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The General Synod

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

As we find ourselves now in the month of September, there is just about one month until we gather for the XXVI General Synod held within the Central Diocese of our Church. We remind ourselves that the Holy Synod is such a critical part of what we do as members of God's Holy Church. We gather together as beloved children of God, brothers and sisters of Christ, to do the work of the Church, the building up of the kingdom of God.

I certainly realize that this is sometimes a little difficult to see. We will have to go through many reports of the work completed and the things that still need to be accomplished. We will possibly have to spend some late nights dealing with the matters of the Church. But through all of it, we will spend time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to inspire us to help point us in the right direction for the Church. We will spend time in discussion with others seeking their wisdom and their help in best serving the Church. It is our strong belief that through all of this, the Holy Spirit will guide the Church to fulfill the will of God in our world today.

I encourage all the faithful of the Church, and especially the delegates to the Synod, to keep in mind a number of things as we prepare for Holy Synod. As the Synod is called to accomplish the work of the Church, we can ask, what exactly is this work? What should we be doing? I know that we will oftentimes work on rather specific items, but we must also keep in mind the larger reality of this work of the Synod.

The Preamble to the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church speaks to this. "By

divine imperative the sacred mission of this Church is to carry the light of Jesus Christ before the people, constantly reminding them that their aim is to live in the spirit of God, in truth, love and righteousness, seeking the truth by reading and studying the Holy Scriptures with the aid of the accumulated wisdom of the ages."

This is the realization that we must each have within ourselves when we come to the Holy Synod. Yes, we are there to hear the reports of the work of the Church over the past four years. We will try to plan a way forward for the next four years. But through it all we must know within our hearts that we are striving to "carry the light of Jesus Christ before the people." Through our plans we must strive, for ourselves and for everyone, to "live in the spirit of God, in truth, love and righteousness."

I implore all the members of the Church to offer the following Prayer for the Church found within our P.N.C.C. Prayer Book. Offer it in the days leading up to the Synod. During the Synod, I ask the delegates to pray it before coming to sessions and all the faithful to pray it each day for the delegates while we gather.

Prayer for the Church

Almighty and eternal God, You have called us to serve You through the Polish National Catholic Church. Hear our prayer for the Prime Bishop, the bishops, priests, deacons and faithful of our Holy Church. May Your gifts and blessings strengthen our

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resolve to serve You and by example bring others into the Mystical Body of Christ. May all that we do be for the glory of Your Name and the salvation of Your people. By our faithful witness and service may we eventually be received into Your eternal kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

When we gather at Holy Synod there will certainly be much work to be done. We will seek to elect a candidate for the office of Bishop, but we must also pledge ourselves to be leaders within our own parishes to help them continue to grow in spirit and in number. We will hear reports of the Commissions and Committees of the entire Church, but we also will seek to find new and better ways to accomplish the work set out over eight years ago at the first Future Direction discussions. These five points for the entire Church, and especially for each parish, are: 1) Growth and Membership, 2) Increase Spirituality, 3) Lifelong Learning, 4) Sacred Vocations, and 5) Community Involvement and Presence. While we know that each of these matters is important for the life of each of our parishes, we must also keep in mind that through these things what we are really doing is kingdom building. We are really in each of these matters “carrying the light of Jesus Christ before the people.”

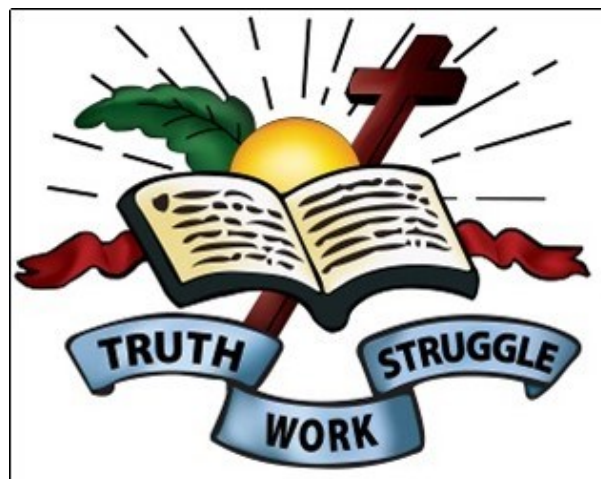
Each time I get myself ready to prepare for my participation in Holy Synod, I often read the words of Bishop Hodur, when he addressed the Synod delegates at the 1906 Synod in Scranton before they took their synodal oath. A portion of these words are: “What power is it that has brought [us] here, Honored Brothers and Beloved in Christ? What idea has led us to His holy place before the altar of sacrifice? The idea of a Free Church, the idea of a Christian society in which Christ would be the only leader. His Word the water which gives life, and the people are brothers and sisters. This is the goal for which we are bound, for which we are to work. Are you ready? Have you all gathered here in the thought that you are laborers in the vineyard of Christ ...? And that we are to fulfill in these three days work similar to that which the Jewish priests and people did in the days of Esdras when they built the temple and in one hand, held a trowel and built walls and in the other a sword in defense before the enemies of their nation?”

