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A Youthful Summertime **Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky,** **Prime Bishop**

We are certainly well into the summertime and with this time of year we focus on youthful activities. It's time to get outside to commune with nature, go for walks in the beautiful weather, to go away on vacation. For me this is a wonderful time of year because from the time I was young I would always enjoy spending time at the beach. It is still very enjoyable, but also it carries me back to the days of my youth growing up in New Jersey when trips to the beach were a weekly occurrence in the summertime.

The Church too puts an emphasis on the youth of the Church and during this time of the year we are right in the middle of this emphasis. We have just come through the week of Kurs at Spójnia Farm which is sponsored by the National Young Men's Society of Resurrection and we are looking forward to Convo 2018 which is hosted by the Central Diocese and will be held at the University of Scranton only a short distance from the National Church Center offices and St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA.

These events can be transformational for many of the youth of the Church. It is always wonderful to see how young members of the Church, from various parts of the country, will come together at Convo and then months or even years later they will still be connected, especially as this connection is now facilitated via social media.

I must also say that it is truly wonderful to spend time with these young members of the Church at these events as well. I enjoy speaking with them about their plans for the future and to hear their hopes and dreams for how things will turn out. We also speak about the spiritual life and also how important the Church is to them. It is wonderful to see

these youth joining with each other at Holy Mass, praying together for the issues that are important in their lives. I have often said that the adults who come to Convo and those who participate in any other of the youth activities of the Church are truly uplifted along with the youth who attend. The adults who participate in these activities not only perform a service and ministry to the young members of the Church, but the youth also give so very much back to them as well.

As we look to our spending time with the youth of the P.N.C.C. we are often drawn to some of the lines of Holy Scripture that speak about youth and youthfulness. The Book of Ecclesiastes tells us "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before days of trouble come, and the years draw near when you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'" (Eccles 12:1) This saying reminds us of the well-known tendency that when things are going well, we often have no need of God, but when things are difficult, it is only then that we stop to call upon Him. This certainly may be a significant part of our human condition, but do we have to give in to it. As members of the Church we know that we must have an ongoing relationship with Almighty God and not one which only shows up in difficult times. But the saying from Scripture also then poses a question to us. "How will the youth remember their Creator?" Of course the answer is that someone must tell them, someone must show them the way, someone must be an example of what it is to have a relationship with Almighty God, someone must show them the importance of attending Holy Mass, and having an active life of prayer.

(Continued on Page 3.)

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It is important for all of us to remember this because it is all too easy for each of us to enjoy the wonderful times that are involved with the youth events of the summer and then make no further effort to engage the youth in the worship life, the prayer life and the social life of the Church. The psalmist asks the question in Psalm 119:9: "How can young people keep their way pure?" with the answer given, "By guarding it according to Your word." Again we could say this answer is quite plain, but we must remind ourselves, how will others know the Word of the Lord unless it is opened to them? And to open it to them, someone must be a part of the worship life, prayer life and social life of the Church and then bring the youth along with them.

As an example, we often get the small prayer books for the youth of the Church when they receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist for the first time. In fact I have seen very many pictures of young people holding their First Communion candle and prayer book. But unfortunately it would seem that those prayer books very quickly fade from view. I cannot and will not blame the youth for such a thing, because where is their example? While I don't see the youth with their prayer books, I also don't see the adults, who are supposed to be an example, with them either. And of course this is only one example, and many others, in many aspects of religious life, could be given.

We all must remind ourselves that we are called to be examples of a good and holy life for each other. Even St. Paul told this to the young man Timothy when he wrote to him saying, "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." (1 Tim 4:12) St. Paul knew that others would look down on Timothy because he was a young man called to a position of leadership within the infant Church, but that did not matter. It was love, faith and purity that were important and Timothy, like everyone else, was supposed to show it in speech and action.

Now today we know that when we confess our sins during Holy Mass we confess those things that we have done, "in our thoughts, in our words, or in what we have done or failed to do." Maybe after our time of confession, after Holy Mass is done and we are preparing ourselves to once again go out into the world, we should then be asking ourselves, "Now that

I have been forgiven my sins, now that I have received Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, how do I follow my Lord Jesus in thought, in word and in action?" "How can I be an example to others, especially the youth, in my thoughts, in my words or in my actions?" It begins in small ways like letting those around us, again especially the youth, see us praying. Show others that you use your prayer book. Take some time to pray when things are difficult, when you don't know what to do next or even during everyday tasks knowing and showing to those around you that you believe that God is with you always.

Then take the next step of sharing moments of prayer and faith with others. As I said at the beginning of this article, the summer youth events are great opportunities to share times of prayer and worship with the youth and they are also certainly a lot of fun as well. They are also times when we can speak together deeply, about our religious and faith journey and the hopes and dreams for our lives. But this attitude of sharing our life and our faith must be something that we share with the youth, and also each other, not only for a few events in the summer, or for a season, but rather must become part of our very life. Again St. Paul said it to Timothy in his second letter: "Pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart." (2 Tim 2:22)

In closing I want to share with you the prayer for youth from our P.N.C.C. Prayer Book. I encourage all to pray it for the youth of our Holy Church. But also let this prayer be the beginning of doing great things for the youth as well.

Prayer for the Youth (from the P.N.C.C. Prayer Book)

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." We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

And as we pray this prayer, let us let the youth know that we pray for them. And more importantly let's help each other to know and understand, by the example of a good Christian life, the true happiness that comes with living a life in harmony with Christ's teaching.

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

The time of the XXV General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church to be held within the Western Diocese at Our Lady of the Snows Conference Center in Belleville, IL is continuing to march closer and closer.

Synod Registration and Hotel

Registration forms have now been sent to all parishes and organizations of the Church. Anyone can also get a copy of these forms from the pncc.org website by going to the “Organizations/Commissions” tab and searching under “Events.” Each delegate or guest will have to fill out a Registration Form and include the full payment of the \$295.00 Synod Registration fee plus the cost of the hotel. These fees must be submitted to the Western Diocese with the forms. There is also a Hotel Registration Form included. Delegates and Guests are asked to fill out this form and submit it along with the Registration Form. Room assignments will be made by the Western Diocese in the Shrine Hotel first and then in the Drury Inn which is a few minutes away.

Mandates

Mandates are also in the process of being sent to all delegates and parishes.

1. The Lay Members of the Supreme Council, the National Standard Organizations and all Polish National Union Delegates will receive their Mandates from the Office of the Prime Bishop.
2. The Clergy Delegates, Lay Parish Delegates and Diocesan Organizations will receive their Mandates from the office of their respective Diocesan Bishop. These are asked to contact their Diocesan Bishop to let him know the number of mandates needed.

Reports

Reports to the General Synod are continuing to flow into the Office of the Prime Bishop with the deadline of July 27, 2018 fast approaching. It is hoped that by the end of August we will begin to send out these reports to all of the delegates. Reports are being sent to all delegates so that we will not waste time at the Synod going through them. It is the responsibility of all delegates to read the reports and be prepared to speak only if there are questions. Reports will be sent to all delegates on a flash drive which they can use in their own computer. If anyone wishes to have printed copies of the reports, they must print them themselves or have this done elsewhere. The Office of the Prime Bishop will not be printing reports due to the tremendous expense of copying.

Agenda

Beside the reports, the Synod delegates will be spending some significant time in reviewing the work of Future Direction over the last four years, identifying our successes and challenges and plotting a course forward for the next four years. All Delegates are reminded of this important aspect of the General Synod and should be prepared to come to the Synod ready to help in the Church's planning.

Commissions

Members of the Polish National Catholic Church are reminded that during the Synod the membership of the National Commissions will be chosen. It is still my hope that some will come forward in the months leading up to the Synod who will volunteer to serve on a Commission where they feel they have a passion to serve and something to offer. At the present time, I have received only one person who has stepped forward asking to serve. Please consider where your talents can help our Church in its mission to serve Jesus Christ.

The time for the Synod is not that far away. If there are any questions or concerns about the site of the Synod, please contact the Chancery of the Western Diocese. Any general questions can also be directed to the Office of the Prime Bishop. Please continue to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit on the work of bishops, priests, deacons and all the delegates. Prepare to come to the Synod fully ready to work for the building up of the kingdom of God within our Holy Church.

The Synod of our Holy Church is quickly approaching. As we are just a few months away – let us pray for this Holy Gathering.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, Grant us Your grace and blessing, as we prepare to gather together in Holy Synod to seek the Lord Jesus through Your Holy Church. Send Your Holy Spirit upon our Holy Church, that we may be guided by Your Holy Will. Strengthen our bishops, clergy and laity who will gather so that their decisions at Holy Synod may help lead others to Your Son Jesus Christ. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Pictured below is the first P.N.C.C. Synod in 1904 in Scranton, PA.



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.

The Importance of Family Time

Future Direction Subcommittee

As we continue this Year of the Family across our Holy Polish National Catholic Church and now enjoy the summer months we focus this month on the importance of quality family time.

Time set aside for the family is so very important. It strengthens our family bonds; it gives time to talk, listen and pray with each other; time to teach your children important life lessons, to show affection, appreciation, love and support; to instill and strengthen Christian values in your children and family members; to cherish family rituals and traditions such as going to worship and prayer on special days such as Christmas and Easter, special family gatherings and celebrations.

Make the time for your family this summer and always. If you are taking a family vacation enjoy each other's company and continue to strengthen your family bond. Don't forget the importance of time in

prayer and worship even while away from your home parish.

There are many ways that you can spend family time together – for example share a meal together without the distraction of television and cell phones; learn what is happening in each other's lives by just talking and sharing. Make time to play cards, games or sports; go for a walk together; have a family service project to help others in need; watch movies or share hobbies. Pray together, love together, serve others together. Be Jesus to each other by having unconditional love for one another. Strong Christian families are able to withstand setbacks and crisis with a positive loving attitude, shared values of the Gospel and our faith in Christ Jesus that will help cope with challenging times.

You know just how important it is to have quality time with your family – how do you spend yours?



Prayer for Families (P.N.C.C. Prayer Book – 2010)

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

Clergy Appreciation Throughout Our Dioceses



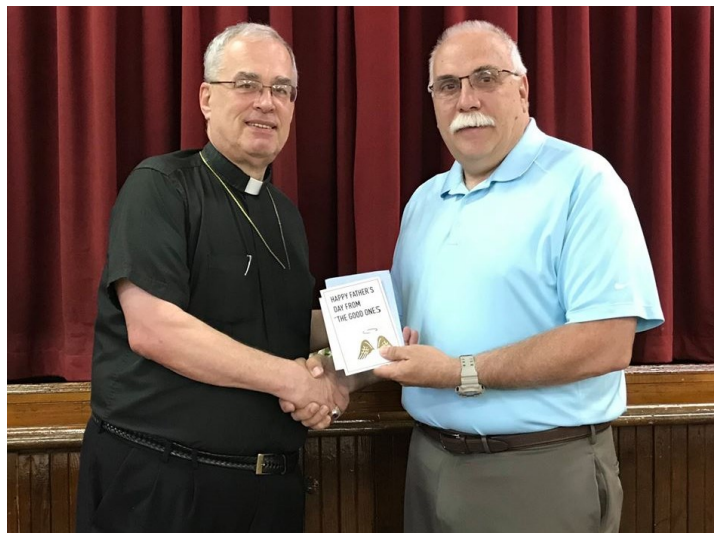
Resurrection of Christ Church, Dunellen, NJ
Honoring Rev. Edward Czudak



Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI
Honoring Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr.



Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI
Honoring Rev. Henryk Was



Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH
Honoring Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Lilly, PA
Honoring Rev. Dr. Scott J. Lill

“Honor Your Father ” Campaign – 2018 (Received by 6/17/2018)

- Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, honored by the Bradbury Family
- Robert Bradbury, father, remembered by the Bradbury Family
- Frank Paskovich, father, remembered by the Bradbury Family
- Rev. Jan Wilczek remembered by his children and grandchildren
- Dr. John Gorgol, father, remembered by Michael R. and Mary Gorgol Mietlicki
- Michael J. Mietlicki, father, remembered by Michael R. and Mary Gorgol Mietlicki
- Michael R. Mietlicki, grandfather, remembered by Michael R. and Mary Gorgol Mietlicki
- Zygmunt Gorgol, grandfather, remembered by Michael R. and Mary Gorgol Mietlicki
- Adam Panfil, grandfather, remembered by Rosalie Clark
- John Godleski, father, remembered by Rosalie Clark
- Rev. Michael Selep, honored by The Society of Adoration, Holy Trinity Parish
- Walter Janusz, husband, remembered by Wanda Janusz
- Stanley W. Bielizna, father, remembered by Diane E. Bielizna
- Rev. Paul Zomerfeld, honored by Bernice Vitacco
- Edward Zomerfeld, Sr., father, remembered by Bernice Vitacco
- Rev. Jason Soltysiak, son-in-law, honored by Rose and Paul Kazinetz
- Rev. Lucian Urbaniak, honored by Margaret Garvin
- Rev. Czesław Kuliczowski, honored by Margaret Garvin
- Bernard Nowicki, father, remembered by Bishop Bernard and Barbara Nowicki
- John Liberasky, father, remembered by Bishop Bernard and Barbara Nowicki
- Rev. Matt Kawiak, honored by Holy Family Parish, North Java, NY
- Rev. Felix Pyzowski, father, honored by Tom Pyzowski
- John J. Frank, remembered by John and Roberta Frank
- Arthur Piroli, Sr., remembered by Joseph and Dawn Piroli
- William Nichols, father, remembered by Deacon Dave, Roseanna and Justin Nichols
- Paul Koceski, father, remembered by Deacon Dave, Roseanna and Justin Nichols
- Stanley M. Bilinski, Sr., father, remembered by Bishop Stanley and Deborah Bilinski
- David Petrosky, father, honored by Bishop Stanley and Deborah Bilinski
- Walt Howden, husband, honored by Kay Howden
- Rev. Lucian Urbaniak, honored by the members of Good Shepherd Parish
- Peter Paul Przybycien, father, remembered by Irene Przybycien
- Frank Bugaski, honored by Don F. Bugaski
- Frank Bugajski, honored by Don F. Bugaski

- John Pikor, honored by Don F. Bugaski
- Rev. Edward Czudak, honored by Church of the Nativity
- Rev. Raymond Drada, remembered by Church of the Nativity
- Rev. Walter Thomas, remembered by Church of the Nativity
- Joseph Basta, father, remembered by Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Basta
- Charles Burcha, father, remembered by Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Basta
- Bernard Wyskich, father, remembered by Donna and Darlene Wyskich
- Walter Sobiechowski, father, remembered by Bishop and Mrs. Paul Sobiechowski
- Stanley Kiska, honored by Bishop and Mrs. Paul Sobiechowski
- Prime Bishop Anthony A. Mikovsky, husband, honored by Carol Mikovsky
- Francis J. Golembeski, Jr., honored by Most Rev. Anthony and Carol Mikovsky
- Anthony J. Mikovsky, father, remembered by Most Rev. Anthony and Carol Golembeski
- Francis J. Golembeski, Sr., father, remembered by Most Rev. Anthony and Carol Golembeski
- Robert A. Golembeski, brother, remembered by Most Rev. Anthony and Carol Golembeski
- Bishop Stanley Bilinski, honored by Joanne Gramza
- Rt. Rev. Thaddeus S. Peplowski, remembered by Linda Wilk
- Bishop John Mack, honored by Linda Wilk
- Very Rev. Francis Kadryna, honored by Linda Wilk
- Rev. Gary Spencer, honored by Linda Wilk
- Alex Ustaszewski, father, remembered by Elmer and Dolores Ustas
- George Cheslock, father, remembered by Elmer and Dolores Ustas
- Bishop Stanley Bilinski, honored by Barbara Radicek
- Charles Pravda, father, remembered by Barbara Radicek
- Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr., honored by Mr. and Mrs. Adam Ostroski
- Eugene Mora, father, remembered by Cherie Kugler
- Rev. Greg Gronn, honored by Cherie Kugler
- Clyde L. Sharik Sr., father, remembered by Debbie and Joe Parknavy
- Joseph R. Parknavy, father, remembered by Debbie and Joe Parknavy
- Joseph J. Parknavy, father, remembered by Joey, Jonathan, Joel Parknavy
- Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski, honored by Debbie, Joe, Joey, Jonathan, Joel Parknavy
- Clyde L. Sharik Sr., grandfather, remembered by Joe, Jonathan and Joel Parknavy
- Charles Bilinski, brother, honored by Bishop Stanley Bilinski
- Robert Bilinski, brother, honored by Bishop Stanley Bilinski
- Very Rev. Matthew J. Kubik, father, remembered by Marian and Elaine Kubik

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“Honor Your Father on Father’s Day” Campaign – 2018 (Continued)

- Rev. Mark Swoger, honored by Ladies Adoration Society of Holy Trinity Parish
- Deacon Dave Nichols, by Ladies Adoration Society of Holy Trinity Parish
- Rev. Felix Pyzowski, by Ladies Adoration Society of Holy Trinity Parish
- Bishop John Mack, by Ladies Adoration Society of Holy Trinity Parish
- Rev. Walter C. Poposki, father, remembered by Walter C. Poposki, Jr.
- Leo Franczak, Sr., father, remembered by Leo and Janet Franczak
- Rudy Beroldi, father, remembered by Leo and Janet Franczak
- Edward Matuszak, father, remembered by Mike and Ursula Przybycien
- Michael P. Przybycien, father, remembered by Mike and Ursula Przybycien
- Casmier Lewandowski, grandfather, remembered by Mike and Ursula Przybycien
- Peter Przybycien, grandfather, remembered by Mike and Ursula Przybycien
- Eric Przybycien, son, remembered by Mike and Ursula Przybycien
- Jerome Quackenbush, remembered by Mike and Ursula Przybycien
- Michael R. Przybycien, remembered by Mike and Ursula Przybycien
- Gregory Matuszak, remembered by Mike and Ursula Przybycien
- John Dyskas, father, remembered by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Zarek
- Theodore Zarek, remembered by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Zarek
- Andrew J. Siedlarczyk, father, remembered by Louise Bocci
- Maciej Siedlarczyk, grandfather, remembered by Andrew M. Siedlarczyk
- Andrew Kondis, grandfather, remembered by Andrew M. Siedlarczyk
- Leo Sarnowski, remembered by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Sarnowski
- Stanley Franus, remembered by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Sarnowski
- Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, honored by Ms. Helen Komski and family
- John Wysocki, father, remembered by Joseph Wysocki
- Rev. Scott Lill, honored by Joseph and Phyllis Podrasky
- Joseph G. Podrasky, Sr., father, remembered by Joseph and Phyllis Podrasky
- Nuncio Martino, father, remembered by Joseph and Phyllis Podrasky
- Most Rev. Anthony Mikovksy, Godfather, honored by Jacob Stankowski
- Rev. Jason Soltysiak, honored by Johanna Markiewicz
- Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, honored by Diane Hodgkins
- Cleric Justin Daviault, honored by Diane Hodgkins
- Arthur Toth, father, honored by Diane Hodgkins
- Albert Clark, father, honored by Bob and Lorraine Clark
- Ernest Bernier, step-father, honored by Bob and Lorraine Clark
- Rev. Mark Gnidzinski, honored by Bob and Lorraine Clark
- Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, honored by Ruth O'Dell

From the National Youth Chaplain

Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski

As promised, and thanks to the God's Field editor, the conclusion of my "thank yous" are below. You're appreciated more than you shall ever know. Please read on ...

THANK YOU FOR GIVING OF YOUR RESOURCES THAT WILL NEVER BE REIMBURSED.

People in your church may not know that you spend money out of your own pocket to be a youth worker... but I know. Thank you.

Students borrow money they never intend to repay. How many times has this happened to you? You're on a youth event and a student comes to you saying, "I didn't know we were supposed to bring money!" You give out your money. Then, when you try to snag a French fry from the kid who took your money, he whines, "Knock it off! These are mine!"

You chauffeur teenagers around, and they never offer to pay for gas. They come over to your house, eat your food, wear out your furniture, and spill soda on your carpet. You finance all of it — the food, the furniture, the cleaning bills.

Why? Because you care about teenagers. You go to their sporting events, musicals and plays and are forced to pay an admission fee. Can you believe they actually charge money for you to watch a freshmen basketball game? This is crazy! I've got to pay five bucks to watch ninth grade girls play basketball. Have you ever seen thirteen- and fourteen-year-old girls play basketball? It's a rough experience. The score at halftime is 3-to-2. It tests my faith to watch them play. I want to shout, "Put the ball in the hoop or I'm leaving, and I'm the only one in the stands right now. I paid five bucks to be here — alone — for lousy basketball just because I care about you and want to see you out in your world!"

Thank you for giving of your resources and making financial sacrifices. Volunteers make sacrifices, but so do those who are paid by the church. I know many youth workers who left better paying jobs to work with students in the church. They sacrificed to work with teenagers. They don't own a car — they drive the church van.

Wow! Driving the church van! Neighbors love that type of vehicle parked on the street near their house. "Uh, could you park that thing in the garage?" You would, but it won't fit.

You might be a youth worker — one of many — who has no youth ministry budget. Any resource you buy to help you be a more effective youth worker comes out of your pocket. I recognize that. Hebrews 13:16 says, "Don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God" (NLT).

Thank you for doing that. I know it's costly to be a youth worker. Thank you.

THANK YOU FOR SEEING SOMETHING IN STUDENTS THAT OTHERS DON'T SEE.

