



Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Volume 100

July 2022

Issue #7

## Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

As we continue during this Ordinary Time season within the Church, we encounter a period when we are focused on the teachings of our Lord. This year as we primarily read from the Gospel of Luke, the Gospel readings during Holy Mass are taken from the time period when Jesus and His disciples are journeying from Galilee to Jerusalem where they will celebrate the Passover and we also know that this journey will culminate with the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, we see our Lord spending time in prayer as was His custom throughout the whole of the Gospel. When He had concluded, one disciple comes to ask Him a question: “[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we too forgive all who do us wrong. And subject us not to the trial.’” (Luke 11:1-4)

It is important for us to take some time to reflect on this prayer and more importantly to reflect on the action of prayer within our lives. It certainly makes sense that the disciples would want to be able to pray as Jesus did. They had seen the mighty acts of power, the signs performed by our Lord and more importantly they had witnessed the close connection that He had with the Father. They sought to have this connection as well and so asked Jesus how to foster this relationship. They sought how to pray.

As we reflect on this version of our Lord’s Prayer, we also notice that it is not the one that we are used

to praying. The one that is more familiar to us comes from the Gospel of Matthew, and even more so from the King James’ Version of the Gospel of Matthew. These words have, in fact, become so familiar to us that when the language of the liturgy was entirely updated to speak more faithfully and naturally to us in the vernacular, the words of the “Our Father” were left unchanged because they have become so well known within our world. As we read the version from the Gospel of Luke on the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, we reflected on a different telling of these same thoughts and we were reminded that the Lord was not giving us a formula to recite when we approach God in moments of prayer. Jesus was rather showing to us a way in which we should approach our ongoing relationship with Almighty God.

We begin by addressing God as “Father.” This immediately speaks to the relationship that we seek to have with God. We certainly recognize God as the sovereign Lord and the Creator of all, but even with that knowledge, we address God as Father. This immediately implies that we recognize the love and care that God has for His people. He is not only the One Who created us, and rules over us, but also that He cares for us and loves us as His beloved children.

We next pray, “Hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come.” This portion of the prayer begins with the recognition that even though we address God as “Father” we acknowledge that He is the blessed one, the Lord, the Creator. In recognizing this reality of Almighty God, we show that He, and His name, are to be honored and adored. We then continue by acknowledging that His way, for us and for our

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**God's Field — Rola Boza  
Publication Information**

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

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

Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:

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

**Identification Statement**

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

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

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

**Send payments and address changes to:**

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

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

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world, is the way that we should desire to live within our own individual lives, our communal lives and also within our world. Although we say, “Your kingdom come,” we must recognize that we are speaking here in active words. We desire that God’s reign, God’s will, becomes a reality for us. This means that we will seek to live our own lives according to the teachings of Almighty God; that we will be guided by the commandments, that we will allow the Word of God, shown to us most fully in the teachings of Christ, to guide our daily steps. We will also seek to discern the ways of God as we gather together within our parish churches and within our entire Polish National Catholic Church. We will also seek to have the reign of Almighty God become a part of the life of our world in how we live each and every day.

The prayer then turns to the concerns of our daily living. We pray, “Give us each day our daily bread.” While this petition certainly includes the food that sustains us each day of our lives, we must also realize that in general we are speaking here of all the things that we require within our lives. This petition does not seek to fulfill all of the selfish wants and desires of each of our lives, but rather seeks to fulfill what is needed to continue to live and serve our Lord and each other each day. It is also important to notice that we do not ask for general abundance for what is needed, but rather ask for our ‘bread’ for ‘each day.’ In this we are encouraged to seek to have and to sustain a daily connection with Almighty God. We should desire to have an ongoing relationship with God that we will daily pray and renew this connection.

Following this petition, we then pray, “Forgive us our sins for we too forgive all who do us wrong.” We see within these words the connection between our relationship with Almighty God and our relationship with one another. We must recognize that each one of us is a beloved child of God. We must recognize that each and every one of us can reach out to God as our beloved Father. Therefore we must, then, seek to recognize that we are brothers and sisters in Christ; we are one family in God. If then we are one family, we must seek to be united in faith, hope and love. We must be united in our life of prayer, in our life of service to God and each other, and in each and every aspect of our daily living.

We conclude the prayer with the words, “Subject us not to the trial.” These words are often confusing to us because we know that God does not desire that any of us be subjected to trials. Rather these words show us that when we do face any times of trial within our lives, that God is on our side in coming through these trials. He does not “subject us” to trials, but rather God ‘accompanies us’ through all that we encounter within our daily living.

As we have now examined the prayer of Jesus as given in the Gospel of Luke, I encourage each and every one of us to spend some time in reflecting on the words of the “Our Father” as we spend our moments in prayer throughout our day. It often becomes so easy for us to just go through the words without even a moment of thought as we recite them. Jesus addresses this very situation, right before giving the “Our Father” within the Gospel of Matthew, when He tells us: “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words.” (Matthew 6:7) Encountering these thoughts from the Gospel of St. Luke reminds us that God does not desire that we just pray mindlessly. Rather God seeks to have a loving relationship with each and every one of us. We know that we are His beloved children, therefore we, too, should seek to have a relationship with our heavenly Father.

