rt. Rev. Stanley M. Bilinski
Chair, Clergy Pension Fund Committee



Ustronie ‘The Secluded Place’ — History & Archives



This booklet has 28 pages. It was published by the History and Archives Commission of the Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.) for the 75th Anniversary of the purchase of Spójnia Farm, July 24, 2004. The authors are Most Reverend Robert M. Nemkovich, Anthony J. Mikovsky and Joseph F. Seliga. Ustronie was used by Bishop Hodur for meditation, prayer and to write *Apokalisa XXgo Wieku* [*Apocalypse of the Twentieth Century*].

The building is now in its third location. In 2004, its interior was arranged as a museum by the P.N.C.C. History and Archives Commission to commemorate the accomplishments of Bishop Hodur: Priest, Religious Reformer, Organizer of the P.N.C.C., Journalist, Author, Poet, Playwright and Songwriter. The museum was opened on July 4, 2004.

The purpose of the booklet was to provide information about Bishop Francis Hodur and his accomplishments and also to be a souvenir of the opening of Ustronie as a museum. Included in this booklet is a list of the significant events and accomplishments of Bishop Hodur; the publications of Bishop Hodur; photographs of Bishop Hodur sitting in a chair, Bishop Hodur's desk in Ustronie, the Altar in Ustronie, Ustronie in its present location [its third], Ustronie in its original location, the 100th Anniversary Plaque of Bishop Francis Hodur's Birth, the Tree Planting Ceremony Plaque, July 4, 1997, and Wacław Sznyter. Mr. Sznyter and his 3 sons built Ustronie in 3 weeks

There are five rooms in Ustronie - three on the first floor and two on the second floor. The first floor room exhibits are for Bishop Hodur's accomplishments. One Room has a cabinet displaying many of the publications of Bishop Francis Hodur. A second room is about the Polish National Catholic Church. The P.N.C.C. room contains a table with a table lamp which was presented to Bishop Hodur by the first four bishops consecrated by him: Ks. Bp. Bonczak, Ks. Bp. Gawrychowski, Ks. Bp. L. Grochowski and Ks. Bp. J. Gritenas. The third room was Bishop Hodur's study. The first floor also has the Stove used by Bishop Hodur after the electrification of Ustronie.

One Second Floor Room, Bishop Hodur's Chapel, has an altar with candles, cross, prayer books and a 1914 Missal on stand.

The other has exhibits about Bishop Hodur's Funeral in 1953, which contains: Picture of the mausoleum in Scranton; newspaper articles about funeral; the text of Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski's eulogy and a dried flower from his funeral casket.

The displays include the ordination document of Deacon Zięba, Photographs of the 6th Synod Delegates [1935]; the 1942 Clergy Conference; the 16th Synod [1982]; 20th General Synod Delegates [1998], Jubilee, 1987-1927; two photographs of Bishop Hodur, seated; the first four bishops consecrated by Bp.

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(Ustronie - Continued from Page 11.)

Hodur; and two Paintings, Bishop Hodur, standing in cassock and the birthplace of Bishop Hodur in Żarki, Poland, painted by S. F. Szemraj.

This room also has letters of Bishop Hodur. All letters are in Polish and have been translated into English. They are: Aug. 22, 1929, Rev. Gawrychowski, Rev. Padewski, June 3, 1927, Dickson City, PA; Sept. 2, 1928, Blessing of Throop Parish; March 8, 1934 - Rev. A. Tolcz, Summit Hill, PA; April 7, 1934 - Rev. A. Tolcz, Little Falls, NY; Aug. 21, 1918, Rev. S. Kanowski, Virgin Mary Sodality letter; Y.M.S. of R. letter; ANS letter, Jan 6, 1936; Maria Konopnicka letter Jan 6, 1936; Clergy Conference letter, Rev. Szuman, Jan 29, 1949; General Synod Actions; Significant Clergy Conference letter, #16.

