

# God's Field

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



1923 - 2023

Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Volume 101

February 2023

Issue #2

### Pray, Fast, Give

**Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop**

As February comes to a close we enter the season of Great Lent, a season to begin the spiritual practices which allow us to unite ourselves with the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ and grow closer to Him in our journey of faith.

In the Gospel reading of Ash Wednesday we hear Jesus tell His followers: "Beware of practicing your piety before others to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven."

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you."

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you."

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to

show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you." (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18)

As a continuation of the teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks to the daily living of His followers and in particular, the penitential practices that have become a part of our Lenten journey: fasting, praying and giving.

A first point that we must notice here is that the Lord does not make these conditional statements. He does not say: "If you fast ..., or if you pray ... or if you give...". Instead Jesus assumes that these practices will be a part of the life of His followers. So, Jesus says: "When you fast ..., and when you pray ..., and when you give ...". These actions are not really about us going above and beyond expectation or other followers, rather these are expected to be a part of the daily spiritual life of a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, a believer in Almighty God.

But Jesus does speak to us about the motivations that lie behind these penitential practices and then by comparison concerning all of the religious practices of our lives. In each of these short teachings of a penitential practice, Jesus compares the true follower

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to the 'hypocrite'. Now a modern dictionary defines the word, 'hypocrisy' as the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform. While certainly true in this case, the original comes to us from the Greek word 'hupokrisis' which means 'acting of a theatrical part.' Jesus is showing us that if our motives for these and other penitential practices are anything other than the real reform of our lives, we are only acting or playing a part. If we are only acting, then the spiritual effects of these practices will not happen. If we are being like actors and only perform an act as if we are in a play, then we may very well be admired for our acting performance. But in our lives it will go no farther. These actions will not penetrate any deeper into our daily Christian living.

I am always concerned about this because each and every year, during the time of Ash Wednesday, I am assured of getting calls on the phone in the Office of the Prime Bishop as well as being stopped on the street with the request, "Father, do you have any ashes on you?" The truth is I usually do not and I instruct these individuals where they may receive them at one of our local churches. But then many times I am met with the comment, "Oh, I don't have time for that." While maybe I should ask, I have never gone further to inquire, "Then why is the mark on your forehead so important?"

And while we should certainly not judge others in their religious practice, the above reading from the Gospel of Matthew, and the reaction of others when we encounter them, should cause us to reflect on exactly what is the motivation behind our own Lenten practices, not only of wearing ashes on our forehead for Ash Wednesday, but all of the things that we do to observe Lent.

It is certainly my prayer that when I begin anew with the Lenten practices of fasting and praying and giving that through this season, my attention is not on the actual practice. Jesus even reminded us "don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing", but rather that I am focused on the action that I am disciplining my own life in order to put Jesus and His way before my own. But while that is certainly the

goal, I also know that we are all generally weak individuals, who are so easily preoccupied with the things of the world, so because of this the Church has given to us all these small ways in which we can begin to change our lives.

We are asked to abstain from meat on the Fridays and Wednesdays in Lent and to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In this we discipline one bodily aspect of our daily lives and this hopefully allows us to reflect on the fact that there are certainly many things that surround us that we should fast and abstain from. We are asked to set aside time for an increased life of prayer and also to join with our parish communities at specified times to join in the Stations of the Cross and Bitter Lamentations. Through this we must adjust our own time schedules to allow for this to take place. We sacrifice our own desires to use our time as we please, to rather join in prayer and supplication to Almighty God. We are encouraged to give as a way to sacrifice the produce of our labor, be it in time or money, to worthy causes. This allows us to begin to realize that all that we possess we have in trust from Almighty God and He commands us to use it all for the service of God and others.

Each of these Lenten practices helps us to see that we must put Jesus first as we seek to unite ourselves to Him in His passion and death and finally in His Resurrection. We are reminded of the words of St. John the Baptist on his encounter with Jesus in the Gospel of John: "He [Jesus] Who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears Him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:29-30) The practices of Lent allow us to decrease in our own selfishness and hearing the voice of Jesus in our lives, allow Him and His way to increase in how we live.

