



Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Volume 100

August 2022

Issue #8

Enter through the Narrow Door

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

As the summer is now coming to its close, we still find ourselves within the Ordinary Time season working our way through the Gospel of St. Luke. Within the Gospel readings of these many weeks, we have been traveling with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as He makes His way from the beginnings of His ministry in Galilee to Jerusalem, where we know that He will eventually undergo His passion, death and resurrection.

As we follow along with this journey as we attend Holy Mass on Sundays, we must realize that we are not only witnesses to this journey as we hear the Holy Gospel, but even more so we are fellow travelers with Jesus on this journey. But for us, this is the journey of our very lives. The ministry of our Lord has been inaugurated in our lives as we continue to spend moments of prayer in worship, but the journey is not just these moments at Holy Mass, but it is rather every moment of our daily lives as we seek to more closely follow our Lord.

In the Gospel reading for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, we hear Jesus speak of the 'narrow door.' The Gospel reading begins: "Jesus went through cities and towns teaching – all the while making His way toward Jerusalem. Someone asked Him, 'Lord, are they few in number who are to be saved?' He replied: 'Try to come in through the narrow door. Many, I tell you, will try to enter and be unable.'" (Luke 13:22-24)

This question, "Are they few in number who are to be saved?" is one that was of great concern in the time of our Lord, and it is also one that is of concern

to us today. It is certainly a question that I have been asked many, many times. Although today it is a question that is usually asked concerning some individual person. I have been asked countless times, often when young students read of the horrible people that committed horrible acts throughout history, 'Will that person go to heaven?' Likewise I've also heard the question from many when they read of all of the tragic and horrible crimes that daily are reported in our newspapers and on TV; "Will these people go to heaven?"

We must notice that Jesus did not answer this question directly when it was asked of Him, but rather He turned His attention to the much more important issue of our own individual lives. As far as others go, maybe the most important thing that we can say is, that we trust in both the mercy and justice of Almighty God.

But we must notice that Jesus did have an answer to the more important issue. And it was an answer pointed to the individual. "Try to enter through the narrow door." Jesus goes on to explain this answer further: "When once the master of the house has risen to lock the door and you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Sir, open for us,' he will say in reply, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your company. You taught in our streets.' But he will answer, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from.'" (Luke 13:25-27a)

As we reflect upon this answer of our Lord, we must question where we spiritually find ourselves at the

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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 BOŻA**, 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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present moment and also what is our present relationship to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We notice that the desire of the one knocking is to be found in the kingdom of heaven, where Jesus is inside. But the Lord tells us that there will be those outside who want to get in. An important point to notice is that these individuals are outside the abode of Jesus from the beginning. There is a separation between where they are and where the master of the house, our Lord Jesus, is.

When these individuals finally come to their senses and call out to our Lord, they will say to Him, "We ate and drank in Your company. You taught in our streets." They will say that certainly they know something about Jesus and therefore should be able to be united with Him. This saying draws the distinction that there is a significant difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus.

It is not enough to have only the externals of having ate and drank in His company or knowing that He preached in our streets or in our presence. The question on the last day will be, has our life been changed because we ate and drank with our Lord, has our life been changed by hearing the words of Jesus. Have we brought our lives into conformity with Him.

As a part of our Future Direction program in these past few years, I have been praying and meditating on the 'Prayer Before Holy Mass' before the celebration of Holy Mass. This prayer is found within our P.N.C.C. Prayer Book. One portion of this prayer is: "May the Sacraments I will receive, the prayers I will say and the hymns I will sing bring me closer to Jesus and help me to be more like Him in all that I say and do." My attendance at Holy Mass, my hearing of the teachings of our Lord in the Scripture readings and through the homily and my reception of Holy Communion must point to my being more closely united to Jesus. The prayer continues: "May the Holy Communion that I will receive give me strength, so that I may share faith, hope and love with the people I will meet." We also must see that in growing more closely united to Jesus it then allows us to witness to His presence to others and, in that presence, to serve others in the love of Jesus Christ.

Through all of this we must realize that we are called to enter ever deeper into the presence of Christ in the

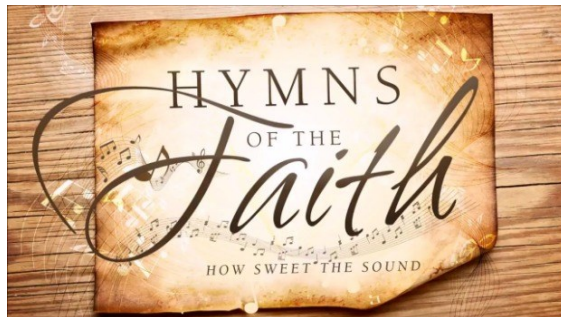
celebration of the Holy Eucharist. It is certainly important that we take some time each week to worship Almighty God as our Creator Who loves us. It is vital to our spiritual life that we receive our risen Lord in the Sacrament of the Altar, the very Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. But as we continue to worship God and receive our Lord in Holy Communion, we must also continue to grow into an ever deeper relationship with Him. We should desire to be fully united to Him at every moment of our lives. There should be no moment when we are ever on the outside calling in.