Included in the book are three articles, written by Bishop Hodur, which appeared in God's Field. They were translated by Most Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich. The first is: A Conversation in "Ustronie" [The Secluded Place], Of Course, With the Help of Correspondence. This article describes the trees and wildlife around the building and the letters that Bishop Hodur received at Ustronie. By this time, the 22 X 14 foot, 2-story building was 5 years old. Cleric Gwozdecki was his mail deliveryman. The first letters were from school children of Polish Schools in Old Forge, Taylor and Greenwood, PA, the outskirts of the National Parish in Scranton. All of the small boys and girls letters wished good health and a very long life to Bishop Hodur. The article notes that if all the years were added to his present age, 69, he would live to 35,698 years! Also mentioned is a letter from a husband and wife from the Dupont parish. They said "Father Bishop, for sending us a good pastor, above all a friend and a teacher of the youth. From that, which I have told you so far and what I did, one can surmise that the new pastor has taken two things into account, and they are: establishing harmony and unity in the parish and secondly, working for the children and youth." The wife also said, "I personally, that is as a wife and mother thank you, Father Bishop, that you have won my husband and father of [my] children, back to the Church and the cooperation of the family with the Church. You did this, Father Bishop, through two sermons delivered in our Church three weeks ago and the speech at our parish meeting. Through stagnation in work, through various intrigues and internal struggles, my husband pulled away from parish work and stopped going to Church.

Your words, Father Bishop, inspired him and aroused him to contemplate the future loss of our family, his own personal loss and that of the National Church. When we had returned from church that evening, the first word that he spoke were the following, "Listen mother, we need to thank God for that which occurred in our church today. I firmly feel that a new spirit came down upon me, because I believe that which our friend, Bishop Hodur, said today is the truth."

The second article is, Did I Kill Him, or Didn't I? a Conversation at Ustronie, a Picture of Polish-American Life. It starts with a letter that Bishop Hodur received from New York City: "I am informing you, Father Bishop, that my husband Stanley Wierzbic, is deceased. He died in New York's Bellevue Hospital on December 1, and he was buried in a public cemetery in Brooklyn. The last sacraments were administered to him by a National Priest because that was his wish, and even though I belong to the Roman Catholic Church and even though I didn't know that my husband joined the National Church, nonetheless I tried to fulfill his last wish and I requested the National Priest for the last rites for my dear husband. To tell the truth, I did not see my husband and did not speak to him for the past three years, so it is not strange that I did not know when and for what reason he left the Roman Church, our old faith, and joined a new Church that is so very much condemned by all priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

During the last days of November in Bridgeport, Connecticut I received a telegram informing me that my husband was in the Bellevue Hospital in New York in critical condition and that he wished to see me. When I found myself at his bed of pain, I was already unable to understand much of his broken words. He would only continually repeat the following: "Send the letter to Bishop Hodur, to Waymart, PA. It is here under the pillow. I forgive you. A service in the National Church. Take the insurance policy. Raise our son in the National . . . I am telling you. Do you hear?" That is all, Father Bishop, that I heard from the lips of my dying husband. I am enclosing the letter, actually a card, written with the illegible letters of a sick person/ When I settle down, I will come to you, Father Bishop, so that I can learn for sure about my husband's life from the past three years and how it happened to be that during that time he became a member of the National Church.

(Signed) Katherine Wierzbic

On the card attached to the letter, filled with notations by the hospital nurse, Stanley Wierzbic wrote only the following words: "I have fulfilled the penance given me at Ustronie in July 1931 as best I could." Bishop Hodur then recalls the evening of the 29th or 30th of July when he first met Stanley Wierzbic in the rest of the article.

