

God's Field

100th Anniversary



1923 - 2023

Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Volume 101

January 2023

Issue #1

To Cast and To Mend

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

As we now find ourselves in the Ordinary Time season following the Christmas and Epiphany solemnities, these Sundays speak to us in a different way than the Ordinary Time Sundays much later in the year. These Sundays are in some ways an extension of the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Although on that particular day we celebrate the Magi (Three Kings) who came and worshiped the Infant Messiah, in a much larger sense the Solemnity is all about manifesting to the world who Jesus really is for us as His followers.

In this season we will begin to hear about the first miracles of our Lord, showing forth His power. We will see Him counteracting the snares of the devil, and He also shows His command over all nature. But one of the most important things that we will encounter is the call of Jesus to His disciples.

On the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time this year, in the Gospel of St. Matthew, we hear of the call of Jesus to His first disciples near the Sea of Galilee.

“As [Jesus] was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, ‘Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ At once they left their nets and followed Him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He

called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him. (Matthew 4:18-22)

As we consider this Scripture passage, we must reflect on the reality that Jesus is still among us today and if He is among us, then He is still calling His disciples. The words used by Jesus are of great importance, “Come after Me.” In other versions of Scripture it is also rendered as “Come follow Me,” or even “Fall in behind Me.” No matter the translation, the words show us that in His call, Jesus is not asking us to follow a philosophy. He does not want us to assent to a certain program that He wants all people to follow. First and foremost, God desires that we follow a person, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is not a philosophy that will save us. It is not a certain number of rules to follow or things to do. We are saved because we know and follow Jesus.

Although not the best known translation of the call of Jesus, I am especially moved by the phrase “Fall in behind Me.” In it I am reminded of the picture that is painted on the ceiling of St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA: in the painting, Jesus is leading with Bishop Hodur and all of the people of the Church following Jesus. I also consider it meaningful that the people in the painting are the actual people who worked along side Bishop Hodur in the formation of the parish and the Church. These aren't just some random people who are called to follow, but they are individuals, some of whom we can know by name.

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**God’s Field — Rola Boża
Publication Information**

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

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

Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:

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

Identification Statement

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

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

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

Send payments and address changes to:

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

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

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This says that to me that somehow, in some way, I, as an individual, am also called to be a part of this great following, this great call of our Lord. Jesus didn't just call to His disciples in the pages of Scripture, He didn't just call to the people in the time of Bishop Hodur, He is also calling right now. Jesus is calling right now to you and I to follow Him.

Some may say that I've already taken up that call years ago when I went off to Savonarola Seminary. I certainly heard the call of Jesus then and decided to give my life to the Lord in service as a priest. Over the years though that call has continued and deepened. I have heard it in my ongoing ministry as a priest within our Holy Church. I have heard it in my married life together with Carol. I have heard it in a call to serve the Church in larger ways as a bishop. In fact, I hear it often as Jesus continues to call in many ways to deepen a life of prayer and devotion which continues to draw me closer to Him. And through this deepened relationship with Christ, it becomes a call to more strongly serve our Lord and His people.

It is here that I come to the title of this article. When Jesus was calling the disciples, all four brothers were involved in the daily actions of fishing. Simon and Andrew were casting their nets into the sea, James and John were mending their nets so they could continue on later in their work. Although this part of the Gospel reading is often overlooked, these actions are vitally important to the life of one who is called by Jesus.

We are called to cast a net as a fisherman would. When fishing in this way, Simon and Andrew would cast their nets in the sea with hopes of a large catch. Sometimes this would be true, but there were also many times when the catch would be small, or even the nets might come up empty. The thing is that this would not stop them from casting again. And again, and again. This is the role of a fisherman, so they would just keep casting.

