



Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Volume 96

January 2018

Issue #1

The Holy Family and Ours

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky
Prime Bishop

As the new year of 2018 commences we look for ways to make a new beginning. In a secular sense we might make resolutions, but in a religious or spiritual sense as well, there is certainly much that we can improve on and January is as good a time as any to begin this improvement.

During the recent National Clergy Conference that was held in Lancaster, NY in November of 2017 the clergy of our Church had ample time to discuss the needs of the Church as a whole and in particular the needs of the faithful. It was decided there that the core building block of human society, the family, is where we should focus not only our attention, but also our prayer and support as the clergy of the P.N.C.C. As the Future Direction report was given and discussed, it was decided that the year 2018 would be set aside to focus on the family.

Within our liturgical year there are two solemnities which have a primary focus on family. These are the Solemnity of the Holy Family, which is celebrated in the time after Christmas and the unique solemnity of the Polish National Catholic Church, the Solemnity of the Christian Family on the second Sunday of October. It is difficult to join these celebrations into a coherent theme as they are so far apart in the year and it is also true that the Solemnity of the Holy Family often gets lost in the many celebrations around the time of Christmas and the New Year.

But of course this speaks to the issue at hand. While we, even as Christians, might lose sight of the holy

by the excitement of the Christmas holiday and also as we often look very selfishly to the New Year's resolutions that we make for self-improvement, where does the family and its spiritual development fit into this time and into this celebration?

We must begin with the acknowledgment that the family is the building block of all society and in particular our religious connections as well. The family is a part of creation right from the very beginning. We read in the book of Genesis: "God created mankind in His image; in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it." (Genesis 1:27-28) We also read within the book of Genesis how a man and woman are to be joined into a family: "This one, at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh... That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body." (Genesis 2:22a, 23b) We see here that family life, both man and woman together and the bringing forth of children, is an integral part of God's design, and that family life is to continue with God's blessing.

And as we know that this basic unit of the family is a primary part of creation there has also always been a larger aspect to family as well. It is found within the call of Abraham to leave his dwelling and follow the way God leads him. "The Lord God said to
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God's Field — Rola Boża Publication Information

The deadline for article submissions is the 1st of the month; online publication date is mid-month. Submissions received after the 1st will be included in the following month's issue.

Email articles and photos to secretarytopb@pncc.org and to godsfield@pncc.org. If your submission was successfully delivered via email, you will receive an acknowledgement email stating that your submission was received. To ensure clarity of graphics, please send JPEG or TIFF formatted pictures with a resolution of at least 300 pixels per inch. **Please identify individuals in photographs or caption photographs.**

Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:

God's Field
Polish National Catholic Church
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109

Identification Statement

The Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church, **GOD'S FIELD - ROLA BOŻA**, is published monthly for the U.S. **\$48.00**; Canada **\$62.00**; Foreign **\$87.50 per subscription year** (February through March) by

**Polish National Catholic Church
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109**

Individual issues of *God's Field* are available for purchase from the National Church Center for \$2.00 each (pickup) or prepaid \$4.00 each (U.S.); \$5.25 each (Canada); \$7.30 (Foreign).

Send payments and address changes to

**GOD'S FIELD
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109**

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Opinions expressed in various articles published in *God's Field* do not necessarily reflect the doctrine of the P.N.C.C.

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Abraham: Go forth from your land, your relatives, and from your father's house to a land I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you... All the families of the earth will find blessing in you." (Genesis 12:1-2a, 3b) So we see within this reading an extension of the family to one that is based on faith. We see it explicitly within the designation of the Jewish people speaking of themselves as "children of Abraham."

Looking now to the life of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we know that He was born within a family as we are. The Gospel writers make sure to show us a sample of this family life. We see the care of Mary and Joseph for the Infant Jesus as they make sure He is safe and warm even when they can't find lodging in Bethlehem. "While they were there, the time came for her to have her Child, and she gave birth to her firstborn Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:6-7) We see the great effort of Mary and Joseph to keep their Child safe when the massacre of the infants occurred. "Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.' Joseph rose and took the Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod." (Matthew 2:13b-15a) We see the worry of Mary and Joseph when Jesus is left behind in the temple at 12 years old. "Son, why have You done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for You with great anxiety." (Matthew 2:48b)

We see that Jesus, Mary and Joseph, while certainly in a time and culture that is quite distant from our own, experienced many of the concerns and trials that all families do, to care for their children and each other, to worry that things may go wrong and to work to make sure that the entire family is well, strong and taken-care-of.

Much as in the situation with Abraham, we also know that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ extended this family to all faithful Christians when He was preaching. And in response to this we, as Christians, call

each other brothers and sisters in Christ. We hear within the Gospel of Matthew: "While [Jesus] was still speaking to the crowds, His mother and His brothers appeared outside, wishing to speak with Him. Someone told Him, 'Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, asking to speak with You.' But He said in reply to the one who told Him, 'Who is My mother? Who are My brothers?' And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, 'Here are My mother and My brothers. For whoever does the will of My Heavenly Father is My brother, and sister, and mother.'" (Matthew 12:46-50)

Now the thing that we must remember is that as this progression happens the original expression of family is not cast away, but rather we see that within this progression we also find the journey that every Christian makes within their spiritual life: from being a part of a family created by God, to be a member of the family of faith, to being a brother or sister of Christ uniting our lives to His. We do not leave one expression to go on to another, we rather see that our horizon is expanding and it should deepen the love we feel with our families. And we must work and pray to make sure that each part of this spiritual journey remains strong and supportive to each of us as a loved creation of God, a child of the Almighty Father and a brother or sister of Christ.