The third article is entitled "Two Generations: a Pilgrimage from Scranton to Ustronie, and Then to the Home for the Aged for a Service in Honor of the Blessed Mother." The article starts with "There are moments in a persons life, which remain in his memory for a long, long time, in his imagination, which nothing can obliterate or snatch from us." Bishop Hodur then proceeds to tell us about one such in his memory. Before starting, he describes Waymart, PA, a town 26 miles from Scranton. He said that it became known for two reasons, on one side is a state hospital and the other side "the Institution of the National Church and Polish National Union - the Home For the Aged." He then continues to describe Spójnia Farm.

Bishop Hodur invited people to a pilgrimage to Ustronie and the Home For The Aged. A group of 38 younger and older people got on the bus. They were followed by several automobiles. Sixty people walked to Ustronie and after being warmly greeted by Bishop Hodur and singing the hymn of the Church *To Thee We Come O Lord, Our God* [*Do Ciebie Przyszli, Boze Nasz*]. After Coffee and Pastries under the 100 year old Maple tree they sang *Praise Ye Meadows* [*Chwalcie Łaki Umajone*] and processed to the Home For The Aged, led by seven altar boys

dressed in red and white cassocks, singing *Come unto Jesus* [*Pójdź do Jezusa*].

Halfway there, they were met by a second procession, led by Father Chaplain K. Bogdanowicz and Father P. Pokrowiec. Carrying the Cross was Mr. Sadus, followed by Mr. Mendel, who, at age 96, was carrying a figure of Jesus Christ which he had carved. Mr. Mendel had to relinquish the statue to a younger man of 76. A group of 40 people followed.

The large crowd of 100 couldn't all fit in the chapel, so some sat in an adjoining room. "The service began with the Litany to the Blessed Mother celebrated by Father Bishop, assisted by Father Senior Misiaszek, and Father Bogdanowicz. Father Bishop preached the Word of God . . . "about the tremendous spiritual strength, which a person derives from faith in God. How through internal command we have all gathered at the foot of the Most Holy Mother, and so through this same command we will fulfill God's holy cause on earth" And when Father Bishop ends with a plea to God for a blessing on the continuing road of life of the poor pilgrim on earth, one could hear the sobs, tears of joy flowing, emotions—words falling on prepared soil."

The article ends with the names of the participating individuals from Scranton.

Tours of Ustronie are given as part of the KURS programs and when parishes visit Spójnia Farm. Please go to visit Ustronie, ask for a tour and review the exhibits. It will reinvigorate your faith and expand your knowledge of the Polish National Catholic Church.

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



Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese**Baccalaureate Mass at Holy Family Parish****McKeesport, PA**

On Sunday, June 10th, Holy Family Parish acknowledged its 2018 Graduates during Holy Mass. Those honored were Thomas J. Rajchel-Doctor of Pharmacy and Pharmacy Management- Duquesne University; Hannah Jobes-South Allegheny High School; Kayla Armstrong-Bethel Park High School; Justin Nemec-Ringgold High School and Robert Szatkowski-Gateway High School. Also acknowledged were the SOCL Faculty. Special thanks were given to Mrs. Rosemary Pociask and Mrs. Alexa Foster for their years of dedication and service teaching SOCL classes. Mrs. Pociask taught the Junior High Class for 37 years.

Submitted by Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski



Hannah Jobes, Kayla Armstrong and Justin Nemec



Fr. Sleczkowski congratulating Dr. Thomas Rajchel



SOCL Faculty David Kost, Alexa Foster, Kristen Korenoski, Deanna Nemec & Rosemary Pociask



Newest Parish Sacristan Justin Nemec



Central Diocese

St. Stanislaus Cathedral's Busy Youth

Scranton, PA

This year two children received the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time at our parish on Sunday, June 10th. After one year of preparation by Father Janusz Lucarz, Payton Coccodrilli and Craig Kowalski, accompanied by their parents and godparents, received their First Holy Communion from Bishop Bernard Nowicki. During the Mass both Payton and Craig were involved by reading the Lessons, Responsorial Psalm and Prayer for the Faithful. It was touching to have these two young children do such a beautiful job. Father Lucarz gave the homily, speaking to his Communion class. The St. Stanislaus Bell Choir added inspiration with two hymns, "Shine, Jesus, Shine" by Graham Kendrick and "In Remembrance" by Bill Ingraham. The Cathedral Choral added to the special Mass with "O Sacred Banquet," a traditional P.N.C.C. hymn sung for First Holy Communion and "O Taste and See" by Carlton Young. Following Mass, refreshments were served, including a special Cross cake for Payton and Craig baked by Sylvia Kowalski, Craig's grandmother. May God bless these two young children and keep them in His loving and tender care.