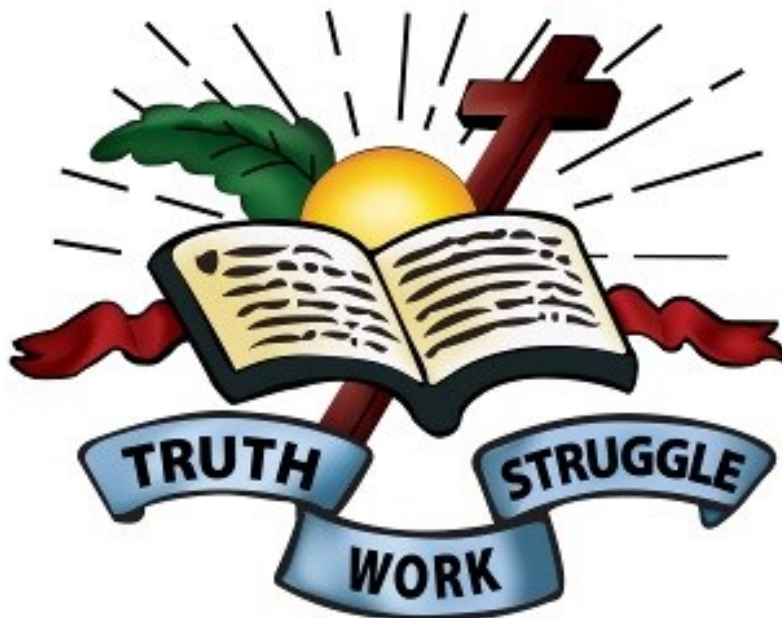


As we reflect on this, our call as disciples of Jesus reminds us that we need to keep doing the works of discipleship. We need to persevere in good works, persevere in a life of service to others, persevere in worship and devotional acts. There will be times when these actions produce great fruit, others will be brought to Christ, we will see great strides as others join in our religious lives of service. When this happens, we will certainly have the encouragement to continue on. But there will also be times when we are shunned for our good works in Christ, when we can't find others to join in our reaching out to be of help, when we don't worship God as often as we know we should. Like Simon and Andrew, we know that we must persevere and continue to cast these actions of works, service and devotion out into the world.

The second aspect of the call is the work of James and John when Jesus called to them. They were sitting in a boat mending their nets. They were getting ready for the works that would come later. They were mending up things that were broken so they could be strongly put to service in the future. We can see this as the individual work that we must do within our own lives to be ready. If we are to be strong in our service of God and His people, we must prepare ourselves through a life of daily prayer and healthy living. We must nurture an ever-growing relationship with Jesus. We must strive to know Him better in prayer, in the reading of Scripture, and especially in worship during the Holy Sacrifice of Mass where we will receive Him in Holy Communion.

The work of a disciple then is to cast and to mend. We, as followers of Jesus, are called to be doing both of these things in our own daily lives of faith. The call is still sounding throughout our lives. Jesus still calls, "Come follow Me," "Come after Me." When we answer, through our lives of service, prayer and devotion, we will continue to cast our good works out in the world, and to mend and to heal our own lives and the lives of others around us, so that, together, we may be totally dedicated to Jesus, our Savior and our Lord.

Financial Obligations for the Parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church (For the Year 2023)



Each parish and each member of the Polish National Catholic Church has material obligations to fulfill in support of the ministry and mission of the Church. This article highlights the financial requirements of the Church as they stand at the present time. These include the decisions that were made at the last General Synod held in October 2018.

All are reminded to review Article XXI of the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church which addresses Church Funds. Each parish of the Church must act in accordance with this Article of the Constitution.

General Fund Dues

During the XXIV General Synod held in October of 2014 the delegates voted to set the General Fund dues at \$100.00 per member. This amount was unchanged by the 2018 and 2002 General Synods. This figure will continue until the next General Synod in 2026. An important point for the parish to remember, noted in Article XXI, Section 4, is that the Parish is responsible to contribute \$100.00 for each member on its parish roll. Although the Parish may collect funds from its membership in various ways, either through direct assessment (dues), or Sunday collections or a pledge system, the \$100.00 is the responsibility of the Parish for each member. According to Article XXI, Section 16 of the Constitution, these funds that are collected must be submitted to their Diocesan Treasurer quarterly.

6% Levy

Along with the above obligation, each parish must also submit funds according to the 6% levy. According to Article XXI, Section 3 of the Constitution, six percent (6%) of Parish Dues (counting only that part kept by the Parish), regular Sunday and Holy Day collections must be submitted to the National Church via their Diocesan Treasurers. According to Article XXI, Section 16 of the Constitution this 6% Levy on funds that are collected is to be submitted to their Diocesan Treasurer quarterly.