“We must further build this National shrine but also defend it before external and internal enemies who want to tear it to pieces and change it to rubble. We have gathered in God’s Church to call upon the help and light from the Spirit of all light and to pledge also before God that we will fulfill our duty conscientiously and honestly.”

“We are ready to stand in defense of the pure teaching of Christ, always and everywhere. We shall defend the honor of the Holy Cross, defending it before hypocrisy, and we are ready to give our lives in defense of truth. We pledge loyalty and love to the National Church, and respect and obedience for its laws. May Almighty God and the Most Holy Mother of His Son help us to fulfill all these duties.” (*Hodur: Sermon Outlines and Occasional Speeches, Address in Church Prior to the Oath (In conjunction with the oath taken by the First Special Synod 1906 p. 52-53)*)

As we prepare for the Synod, pray for the Church, Her leaders and Her members. Pray for the delegates that the Holy Spirit may inspire them to set a course to “carry the light of Jesus Christ before the people.” Resolve to serve the Church putting your love of God and neighbor to action in your own life and in your parish life. Give what you can in time, talent and treasure to build the kingdom of God.

The “Tenets and Aims” portion of the Constitution and Laws of the P.N.C.C. gives expression to our belief “that through the Holy Spirit, God governs the Church and enables it to regenerate and convert human society and to unite it under one Shepherd, Christ Jesus our Lord. In this manner the kingdom of God on earth is realized.”



Future Direction September Message

The Eucharist in the Declaration of Scranton

During September, as we continue our focus of Being Eucharistic People, we take some time to reflect on the important teaching of the Church on the Holy Eucharist as found in paragraph 6 of the Declaration of Scranton. Enjoy the wonderful explanation of this teaching of our Church given by our Prime Bishop, His Grace, Anthony Mikovsky on the [PNCC Future Direction YouTube Channel](#).



Scripture: (Acts 2:46-47) Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home, and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

Reflection and Action Item:

The Declaration of Scranton formulated and accepted by the P.N.C.C. Bishops on April 28, 2008 and later accepted by the Clergy Conference and the General Synod, helps guide the Church in its relationships with other Christian bodies. The document has allowed us to enter into fruitful and real ecclesial relations with the Nordic Catholic Church in Scandinavia and the rest of Europe. The largest and most vital paragraph of this document speaks to our faith in the Holy Eucharist and the celebration of Mass, which must be a part of any agreement that we have between Churches.

Important aspects of our faith are spoken of within this paragraph: Holy Mass is “the true central point of Catholic worship.” We confess that we receive “the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.” When we gather for Mass we also know that we unite ourselves with “the one offering which Jesus Christ makes in Heaven.” During the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we participate in a true connection between heaven and earth.

This paragraph also shows us that when we gather at Holy Mass as a parish, there is also something else that occurs. It allows us to come together and unite ourselves to each other. The Holy Eucharist is “at the same time, a sacrificial feast by means of which the faithful in receiving the Body and Blood of our Savior enter into communion with one another (1 Cor. 10:17).” This reference to the First Letter to the Corinthians is recited during the Contemporary Rite of Mass, “Because there is one bread, we who are many, are one body, because we all partake of the one bread.” This one body, our parish church, is also Christ present in the world today in another way. All that the parish does, in the worship of God and in service to God’s people, especially those within our local communities, is participating in the work of Jesus Christ in the world today. What we do at Holy Mass allows us to extend the presence of Jesus Christ, outside our Church walls.