Our Lenten journey allows us to follow the words of Jesus we heard on the last Sunday of Pre-Lent, "Strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Let us fast and pray and give as we strive to celebrate a Holy Lent, but through these practices let us know that we seek, not just these actions, but to grow closer to Jesus and to put Him first in all of our life and actions.

**P.N.C.C. Future Direction**  
**February 2023**  
**The Most Holy Eucharist, Proclaimed as**  
**the Most Beautiful and Important Aspect**  
**of the Great Work of These Blessed Days**

### **Introduction**

As we continue with our reflections for the Future Direction program of the Polish National Catholic Church, this month we continue to reflect on the second paragraph of the Resolution of the XXVI General Synod which was completed in October of 2022. While much important work was accomplished when we gathered for Holy Synod, we remember that the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, especially since the entire Church was gathered together truly was the summit and highlight of the Synodal action of those days when we were gathered for Synod.

### **Scripture**

John 6:35 – Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”

### **Reflection**

When we gathered together for the Holy Synod in October of 2022, we opened the Synod with the Holy Eucharist on the first day and we also celebrated the Holy Eucharist as a conclusion to these important days of work for our Holy Church. It was also on this closing day that we commemorated the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization of the Polish National Catholic Church. If we also give some thought to the many times that the Church as a whole gathers together, we remember that the Holy Eucharist is most often the starting and ending point of whatever the Church does.

This reminds us that when we are gathered together as God's Holy Church, we are not just like any other organization, but rather we are the people of God, we are called together by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and therefore we gather in a holy assembly to encounter and unite ourselves with Jesus. The practice of our Holy Church speaks to this reality and it is put into words within the Declaration of Scranton: “Considering that the Holy Eucharist (Holy Mass) has always been the true central point of Catholic worship, we consider it our duty to declare that we maintain with perfect fidelity the ancient Catholic doctrine concerning the Sacrament of the Altar, by believing that we receive the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ under the species of bread and wine.”

It is within the Holy Eucharist that we encounter Christ Who is the foundation of our faith and the true reason that we continue to be called together and to gather. As the Declaration of Scranton continues, the Holy Eucharist “is a sacrifice because it is the perpetual commemoration of the sacrifice offered upon the Cross; it is the act by which we represent on earth and appropriate to ourselves the one offering which Jesus Christ makes in Heaven. ... It is, at the same time, a sacrificial feast by means of which the faithful in receiving the Body and the Blood of our Savior enter into communion with one another.”

It is for this reason stated that we can proclaim that when we gather for Holy Mass, it is the most beautiful and important aspect of all that we do, not only as Christians, but as humans created by God. It is in the celebration of Holy Mass that we come into connection with Almighty God and especially to be connected to the salvific love of Jesus Christ, Who became man and Who died on the cross for our salvation.

Now while we can often feel this importance when the entire Church gathers for important occasions like the Synods, or for important anniversaries, for nationwide conventions, the greater reality is that the Holy Eucharist is of equal importance and beauty each and every time the Eucharist is celebrated. This is true for the regular Sunday Mass of our parish churches or even if a few individuals gather with a priest or bishop of the Church and seek God's presence through Holy Mass and the reception of the Eucharist.

During this Lenten season, I encourage all to take their devotion to Jesus Christ present in the Holy Eucharist to a higher level. If you have been lax in your attendance at Holy Mass, now is the time to become more fervent and regular in your Sunday worship. If you have been distracted while attending Mass, now is the time to focus more intently on what Jesus has accomplished for you in this great sacrifice.

(Continued on bottom of Page 11.)

## Attracting Youth to Our Parishes

### Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski, Chair, National School of Christian Living (NSOCL) Commission

At the last Synod of the P.N.C.C., comments were made regarding many of our parishes not having any children. The National School of Christian Living (NSOCL) Commission was asked if it could help parishes to attract children to their parishes from the community. Our commission asked Father Mark Swoger to share his experiences of Vacation Bible School in his parish, Holy Trinity Parish in Washington, PA.

Fr Mark described their VBS program over the last 10 years. They have between 28 and 32 children participating. They engage the entire parish to help with this yearly endeavor. They even offer a coffee bar and bistro and have an Ice Cream Social and awards presentation on the final evening. They publicize the event through word of mouth and posters.