In order for this to happen we must strengthen all family ties within our parish communities and local surroundings, starting from the individual families to the entire parish family and even beyond. It was for this reason that the Polish National Catholic Church originally sought to celebrate the Solemnity of the Christian Family and it was for this reason that the clergy of the Polish National Catholic Church decided to honor this year as the Year of the Family. Through these celebrations and the action it spurs, it is hoped that we can help to grow and nurture strong families within our Church this year and beyond.

To that end we need to examine our family life to see if we are being spiritually fed and nurtured. We can begin by looking at the way in which we live with each other. Do we make sure that the Sunday and Holy Day celebrations of the Eucharist are an important part of the week for our family? Do we pray
(Continued on Page 24.)

Call for the XXV General Synod

In accordance with Article VII.A Section 14 and Article VIII.A.(3) of the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church, I hereby issue the call for the XXV General Synod to be held within the Western Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church. The dates and site of the XXV General Synod have been set by the Western Diocese as October 1-3, 2018 at Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL, nine miles from St. Louis, MO.

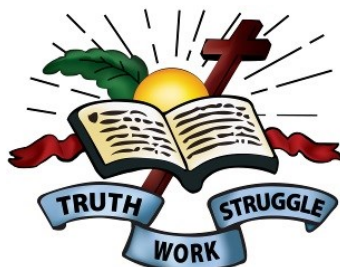
The Parishes and Societies of the Polish National Catholic Church, as well as the Polish National Union, are reminded to elect their delegates in accordance with the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church. The Parishes are reminded that the number of delegates that will be seated at the Synod will be in accordance with the obligations that have been paid to the Church by the end of its fiscal year on February 28, 2018. The address to request Mandates will be published in a future edition of ***God's Field*** and sent to all parishes with other information.

For the election of delegates to the General Synod, I encourage each Parish of the P.N.C.C. and Society or Organization of the Church or the P.N.U. to examine Article VII.A of the Constitution.

According to Article VII.A of the Constitution the composition of the Synod consists of 1) the active Bishops, 2) the members of the Supreme Council, 3) the vice-rector of the Seminary, 4) the Pastor or Administrator of each Parish, 5) the lay delegates of the Parish, 6) a delegate to be elected from the central body and each Diocesan sub-central body, if any, from each of the following United Societies and Organizations: a) the United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament; b) the United Young Men's Societies of Resurrection; c) the National United Choirs of the Polish National Catholic Church; and (d) the National United Youth Association; 7) One delegate from the Board of Directors of the Polish National Union of America and one delegate from each Diocese of this Church located in the U.S.A. who shall be selected by the Board of Directors of the Polish National Union of America; 8) a delegate from the Education and Youth Commission; and 9) a delegate from Spojnia, Inc. Board of Directors.

The lay delegates from each Parish are to be elected according to Article VII.A, Section 2 of the Constitution. It states that (1) Every lay delegate of a Parish shall be a member in good standing in his Parish and a member of this Church for not less than two (2) years as set forth in Article III and elected at an Annual Meeting or at a Parish Meeting duly called for this purpose. (2) Each Parish shall have the right to elect at least one delegate and no Parish shall elect more than one delegate for every fifty (50) members, or a major fraction thereof, in good standing on its Parish roll.

Information regarding registration for the Synod and the making of room arrangements will be forwarded to each of the Parishes and Societies of the Church in the future. A full agenda of the Synod will also be published in future editions of ***God's Field***.



Some important things to remember about this upcoming Synod are that we are trying to build on what was accomplished at the General Synod four years ago. At that Synod a general plan of action was laid out to select five areas of focus: 1) Growth and Membership, 2) Increase Spirituality, 3) Lifelong Learning, 4) Sacred Vocations and 5) Community Involvement and Presence. In an effort to build upon this plan we will have a number of sessions during the General Synod in 2018 where we will: 1) evaluate the work of the past four years and make suggestions for improvement, 2) discuss successes and challenges in each of the 5 areas, 3) further develop the 5 areas and create further directions of implementation and lastly 4) make a more concrete plan for the years 2018-2022.

I also want to bring to the attention of all that the 2018 General Synod has been planned for only three days. These will be three full days of work. This decision was made after extensive discussion with the Supreme Council and a report of a Supreme Council Subcommittee. It was felt that this plan can certainly be accomplished, but it will require commitment and cooperation from everyone. It is planned that all reports will be submitted and distributed to the delegates well in advance of the Synod and that there will only be time allowed on the Synod floor for questions and action on motions.