Action Item – Read the Eucharistic (6th) paragraph of the Declaration of Scranton as well as the Scripture quotes cited. Spend some time at Holy Mass reflecting on what actually occurs when we gather to worship God and receive His Son in Holy Communion

Schedule Zoom video conference: Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

I Walk in My Integrity

A Personal Reflection about My Journey to the P.N.C.C.

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

I walk in my integrity. For those familiar with the Traditional Rite of the Holy Mass these words from Psalm 26 are familiar. They are part of the prayer the priest recites as he washes his hands, seeking God's mercy. In the Traditional Rite, verses six to twelve are recited as a prayer. In the Contemporary Rite these words are reduced to: "Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin."

In discussing the Holy Mass, I always tell people that we are so privileged in our Church for the priest and his parish can have any of three Rites for the Holy Mass. We do not suffer from "liturgical wars" as some Churches do. The Traditional Rite offers us a poetry of liturgy upon which the other Rites have developed and from which they evolve.

Poetry is important to us as a teaching tool. If we read through Psalm 26:6-12 and apply those words to ourselves, we find a grandeur in its themes. It is a word painted picture of life so incredibly beautiful

Let us see ourselves as a people who walk about God's altar singing with thanksgiving, telling of all the wonderful things God does for us. We declare our love for God's house where we live and encounter His glory. We draw a distinction between ourselves and those who do evil and ask that God not cast us away for our sins. Finally, we pledge to walk in integrity and ask God again to redeem us and be gracious to us. Trusting in that redemption and graciousness, we stand on level ground among all the saints and bless the Lord.

Living (i.e., walking) in integrity is key for us who dwell in the Kingdom of God. C. S. Lewis, the author and speaker said, "Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching." How very true for both our inward and outward being. We must be right with God in our innermost being and in how we act in the world. A quick look-up shows integrity covered more than fifty times in Scripture.

Living with integrity, besides being a directive of God, carries with it promises. One of the most salient is in Jesus' parable of the servants' given talents by their Master. The servant who was faithful heard the words we all long to hear: "*Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!*" (Matthew 25:21). Luke 16:10 makes integrity key in that parable: "*One who [has integrity] in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.*" If we walk in integrity as faithful servants much will be given to us. If we act without integrity now, be aware of the vast nothingness that awaits us.

People tend to experience certain years of reflection and recollection in their lives. This Fall I come to my sixtieth year of life. It has been a year, thus far, of reflection. These years of reflection come with their own moments of happiness and sadness, and you typically come out of them with a renewed outlook – an appreciation for what was learned and experienced – and a vision for what lies ahead.

Reflecting on my life, I look back at my youth, a large extended family, the challenges faced by a relatively young widow raising two children, friends, my education, health challenges, and my civil career. I spent my work life focused particularly on areas on integrity. Were people and businesses doing the right things? Were systems and processes protected so that abuse was thwarted? Were workers acting with integrity? It was a fulfilling career and taught me a lot about the importance of developing a thorough and holistic aptitude for integrity: Doing the right thing, even when no one is looking, all the time.

My entry and reception into the Polish National Catholic Church was a challenge in integrity. It seems odd to say that, shouldn't Christians always live with integrity? How is integrity a challenge? Well of course we should live with integrity, but I eventually had to face the challenge of integrity in faith and belief as defined by our Holy Church – and as I have come to learn – it is a faith and belief completely consistent with the faith and belief of the pristine undivided Church, the Church of Acts and the Fathers.

I grew up and served in the Roman Church. I was taught in its schools and went to its seminary. Having spent nearly forty years in its system of philosophy and theology trained me to think in certain ways and even gave me a vocabulary and narrative to expound on its unique beliefs. I could not just wash that away overnight.

At first coming to the P.N.C.C. was easy. I was in a nice normal parish with a good priest and lovely, consistent, and faithful liturgy. There were some differences like the Creed being older and more proper, who was

(Continued on Page 6.)

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commemorated in the Eucharistic Prayer, and some things added here and there, traditional, but still simple. It was a comfortable transition – and did not feel much like a transition at all. For all intents and purposes, it was just another Catholic parish.

I was happy. I felt at home. People were kind. Of course, one could just go on like that, but if we are to have any integrity about our faith we need to dig deeper. We, coming into the Church, must change our way of thinking as well as our vocabulary and narrative if we are to be honest about our decisions. After all, what if someone asks me about the church I go to? I need to answer that question with integrity, with truth.

