



Stand Before the Manger

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

As we join together in the celebration of Holy Mass at midnight on Christmas Eve, or in the morning hours of Christmas Day we will have an opportunity, either before Mass or in the moments following, to approach the Manger within our parish churches and spend a few moments there in contemplation and prayer. These moments are truly blessed ones, especially knowing that the Manger will only be with us for a short time and then the Church liturgical seasons will quickly move on to other events within the life of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Precious little time of the liturgical year is spent on the moments surrounding the Nativity of our Lord, as we reflect on the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus, and the Infancy Narratives of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Because of this we must take every opportunity to allow ourselves to be fully present as we stand before the Manger and contemplate the great mystery that we partake in each year at this time. The Christ Child born in the Manger is an expression of God's love for His people and in particular His love for each and every one of us, a precious child of God.

This attitude of love and adoration was shown by the shepherds that gathered that holy night and following the tradition of our Church in honoring the humble shepherds, we too are called to join them in worshipping and adoring the Savior.

“While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her Child. And she gave birth to her firstborn

Son and wrapped Him in bands of cloth, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

“In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, Who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favors.’” (Luke 2:6-14)

So much of our daily lives can be considered like those of the shepherds. We go about our daily work. While it may not be in the fields as shepherds, it is certainly a significant but necessary portion of our lives. Like the shepherds too, in our daily lives we are surrounded by those who accompany us on our daily journey. These are first and foremost our families, but also our friends, our parishioners and others with whom we share our daily lives.

But once again, just like the shepherds, God breaks into every aspect of our lives and calls us to the manger. ‘Christ is born; God is born’ and we are called

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**God's Field — Rola Boża
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to once again come and witness God's hand breaking into our lives and our world through the birth of His Son, Jesus. We come to the Manger like the shepherds did, but we realize even more the great import of these events. We know that this is truly 'Good News' for all the world to hear.

As we spend a few moments contemplating the great love of God in sending His Son Jesus to earth, we are also reminded that His birth occurs 'for us and for our salvation.' This birth begins the process, set forth from the foundation of the world, for our being eternally united to Jesus. For this reason it is never enough just to stand at the Manger. But rather our moments at the Manger should lead us to worship Almighty God in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. It should lead us to receive our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, still present to us in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. It should lead to a transformation in our lives which will allow us to once again be like the shepherds who "returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen." (Luke 2:20)

Through all of this we are to contemplate the great love of God expressed in this precious gift of His Son. "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to His mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This saying is sure." (Titus 3:4-8a)

St. Paul's letter to Titus puts it so plainly, there is nothing we have done, or could have done to deserve this gracious gift from God, but He has given it to us anyway. God has given us His Son, Jesus Christ, born as this Child of Bethlehem.

In the face of so great a gift, the only response is to say thank you. Let's strive to have this Christmas season be an entire thank you to Almighty God for the great things that He has done in sending His Son to us and the great things that continue to be done in His name. Let your time spent in worship be a thank you to God; let your work together within your parish be a thank you to God; let your life of prayer and service to others be a thank you to God. Let your whole life be a thank you for the great gift God has given to each and every one of you, each and every one of us, in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, His Son.

During this season of Love and Hope I extend to the bishops, priests, deacons and all members of the Church, my blessings for a Christmas filled with joy at the birth of Christ and peace with each other and with all. May the peace and blessings of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit remain with you all in this season of the Nativity and throughout the whole of the New Year.

Stand at the Manger this Christmas and be aware of the great gift of God that you have received in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And let us then go about our lives "glorifying and praising God for what we have heard and seen." Let love shown in this Nativity change you to more fully reflect the love of God in your hearts, minds and lives.



Future Direction December Message

The Eucharist: The Heart and Center of Who We Are

During December as we conclude our year of Being Eucharistic People – we reflect on importance of receiving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist to lead and guide us on our earthly pilgrimage.



Scripture: (Ezekiel 36:26-27) A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you and make you follow my statutes.

Reflection and Action Item:

As we have now begun to open up our parish churches following the most difficult parts of the pandemic, I had the opportunity to distribute Holy Communion to a number of individuals who had not received our blessed Lord in Holy Communion for some time. I remember seeing the tears of joy in their eyes as they approached the altar to receive Jesus and how moved they were to be united, at that moment, with our Lord. These individuals were aware that up until that time they were missing something precious and holy within their lives.

It is so very easy for each of us to lose track of exactly what are the most important things in life. First and foremost of these things must be the worship of God in the Holy Eucharist and the reception of His Son in Holy Communion. When we do not participate in this central point in our lives or when we do not attend to it the way we should, we begin, in fact, to have “stony hearts.” God desires that we come to Him in worship and in love; He desires that we are united to Him in the reception of Holy Communion. He seeks to put within us “hearts of flesh,” hearts renewed under His continuing creative power and love.

In order to us to be true and faithful Catholics, true and faithful followers of Jesus Christ, our worship and participation at the Holy Eucharist is essential. It is our worship of the God Who created us, our union with the Lord Who loves us and gave Himself for us upon the Cross. It is the opportunity to join with others into the one body of Christ on earth to accomplish His work and build the kingdom of God. It is truly the heart and center of who we are and all that we are, as individuals and as parishes together. In fact, it is the heart and center of all creation.

Action Item – After the reception of Holy Communion at your parish church, pray the Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion from the P.N.C.C. Prayer Book and contemplate the great gift you have received as Christ comes to you in Holy Communion.

Schedule and conduct Advent Retreat/Penitential Service

May God bless you; may our Lord guide you, may our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph intercede for us. As we end this year of Being Eucharistic People may we realize the importance of attending Holy Mass and receiving our Lord present to us in this great gift. As we journey through this Holy Advent season let our discipleship reflect the importance of receiving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Holy Communion and that be evident by how we choose to live our lives serving Him and others.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

P.N.C.C. Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., Chairman

An Extra Sunday

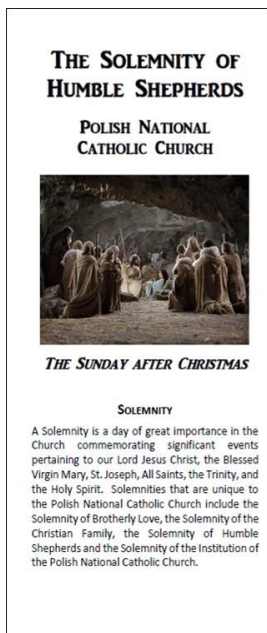
Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski, Pastor, St. Mary Parish, South Bend, IN



If someone asked you how many Sundays are in a calendar year, you would probably say "52" as there are 52 weeks in a year. But there is something special about the year 2023, as the year begins and ends on a Sunday. That means that there will be 53 Sundays in 2023. If you don't believe me, take a look at the calendar, count the Sundays, and see for yourself!