As we pray the “Our Father” as a part of our daily life of prayer, let’s take a few moments to acknowledge the words that we pray. Let’s pray them with intention and a sincere desire to allow God to bring them to reality in our lives. And then let us also expand our prayer, to a real relationship with God in our lives. Let us reach out to God, not only within our times of daily prayer in the morning and evening, but at each and every moment of our day. Let us seek His blessing as we begin every work, both those that are within the Church and also those more mundane actions of our daily living. Let us seek His blessing each day, as we go off to work, or any other activity. Let us seek His blessing upon every word that comes forth from our mouths. In short, let us seek His blessing upon everything. Then we will begin to fulfill the words of St. Paul to the Thessalonians: “See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:15-16)

## Report on Nominations of Candidates for Bishop

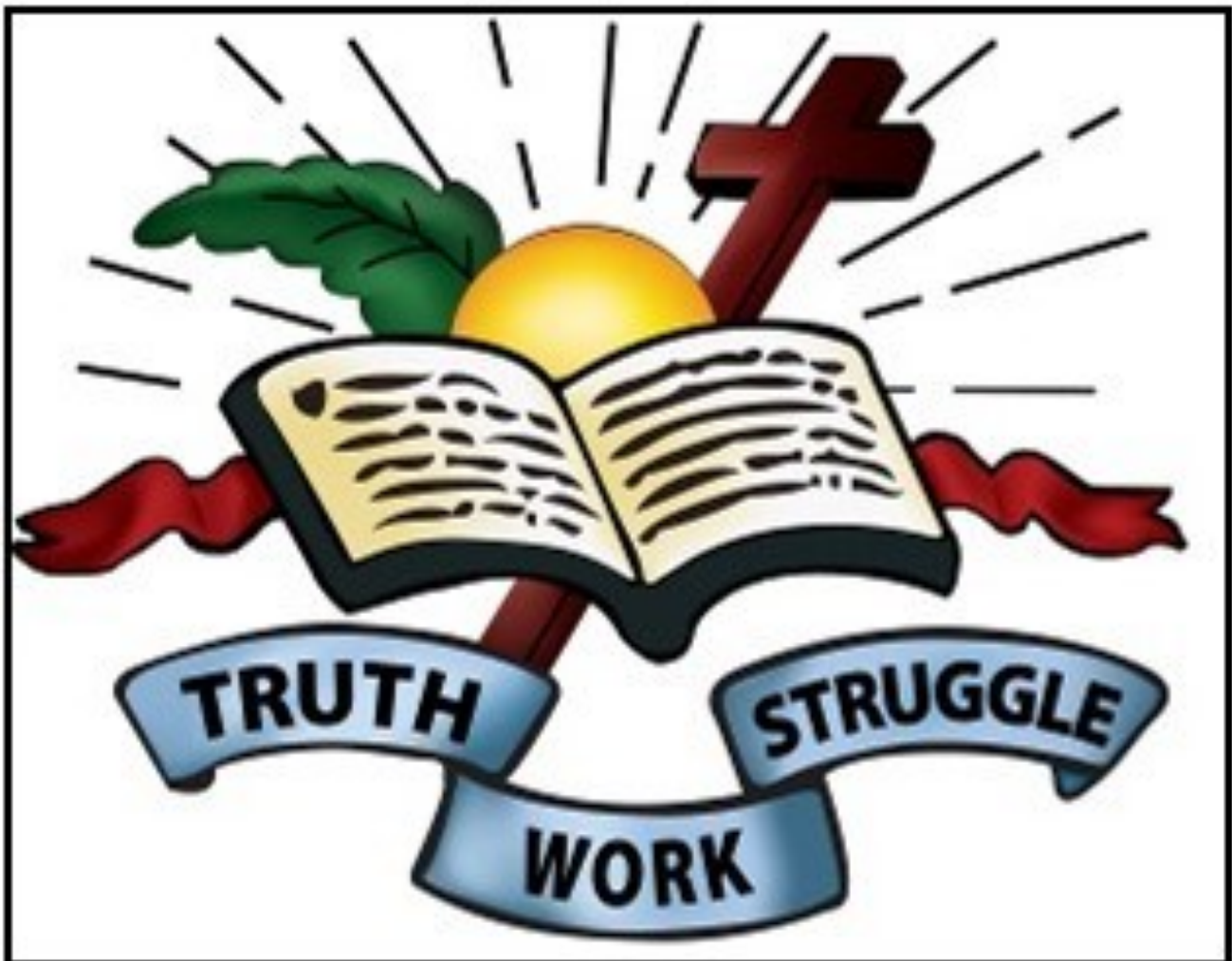
Following the Supreme Council meeting in April of 2022, it was announced that the Polish National Catholic Church would seek to elect two Candidates for Bishop at the General Synod to be held in October 2022. A call for nominations was issued and a number of nominations were received at the Office of the Prime Bishop.

Letters were sent to all of the nominees and responses were received. All of those nominated declined to put their names forward in nomination for the election of Candidates for Bishop.

This being the case, the Nomination Commission will be ready in case there are any Nominations for Candidates for Bishop from the floor of the Synod. This process is governed by Article XII.B Section 3 of the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church.

Following the practice of the past several General Synods of the Polish National Catholic Church, anyone who desires to accept a Nomination for Candidate for Bishop during the General Synod must have all of their information, including the written answers to all questions, to present to the Nomination Commission for their evaluation and subsequent determination.

If there are any questions in regard to this process and what is required, please contact the Office of the Prime Bishop at the National Church Center.



# Criteria for the Nominations Commission

## Polish National Catholic Church

Confirmed by the Supreme Council  
at its meeting on May 1, 2019 and  
reviewed by the Bishops and Church Doctrine Commission March 22, 2022  
and to be used for the Election of Candidates for Bishop  
at the 2022 General Synod

### Nominating Candidates for Bishop – Nomination Criteria

1. The nominee must have an effective educational background or experience in order to accomplish the theological, administrative and leadership challenges required of a Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church.
2. The nominee must have a good knowledge of Holy Scripture, Dogmatic Theology, Moral Theology, Church History, Liturgy of the Polish National Catholic Church and the “Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church.”
3. The nominee must be at least 35 years of age by the day prior to the convening of the Synod.
4. The nominee must be an active and experienced member of the Polish National Catholic priesthood.
5. The nominee must be healthy in body and in mind.
6. The nominee must be active in his diocese and lead a sound, stable and exemplary lifestyle.
7. The nominee must have demonstrated, through a minimum of five (5) years of experience in the priesthood of the Polish National Catholic Church, the necessary administrative and leadership skills through his work within his diocese and throughout the Polish National Catholic Church.
8. The nominee must be personally posed an awareness question of whether or not he is cognizant of any physical, psychological or moral condition that would prevent him from exercising the duties associated with the office of Bishop.
9. Any priest who has been divorced cannot be a candidate for Bishop. Any priest who marries a divorced woman, whose prior marriage has either not been annulled or dissolved by the Polish National Catholic Church, cannot be a candidate for Bishop.