At each General Synod the membership of the National Commissions is set for the following four year period. These names are submitted by the Prime Bishop with volunteers taken from the Synod delegates and then confirmed by the Synod body. Although it is often only Synod delegates who become members of these Commissions, this is not required. Anyone who is interested in working to help the Church on a Synodal Commission may submit their name. Those submissions will be evaluated by the Prime Bishop and then presentation will be made to the General Synod. The list of National Commissions is: 1) Constitution, 2) Mission and Evangelism, 3) Budget and Finance, 4) School of Christian Living, 5) Liturgy, 6) Church Doctrine, 7) Clergy Salary and Benefits, 8) History and Archives and 9) Sacred Vocations. Please consider if your talents may help the Church in serving on one of these Commissions. In a future edition of *God's Field* a more extensive description of the work of each Commission will be given.

As a conclusion I ask that we each join in prayer that the upcoming Synod will be a spiritual success for the Church and that through it, its work and its plan, the entire Polish National Catholic Church may continue to better serve our Lord Jesus Christ and build up His kingdom on earth.

Prayer for the Church – Almighty and eternal God, You have called us to serve You through the Polish National Catholic Church. Hear our prayer for the Prime Bishop, the bishops, priests, deacons, the lay leaders and faithful of our Holy Church. May Your gifts and blessings strengthen our resolve to serve You and by our example bring others into the Mystical Body of Christ. May all that we do be for the glory of Your Name and the salvation of Your people. By our faithful witness and service may we eventually be received into Your eternal kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky
Prime Bishop, Polish National Catholic Church



From the Office of the Prime Bishop



Financial Responsibilities

This short article is to remind the parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church of their responsibilities in regards to the National Church, each Diocese and also to the many organizations and causes within the Church that deserve our support. These financial obligations are set out in the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church and through the decisions of the General Synods, Diocesan Synods and Parish Meetings of the individual parishes. In this regard we encourage all Parish Committee members to consult the Constitution and Laws of the P.N.C.C. Article XXI in particular addresses “Church Funds.”

There are several parts to the financial obligations of the Church, each of which was decided via the representation of each of the parishes during the deliberations of a General or Diocesan Synod.

On the National Church level there are two responsibilities. These are the General Fund Assessment and the 6% Levy. The XXIV General Synod in October of 2014 voted to set the General Fund Assessment at \$100.00 per member. This figure will continue until it is changed by another General Synod. According to Article XXI, Section 16 of the Constitution, these funds that are collected must be submitted to the Diocesan Treasurer quarterly. These funds support all of the work of the National Church Center offices. It supports the Office of the Prime Bishop and the work of all of the National Commissions. One of the largest expenses is the reimbursement of the portion of the Health Insurance for the clergy of the Church. A portion also supports the Clergy Pension Fund.

Along with the above obligation, each parish must also submit funds according to the 6% levy. According to Article XXI, Section 3 of the Constitution, six percent (6%) of Parish Dues, (excepting the \$100.00 from the General Fund), regular Sunday and Holy Day collections must be submitted to the National Church via the Diocesan Treasurers. These funds support specific causes within the Church such as, the School of Christian Living, the Publication Fund, Parish Loans Fund and Clergy Aid Fund.

Each Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church also sets its own Diocesan Fund Assessment. This amount is set by each of the Diocesan Synods which were held in the Fall of this past year. Each Diocese collects a different amount and it is to be submitted quarterly to its Diocesan Treasurer.

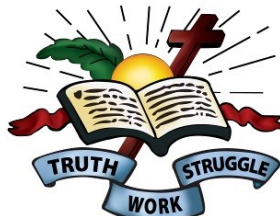
The last part of the funds that are collected are for organizations and causes within the Church. These collections have been decided on by the General Synods or are mentioned within the Constitution of the P.N.C.C. Most of the Collections are self-explanatory. The collections for the Mission Fund are split between the National Church and the Diocese.

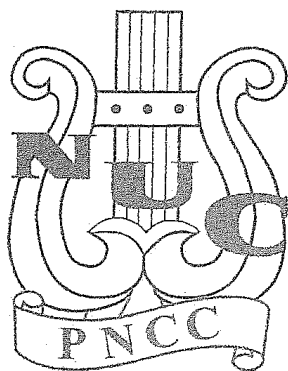
For the year 2018 these collections are:

December 31, 2017 – Solemnity - Humble Shepherds – For the Seminary Fund
January 7, 2018 – For the Mission Fund
January 28, 2018 – Music Scholarship Sunday – For the Music Scholarship Fund
February 4, 2018 – For the Mission Fund
March 4, 2018 – For the Mission Fund
March 11, 2018 – Solemnity – Institution of the P.N.C.C. – For the National Church Center
April 1, 2018 – For the Mission Fund
May 6, 2018 – For the Mission Fund
June 3, 2018 – For the Mission Fund
June 17, 2018 – Fathers’ Day – Collection for the Clergy Pension Fund
July 1, 2018 – For the Mission Fund
August 5, 2018 – For the Mission Fund
August 26, 2018 – Youth Sunday – For the Youth Fund
September 2, 2018 – For the Mission Fund
September 9, 2018 – Solemnity – Brotherly Love – For Spojnia, Inc.
October 7, 2018 – For the Mission Fund
October 21, 2018 – Heritage Sunday – Outreach to Poland Collection
November 4, 2018 – For the Mission Fund
December 2, 2018 – For the Mission Fund
December 30, 2018 – Solemnity – Humble Shepherds – For the Seminary Fund
January 6, 2019 – For the Mission Fund

It is the hope that with a better understanding of these collections of the Church each member will join together to support all of the good work that is being done through the Polish National Catholic Church. “Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth or rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:20-21)

If anyone has questions or concerns regarding the financial matters of the Church, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Prime Bishop.