One could also see how this is so by applying a mathematical computation - 365 divided by 7 equals 52, remainder one. That remainder is Sunday this year. So, the big question is - what are you going to do with your extra Sunday? For me, I'll be in church celebrating Mass, giving thanks to God for an extra Sunday to worship and praise Him!

The Solemnity of Humble Shepherds Pamphlets Available to Parishes



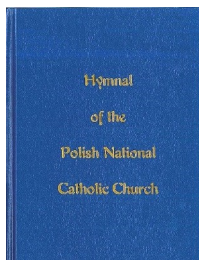
The Solemnity of Humble Shepherds is Sunday, January 8, 2023. A full color brochure describing this unique P.N.C.C. feast is again available for purchase from the Office of the Prime Bishop.

- 25 brochures: \$8.50
- 50 brochures: \$15.00
- 75 brochures: \$21.50
- 100 brochures: \$27.50

(All prices include shipping costs.)

Checks, payable to P.N.C.C. Book Department, should be sent to:

P.N.C.C. Book Department
National Church Center
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505



Time to rejoice!

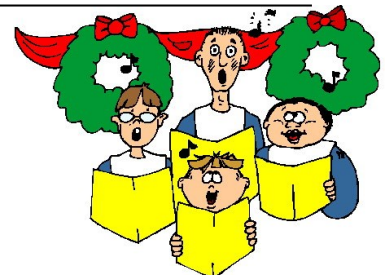
Want to sound heavenly?.

Purchase a P.N.C.C. Hymnal and sing joyous songs!

Hard Cover \$25.00/each + \$5.00/each Shipping; Spiral Bound: \$30.00/each + \$5.00/each Shipping

Send check or money order in USD,
payable to **National United Choirs**, to:

P. Kazinetz
736 Beechwood Drive
Olyphant, PA 18447



Is It Not?

Rev. Jim Konicki

In the Contemporary form of the Holy Mass, just after the Our Father and the Embolism, as part of the fracture or breaking of the Body of Christ, we pray and respond from Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 10:16-17):

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

La copa de bendición que bendecimos, ¿no es la confraternidad de la sangre del Cristo?

El pan que partimos, ¿no es la confraternidad del cuerpo del Cristo?

Porque un pan, significa que muchos somos un cuerpo; pues todos participamos de un pan.

Kielich błogosławieństwa, który błogosławimy, czy nie jest udziałem we Krwi Chrystusa?

Chleb, który łamiemy, czyż nie jest udziałem w Ciele Chrystusa?

Ponieważ jeden jest chleb, przeto my, liczni, tworzymy jedno Ciało. Wszyscy bowiem bierzemy z tego samego chleba.

This use of this scripture is unique in the Polish National Catholic Church. In the Roman Church, the breaking of the host is performed during the Lamb of God. There is no special prayer. In the Orthodox Churches the portions of the "Lamb" i.e., the consecrated portion of the entire loaf of leavened bread that was cut out with special prayer taken from Isaiah 53:7–8 in a Preparation Liturgy, is further cut up with portions for the celebrant, other celebrants, and the remainder placed in the Chalice to be given at Communion to the faithful.

We might wonder what St. Paul was getting at in asking this rhetorical question, "is it not?" and why our Holy Church stresses its use.

The Oxford Dictionary tells us that rhetorical questions are "asked in order to create a dramatic effect or to make a point rather than to get an answer." Was Paul just being dramatic, was he making a point without need for an answer? No. There is far more to this "rhetorical question."

We must start with the knowledge that St. Paul used every word of his letters to teach and elicit faithful responses. He did not write to the Churches just to say hello, how are you. Paul was purposeful in his writing often to correct behaviors that had departed from the faith the people first accepted. St. Paul taught at length in every place he traveled. He instructed those he consecrated as overseers or bishops with the same dedication to the truth of the gospel and faith. Paul cared about each Christian's continued faithfulness.

Corinth had a sin problem, a whole group of them. The Corinthians were baby Christians, believers for no more than three years, recent converts. It was not surprising that the Corinthians continued to share some of their city's worldly values.

Those values crept in and harmed their faith. Their faith was breaking down in at least ten different areas including their view on leadership, holding out distinctions between people based on race and background, bringing each other to court over trivial matters, engaging in sexual immorality, eating food offered to idols, marginalizing of the poor, failing to understand and properly use the gifts of the Spirit, and denying the resurrection.

Paul addressed all these issues by continually pointing back to the gospel. He repeats the word ‘gospel’ or ‘proclaim the gospel’ at least nine times. In Chapter 10 Paul takes on the earlier issue he covered in Chapter 1 – all teachers and leaders are servants of the gospel so do not be divided, and Chapter 6 – lawsuits divide the people and you must have oneness (unity) in the body and blood of Christ. He also addresses the problem of people partaking in food sacrificed to idols.

Paul was showing the Corinthians two key gospel aspects and demanded an answer using the rhetorical as a methodology for eliciting a response – you must respond here:

It is communion in Christ Jesus that makes us all one. We partake of one and the same bread and cup, His body and blood, which unites us and forms us into one mystical body. We become the bread that is in the world united to Christ in fellowship and one-to-another. Do you believe?

Joining in the Lord's supper shows a profession of faith in Christ crucified and true faith and belief in His actual presence – His body and blood are received, partaken in, it is no longer bread and wine. Do you believe?

Since the Corinthians were eating food sacrificed to idols they declared to the entire community and city that they shared the same object of worship, the same faith, the same hope, and the same attitudes as those who joined in idol worship. They were saying that they would follow the same course of life in all its sinfulness. They were explicitly denying their faith in Christ and His gospel in favor of idols.

So, Paul asks them about the cup and the bread because he needed them to render an answer. Are you one body? Will you partake of the one bread and cup? Or are you someone else, someone denying Christ and His gospel? Paul was getting at a necessary affirmation of faith.

Our Holy Church enshrines this scripture in such a way for the very same purpose. We live in a society that feeds us a different kind of food, an entire way of life sacrificed to idols – many of the same ones found in Corinth – prejudice, sexual immorality, licentiousness, disrespect for marriage, adversarial tendencies, and as many researchers have stated, even among many Catholics, a lack of faith and belief in Jesus’ real presence in Eucharistic communion – oh, its just bread and wine, just a symbol... who cares... We might think it is obvious to all who receive, who partake – but it is sadly not obvious.