Special Collections

A number of special collections are identified either in the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church or are mandated through Synodal Action of the Church. The following Special National Collections are to be taken in every parish of the Polish National Catholic Church for the following purposes:

January 1, 2023	-	For the Mission Fund
January 8, 2023	-	Solemnity - Humble Shepherds - Seminary Fund
January 29, 2023	-	Music Scholarship Sunday-For the Music Scholarship Fund
February 5, 2023	-	For the Mission Fund
March 5, 2023	-	For the Mission Fund
March 12, 2023	-	Institution of the P.N.C.C. - For the National Church Center
April 2, 2023	-	For the Mission Fund
May 7, 2023	-	For the Mission Fund
June 4, 2023	-	For the Mission Fund
June 18, 2023	-	Father's Day - For the Clergy Pension Fund
July 2, 2023	-	For the Mission Fund
August 6, 2023	-	For the Mission Fund
August 27, 2023	-	Youth Sunday - For the Youth Fund
September 3, 2023	-	For the Mission Fund
September 10, 2023	-	Solemnity - Brotherly Love - For the Bp. Hodur Retreat Center
October 1, 2023	-	For the Mission Fund
October 15, 2023	-	Heritage Sunday - Outreach to Poland Collection
November 5, 2023	-	For the Mission Fund
December 3, 2023	-	For the Mission Fund
December 31, 2023	-	Solemnity - Humble Shepherds - Seminary Fund
January 7, 2024	-	For the Mission Fund

The funds from these collections are also to be submitted by the Parishes to their Diocesan Treasurers. According to Article XXI, Section 17 the Treasurer of each Diocese is to forward the appropriate funds to the Treasurer of the P.N.C.C. within 30 days.

Parishes are also reminded, according to Article XXI, Section 16 of the Constitution that "all monies collected and received by a Parish Committee from the sources of income in Section 3 of this Article (i.e. General Fund dues, 6% Fund, and Special Collections) shall be paid quarterly to its Diocesan Treasurer.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the collecting or payment of these funds to the Diocesan Treasurers or the National Church, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Prime Bishop.

Closing of the Church's Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year of the Church ends on February 28, 2023. Each parish must submit the funds collected from the various sources (General Fund Dues, 6% Levy and Special Collections) in 2022 to their Diocesan Treasurer who will then forward the correct portion to the National Church Center. To be included in the 2022-2023 financial statements of the Church, funds must be remitted to the Diocesan Treasurers and then transferred to the National Church Offices by February 28, 2023.

P.N.C.C. Future Direction January 2023

**Strengthened, enlightened and sanctified by our Lord Jesus Christ,
Himself truly present in our very midst through Word and Sacrament**

Introduction

As we now begin a new year, the year following our XXVI General Synod in October 2022, the P.N.C.C. Future Direction will continue to have the general focus of Discipleship, but during this year we will examine and reflect upon the Resolution of the past General Synod. Each time the Church gathers in Holy Synod, we put together our prayerful thoughts concerning what was discussed and what determinations we have made for the years ahead. The Resolution that was written and accepted at the Synod will provide us with many things to reflect upon during this present year as we continue to grow as Disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Scripture

John 8:12 – Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

Reflection

The resolution from the XXVI General Synod begins with the phrase that is used above as the title of this January reflection. It reminds us that the true presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ should also be the beginning of everything that we say and do as His followers. And more importantly, that Jesus is present to us in the worship of His Church when we gather together as the people of God. Jesus is present in the proclamation of the Gospel at Mass, Jesus is present in the sacramental preaching of the Church and most importantly, Jesus is truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, which is experienced when we worship at the Holy Eucharist and then receive Him in Holy Communion.

We must also realize that when we do receive and experience Jesus in Holy Communion, we are changed. We are not the same person that we were before. We are “strengthened, enlightened and sanctified.” St. Paul reminds us of this when he writes to the Church in Galatia: “I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God Who has loved me and given Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:19b-20) So by my union with Jesus, in worship and in Communion, Jesus lies in me. It is in this way that I am sanctified.

We also know that if Christ lives in me then I partake of the power of His life and resurrection. Again St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Philippians: “That I may gain Christ, and be found in Him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God, depending on faith to know Him and the power of His resurrection.” (Philippians 3:8b-10a) We know that even in our own weaknesses, if we know Jesus then His strength lives in us. “Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints for the sake of Christ, for when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10)

Lastly, by our union with Jesus in prayer and worship we are enlightened. Because of the reception of Holy Communion, Jesus now lives in us and as He reminded us in the Gospel of John: “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (John 9:5) At least in part, Jesus is now in the world in and through us. We are a part of His body, the Church, so therefore, Jesus resides in us, together in His Holy Church and individually as well. In our union with Jesus, through our service to God and others, we too are enlightened and become “light to the world.”

Because we know, worship and love Jesus, through His Holy Church, we are strengthened, enlightened and sanctified by Him.