The following three lists are required items to be submitted by the nominee after he has accepted the nomination to stand for election as a candidate for Bishop.

### Personal Information Sheet

1. Name
2. Parish
3. Date of Birth
4. Date of Ordination
5. Name of Ordaining Bishop

(Continued on Page 6.)

(Criteria for the Nominations Commission - Continued from Page 5.)

6. Academic Degrees
7. List of memberships on National or Diocesan Commissions and/or Councils
8. List of Participation in National and/or Diocesan Functions
9. List of Community/Ecumenical Activities

### **Required Documentation**

1. Curriculum Vitae
2. Baptismal Certificate
3. Confirmation Certificate
4. Marriage Certificate (if applicable)
5. Ordination Certificate
6. Academic Certificate(s) – Transcripts
7. Statement of Good Health by a physician
8. Current Photograph
9. Citizenship Documentation (I-9 Form, Passport, etc.)

### **Questions for Candidates** *(To be submitted in written form)*

1. Name the parishes in which you have served since ordination and the years of your service for each.
2. How long have you been in your current parish assignment?
3. How many souls were there when you arrived?
4. How many souls are there now based upon the financial reports to your diocese?
5. Detail the programs you have instituted and their level of success within your parish and community.
6. Does your parish have an active School of Christian Living? Do you have an A.N.S. Society? Y.M.S. of R.? Youth Group? Others? If not, why not? What have you done to foster the growth of these standard organizations in your parish? Do you cooperate with the Polish National Union of America? What functions are conducted by your parish and parish organizations?
7. Do you attend and participate in all parish, parish committee and society meetings?
8. Are you involved ecumenically in your area? How?
9. Have you complied with the Constitutional reporting requirements concerning your parish reports to your Diocesan Bishop?
10. Have you made sure that the parishes that you have served have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Diocese and the General Church?
11. Describe your participation in the work of the Future Direction Subcommittee of the P.N.C.C.
12. Describe the nature of your spiritual life. How do you see it going forward if you are consecrated Bishop?
13. Would you object to this committee contacting one or more members of your parish committee?

Note: Pastors, Parish Administrators and Assistant Pastors will all be asked the same set of questions. The following list of questions will be reviewed with the proposed candidate at the interview with the Nomination Commission.

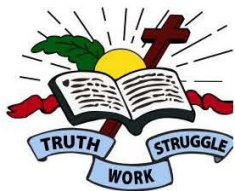
### **Questions asked to Proposed Candidates** *(Responses must be submitted in writing in advance.)*

1. What do you believe is the Mission of the Church?
2. If you were Diocesan Bishop, what kinds of mission programs would you initiate?
3. How do you understand the spiritual life as a foundation of your ministry?
4. How important is spiritual education and formation for the laity? For the clergy?

5. What ministries, if any, should be available to the laity of our Church?
6. How important is liturgical renewal?
7. What are your views regarding the following: the receiving of Holy Communion at all Masses? Penitential Services? Marian Devotions? Lenten Devotions?
8. What should be the relationship of the Diocesan Bishop to the Prime Bishop? What should be the relationship of the Diocesan Bishops to each other?
9. What is your view of the correct relationship between the Parish Committee and the Pastor, both constitutionally and pastorally?
10. Prior to his consecration in 1907, Prime Bishop Hodur endorsed the 1889 Declaration of Utrecht. What is the significance of this endorsement?
11. What do you believe should be the relationship between our Church and the Polish Catholic Church in Poland?
12. Considering Article 6 of the Confession of Faith, what should be the goals of ecumenical dialogue?
13. Articulate your understanding of the Sacrament of the Word of God? How will you support the priests of your diocese in its administration?
14. What are your views regarding the ordination of women to the priesthood?
15. What are your views regarding the following: Homosexual covenants? Ministering to homosexuals? Pre-marital sex? Extra-marital sex? Pedophilia?
16. Will you go to wherever the Church assigns and sends you if you are consecrated a Bishop?
17. What is your understanding of the teachings of the first seven ecumenical councils?
18. How is your role as a catholic priest informed by the teaching of the Fathers of the Church?
19. What is your understanding of the 1889 Declaration of Utrecht and the 2008 Declaration of Scranton?
20. What is your understanding of the ecclesiology of the Statutes of the Union of Scranton? What is the mission of the Union of Scranton?
21. What is the relationship of the Polish National Catholic Church to the Union of Scranton?
22. What is your understanding of the position of the bishops in the International Catholic Bishops Conference (ICBC) of the Union of Scranton?
23. What is your understanding of the canon law of the Undivided Church?
24. How do you view the Apostolic Ministry in the Church today?
25. What vision do you have and what steps would you take to grow membership of the Church in the future?

**Theological Questions** (*Verbal responses to these and other pertinent questions from the Nomination Commission are to be given at the scheduled interview.*)

1. What is the incarnation? Explain?
2. As we discuss the Eucharist, what is the Real Presence? Explain?
3. How important is Apostolic Succession to the Church? What is its role and how is it preserved?
4. What is the relationship of Christ's death and resurrection to each and every one of us?
5. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but may have eternal life." (John 3:16) What is this faith in Christ which is emphasized here and throughout the New Testament?
6. What is the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Church?
7. What do we mean by life everlasting?
8. Be able to discuss any statement within the Nicene Creed.



## INFORMATION SHEET

The XXVI General Synod  
of the  
Polish National Catholic Church  
October 19 - 21, 2022

125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Events  
October 22, 2022

Hilton Hotel & Conference Center  
100 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503  
Phone# 570-343-3000

### VENUE

The XXVI General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church will be held from Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> through Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 at the Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, 100 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503. **Accommodations for all delegates and guests as well as all synod sessions will be held at this site.** A Synod Mass will be celebrated at Saint Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Cathedral, 529 East Locust Street, Scranton, PA 18505. (see information below)

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS

All delegates must make their own room reservations and arrange payment directly with the hotel.