**NATIONAL UNITED CHOIRS
MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY
January 28, 2018**

*Make a joyful shout
to God all the earth!
Sing out the honor of
His name; make His
praise glorious -
Psalm 66: 1,2*

The last Sunday of January has been set aside by Synodal resolution as Music Scholarship Sunday, which puts special emphasis on the Music Scholarship program of the National United Choirs of the Polish National Catholic Church. It is the Sunday when the choirs, organists, directors and choir members should be recognized for their contributions to the music ministry of our church. It is also the Sunday when we look to the future and identify those that we hope will be part of the music ministry of the PNCC. Music provides inspiration and pleasure to both the musician and the listener. It is the calling of every organist, choir member, accompanist, and musician to enhance the liturgy of the Mass and special services. We encourage you to have your aspiring musicians play either for Mass on this Sunday or in your church hall afterwards.

The Music Scholarship program has a number of endowments and awards that are available to members of the PNCC, whether it is via instrument or voice, regardless of age. It is our duty to encourage and reach those individuals who have the potential and love of music. With encouragement and praise, the rewards are many for all of the PNCC.

The Scholarship Program has a web site, nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com where any interested person can learn about the program – its history, awards, and latest winners. Downloads for the next application process are also available on this site. As requested we have also included donation forms, which could be used for individual contributions throughout the year as well as for memorial gifts.

Past financial support from the faithful of the PNCC has enabled us to grant awards annually to deserving applicants. We offer our sincere “thanks” for what has been donated to the Music Scholarship Fund. Since 1966 the Scholarship Program has awarded 1085 members of the PNCC a financial incentive to continue pursuing their musical studies. To date we have awarded \$310,835! It is a rewarding feeling to know that several of the original music scholarship recipients are still active in the music ministry of the PNCC – five decades later! Indeed the program has succeeded!

We hope your parish will give generously on Scholarship Sunday, encourage applicants for the program and remember our church musicians in your prayers. It is imperative that any funds be submitted to your Diocesan Treasurer without delay so your donations can be included in the amounts for this year's scholarships.

Sincerely in Christ,
Cathy A. Bilinski
Cathy A. Bilinski, Administrator
Music Scholarship Committee

Music Scholarship Sunday

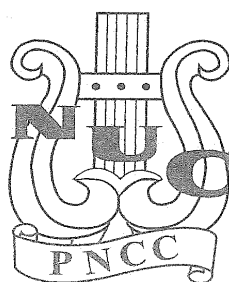
January 28, 2018

Pray for the Music Ministry of the P.N.C.C. Give thanks for those who are currently giving of their talents. Help support the future of this ministry. Your donations truly make a difference!

For scholarship application/information, contact:

Cathy Bilinski, Administrator
4051 Washington Crescent Drive
Troy, MI 48085

Or visit the website nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com.



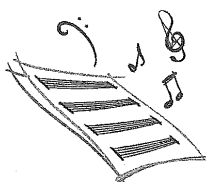
National United Choirs Music Scholarship Program

2018 Applications are
currently available on the
website:

nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com

Deadline for applying is May 1, 2018

Questions? Contact the scholarship administrator at
nucscholarship@gmail.com



Works and Writing of First Bishop Franciszek Hodur, Volume 2

This is the second of two articles and will be confined to Volume Two which covers the writings of Bishop Hodur in his books: *New Roads*, *Christ and the Church*, *The Overseas Letter*, *Why?*, *Our Faith*, and *The Apocalypse of the XXth Century*.

The words copied from this volume are in parentheses and italics.

There is a short biography of Bishop Hodur at the start of this volume. It also identifies the physical accomplishments of the P.N.C.C.: renovation of the cathedral, construction of a rectory, purchase of cemetery land in the Minooka section of Scranton, erection of the grotto of Christ the Benign, construction of a seminary on Cedar Avenue, a home for priests on Pittston Street, a church built in the Tripps Park section of Scranton, the establishment of a Lithuanian National Church in the Providence section of Scranton, the founding of the Polish National Union (PNU), the purchase of land in Waymart, PA, called Spojnia Farm and the establishment of the Home for the Aged there. Standard Societies of the National Church were established: The Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Maria Konopnicka Society, The Girls Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Young Men's Society of Resurrection, the Girls Children of Mary and the Boys Defenders of the National Church. To inform and educate the members of the National Church, two newspapers were established, first *Straż* (The Guard) followed by *Rola Boża* (God's Field). Bishop Hodur was also the author of numerous dramas, satires and stage plays about the life of the people. He also was instrumental in the production of school books, a primer and three readers.