Now that summer has come, choir rehearsals have ceased for the season. To celebrate another good year, the St. Stanislaus Young Choir decided to celebrate at Knoebel's Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA.

Dr. Picerno and Dr. Nowicki accompanied the children and some parents on a fun-filled day of rides, treats and a whole lot of fellowship. It was a great way for the children to celebrate their hard work during the past choir season.

Although choir rehearsal is done for now, we will start up again in the fall!



(Continued on Page 16.)

(St. Stanislaus Cathedral's Busy Youth - Continued from Page 15.)

On Sunday, June 24th, the Cathedral Parish acknowledged and honored all 2017-2018 high school and college graduates during the 9:30 a.m. Youth Mass.

The parish youth took an active part in the Mass with the Readings, Prayers for the Faithful and served as collectors and ushers.

After the Homily, Bishop Nowicki presented each graduate with a special book to help these young people navigate their way as a Christian in our society as they venture off in new paths and directions after their graduation.

Madeline "Maddie" Hughes is a graduate of North Pocono High School. Maddie will be attending Temple University in the fall as an Elementary Education Major. Her participation in Parish life includes her service as president and secretary of the Cathedral UYA, the Central Diocesan representative to the National United Youth Association and president of this year's Convo 2018 committee. She also participates in the bell choir.

Joshua Notari is a graduate of Forest City Regional High School who completed a course in Electrical Construction at the Career Technology Center there. Josh plans to take the local IBEW Union entrance exam and work in the electrical construction field. He will continue to volunteer with the Pleasant Mount

Fire Department as a certified fire fighter and as an adult leader in Boy Scout Troop 407. Josh's participation among us includes his membership in the Y.M.S. of R., the Cathedral Chorale, the UYA and the 538R Building Committee. He also regularly helps at the Chicken BBQ and One Hot Meal.

Stephanie Ann Kaszuba was recently graduated from Wilkes University, Summa Cum Laude, with two Bachelor's Degrees in Elementary Education and Spanish. Stephanie completed her elementary education as a graduate of St. Stanislaus Elementary School. During her younger years with us, she held the position of UYA secretary, was a member of both the Cathedral and St. Stanislaus Elementary Bell Choirs, as well as singing with the Cathedral Chorale.

Joshua Stankowski has earned a Bachelor's Degree in chemical engineering from Penn State University. Josh's activities among us have been with the acolytes, the bell choir, the Cathedral UYA as treasurer, the National United Youth Association and the Tenebrae chanters. He has played his viola at church services, participated in National United Choirs (NUC) workshops, youth Convos and the Kurs encampment. He has also received NUC music scholarships. After Mass, coffee hour ensued, with a cake to honor the graduates. Congratulations to the Class of 2018 and may God bless you and watch over you in your future endeavors.



Joshua Notari, Joshua Stankowski, Madeline Hughes

“OUR FATHER” – A Sculpture Composition – By Fr. Walter M. Madej

Unveiled and Dedicated at the Thanksgiving Holy Mass on the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood of Fr. Walter Madej. Sunday, June 10, 2018.

In the past 3 years I had been on a Journey with my thoughts and a humble involvement of my sculpting passion in the attempt of carving a visible metaphor of the Gospel of “Our Father” Prayer.