- Call **570-343-3000** and use group code **SYNCC**
- Room rates \$129.00 + 7% occupancy tax per night for a Double Queen or Deluxe King
- Rooms are available at this rate from Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022
- Reservations must be made no later than **September 20, 2022**

### PARKING

Garage parking: \$5.00 short stay parking – not a 24 hour period  
\$12.00 per day, hotel stay

### TRANSPORTATION

Hotel Shuttle Service is available from the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport several times daily. If you are traveling by air please contact the hotel, with your flight information, for shuttle service 1 to 2 weeks prior to your arrival.

### SYNOD SCHEDULE

- Synod registration will be held on the second floor of the hotel and conference center from 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm on Tuesday evening and from 7:00 am – 8:00 am on Wednesday morning.
- The Synod will begin on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> with breakfast at 7:00 am. The Synod will convene promptly at 8:00 am.



- The Synod Mass will be held at 4:30 pm on Wednesday at St. Stanislaus Cathedral. You will be given instructions on the logistics for this in your bag upon registration. (Bus transportation will be provided.)
- Dinner and the evening session will follow at the hotel and conference center.

### **REGISTRATION FORMS**

- A registration form must be filled out by each individual delegate and/or guest and sent along with the \$550 registration fee **NO LATER THAN 9/20/2022.**
- Please make checks payable to: **26<sup>th</sup> General Synod**
- Mail Check and Registration Form to:  
**Central Diocesan Chancery**  
**Synod Registration**  
**515 East Locust Street**  
**Scranton, PA 18505**

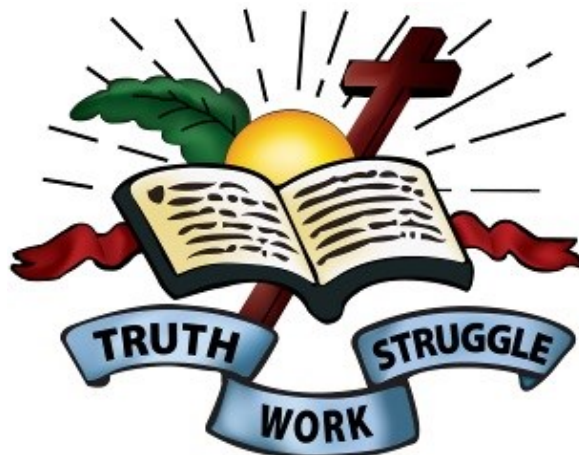
### **QUESTIONS**

If you have any further questions regarding the synod please contact:

- John Andrzejewski, Chairman  
[executive02@pnu.org](mailto:executive02@pnu.org)  
570-344-1513  
or
- Janet Kelly, Synod Coordinator  
[centdiocsecy1@gmail.com](mailto:centdiocsecy1@gmail.com)  
570-341-5150

### **125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENTS**

- On Saturday, October 22, 2022, Holy Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 am at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Polish National Catholic Church. A celebratory banquet will follow at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center in Scranton.
- Tickets for the banquet are \$60 per person.
- A cultural event is planned for Saturday evening at St. Stanislaus Cathedral.
- More detailed information on this celebration will sent to all parishes and will also be available on social media and the PNCC website in the coming weeks.



**REGISTRATION FORM****The XXVI General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church****October 19 - 21, 2022****Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Scranton, Pa****Phone# 570-343-3000****(see Information Sheet for hotel information)**

NOTE: ONE FORM PER DELEGATE/GUEST – Please make as many copies of this form as necessary.

***Registration Form & Fee of \$550.00 U.S., Per delegate & per guest, must be received no later than 9/20/2022. No forms will be accepted after this date. Those received after 9/20/2022 will be returned along with the checks...***

***No Exceptions! Please Be Advised!***

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod

MAIL CHECKS AND REGISTRATION FORM TO: **Central Diocesan Chancery**  
**Synod Registration**  
**515 East Locust Street**  
**Scranton, PA 18505**

Check One: **Delegate** \_\_\_\_\_ **Guest** \_\_\_\_\_Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print All Information Clearly)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Name \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Diocese \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first Synod? Yes  No  If no, how many have you attended? \_\_\_\_\_How will you be traveling: Alone?  Group?  Traveling by: Car  Bus  Van  Air 

If you are traveling by air please contact the hotel, with your flight information, for shuttle service 1 to 2 weeks prior to your arrival.

Please specify any special dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact name/phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

## Future Direction July Message

During July, we focus on St. Tarcisius “the boy martyr of the Eucharist” who loved and protected the Holy Eucharist so much so that he gave his life to protect the presence of Jesus in Holy Communion. Go the [PNCC Future Direction YouTube Channel](#) to watch a video message by the Altar Servers of the 2022 Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat..



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

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

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

**Action Item:** Reflect on the life of St. Tarcisius and his love and care for the Holy Eucharist. How do you assess your own reverence for the Holy Eucharist in how you choose to live your life?

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

**Schedule** Mass for those Grieving

### Prayer for our Altar Servers – 2014 P.N.C.C. Ritual

For all the Altar Servers of our Parish and our Holy Polish National Catholic Church, that they may deepen their commitment to serve God and their neighbor, we pray to the Lord.

God of Glory, Your beloved Son has shown us that true worship comes from humble and contrite hearts. Bless our brothers and sisters who have responded to the needs of our Parish and who commit themselves to Your service as Altar Servers. Grant that their ministry may be fruitful and our worship be pleasing in Your sight. We ask this through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

## Fifth Annual Bp. Stanley Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat

### Waymart, PA

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop Stanley Bilinski Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat took place June 15-18, 2022 at Spójnia Farm in Waymart, PA. Sponsored by the Y.M.S. of R., it took months of planning and many, many hours of conversation, emails, and (Zoom) meetings.

As a result, we enjoyed a beautiful retreat amongst old and new friends alike. This was the first fully in-person retreat since 2019; we love to hang our hat that the pandemic only interrupted *\*how\** we did our retreat, not the existence of it.