In the United States, the Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) "established an original system of governing the church, called the Baltimore System, after the Synod which was held in 1883 in Baltimore, MD. The leaders of the Roman Church in the United States observed that moral authority is not adequate by itself to govern the faithful in this free country, unless they also have a tangible and physical influence on the social facilities of the members of the Papal Church. For this reason, they quickly abandoned the original means based on communal free-

dom and instituted a central, absolute system of canonical process consisting of taking over in the bishop's name as owner and trustee of all parish property, such as churches, schools, halls, rectories, and cemeteries in the diocese. On the basis of such an arrangement every parish is at the mercy or disfavor of the bishop and the priest is only his agent who at any time can be removed without benefit of a canonical process of law." This Baltimore decree, made the bishop the absolute owner of the property and the conscience of the Polish people. Consequently when the parishioners wanted to rid themselves of a reverend thief or rogue, or take charge of the church, they had to begin with the breaking of the Baltimore Concilium's code of laws or leave the RCC. The first to take this courageous step were the Polish people in Chicago, IL, who led by Father Melczysz organized the Holy Trinity Parish. Going one step further, the Detroit, MI, Poles, alongside Father Domenic Kolasinski, fought for 8 years and, despite Rome's excommunication, their spiritually did not falter and they stood their ground until they received proper recognition of their right to a church from the papal delegate Satolli in 1893. Next Father Kolaszewski built a church in Cleveland, OH, and signed it over to the people. He also aided in the building of a similar church in Buffalo, NY.

Father Anthony Kozłowski, assistant at St. Hedwig's church in Chicago, IL took a greater risk; tore away 10,000 souls from Rome and established a branch of the Old Catholic Church of Europe, headed by Archbishop Gul of Utrecht and Herzog of Berne, Switzerland. In 1898 he received episcopal consecration from their hands. Again the people of Buffalo, NY invited Father A. Klawiter to be their pastor and later on Stefan Kaminski who was ordained a priest by Rene Villatte, "a bishop of indistinctive hue." Despite the frenzied agitation of his enemies, Kaminski held on to his pastorship and even though he received his bishop's consecration from the hands of Rene Villatte, he did not lose the trust of the people and similarly as Kozłowski, a large mass of people adhered to his church deriding criticism of the newspapers, the excommunications of the bishops and the pope. The bitterness of the Polish emigrant against

the American bishops and their Polish priests can be judged by the existence of these independent churches in Cleveland, OH, Detroit, MI, Buffalo, NY and Chicago, IL.

These discussions were followed by a description of the activities in Scranton, PA. It describes the actions of the Roman Catholic Church in an attempt to discredit Bishop Hodur and the fledgling church in Scranton and which culminated in the excommunication of Bishop Hodur. Following his excommunication, Bishop Hodur carried to the Vatican, "a Memorandum signed by 5,000 Polish workers from PA petitioning for a change to the Baltimore laws regarding the administration of church properties and for a greater concern for the Polish people in America." This petition was denied.

"Because the text of the excommunication as well as the many publications the priests of the Roman Church accuse Father Hodur of abandoning the true faith, as they claim, therefore, he has to continuously prove that it is not in the National Church in this case but, on the contrary, it is papism that teaches things that are contrary to the truth and incompatible with the teaching of Jesus Christ."

"Humanity cannot and must not forget that Christianity is to fulfill a threefold function: 1. It gives mankind a oneness which means it imbues man with the conviction that he remains in close union with God, that there is no empty chasm separating him and the Creator, and if occasionally a separation occurs it can be mended by man's efforts and the help of God. All people, as God's children, are to comprise one great family. 2. It is a religion of rebirth and salvation. 3. It is to help man to create on earth a perfect society called the Kingdom of God on earth. And spiritual processes, served by the Word of God and a sacramental life."

"Christianity was supposed to uplift man, to regenerate him through proper training, by prayer and spiritual processes, served by the Word of God and a sacramental life. But to the contrary, the Roman Church degraded human dignity through improper interpretation of the Holy Scriptures in its description of the creation of the world, about original sin, about eternal punishment. It degraded human dignity by slighting women, tolerating prostitution, slavery, serfdom, by creating classes and castes in society, and by accu-

mulating immeasurable wealth in its hands, in the hands of abbeys, bishops and popes."

There is a chapter on regeneration and what it means. It starts with John 3:5 "Verily, verily, I say unto thee. Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." It continues with "Regeneration is a state of transforming man into a new spiritual being. It is becoming aware of one's relationship to God and by this awareness one draws nearer to the Creator and comes into a closer union with Him. From this knowledge and unity there flows into the soul of man extraordinary power which causes a complete spiritual transformation."

The rest of the chapter describes how a regenerated man responds to life. It continues with the regeneration of the church as well as man. It says "The modern Church of Christ will not bless or tolerate castes and privileged estates. It will crumble idols before whom pious prayers and sacrifices of human dignity and happiness were offered. In the Church of Christ the bishops and priests will not constitute a privileged and parasitic class, fortified by both the laws of the Church and state but they will be enlightened, useful citizens of the community, interpreters of Christ's Gospel, the moral laws manifested in the substance of the visible world and in the individual relationship of God to man as so often expressed in the mystical manifestations of the Creator."

"Moral theology defines sin as a conscious and voluntary transgression of a law binding on conscience. This is a clear and substantiated definition. It tells us that man's action is sinful, blameworthy and demanding of punishment only when it is committed consciously and voluntarily." Since the original sin was supposedly to have been committed by the first parents, it could not have been done by later man either consciously or voluntarily, he or she should not be punished for something they did not do. "According to the teaching of most Christian Churches, and among them the Roman Church, the human soul is called to life by a special creative act of God at the moment of man's conception. How then, as the teaching of the Roman Church would have it, could the Lord God on each occasion create a human soul already burdened by sin, guilt, inimical to God, favoring Satan and even subject to him."