Action Item

When you come to Church and receive Jesus truly present in the Holy Eucharist, pray that by growing closer to Him, you will be strengthened, enlightened and sanctified to continue to share works of love and service to others. Offer this prayer: “O Holy Spirit, as I begin this day enlighten my mind, inflame me heart, purify my body and sanctify my soul with Your holy grace. Be with me through the day and so strengthen me to control

my passions and overcome temptations, that I may strive to lead a virtuous life. Fill my heart with tender affection for what is good and right and true. Help me to be sensitive to the needs of others, faithful to my family and friends, loving to my neighbors and charitable to my enemies. I ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.” (P.N.C.C. Prayer Book)

We continue to implement the five themes the Synod determined for our future direction:

Growth and Membership
 Increase Spirituality
 Lifelong Learning
 Sacred Vocations
 Community Involvement and Presence

National United Choirs Music Scholarship Sunday



January 29, 2023 is Music Scholarship Sunday. Please consider donating to this worthy program. Since it began in the previous century, \$346,535.00 has been awarded to 1,124 members of our P.N.C.C. Your donations have helped so many people improve their musical skills to the benefit of our beloved parishes. Our Church is blessed to have this scholarship program and to have so many past and present recipients still providing their talents for the Glory of God!

Donations can also be made on a year-round basis by sending your check to the NUC treasurer:

Rev. Jim Ploskonka
 349 Justo Lane
 Seven Hills, OH 44131

Just write in the memo line that the donation is for the scholarship fund.

Parish Treasurers: Please submit your parish donations to the scholarship fund to your diocesan treasurer by the end of your first quarter so they can be forwarded in a timely manner for use in the 2023 awards. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!

2023 Scholarship Application

Do you take paid vocal or instrumental lessons? Do you use that talent in your parish? If so, consider applying for a scholarship through the National United Choirs Music Scholarship Program. You would be required to fill out an application, submit demo recordings, and be evaluated by your music teacher and three adults from your parish. The deadline for all submissions for this year's awards is May 1, 2023. You will find all necessary forms and instructions on our website www.nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com

If you have questions, feel free to contact Cathy Bilinski, Music Scholarship Administrator, at nucscholarship@gmail.com.

NUC convention & Music Workshop

Save the Date!

The National United Choirs 36th Convention and 28th Music Workshop (I am the Vine, You are the Branches) is scheduled for August 9 - 11, 2023 at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, Pennsylvania. The Convention will be held on Wednesday, August 9th with the Workshop Held on Thursday and Friday, August 10th & 11th.

Accommodations can be made at the Springhill Suites in Moosic, PA under P.N.C.C. Choirs, at \$82.00 plus tax (\$97.00)/person.

Registration information will be available in the February issue of God's Field.

(Continued from God's Field December 2022, Volume 100, Issue #12.)

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

Prime Bishop requested Bishop Nowicki to request motion to approve report (Clergy Pension Fund Report)

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
23	Delegate # 21/ Delegate #75	Motion to accept the report of the Clergy Pension Fund
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion passed		

Report of the Clergy Hospitalization Program -

Prime Bishop gave report. Largest line item in budget of the Church. Reimburse 1/3 of hospitalization costs for clergy.

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
24	Delegate # 56 / Delegate #92	Motion to accept the report of the Clergy Hospitalization Program
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion passed		

Break from 2:58 to 3:20

Report of the Polish National Union - Delegate #143 – Martin Wachna, Jr. Recognized Board of Directors, all of whom are present. Membership is declining. Emphasis on fraternal activities over the past 3 years. Effective today the Board approved that for new annuities until end of year will receive 3.75%. New scholarship endowed by Markovich family to be used for a health care student in a 4-year program. Remembering Ernie Gazda who recently passed away. A new scholarship will be available in his name. Exploring programs for younger people. Establishing an app for PNU. E-blast and Straż are best way to receive communications. Convention in 2023 in Scranton. Presentations will be made Friday

Prime Bishop offered thanks for the efforts of the PNU in supporting the Church.

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
25	Delegate # 68/ Delegate #48	Motion to accept the report of the Polish National Union
Motion Result: Voice vote Motion passed		

Clergy Salary and Benefits Report.

Delegate #18, Cathy Bilinski gave report. Do clergy know benefits? COLA increase also concerns priests. Minimum salary schedule is in report.