Many teenagers are dying for someone to notice them and to simply believe in them. Thank you for being the type of adult who regularly notices and believes in them. A church's youth ministry should be a place where students are lifted from their self-defeat and raised to a place where they can see themselves as God's original masterpiece. Thank you for painting a picture of what a teenager's life can look like when it is invaded by Jesus.

I would never have become interested in youth ministry if it weren't for the youth leaders who invested in me when I was a teenager. They saw something in me that I didn't see in myself. They observed a teenager who was quiet, introverted, and reflexive. Still, one of my youth leaders pulled me aside: "Stan, I see leadership qualities in you. You're not always the most likeable student I know, but I see something in you that you don't see. I believe that if you would follow Jesus rather than your own plan that He will change you and do great things through you."

That's all I needed to hear. I needed to hear what he was saying. I had a longing to be validated and for my life to matter. That's exactly the picture he painted. I had been in leadership roles at school, but I hadn't seen myself as a leader until the caring, adult youth workers collectively sang my praises and painted a what-if picture for me. They actually believed Philippians 1:6: "I am sure that God, who began the

(Continued on Page 12.)

(From the Youth Chaplain - Continued from Page 11.)

good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again" (NLT).

Thank you for being a youth worker who believes in students. You're a rare individual within the church, and your belief will impact teenagers more than you can ever imagine.

I also want to encourage you to stop reading this for a moment and ask God to bring one teenager to mind who needs your I-believe-in-you support. All students need a caring adult to look them in the eye and say, "Congratulations! You're gifted." Scripture informs us that everyone who has a relationship with God has been spiritually gifted. One of the great tasks of youth work is to help teenagers discover their gifts and use them to build up the body of Christ. Choose someone to lift up this week.

Thank you for seeing qualities in students that others don't see.

THANK YOU FOR BEING VULNERABLE IN A CULTURE THAT WANTS PERFECTION.

Adult leaders give students hope when they're real about their humanity. Thank you for being honest and not hiding all your struggles. When you allow others to see some of your imperfections, you are actually giving teenagers a glimpse of hope.

You might be thinking, "Hope? How?"

Your failure can provide teenagers with a tangible, realistic model of what a spiritual journey looks like. Students need models in all aspects of their lives, including the ups and downs of the spiritual life. They need adults in their lives who have flaws and yet, in their imperfection, still love and follow God.

"Perfect" youth workers discourage students. Students see "perfection" and think to themselves, "I can never be like her. I might as well give up," or, "He's got everything so together in his life that I'll never obtain a spiritual life like that." By occasionally exposing some hurts and struggles, you enhance teenagers' willingness to open up to you, connect with you, and grow spiritually. As weird as that may sound, sharing your struggles gives them hope to keep going and growing in their relationship with Jesus.

When I was a teenager, I thought the youth workers at my church were amazing... if I didn't think they were perfect, I thought they were close to perfect. I

viewed them as being on the same level as Jesus. I was spiritually immature so I didn't know better, but since I was still struggling in certain areas of my life, I thought I wasn't a good enough Christian. Every time I messed up, I thought I was alone. I didn't want to say anything about my messiness to the leaders because I didn't think they would understand.

I encourage you to beg God for wisdom and discernment about what to reveal and when to be transparent because it could become a real gift to the teenagers you work with.

Vulnerability is a risk, so I want to thank you for being vulnerable in a culture that wants perfection.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE HEAT WHEN YOU DESERVE THE PRAISE.

Thank you for having the depth of character that is willing to take some heat without turning everything into a battle. It seems as though youth workers are always getting in trouble for something. We're the easiest ones to blame because we work with an age group that is targeted when trouble arrives. Can you relate to any of these situations?

- Trash is scattered in the parking lot. "It must be the teenagers."
- Someone has been messing with computers in the church office. "It must be the teenagers."
- The church is on fire. "It must be the teenagers."
- The janitor finds the fountain full of bubbles. "It must be the teenagers."

Now your students may only be guilty of the last one (which, by the way, that is a funny bit), but you'll take the heat for all of them. You'll graciously and tenderly respond, "I'll look into it. I'll say something to the students. I'm sorry." I understand. If you had to fight every accusation you'd be very tired of youth ministry, and sometimes the complaints aren't worth arguing or fighting about.

After spending an entire week at a diocesan youth event, you return home exhausted. You were busy with many emotionally draining conversations; the late-night talks; finding the missing pastor's kid; assisting in the music, games, skits, and programming, enforcing curfew (well, at least trying to). It was a fulfilling, tiring event. God used you, but you're ready for your own bed instead of the concrete floor you slept on because there weren't enough camp mattresses.

When you arrive at the church, you meet an angry parent in the parking lot. Instead of thanking you for sacrificing your week and praising you for being away from your family, job, friends, pets, and home repair projects, the parent yells at you because her child lost a sleeping bag. Then another parent chews you out because you pulled in thirty minutes after your estimated arrival time. Finally, one of the parish leaders gives you the disappointed look and clucks, “You’re not going to leave the church van in this condition, are you?” Classic youth ministry.

You’re not alone. This scenario is all too common in youth ministry. Thank you for taking the heat. Thank you for being humble. Thank you for not always being defensive and turning everything into a battle. Thank you... know that God honors this type of attitude.

THANK YOU FOR LOVING GOD AND TRUSTING HIM TO USE YOU.

Thank you for knowing that healthy youth ministry isn’t about directing activities or discovering the newest wild game to entertain students. It’s my observation that healthy youth ministries are filled with men and women who love God and who are willing to be used by Him.

Most youth workers I meet feel unprepared, untrained, unskilled and uncool. Here’s the truth: they are. Yep, they are unprepared, untrained, unskilled and uncool. Me too!

I started the Uncool Youth Workers Club—you just have to acknowledge that you’re uncool to join the club. Typically, youth workers who feel prepared, trained, skilled and cool enough to work with teenagers fall into one of three categories: (1) arrogant, (2) disillusioned, or (3) really young. I’ve been working with teenagers for over thirty years, and I still don’t have the total combination of prepared, trained, skilled and cool. It took me many years to realize that I’ll never have all of them, and that it’s okay.

At my age, I have no hope of ever being cool. I’m not the same age as the parents of my teenagers. I don’t dress like teenagers. I don’t drive a cool car. I have no body piercings or tattoos. And I don’t listen to their music. (I listen to news radio.) I don’t have the energy to stay up all night like I once did. My reflexes are slowing down, so I’m usually the first eliminated when I play dodgeball.

What a loser, right? Yes and no. Yes, because there are many times when I feel old and I feel like a loser, but no because God continues to use me to impact teenagers.

Being a good youth worker is not about being young and cool. It’s about loving and following Jesus, trusting Him, caring for teenagers, parents and families, and pointing them to the God you love. When you trust Jesus to use you despite your inadequacies, He does. It’s an amazing truth being proven in churches around the world. Teenagers connect with adults because they place their faith in God and that’s an attractive quality to students.

I’m often asked, “How do I know whether I’m trusting God with my youth ministry?” I typically respond with another question: “Are you still in youth ministry?”

If the answer is yes, chances are good that you’re trusting God. God’s power shows up when youth workers keep moving and don’t give up. Moses had to march to the Red Sea before God’s power showed up. He had to keep moving forward. Joshua had to step into the Jordan before God’s power showed up. He was moving forward. God’s power seems to follow our steps of faith.

Thank you for being consistent in your love for God and for being faithful in trusting Him with who you are and what you have to offer.

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!

I believe youth workers are healthier, happier and more effective when they occasionally hear the words - thank you. These two words are common and simple, but when they’re used at the right time, they can be powerful and inspiring. I hope you’ve been encouraged as you’ve read my words of appreciation. Here’s my prayer for you:

God, bless the youth workers reading these words and refresh their souls. So many of us question our effectiveness. Please remind us that your love for us is not based on our skills, our gifts, or on the size of our ministry.

Help us to remember that you love us because we are your children. Thank you for that love! And all of God’s people said in Jesus’ name, Amen.

You may not see it, but your ministry is reaching oth-

(Continued on bottom of Page 20.)

National Y.M.S. of R. Men's Spiritual Retreat

The first National Y.M.S. of R.-sponsored Men's Spiritual Retreat was held at the Bishop Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center on the grounds of Spójnia Farm in Waymart, PA, from the evening of May 17, to Noon, May 19, 2018.



The Retreat was set up to fulfill the goals of Bishop Hodur in establishing the Young Men's Society of the Resurrection (Y.M.S. of R.) some 100+ years ago: To unite the men of the P.N.C.C. in the endeavor of the perfection of a Christian life.

At our last Biennial Convention at All Saints Parish in Sterling Heights, MI, in 2017, the National Y.M.S. of R. approved a subcommittee to be formed to put together a retreat. This was in response to the call of sp. Rev. Raymond Drada, who became worried that the Y.M.S. of R. in the P.N.C.C. had fallen away from the call of Bishop Hodur and lost the spirit of devotion to things spiritual, not just necessarily the physical upkeep of the parish.

The small group of men began to arrive Thursday afternoon, the 17th. A delicious meal of baked ziti and salad was prepared by Rose Kazinetz from the Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA. Desert was provided by Cwikla's bakery in Avoca, PA.

Our retreat began with a couple of icebreakers. Andrew Humphreys led a discussion on the participants' favorite bible verses, the reasons why the verses were among their favorites, and what distractions keep personal spirituality hidden. Cleric Jim Ploskonka then introduced an introspective exercise, "Penance Thing," that asked us to look at life highs and lows and spiritual highs and lows...and then place them on

a timeline to see how they match up (hint: they do). This exercise was developed over the few days of the retreat. The first evening closed with prayer and the exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Since Eucharistic Adoration was a focus of our Retreat, we ended up spending hours before the Present Christ. A chapel for adoration was set up in one of the vacant retreat center wings, and the Sacrament was exposed until the final prayer on the last day of the retreat.

The first full day of the retreat began with Morning Prayer. The liturgies were prepared by Rev. Carmen Bolock, National Y.M.S. of R. Chaplain. A tremendous breakfast was served by Nick Kazinetz and Andrew Humphreys (they prepared all retreat meals). Our morning session was led by Fr. Dennis Ruda of All Saints Parish in Johnson City, NY. He spoke of the need for spiritual revival in our parishes, the decisions that have led to difficult times at parishes and the need for prayer.

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky joined us shortly after and led the group on a discussion that touched on the feminine and masculine images within the Church. He spoke to how it was a long term thing, not necessarily negative, but something that could be viewed as detrimental to a man's role within the Church. His talk centered on male roles in the Church and past and future developments as well.



We then took a little break from the schedule before reconvening mid-afternoon by going on the Spiritual Walk through Spójnia Farm. Led by Fr. Jason Soltysiak from St. Mary's in Parma, OH, it was 12
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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council of the P.N.C.C. Lancaster, NY

(Continued from Volume 96, Issue No. 6)

Michael R. Mietlicki, Secretary, Supreme Council

Commission Reports

Church Doctrine Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Prime Bishop Mikovsky, Commission Chair. The Prime Bishop highlighted the topics discussed by this commission. Two official statements were recently released by the commission and published in *God's Field*. One focused on the Ordination of Women, the other on Guidelines for Cremation and the disposal of the cremains. The commission does try to discuss and release statements on contemporary issues. There are many topics on its to-do list, but all require a lot of research.