(Continued on bottom of Page 22.)

God's Field

Appeal for Easter Greetings

The deadline for submission and payment of Easter Greetings is **MARCH 1, 2018**. Greetings will be published in the March issue because Easter falls on April 1, 2018.

The cost for publishing Easter greetings for individuals, parishes and organizations is \$20.00. Due to space constraints in the page setup of the *God's Field*, greetings are limited to up to three (3) lines of text.

Example greetings:

The Adoration Society of St. John's Parish, Everytown, USA
Eve Adams, President
We wish everyone a Blessed Easter!

St. John's Parish, Everytown, USA
Rev. Adam Adams, Pastor
Wesołego Alleluja!

An online form can be found on the pncc.org
website at: pncc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/online_greeting_form_2018.pdf

ALL GREETINGS, ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENTS, MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2018 IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MARCH ISSUE. We no longer publish greetings submitted without payment, so please be sure to send in your payment with your greeting or it will not be published.

Please send 3-line greetings, along with payments in the form of check or money order payable to God's Field, to:

God's Field - Easter Greetings
National Church Center
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

2018 GREETINGS

*Please send to the above address your greetings and payment.
(U.S. \$20.00 check or money order for each greeting, payable to God's Field)
before March 1, 2018 (Easter 2018 Greeting) or November 30, 2018 (Christmas 2018 Greeting)*

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____



Don't Forget to Renew Your *God's Field* Subscription for 2018 - 2019!

The 2017 - 2018 *God's Field* subscription year ends after the February 2018 issue. March 2018 - February 2019 *God's Field* subscriptions are now available to individuals and parishes. The subscription rate is still \$48.00 per year for 12 issues to U.S and \$62.00 per year for 12 issues to Canada. Single issues of *God's Field* are still available for purchase from the National Church Center for \$2.00 each (pickup) or prepaid \$4.00 each (shipped within the U.S.) and \$5.25 each (shipped to Canada). These rates will remain in effect until further notice.

Please note that the gratis online version of *God's Field* will continue to be available to everyone on our website at pncc.org.

We do not accept groups of individual parishioner subscriptions from parishes, nor do we accept multi-year subscriptions. Individuals are responsible for ordering and pre-paying for their own personal subscriptions annually. Prepaid annual gift subscriptions from individuals for another individual are accepted.

Individuals and parishes who wish to start an annual subscription or who wish to continue to receive an annual subscription to *God's Field* must fill out the form, below, and send a check or money order in USD, payable to God's Field, along with current name and full mailing address. Please include zip+4 (U.S.) or postal code (Canada) to ensure delivery of your subscription; if you do not include a complete, valid mailing address including zip+4 or postal code we cannot guarantee delivery by the Post Office. Only prepaid subscriptions will be mailed, so please send in annual subscription payments prior to the end of the subscription year so that your subscription continues to be sent to you. If your annual subscription is not prepaid, you may experience a gap in monthly issues of *God's Field*. Parishes and individuals may copy and use the form, below, and send with payment to:


God's Field
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

Thank you.

The Staff and Management of *God's Field*—*Rola Boża*

God's Field Annual Subscription Form March 2018 - February 2019	
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Check No. and Amt:	<input type="text"/>
	\$48.00 U.S./ \$62.00 Canada

Make check/money order payable to God's Field.
 Return form & payment to:
 God's Field
 1006 Pittston Avenue
 Scranton, PA 18505



2018 The Year of the Family

As we begin this Year of the Family across our Holy Polish National Catholic Church we first look to the example of the Holy Family. For, in the Holy Family, God has given us a model of family life. We see that Jesus, Mary and Joseph always put God's will first. As we look to their example may we put God's will ahead of our own, live with joy obediently following God's Holy Word and act in word and deed with sincere love for God and each other.

The hope and prayer of our clergy and the Future Direction committee is that this Year of the Family will help strengthen all our families in living out our Christian faith, virtues and values and that they will become an important and consistent part of their lives.

A Daily Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, in the Holy Family of Nazareth, you have given us a model of family life as You planned it to be. Help our family to live every day as they did, worshipping you and always putting your will first. May we work together to truly live the teachings of the Gospel, overlooking each other's faults and gladly forgiving each other when we are wronged, and sacrificing our own desires for the good of the others. Fill our hearts with the joy, obedience and trust that they had so that we may do these and all things with sincere love for You and each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, and through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. Amen.

A Message from the Education & Youth Commission

Now is the time for all students who are pursuing an undergraduate degree or a post-secondary certificate to start the application process for the PNU stipend (December 1, 2017 – April 15, 2018).

This is a great opportunity for students to research and review the benefits of being a member within the PNU to become future leaders within our Church community and also to learn about what the Education & Youth Commission represents.