The Church therefore reminds us in this brief prayer before communion that we need to care; that we must acknowledge the reality of what we believe before we receive, so we are asked:

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

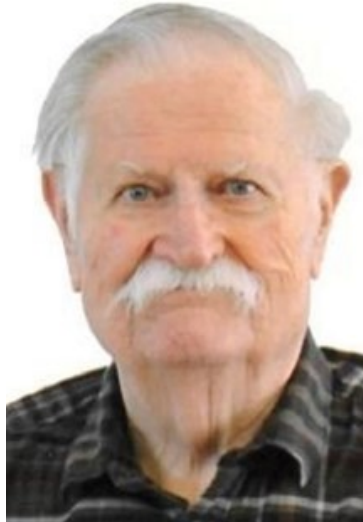
and we are called to respond affirmatively to who we are as people, as Church, and what we believe:

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Yes, Lord, it is, I am receiving You, I am being made one with You, and one with all who profess this faith.

Are you prepared to proclaim the gospel and bring Jesus’ real presence to our people as a priest or deacon in the Holy Church? If so, please call or text me at 518-522-0944 or E-mail me at frijim@holynamenc.org.



† śp. Joseph F. Seliga

Joseph F. Seliga age 86, of Robbinsville, NJ passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 1st, 2022. Born June 6, 1936, in Scranton, PA, Joe spent the majority of his life in Robbinsville, NJ with his wife and family. Preceded by his son Joseph E. Seliga, Joe is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Patricia Seliga, brother Roger Seliga, son, James Seliga and wife Kelly, daughter-in-law, Michele Seliga, grandchildren, Shelby, Morgan and husband Kyle Hartman, James and Kyle Seliga and great granddaughter, Sophia.

Joe served in the United States Navy from 1954 to 1962 and then went on to the Milwaukee School of Engineering and received a BS degree in Electrical Engineering and then a MS degree in Electrical Engineering from Drexel Institute of Engineering. Joe began his career in 1962 as an Aerospace Engineer at RCA Corporation designing satellites and he retired as a Program Manager at Lockheed Martin in Hightstown, NJ.

Joe was a parishioner of Our Saviour Polish National Catholic Church located in Lawrenceville, NJ and Diocesan/National Synod Representative. Member of P.N.C.C. History and Archives Commission 1987 – 2022, Budget and Finance Commission, Secretary of Synod Investigation Committee on Nordic Catholic Church, Author of *Ustronie* along with Prime Bishops Nemkovich and Mikovsky. Developed the Museum at Waymart, PA, Member of the Banner of Jasna Gora 17th Century Polish Living History Group, Joe served 8 years on the Washington Township Committee, as Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Planning Board Chairman. Joe was a member of Mercer Lodge #50 F&AM. Joe was the founder of Washington Crossing American Revolutionary War Round Table in 2004, Member of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Past New Jersey Department Commander, Member of Camp Olden Civil War Roundtable, President Garfield Civil War Museum Board, member of Civil War Heritage Association Board, member of Swan Historical Foundation, Author of *The Search for Camp Olden*, Hamilton Township, Author of *A Tribute To New Jersey Veterans*.

The internment was held on Friday, December 16th, 2022, at 12:00pm at St Stanislaus Cemetery, located on Kane Street, Scranton, PA. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to: Our Saviour P.N.C. Church, 2300 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.



(Continued from God's Field November 2022, Volume 100, Issue #11.)

Synod Minutes
XXVI General Synod
Polish National Catholic Church
Thursday, October 20, 2022

Prime Bishop called session to order with opening prayer at 8:20 am.

Reminder to signup for the various commissions.

Resumption of Standing Organizations Reports starting with National Youth Association

Reports on Standing Organizations

National United Youth Association - Delegate #10, Jorge Hernandez, President of United Youth Association presented the report. Change age for Convo to 12-27 year olds. Vision of 650 in attendance at next Convo. Proposed adding youth to commissions. Building budget for NUYA.

Delegate #107, Attended Convo 2022. Was impressed and inspired by those who attended. Disappointed in attendance.

Delegation expressed gratitude for the NUYA

National youth chaplain, Delegate #75, Very Rev. John Kowalczyk, noted past Youth Chaplains including Bishop Bilinski who passed in 2018. Covid requirements hampered activities. Convo 2022 was successful, but could be more. Take time to be a family of the church.

Delegate #97, Spread enthusiasm of Past President Rebecca Kotula and President Jorge Hernandez to our parishes. Make Convo a priority. Motion to establish a Youth Commission to work with the NUYA.

Seconded by Delegate #10

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Motion
14	Delegate #97 / Delegate # 10	To create a new commission "National Youth Commission" for the P.N.C.C.
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion passed		

Delegate #26, First year 26 people last year 12

Delegate #43, Questioned the change in the age range. Chaplain explained reasoning behind it.

Delegate #221, Concern of disparity between ages. Propose Young Adult program.

Delegate #10, Convo is held at college campus, participants may have differing options, currently have chaperones that are in the age group. KURS is part of the program as well.

Delegate #143, PNU working in increasing support for youth. Include scholarships for Convo.

Delegate #31, Point of order for clarification of Guest comments. Prime Bishop replied that he has acknowledged guests for comments but will be more aware it.

Delegate #155, Adult Convo?

Delegate #113, Role of chaperone vs attendee in participation at events. Prime Bishop responded that they do have separate sessions for chaperones on Youth Ministry.

Delegate #82, Age range is good idea. Age range may require additional consideration. What considerations may be made for Special Needs children.

Delegate #3, Had a parent accompany to first Convo, other adults have attended with the child. Adult sessions were available for those in attendance. Supported Commission.

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(Synod Minutes XXVI General Synod- Continued from Page 9.)

Delegate #56, Bring those back who attended past Convo's by expanding the age range.

Delegate #36, Convo is the event, needs to continue with other experiences

Delegate #52, "Adult Convo" is Mission & Evangelism Workshop

Delegate #206, KURS also a youth program

Delegate #100, inspired by Jorge's comments. Need to explore programming/ support of young adults and special needs persons.

Delegate #3, In past the Convo participants also attended the track meets. New UYA council would meet at that time. Understand the history to build on.

Delegate #80, Ray Lasinski First UYA President commented and recognized his Vice President

Delegate #10, Do you have a youth group in your parish?

Delegate #5, Hoped for 100+ participants at Convo. Bishop encouraged confirmands to attend. Diocese offered scholarships.

Delegate #214, Thanks for guest speaking.

Delegate #121, Digitizing world human connection, grandparents, monthly potlucks/dinners, make connections with youth.