The theme this year was “Devotion and Fellowship,” and was taken from Acts 2:42, which reads “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” In our planning, we recollected how important planned fellowship time and, of course, meals are. In our schedule-building, we allowed more time for meals and open time. The response to this was quite positive.

Another change was the expansion of the retreat to another day. We began on a warm Wednesday afternoon while those traveling from the west laughed at the 95-plus degree temperatures back home. After getting settled in a bit, the group was called to the dining area to enjoy pizza and wings, sponsored by Deacon Jim Ploskonka (St. Mary’s Parish; Parma, OH). Everyone enjoyed this offering. After dinner, an energetic welcoming session was offered back at the retreat center with Fr. Jason Soltysiak (St. Mary’s Parish; Parma, OH) and company explaining the retreat’s theme, the grounds, rules, and so on. Andrew Humphries provided an ice-breaker activity that garnered a number of laughs.

Following this, our first lecture and activity took place, led by Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (St. Michael the Archangel Parish; Cedar Lake, IN). He spoke on bread itself - its scriptural and natural history as well as its Christian evolution. Part of his words reverberated on “easy to make, difficult to make *well*.” As part of his session, we headed outside to the campfire to try our hand at baking our own communion wafers. Fr. Sr. obtained an old communion wafer press- if done right, it would bake a few celebrants hosts and a number of those for the faithful.

It didn't bake right. See, the first batch or two came out...but not *well*. Luckily, Carl Cwikla (Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish; Dupont, PA/co-owner of [Cwikla's Quality Bakery](#) in Avoca, PA) was on hand to study the process and after nearly double digit failed attempts, developed the way to finally "bake them *well*." The men's perseverance was impressive, and the hosts would be used later in the week at Mass.

Day two was the Solemnity of Corpus Christ and boy, did we honor the Body and Blood of Christ the right way! Our morning flag-raising was coupled with morning prayer. After a hearty breakfast, the Rt. Rev. John Mack (Bishop Ordinary, Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese) was celebrant for Holy Mass on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Deacon Jim piped in via Zoom to offer the homily.

After Holy Mass, Rev. Robert Koerber (Holy Name of Jesus Parish; South Deerfield, MA) led a Zoom Session on the Eucharist. He quoted a number of church fathers and historical pieces of the Church to further the group's understanding of the importance of the Solemnity. Preceding lunch, Cleric Doug Scott (All Saints Cathedral Parish; Chicago, IL) and Cleric David Talaga (Our Savior Parish; Mosinee, WI) led our noontime prayer, the Corpus Christi Sequence.

Lunch was a build-your-own taco bar...phew! Following this, Fr. Jason selected 4 teams from amongst the men to prepare altars for the afternoon's Corpus Christi Procession. Tables (to be altars) were set up in 4 accessible spots and a trivia game allowed each team to have "dibs" on items to creatively decorate their altar. The men enjoyed working together and took on a sense of pride for "their" altar.

Rain was in the forecast, so Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, our celebrant for Corpus Christi procession, was kind enough to let us bump it up a few hours early. We livestreamed on the [United Y.M.S. of R.'s Facebook Page](#), where it has been shared or viewed a couple thousand times! After offering prayers and a short sermon inside, procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament extended outdoors to our four altars. With Bishop John Mack leading the singing and 4 priests offering the Gospel at each altar, and with 4 strong men carrying the baldachin and with mother nature holding off, the liturgy was powerful for everyone.

With a little time to decompress and a tray of cookies delivered, Fr. Jason noticed the weather was going to hold off for a few more hours. Gathered around Prime Bishop Anthony and Bishop John, we enjoyed an hour plus of "Ask a Bishop," popularized at Convo some years back. The men enjoyed the insight and candor with which our bishops spoke, all in the comfort of the outdoor front patio of the Retreat Center.

A delicious dinner of baked ziti with all the trimmings was served a short while later. Fr. Jason led evening prayer of the Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the adoration chapel. The men then had the option to watch the NBA Finals Game 6 with a soon-to-be-dejected Fr. Jason, enjoy a bit of time by a small fire, play cards, or retire early for the evening.

Friday, day three began with morning prayer and flag-raising, followed by a delicious breakfast. After some time, the baked hosts were put to use as Fr. Jason served as main celebrant of Holy Mass along with concelebrants Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk, Fr. Jim Konicki (Holy Name of Jesus Parish; Schenectady, NY), and Fr. Carmen Bolock (Central Diocese, P.N.C.C.). This was no ordinary Mass, however – this was an explanation/interrupt the priest Mass! Every portion of Mass was addressed, some much longer than others. With 4 priests seated in sanctuary and with some deference to Bishop John and his episcopal ministry, Mass clocked in at a tidy 3 hours and 15 minutes! There was quite a bit to take in from that time.

A lunch of cold-cuts and hot kielbasa soup was served. The men were given a choice for the rest of the afternoon: relax the afternoon on the farm, go for 9 holes of golf, or venture to Scranton for a Holy City Tour. Andrew Humphries (St. Adalbert's Parish; Dickson City, PA) proved to be "golfer of the day," Bishop John won the prize for "most relaxed afternoon" and Cleric Dave won for "most total miles traveled".

Chef Nick Kazinetz (President, National United Y.M.S. of R.) led our favorite meal of the week, the patio cook-out. Under the pool pavilion the guys enjoyed great cook-out favorites while the weather cooperated in an amazing way. Fr. Jason let the guys know that we were all to offer time before the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel before Evening Prayer, which were divided in 30 minute increments. Most guys checked in for the first prayer and didn't leave until our closing evening prayer!

Fr. Carmen Bolock led the first Eucharistic Adoration, on the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. Jim Konicki led the next Adoration, on Vocations. Prayer was also offered by Fr. Sr. Kowalczyk for the youth of the church. Sub-

(Continued on Page 14.)

(Fifth Annual Bp. Stanley Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat - Continued from Page 13.)