It is this attitude that is described as the 'narrow door' in the passage above. St. Cyril of Alexandria speaks to this in his collection of homilies on the Gospel of Luke. He says: "I now consider it my duty to mention why the door to life is narrow. Whoever would enter must first before everything else possess an upright and uncorrupted faith and then a spotless morality, in which there is no possibility of blame, according to the measure of human righteousness. One who has attained to this in kind and spiritual strength will enter easily by the narrow door and run along the narrow way." (Cyril of Alexandria, Commentary on Luke, Homily 99)

We all must say here that St. Cyril sets a very high bar. One that we all might have a difficult time measuring up to. But here too is where we must strive to be closely united to Jesus at every moment. In seeking to be ever more closely united to Jesus, we cast our lives upon His love and His mercy as we continue to live lives following His way and living in His love. In this, our goal of an 'upright and uncorrupted faith' and acting in a 'spotless morality,' we continue to be strengthened. If we fall short of this ideal, we also know that in being united to Jesus, we can approach Him to seek forgiveness through the Sacrament of Penance. And by this we can be restored to His fellowship and continue to grow ever closer to Him.

My brothers and sisters, as we continue in this Ordinary Time season to following the way of Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem in the Gospel readings, let us also seek to follow His way ever more closely within our daily lives. Let us seek to enter into eternal life through the narrow door. But remember it's narrowness will not be a concern, if we are truly united to Jesus, in both this life and the next.

Future Direction August Message



During August we focus on singing our faith in the presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist through various hymns. Go to the [PNCC Future Direction YouTube Channel](#) to listen to a beautiful reflection on our Catholic Eucharistic faith given by Karen Sobiechowski.

Scripture: (Ephesians 5:19-20) Sing psalms and hymns in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection:

If given some time to think, I am sure that most of us could name a large number of Church hymns that we know by heart. The singing of hymns has been a part of our Christian celebrations whenever we gather for Holy Mass and at the many other devotions within our parishes. These hymns are certainly beautiful and we are often moved in a deeply spiritual way when we hear them or sing them. Some of these hymns are only used in certain seasons of the Church year, but there are also hymns that speak to certain Catholic Christian realities, in particular, the Eucharistic Hymns. These hymns almost serve as a mini-catechism speaking truths that we all hold about what occurs when we gather for Holy Mass and when we receive Holy Communion. Just looking at one Eucharistic Hymn within our P.N.C.C. Hymnal “Hallowed Be Forever” allows us to see many aspects of our faith. This hymn contains lines such as “Hallowed be forever, Living Host Divine” showing us that the living Christ is present to us at Mass and in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. “Sacrament Most Holy, by which we are fed,” reminds us that in the reception of Holy Communion we are sustained and strengthened by the presence of Jesus. Another hymn “Jesus, My Lord and Savior” sums up exactly what we do each time we gather for Mass: “Jesus, my Lord and Savior, here I would worship Thee. All that I have I give Thee for Thou didst die for me. Here in this Bread of Heaven, here in this Host divine, thanksgiving, praise and honor be every moment Thine.” Each of these Eucharist hymns says something to us and to all who hear us about our faith in Christ Jesus, present to us during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Action Item – Sing along with the hymns when gathered during the celebration of Mass. Also taken a favorite Eucharistic Hymn, such as “Hallowed Be Forever” or “Jesus, My Lord and Savior” and sing it, either by yourself or with your family, each day.

Also on August 28th we celebrate Youth Sunday in our P.N.C.C. Here is a prayer for our Youth from the 2010 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.” Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P.N.C.C. Future Direction continues to be on Facebook. Like, follow and share our reflections on Facebook. If you know of parishioners or friends who are not a part of our monthly email updates – please have them email us at FutureDirection@pncc.org to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

May God bless you; may our Lord calm the storms of life, may our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph intercede for us and all facing Christian Persecution and violence in our world. As we continue to celebrate Being Eucharistic People – sing praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and allow His presence in His Sacred Body and Body to lead and guide us always!

Do With Me As Thou Wilt

Rev. Jim Konicki, Chair, P.N.C.C. Vocations Commission

“Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Remove this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will.” – Mark 14:36

As we hit the mid-summer mark, we read from the Prophet Jeremiah during daily Holy Mass. In Jeremiah, we see his words and God’s response as spoken not to Jeremiah as an individual, but as applicable to the whole of Israel.

In Jeremiah 18, God likens Himself to a potter who molds and shapes his objects of desire as he wishes. Indeed, Israel was the object of God’s desire, and He wished to mold and shape them to a people fitted to His purpose.

We know, Israel refused to surrender itself to God’s molding, to His loving hands. They did not want to change, risk, or give up their self-interest. They would not listen to God, and they refused to accept His promises as absolute guarantees of the glory that would await them. God had become for them secondary to their own powers. They could see to themselves, thank you.