Chaplain Convo 22 had 57 participants, 27 youth. Thank you to PNU, YMSR and parishes for support

Delegate #2, Convo 2024 hosted by Buffalo Pittsburgh

Mandate Committee Report, Delegate #226, Wanda Stash

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Motion
15	Delegate #76 / Delegate # 20	Motion to accept the report of mandate Committee as presented
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion passed		

Diocese	Bishop	Clergy	Laity
Buffalo Pittsburgh	1	10	15
Central	1	18	27
Western	1	12	13

Prime Bishop 1

Supreme Council 19

Organizations 8

Commissions 1

Total delegates registered 154

Roll call of delegates 145 present 12 absent

Rest break at 10:10AM to 10:40AM

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Motion
16	Delegate #113 / Delegate # 84	Motion to accept the minutes from Wednesday as corrected.
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion passed		

Corrections to minutes

12 b on the Sunday after Corpus Christi Sunday

St Casimir’s Parish in Rochester is closed under Buffalo Pitt report

Item #17 Sacred Vocations nor “shared” vocations

United Young Men’s Societies of the Resurrection.

Delegate #65. Nick Kazinetz thanked Bishops for assistance, 22 active branches. Recognized members of YMSR. \$70,000 raised in the 90 for 90 programs. Held programs during Covid using virtual programs and events in person held in a safe manner. KURS held at Spójnia Farm has been successful. Golf Tournaments held in Central Diocese and Parma, OH others scheduled. Clothing drives conducted by branches. Men’s Spiritual Retreat, now the Bishop Bilinski Memorial Retreat.

Delegate #71, Chaplain for Kurs. Commented on improvements to facilities. Encourage children to attend. Part of their spiritual life.

Delegate #56, recognize Nick Kazinetz for his 25 years of service to KURS, Rosie Kazinetz for 10 years and Chaplains

Delegate #224, Brotherhood of YMSR assisted him and others thorough difficult times. Expressed thanks for all members

Delegate #53, Every parish may participate in the Winter Clothing Drive. \$200 for branch that collects the most donations

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Motion
17	Delegate #53/ Delegate #68	To accept reports of all Standing Committees: National Women’s Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, National United Choirs, National Youth Association, and the United Young Men’s Societies of Resurrection.
Motion Result: Voice Vote Motion passed		

FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE CHURCH

1. Report of Investment Committee, Prime Bishop
 - a. Fiduciary relationship with Medallion Wealth Management
2. Report of Audit Committee- submitted by Cindy Whitehead
 - a. Will vote on this with financial reports
3. Report of Budget and Finance Commission
 - a. Presented at Supreme Council
4. Report of the Church Treasurer, Joan Scheuneman
 - a. Thank you to Carol Mikovsky for assistance

(Continued on Page 12.)

(Synod Minutes XXVI General Synod- Continued from Page 11.)

- b. Parish commitments due Feb 28 each year. Items may be missing from report due to when it is received.
- c. Delegate #11, Question on Building minuses. They are depreciation amounts. Buildings owned by the P.N.C.C.
- d. Delegate #53, Are there any parishes in arrears? Yes, there are. Bishops responded.
- e. Delegate #31, Fund Summary Page Jump in income on gas lease property. Income based on market and new units. May fluctuate.
- f. Delegate #53, Thanked Bishop Nowicki for his comments. Encouraged lay people to also reach out.
- g. Delegate #228, Thanks to Bishop Nowicki for assistance in having delegate attend and reorganize in circumstances of that parish.
- h. Delegate #121, Question citing Constitution of where records are kept. Encouraged to be at Parish.
- i. Delegate #156, What happens to cemetery when a parish closes? It becomes the property and responsibility of the Diocese.
- j. Delegate #78, Cemetery has been maintained

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Motion
18	Delegate # 71/ Delegate #92	Accept Financial reports.
Motion Result: Voice vote motion passed		

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Motion
19	Delegate #52 / Delegate #43	Accept Audit report
Motion Result: Voice vote motion passed		

Lunch Break 12:15 1:18PM

Report of Spójnia, Inc. –Prime Bishop gave report. They take care of Spójnia Farm and Bishop Hodur Retreat Center. Improvements to property including air conditioning, new pool. Available for rentals. Pavilion building will be extensively renovated this winter. Recognized Spójnia Board of Directors and YMSR for their involvement.

Delegate #3, Manor at Waymart donations from 2nd Sunday of September now designated for Spójnia, Inc.

Delegate #66, Noted changes at The Farm- not the same as when most delegates attended KURS there.

Delegate #56 Capacity is 132. Encourages Parishes to use the facility. Landscaping work completed.

Prime Bishop asked Bishop Nowicki to preside for the motion.

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
20	Delegate #65/ Delegate #55	Motion to accept the Report of Spójnia, Inc.
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion passed		

Report of the Mission & Evangelism Committee – Delegate #99, Very Rev. Jarosław Nowak. Thank you to Commission members.

Annual Mission & Evangelism Workshops. Thanked Parishes that hosted the events and presented plaques to each. Next Workshop is April 28-30, 2023, at St. Stephen the Martyr Parish in Reading, PA.

- a. Delegate #20, Are pamphlets available electronically? Yes, they are
- b. Delegate #56, Suggest using generic terms in materials- not ANS use Women's Group, etc.
- c. Delegate #144, Under Music Ministry organist, choir, bell choir are listed. Request to add Cantor to future printing

- d. Delegate #100, Suggest Mission and Evangelism Liaison on Diocesan Councils. Will refer to Bishops.
e. Delegate #129, No registration fee for the event

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
21	Delegate #98 / Delegate #129	Motion to accept the Mission & Evangelism Report
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion passed		

Report of the Clergy Pension Fund – Prime Bishop reported

Thanked Robert Maycan for his work over many years for the Pension Fund. Concerns for Pension- \$600 per month. If doubled need to double all income components. Some have, others have not. Estate gave a large donation, others are designated. Need \$13,000 per month to fund at the present time.

- a. Delegate #53, Service requirements of Clergy is 20 years of continued service and age 70. Request to review. Costs have prohibited some of these changes
- b. Delegate #3, Eastern Diocese has made a \$25,000 donation for each of the past three years and match what parishes donated.
- c. Delegate #113, Number of retired priests and widows collecting. Guess is 25 widows and 50 clergy
- d. Delegate #130, Discussion at previous Synods of funding to corpus. Questioned use of Cabot Oil funds for supplementing. \$700,000 set aside generated income
- e. Delegate #53, Annuities through Spójnia. Other benefits available for retired clergy and spouses. Will be addressed under Salary and Benefits
- f. Delegate #18, Became lax after million-dollar drive. Find other methods for donation.
- g. Delegate #65, suggest taking a percentage of gas funds to supplement. Currently a percentage goes to pay for the National Church Center.
- h. Delegate #97, Look at example of Eastern Diocese for other diocese or parishes for additional contributions.
- i. Delegate #130, Motion to have 25% of Cabot Oil money for the next 4 years go to pension fund
- j. Delegate #79, Question of how money is invested. Responded that making more than just fixed amount.
- k. Delegate #53, Second to motion made
- l. Delegate #18, Surviving widow receives half of funds
- m. Delegate #155, How money will be divided. Finance will determine distribution.
- n. Delegate #82, Other collections are variable, projections need to be made to support long term.
- o. Delegate #143, Principal is fixed, investments are flexible. What other revenue streams are available? We have to fix problem.
- p. Delegate #53, Have an actuary look at fund. Prime Bishop reported that actuaries are reviewing.
- q. Delegate #121, Financial background- recommending other options for diversification.
- r. Delegate #43, Question of dues assessment recommendation. Is there qualifications / restrictions on how the fund is designated?