National Committee on Scouting

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report including descriptions of the committee's activities and programs submitted by Richard Daum, Committee Chair. The Prime Bishop reported the priests of the Eastern Diocese are redoing the scouting award booklets. Drafts of the work were presented to the National Clergy Conference. They will be published as soon as they are finalized.

National SOCL Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report including descriptions of the commission's activities and programs submitted by Father Charles Zawistowski, Commission Chair. The commission is focusing on two projects: a series of lessons on reverence and a post confirmation curriculum to keep young adults engaged in parish life after they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. They will be sent to every parish when they are completed.

Sacred Vocations Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Father Dr. Scott Lill, Commission Chair. The report described the commission's activities, program of work and a budget request that was referred to the Budget Commission. The Commission is currently focused on writing intercessory prayers for each Sunday of the year to keep Sacred Vocations as a prayer focus of each Sunday's liturgy. These could also be inserted in parish weekly bulletins for home prayer. Refrigerator magnets that contain a prayer for Vocations have been created. The purpose of these is to daily keep the need for prayer for Sacred Vocations in front of families. They were distributed at the National Clergy Conference. Additional magnets can be obtained from Father Lill. Ultimately it is the active encouragement a man receives at home that will allow him to follow a Call to the Priesthood. This is also a program of Future Direction. Changing the hearts and minds of members of the P.N.C.C. is one thing that will solve our present Sacred Vocation crisis. The commission did request the Supreme Council designate a Clergy Appreciation Weekend in June as part of Sacred Vocations Month. October is Clergy Appreciation Month as established by the Future Direction Subcommittee. These are visible signs of appreciation for the clergy. After discussing which weekend would be most appropriate in June it was decided to select the first weekend in June as Clergy Appreciation Weekend. While Fathers' Day was initially viewed as the most logical, it was noted that this secular holiday is already too busy, and the Clergy Appreciation Weekend should be a stand-alone weekend with a spiritual emphasis. Bishop Mack reported the Buffalo Pittsburgh Diocese will conduct an hour of devotion before the Blessed Sacrament in May with the specific intention of an increase in Sacred Vocations. A similar devotion could be celebrated during the Clergy Appreciation Weekend. Prime Bishop Mikovsky referenced a recent survey conducted by the Roman Catholic Church of U.S. priests ordained in 2017. A majority of those who replied to the survey indicated that Eucharistic Adoration was the most meaningful thing they did that fostered their Call to the Priesthood. P.N.C.C. parishes should provide more opportunities for their members to participate in Eucharistic Adoration. Other challenges to increased Sacred Vocations are the current focus of society and its emphasis on physical health not spiritual health and the importance society places on monetary achievements.

Clergy Salary & Benefits Commission

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report

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that included descriptions of the commission's activities and programs submitted by Beverly Basinski, Commission Chair. Beverly summarizing her report indicated one of the major tasks assigned to the commission at the last synod was to distribute the guidelines to clergy and parishes. This has been accomplished. Positive comments regarding the guidelines were received from the National Clergy Conference. Parishes are now beginning to follow the guidelines. It was also noted that very few clergy are paid under the published salary guideline. Since the United States Department of Labor acknowledged a 2% increase in the cost of living, the salary schedules were adjusted to reflect that increase as of January 1, 2018. Currently the only thing on the commission's agenda is the question regarding annuity providers. During discussion the commission reported a notice regarding the 2% salary increase was sent to all parishes. It will also be published in *God's Field*. The cost of living salary adjustment for clergy is not optional but is a mandated increase. While performance or incentive salary increases should be considered annually they are optional and are offered at the preference of a parish. While there is a section in the guidelines regarding benefits and salaries of bishops, some felt the last synod proposed enhancing this section. The last synod did pass a proposal that dioceses and cathedrals share the cost of health insurance and the annuity payments for their bishops.

Constitution Commission

A prepared report of the commission's work was not submitted. The Prime Bishop reported the chair of the commission resigned. Some initial work was done in the commission reviewing the P.N.C.C. Constitution proactively rather than its historical reactive stance, meeting only before a synod to review proposed modifications to the constitution submitted by individuals. Quite possibly, there should be a P.N.C.C. Constitution outlining the structural and governance components of the P.N.C.C. and a separate document containing bylaws and an operation manual. The discussion of constitutional amendments at synods is a time-consuming process. A special constitutional synod may need to be called, similar to that which occurred at the 15th General Synod, where the only item on the agenda was amendments to the constitution. The commission will meet to review and approve the submitted constitution amendments that will be presented to the upcoming synod.

Meeting of the Supreme Council – Day Two

On the second day of the Supreme Council Meeting Bishop Mack celebrated Morning Prayer in the Cathedral at 9 a.m. Prime Bishop Mikovsky called the second day's session of the Supreme Council to order on April 25 at 9:30 a.m. Bishop Nowicki led morning prayer.

Organizational Reports

National United Choirs [NUC]

The Supreme Council reviewed prepared reports of Lydia Hohn, NUC Chair, Dr. Neil Stahurski, Music Commission Chair, and Cathy A. Bilinski, Music Scholarship Administrator.

Since its inception 1,085 scholarships were awarded totaling over \$310K. The Prime Bishop reported the Music Minister Handbook was published and underwritten by the Western Diocese. Each parish in the United States received a copy. They will be mailed to the Canadian Diocese soon. Cathy Bilinski, Music Scholarship Administrator, reported the number of applicants in 2017 was lower than previous years. Interest generated from endowment funds, along with donations, support the Music Scholarship Program. It is anticipated that the 2018 Music Scholarship recipients will be announced at the upcoming Youth Convocation. The 2019 Music Workshop will be hosted by the Buffalo Pittsburgh Diocese. The Southern and Central Seniorates of the Buffalo Pittsburgh Diocese are giving new life to what was known in the past as the Pittsburgh Bard. The Eastern Diocese is trying to activate United Choirs in its diocese by using social media to enlist choir members to sing at diocesan liturgies. Music is distributed ahead of the liturgy and the response to date has been good. While in the past United Choirs was known primarily for the presentation of concerts, its recent participation in diocesan wide liturgies is an enhanced contribution to the liturgical life of the Church. The United Choirs in other dioceses are also supporting this important liturgical role.

United Young Men's Society of the Resurrection [Y.M.S. of R.]

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of Nick Kazinetz, Y.M.S. of R. Chair. The report included descriptions of its activities, namely the Kurs, a convention, bowling tournament, winter clothing drive as part of Future Direction, golf tournament

and fraternal/community activities. The Prime Bishop reported the organization is planning a men's retreat to be held at the Bishop Hodur Retreat Center in Waymart, PA in May. This is proving to be a promising event. While he is pleased with the activities of the Y.M.S. of R. he still hopes they will sponsor some youth event to replace the Track & Field Meet. The lack of the Track & Field Meet has negatively impacted the National United Youth Association [NUYA] since the NUYA used that event as a gathering point for meetings and friendship renewal. The Y.M.S. of R. convention is scheduled for September.

National United Youth Association [NUYA]

A prepared report was not submitted to the Supreme Council.

National Youth Chaplain

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of the National Youth Chaplain, Bishop Stanley Bilinski, Jr. In summarizing his report, Bishop Bilinski reiterated that the NUYA doesn't have a focal point or place where it can meet as it had with the Track and Field Meet. Phone meetings haven't proven as successful as face-to-face interaction. Bishop thanked all the parishes that supported the work and projects of the NUYA, especially Operation Christmas Child. Bishop is always available to help dioceses or parishes seeking help in sponsoring youth ministries. He also wished there were more youth workers in the Church who would attend the annual Youth Workers Convention with him. He thanked all for everything they do for the youth of the P.N.C.C.

National United Women's Society of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament [SAMBS]

A prepared report was not submitted to the Supreme Council. The Prime Bishop reported the Women's Retreat sponsored by the SAMBS was very positive. The attendees participated in many different activities and presentations during the retreat. It is hoped more retreats will be conducted between SAMBS conventions in other parts of the Church. Discussions focused on how to encourage even more participation. One way would be to plan the retreat well in advance, so time can be blocked out in personal calendars. The challenge with long range planning is being able to secure facilities far in advance.

Dialogue Reports

P.N.C.C. - RCC Dialogue

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of Bishop John Mack, P.N.C.C. Chair of the P.N.C.C.-RC Dialogue Commission. Summarizing his report, Bishop Mack indicated the P.N.C.C. has reaped the benefits of all the agreements reached since the dialogue began. The dialogue commission meets once a year. The current Roman Catholic Chair is Bishop Joseph Bambera of Scranton. Even though the Roman Catholic Church is much larger than the P.N.C.C., the P.N.C.C. delegation comes to the conference table as a Church equal with the Roman Catholic Church. As close as we are to the Roman Catholic Church in some ways, there are still dividing lines. The dialogue has given the P.N.C.C. Catholic validity. The P.N.C.C. is in a unique position since it shares various agreements with both the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches. The Roman Catholic Church recognizes our Orders as valid as has been demonstrated recently with the Nordic Catholic Church. This acknowledgement on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church is very beneficial to the P.N.C.C. since it is recognized world-wide. Likewise, because of the RCC statement on Canon Law 844.3 [Holy Communion and its reception], the P.N.C.C. is now listed in every RC missalette found in every RC church pew. It is advantageous to the P.N.C.C. to continue this dialogue even though we aren't making the progress made in past decades. An open dialogue and the positive items it reveals is important since at times the process of moving to a destination is more important than the destination itself.

P.N.C.C. - ACNA Dialogue

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, P.N.C.C. Chair of the P.N.C.C.-ACNA Dialogue Commission. This dialogue appears to be at an impasse since the ACNA College of Bishops decided to follow a "dual integrity" path, allowing the ACNA to continue in communion with bishops who ordain women. Dual integrity is defined as maintaining in one church two doctrinal positions that at the same time are opposed to each other. While the P.N.C.C. is still in dialogue with the ACNA, meetings are deferred until the ACNA decides to hold and teach the position of the undivided church on the Sacrament of Ordination to the Priesthood. There are member dioceses of the ACNA who

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do not agree with the dual integrity path. Likewise, the P.N.C.C. has agreed to dialogue with the Federation of Anglican Churches in the Americas, F.A.C.A. The member churches of F.A.C.A. do not ordain women to the three-fold ministry of the Sacred Priesthood.