The very life of our Divine Teacher and Savior is instructive for us, for He left us Himself as the example to follow, the gospel path to tread. Jesus surrendered Himself wholly to His heavenly Father. He allowed His Father to mold and shape Him. He held nothing back. He never engaged in ‘if, then, else’ dialogs with His Father. His prayer at Gethsemane wraps up this surrender: *“not what I will, but what You will.”*

In twelve step programs the third step is always surrender to the Father. Groups like AA well know, if we maintain our own sovereignty, if we, like Israel, place God on the back burner, secondary to our own powers (really a lack thereof) we cannot escape the path we are on. One of the prayers used is:

"God, I offer myself to Thee—To build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of Life."

This prayer’s theme is universal: abandon living a self-directed life and become more self-less.

Everyone faces this choice as part of gaining maturity. If we move out of spiritual childhood or adolescence, which is not age dependent, and into spiritual adulthood we allow God to take us and do with us what He will. We abandon our interior steering wheel and let God drive. We place ourselves in the hands of the Potter Who will fashion us as He sees fit. Surrendered, we grow into the image of Christ. Destination – we will know when we get there. All we need do is trust.

Those who are called by God know this well. We know that our acceptance of God’s call is not a one-off thing. Our conversion, our giving ourselves over is a continuous process of growth and maturity. Often, we are called to take next steps, to be molded further and used as the Father sees fit.

God is speaking to us right now; He has not given up on us. As throughout history, God challenges us to release control and place our lives into His hands. His promise, that doping so we become more like Him, willing to see and respond to the needs of His Holy Church, the people of the Kingdom.

If you are called to God’s service, to surrender of self to the Heavenly Father as a priest or deacon of our Holy Church, call or text me at 518-522-0944 or E-mail me at frjim@holynamencc.org. If you are called as a priest to further maturity, speak with your bishop.

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. – Romans 12:1

National Youth Convocation of the Polish National Catholic Church
Hosted by the Western Diocese
Convo 2022 – “Live, Laugh, Love with God”
Submitted by Christine Wachna, Convo Registration Coordinator

“Celebrate Youth!” was a perfect song to be lifted in prayer during Mass during Convo.

The National Youth Convocation, Convo 2022 of the Polish National Catholic Church was held July 18-22 at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana. This was the first time, since 2018 that this event was able to be held “in-person”.

Members of the Western Diocesan Youth Association (WDUYA) included Brianna Davis, Paige Gradowski, Zach Grzesik, Mackenzie Petrella and Aiden Tufano and the Western Diocesan Youth Commission (WDYC) including Cathy Bilinski, Rev. David Rowinski and Christine Wachna made up the Convo 2022 Committee. Led by our National Youth Chaplain and Chaplain of the Western Diocese, the Very Reverend John Kowalczyk, “Live, Laugh, Love with God” was our theme and driving force for this five-day event and we indeed did all three!

While our numbers were lower than normal, remember that we are still coming off the pandemic and the university required that everyone be vaccinated and provide the proper documentation. Our group was small, but mighty and included 24 youth ages 12-21, 15 adults 25 and older and 11 clergy including our newest seminarian. We were blessed to have some of the P.N.C.C.’s highest ranking leaders including the Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky, the Right Reverend Jerry Rafalko (Bishop of the Western Diocese) and the Right Reverend Paul Sobiechowski (Bishop of the Eastern Diocese) in attendance.

How do you explain what is the purpose of a National Youth Convocation? Well, put simply, the objective of Convo is to bring the youth and the young at heart closer to God through daily Mass and prayer, a variety of sessions pertaining to the theme of the convo and then have a mix of fellowship throughout our time together. You come together and meet new people and renew old friendships from throughout the entire Polish National Catholic Church and expand your horizons.

Our group was given the opportunity to celebrate Mass in the Chapel of the Resurrection and Holy Masses were celebrated by Prime Bishop Mikovsky, Bishop Rafalko and Father Senior Kowalczyk. Homilists included Prime Bishop Mikovsky, Father Senior Kowalczyk and Father Jim Konicki. Thanks to all the clergy who participated. Our Convo Music Ministry was led by Mrs. Cathy Bilinski-piano & vocals, Alexis Mellado-bass guitar and percussion, MaryJane Scott-vocals and cantor, Marzena Krulik-vocals, Khloe Medrano-vocals, Brianna Davis-vocals and violin, Leah Wisbiski-vocals, Cindy Pecynski-vocals and percussion, Dave Pecynski-vocals and percussion and Chris Wachna-vocals, cantor & flute.

Appreciation is extended to all our speakers that gave of their time, talent and treasure to share their love of God and the Church to everyone in attendance. Speakers included the Very Reverend Jaroslaw Nowak who spoke on how to Live with God, Reverend Jason Soltysiak discussed how we Love with God through Agape (God’s love for humankind), Eros (romantic love), Philia (brotherly love) and Storge (Family Love). Cleric Douglas Scott presented how we laugh with God in our daily lives. Ms. Katherine O’Connor was our Mental Health Professional and presented on the different stressor’s life has thrown at us, especially during the pandemic. Mrs. Christine Wachna-PNU Director of District 6 developed a presentation on how we love with God through service and Mr. Jim Szalony presented on how we Live with God through the Psalms. Prime Bishop Mikovsky gave the final session and wrapped up how we Live, Laugh and Love with God each and every day of our lives.