The challenging and humble request of the Apostle one time addressed to the Lord Jesus: “Lord, teach us how to pray” (Lk.11,1-4), became so much my very own during the entire process of work on a project, – “Lord, tune me into the praying momentum of this project from start to its completion, may Thy Eternal Creative Breathing touch this carving metaphor and give to it ability of moving the hearts into connection with Thy Eternal Love.”

And then, along with my working time I have realized that “The Lord’s Prayer,” I had been beginning to “Carve,” have become the very act of breathing in God’s Life that has generated again and again the energy for every moment, - - - it has given a cure, -it has corrected mistakes, - it has energized the weaknesses, - it has cleansed “a system of thought circulation,” - it has strengthened the “immune system” of the spiritual sphere, -and it opened up the horizons of vision, light and a sense of direction. My carving work had indeed been the journey of an amazing experience.

The Composition Sculpture of “Our Father” consists of:

-“The Inviting Door” - inviting everyone to enter into the journey, like the Words of Jesus directed to John and Andrew: “Come and See” (J 1,35-39). The carvings of ears of wheat and loafs of bread on the door frames speak a metaphor of the Lord’s generous invitation.

-The two Arms of an Open Arch on top with engraved Biblical Words “Glory To God In The Highest” on the left Arm, and “Peace To His People On Earth” (Lk 2,14) on the right One, proclaim the Mystery of the Lord’s Prayer “Our Father” that opens the Way of Connecting Heaven with Earth. The Lord’s Prayer “Our Father” is that mysterious link connecting the Earth with Heaven, and Heaven with Earth. The Book of Genesis in Jacob’s dream gives Prophecy to that connecting way Mystery: “Then he had a

dream: a stairway rested on the ground, with its top reaching to the heavens; and God’s messengers were going up and down on it. And there was the Lord standing beside him...”(Gen. 28,10-16), one arm reaching up with life energy on Earth giving Glory to God, and the other one descending down with the Generous Gift of “Peace on Earth.”

-Inside the Open Arch from the floor up there are three carved Panels, as the allusion to God’s Creation, the three “Divine Dining Tables”: -the Field – the Village table, - the Table of the Lord, - with abundance of Food for the Pilgrims. These three Tables invite every Pilgrim to join in, to meditate upon, to celebrate “in the Banquet of the Lord,” and to rejoice! And then above the Tables there emerges the 7 feet statue of Praying Jesus walking in time history, His Arms reaching up high, His generously open Hands with Gifts of His Heart, and His wide open Mouth as if breathing God’s Life, all these metaphors proclaiming the Gospel of Prayer Mystery, of Divine Energy connecting every single and communal human prayer into one voice, and directing it through His veins and His Heart to “The Father Who Art In Heaven.” His Fingers up high seem touching something invisible that its Echo of the Eternal Voice “I AM WHO I AM” could be heard - (Ex3,14).

“The Field,” as Earth’s Dining Table, the 12 ears of wheat emerging in a field appear to absorb the light of the Easter Rising Sun, “the Light to the World,” giving miraculous growth in the Church – the Apostolic foundation of Church Structure. The Metaphor of Food Abundance generated via connecting energy with “the Light to the World.”

“The Village Community,” the next carving panel as a Table of the milling busy place. This is the place of laboring for food, of sharing it, of living life in dignity and respect. The metaphor travels here passing many stories....The stone grinding against stone, the water melting and washing down the dust and mud, the ruins of mills evaporating immortal fabrics of labor in sweat, carrying it away on the wings of a white dove with a nostalgic song of the past into the future. One wing lifts up the monument of a bell with a gen-

(Continued on Page 18.)

("Our Father" - A Sculpture Composition - Continued from Page 17.)

tle touch. All the roads are crossing through the heart of a white village church. The white cloud above the church steeple illuminates all around and seems to hover in protection of the sacredness. But the road continues, passing by the Chapel of the Cemetery, where white crosses wave and encourage the Pilgrims to go on in their Life's Journey..... And Noah's Ark carries it all on save waters of God's Providence to the unknown future....