P.N.C.C. - Orthodox Dialogue

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of Bishop Stanley Bilinski, P.N.C.C. Chair of the P.N.C.C.-Orthodox Dialogue. The P.N.C.C. has been trying to initiate this dialogue with the Orthodox Church in America [OCA] located just outside of Scranton in South Canaan, PA. Bishop Tikhon, the primate of the OCA is resident there. To date, however, there has been no response from the OCA. Under the umbrella of the Union of Scranton, we have also reached out to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and did receive notice the letter was favorably received. Once the dialogue officially begins Bishop Stanley Bilinski will head up the P.N.C.C. dialogue committee.

It was emphasized that dialogue teams talk. Synods make agreements. As in the past, any agreements that result from dialogues would need P.N.C.C. synodal acceptance.

Ecumenical Reports

National Council of Churches of the United States

Prime Bishop Mikovsky, as a Church leader, and Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Ecumenical Officer, sit on the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches in the United States. They attend teleconference meetings of the board as schedules permit. This organization is a Protestant led organization. The P.N.C.C. and Orthodox Church are the few Catholic members. Relevant statements of the National Council of Churches are published in *God's Field*. We are also members of the National Council of Churches of Canada. The P.N.C.C. is also a member of the World Council of Churches. The World Council of Churches recently conducted a survey of its members seeking information about how churches encouraged children and youth in the faith. The P.N.C.C. did respond to this survey. The P.N.C.C. Ecumenical Officer does share documents and press releases from the World Council of Churches with P.N.C.C. bishops.

Christian Churches Together [CCT] in the USA

The P.N.C.C. participates as schedules permit. This organization is comprised of church families. Consequently, in this organization the P.N.C.C. tends to be grouped with the Roman Catholic Church. Consequently, because of the small size of the P.N.C.C. it is overwhelmed in that family.

Conference of European Churches

The P.N.C.C. is currently not a member of this organization. We are looking to see if we should be a part of this group since we have a group of churches in Italy. This group is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic and not welcoming to the P.N.C.C.

International Catholic Bishops Conference of the Union of Scranton

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of Father Senior Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr., Ecumenical Officer of the P.N.C.C. Father Senior Nemkovich summarized his report highlighting the recent convocation in Dublin, Ireland. The purpose of the convocation was to introduce the Union of Scranton to Anglo Catholics throughout the United States and Europe. The papers that were presented can be found on the [Union of Scranton website](#). A second convocation will be conducted in 2019 in Scranton. During discussion the following was highlighted. The P.N.C.C. is known throughout the world. As a Catholic Church we are grouped with the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox in global conversations even though we are much smaller than our counterparts. Through the Union of Scranton, the P.N.C.C. presents a church model of Catholicism that other church groups such as the Anglicans, seek. Just recently a group split from the Union of Utrecht and joined the Nordic Catholic Church. Another church, an Anglican diocese in Africa that has parishes in the United States, has demonstrated an interest in communion through the Union of Scranton. This group represents one million members. While it was hoped that a bishop representative from the Ecumenical Patriarch would be present at the Dublin Convocation, he was not. Nonetheless, we remain in contact with the Ecumenical Patriarch.

Budget & Finance Committee Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the budget. Martin Wachna, Jr., Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, summarized the committee's report and ex-

plained each line item in the proposed budget. Because the financial books were kept open the committee didn't have a chance to do an extensive review, but all members of the Budget & Finance Committee had an opportunity to review the proposed budget. The proposed budget anticipates \$432K from general dues received prior to the closing of the books and another \$67.2K in late payments. Rental income remains the same as in 2017. Projected royalty income was increased by \$7.2K. Loan payments were increased by \$19.8 since St. Michael the Archangel Parish started repaying both interest and principal. An increase of \$2K is anticipated in mission collections. The 6% levy remains the same as in 2017. Interest and investment income was increased by \$75K. Total income is projected to be \$1,202,850. Total expense is anticipated to be \$1,228,008 resulting in a budget deficit of \$25,158.

The 2018 dues allotment recommendation remains the same as 2017.

Recommended General Fund Dues Apportionment:

Diocese	\$ 3.00
Youth	\$ 2.00
Clergy Hospitalization	\$ 40.15
Administration	\$ 46.60
Mission	\$ 1.00
Clergy Pension	\$ 7.00
Seminary	\$.25
TOTAL	\$100.00

Capital improvement projections at the Prime Bishop's residence were listed as \$10K, an increase of \$5K based on necessary upgrades at the residence. Regarding National Church Center [NCC] and Administration Expenses, projected legal fees and software costs were reduced. Total NCC and Administration Expense projections are \$10.2K less than the 2017 budget. The budget for NCC Property Expenses increased by \$16.9K due to increased maintenance and electricity expenses. Research into the increase in electrical costs will be undertaken. Eliminating or greatly reducing the current property tax on the NCC will go a long way in helping to control the expenses of the building. The budget for the Other Expenses section of the budget reflects little change. The biggest component of this category is \$240K for the Clergy Hospitalization Plan. \$26K in clergy aid for several parishes was recommended by the Prime

Bishop and Diocesan Bishops and approved. Given the projected negative budget for 2018, only critical repairs will be made to the National Church Center. During discussion the following was noted. Further research will be undertaken to determine the justification for the National United Choirs budget request. The budget requests from the 2018 Convo Committee and the Commission on Sacred Vocations were reviewed. A closer review by the Supreme Council of the financial reports of standard organizations and committees may help them better plan and implement their programs. Prime Bishop reported he opened the membership of commissions to all members of the P.N.C.C. rather than just those attending the synod. The goal is to match the objective of a commission with a person's passion and expertise, thus improving a commission's program of work. This announcement has appeared in *God's Field*. He encourages all members of the P.N.C.C. to offer their talents to the Church through commission work. An increase in the dues obligation will not be proposed to the upcoming synod.

Upcoming Synod

Bishop Stanley Bilinski provided an update on the synod site and facilities. The Supreme Council at its April 2017 Annual Meeting decided the upcoming synod should be hosted in a retreat center. Consequently, it will be held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Snows in Belleville, IL. The entire facility will be used by our synod, a total of 6 conference rooms. The synod will be held from October 1 through October 3, 2018. Three meals will be served on Monday and Tuesday. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on Wednesday. The entire onsite hotel is also booked for the synod. A hotel in the area is also reserved for overflow. Both facilities will offer rooms at the same rate. The beginning of the week for the synod was selected after contacting secular business people of the Western Diocese to seek their preference of days since they will be taking time off from their occupations. They preferred the beginning of the week rather than the end of the week. Delegates will be asked to make their reservations through the Western Diocese to avoid the payment of sales tax. Consequently, delegates won't be making reservations directly with the hotel. Delegates should plan to fly into the St. Louis airport which is fifteen minutes from the retreat center. If there is enough need, a bus company will be contracted to provide transportation to the facility from the airport. (Continued on Page 20.)

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New Business

Correspondence

A letter from Father Dr. Scott Lill, Chair of the Commission on Sacred Vocations, regarding the spiritual change needed to foster Sacred Vocations was distributed during the meeting. During discussion it was noted we need to encourage holiness of living among the members of the P.N.C.C. to increase Vocations to the Priesthood. The word “discipleship” needs to be embraced by all members of the P.N.C.C. While our members are actively involved in “church work,” that is fund raising, they need to grow their involvement with the “work of the Church,” its spiritual dimension. It is a growing process and the Future Direction Subcommittee is focused on developing discipleship within the P.N.C.C. Prime Bishop will seek Father Lill's permission to publish the letter in *God's Field*.

Request for Loans

There were no requests for loans.

Discussion for the Good of the P.N.C.C.

Clergy Shortage Concerns

The current clergy shortage, the average age of active priests, future clergy retirements, and the pastoral openings created by the future election of candidates for the Office of Bishop was raised as a critical concern. Of special concern to the Supreme Council is the fact that in eight years after Prime Bishop Mikovsky's second term, a new Prime Bishop will

be elected. Prime Bishop Mikovsky and all current Diocesan Bishops do not qualify as candidates for this office based on the P.N.C.C. Constitution.

Health Insurance Premium Reimbursement

It was noted the one third health insurance premium reimbursement mandated by the P.N.C.C. Constitution is unrestrictive and not capped resulting in the biggest expense item for the P.N.C.C. It was reported this mandate was passed at a synod when a national clergy health insurance with predictive costs was in place. Recent inquiries into the implementation of a national plan would have resulted in skyrocketed premiums. Given the uncertainty of the health insurance industry in the United States, this P.N.C.C. constitutional mandate presents a financial risk to the P.N.C.C.

The P.N.C.C. Constitution

The need to review the current P.N.C.C. Constitution was recognized. Possibly a constitutional synod would need to be called to solely focus on modifications. It was agreed that the transformation Future Direction brings to the P.N.C.C. is a more important synod theme rather than dedicating an entire synod to reviewing the P.N.C.C. Constitution.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

The Prime Bishop thanked everyone for attending the meeting, taking time from their professional careers and private lives to offer their talents to the P.N.C.C. Bishop John Mack offered the closing prayer. It was followed by the singing of the Church Hymn.



(From the Youth Chaplain - Continued from Page 13.)

ers. What you're doing will be remembered by God, and you will be rewarded for eternity. You have answered a call that's often unrewarding and requires tremendous faith and commitment. And even though you often feel weak and powerless, you have faith that God's Spirit will work through you. Thank you.

“So my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and steady, always enthusiastic about the Lord's work, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever

useless.”

—1 Corinthians 15:58, NLT

I hope we can catch up at Convo 2018. Be ready for encouragement, not only from me, but from each other. Realize that our time together is precious. I am sure that our Prime Bishop and our bishops will be ready to affirm our adults and clergy for your commitment to our youth, and say, “Thank you.”

Ode to Great Men and Great Things in Poetry and Prose

This 139-page book, written by Rev. Walter Andrew Hyszko and edited by Very Rev. Louis Orzech with the cooperation of the Bishop Hodur Biography Commission, was published by the Youth and Education Commission of the Polish National Union of America, in 1973.

The book is recommended by Most Rev. Thaddeus F. Zielinski, D.D., to the faithful of the Polish National Catholic Church, the Church Societies and to the members of the Polish National Union of America.

The Rev. Walter Andrew Hyszko was born in Central Falls, Rhode Island on June 15, 1908. He entered Savonarola Seminary and after completing his studies, was ordained by Bishop Francis Hodur on July 17, 1934. He organized Good Shepard Parish in Worcester, Massachusetts and served it as pastor for eight years. He also served as pastor in Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, Massachusetts and St. John's Parish, Manchester, Connecticut.

The Dedication reads as follows: "This book of poems I humbly dedicate to Bishop Francis Hodur, the bishops and priests and laymen, who by their faith, devotion and struggle, made the existence of the Polish National Catholic Church possible and insured her further growth and development.

Also I dedicate this book to my devoted father, Andrew Hyszko and to the blessed memory of my loving mother, Tekla Dudko Hyszko and my dear wife Wanda, all of whom gave so much of themselves for my benefit and for which I am eternally grateful."