Now, of course, when someone asks about our Church, we cannot go into long theological dissertations on who we are, but we can speak with integrity in saying: 'We are a reflection of the Church Jesus founded upon the Apostles.' That may lead to many other questions from the one who asks, but is a great starting point, for we are indeed a very special Church. We have a purity that others worldwide ardently seek.

As I was entering into the clerical life and service to the Church I learned more and more. Learning is fine, but it came time for serious decisions; could I stand up and vocally and publicly reject those things the Roman Church indoctrinates in its faithful so forcefully? Could I accept the Church that welcomed me with great charity, professing all it teaches and proclaims, with honesty or will I spin the truth, saying quite one thing but doing another (in Polish: *Odwracać kota ogonem*). This was the integrity challenge. I determined I must be thankful for the Church that welcomed me home, that had Jesus' vision correct, and live in it with integrity. Otherwise, I would be living a lie each day and every Sunday.

If I was to walk in integrity as a believer, member, and minister of our Church I had to do so at all times and in every way. I could not believe with integrity nor be a faithful cleric if I was dragging the Roman Missal unto the altar. I had not just changed parishes; I rejected the Roman Church and entered the Polish National Catholic Church. As such, I must faithfully profess the Creed without Roman adaptations. I must reject those things unknown to the Church most especially Roman dogmas concerning Mary and the Bishop of Rome. We have our Holy Mass Rites and our Ordo and I resolved to live and proclaim them faithfully not supplanting the Sunday celebration of the Resurrection with other feasts, not moving certain Solemnities for so-called convenience, not innovating according to my own wants or laziness during the Holy Mass, and so many other Roman accretions. I said to myself: I will be a faithful Polish National Catholic whether someone is looking or not, whether someone is watching on Facebook or YouTube or not.

Along with those larger things, I personally decided to wash my hands of 'apparitions,' so-called-saints who in fact hated our Church (we can love our enemies, but should not be sainting them), the saint factory in Rome of recent years (just because something or someone is or was Polish does not make it or them holy or right), and a whole bunch of Roman magical thinking. I came to understand much more fully as a Polish National Catholic that I had to live my faith and walk the gospel path – that there was no special magic in getting to heaven other than doing Christianity every day with integrity.

I pledged to follow the instructions and direction of my bishop and his successors. I could not say with any integrity what one Italian priest said about his bishop's instructions: 'Ma Dai! Ormai la migliore segretaria che un pastore possa avere è il cestino!' [The best secretary for a pastor is the wastebasket.]

To live a life of integrity I was also honest with those I knew back in the day. I sent a letter to my original Roman parish, home diocese, and local diocese informing them of my leaving (I'm sorry they did not send me a written excommunication so I could burn it like Bishop Hodur). I told my extended family. I was not going to lie to myself or others. To do otherwise would just feel like putting on a costume.

As I mentioned, time for reflection and recollection offer an appreciation for what was learned and experienced. I can offer one bit of wisdom from that: Help those coming into our Church from Rome whether they entered years ago or recently; whether priest or laity. They, like I, need patience and persistence from faithful Polish National Catholics to believe and profess our faith with integrity. Provide guidance, opportunities for learning, and time in discussion. Offer correction where needed. Remember that just because someone can intellectualize something does not make it right. So, hold fast to what our Holy Church believes and teaches for we believe and teach rightly.

Looking back and forward I offer great thanks to God for being led to the Polish National Catholic Church and the Church's acceptance of me as a servant for it has been nothing but blessing and joy in my life and that of
(Continued on bottom of Page 19.)

Nordic Catholic Church Gathering and Theological Conference – August 2022

“For We Walk by Faith, Not by Sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7)



The Nordic Catholic Church hosted a Church Gathering in Oslo, Norway on 5-7 August 2022 and a Theological Conference in Gran, Norway on 7-9 August 2022. Thanks are extended to Bishop Roald and Kirsten Flemestad, Bishop Ottar Myrseth and the clergy and faithful of the Nordic Catholic Church for their warm hospitality and uplifting program.

It was wonderful to finally gather in person across the Union of Scranton after more than two and half years due to the Covid pandemic. The words of Peter to Jesus on Mt. Tabor were echoed – “Lord it is good for us to be here!”