Here are some suggestions if you would like to try.

- Look to VBS suppliers Like Concordia, where you can find multiple options.
- Form a VBS team: At least 2 or three parents of school aged children. We have found that it works best for us with designing a program PK-6 grade.
- At your initial meeting maybe brainstorm who else in the parish would be helpful. Examples of some needed tasks are older members to meet and greet children and families and welcome them.
- Develop a template or format for your program.

We use the following template: 2 hours in the evening from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Each evening begins with a group presentation/music - 20 minutes;

Classroom work - 35 minutes; Outside games - 20 minutes; Snack - 20 minutes;

Music/review/prayer - 20 minutes.

High School students help as aides to our parent teachers. The program is a parish-wide commitment. We offer it free to our own children as well as the community.

Registration and publicity are done digitally for the most part.

Each student receives a theme shirt as well as costume part to wear for the week.

Our VBS team works on decorations and developing a mascot.

Start small and commit to at least 2 years.

Some additional thoughts: Commit to having a monthly Youth Sunday. The students can read, sing, and serve each week. See if your interested adults can commit to make it happen.

We are thankful for Father Mark's ideas, and hope this will inspire you to try, or add some new youth-oriented programs in your parish!



## A Burden to Care

*“For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love.” (Galatians 5:13 [NAB])*

I think my wife might be the most qualified person in the world to tell you I might be related to a donkey or a mule. I can get set in my ways, and I am hard to move. Our nature is not an accident. Saul was tough and fervent in persecuting the Church, and he was still tough and fervent when the Lord decided to use him, and he became the Apostle Paul. God has a plan in forming us into a person useful for His service. Sometimes I can be a bit dense, a bit stubborn, and a bit set in my ways. That's a good thing if you've set your face toward a good and holy goal, and a terrible thing if you've missed the mark. I have not been a great marksman.

I believe we sometimes become too comfortable in the routine of our lives. I was blessed by the Lord many years ago to suffer a serious injury in the military. His providence worked this out for my salvation and good in more ways than words can ever express. One of those blessings was an early retirement. I no longer needed to work to provide for my family and settled into the doldrum pace of the unexpected blessing I had been given for the next nine years.

When the original Covid-19 virus hit, my wife and I were in the first wave infected by the original and most dangerous form of the virus. We were sick around a month and a half and nearly died. One of the days when I was most ill, with my skin turning purple from the lack of oxygen, I had an impending sense that I might pass away. I looked over at my family... I spent that time thinking of what their lives would be like if I continued to just sit back in complacency and not make the most of the opportunities the Lord had given me. I thought about my responsibilities to the ones I loved and what kind of life I was leaving for them. I was struck by the kind of example I was leaving to my children. I had become comfortable, complacent, and in many ways, I had given up.

I decided that day if I survived, I would find a way to better their lives. I worked with the Department of Veterans Affairs to find a new career goal and they agreed to fund my education through the role of nurse practitioner. Along the way something peculiar happened, something most unexpected. When I obtained my initial nursing license I was struck by the moral responsibility I had to work. I realized it would be great disservice to God if I simply continued in complacency and puttered along in my next educational program without using this new license to go help people. So, I did just that. I didn't need to work, I didn't want to work, I had a burden to care for others. I was struck by the sinfulness of being complacent and not caring for others. Now I daily have the opportunity to show God's love and kindness to my patients when they are most vulnerable and need a soothing word or a helping hand.

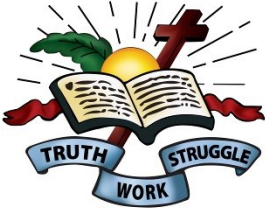
Too often in our spiritual lives I believe we find ourselves in the same situation. We become comfortable once our own salvation is worked out; a spiritual retirement. We grow past the youth and fervor, and we settle into a routine in Church. When we are young in the faith, we have just escaped the clutches of death and are desperate to seek life in the Sacraments and testify to others of the miracle of Christ having saved us! But when we grow older in the faith, it becomes entirely too easy to enjoy the comfort of the Sacraments without the burden of caring for others. The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians was warning them not to let their freedom become an occasion to sin, and he gently reminded in the next verse the real purpose of the freedom we have obtained.