Prior to the Convo, it was announced that we would organize a service project for the attendees and show our love to those in need locally. 100 backpacks were packed with personal toiletries that included soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, a hand towel, wash cloth and socks. The bags were donated to the Hammond City Rescue Mission. Thanks to all who donated to make this happen.

Part of our fellowship time included icebreakers, game night, two dances on Monday and on Thursday evenings, Deep River Waterpark on Wednesday and were amazed by Magician, Doc Dixon who actually “fooled” Penn & Teller. Snacks were provided each night in the dorm following evening prayer.

Through all our fellowship, new friendships were made and the elections for the National United Youth Association (NUYA) were held. Congratulations to all those elected: President Jorge Hernandez, Vice President Paige Gradowski, Recording Secretary Angelo Curay and Corresponding Secretary Alfonso Castillo. Representatives elected from the Central Diocese are Cecilia Wassman and Perla Alcaraz-Sierra and Alternate Bernard Cardoz. Representatives elected from the Western Diocese are Kameron Westberry, Marzena Krulik and alternate Aiden Tufano. Representatives from the Buffalo-Pittsburgh and Eastern Diocese will be elected later since there were no youth participants from either diocese present. Prime Bishop Mikovsky administered the oath of office on Thursday during Mass. The newly elected board and representatives elected President Jorge Hernandez as their delegate to the General Synod. We pray this new group of leaders will move mountains in spreading the Good News of our Lord and Savior throughout the P.N.C.C. and beyond.

Convo 2022 could not have happened without your support! Thanks to the Supreme Council of the Polish National Catholic Church who not only gave us the budgeted amount of \$6,000 but also an additional \$6,000 to reduce the cost of the registration fee for individuals. To run an event such as this, it does take a larger budget and we are also grateful for the left-over monies from the 2018 Convo as well as all the individuals, organizations and parishes that donated towards this endeavor. Here is a list of those who donated towards the service project as well as the hospitality portion of the Convo.

Service Project Donations

Sandra Dobrovolskis
Robert & Dian Maycan
Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd
Cindy & David Pecynski
Bernie & Richard Wisniewski

All Saints Cathedral Youth Association – Chicago, IL
Holy Cross Parish – Hamtramck, MI
Resurrection Parish – Temperance, MI
St. Mary's Parish – South Bend, IN
St. Michael the Archangel Parish – Cedar Lake, IN

Hospitality Donations

Cathy & Chuck Bilinski
Kathy & Larry Chockley
Stephanie Marsh

United Young Men's Societies of Resurrection –
Pizza Thursday night following the Dance.

PNU District 5 – Ice Cream Bar @ Thursday Dance
PNU District 6 – Pizza Lunch @ Deep River Waterpark
PNU District 7 – Gazebo @ Deep River Waterpark

St. Michael the Archangel Parish – Cedar Lake, IN

On behalf of Convo 2022, thanks to everyone who helped “behind the scenes”. Without your assistance, we could not do what we did in a seamless matter. We look forward to the next National Youth Convocation in 2024, wherever it may be. May everyone be blessed and spread the good news through their lives, love and laughter with God every day.



Participants of the 2022 P.N.C.C. Youth Convocation



During Convo 2022 an election was held for officers and representatives of the National United Youth Association (NUYA) Congratulations to President Jorge Hernandez, Vice President Paige Gradowski, Recording Secretary Angelo Curay, Corresponding Secretary Alfonso Castillo. Central Diocese Reps Cecilia Wassman, Perla Alcaraz, alternate Bernard Cardoz, Western Diocese Reps Marzena Krulik, Kameron Westberry, Alternate Aiden Tufano. May God guide and bless you In all that you do.

National United Choirs Music Scholarship Awards Announcement

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him. Praise the Lord with the harp, make music to Him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully and shout for joy! - Psalm 33: 1-3 NIV

Make a joyful noise! The 2022 awards were announced during the National Youth Convocation at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana. Here are the recipients of the National United Choirs Music Scholarships for 2022:

Leslie Doyle

Polish National Union Award \$750
St. Stanislaus Cathedral
Scranton, PA
Guitar

Kaitlyn Gingerlowski

George Balcar Award \$1200
St. Stanislaus Cathedral
Scranton, PA
Violin

Mikaela Hoefler

Bishop Francis Bonczak Youth Award \$400
Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish
Latham, NY
Piano

Devin Junko

Bishop Thomas Gnat Award \$1350
Holy Trinity Parish
Washington, PA
Piano

Matthew Moritz

Bishop Francis Bonczak Award \$2000
St. Mary Parish
Parma, OH
Cello

5 Awards, \$5,700

Since inception: 1124 Awards, \$346,535

A new general scholarship was given out this year - The Bishop Thomas Gnat Award. It was approved at the National United Choirs Convention in August 2021 with the following criteria for a recipient:

This award is presented to the selected applicant for the study of music, in such fields as music education, choral music, piano, instrumental, voice, etc. The selected applicant will be an active participant in choir activities, such as organist, choir director, or choir member. Additionally, this award is for those 25 years or younger.