The book contains 173 entries, and is separated into 8 sections: I. Bishop Francis Hodur (26), II. The Church (10), III. The Bishops and Priests (13), IV. Religious Meditations (66), V. Mothers Day (15), VI. Fathers Day (10), VII. Patriotic Days (8), and VIII. Miscellaneous (25). The entries in each section is shown in parentheses.

I think that the best way to lead you to read this book is to give you some examples, so this article will include one poem from each section.

I. Bishop Francis Hodur, To Bishop Francis Hodur, Who Inspired Me To Reach Out to Heaven.

My Dear Bishop—guide my searching hand! Inspire me to write!
Daily I pray—That your unfailing, consecrated light
Will never dim for me, the inspiration in you, that I hold so dear!
In, all my visions, hopes, faith, be ever near!
Your mission fulfilled in God, through many faithful, who ever most
Trusted you—even in your dreaded hours, when you felt your paradise lost:
You still saw the Holy Fire burning—penetrating darkness with eyes
Of your soul—making more radiant celestial skies!
To your loved ones you brought Holiness of God's heaven—
They know this precious gift to you, was God give!
These words woven into poems, from your garden of literature were attained—
Became flowers in many hearts—so many a gracious beauty they gained!
Fertilized with prayers, meditations with your touch, they began to fervently grow!
In God's sight they were showered with a Divine Glow!
This humble book—joyous with tears of inspiration, expresses how much we miss you!

To all your trusts, held holy in God, we vow to be true!
Dear One! Inspire in our hearts a hallowed Sanctuary
Inspiring there, or symbol of truth, work, struggle—knowing in God our P. N. C. C. Victory!

(Continued on Page 22.)

(Ode to Great Men and Great Things - Continued from Page 21.)

II. The Church, The Holy Synod

All too soon the Holy Hours of the Synod will come—
There will be controversial sessions, issues; but for some
Special glories in the flare of limelight;
But many, with prayer in heart, will seek the flare of our church mission in God's sight!

In these holy hours my heart will turn to God!
I shall see the spirit of our missionary soldiers gone, still blazing trails we must trod!
My cheeks shall wet with tears of their precious tears
As they call out to us in our trying hours of duty, sacrifices, fears!

As I hold my pen, I see them in God silently passing by;
I hear their relentless, beseeching, soul searching cry;
“This Holy Torch we pass unto your hands to hold high. . .
With truth, work and struggle lift its eternal fire to the sky!

At the Synod in spirit, encouragement, we will be there,
All your moments in our Founders name we will share,
Praying that all you faithful will devotedly give
Your Best that our church in God, through you, can eternally live!”

III. The Bishops and Priests, These Are Your Priests

I hail the Priests—Missionaries of the church we all so love.
These men of action have made our Church foundation solid—their sacrifices prove.
They accepted a challenge—through a CALLING IN GOD—humble in His Sight.
They took on the pains of CRITICISMS—ABUSES—PERSECUTIONS—they gave their all for what is right.
In their ranks are elderly priests—bishops—and our appointed head.
As PRIME BISHOP, he must show love of Christ—to all—this teaching he must spread.
Unto the least—unto the highest with knowledge—respect with the wisdom of a SOLOMON.
His are sleepless nights—burdened with trial—tribulation—his work is never done.
His heart cries out when his priests are pressed against the grim wall of SHARP CRITICISM—UNJUST ACCUSATIONS BY unthinking people who would make them fall.
When just a little love from them—a bit of cooperation could make these priests smile—bring them courage in most trying hours.
Instill in their hearts the SPIRIT OF THEIR BELOVED LEADER that always empowers.
Their weakest fault with strength—beauty of faith in Christ—these gifts yours and theirs to share.
When they try to show how much they love you—how much they care.
You know these priests—your childhood playmates—they were your friends.
From each of your group such a one received God's calling—He now defends.
Your right to EQUALITY in the sight of GOD—that you may hold your head high.
Are these the men you can now disrespect—belittle—rashly defy.
With words—“I know him well—it's hard to believe he is now a priest—
I help pay his salary.” They flaunt—not caring his salary is among the least.
Still harsher words of parents: “I would never let my son sacrifice his life in this church
To be criticized—abused” But dear friends where must we search

For men of courage—faith—truth—sacrifice their lives as these priests did—
 RESPECT THESE GRACIOUS MEN with Christian love—HEAVEN FORBID
 THAT YOU SHOULD FAIL THEM IN THEIR MOST TRYING HOURS—IN THEIR NEEDS
 FOR UNDERSTANDING—A WEE BIT OF COOPERATION;
 With joy they will bring you CHRIST—make you feel a heavenly elation—
 You will see them fervently praying before that Altar—tears in their eyes
 They will uplift you with HOLY SPIRIT to the very skies—
 FOR IN THE SACRED MISSION OF OUR CHURCH—YOU, THE PEOPLE, PLAY AN IMPORTANT
 PART—
 BY HELPING THESE MEN OF CLOTH—YOU WILL BRING HAPPINESS AND GOD’S PEACE INTO
 YOUR HEART!

IV. Religious Meditations, Holy Week

There is no greater silence than death—
 When substance of life ends with gasping breath,
 When all sounds suddenly cease, envelop in black, bleak
 Shadows of the grim reaper—that do not move or speak.

Again, the shadow of doom hovers over Calvary Hill;
 The mist of death, ever so horrid, so still
 Darkens the sky; there is no light, there is no sun—
 The world’s greatest tragedy, killing God’s Son , has just begun.

Holy Week—the purple of atonement, from His Cross we borrow
 To humble our hearts, plead we will fail Him no more!
 Yet, each year, heavier is the cross to Calvary He bore.

In mockery, we raise our voices to the sky—
 We know how unfaithful is our promised cry;
 Beneath the cross, His Holy Mother, ever faithful, so alone
 Raises her voice to God, in behalf of her Son:
 “Father, Thy will be done!”

V. Mothers Day, Dear Mother!

On this, your day, nature smiles in the warmth of special sun!
 No clouds shall mar your day with gloom—for the beauty of the sky
 Shall pour down love. . . God’s love you have won
 In most trying bitter hours—always praying, believing, never asking reasons why!

The flowers of every garden smile for you this day!
 Jewels, dew drops of thy tears, every precious flower seems to pray
 With such tender love, inspirations all thy own . . .
 For in these flowers you see your children blossom, suddenly grown!

Dear Mom! look to heaven—a rainbow awaits you in the sky, each color, each hue . . .
 Portrays the beat of our gears . . . how dearly we love you!
 Soon the dark shadows will be erased from the sky—there shall be only the calm of heavenly blue!
 Then all the world shall shout! “Dear Mother, God’s most precious gift—we love you!” (Continued on Page 24.)

(Ode to Great Men and Great Things - Continued from Page 23.)

**VI. Fathers Day,
To Our Proud Dads**

There is so much we want to say
To all the Dads on Fathers Day
Yes, all our hearts so filled with love
Ask God to bless them from above.

We know dear Dads how proud you are,
To us you are a guiding star
That leads us through both night and storm
In fear and doubt keeps courage warm.

You ask no favors, yet you crave
Our childish love, but this you save
For our dear mom whom you adore
For this we love you so much more.

We don't know why, but this is true
You don't want us to fuss with you . . .
With you a pipe or fine cigar
Makes Fathers Day a treat for you

But anyway we'll smother you
With our strong hugs and kisses too,
And this we all intend to do,
Give all our love this day to you.

**VII. Patriotic Days,
Memorial Day**

In soliloquy, I heard the sad songs of wind and sea,
So many secrets they hid; now they are not joyous, free—
I looked to the sky, a lonely gull gave forth a strange cry . . .
The gull could not find the oceans peace, wondered why—

It felt the rumble of the man-made storms that destroy
The beauty of nature—that speaks so happily each season with joy;
Sadly I turned about to leave, but heard a solemn soldier's voice
Who speaks out: "There shall be a day when we shall rejoice . . .

Memorial Day—give us not just flowers, a big parade . . .
Give us only, Faith in God—His light shall never fade;
Across the ocean—so many miles away
We reach out to you—with our all, we love you—for you we pray

That our courage, in God, we can and must keep—
Over the graves of loved ones, who gave their best, pray they
May have—in God—eternal sleep—
May this day of all days be not lost in foolish pleasure—
For God shall be judge of your love to us—and his love in God—shall be your measure

VIII. Miscellaneous

Ever Onward

Let us all, with true faith this Holy Day testify
 With true Christ Love in our hearts, signify
 How much we love our Polish National Catholic Church;
 Know how unending is its mission, the unending search.
 To victorious Ideals—which our founder helped us gain . . .
 That we give our best with sacrifice—more sacrifice without complain;
 If our beloved leader—his trusted faithful gave their all . . .
 Should we fail them in our hours of prayer—fail to hear their call.
 Dear Bishop Francis Hodur—may all our doubts vanish with profound prayer—
 If ever we weaken—we are not sure—please give us thy loving care
 In Christ—we now know, when in moments we are frail, so weak
 It is Thy name—Thy inspirations in Christ that we always seek.
 May God Bless you for holy treasures, uplifting we receive;
 In our midst—your voice we hear—then again we believe;
 Dear shepherd—always call out to us in God’s name . . .
 Encourage us to give strength to our cause—again and again

I hope that you will read this book for its uplifting words and to expand your knowledge of the Polish National Catholic Church.

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

(National Y.M.S. of R. Men’s Spiritual Retreat - Continued from Page 14.)

stops around Spójnia Farm with meditations, scripture quotes, historical accounts of the areas of the farm and Bible look-ups. The walk through the property took about 3 hours, with plenty of discussion on the topics, sites and scripture.

After dinner, we had an hour set aside for Eucharistic Adoration. We sat in silence, we had books available, we sang hymns, prayed from prayer books...and before we knew it, the hour was up. The setting and the camaraderie allowed the time to truly fly by before the Sacrament.

After adoration, Father Jason led a Bible study on the Book of Jonah. His goal was to delve into an entire book of the Bible that was centered on a very flawed man, just like everyone else.

The next morning began with a light breakfast followed by Cleric Ploskonka with his closing thoughts and direction on the “Penance Thing.” Our preparation in that, as well as our study, our togetherness

and our adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament led us to the culmination of the Retreat – the Celebration of Holy Mass, concelebrated by Prime Bishop Mikovsky and Bishop Stanley Bilinski of the Western Diocese.

Our Retreat ended with lunch as we recounted the retreat and offered our fixes, our plans to grow, the ability to make this an annual event and how to bring the spirituality we enjoyed on retreat back to our personal lives and in the lives of our parish.

Our retreat planning committee was led by Fr. Jason Soltysiak and consisted of Fr. Carmen Bolock (St. Mary’s Parish, Duryea, PA), Cleric Jim Ploskonka (St. Mary’s Parish, Parma, OH) Andrew Humphreys (St. Adalbert’s Parish, Dickson City, PA), and Ty Menna (Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, Temperance MI).