- a. Delegate #40, Other ways to assist parish- time and efforts in fundraiser.
- b. Delegate #90, Cost of Living raises for everyone. Made motion to accept
- c. Delegate #76, second motion. Take wife and family into consideration.
- d. Prime Bishop responded that many clergy are taking first mortgage upon retirement
- e. Delegate #206, Goes hand in hand with vocations

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
26	Delegate #90 / Delegate #76	Motion to accept report on Clergy Salary and Benefits report
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion passed		

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
27	Delegate # 65 / Delegate #89	Motion to accept report on Savonarola Theological Seminary
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion passed		

Dialogue and Ecumenical Reports

P.N.C.C. / Roman Catholic dialogue. Delegate #2, Bishop Mack described a situation where a misdirected newsletter resulted in an opportunity for evangelism. We should promote our church always. RCC is currently holding a Synod on Synodality. Meetings suspended due to Covid. Meeting now once per year. No great strides. Continue to be partners in faith.

- Delegate #11, Reference to Father Stu movie and disability of candidate being used to deny priesthood. Bishop commented on some accommodations made in a parish.
- Delegate #60, Grew up RC, married into P.N.C.C. Are the needs of the P.N.C.C. being met with the dialogue? Keep the P.N.C.C. pristine. Bishop Mack addressed question using example of sponsorship of baptisms etc. that are not equal. Not looking for absorption. Keep dialogue going.
- Delegate #144, Must work on the needs of Christ's church. Remarks of doing Christ's work in listening to priests who were dealing with child abuse issues. Laity an important part of making change
- Delegate #82, Nicene Creed "One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church..." describes the P.N.C.C.

P.N.C.C. / Anglican Church of North America Dialog - Bishop Paul Sobiechowski. Dialogue with G3 Churches continues. Report is summary of meetings. Anglican Province in America, Anglican Catholic Church and Anglican Church in America. Attended each other's Synods. We have suspended dialogue with the Anglican Church in North America.

- Delegate #144, Since Bishop Paul serves on both Roman and Anglican Dialogue committee, are there any conflicts? Bishop responded that they are very separate.

There is movement to establish a dialogue with the Orthodox churches.

Report of Ecumenical Officer Delegate #98, Very Rev Robert Nemkovich Jr

Liaison with Other denominations including Nordic Catholic Church

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
28	Delegate #119 / Delegate #124	Motion to accept Dialogue and Ecumenical Reports.
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion passed		

Diocesan Caucuses and Elections were held on Day 2.

Report on God's Field

Available online. Facebook post has link. Website has back issues. Some hard copies are mailed first class. Please submit information.

Delegate #144, How do we submit? What is Deadline? Send by first of the month. Mail to P.N.C.C. office.

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
29	Delegate #24/ Delegate #76	Motion to accept God's Field report
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion passed		

Report on the P.N.C.C. Website

Website has been revised. Facebook page is active. Share information and posts on social media. Propose Ordo app and Prayer Book App.

Delegate #10, use #PNCC for trending posts on social media.

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

Report of the National Church Center Delegate #8, John Andrzejewski

Refer to report. Dealing with Real Estate aspect of P.N.C.C. Filed for tax assessment reduction which was accepted, reduced taxes significantly. PNU is tenant. Capital improvement projects completed. LED sign now in operation. Repairs are still needed. Safety and security need to be updated.

Delegate #63, Thanking John for his work related to the Center and made motion to accept report.

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
31	Delegate #63/ Delegate #140	Motion to accept Report of the National Church Center
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion passed		

Report on the Prime Bishop's Residence

Roof leak repaired. Dishwasher replaced. No motion needed

Dinner Break 6:00PM

Meeting reconvened at 7:18PM

Report of the Constitution Commission

- *Amendments to the Constitution of the P.N.C.C. require 2/3 of the total votes cast to be passed.*
- *Roll call taken by Delegate #151, Kathy Yanick. Total delegates present 143*
- *We are voting on the proposed Amendments themselves, not on whether to accept or reject the Commission's recommendation.*
- *Because proposed Amendments must be submitted six months prior to the Synod, there is no provision for making changes to the proposed Amendments at the Synod. Amendments must be voted upon as they are presented in the Commission Report.*
- *The motion results below identify each Proposed Amendment by number. Please refer to the Commission Report for full text of each Proposed Amendment.*
- *Due to the fast pace of the discussion, several procedural motions to extend or end discussion may not get documented.*

Delegate #75, Very Rev John Kowalczyk

Committee tasked to review Constitution in total for changes.

Proposed Amendment #1

Article V section 11, no action recommended

Delegate #56, Thank Bishop Nowicki and Council for listening and taking some action. Sits on Supreme Council and sees total picture. Need to create vision to support new and struggling parishes, similar to Central Diocese Enlivenment Program

Delegate #139, Echo sentiment with Paul Gorgol. Reaching out to neighboring parishes that are closing.

Delegate #53, How many parishes revived? Know of one

No Motion made.