"The Table of the Lord," the third carved panel continues the Creation Story of God's abundance. The Cup and the White Host in the center connects the twelve loafs of bread in Sacrificial Witness of the Miracle of Becoming the Bread from Heaven coming down as Food for our souls.

"The statue of Praying Jesus" above and two wings of the Spirit lifts up the Lord's Prayer, carrying it up,

"Through Him, With Him, and In Him," to "Our Father Who Art In Heaven!." The letters of the Prayer are carved and painted in red suggest that each word of the Lord's Prayer has been sealed with His Ultimate Sacrifice of The Cross for Our Salvation. The Prayer is a Miraculous Act "of the Holy Spirit through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, emerging from that Ultimate Sacrifice of Our Savior Jesus Christ, directed to The Father Who Art In Heaven."

The Lord Jesus Christ, no doubt, did indeed fulfill the Apostles plea "Teach us how to pray" (Lk. 11,1-4). His Death, Resurrection, and His Glorious Ascension made them "well formed" to be able to pray, Through –In – With Christ, by opening up in them their function of breathing God's Life for All Eternity!.

Praise The Lord Jesus Christ!

Fr. Walter M. Madej, Sculptor



Fr. Madej and his work appear in a feature article in the Utica, NY *Observer - Dispatch* newspaper. You can read the article online at:

uticaod.com/news/20180728/new-york-mills-priest-creates-carvings-through-prayer?template=ampart.

Summer Work and Play at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish

Dupont, PA



Another Successful Annual Open Pit Chicken BBQ was held on Saturday, July 14, 2018 on Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish church grounds. Y.M.S. of R. Branch # 2 thanks all workers and patrons.



“Dupont Weekend” - a spiritual, recreational and fraternal activity to help unite the members of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish - was held at the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center in Waymart, PA on August 3-5, 2018. Parishioners and friends enjoyed the beautiful scenery and serenity of the center. Participants went hiking, swimming or just relaxed. The highlight of the weekend was the celebration of the Holy Mass on Saturday, followed by a family-style dinner in the pavilion.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid

Eastern Diocese**St. Joseph's Dożynki — A Festival of Thanksgiving****Westfield, MA**

St. Joseph's P.N.C.C. in Westfield, MA will hold its annual Dożynki — Polish Harvest Festival from Noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 9, 2018 at the parish social center and parish grounds.

The harvest wreath, which will be blessed during the 8:00 a.m. Mass, will be carried in procession to the festival at 2:00 p.m. A Dożynki program, highlighted by the St. Joseph's Dożynki Dancers performing traditional Polish folk dances, will follow. The St. Joseph's Dożynki Dancers is a group of young people from St. Joseph's Parish.

Polish music will be played throughout the festival and the day's events also include games for all ages as well as plenty of delicious traditional Polish and American fare. There is no admission and the public is cordially invited.

We celebrate Dożynki, a Polish Harvest Festival of Thanksgiving, and we are reminded of the old Polish

traditions concerning the feast. A wreath, called either "wieniec" or "snop," is blessed by the priest on that day. Women of the parish prepare and decorate the mound-shaped wreath, which is made of many kinds of grain, herbs, flowers, frits and vegetables and is adorned with red and white ribbons. Two carriers who represent the peasants bring the wreath to the festival and present it to all in attendance.