Deacon Justin Daviault (Holy Trinity Parish; Plantsville, CT) then offered the evening prayer of the Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The men then sang several hymns before retiring for the evening. A bonfire was lit once again to help everyone wind down.

Saturday began with flag raising and morning prayer led by Fr. Jim Konicki. After yet another full and hearty breakfast, the men headed back up to the retreat center for our final session and Mass. They were both offered by the Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki (Bishop Ordinary, Central Diocese P.N.C.C.). Bishop Bernard gave a point of view of how the Eucharist is celebrated, highlighting the many things we have shared with our Jewish religious forefathers. The map of the temple compared to the typical layout of a church today really astounded everyone! Afterward, Holy Mass was celebrated sans homily, as bishop was correct in his assertion that the previous session provided appropriate words.

At the conclusion of Holy Mass, participants were given 20 or so minutes to pack their belongings before heading down for our final meal together. The final meal is always a delicious mish-mosh of leftovers: pizza, wings, salad, tacos, soup, dogs, burgers, nachos...all the healthy stuff! As the meal was winding down, Fr. Jason held an informal closing session, thanking all who attended and addressing the sub-committee's goal of increased prayer and guided fellowship. Our kitchen crew was given a hearty applause. We very much look forward to our sixth Bishop Stanley Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat in 2023.

Many thanks to all attendees and contributors, as well as our 2022 planning sub-committee: Fr. Jason Soltysiak, Fr. Jim Konicki, Deacon Jim Ploskonka, Andrew Humphreys, Nick Kazinetz, Dave Pecynski (Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral Parish; Lancaster, NY), and Kevin McConlogue (St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish/Our Savior Chapel; Scranton, PA).



Additional photos from the retreat can be found at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/CUCUFYu335jbtubLA>.

Submitted by Rev. Jason Soltysiak

## Central Diocese

### “THERE IS NOTHING ORDINARY ABOUT SINGING THE ORDINARIES”

#### Summer Music Workshop for Church Musicians and Clergy

The Music Commission of the Central Diocese will conduct a Summer Workshop entitled, “There is Nothing Ordinary About Singing the Ordinaries” on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at St. Stanislaus Cathedral, 529 E. Locust Street in Scranton, from 10:30am to 2:30pm.

A recent survey that was sent to our Musicians and Clergy expressed a great need for suitable music for the Ordinaries for the Contemporary Mass format. In order to address this need, the key focus of the workshop will be on presenting some easy and suitable selections for the sung Ordinaries of the Mass, mainly the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei. Participants will have the opportunity to learn to sing various Mass settings and learn about resources that contain suitable settings. Settings with accessible melodies and texts approved by the P.N.C.C. will be shared, along with take-away handouts.

Other topics that will be addressed will include:

- Using the “One License” website to access content, copyright issues and reporting
- The new Shutterfly ShareSite established for sharing information and resources established by the Central Diocese Music Commission. The process of accessing the site, posting and sharing of information on the site will also be demonstrated and discussed.
- Accessing the Central Diocese Music Commission’s Google Drive, which contains materials in public domain, including hymns for all seasons, liturgical music and texts, new original music and other planning information valuable to all who prepare music for liturgy and other church services. We’ll show you how to find it all!

Participants are encouraged to bring with their personal lap-top in order to follow along with instructions for a “hands-on” learning experience. We will help you to learn to navigate the websites and resources in real time!

We look forward to seeing you at this workshop. Bring your questions, ideas and concerns. We expect it will be a great day of sharing, meeting friends and collaborating with colleagues to enhance our mutual music ministries for our congregations, our church and ultimately, for the Glory of Our Lord!

The workshop and a free lunch is being offered at no cost to the individual participant, however, RSVP is REQUIRED. The deadline to register is August 6<sup>th</sup>, 200.

To RSVP or to request more information, simply email:

[musiccommissioncd@gmail.com](mailto:musiccommissioncd@gmail.com)

In your email, enter “workshop” in the subject line and include your name(s), parish name and your phone number, **OR** you may contact Becky Elfman (570) 331-5670 or Jon Johnson (701) 659-0452 for more information or to RSVP.



## First Holy Communion and Corpus Christi at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish Scranton, PA

On Sunday, June 19th, a joint celebration of First Holy Communion and Corpus Christi was held at St. Stanislaus Cathedral, celebrated by Bishop Bernard Nowicki.

Abigail, Madden and Alexander received the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time. The children have been preparing for this special day with Father Janusz Lucarz, assistant pastor of the Cathedral, since October 2021.

During the Mass Madden read the First Lesson and Alex read the Second Lesson, followed by Abigail who read the Sequence. The children then took turns reading the Prayers of the Faithful. They all did an excellent job.

Father Janusz addressed the homily to the new communicants, reminding them that Jesus will always be with them and will never forget them.

When it came time for the receiving of the Sacrament, the children and their parents approached the altar. Each child then received the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time from Bishop Nowicki.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky began the Corpus Christi procession with the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Prime Bishop Anthony, Bishop Bernard, Fr. Janusz, the ladies from the Cathedral ANS Society, the Cathedral Chorale and the communicants with their families then processed around the inside of the church to the four altars that had been prepared. The children were given the task of ringing the handheld bells for the procession.

Before the closing hymn, Abigail, Alex and Madden were presented with their certificates and gifts from the parish.

Congratulations to Abigail, Alexander and Madden.

Following Mass and photographs, everyone enjoyed an ice cream social in the Parish Hall.

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## Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Activities Dupont, PA

The Scranton Seniorate Corpus Christi Celebration was held at Providence of God, North Scranton on Thursday, June 16, 2022. Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki was the homilist. Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, pastor of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA, was the celebrant. Rev. Walter Placek, pastor of Providence of God Parish in Scranton, PA, and Rev. Janusz Lucarz, assistant pastor of St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA, participated in the procession and reading the Gospels. Very Rev. William Chromey, pastor of St. Adalbert's Parish in Dickson City, PA and administrator of Holy Trinity Parish in Throop, PA, was also in attendance.