Proposed Amendment #2

XVII/7(B)

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
32	Delegate #56/ Delegate #43	Motion to accept Proposed Amendment #2
Motion Result: 123 YES 12 NO 2 ABSTAIN Motion Passed		

Delegate #56, Each Parish may go up to \$20,000 Recommends change

Proposed Amendment #3

Preamble- Paragraph 1

No action recommended Note to be added

Delegate #113, Question of adding information.

Delegate #130, Historical document from when? Bishop Hodur's time frame

Proposed Amendment #4

VII/A

No action recommended

No motion made

Proposed Amendment #5

IX/3-1

No action recommended

Restriction of the right of the Prime Bishop

No motion made

Proposed Amendment #6

VIII/10

No action recommended

Restriction of the right of the Prime Bishop

No motion made

Proposed Amendment #7

XII/B-5

Regarding retirement age of Diocese Bishops

Delegate #99, Change shall to "could be"

Delegate #58, Concern of age 80 and how health will be evaluated. Stay at 75

Delegate #97, There is flexibility for extension at discretion of Prime Bishop

Delegate #11, "Upon attaining" the age instead of "shall"

Delegate #65, question of where we are in the debate

Delegate #150, Made motion to accept amendment

Delegate #71, Previously discussed at other meetings.

Mandatory retirement ages have been dropped in other areas.

Delegate #109, Submitted to allow Bishops to decide when to retire

Delegate #139, Who evaluates the bishops for being able to do the work?

Delegate #221, Keep age at 75 to allow for younger people to lead

Delegate #113, Question of extensions after age 75. Allowed to be asked to be Administrative

Delegate #20, Why up age if there is a way to extend?

Delegate #16, If under 75 who evaluates? Prime Bishop has authority per constitution.

Delegate #120, How many people serving in US Government over 75?

Delegate #150, For many years there was no retirement age

Vote- Yes to go to age 80 No stay at 75

(Continued on Page 12.)

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

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
33	Delegate # / Delegate #71	Motion to accept the Proposed Amendment #7
Motion Result: 56 Yes 84 No 4 Abstain Motion failed		

Proposed Amendment #8

VI/A-1

No action recommended

Delegate #52, Deacons do not have representation

Delegate #82, Deacons and Reserved Priests are disenfranchised

Delegate #112, Military Priests and reserve Priests are in Parishes

Delegate #4, Who is responsible for Deacons and Reserve Priests and stay with Diocese.

Delegate #78, Deacons should be able to vote

Delegate #82, One elected representative from all active Deacons and one representative from Reserved Priests

Delegate #150, When in Parish was able to attend as delegate. became Deacon was not represented

Delegate #3, Assistant Priests also not included. How will they elect representatives?

Delegate #224, No organizations of Deacons or Reserve Priests. Work at pleasure of Bishop. Don't think it's needed

Delegate #53, Who's jurisdiction? Prime Bishop

Delegate #33, Add Assistant Priests to Reserve Priests.

Delegate #3, Relationship is to the Bishops. Could be denied

Delegate #71, Ecclesial democracy. Deacons are at the disposal of the Bishop.

Delegate #3, Each Diocese is different.

Delegate #20, Related but not contained bodies

Delegate #112, Military Chaplains should be represented

Delegate #113, Question of one representative for Synod or one per diocese? Bishops would have them at their Synods.

Delegate #150, add Military Chaplains

Prime Bishop noted that the changes recommended need to follow constitution.

Delegate #56, Read motion. Call for Vote to end debate

Delegate #82, Add "and Diocesan" back into motion

Secretarial committee read motion

Delegate #53, Second to call for vote to end debate

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
34	Delegate #82 / Delegate #112	Move to accept the proposed change to Article VII, Section A-1 to allow one elected representative from all active Deacons and one elected representative from all active reserve priests for the General and Diocesan Synods
Motion Result: 100 Yes 37 No 0 abstain Motion passed		

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
35	Delegate # 56/ Delegate #53	Motion to call for a vote and stop discussion on amendment to constitution regarding reserve priests and Deacons

Motion Result: Motion passed

(To be continued in God's Field February 2023, Volume 101, issue #2.)

Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

**St. Barbara's Parish Distributes Food to the Community
Houtzdale, PA**

On Tuesday, December 20th, St. Barbara's Parish in Houtzdale, PA, served 175 families during the parish's drive-through food distribution. The event was postponed from the scheduled date of December 15th due to winter weather conditions. With teams like these, and the grace of God, we can do great things for others.