*“For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Galatians 5:14 [NAB])*

So go do acts of kindness. Show love. Invite people to church. Volunteer for church ministries. Talk to new people when they show up. Make sure your parish is fulfilling their obligations so other ministries of the Church can thrive. There are many ways you can reach people for Christ, and sometimes little acts of kindness are the most powerful testimony anyone can receive.

Become uncomfortable being just comfortable.

Submitted by Jason Fox



**“AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST”**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> National Mission & Evangelism Workshop**  
**Polish National Catholic Church**  
**Friday, April 28 - Sunday, April 30, 2023**



Greetings from the Mission and Evangelism Commission of the Polish National Catholic Church.

We invite you to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Mission & Evangelism Workshop, which will be held **on Friday, April 28, through Sunday, April 30, 2023**, at **Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the P.N.C.C. in Reading, PA**. We will meet once again in person this year, and we hope to see you there. Our goal for each Mission Workshop is that the faithful come away with a burning desire to bring the faith-driven work of the Workshop back to their parishes. Please consider participating in this event.

Our hotel accommodation is at the **Best Western PLUS Reading Inn & Suites**, located at 2299 Lancaster Pike, Shillington, PA 19607.

**You are responsible for your hotel reservations and confirmations.**

**You need to call the hotel directly for room reservations.** Please use the hotel code **PNCCMISSION** when making reservations.

You can use the booking link:

[https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotel-rooms.39120.html?groupId=6N4HU8D8](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.39120.html?groupId=6N4HU8D8)

If you need to arrive a day early or a day late, contact the hotel directly to book at 610-777-7888. Additional nights will be at the rate of **\$112 per night**.

The cut-off deadline date for obtaining the guaranteed room rate of 25 Double Queens, \$129.00, 20 King, \$129.00 plus tax, is **Wednesday, April 7, 2023**.

Please fill out the registration form and send it to:

St. Stephen the Martyr Parish  
 23rd Mission Workshop  
 20 St. Stephen's Church Lane  
 Reading, PA 19607

The registration fee has been waived so that many people may attend to gain a better understanding and a deeper appreciation of our Church. Outreach to the community will be the support of a local charity, **Veterans Making a Difference**. We ask you to bring Walmart, Target, or Visa gift cards (suggested minimum of \$20) to support that project.

**The deadline for registering for the Workshop is Monday, April 17, 2023.** Please make your reservations by that date so Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish can prepare the food for this event.

We hope you will consider joining us for the 22<sup>nd</sup> National Mission & Evangelism Workshop of the P.N.C.C. We look forward to your attendance.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Very Rev. Jarosław Nowak, Commission Chairman  
 Parish Phone: (313) 365-0218      email: Fr.J.Nowak@gmail.com

or  
 Sally Traczuk  
 Phone: (610) 763-6806  
 or  
 Very Rev. Donald Wunderlich Phone: (610) 216-0443      email: soundman02@gmail.com

Respectfully,  
 Very Rev. Jaroslav Nowak  
*National Mission & Evangelism Commission Chairman*

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**“AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST”  
22<sup>nd</sup> National Mission & Evangelism Workshop  
Tentative Schedule**

**Friday, April 28, 2023**

3-5 pm - Registration at St. Stephen The Martyr Parish, Reading, PA  
 5 pm - Welcome - *Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky , Fr. Sr. Jaroslav Nowak*  
 5:15 pm - Icebreakers - *Bishop John Mack*  
 6 pm – Dinner  
 7 pm – Session I - Knowing your Audience - *Dr Rev Matthew Kawiak*  
 8 pm - Evening Prayer  
 Return to hotel