Congratulations to these talented people! They have received a special gift from God, have acknowledged that gift, and have used it to glorify God in their parish and the P.N.C.C.

Our scholarship program continues to be successful because of the generous donations we get from the faithful of the P.N.C.C. Thank you for your support and we hope we continue to be so blessed with talented applicants and the funding to provide them financial help as they pursue their music education.

A new program in the form of a Grant, named for the late Bishop Stanley Bilinski, was also approved at the Convention. It will differ from the regular scholarship program, not having specific deadlines. The NUC
(Continued on bottom of Page 14.)

Polish National Catholic Church 125th Anniversary Banquet

The XXVI General Synod will convene at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center on Wednesday, October 19, 2022. The synod concludes on Friday, October 21, 2022. On **Saturday, October 22, 2022** at The Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, the celebration marking the 125th Anniversary of our Church will be held.

The details are as follows:

- Holy Mass will be celebrated at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA at 11:00 am. The banquet will follow at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, 100 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503.
- The banquet is being scheduled from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm beginning with a cash bar cocktail hour from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm.
- Dinner choices are the following: **(1)** Bourbon Glazed Pork, **(2)** Hickory Smoked Prime-Rib, and **(3)** Portabella Mushroom Ravioli & Grilled Vegetables.
- Reservations are \$60 per person. Please make checks payable to *Central Diocese of the P.N.C.C.* Send payment along with each person's name and meal selection to: *Carol Mikovsky, 115 Lake Scranton Rd., Scranton, Pa 18505.*
- No tickets will be issued. Everyone will be guided to their specific table.
- Please RSVP no later than **October 8, 2022**

Parking is available across the street from the hotel for \$5.00 for this event.



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

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?

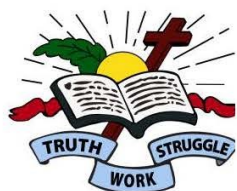
(Continued on Page 12 .)

(Criteria for the Nominations Commission- Continued from Page 11.)

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

125th 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 19th through Friday, October 21st 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 18th through Saturday, October 22nd, 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 19th 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.

(Continued on Page 14.)

(Information Sheet - Continued from Page 13.)

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: **26th 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
570-344-1513
or
- Janet Kelly, Synod Coordinator
centdiocsecy1@gmail.com
570-341-5150

125TH 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 125th 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.



(NUC Awards Announcement - Continued from Page 8.)

Board is currently developing the application and procedure process for the grant. Details will be published on the Scholarship website listed below and in the God's Field when all is finalized.

Information on the scholarship program can be found on our website: www.nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com

Cathy A. Bilinski
Music Scholarship Administrator
nucscholarship@gmail.com

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: **26th 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 _____

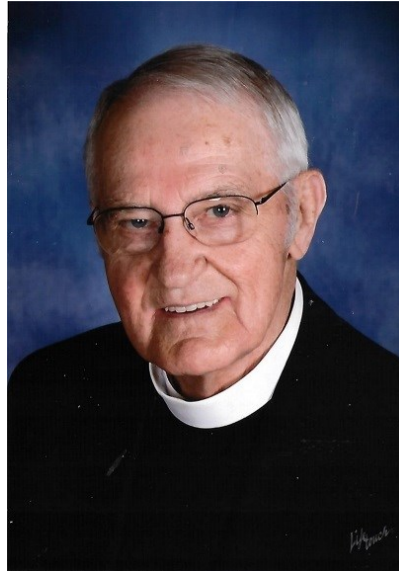
Diocese _____ Pastor _____

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 _____

Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese**† sp. Rev. Felix Pyzowskis**

The Reverend “Father” Felix Pyzowski passed away on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at the age of 94. Felix had served as long-time Pastor of Holy Trinity National Catholic Church in Washington, PA from 1969 until 2001, and as Pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Fairhope, PA up until this past December.

Felix was the youngest of six siblings and was raised in the coal mining town of Frackville in northeastern Pennsylvania. After graduating from high school, he played professional baseball as a pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies minor league team. Soon after he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served during the end of WWII at Fitzsimons Veterans Hospital in Denver, Colorado. He was honorably discharged at the close of the war and returned to his hometown.

His return home awakened a call to the priesthood. Felix enrolled at the Savanorola Seminary of the Polish National Catholic Church in nearby Scranton, PA and was ordained to the ministry on September 17, 1959. Felix next served for five years as an assistant at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA. In 1964 he was appointed as pastor at Holy Cross Parish in Syracuse, NY and in 1969 he was appointed to Holy Trinity Parish in Washington, PA. He also served as pastor of two nearby mission parishes, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Monessen, PA and St. Joseph in Fairhope PA.

Under the leadership of Father Felix, the parishes he served grew and flourished. He was instrumental in the relocation of Holy Trinity to its new home on Malone Ridge, and in the construction of the new church, parish hall, and rectory. He was also instrumental in uniting the two mission parishes and constructing a new church building in Fairhope.

Father Felix retired from full-time ministry in 2001, although he continued as a part-time pastor until this past year.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, and was father to Thomas (Bobbie) and Paul (Whitney) and grandfather to Katie and Nicholas.