Many thanks to all who attended and supported us. We look forward one day to doing this again.

Submitted by Rev. Jason Soltysiak



Central Diocese

Spring Yard Sale

St. Mary's Parish, Duryea, PA

On Saturday, April 24, 2018, the parish family of St. Mary's Parish, Duryea, PA, held their 6th Annual Community Spring Yard Sale. The members of the surrounding communities were invited to come and sell their unwanted treasures and to shop for bargains.

For our yard sales, folks reserve an 8 foot by 2 foot table space. People of the community and parish bring their own tables and set up in the parking lot and inside the parish hall. Inside there are also many items donated by our parish family who do not want table space. The proceeds from those items go to the parish treasury. Outside vendors and crafters also come to sell their wares.

The day becomes a real social event. People get to know one another and have a good time. The event is held rain or shine; in case of rain everyone is set up in the Parish Hall. Food and beverages are sold all day.

St. Mary's holds its yard sales in the spring and fall. The next one is scheduled for Saturday, August 25, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you would like to sell the unwanted things of your home and join in the fun, a table space is \$10.00 per space to sell what you would like except, as Fr. Carmen says, "Husbands, wives or children." To reserve a space, call Fr. Carmen at 570-457-2291.

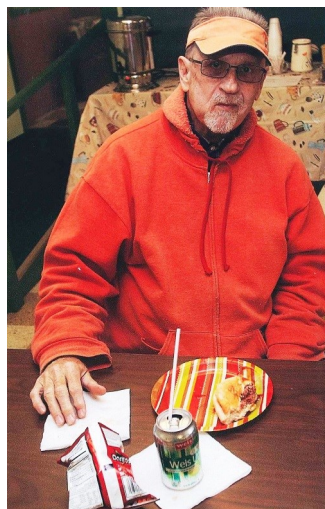
Submitted by Rev. Carmen Bolock



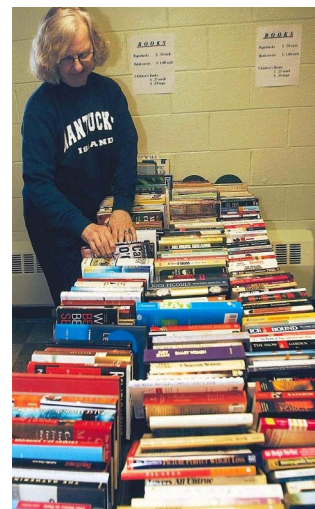
Chris Ross shows a beautiful quilt she has for sale.



Pat Bolock arranges the children's VCR tapes.



Michael Marks, Parish Committee Vice Chair, takes a lunch break



Parish Treasurer, Joan Makala, sorts the books.



Fr. Carmen gets ready to help visitors roll out the bargains they find at the yard sale.



Parish Chair, Nick Bolock, serves up a kielbasa sandwich to a hungry shopper.

Dedication of Fire Engine

Duryea, PA

On Saturday, May 12, 2018, the members of Germania Volunteer Fire Department, Duryea, PA, held an open house for the blessing and placing in service of their new fire engine.

The new E-One Engine had been in the planning for over a year. The fire department took possession of the new truck in March, but it took time to get the engine ready for service to Duryea with the placing of radios and equipment.

During the open house the residents of Duryea were given a tour of the fire house and an explanation of the equipment used by the fire fighters. The engine was dedicated to all the members, both past and present.

Rev. Fr. Carmen G. Bolock, Pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Duryea, PA, who is also the Chaplain for Germania, blessed the new engine and prayed for the safety of the members of the fire department. The service was concluded with the traditional housing by the pushing of the engine into its new quarters. Refreshments were served.

Submitted by Rev. Carmen Bolock



Fr. Carmen prays and blesses the members of Germania Fire Department.



Henry Lovendoski, seated, the oldest member of Germania Fire Department, along with GFD President, Gerald Korea and GFD Fire Chief Joseph Bender, look on as Fr. Carmen begins blessing the new engine.



Fr. Carmen sprinkles the new engine with Holy Water.

Prayer for Firefighters

Merciful Father in heaven, look down in Your love upon all those who protect us and ours from the ravages of fire and flame. Grant them the courage and skills to carry out their duties well and safely. When they must go into the face of danger, be by their side in the smoke and flames. Watch over their families, ever reminding them that those who fight fire are also in Your loving care. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Author Unknown

An Inspiring Tribute to Mothers

St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA

Mother's Day Mass this year was truly moving at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA. What a better tribute to Mom than to have the parish children honor all mothers by taking an active part in all components of the service?

The UYA began by distributing carnations to all the moms as they entered the church vestibule. During the Mass, Matthew Pfohl and Jacob Stankowski read the two lessons and Jacob Gerardi read the intercessions.

Ryan Notari lent his voice as cantor and the Cathedral Young Choir sang the beautiful Offertory anthem, "This Is the Day," by Natalie Sleeth. The young choir members are Gianna Conforti, Emma Fallon, Megan Fallon, Celeste Gingerlowski, Ryan Notari, Olivia Pfohl and Brielle Read. Their angelic voices were touching.

Kaitlyn Gingerlowski and Brandon Reed served as collectors, and Austin and Ethan Stankowski were our communion ushers.

The St. Stanislaus Bell Choir played "With All My Heart" by Kathleen Wissinger for Post Communion. To hear these young people ring the bells is heart-warming.

It was uplifting to see the younger generation honoring mothers this way. May God bless all mothers as they inspire the next generation in the love of Christ.

The Y.M.S. of R. treated the mothers and all parishioners to delicious treats for coffee hour following Mass.



The Holy Spirit Descends

St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA



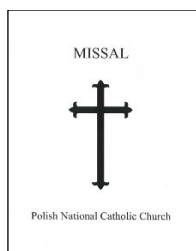
On Pentecost Sunday, the parishioners of St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish had the privilege of witnessing four young people affirming their faith. The confirmands completed their two-year catechetical instructions with Bishop Nowicki, and on May 20th, Olivia *Faith* Pfohl, Celeste *Rose* Gingerlowski, Brielle *Elizabeth* Reed and Ryan *George* Notari, with their sponsors standing behind them, received the sacrament of Confirmation.

Bishop Nowicki confirmed Brielle and Ryan, and Prime Bishop Emeritus Swantek confirmed his two

granddaughters, Olivia and Celeste. Prime Bishop Mikovsky was seated in the sanctuary.

Inspiring the confirmands and congregation with their music, the St. Stanislaus Bell Choir resounded the Cathedral with “Spirit of God” and Blessed Trinity” both by Ron Mallory. The Cathedral Chorale added to the festivities with “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” by David S. Harris, invoking God to fill the newly-confirmed and everyone with the Holy Spirit to live a life as true Christians filled with love. Congratulations to the newly confirmed young people as they affirm their faith in Christ.

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.

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Eastern Diocese

2018 Eastern Diocese Acolyte Retreat

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr.



“To Serve following the Holy Family” was the theme of the seventh annual Eastern Diocese Acolyte Retreat. Twenty-five Altar servers, adults and clergy from seven diocesan parishes gathered at Our Saviour’s Parish in Woonsocket, Rhode Island on Tuesday, June 26, 2018. The retreat began with Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski. Because this is the P.N.C.C. Year of the Family in 2018 the Mass for the Solemnity of the Holy Family was celebrated. Charles Vasas proclaimed the readings and Fr. Sr. Joe Soltysiak the Gospel. The homily was given by Fr. Sr. Joe where he spoke about the life of the Holy Family and how they fulfilled God’s will in their lives – he reminded all to be holy as Jesus, Mary and Joseph are holy. The Mass was concelebrated with Bishop Paul by Fr. Srs. Nemkovich and Soltysiak and Fr. Koerber. Fr. Wos and some of the parish youth played the guitars and sang beautiful hymns during the Mass.

After a group picture was taken the servers and adults gathered for some refreshments in the parish hall. The first session was given by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich on “Our Blessed Mother – The Theotokos.” During this presentation the servers learned some Greek, why Mary is called “the Mother of God – The Theotokos” and how we need to follow her example in our lives by saying Yes to God. The servers already have said Yes to God by serving at the Altar

and were reminded to continue to say Yes to God by living as Jesus taught and lived. Everyone then prayed the Magnificat (Mary’s song of praise) together and were taught to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.

An activity for the servers led by Joanne Olivera taught them the importance of following the Christian values of the Holy Family in their everyday encounters. They were reminded to show kindness, respect, mercy, love, trustworthiness and responsibility in their interactions with family, friends and fellow students. This was done by using popsicle sticks and matching situations they will find themselves in at home, school, church and their social lives remembering always to say Yes to God!

Serving Christ at the Altar was the second presentation given by Fr. Robert Koerber.

The importance of the Holy Sacrifice of Mass and their roles were highlighted. Fr. Robert reviewed the various parts of the Mass, the sacred vessels and vestments used and their responsibilities to assist the priest during the central act of our worship. The youth, adults and clergy then sang grace from our youth retreats to the hymn of the doxology and enjoyed some delicious local pizza.

The final session on St. Joseph was given by Fr. Henryk Wos. Fr. Henryk went through the various

passages of Scripture about St. Joseph and reminded our servers how St. Joseph too said Yes to God and thus was the earthly father/guardian of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The servers were encouraged to seek the intercession of St. Joseph, our Blessed Mother and the saints in their daily lives. Bishop Paul then gave his Apostolic blessing to all gathered.

We traveled a bit down the road to Lincoln Woods park where our Altar servers enjoyed a beautiful summer afternoon by swimming in the lake and shar-

ing fellowship on the beach. After some fun in the sun they all returned to their parishes and families, strengthened in their service to God and His Holy Church.

We look forward to gathering again at Youth Retreat 2018 – August 19-23 at Camp Howe in Goshen, Massachusetts.

Let us always live the Christian values given to us through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, His Mother – the Theotokos and St. Joseph.



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What is a Protestant Guy Like Me Doing in a Church Like This?

Perry Fuller

There is not one drop of Polish blood in my veins or a single drop of papal Catholicism in my doctrine. My ancestral history goes back to England, Scotland, and Ireland, and my theological heritage is squarely rooted in the Reformation. However, on the first Sunday of Advent in 2017 I officially joined St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church in Northampton, Massachusetts.