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Central Diocese

December Events at Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish Latham NY

Throughout December, BVMC Parish was privileged to host a variety of events and activities to celebrate the Good News with our brothers and sisters in faith and in the community.

On December 3, parish members of the Mohawk Valley Seniorate met in Latham for a Seniorate event entitled "*Gather the People, Prepare the Way!*" Nearly 80 people attended the event, which began with Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Bernard Nowicki. Following Mass, we enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the parish, and homemade Polish desserts provided by Magda Pocięcha.



Bishop Bernard celebrates Holy Mass with Fr. Sr. Marian Pocięcha, Fr. Mark Gnidzinski, Fr. Rafal Dadello, Fr. Jim Konicki and Deacon Tony Prince.



Mohawk Valley Seniorate Choir Members

Our guest speaker was Jorge Hernandez, NUYA President and Committee President of St. Francis of Assisi P.N.C.C. Parish in Denver, CO. Jorge inspired attendees with a heartfelt Advent message of hope and action.

During the brief Seniorate meeting that followed Jorge's presentation, the children enjoyed finding items in a religious scavenger hunt, led by SOCL president Helen Anderson and helpers from the Seniorate.



NUYA President Jorge Hernandez delivers an Advent \ message.t

On the following weekend, December 10, BVMC Parish held its Polish Christmas Food Sale, featuring all the favorites for the families in the Capital District who love to keep the tradition – or simply love our Polish food!

The community was encouraged to drop off mittens, scarves and blankets for the needy, and the donations filled the Mitten Tree! As always, we were humbled by our customers' generosity.



Mitten Tree

For the first time since 2019, the parish family resumed its annual Wigilia on December 18 after Holy Mass. Our SOCL Children delighted the parish with their talents in a Christmas Cabaret. The 2022 Secret Prayer Partners identified themselves to each other and new Prayer Partners were chosen for 2023.



The SOCL children present a Christmas Cabaret during the parish Wigilia.

On Christmas Eve, the church filled with parishioners, friends and family for the Nativity of the Lord. As Fr. Mark Gnidzinski celebrated Holy Mass in our church, so beautifully decorated for Christmas, the choir singing and incense permeating the air, we were reminded of God's infinite blessings.



Christmas Manger Scene at BVMC Parish

Submitted by Regina Pollack

Wreaths Across America

St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish, Scranton, PA

At Noon on Saturday, Dec 17th at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish Cemetery in Scranton, PA, parishioners and friends participated in Wreaths Across America with more than 2,700 participating locations across the country.

The ceremony was opened with a moment of silence to remember the fallen, prisoners of war and those missing in action, and to honor those who have served this great nation. Bishop Nowicki offered his blessings and remarks. Lackawanna County Judge, Thomas Munley, and parish chair, Fred Aebli, also provided remarks. Jack Partyka then played Amazing Grace on trumpet, followed by the moving selection, Taps.

Wreaths were then placed near the statue of Christ Benign, in memory of those who served and who are serving in the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. The last wreath placed was in honor of the 93,129 Service Members from all branches whose last known status was either Prisoner of War or Missing in Action. Ceremony participants then placed wreaths at gravesites of our veterans throughout the cemetery.

Thanks to Lockheed Martin for its generous gift of the 100 wreaths and to those parishioners and organizations which also donated wreaths. Thank you also to all who participated and placed wreaths to honor our veterans.

In participating with the Wreaths Across America effort, we show a united front of gratitude and respect across the United States of America as we REMEMBER the Fallen, HONOR those who serve and their families, and TEACH the next generation the value of freedom.



Christmas Play at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish

Dupont, PA

The children of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA, performed the Christmas play, titled “He’s Going To What?” at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24th before the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. The play takes place in heaven before the birth of Jesus Christ. All the angels are talking amongst themselves of God’s Son coming to earth, to be born in Bethlehem.

Special thanks to Debbie Bilinski for preparing the play. The following children participated: Hannah Yuschovitz, Layla Marks, Karissa Kazinetz, Stella Hawk, Merrit Nash, Alex Orluk, Hunter Anderson, Quinn Anderson, Myles Anderson, Emmie Anderson, Myles Nash, Ben Yuschovitz, Gino Marks, Grace Morgan, George Morgan, Carley Nalaschi and Leah Nalaschi.



Eastern Diocese

**Christmastime in the Community at Blessed Trinity Parish
Fall River, MA**

On Sunday, December 18th, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Blessed Trinity Parish concluded its Christmas Food Drive with hundreds and hundreds of pounds of food donated to help others this Christmas season. Many thanks to everyone who donated to the food discipleship effort.