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
22	Delegate # 130/ Delegate #53	Motion to 25 % of the Cabot Oil money over the next 4 years go directly to the Clergy Pension Fund.
Motion Result: 119 yes 23 no 2 abstain Motion passed.		

- s. Delegate #100, Raise awareness of the need of donations for the Pension Fund.

(To be continued in God's Field January 2023, Volume 101, Issue #1.)



Annual Christmas and New Year Greetings



*Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski
Bishop Ordinary Eastern Diocese
May the light of Christ shine brightly in your hearts for all to see.*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year 2023!
Prime Bishop Emeritus Robert and Florence Nemkovich
Cape Coral, FL*

*Merry Christmas!
Michael R. & Mary Gorgol Mietlicki
Scotch Plains, NJ*

*Wishing You a Blessed Christmas Season!
Clergy Circle of the Western Diocese
Bishop Jerry Rafalko, Priests and Deacons*

*Clergy of the Plymouth Seniorate
Very Rev. Thaddeus Dymkowski, Very Rev. Lucian Urbaniak,
Rev. Richard Wosiak, Rev. Robert Plichta, Rev. Boguslaw Janiec*

*Eastern Diocese United Women's Society
Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Diocesan Bishop
Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Chaplain*

*United Young Men's Society of Resurrection
Joy to the world the Lord has come!
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.*

*All Saints Cathedral Parish
Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko, Pastor
"Glory to God in the highest!"*

*Christmas blessings and health & happiness in the New Year!
Church of Resurrection, Brooklyn, New York
Rev. A. Koterba & Parish Committee*

*Divine Mercy P.N.C.C., Las Vegas
Father Adam Kotas, Pastor
Christmas blessings to all! ¡Bendiciones navideños paratodos!*

*Guardian Angel Parish, Los Angeles, CA
Fr. Andrew Machowski
May the birth of Christ bring blessings to us all!*

*Holy Cross Church
220 Browertown Road
Woodland Par, NJ 07424
holycrosssite.org/201-247-4832*

*Holy Cross Parish—Hamtramck, MI
Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Pastor
Jesus is our Greatest Gift!*



Annual Christmas and New Year Greetings



*Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral
Lancaster, New York
Parish, Clergy & Faithful*

*Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish
Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor
May the light of Christ fill your heart as you celebrate His birth!*

*Holy Trinity Cathedral — Manchester, NH
Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Pastor
May the birth of Christ bring blessings to us all!
May the joy of our Savior's birth be with you this Christmas season
and throughout the whole year!
Peace and joy from your family at Holy Trinity Parish in Woodlawn.*

*Rejoice, Christ is Born!
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish, Lilly, PA
Rev. Dr. Scott Lill, Pastor*

*Our Lord's Ascension Parish, Bethlehem, PA
Rev. Bogdan T. Yurchishin, Pastor
Wesołych Swiąt!*

*Our Saviour's Parish
Woonsocket, RI
Rev. Henryk Wos, Pastor*

*St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA
Rev. Andrzej Tenus, Pastor
Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!*

*St. John the Baptist Parish - Frackville, PA
Rev. Robert Plichta, Pastor
Have a blessed and joyous Christmas!*

*St. Joseph's Parish, Stratford, CT
Fr. Tom Walsh, Pastor
May the birth of our Savior bring you joy in 2023!*

*St. Mary's Parish
1601 W Sample Stret, South Bend, IN
Wishing all a blessed Christmas season!*

*Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN
Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr. - Pastor
May the birth of Christ bring blessings to all.*

*Christmas Blessings to all!
Cathedral Parish of St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr
Scranton, PA*

(Continued on Page 16.)

(Continued from Page 15.)



Annual Christmas and New Year Greetings



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish, Reading, PA
Very Rev. Donald E. Wunderlich, Pastor
May the birth of Christ bring blessings to us all!

St. Valentine Parish, Northampton, MA
Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
May the birth of Jesus bring blessings to us all!

Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!
Spójnia Credit Union &
Board of Directors

Polish National Union
Board of Directors & Staff
Wishing all a Blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!

Polish National Union of America
District 1
May you have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Polish National Union District Six
Christine Wachna, District Director, Officers and Members
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



God's Blessings on the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord.

Peace and Blessings in the New Year 2022.



The Staff of God's Field

Controller:

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky

Editor:

Ms. Julie Orzell

Blessings and Best Wishes for a Joyous Christmas
 and a Happy New Year!

Supreme Council, Polish National Catholic Church



Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese**Christmas Message from the Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, P.N.C.C.****Rt. Rev. John Mack**

“Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.” Psalm 24

The above mentioned quote from Psalm 24 resonates in my head and in my heart, but especially in my musical memory as part of the Oratorio “The Messiah” written by George Frederick Handel. Having sung portions of the Messiah in church choir and Senior High, I was fortunate to be able to sing it with the University of Michigan Choral Union in my freshman year of college at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor with 250 voices and full orchestra. Although I commuted to the Dearborn campus of U of M for classes, once a week that fall, I drove to an evening rehearsal in Ann Arbor at the “big campus.” The choir was a mixture of students, parents, alumni, the young and the elderly. For some, I’m sure this was their first time in the choir and for others it may have been forty or fifty years singing. This chorus entitled “Lift up your heads” is taken from the portion of the Oratorio known as the Christmas section.” But why concentrate on these few short words as the basis of a Christmas greeting you might ask? Let me try to explain.

I recently travelled by air to two of the far-flung parishes of the diocese in Las Vegas and San Antonio for a parochial visit. When you travel by air, you usually have time to pass and I enjoy “people watching.” What’s truly amazing is that almost everyone travelling has their head in their phone constantly. From check-in to idle time to boarding (scan your boarding pass on your phone) to the time spent on the plane, almost no one ever looks up from their virtual world. How ironic or perhaps profound are the words of Psalm 24 as it instructs us to “lift up our heads.” We might ask, lift them up from what? The answer may lie in almost everything that we consider to be important to us. Our work, our leisure, our video games (which so many play while on the plane) our cell phone galleries (including the hundreds of selfies), music and everything else that occupies our every thought and literally consumes us alive. The hyper-stimulation that modern man craves is so intense and addicting that it is more powerful than all the drugs ever created. The more we consume, the more we become addicted to the “high.” If you ever want to truly drive someone crazy in today’s world, simply put them in a dark, soundproof room for five or ten minutes. Soon they will be climbing the walls to get out.