There will be no public visitation. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 6:30 P.M. on Sunday, August 7, 2022 in Holy Trinity National Catholic Church, 605 Hewitt Ave., Washington, PA. Private burial will be held at a later date with full military honors in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville. Memorial contributions may be made to the “Father Felix Holy Trinity Memorial Fund”, and mailed to the attention of Father Mark Swoger, Holy Trinity National Catholic Church, 605 Hewitt Ave, Washington, PA 15301.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Warco-Falvo Funeral Home, Inc., Wilson at East Katherine Ave., Washington, S. Timothy Warco, Supervisor/Director, Holly Renay Warco, Director, S. Timothy Warco II, Director, Park N. Crosier, Director. Condolences may be expressed at www.WarcoFalvoFuneralHome.com

St. Barbara P.N.C.C. Parish
50th Anniversary
Houtzdale, PA



Things can change a lot in 50 years. The Houtzdale area has seen more than its fair share of change over that time. Certain change can be a good thing though. Things cannot stay the same forever, after all. On the other hand, it is also nice when there are institutions and traditions that do not change much, and people can come to rely upon the familiar. Such is the balance of tradition versus change that many people experience and reflect on throughout their lives. This year of 2022 is a year when the parishioners of Saint Barbara Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.) Parish in Houtzdale are indeed reflecting on both the tradition and change they have lived over the preceding fifty years. The story, however, starts back even further.

In the 1880s, much of the area's Polish and Slavic immigrants came to the area seeking employment in the booming coal mining industry. Many joined the other English-speaking Catholics of the area as members of Saint Lawrence Roman Catholic Parish. In 1892 (1889 in some accounts), another parish was to be established to serve the increasing number of Polish immigrants in their native tongue. This newly formed parish, named in honor of the patron saint of coal miners – Saint Barbara, met briefly in a storeroom on Brisbin Street before the wood-framed church was erected on the corner of Clara and George Streets. Many of the local Slovak immigrants also became a part of Saint Barbara Parish for a time until they amicably separated to form the congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. A St. Barbara's Cemetery was opened in Brisbin for the burial of parishioners, the final resting place of several men who were killed in local coal mining accidents. In Osceola Mills, Saint Joseph's was established (1893) as a mission parish of Saint Barbara's. Numerous religious and social organizations served the parishioners of St. Barbara's. A social hall was built on Mary and George Streets; and, in the 1940s, a new brick rectory was built – planned to be the first phase of a new church complex. Over the years, Saint Barbara Roman Catholic Parish, twice scorched by fire, served its parishioners, and flourished in the Houtzdale community. The "Little White Church" on Clara Street stood out as an immaculate building, a place of inspiration and devotion – the pride of its communicants.

However, on November 8, 1970, the congregation celebrated its last Mass as a part of Saint Barbara Roman Catholic Parish. Saint Barbara's Parish would be the first of the three established Roman Catholic parishes in Houtzdale to close (Saint Lawrence and Sacred Heart of Jesus Parishes also) to form a new consolidated Roman Catholic parish named Christ the King Parish, constructed at the site of the Sacred Heart Church.

(Continued on Page 18.)

(St. Barbara P.N.C.C. Parish - Continued from Page 17.)

Many members of Saint Barbara Parish resolved to make all efforts to see the parish and church building that they, their families, and their ancestors had built and maintained, reopen. However, letters, visits, and petitions, directed to the Bishop of the Erie Diocese, the Papal Delegate in Washington, D.C., and other church dignitaries provided no relief from their parish's closure. Meetings, peaceful demonstrations, and prayer vigils could not influence the irrevocable decision of the church authorities. Parishioners even conducted their own prayer and hymn services, as well as Rosary services for their parish, until they were barred from the church building. These prayer services then were held outdoors in front of the church, through all sorts of weather, until the building was ordered demolished in February of 1971. It was simply not the will of God for Saint Barbara Roman Catholic Parish to continue in Houtzdale. However, the determined members of the closed parish continued prayer services in the Houtzdale Lion's Club. Though without a priest, they could not celebrate Mass or the other Sacraments vital to the spiritual life of Catholics. Then, the congregation that remained decided to make appeals to the Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.) for assistance and possible acceptance.

The P.N.C.C. is an Old Catholic Church denomination that was established in 1897, when discontent among Polish immigrants arose in Scranton, PA and other cities of the U.S. when the houses of worship which they had sacrificed for and erected in their new country, were declared to be the sole possession of the bishops of the various Roman Catholic dioceses. They particularly resented orders to give up teaching Polish language and culture in their parish schools. The immigrants complained that church authorities were not ministering to the needs of Polish Americans. A Polish-born priest, Father Francis Hodur, later to become the first Bishop of the P.N.C.C., led the congregation of Saint Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton in establishing a new independent parish that would become the mother church of the P.N.C.C. Churches in five dioceses, with a membership of over 25,000 members, make up the P.N.C.C. today. Though originally established by Polish Americans, the P.N.C.C. is now diverse, with its current membership being from a wide variety of national and ethnic backgrounds.