On Friday 5 August 2022 the Scandinavian Clergy of the Nordic Catholic Church met with Archbishop (Prime Bishop) Anthony Mikovsky and Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich of the Polish National Catholic Church at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Oslo. Prior to the meeting Solemn Sung Vespers were celebrated in the Cathedral.

Saturday began with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Asle Dingstad and Fr. Sr. Nemkovich preached the homily on the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. A Spiritual Presentation was then given by Prime Bishop Mikovsky on the Benedict Option as a guide for our parishes living in our post Christian world. After lunch the afternoon was spent on an excursion to Vigland Sculpture Park in Oslo. After Vespers, everyone gathered enjoyed dinner together at St. John’s.

Sunday Holy Mass at St. John the Baptist Cathedral was celebrated by Bishop Ottar Myrseth of the Nor-

dic Catholic Church. Bishop Peter Jon Mayom of South Sudan gave an inspiring homily on the Church needing to be built on Rock. After lunch and a closing address by Bishop Myrseth, many traveled to Gran for a Theological Conference.

The Theological Conference began on Sunday afternoon with a presentation by Bishop Kevin Donlon of the Anglican Union on “The Challenges facing the Christian faith in Western Society.” Vespers, dinner and a social program followed.

Morning prayer was held at the medieval sisters churches of St. Nicholas and St. Mary. Bishop Roald Flemestad gave the next presentation “Sacramental and Charismatic Unity in the Body of Christ”. A good discussion followed in the morning and afternoon. Also, during the afternoon there was an excursion to the Old Tinglestad Church St. Petri. Vespers and dinner concluded the day.

Holy Mass began the final day of our conference at St. Nicholas Church celebrated by Fr. Laurence Petersen. After breakfast we held out concluding discussions and summed up this important gathering.

The next Theological Conference will be held in Norway in August of 2023 as we continue to live and share our genuine Old Catholicism, that pristine faith of the Undivided Church, in our world today.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich
 P.N.C.C. Ecumenical Officer
 Union of Scranton Ecumenical Secretary

Notices from the Office of the Prime Bishop

XXVI General Synod to begin Tuesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

In recent meetings of the Bishops of the P.N.C.C., the bishops have decided to convene the upcoming XXVI General Synod on the evening of Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. for the sole purpose for accepting nominations for Candidates for Bishop. After names are put in nomination and accepted, the Nominations Commission must meet to make determination. So as not to use the precious time of the Synod with the Nominations Commission meeting, the nominations will be done on Tuesday evening and following this the Nomination Commission will meet. This will allow the General Synod to begin its full course of work on Wednesday morning.

Seeking those to Serve on P.N.C.C. National Commissions

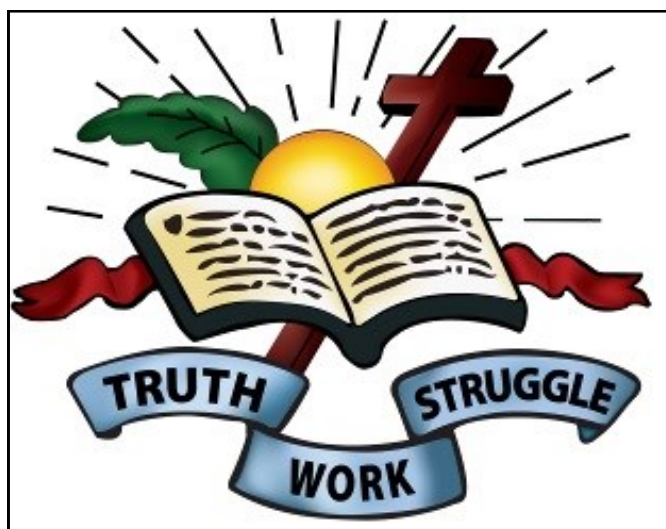
At each General Synod of the Church, names are sought for members to serve on the National Commissions of the Church. We want to give an opportunity for those who may not be attending the Synod as delegates or guests to place their names for consideration to serve on these Commissions as well.