Some of the criteria for the stipend application are as follows:

- Must be a member of the PNU who has a life insurance policy (current paying, single-premium, or fully paid up) that is in force and in good standing for at least 5 years. *(Please remember Social Membership does not qualify.)*
- Must be currently enrolled and taking classes at a college or university either part-time (under 12 credits) or full-time (12 or more credits) – academic year 2017-2018. *(This does not pertain to high school college courses taken while still in high school.)*
 - Proof of enrollment from Registrar is required: Tuition Bill, Class Schedule or Grades. *(One or all of these are acceptable forms of eligible enrollment. Please make sure student's name, university's name and number of credits taken for each semester, are included on the paperwork.)*
 - A copy of the tuition bill stating the institution's and student's name should accompany all stipend applications. *(This ensures that the student is enrolled and attending that college or university.)*

The application and further information can be found online at pnu.org/documents/AllStates/stipend.pdf.

One application per eligible applicant should be completed in its entirety and returned no later than April 15, 2018 to:

Polish National Union of America
c/o Education & Youth Commission
Attn: Mary Ann Stankowski
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

Please direct any questions or concerns to Mary Ann Stankowski at EYC@pnu.org.

The Education and Youth Commission would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who generously supported the Raffle Fundraiser promoting our Stipend Program through the PNU.

Congratulations to our winners!

First Prize (\$400.00) – Dr. & Mrs. Bob Sarnowski, Scranton, Pa.

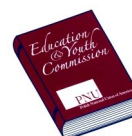
Second Prize (Beats Pill + Bluetooth Speaker) – Mr. & Mrs. Zulkowski, Wallington, NJ.

Third Prize (Apple TV) – Cynthia Purta, Dickson City, Pa.

Please remember that monetary donations are graciously accepted for these endeavors, as we continue our mission of providing funding and enabling our youth members the benefit of this stipend toward their future educational goals.

Donations can be sent directly to:

Education and Youth Commission
1006 Pittston Ave
Scranton, PA 18505



Thank you and God Bless You.

Mary Ann Stankowski, Chair, Education & Youth Commission

Central Diocese**Saint Nicholas Brunch****Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA**

A Saint Nicholas Brunch was held on December 3, 2017 at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont PA. This event was free of charge to all parishioners. Special thanks to Carol and John Bondurich with the help of Lois McHugh and Emily Tisdell for decorating the hall and preparing everything for this event.

During the Brunch we had an unexpected visit from Saint Nicholas, who treated kids with gifts and all adults with candy canes. We also want to thank all parishioners for bringing toys for the "Toys for Tots" collection project in our parish.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor



Christmas at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish

Dupont, PA

In anticipation of Christmas, our church grounds were beautifully decorated. Special thanks to Nick Kazinetz for hanging all of the outdoor Christmas lights and Paul Kaspriskie, Nick Kazinetz and Anthony Shumlas for setting the outdoor Manger.

We also thank those who decorated our church for Christmas: Nick Kazinetz, Angelo Conforti, Sr., Gianna Conforti, David Fritz, Jr., Stephanie Shumlas, Zach Voras, Leslie Shumlas, Samantha Shumlas, Lois McHugh and McKenzie; Carol & John Bondurich.

On Christmas Eve, before the 4:00 p.m. Mass, parish children presented a nativity program to a near-capacity crowd in the church. The following children participated: Gianna Conforti, George Remak, Jacob Honis, Mia Piccolino, Layla Marks, Aubrianah Leyshon, Merrit Nash, Hannah Yuschovitz and Maci Piccolino. We thank Jack Wall and Stephanie Shumlas for assisting in this program.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



St. Mary's Parish at the Duryea Christmas Stroll

Duryea, PA

It was a cold and snowy night, December 9, 2017, when members of the parish family of St. Mary's in Duryea, PA again took part in the Duryea Borough Christmas Stroll. Unlike last year, St. Mary's was able to use a tent on Main Street in the borough. The tent was provided by the Duryea Christmas Stroll Committee, in which Fr. Carmen and Mama Pat Bolock were meeting participants prior to this year's event. We welcomed visitors with hot chocolate and cookies and we shared some take-away information on St. Mary's Parish and the Polish National Catholic Church.

Greeting visitors to our tent were Pat Bolock, Jessica Bolock (our daughter in law) and Michael Marks, St. Mary's Parish Committee Vice-chair. Children and adults were also greeted by St. Nicholas (aka Fr. Carmen) who spoke with children and heard their Christmas wishes. All children received candy canes as well.

A new wrinkle was added this year - Krampus (aka Nicholas Bolock) came to check on which children had been naughty and nice.

As per the old European tradition, Krampus was to take the bad children with him to his cold, dark home. But the loss was his, for all the children of Duryea



St. Nicholas & Krampus have a friendly moment together for a picture.



The quiet moment between Krampus & St. Nick did not last long, as St Nick tries to keep Krampus at bay.

had been very good this year, as reported by their parents and St. Nick.

Despite the cold evening we and everyone who participated had a fun evening.



Manning St. Mary's stand from left to right: St. Nick, Jessica Bolock, Pat Bolock, Krampus and Michael Marks

Submitted by Rev. Carmen (St. Nicholas) Bolock



Eastern Diocese

Blessed Trinity Parish December Activities Fall River, MA

December saw a variety of activities at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, Massachusetts. Our youth presented the Living Nativity on Sunday, December 17th.



On December 24th our youth again gathered for our Birthday Party for Jesus.



The parish sponsored a Christmas Toy Drive with the Fall River Police Department and Fall River Neighborhood Associations. Hundreds of toys were donated at various local businesses across the city. The parish hosted the wrapping party on December 18th.