In September 1971, P.N.C.C. officials met with members of the closed Saint Barbara Parish. The members elected a Parish Committee, and a new Saint Barbara Parish was accepted and established as a parish of the P.N.C.C. On October 3, 1971, inside Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (Houtzdale), Father Joseph Pron, pastor of a P.N.C.C. parish from Johnstown, PA, celebrated Mass for the first time with the members of the new Saint Barbara P.N.C.C. Parish. On the Feast of Saint Barbara, December 4, 1971, Father Thaddeus Peplowski was installed, becoming the first permanent pastor of Saint Barbara P.N.C.C. Parish. The following year witnessed a flurry of activity as the parish once again set roots in the Houtzdale community. Then on October 15, 1972, Bishop Cyganowski of the P.N.C.C.'s Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese dedicated the new church building, which had been erected just south of town on Emery Avenue – located atop the Park Hill. The ground for the new church having been donated by the Lorbetsky family; and ground for a new cemetery (Ramey, PA) donated by the Redzensky family.

That first year of the parish, the fall of 1971 through the fall of 1972, saw many accomplishments achieved through the hard work, sacrifice, donations, and dedication of its parishioners, its first Parish Committee, and its first pastor. Parishioners continue to participate in the church's religious and social organizations such as the St. Joseph Choir, School of Christian Living, Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and the Young Men's Society of the Resurrection. The years that have followed have also provided many experiences and memories, not just for parishioners, but also for those in the community. Those in the community may remember many of the parish's past mission and outreach activities. Those activities included the many Christian children's plays and musicals featuring a muppet ministry, the Barburki and Gorale folk dance groups, radio (WPHB) and television (WTAJ) outreach missions, and a Polish Cultural Studies Program

providing Polish language, pysanky egg decorating, and Polish folk-dance classes through a grant from the Wawrynovic family.

More still may be familiar with the extensive church complex – the church itself, the Bishop Peplowski Parish Hall, a ball field, and picnic park, the location of the parish’s annual Dożynki Polish Harvest Festival, currently held on the third Sunday each August. During the early years, parish festivals spanned entire weekends and featured top known Polka bands, large softball tournaments, many game booths, and many other activities, which in some years, included hot air balloon and helicopter rides. Attendance was often counted in the many thousands. Those in the community may also know the church from past smorgasbord and 21-week club dinners, Polka dances, and currently support it by enjoying authentic Polish cuisine at the annual festival, or through other parish fundraisers. During the recent COVID pandemic, the parish has served many hundreds in the community as a Fresh Express Distribution location for the Central PA Food Bank on the first and third Thursday of each month.

The hard work and dedication of its members, as well as the parish’s role in the Houtzdale community, has been passed on through generations, persevered through hardships, and continues to be celebrated during this, the parish’s 50th year. Like almost anything, both tradition and change have shaped the current Saint Barbara P.N.C.C. Parish. Parish membership is smaller than in the earlier years, but their faith and dedication is as strong as ever – with the hope to continue to serve the Lord in the Houtzdale community for another 50 years.

On Saturday, October 15, 2022, Saint Barbara P.N.C.C. Parish will culminate its yearlong recognition and celebration of 50 years by celebrating a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving with P.N.C.C. Prime Bishop, Anthony Mikovsky, Bishop John Mack, Bishop Ordinary of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, and other clergy, followed by an anniversary program and dinner in the Bishop Peplowski Parish Hall. A homecoming gathering in the Parish Hall will be held after Mass on Sunday, October 16, 2022.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to share stories, experiences, photos, or other memories from the first 50 years of Saint Barbara P.N.C.C. Parish please feel free to contact us.

Carey Huber, Parish Committee, Vice Chairperson.



Central Diocese

Holy Cross Parish Holds Annual Parish Picnic

Woodland Park, NJ

On Sunday, June 26, 2022 after 11 am Mass – Holy Cross Parish, Woodland Park, NJ, held its annual parish picnic as part of the parish Outreach Program to the local community..

The 16 feet water slide, Simply Magical - Magician, and dunk water tank provided everyone with a lot of laughter and joy on a very hot day.

A variety of homemade hot and cold ethnic foods and desserts, donated by several parishioners, was enjoyed by all. The parish provided hamburgers, hot dogs, popcorn, watermelon, and soft drinks.



Polish National Catholic Church



The PNU congratulates the PNCC

in celebrating 125 Years Spreading the "Good News"

The PNU is offering for a limited time
the "5 for 125" years policy.

This 5 pay life policy is for \$5,000 &
\$10,000
policies only.

Open Enrollment Program!
No Application will be refused!!!
Eligible applicants are between 25-80
years of age.

Paid in full after five years.

Promotion Period
August 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Activities Dupont, PA

The 60th Annual Open Pit Chicken BBQ was held on Saturday, July 16, 2022 at Holy Mother of Sorrows church grounds in Dupont, PA. We would like to thank all our volunteers and patrons for making this event very successful.