The ladies also celebrated the retirement of two ANS Society sisters from their respective professions: Stephanie and Christine. Happy retirement!



Ladies from the parish Blanket/Mats Ministry presented parishioner Jim with a Prayer Shawl. It was made by Corky Kruppa and blessed by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid. Jim's wife, Linda was at the ceremony. We are praying for God's blessings over Jim in his healing process.

The ANS Society of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish conducted their monthly meeting to discuss their Father's Day Brunch and an upcoming trip to the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA, to see "David."



(Continued on Page 18.)

(Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Activities- Continued from Page 17.)



On Sunday, June 19th, Father's Day was observed and celebrated at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish. Complimentary brunch was sponsored by the parish ANS Society. All parishioners - and especially fathers - enjoyed a delicious meal. Many thanks to all the ladies for their work and care.



Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish celebrated the Word of God Sunday on June 26, 2022. The Scripture was enthroned in the sanctuary and the parish lectors were blessed during both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses.



Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



## Honor Your Father on Father's Day

### Clergy Pension Fund

### Polish National Catholic Church

As we all remember all of the important father figures within our lives, we pray especially for those listed below. Thanks are also extended to all those who contributed to the Clergy Pension Fund's "Honor Your Father on Father's Day" program, as it continues to support those members of the clergy who have retired after many years of faithful service to God's Holy Church.

In honor of pastor, Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr., by Tanya Kieron.

Please remember that donations to the Clergy Pension Fund are always welcome as we strive to support those priests who have given their lives in service to God and the Church.

Donations may be sent to:

**Clergy Pension Fund  
Office of the Prime Bishop  
1006 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505**

God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and support of the clergy of the P.N.C.C.

**Eastern Diocese**

**Blessed Trinity Parish Activities**

**Fall River, MA**

On Saturday, June 11, Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA, hosted, prayed for and served breakfast to the local Fall River Veterans at the 17th Annual Breakfast with Veterans sponsored by the Fall River War Veterans Council and prepared by the amazing folks at the Fall River Veterans Kitchen.

The event was attended by many veterans, Fall River Mayor Paul Coogan, MA State Rep. Carole Fiola, Bristol County, MA, DA Thomas Quinn and Fall River City Councilors Pereira, Pelletier and Washington.



On Sunday, June 19th, another Hygiene Drive concluded at the parish. The items were collected to help the local homeless. Blessings to all who donated and for their kindness and generosity.



The 2022 Eastern Diocese Altar Server Retreat was held at Blessed Trinity Parish. Bishop Paul Sobiechowski celebrated Holy Mass with another classic sermon by Fr. Sr. Soltysiak (Jesus and the minions).

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich presented on St. Tarcisius - the patron saint of Altar Servers and his great love of and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. After making a video about St. Tarcisius there was a thrilling buzzer game with numerous Church, Discipleship and Eucharist trivia questions. Fr. Henryk Was then spoke about the importance of serving at the Altar and Being Eucharistic People!

Thanks to PNU District 3 for providing the delicious pizza and donuts and thanks to Kathy Nemkovich for the delicious worms and dirt!

After lunch it was off to South Shore for a gorgeous afternoon at the beach with some nice waves and beautiful friendship shared in our Lord Jesus!

Looking forward to gathering again at our diocesan Youth Retreat in August. Discipleship 2022 continues in our parish and diocese!



Thanks to everyone who supported the parish June Food Drive to help others in the Fall River community through Citizens for Citizens Food Pantry in Fall River, MA.



## Western Diocese

### Sacrament of Confirmation at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Chicago, IL

On Saturday, June 18th Bishop Jerry Rafalko administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to six young members of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Chicago IL.

Father Salas provides pastoral care to the members of the SS Cyril and Methodius Parish congregation and he and the entire parish prepared a special celebration for these young members. On this special day Father Carlos Aranda, administrator of St. Mary Parish in West Allis, WI, was invited by Fr. Salas to attend and participate in the Mass. The Word of God was preached by Bishop Jerry Rafalko. The celebration was nicely prepared by the Sunday school teachers and Father Salas. Pictures present the group photo after the confirmation and the clergy including the Bishop.

Submitted by Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko



Confirmation Class



Rev. Salas, Rt. Rev. Rafalko, Rev. Aranda

### Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession at All Saints Cathedral Parish Chicago, IL

The Procession, a venerable Church tradition, is a **Profession of Faith**: both affirming and defining our faith in Jesus Christ, alive and truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist, and the procession is a public statement of that belief.

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi liturgically was celebrated this year on Thursday, June 16th. All Saints Cathedral Parish in Chicago celebrated Corpus Christi with only one Mass on Sunday, June 19th. The Eucharistic procession was conducted after the Holy Mass.

Submitted by Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko



Front to rear: Cleric David Talaga, Leos, Marcelinka, Rev. David Rowinski and Bishop Rafalko holding the Most Blessed Sacrament



Left to right: Bishop Rafalko holding the Most Blessed Sacrament and Cleric Doug Scott

**Father's Day at All Saints Cathedral Parish  
Chicago, IL**

On June 19th, Father's Day Sunday, after the Holy Mass and Eucharistic procession, All Saints Cathedral Parish in Chicago, IL, honored the parish fathers with delicious brunch, and beautiful Polish music provided by the group " Moc Poludnia".

There was also an auction with many different prizes for children, young adults and adults. The queen of the Polish Constitution Parade, Julia Baranek, was invited to attend the festivities as a special guest.

Everyone attending this special event had a wonderful time.

Submitted by Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko



**Polish Performing Group Moc Poludnia with Julia Baranek, Polish Constitution Parade queen**



**Left to right: Julia Baranek, Leos, Bishop Jerry Rafalko, Marcelinka, Elizabeth Wasilewski (Bp. Rafalko's sister, visiting from Toronto ON)**



**Margaret Rowinski helps with the auction.**



**Leos' little sister wins the biggest auction prize!**

## A Very Concert Weekend!

St. Mary's Parish, Parma, OH



The United Circle Choirs of the Western Diocese held its first Convention and Concert since the onset of the pandemic beginning on Friday, June 24th and concluding on Sunday the 26th.