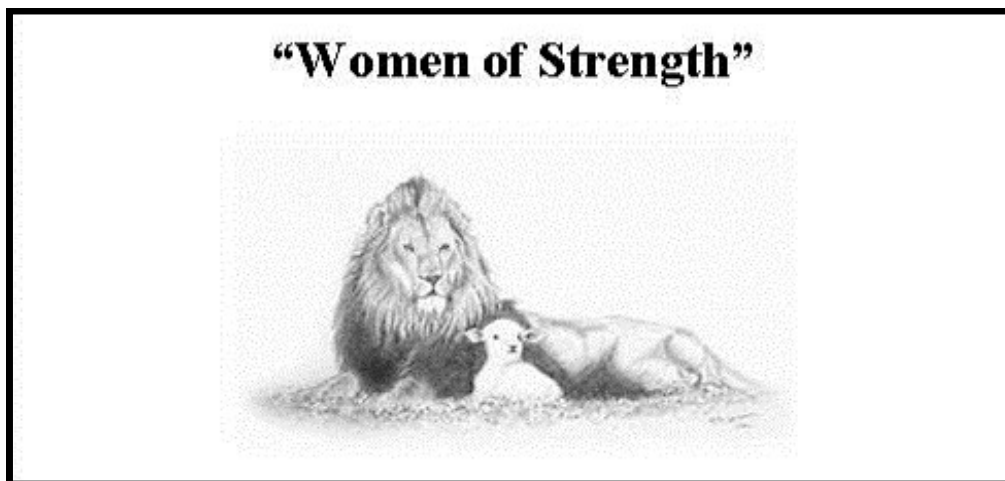
Now that the harvest work is over, the dancing and feasting begin. Dożynki is a festival of praise and thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for the goodness He has given us and it is a time to enjoy these gifts He has provided.

Mr. Trent Taylor, Chair of the Parish Committee, and Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, pastor, extend a most cordial invitation to all to attend this year's Dożynki. We are sure that you will have a most enjoyable family time!

Submitted by Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak

**Spojnja Credit Union****Share Certificate Special****Effective July 1, 2018****\$1000.00 Minimum****NEW MONEY ONLY****90 Days Share Certificate - 0.50% APR - 0.501% APY****Six (6) Month Share Certificate - 1.00% - 1.004% APY***APR - Annual Percentage Rate APY - Annual Percentage Yield****Rates Subject to change without prior notice******Federally insured by the NCUA*****570-344-1513 * 800-724-6352 *****www.spojniacreditunion.org**

Western Diocese

Women's Retreat Registration Deadline Approaching

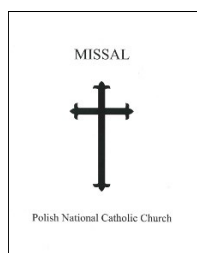
The Ladies Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament of the Western Diocese is hosting a **Women's Retreat**, October 5 – 7, 2018. The retreat will take place at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House, 1300 Stritch Drive, Mundelein, IL 60060.

“Women of Strength” is the theme for the retreat which will be led by retreat master Christine Grano of Mayslake Ministries.

Registration fee for the retreat is \$200 per person which includes two nights lodging, meals and materials. **Registration deadline is September 1st (no refunds or late registrations.)**

There are only 48 rooms available for the retreat, so please send your registration in as soon as possible to be assured of reserving a room at the retreat.

Pamphlets and Registration forms were mailed to every parish in the Western Diocese. Please ask your pastor for a registration form or email Liz Kaniewski at bela7719@wi.rr.com for a form.

**P.N.C.C. Missal Now Available in Electronic Format**

The electronic version of the P.N.C.C. Missal is now available for purchase by P.N.C.C. parishes or clergy from the P.N.C. C. Book Department. The cost is \$75.00 for the complete Missal on a USB Flash Drive.

To order, please send a check or money order for \$75.00 (plus \$3.50 s/h U.S.; \$10.00 s/h Canada) payable to P.N.C.C. Book Department to:

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



Payment must be received prior to shipping.

Western Diocese United Circle Choirs Biennial Concert

Chicago, IL

The last weekend in June saw record-breaking temperatures in the Detroit, MI area. That didn't preclude the 47 singers and musicians participating in the Western Diocese United Circle Choirs biennial concert. The choirs participating were from Milwaukee, Cleveland, Chicago and of course, Detroit. Also joining in were vocalists from Northern Indiana and Western New York.