Pictured are: first row, from left: Paul Kaspriskie Jr., Paul Kazinetz Jr., Al Micka, Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Anthony Shumlas and Nick Kazinetz; standing, from left: John Bondurich III, Atty. Andrew Shumlas, Angelo Conforti Jr., Angelo Conforti Sr., Jeff Baldan, John Szczepanski, Paul Kazinetz III.

A 50th Wedding Anniversary was celebrated at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA on Sunday, July 17, 2022. Albert and Joanne Urbanski (pictured, below, with Fr. Sr. Dawid) received a Golden Anniversary Blessing during a special ceremony performed by Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid, pastor. Congratulations and best wishes to the Golden Jubilarians, Albert and Joanne.



Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish sponsored a “Dupont Weekend” at the Bishop Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center in Waymart, PA, on July 29 - 31, 2022. This parish weekend served as a spiritual, recreational, fraternal activity and fellowship for the congregation.



(Submitted by Very Rev. Z. Dawid)



Eastern Diocese**† śp. Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas**

Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas, 33 year pastor of the Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church of Ware, MA, passed away suddenly on Monday, July 18, 2022 in the parish rectory.

Fr. Senior Banas was born in Chicopee, MA, to the late Stanley Banas and Valaria (Szczepanek) Banas. He was a 1947 graduate of Chicopee High School. Fr. Senior attended Savonarola Theological Seminary in Scranton, PA. On October 19, 1950 Fr. Senior was ordained to the holy priesthood, by the late Bishop John A. Misiaszek. He was one of six newly-ordained priests who received a special blessing from the organizer of the Polish National Catholic Church, the late Prime Bishop Francis Hodur.

Fr. Senior celebrated his first solemn High Mass on October 22, 1950, in the Holy Mother of the Rosary Church in Chicopee, MA, the church in which he was baptized, received his First Holy communion, confirmed and reared. Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish always had a special place in his heart.

He was elevated , to Senior Priest on August 4, 1964, by the late Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski. He served parishes in Buffalo, NY, Hazleton, PA and McAdoo, PA. For 23 and 1/2 years he was the pastor of St. Adalbert's Church in Dickson City, PA.

In 1979 Fr. Senior returned to New England and was the pastor of Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Fall River, MA, for 10 years. On May 15, 1989 Fr. Senior Banas assumed the pastorate of Holy Cross Church in Ware. For 33 consecutive years he remained as pastor and shepherd of his flock, until God called him home.

Fr. Senior Banas dedicated his life to the Polish National Catholic Church. He served on numerous commissions of the Church. He served as national director on the Board of Directors of the Polish American Congress representing the Polish National Catholic Church. Fr. Senior served two terms on the Board of the Polish National Union of America. He was the chaplain for the United Choirs of the Polish National Catholic Church, and served 20 years as secretary for the Central Diocese Clergy Conference. Fr. Senior was an instructor at the Savonarola Theological Seminary for many years, teaching moral theology, liturgy, ideology of the Church, and the Polish language.

Fr. Senior was a Priest in the purest sense; he served God and his people faithfully wherever he was. He loved and was so proud of his Polish heritage, speaking Polish whenever he could. Fr. Senior will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Fr. Senior Banas was pre-deceased by his beloved mother, Valaria who assisted him as companion, co-worker and inspiration for 32 years up to the time of her death on January, 14, 1984. Fr. Senior Banas leaves his nephew and caregiver, Eugene Kulas of Ware, cousins from the Szczepanek and Moryl Families, a large family in Poland from the Szczepanek and Glodz Family, his parish family and many friends.

A Requiem High Mass, officiated by Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, was offered on Saturday, July 23, 2022. Fr. Senior Banas was laid to rest next to his beloved mother in the Holy Mother of the Rosary Cemetery in Chicopee.

Blessed Trinity Parish Activities

Fall River, MA

On Saturday, July 9th, Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA, hosted a Veterans Cookout by Rolling Thunder MA Chapter 2 and the Fall River Veterans Kitchen. Great food and quality time was shared by everyone present. Many thanks to those who served and sacrificed for our country. A big thanks to Rolling Thunder Mass Ch 2 and the Fall River Veterans Kitchen.



Thunder MA Chapter 2, Mayor Coogan (second from left) with Sheriff Hodgson (third from right, front) and Fr. Sr. Robe Nemkovich (front far right)

Western Diocese

Saints Peter & Paul Parish Neighborhood Picnic

Milwaukee, WI

On Sunday, July 17th, Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Milwaukee, WI, held its first-ever Neighborhood Picnic and it was a success! Parishioners and neighbors enjoyed good food, fellowship, and a beautiful summer day, as well as celebrated the birthdays of the parish spiritual leaders, Father Senior Bogumil Czaja and Deacon Jon Meus. Thank you to all who attended and those who coordinated the event.



Sign up for membership Today!

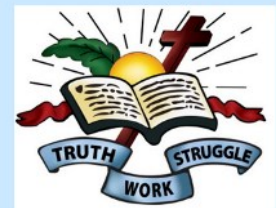
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ANNIVERSARY OF THE PNCC
OPEN ENROLLMENT PROGRAM!**

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OFFER GOOD AUGUST 1 - DECEMBER 31 2022



Polish National Union of America
1002 Pittston Ave.
Scranton, Pa 18505