The obvious question, of course, is why did I commit myself to a congregation whose cultural and ecclesiastical identity is so different than my own? As one friend put it, *"Just when I thought your life couldn't get any more interesting!"*

The reasons are rather straightforward:

1. I reside in Hatfield and wanted a church close to home for the sake of being able to regularly participate in its congregational life. Although I lean towards conservative Anglicanism, it simply does not exist anywhere in western Massachusetts. Consequently a local alternative had to be found, unless I was willing to drive 60 miles to the nearest Anglican parish. St. Valentine's became the only logical choice, especially since I have little affinity for contemporary evangelicalism and none whatsoever for progressive liberalism. Area churches within those traditions were not up for consideration.
2. Although I am Reformational, a few years ago I largely abandoned the competing "isms" of Protestantism and moved towards paleo-orthodoxy, which is something of a Protestant return to the pre-Schism accents of the early Church. Thus, I hold to the nonnegotiable tenets of biblical Christianity summarized by the Ecumenical Creeds. St. Valentine's likewise adheres to - the Athanasian, Nicene, and Apostles' definitions of the Faith.
3. I value God-honoring liturgy. St. Valentine's is a liturgical church.
4. St. Valentine's confesses the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. So do I, although I prefer not to use either consubstantiation or transubstantiation to explain how that holy mystery actually works. Instead, I favor the position of Queen Elizabeth (1533–1603) who wrote:

*Twas God the Word that spake it,
He took the Bread and brake it:*

*And what that Word did make it,
That I believe and take it.*

5. I demanded a church that understands Christ to be the exclusive Savior of fallen humanity, and rejects the idea that all religions lead to God. St. Valentine's properly regards religious pluralism as antithetical to the claims of Christ.

St. Valentine's is absolutely Catholic, but not Roman Catholic, and I am obviously neither. Nevertheless, by virtue of our mutual subscription to the essential truths of genuine Christianity, the congregation and I can worship God together in unity. Plus the pastor and people put up with me . . . a pipe smoking eccentric who hunts, fishes, rides a motorcycle, and reads old books by dead theologians . . . brotherly love at its finest!

There is no ideal church, no ecclesiastical heaven on earth. Perfection must await the Second Coming. Nevertheless, if you are looking for a church characterized by a focus on following Christ and a belief in the core doctrines of *"mere Christianity"* (to borrow language from C. S. Lewis), I heartily recommend a visit to St. Valentine's.

Recently a P.N.C.C. priest said of our parent denomination, *"The Polish National Catholic Church combines elements of Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism, and Protestantism."* I would quite heartily agree.

Maybe you are Catholic, perhaps Protestant, Orthodox, or even Anglican. Polish or not, there is a place at the Lord's table for you in St. Valentine's. You will always be welcomed here.

Soli Deo gloria,



Perry Fuller Fishing

Western Diocese

Women's Retreat

The Women's Society of the Adoration of the Most 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.)

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.

Cardinal Stritch Retreat House

The Cardinal Stritch Retreat House is located on 40 acres amid the grounds of the Mundelein Seminary. The grounds are quiet and tranquil, heavily forested with a sparkling lake, providing the perfect atmosphere for personal reflection and spiritual growth. The retreat has 48 rooms available for use. Each room is quiet, comfortably appointed and well-lit so as to be a place of prayer and contemplation. Each room has a queen size bed, new linens, sheets, towels, a private bathroom, polished marble shower, recliner, dresser and air-conditioning for summer and radiator heat for cooler months.

Christine Grano, Retreat Master

Christine Grano received her Spiritual Direction Certificate from the Christos Center for Spiritual Formation. Trained in Christian Lay Counseling and Inner Healing Prayer, Christine is also an accomplished musician and singer. Christine co-presents retreats with Fr. Jonathan of Mayslake Ministries, facilitates women's retreats and offers a variety of programs in the area of spirituality.

In addition to facilitating this retreat, Christine will offer individual half hour spiritual counseling sessions. Sessions can be arranged with Christine during the time of the retreat.

Tentative Retreat Schedule

Friday, 10/5:

3 pm to 5:45 pm—Registration & Dinner

6 pm—First Session: Lion and the Lamb

Saturday, 10/6:

9:30 am—Mass followed by Brunch

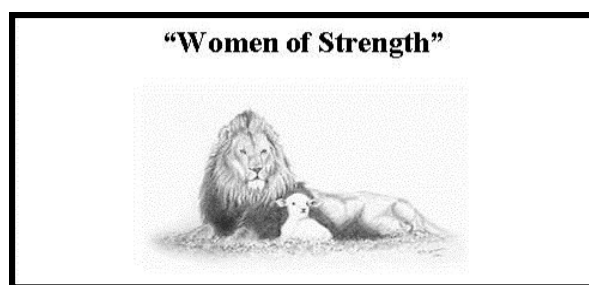
Second Session: Strength, Wisdom and Obedience Breakout Groups—in both English and Spanish

6 pm to 8:30 pm—Dinner and Personal Time Pajama Party—Snacks, Games, Book Discussion

Sunday, 10/7:

Mass, Brunch, and Wrap-up Session

Massages (Two massage therapists will be available on Saturday. Massages are 1 hour long at \$50, paid directly to the therapist.)



Polish Poetry — Tadeusz Dziewanowski

Urodził się w 1953 r. w Gdańsku. W latach 70-tych Tadeusz był zaangażowany w polski teatr uliczny jako pisarz i performer, a w latach 80-tych był współzałożycielem grupy kreatywnej z terenu Gdańska "Tawerna Psychonautów". Od niedawna poeta i tłumacz z języka angielskiego. Jego pierwsza tom poezji "Siedemnaście tysięcy małpich opowieści" ukazał się w 2009 roku zdobywając trzecią nagrodę w ogólnopolskim Konkursie Literackim "Złoty Środek Poezji" Kutno 2012 za najlepszy debiut książkowy roku. Jego poezja, recenzje i tłumaczenia z języka angielskiego pojawiają się regularnie w ważnym polskim czasopiśmie literackim Topos. W Stanach Zjednoczonych jego poezja w przekładzie Daniela Bourne pojawiła się w International Poetry Review, Cerise Press, Plume i The Sow's Ear.

Dwie Podróże

Jedziemy na południe
Przez tylne drzwi ostatniego wagonu
Klin perspektywy wbija się w wąwóz
Przejechaliśmy nad ukrytą pod nasypem Strzyżą
Mijamy mężczyznę z dziewczyną i czarnym psem
Piknik w mroźny, zimowy dzień
Termos z gorącą kawą, kanapki
Za chwilę ruszą w przeciwną stronę
Pociąg przeskakuje kolejny zwalony most
Pablo kagańcem uderza w szybę
Córka uspokaja go łagodnym głosem
Niewidomy konduktor zapowiada następną stację

Cztery Sny o Kresach

Pradziadek w mundurze powstańca styczniowego
(Dostojny, siwy – strona pierwsza)
Cztery dni czeka na swoje miejsce
Na Łyczakowskim Cmentarzu
Babcia wyskakuje przez okno gdy dwór w ogniu
(Uśmiechnięta w czarnej sukni – strona czwarta)
Zaśnieżony step po dziadku rządzący
Cztery wiorsty od łągu
(Strona piąta – na koniu – czarny wąs, błysk w oku)
Aptekarz Makary dzieli na czworo
Ostatni kartofel na sprawiedliwej wadze
(Strona szósta – puste miejsce po zdjęciu)
Oździutycze, Łokacze, Luboml, Krzemieniec
Zaginiony kontynent czwartego wymiaru
Nikommu nie udało się przejść przez Ulicę Krokodyli

Born in Gdańsk in 1953, Tadeusz was involved in Polish street theater as both a writer and performer during the 1970s, and was a co-founder of the Gdansk-area creative group, Tawerna Psychonautów (The Tavern of the Psychonauts) in the 1980s. More recently, he has been a poet and translator from English. His first book of poetry, Siedemnaście tysięcy małpich opowieści (Seventeen Thousand Monkey Tales), appeared in 2009 and won third prize in all-Poland Literary Competition „Złoty Środek Poezji” (Gold Center of Poetry) Kutno 2012 for the best book debut of the year. His poetry, reviews and translations from English appear regularly in the major Polish literary journal Topos. In the U.S., Daniel Bourne's translations of his poetry have appeared in International Poetry Review, Cerise Press, Plume i The Sow's Ear.

Two Journeys

We are traveling to the south
Through the back doors of the last train car
The land wedges into a ravine
We've just passed the culvert over the Strzyza River
We've just passed a man and a woman with a black dog
A picnic on a chilly winter day
A thermos with hot coffee and a small group of sandwiches
In a moment they will go off in their own way
While this train keeps going over the next missing bridge
And Pablo my muzzled dog lunges at the plate glass door
My daughter calms him with the softness of her voice
As our blind conductor calls out the next station on the line

Four Dreams of the Borderlands

Ancestor in the uniform of the January Uprising
(Dignified, gray-haired, page one)
For four days he waits for his own spot
In the Łyczakowski Cemetery
Grandmother jumps through the window of the manor house
in flames
(She smiles in a black dress, page four)
The snowy steppe four versts from camp
where my land-steward grandfather fell
(Page five, on a horse, black moustache, glint in the eye)
The chemist Makary dividing into four
The last potato on his finely calibrated scales
(Page six – only a blank spot where a photo used to be)
Ozdzutycze, Lokacze, Luboml, Krzemieniec
Lost continent of the four corners of the world
Where no one has ever made it alive down the Street of Crocodiles

All translations by Daniel Bourne

2018 Education and Youth Commission Raffle

The Education & Youth Commission of the Polish National Union of America is once again sponsoring a raffle to benefit our College Stipend Program. The raffle will be held on December 6th, 2018 @ the PNU Home Office, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA. Donations for these tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 tickets for \$10.00.

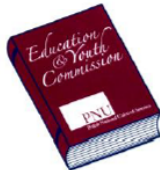
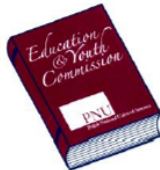
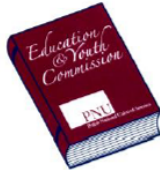
First Prize – \$400 cash
Second Prize – Fitbit Charge 2
Third Prize- Google Home Speaker

We greatly appreciate your support and generosity as we continue to support the ministries of this commission to benefit our youth. Monetary donations are always graciously accepted towards the funding for this stipend program, and can be mailed directly to the following address:

Education and Youth Commission of the PNU
c/o Mary Ann Stankowski
1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, Pa 18505
(checks made payable to Education and Youth Commission).

Thank you.

If you have any questions or inquiries please contact Mary Ann Stankowski @ 570-341-0986 or eyc@pnu.org.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Name</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Address</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Phone</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>2018 Education and Youth Commission Raffle <i>Proceeds to benefit our College Stipend Program</i></p> <p>1st Prize – \$400 cash 2nd Prize – Fitbit Charge 2 3rd Prize – Google Home Speaker</p> <p>Drawing: Dec. 6, 2018 @ PNU Offices Donation - \$5.00 each; 3 for \$10.00</p> <p><i>Checks made payable to: Education and Youth Commission</i> c/o PNU of America, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505 <small>Lackawanna County Permit Number: 4426</small></p> </div> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>
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Holy Mother of Sorrows
Polish National Catholic Church
Dupont PA



DOŻYŃKI
POLISH HARVEST FESTIVAL

**Holy Mother of Sorrows
Polish National Catholic Church
212 Wyoming Avenue
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.