The National Commission of the Church are: 1) Constitution Commission, 2) Mission and Evangelism Commission, 3) Budget and Finance Commission, 4) School of Christian Living Commission, 5) National Commission on Liturgy, 6) Church Doctrine Commission, 7) Clergy Salary and Benefits Commission, 8) History and archives Commission, and, 9) Sacred Vocations Commission.

If you are interested in serving, please send your name, address, phone number and email along with the Commission you desire to serve on, to the Office of the Prime Bishop, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505 or pbmikovsky@pncc.org.

A Concern of Others Using the Name – Polish National Catholic Church

It has come to the attention of the Office of the Prime Bishop that a group of individuals in Pakistan are using the name, “Polish National Catholic Church, Pakistan.” Please know that this is entirely unauthorized and the Office of the Prime Bishop is seeking to correct this situation. Please notify us if you receive any communication from this group.



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

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(Criteria for the Nominations Commission- Continued from Page 9.)

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.

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, **(3)** Portabella Mushroom Ravioli & Grilled Vegetables (Vegetarian), and **(4)** Beyond Meat Stuffed Poblano Pepper with Charred Tomato Coulis (Vegan).
- 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.

CONVO 2022

LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE WITH GOD

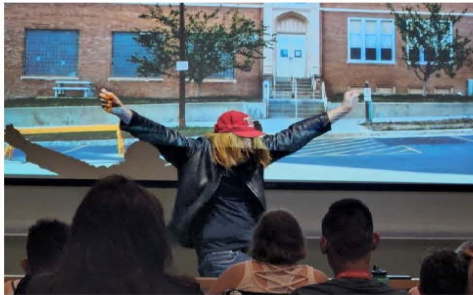
SESSIONS



Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Presenter
Live Your Life with God



Cleric Douglas Scott, Presenter
Laugh with God



Mr. Jim Szalony, Presenter
Live with God
Through the Word of God



Mrs. Christine Wachna, Presenter
Love with God Through Service



Ms. Kathy O'Connor
Mental Health Professional



Rev. Jason Soltysiak, Presenter
Love with God: 4 Types of Love



Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Presenter
Live, Laugh, Love with God



Very Rev. John Kowalczyk,
Presenter to Adults



CONVO 2022 CELEBRATING OUR FAITH



**Mass of the Word of God
Bishop Rafalko, Celebrant**



**Fr. Jim Konicki,
Homilist**



**Mass for Convo 2022
Prime Bishop Mikovsky, Celebrant**



**Mass for Youth
Celebrated by Fr. Sr. Kowalczyk,
National Youth Chaplain**



**Opening Prayer by
Right Rev. Jerry Rafalko**



**Holy Mass Con-Celebrated by
Prime Bishop Mikovsky & Clergy
In the
Resurrection Chapel**



**Oath of Office for the newly elected
National United Youth Association
By Prime Bishop Mikovsky**



Evening Prayer



**Convo Music Ministry
Led by Cathy Bilinski**



Evening Prayer



**Father Senior Kowalczyk,
Homilist**

KURS 2022, from My Point of View

Paul Gorgol, St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA

In this crazy world we live in, I enjoyed a week at camp with 57 amazing young kids who were well behaved, respectful, fun, open to new friends, and not hooked on their phones. They sat with friends and prayed; they sat with friends and ate good home cooked meals, not fast food. They played games - outdoors and indoors - without phones. Everyone went on walks and talked to each other. I hope that they take the good from this week back to their homes and home parishes to share with parents, siblings and fellow parishioners.

I spent a week with 12 great young adults who were the counselors - giving the next generation an opportunity to experience the fun and friendships they had as youngsters at this camp. They gave their time to share with the youth, and that is priceless - for the campers and for themselves. I also saw 12 young adults growing their friendships as well

I saw Fr Jim (Konicki) create a program that was interesting and educational to our youth, helping them to know that they can Trust in Jesus, all the time. As the week went on I saw the youth more interested in participating in services by reading, singing and assisting more during Mass. Good job, Fr Jim!

I also worked alongside a person who fed these kids like they were her own. Every meal was prepared with love - giving everyone something other than prepackaged or what they get on the run. All the campers know, appreciate and respect Mama Kaz (Rose Kazinetz).

I am looking forward to next year. Hopefully all the campers will be back with the same enthusiasm and maturity - and they all bring a friend to share the best camp experience- KURS!!!