We gathered in Madison Heights, MI for our 61st Convention on Friday evening. With business conducted, the following resolution was accepted:

Whereas, we the delegates of the 61st Convention and Concert of the United Circle Choirs (UCC) of the Western Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church, entitled, "All for Jesus", we offer our praises and thanksgiving for our gift of song to the greater glory of God;

Whereas, the UCC of the Western Diocese was formed in 1932;

Whereas, Robert Maycan served as President of the UCC of the Western Diocese for decades;

Whereas, at the 60th Convention of the UCC of the Western Diocese in Chicago, Illinois, on Friday, June 24, 2016, Robert Maycan retired as Chairman of the Board of Directors;

Therefore, let it be resolved as we meet for the 61st Convention of the UCC of the Western Diocese of the P.N.C.C. in Detroit, (Madison Heights), MI on Friday, June 29, 2018, we hereby recognize and honor the many years of outstanding and dedicated service by Robert Maycan to the United Circle Choirs of the Western Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church.

Saturday morning, the choirs convened at our host parish and site of the concert, for a two-hour rehearsal. Our venue was filled to capacity when the concert began! Our theme was "All For Jesus", which was the last song of the concert. Each circle choir performed selections on their own, with the combined choirs doing nine songs: starting with "God Bless America" and ending with an encore presentation of Professor Belland's "Toast". Many in the audience had never heard this version of "Sto Lat".

Following the concert, a reception was held in the parish hall. It included the traditional auction, run by Board President, Bruce Kaniewski. We raised \$1000 for the benefit of the Music Scholarship Fund!

Sunday morning Mass was celebrated by the Rt. Reverend Stanley Bilinski, Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese. Con-celebrating was Father Jason Soltysiak from Parma, OH. Also from Parma, Cleric Jim Ploskonka assisted. Mass acolytes were Jake Bilinski, Dima Dauo, Davida Dauo, and Nardin Keena. The liturgy was beautifully enhanced by members of the circle choirs who joined the All Saints choir, under the direction of organist, Cathy Bilinski. Following Mass a delicious luncheon and ice cream bar was enjoyed by our visitors and parishioners. Special thanks to Bill Konrad and Pat Miller for their supervision of the meal.

We are truly fortunate to continue to conduct this concert. Many of our parish choirs are small and may be limited to the kinds of music it can undertake. The combined choirs gives each of us a truly remarkable way to offer praise and thanksgiving to our Lord, Jesus Christ. We were so blessed to be a part of this exceptional weekend as it was "All For Jesus"



Circle Choir Directors: Sue Andereg, Milwaukee; Bishop Stan Bilinski, Chicago; Cathy Bilinski, Detroit; Chris Paulus, Cleveland



Musicians Jake Bilinski, Simon Nowak, Wally Bielat,
Lauren Bilinski, Emily Cooper



Musician Dave Pecynski

Annual Polish Harvest “Dożynki” Festival

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA

Holy Mother of Sorrows
Polish National Catholic Church
Dupont PA



**42nd Annual Polish Harvest “Dożynki” Festival
will be held on Sunday, September 9, 2018
from 12 PM to 7 PM**

- **Holy Mass on Dożynki Day will be at 10:30 AM
(Only one Mass will be celebrated on this day)**
- **Blessing of the Harvest Wreath will be held in
the Dożynki Tent at 12:00 PM**
- **Live music for your entertainment and
enjoyment from 1:30 PM till 5:30 PM**
- **Raffles drawings at 6 PM**
- **Closing at 7 PM**

Variety of ethnic foods (homemade): pierogi, potato pancakes, gołąbki, kluski, kielbasa, sausage, soups, funnel cakes, etc as well as American foods (hot dogs, burgers). Home made Baked Goods – pies, cakes, etc. will be available. 50/50 Bingo: Big Raffle, Chinese Auction, etc.

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish is located at 212 Wyoming Avenue in Dupont, PA.