Enter Advent. Enter Christmas. Enter Jesus’ coming into the world. In quietness; in solitude; no fanfare; into a back-water town called Bethlehem where the expectant parents, Mary & Joseph, have travelled to register and be taxed by the mighty Roman Empire. The only theatrics were the radiant star that so many missed and the choir of angels urging the humble shepherds to “hurry unto Bethlehem” to see the amazing event that had come to pass.

When we read the accounts of the prophets, the signs, the wonders of Christ’s arrival on planet earth some two thousand years ago, what crosses our minds? Might we haughtily shake our heads and point a finger asking the all-important question: “How could they have missed it?” Does it give us some strange satisfaction to criticize their blindness? Do you think if Christ came to earth today, there would be many more vigilant and watchful people who would notice and rejoice? I think not, although I hope and pray it could be so. As I mentioned earlier, I think that Jesus Himself could be born in an airport terminal with a full entourage of kings, shepherds, sheep and camels, and no one would *lift up their heads* to notice.

I’d like to link a modern day phenomenon to the role of the prophet foretelling Jesus’ arrival. As I boarded the plane and got settled in, the pre-flight instruction is given by the flight attendants. Do you ever pay attention to what they’re saying? Maybe a first-time flyer will be all ears and eyes, but we “seasoned veterans” hardly give it a thought. We couldn’t care less about what they’re saying. We’ve heard it a number of times before. We know it all already. Yet, the common thread of both the Old Testament prophet and the flight attendant is this. Prepare! Be Ready! In Case of Emergency, these instructions can save your life! We rationalize: what are the odds that this plane is going to crash? What are the odds that I’ll experience a water evacuation; and so we don’t listen. But what if it happens? Then what? It’s probably too late to think rationally at that point. I feel a bit of empathy for flight attendants who probably look out, hoping that at least one or two people are watching and listening. The words of the prophet are no different. They called people to a different way of thinking. They called them to repentance, to forgiveness, to a new way of living and loving. They called the people to prepare the way of the Lord and to be ready. We might think: I’m not that bad a person -

(Continued on Page 18.)

(Christmas Message from the Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, P.N.C.C. - Continued from Page 17.)

at least that's what my friends tell me. "What are the odds that I'll have a crisis in my life; a difficult challenge; an illness; a job loss or a death?" In these days of late, the odds are pretty strong. We need the help of someone greater than us. We need Jesus.

We heard the words from John the Baptist during our Advent journey: "Repent ye brood of vipers, come forward and be baptized in the Jordan for the remission of sin. The writings of St. Paul and the Gospels of Advent we have read this year are no less harsh. "Who told you to flee from the wrath to come? Let us put off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Make no provisions for the desires of the flesh. The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." Yet we have been given amazing encouragement and hope as well on our Advent sojourn: "Let us live honorably as in daylight. I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. He shows you generous patience. All we have to do is listen and pay attention to the signs and wonders.

Lastly, my dear ones: the Messiah came as an innocent baby wrapped in swaddling and lying in a manger. Who could resist such a gift from above? Even those with toils and troubles of daily life; even those with the most hardened of hearts usually melt in the presence of a newborn. Even those with all the riches and favors of the world are brought to tears at the sight of a newborn. I know this as a fact, just having experienced the birth of our first grandson Robert a few weeks ago. What joy; What wonder; What love we experience in a newborn child! Remember also that Jesus is no ordinary baby; this is the Son of God come down to earth as God Emmanuel – God with us.

Yes, of course we know that Christ will grow into a man who will sacrifice His life for the sins of us all. For all of us who live in darkness and sin, whether by our own choosing, through circumstances of the world, or through others who try to inflict darkness upon us remember this: a light has shone into our world. May we revel in His radiance and in His Love; May we choose to be people of the light and not of the darkness; May we choose Him, not only with carols and mirth and presents under the tree, but choose to be like Him in every thought and moment that we have. Remember that it is God's Son who told us: we are made in the likeness and image of His Heavenly Father. It is only when we internalize this that we can then find true freedom, abundant life and heaven on earth.

I close my "Messiah memories" by remembering a selection from the Messiah at our High School Christmas Concert (yes, we could call it that back then) some fifty years ago that I sang. The arioso is entitled "For behold, darkness, shall cover the earth." The words speak:

"For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people. But the Lord shall arise upon thee. And His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to Thy light, and kings to the brightness of Thy rising."

Take time in this season of His Nativity to "lift up your heads." Make sure that you also lift up the gates; the barriers; the walls; the past hurts and failures that have crippled you; that have kept you walking in darkness. This Christmas, invite the Lord of hosts, strong and mighty in battle into your heart as your sovereign redeemer. My prayer for you is that you will always "lift up your heads and let the King of glory enter in." May the Newborn Prince of Peace bring you blessings of peace, joy and love.

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia – A Blessed Christmas to All!

Bp. John E. Mack - Bishop Ordinary
Buffalo – Pittsburgh Diocese P.N.C.C.



Central Diocese

Christmas Message from the Bishop of the Central Diocese, P.N.C.C.

Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki

In this Season of giving gifts, there are many glittery and shiny circumstances capable of distracting you, dear reader, from the truth that God, our heavenly Father, bestows upon you the greatest gift ever, Jesus Christ's presence and hope in your life.

Let me suggest to you, then, always to look further beyond the tinsel and twinkle of this Season. Now why do I make this suggestion, you might ask? First, I would say to look further beyond, in order *to behold* this Season's dazzling star. And then, *to follow* that Star's radiant steady beam. Its blazing light illuminates Him who is your hope and the true Light of the world. I do understand, of course, and sadly acknowledge, that neither you, nor I and mine, will avoid passing through a year of God's good grace without experiencing certain times of darkness. However, at this time of joy and exultation, I think we can all take heart. Our Lord shines through it all brilliantly with an enduring hope for us, even in our darkest hours.

On the observance of the glorious Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in this Season which celebrates the divine gift imparted to our souls, I am delighted to have yet again this opportunity of extending my blessing to all of you. My sincere prayer for good health, for peace within your souls and for prosperity in the coming year is offered for each of you.

But more than anything else, I pray the hope of Christmas will be born anew within your heart and life individually, one by one. May the Light of Jesus Christ glow within your congregation to warm your life with incandescent compassion and generosity. Proceed to gift others, then, with that same glow this Season in Jesus' Name.