Also on this day, prayer blankets and handmade stuffed animals were blessed and will be distributed to children in a local hospital.



On Monday, December 19th, lunch was provided for local Fall River, MA, homeless brothers and sisters

with SSTAR, as well as a Food Drive delivery of two vans full of products to Citizens for Citizens.



On Wednesday, December 21st, the parish hosted local veterans for the Fall River Veterans Kitchen Christmas Luncheon. It was wonderful to share a Christmas meal with those who served us and protected our freedom. Thanks to The Veterans Kitchen for a great meal and to Home Depot for serving.



Holy Cross Parish in the Local Community Central Falls, RI

On Saturday, December 10th, Holy Cross Parish distributed bags of food and new winter coats to the less fortunate in the local community. We were blessed to help many with bags of food and new winter coats. Thanks to Brenda, Lois, Lynette and Tom for their help on this brisk winter morn. Discipleship continues!



Thanks to all who supported Holy Cross Parish's Winter Clothing Drive this year as we continue to help those in need across our local community in the Holy Name of Jesus. On December 12th we were glad to drop off 25 new Winter coats and numerous scarfs and winter hats for youth in the Central Falls schools. Thanks to all who supported this annual discipleship effort. Blessed to help others this winter.



Western Diocese

Busy Fall & Winter Months at St. Mary's Parish South Bend, IN

On August 30, the St. Joseph Men's Club hosted an outing to see a South Bend Cubs baseball game. The Cubs won and the event was enjoyed by all who attended.

October included our second Blessing of Pets and Animals and a Pet Drive to collect items needed for animals. A local "no kill" shelter was at the event which was a huge success with donations of dog & cat food, treats, and cleaning items used by the shelter. The attendance of 21 people, 8 dogs, and 2 cats was double from last year, with all pets receiving a personal blessing from Father Charles.



Blessing of Pets

On October 29, the St. Joseph Men's Club held a Chili Cook-off with 13 chilis, raising over \$1,200 with much of the proceeds to be used in support of St. Mary's.



Chili Cook-off

Our first "Trunk or Treat" was held on October 30. Participants could decorate their car trunk with their favorite Halloween décor. Tables were also set up to pass out candy.



Trunk or Treat

On November 6, St. Mary's celebrated "Remembrance Day" to remember departed loved ones. Photos of departed loved ones were on display with index cards showing their names. This is a very loving and moving event which depicts so many of our former parishioners who dedicated themselves to supporting St. Mary's.

On November 13, the Ladies Adoration Society held a Food Basket drawing. A large food basket and a small food basket as well as 3 gift cards were included in the drawing.

Also on November 13, the Frederic Chopin Choir began selling Pumpkin Turtles as a fund raiser. The turtles were from the South Bend Chocolate store, one of the finest candy stores in our area.

On November 20, a Thanksgiving pot luck dinner was held at the church hall following Mass. The parish provided Turkey and beverages, and parishioners brought additional side items and desserts. The food was great and parishioners enjoyed visiting and spending time together!

A winter clothing drive to help persons in need of outer clothing such as jackets and coats was held, in cooperation with the national United Men's Society of the Resurrection. Items were donated to the local YWCA.

On December 4, the Frederic Chopin Choir began selling chocolate toy soldiers, turtles, and Rudolph noses as a fund raiser. These items were from the South Bend Chocolate Company.

(Continued on of Page 20.)

(Busy Fall and Winter Months at St. Mary's Parish - Continued from Page 19.)

At the beginning of December, parishioners were asked to select favorite Christmas music they would like to hear during Christmas services. A listing of Christmas music was provided on which they could place a check mark next to each song they liked.

On December 18, 20 volunteers decorated the Church for Christmas. Trees and decorations were brought from the church storage area. Our parishion-

ers always do a superb job of decorating for the holidays.

On January 1, a Christmas/New Year's Brunch was held following Mass. The parish provided the entrée and beverages, and parishioners brought side items and desserts.

We wish all of you a Blessed Holiday Season.

Fran Lemanski, Parish Correspondent



The Ordination of Rev. Jim Ploskonka at All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL

Deacon Jim Ploskonka of Parma, OH, was ordained by Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko to the Holy Order of Priest on Saturday, December 10, 2022, at All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL.

The day prior, Deacon Jim was part of a pre-ordination retreat and subsequent Canonical Exam that was offered by priests of the P.N.C.C. Western Diocese:

Rev. Ploskonka is assigned as a reserve priest of the Western Diocese, P.N.C.C.