Central Diocese

Central Diocese P.N.C.C. Annual Clergy Retreat and Conference

Easton, PA

The Central Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church held its annual clergy retreat and conference on August 22 - 24, 2022 at Saint Francis Retreat House, Easton, PA. The retreat master for this event was Bp. Richard Lipka, Bishop Ordinary of the Missionary Diocese of All Saints and Bishop-in-residence at Holy Trinity Cathedral Anglican Church in Berlin, MD. Holy Mass was celebrated by the Central Diocesan Bishop of the P.N.C.C., Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Organ Recital for 125th Anniversary Celebration

St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA

Gail Archer, an international concert organist, recording artist, choral conductor and lecturer will perform on Saint Stanislaus Cathedral's 47-rank Austin Organ on Saturday, October 22 at 7:30 p.m. Her program will feature works from the breadth of the classical organ literature of Poland.

The recital finishes the day of celebration commemorating our Church's 125th Anniversary of its organization. Earlier in the day a Solemn High Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral, followed by a banquet at the Hilton Inn in downtown Scranton.

Admission is free.

Submitted by LuAnn Kaszuba



Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Hosts Central Diocese Music Commission Summer Workshop



On Saturday, August 13, 2022, a summer music workshop, *There is Nothing Ordinary about Singing the Ordinaries*, was conducted by the Central Diocese Music Commission at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA. Those attending were from all parts of our Diocese; Dickson City, Frackville, Scranton, Dupont, Plymouth, Hazelton and McAdoo, PA; and Albany and Syracuse, NY.

Participants were involved in instruction about singing the Ordinaries and given resources for use in their parishes, including a new booklet produced by the Commission that contains multiple appropriate mass settings, with correct texts and copyright permissions, for use in parishes. Sessions on how to access and use OneLicense and the Music Commission's new Shutterfly Share Site were also part of the successful day.

The Commission plans to bring this workshop to all Church musicians and clergy in other parts of the Diocese in the near future. Members of the Music Commission include Jan Cwikla, Rebecca Elfman, Jonathan Johnson, Barbara Nowicki and Regina Pollack. For questions and information please email: musiccommissioncd@gmail.com.

- submitted by Barbara Nowicki



Eastern Diocese

“Discipleship 2022: Being Eucharistic People” 49th Eastern diocese Youth Retreat

Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA

Being Eucharistic People was the focus of the 49th Annual Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat that was held at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River from Monday August 22nd thru Wednesday August 24th. More than 30 youth, adults and a couple of clergy gathered for this inspirational time of prayer, worship, learning, fellowship and fun.

A special and heartfelt thank you goes to the parents, grandparents and some parishioners of Blessed Trinity for their amazing support to help with the logistics, food and expenses making the retreat so amazing – Thank You Kathy, Bev, Brenda, Julie, Joanne, Joanna, Lisa, Paula C., Laurie, Matt, Ryan and Michael and Paula M.

On a personal Blessed Trinity note as your pastor it brings tears to my eyes and warmth to my heart to see your love and support for the youth of our parish – true discipleship in action. May God bless you all!

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich



Blessed Trinity Parish Activities

Fall River, MA

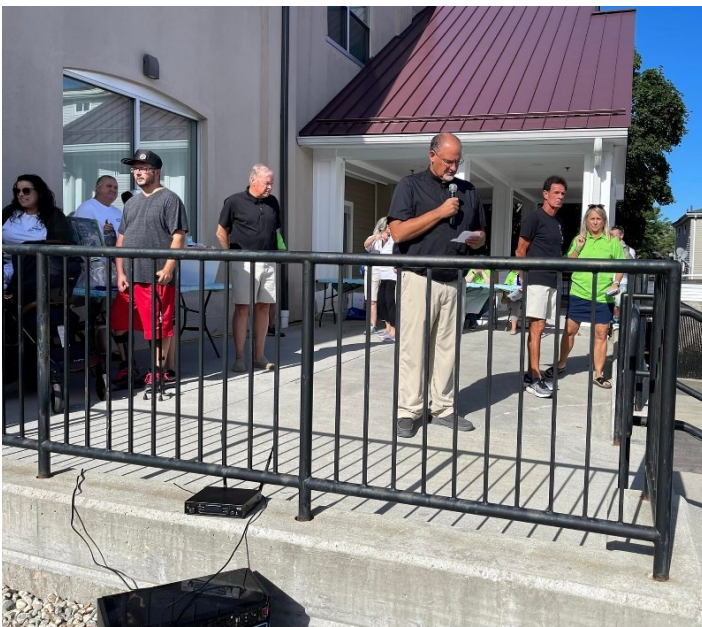
Brenda, Dave, Ed, Vasco and Zack, along with pastor Fr. Sr. Rob from Blessed Trinity Parish, helped unload 11,000 pounds of food to help those in need in the local Fall River community at Angels Anonymous on August 2nd, and another 11,000 pounds of food on August 16th!