"Now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

Christ is born! Christ is revealed!

A happy and blessed New Year in the Lord to you all!

Bishop Bernard

Penitential Service

St. Adalbert's Parish, Dickson City, PA

The Scranton Seniorate held its annual Advent Penitential Service on Saturday, December 3rd at St. Adalbert's Parish in Dickson City, PA. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky delivered the homily during the service.



Emily Nichols, Very Rev. William Chromey, Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Jeremy Nichols, Seminarian Sean Dodd,

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid

Holy Mother of Sorrows Activities

Dupont, PA

A First Responders and Veterans Appreciation Dinner was held on Saturday, November 5, 2022 at Holy Mother of Sorrows Church Hall in Dupont, PA. Thank you all for your service! Special thanks to all ladies from our church for preparing and serving the dinner.



On Sunday, November 20th, the Solemnity of Christ the King, Desiree, Carley and Leah were baptized by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish.



Front: Desiree Surplus, Carley Nalaschi and Leah Nalaschi; Rear: Leo Nalaschi Jr., Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Leo Nalaschi Sr., and Patricia Nalaschi

After months of work, Holy Mother of Sorrows church Blanket Ministry donated some homemade plastic mats/blankets and pillows to the homeless of Wyoming Valley during the Annual St. Nicholas Breakfast on December 4th at the Parish Hall.

Police Officer and Parishioner Jennifer received them and will distribute them to the homeless.



Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor; Jennifer, Police Officer and Parishioner; Lois, Blanket Ministry Volunteer

During the Annual Breakfast with St Nicholas, children of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish donated collected toys to the Pittston Santa Squad.



In Picture, from left: Hannah Yuschovitz, Layla Marks, Karrison Kazinetz, Stella Hawk, Emelia Shumlas, Merrit Nash, Alex Orluk, Hunter Anderson, Quinn Anderson, Maddie Guzman, Sadie Hayes; Standing behind the box, left; Myles Nash, Ben Yuschovitz, Gino Marks, Myles Anderson; Adults, left: Gary Worosilla, Tony Marranca (both from Pittston Santa Squad) and Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid

Eastern Diocese**All I Want for Christmas Is You****Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski**

We are getting ever so close to Christmas. People are so busy now searching for the perfect gifts for the people they love. Every gift has to be exactly what their loved ones want. None of us would purposely give a gift with the knowledge that it will be returned to where it was procured for a refund.

We really put a lot of thought and effort into this every Advent season. But that also begs the question: What are we going to give to Jesus? After all there would be no Christmas if it weren't for the Savior of the world, born on Christmas day. If Jesus is truly the "reason for the season." than what have people sought out to give to Jesus? What's the perfect gift for the Son of God, what could one give to the Creator of the universe, for the Man Who has everything.

The answer is simple. Give Jesus the gift of yourself. He created us in His image, with free will. Jesus would never force Himself on us. He does however, want to receive us unto Himself. Like the refrain of the popular Christmas song sung by Mariah Carey says: "All I want for Christmas is you."

We call ourselves Christians, we understand ourselves to be Christ's disciples, The theme of the Church these past three years has been discipleship. But have we really made room for Christ in our souls? Do we burn with a desire to be like Jesus? Are we drawn to the Bible, the Word of God, the love letter from God that tells what a true relationship with Him is all about?

Many people celebrate Christmas. People of other faith groups celebrate Christmas. People who don't even believe in God celebrate Christmas. Businesses have Christmas parties. Restaurants have Christmas Dinners. Television has numerous Christmas programming. Christmas is popular! What a great time to party and entertain.

But what was the first Christmas like? The story is told and you can read about it in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verses 1 - 21. You won't see any of the secular aspects the world has tacked on to Christmas. Rather, there was a silent night, a holy night, a mother, a father, a Babe, shepherds and angels, and God was glorified.

Do we seek out the Christ as the shepherds did? Do we seek out the Christ as the wise men did? Is there room in your heart for the Christ Child this Christmas season, this year? Does your heart burn for Jesus as did the hearts of the disciples on the Emmaus road: "...they said to each other, *"Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?"* (Luke 24:32).

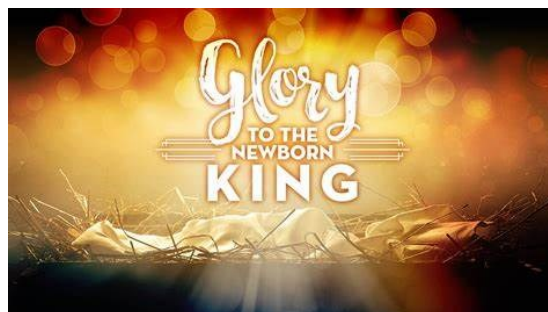
Mariah Carey sums up the desire of Jesus for that perfect Christmas gift, "All I want for Christmas is you!"

On behalf of all the clergy and faithful of the Eastern Diocese I extend greetings to all, together with wishes for a multitude of blessings this Christmas season.

Glory to the Newborn King!

Bishop Paul Sobiechowski

Ordinary - Eastern Diocese



Dinner to Honor Veterans Served at Our Saviour Parish Woonsocket, RI

On Thursday, November 3rd our parish community honored the local veterans and their family with a free pasta and meatball dinner. More than 50 veterans were served and everyone enjoyed good food and fellowship.

Thank you to all who helped with this event, especially Eddie Nawrocki, Gerry and Nancy Ethier, Chris and Joe Kozlik, Patricia Kaczorowski, Carol Bibeault, Tracy Lowther, Edmund Fox, Robert Drouin, Patricia Wos, Michael Kuchar, Cyle Caranci, and Fr. Henryk Wos..



Christmas Youth Initiative

Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI

Our Saviour Parish Youth Initiative for Christmas this year was to prepare 25 backpacks with some items for the homeless in the area. We have collected toothpaste, individual toothbrushes, small deodorant, nail clippers, nail files, band aids, hair elastics, hair combos, ponchos, disinfectant wipes, mini shampoo/conditioners, mini hand sanitizers, women's pads, lip balms, small flashlights, and razors. The parish is adding small prayer books. Monetary donations have also been collected so that additional items can be purchased. We want to make a difference in some people's lives.



Blessed Trinity Parish Continues Community Support

Fall River, MA

On Saturday, December 3rd, Blessed Trinity Parish participated with local organization THRIVE, to help feed the homeless in the Fall River, MA, area. Thanks to Joanne, Paula and Nancy & Dave for their help in preparing 40 hearty lunches today for our homeless brothers and sisters.



Blessed Trinity Parish, in conjunction with the Fall River Police Department, again made the holidays brighter for dozens of needy city children in the local community through the distribution of newly wrapped toys that were collected. Blessed Trinity Parish Christmas Toy Drive was a huge success again this year. Hundreds of gifts were pick up by the Fall River Police Department on December 12th. The items will be sorted and distributed to city children this Christmas.