The toys were distributed to children in need across Fall River by our fine Police Officers.



We also held our Advent Food Drive with numerous boxes and bags of food donated to our local food pantry. The parish also hosted meetings of the Polish American Veterans Association, Father Kelly Neighborhood Watch, Fall River Falcons, Kosciusko Club and Kitchen Table Conversations for suicide loss support during December. We also hosted the Diocesan Winter Youth Gather and Lock-In (more to follow on this in the next issue).

Submitted by Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich

Holy Cross News

Central Falls, RI

Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI, was bustling during this past Advent season. We wrapped up our children's winter clothing drive with many winter coats, hats and gloves which were given to the Central Falls Public Schools to distribute to children in need before the Christmas break.

The parish also hosted a Candlelight Service and Birthday Party for Jesus for the parish and the North-east Seniorate of the Eastern Diocese. Thanks to

Bishop Paul, Fr. Robert, Fr. Henryk and the many who attended from Blessed Trinity Parish, Holy Cross Parish, Holy Trinity Parish & Cathedral and Our Saviour's Parish to make time to prepare for our Lord even though it was during the first half of the amazing Steelers/Patriots game.

Wishing all a very blessed and healthy New Year 2018!

Submitted by Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich



Western Diocese**Holy Cross Mission Committee Adopts Friendship House Family****Holy Cross Parish, Hamtramck, MI**

In early November the Holy Cross Mission Committee held their Santa Shoppe. For Christmas we adopted a Friendship House family and used the money earned at the Santa Shoppe to buy gifts from their wish list.

Our committee shoppers did their best to get the much-needed items. On Friday, Dec. 15, we delivered our gifts and a Helping Hand food basket.

The recipient family was overjoyed with our gifts and donations. They waited until Christmas Day to open their packages, and they sent a special thank you to us and our parish.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Santa Shoppe and all mission committee projects throughout the year.

Submitted by Kathy Chockley



Holy Cross Parish Helping Hand Soup Kitchen

Holy Cross Parish, Hamtramck, MI

On Saturday, Dec. 9, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., **Holy Cross Helping Hand** members served in our soup kitchen and gave gift bags to each person coming to the soup kitchen. The bags included gloves, a hat, a scarf, a pair of socks, soap, shampoo, deodorant, tooth brush, and toothpaste. There were also donations of clothing put out for patrons to take if needed.

We would like to thank everyone who made donations of clothing, toiletries, and money through-

out the year. Our monthly soup kitchen helps give a hot meal and a comfortable place to stay for a little while each month to people who might not be able to afford it. The Helping Hand Fund also gave food boxes to families in need for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you to everyone who supports this community outreach program.

Submitted by Kathy Chockley



(Works and Writing of First Bishop Franciszek Hodur, Volume 2 - Continued from Page 10.)

“For the layman, another stumbling block in the teaching and life of the Roman Church was the relationship of the Church and its priests to the wealth and pleasures of this world. They supposedly held to the teaching of the Divine Master of Nazareth. The Gospel and the eight beatitudes were read to the people. There was sentimentalization over the poverty, goodness and sacrifice of Christ and the Apostles, but in public and day to day life the lie was given to all of this.” References are made to the gospels of

Luke, John and Matthew and to the writings of numerous saints, Augustine, Gregory, Jerome, Ambrose, Chrystosom, and Basil about the followers of Christ holding spiritual and moral values and not seek material wealth.

I am sure that you will find much food for thought in this book.

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

Toy Drive

Holy Cross Parish, Hamtramck, MI

The Holy Cross Mission Committee held a toy drive during Advent, collecting 140 toys for Friendship House. The toys were delivered on December 12th to director, Cathy Maher. Ms. Maher was very grateful for our donations. Families were able to come and pick a toy for each of their children so that they would have at least one gift for Christmas.

We had a generous donation from a gentleman who was a recipient of toys from Friendship House as a

child. Now he donates toys every year to us. We also purchased toys from Mom & Pop Toy Shop in Hamtramck. They gave us many extra toys to donate to Friendship House.

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported this community outreach project.

Submitted by Kathy Chockley



(The Holy Family and Ours—Continued from Page 3.)

together, even at times when it is inconvenient? Do we encourage each other, both husbands and wives as well as their children, to practice the Christian virtues of: humility, generosity, chastity (purity), charity (love) temperance (self-control), brotherly love and diligence? Do we hold each other to the high calling of being a Christian? Do we honor and respect each other at all times?

If children are ever going to learn these virtues and if we are ever going to keep and strengthen them, they must be practiced and shared within family life. So my brothers and sisters, let us pray for the families within our congregations and also those within our communities. But let us also take the next step to help them along. Encourage young families when they are struggling with their children at Church on

Sunday. Lend a helping hand when you are able. Compliment them for the effort to make sure their family is worshipping and praying together.

And also make sure that we are all good examples ourselves. How can we possibly expect others to strengthen their families in faith if we will not live our own faith? Support and encourage events at Church and in the community where families can participate and be uplifted. All it takes is a few small things each and every day - prayer, actions and words - to help each other and especially to help families that are so beleaguered today.

Remember to look to the model of the Holy Family, but also remember that each person, each family can be a holy family if we take seriously our faith and look beyond ourselves to help each other, the members of Christ's family.