Blessed Trinity Parish also participated with Recover Fall River to Stand Out Against Stigma for International Overdose Awareness.



On August 13th Fr. Sr. Rob offered the prayer for the Steppingstone "Get Steppin" walk to benefit the local Fall River homeless folks.



Blessed Trinity Back to School Supplies Drive concluded on Sunday, August 14th. The school supplies were collected to help local families with children this coming school year. Thanks to the United Way for stopping by to pick up the school supplies on August 15th.



Later on Blessed Trinity Parish parishioners put together 40 hearty lunches to feed some of the unsheltered neighbors in need with Thrive.

August at Holy Cross Parish

Central Falls, RI

A Beautiful 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time on August 14th at Holy Cross Parish today for the conclusion of the parish School Supplies Drive to help families in the local Central Falls, RI community. Thanks to all who donated.

Prior to Mass flowers, herbs and fruits were blessed in honor of the Feast of the Dormition/Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15th. Thanks to Paula and Michael for preparing the Marian Altar - flowers, fruits, herbs and vegetables were then distributed among our faithful after Mass.



Community involvement continued on Tuesday, August 16th, when Brenda and Zack helped to deliver school supplies collected during the parish summer drive to the Central Falls Public Schools.

Let us continue to be faithful disciples regardless of what difficulties and divisions may face us.



(I Walk in My Integrity - Continued from Page 6.)

my family. We are proud Polish National Catholics! I also pray that in the end He will find that I have walked in integrity and that He will have mercy for the times I have failed.

In the end, time for reflection and recollection, if fruitful, offers a vision for what lies ahead. I see that our walking with integrity, being faithful to who we are, and professing and declaring the truth of our Polish National Catholic faith is the evangelistic tool that will build the Kingdom. People are not drawn to costumes and pretend, they are not drawn to mimicry of other Churches, but rather they are drawn to that which lives and acts in integrity whether out in the open, behind the scenes, in public and privately, always and in every place.

Fr. Jim Konicki is Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Schenectady, New York and is also National Vocations Committee Chair, A Member of the P.N.C.C.-Orthodox Dialog Commission, Chaplain to Kurs, a member of the Central Diocese Council, and Central Diocese Youth Chaplain, among other roles.

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



CALL FOR SINGERS

All singers are invited to participate in the choirs now forming for the opening Mass of the XXVI General Synod and the celebration Mass of the 125th Anniversary of our beloved Polish National Catholic Church.

The Synod Mass will take place on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 4:30 pm. and the Anniversary Mass will take place on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at 11:00 am. Both masses will be held at St. Stanislaus Cathedral, 529 E Locust Street, Scranton, PA.18505.

We hope you will join us!

To receive a digital music packet, please email Rebecca Elfman at the following address:

musiccommissioncd@gmail.com

Please provide your *name, contact information*, and the *voice part* you sing, and if you will sing for *one or both* masses, when responding. We will send you the music in advance for preparation. For those who can attend, there will be a rehearsal on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. at the Cathedral. (Enter from the side door with the ramp.)

For questions or concerns, please call (570) 341-5150.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Sign up for membership Today!

**5 for
125**

**CELEBRATING THE 125TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE PNCC
OPEN ENROLLMENT PROGRAM!**

**AVAILABLE COVERAGE 5,000 & 10,000 OF LIFE
INSURANCE PAID UP IN 5 YEARS.
PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO ALL PNCC MEMBERS AGE 25-80**

**NO APPLICATION WILL BE REFUSED!
FOR RATES AND INFORMATION , CONTACT YOUR BRANCH
SECRETARY OR THE HOME OFFICE AT 1-800-729-6352**

OFFER GOOD AUGUST 1 - DECEMBER 31 2022



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