Western Diocese



CHANCERY OF THE WESTERN DIOCESE Polish National Catholic Church

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(847)698-0578

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Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw (Jerry) Rafalko Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, peace be with you!

Christmas is the season during which the whole church celebrates the theme that is most central to our Christian theology and faith: God's incarnation: "God is present in us and in the world, working for our healing and growth, our direction and our comfort, our reconciliation and our redemption." This is the fundamental Christmas message to us in this age as it was to the preceding ages.

At Christmas we hold true to the faith that genuine hope, and new life, are breathed into our lives so we may start afresh. We are once again called to believe in God who first and foremost believed in us; enough to risk his son Jesus to be born as one of us. Recalling the first Christian family, Joseph, Mary and Jesus – the model of all Christian families, and the host of heavenly presence associated with his birth – the love we see in Jesus' family is the love that we are called to show and embody to everyone. God first loved us, sending his Son into the world as the perfect and wholesome gift to all humanity! It is this gift that began the well-known and much advertised tradition of gift giving Christmas is known and celebrated for over the years.

As we celebrate Christmas this year 2022 and bring to memory the birth of Jesus, may our lives be deeply touched by God's love. As we contemplate on the child Jesus who is born, may our hearts be filled with joy. As the Bishop of the Western Diocese, I manifest my spiritual closeness in prayer to all our faithful at this season of Christmas. I also wish that every family, every home, every parish in the Diocese would live and share the memory of Jesus enshrined in peace, justice, unity, forgiveness, love and joy!

As I continue my pilgrimage of faith in 2023 by leading the Western Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church I entrust our Diocese to the protection of the Blessed Mother Mary. May she accompany us as we continue to build with the grace of God renewed by the General Synod our Polish National Catholic Church..

Wishing you and your families Christmas joy and a New Year filled with new blessings of God's goodness. Jesus is born! Let us rejoice!

Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw (Jerry) Rafalko
Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese
Polish National Catholic Church

Cathedral Happenings

All Saints Cathedral Parish, Chicago, IL

Being Thankful Together

Last year Bishop Jerry and Leslie started the tradition of offering the Thanksgiving meal to the All Saints Cathedral Parish members and friends. Everyone who attended the event a year ago wanted to continue this tradition for years to come. So, this year, after Thanksgiving Mass, Gary and Jean Kurzynski helped Bishop Jerry and Leslie prepare and serve a delicious Thanksgiving meal.

There are many reasons to be thankful in our parish. This year we completed the River Bank stabilization project, to ensure that the parish graves in the cemetery closest to the Des Plaines River will be safe. We are all so thankful that we survived the Covid 19 pandemic and are back to normal life as the parish family.



Gary and Jean Kurzynski and Leslie Rafalko serving the Thanksgiving Meal

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

After months of work, members of All Saints Cathedral Parish in Chicago, IL, donated some Prayer Shawls. Compassion and the love of knitting/crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy.

Many blessings are prayed into every stitch. Whether they are called Prayer Shawls, Comfort Shawls, Peace Shawls, or Mantles, etc., the shawl maker begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient. The intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. Upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the shawl is sent on its way. Some recipients have continued the kindness by making a shawl

and passing it onto someone in need. Thus, the blessing ripples from person-to-person, with both the giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering, mothering God!

The shawls can be used for: providing comfort to those undergoing medical procedures; as a comfort after a loss or in times of stress; during bereavement; prayer or meditation; commitment or marriage ceremonies; birthing, nursing a baby; bridal shower or wedding gift; leading ritual; during an illness and recovery; ministering to others; graduation, birthday, anniversary, ordination, holiday gifts; or just socializing.

Now, when the evenings are so long, and it gets darker earlier and the nights are colder, it is the time to use your talent and start knitting/crocheting more prayer Shawls. There is always a need for these. Thank you cleric Doug Scott for blessing our prayer Shawls. Thank you all who donated these shawls.



Lorraine Kay's Retirement

Lorraine has retired from her long time lasting position as Bulletin Secretary. Lorraine Kay was also a Sunday School teacher for many years. She attended the National Youth Convo. Holy Mass on Sunday, November 27th, was celebrated in her intention of a happy and healthy retirement. After the Holy Mass, the members of All Saints Cathedral Parish showed

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(Cathedral Happenings - Continued from Page 25.)

their appreciation for Lorraine's life-long contributions to the life of the parish. As the Pastor of All Saints Cathedral and the Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese, I wish Lorraine good health and happiness and the blessing of God our Father.



Bishop Jerry presenting a National Youth Convo 2022 Lamp to Lorraine

Project for Homeless

The children from All Saints Cathedral Parish and the members of the Legion of Young Polish Women completed a unique project for the homeless in Chicago. Together they prepared 48 gift bags with brand-new winter clothes.



The youth of All Saints Cathedral, Parents, Members of the Legion of the Young Polish Women

The merchandise in the bags included warm clothes, socks, and hand lotion. Jessica Chaheine from the Guiding Light of Hope charity organization distributed the bags to the homeless before Thanksgiving.

Thank you very much to the president of the Legion of the Young Polish Women, Katarzyna Lesny-Evans, for donating the merchandise to Bishop Jerry. Thank you all for participating in this project. We hope that these bags prepared by our young community members brought some happiness to those less fortunate.



Preparing the Bags

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all who contributed gifts and money towards the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes prepared by All Saints Cathedral Parish. We were able to prepare 87 boxes! Your continued support and generosity throughout the year is greatly appreciated as we continue sharing the love of Christ and the hope of the Gospel to young children all over the world. Thank you again and may God bless you.



Birthday Party for Jesus

Hosting a Birthday Party for Jesus is a great way to focus on why we celebrate Christmas. We use it as an opportunity also to reach out and bless others. We put a candle on the cake and sang the traditional Christmas Carols and Happy Birthday song to Jesus. The kids blew out the candles and then we all gathered together to enjoy a delicious cake baked by one of our parish parents.

While everyone was enjoying the birthday cake, St. Nicolas came for a short visit and gave presents to the children and adults. It was a joyous morning at All Saints Cathedral in Chicago.



St. Nicolas



The Children and St. Nicolas



Jesus' Birthday Cake



Submitted by Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko

oh come oh come emmanuel and ransom captive israel that mourns
in lonely exile here until the son of god appear rejoice, rejoice
emmanuel shall come to you oh israel



*"For unto us a child is born
unto us a son is given
and he shall be called"*

*Wonderful counsellor
Everlasting father, the Prince of Peace
And the government shall be
upon his shoulders"*
Isaiah 9:6-7



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