St. Mary's Parish in Parma, OH, began preparing for this event a few years ago, with the meeting minutes from a couple of early meetings in the summer of 2019 put in the cooler for a couple of years. Once the world became a bit more comfortable with attending events in person, the planning stage commenced once again!

Our organist, Chris Paulus, worked with the choir of St. Mary's Parish as the weather began to warm in 2022, especially after Easter. However, as the host parish and city, a hotel, hall, food, and more were put into place before this. Two choir meetings took place per week, rehearsal or planning, in the weeks leading up to the weekend. Quite a bit of work was put in!

The typical plan for a choir preparing to participate in the concert includes a number of songs that each choir sings together as well as rehearsing pieces that will be sung with the other Circle Choirs of the Diocese. Of course, no one's schedule will ever jive with that of the entire group, so Chris was quite gracious in planning for multiple options per week.

By Friday morning, everyone was ready to rock! The hospitality room had been stocked, hotel reservations were made, and Pokrova Hall was readied for the arrival of everyone. People began trickling in throughout the day, enjoying that the hospitality room had already been prepared. That evening, many began to arrive at St. Mary's for the scheduled Convention.

The Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko, Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese, offered an opening prayer and stayed for the meeting. Other clergy in attendance were Rev. Jason Soltysiak, Deacon Jim Ploskonka, and Deacon Jonathan Meus. Bruce Kaniewski (Milwaukee, WI) led the proceedings as the chairperson of the W.D. United Circle Choirs. The Convention and meeting were quite lengthy, as they covered two full terms rather than one. However, some great work was done and some devoted Polish National Catholics were elected to serve.

The hospitality room was opened for a bit again, though the hour was late. Good times were had, as stories of years past were reminisced over cookies, milk, and potato chips. A schedule was distributed to each Circle Choir (Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, Cleveland) to inform each of when their rehearsal time would be at the hall on Saturday.

After a full night of sleep, the hospitality room offered a Continental type breakfast. Working around the rehearsal schedule, people enjoyed some calm before the storm of the concert that included time in the pool, visits to local Cleveland landmarks, and perhaps an after-noon siesta.

The doors to Pokrova Hall opened at 6:00 p.m., with the choirs to kick-off at 6:30. A nice crowd arrived to support the singers. Deacon Jim Ploskonka served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening, warming the crowd a bit, welcoming each Circle Choir, and welcoming Bishop Rafalko to say some words of welcome and give a blessing.

Then the music came alive! The Chicago Circle sang first, followed by Detroit and Milwaukee choirs. Deacon Jim then added a little extra “oomph” to his introduction of the hometown Cleveland Circle. Following the Cleveland Circle’s set, all of the other circles were invited back up to the stage to sing the combined numbers. A lively set brought the crowds to great applause. Afterwards, a presentation of flowers to the diocesan bishop and host pastor was made by some of the youngest in attendance. Bishop Jerry and Father Jason were called forward and given beautiful bouquets by three youngsters.

After the singing was over, the back wall was opened to the rest of the hall to allow for seating of the singers and guests as well as to allow the band to prepare to perform. Food was served for all in attendance, as well as beer and wine at an open bar. After everyone got a few bites, the band started playing and the dancing commenced. Various polkas and oldies were sung for everyone’s enjoyment. Once the set concluded, the first half of the choir auction took place, with many seeking to support the Circle Choirs on this blind auction. Prizes varied from kids’ toys, kitchen supplies, wine, and more. The band did another set and the second portion of the auction followed. The night was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance, with many noting that this was their first “big public event” since 2020.

As any good weekend concludes, ours was to conclude appropriately, with the celebration of Holy Mass. As the evening was late the night before, the parish scheduled Mass an hour later at 10:00 a.m. This was Bishop Rafalko’s first visit to St. Mary’s Parish since his consecration to the episcopacy, and he was welcomed appropriately – with the song “Witaj” as well as the tradition-al bread and salt.

Bishop Rafalko was celebrant of Holy Mass, with Fr. Jason Soltysiak and Fr. Greg Gronn serving as concelebrants. Deacon Jim assisted as well. This day was also “Word of God Sunday” across the Polish National Catholic Church, so Deacon Jim proclaimed the Gospel from the center of church within a gospel procession. Bishop offered the homily, highlighting the day’s scripture’s call to discipleship as well as addressing the power of the Word of God as Sacrament. He also gave thanks to the family of +Bishop Jan Dawidziuk, as Bishop Jerry was honored by their graciousness in allowing him to use his crozier and bugia (bishop’s candle) for the celebration of Mass.

Everyone was then invited to a breakfast in the basement hall after Holy Mass concluded. As we prepared to eat, it was noted that there was quite the occurrence taking place – the children of eight different Polish National Catholic priests were present for Mass and breakfast on this day. Each said a few words about their respective fathers: Michele Misiewicz-Barry remembered Father Roman Misiewicz, Elizabeth Starnawski remembered Bishop Jan Dawidziuk, Brady Soltysiak spoke about Father Jason Soltysiak, Hannah Bilinski remembered Bishop Stanley Bilinski, Father Jason Soltysiak spoke about Father Senior Joseph Soltysiak, Mike Wisniewski remembered Father Senior Anthony Wisniewski, Deacon Jon Meus remembered Father Henry Meus, and Elizabeth Kowalczyk remembered Father Mendrek.

A delicious breakfast was then enjoyed by all in attendance on what was a very warm Sunday morning. The week’s-long garden cart raffle ticket was pulled, with Martha Repede winning the prize. Thanks to Steve Fesz for building and donating it!

The mood was light and visitors began stretching their legs for a long drive home. After the appropriate good-byes were said, we were left with a sunny summer Sunday afternoon, humming all the music we heard on a melodious weekend.

St. Mary’s Parish, Parma, OH, Monthly Newsletter – July 2022