**Saturday, April 29, 2023**

Breakfast at hotel  
 8 am – Holy Mass - *Bp Bernard Nowicki*  
 9 am - Group Photo  
 9:30 - 10:30 am – Session II - What Is an Ambassador? - *Bp Paul Sobiechowski*  
 10:30 - 10:45 am – Small Group Share  
 11 - 12 pm – Session III - Preparing to Be an Ambassador - *David Kost*  
 12 - Small Group Share  
 12:30 - Lunch  
 1 30 - 2:30 pm – Session IV - Internal Mission - *Fr. Sr. Jarostlaw Nowak.*  
 2 :30 - 2:45 pm – Small Group Share  
 3 - 4 pm – Session V - External Mission - *Bp Jarostlaw Rafalko*  
 4 - 4:30 pm – Small Group Share  
 4:30 pm – Celebration Panel and Open Discussion  
 5:30 pm – Dinner  
 6:30 - Local Community Outreach  
 7 pm – Commissioning Service

**Sunday, April 30, 2023**

8:45 am Morning Prayer  
 9 am Holy Mass - *Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky*  
 Brunch following the Holy Mass.  
 Concluding Remarks - *Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky*





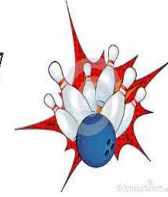
## United Y.M.S. of R. National Events for 2023

Join us! We are excited to host many events that appeal to the youth and young at heart of the Polish National Catholic Church.



Follow the Y.M.S. of R. on Facebook: [United YMS of R](#)

- **76<sup>th</sup> Y.M.S. of R. Bowlers Tournament-** June 2, 3, and 4.
- Bowling will be done at Valley Lanes 1 Meredith St., Carbondale, PA 18407
  - Friday June 2 Hospitality Dinner for guests and bowlers at the Bishop Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center.
  - More details, contact Art Golembeski, Jr., President Y.M.S. of R. Bowlers



- **Bishop Stanley Bilinski Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat** will be held June 14, 15, 16, and 17 at the Bishop Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center at Spójnia Farm in Waymart, PA. Available to all Men - P.N.C.C. members and non-members. For more information, contact Rev. Jason Soltysiak, Rev. Carmen Bolock, Rev. James Konicki or Rev. Jim Ploskonka.

- The Kurs Encampment will be held July 1 - 8 at the Bishop Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center at Spójnia Farm in Waymart, PA. Available to ALL P.N.C.C. members ages 6-17. Our Chaplain is Fr. James Konicki. Follow us on Facebook: KURS, Kurs 2011 for camper registration and further information.



- **Independence Day Celebration at Spójnia Farm** will be celebrated **Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**. Mass will be celebrated by the Most Rev. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky at 11am in the Retreat Center Commons Area.
- Polish Picnic will follow the Independence Day Celebration Mass -potato pancakes, pierogi, kielbasa, and other traditional food.

- **Annual Golf Outing-** August 26 hosted by Y.M.S. of R. Branch 29 in Parma, OH.



- **Fall 2023- Y.M.S. of R. Convention** - Branch 27, Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT.



- Late Fall/Early Winter- **Annual Winter Clothing Drive-** Church-wide event

Anyone needing additional information, follow the Y.M.S. of R. on Facebook [United YMS of R](#), [KURS](#), Church website [PNCC.org](#), or contact President Nick Kazinetz at [Nkaz20@aol.com](mailto:Nkaz20@aol.com).

“We thank you for supporting our events.”



## 76th Annual Y.M.S. of R./P.N.C.C. Bowling Tournament

*hosted by*

United Y.M.S. of R.

in conjunction with parishes in

Dickson City; PA; Dupont, PA; Scranton, PA



On behalf of the United Y.M.S. of R., along with St. Adalbert's Parish in Dickson City, Pa; Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA; and St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish in Scranton, PA, we would like to invite you to participate in the **76<sup>th</sup> Annual Y.M.S. of R./P.N.C.C. Bowling Tournament on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

We are excited to be hosting this year's tournament. We look forward to reuniting with old friends and making new ones. This event is one of the longest running events in our Church, and we are blessed that we are able to host the event. This year, we are combining efforts with parishioners from Dickson City, Dupont, and Scranton, along with parishioners throughout the Central Diocese.

We are making plans to utilize the scenic and beautiful Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center in Waymart, PA, as our tournament headquarters. Therefore, save the dates of June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and come to the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Y.M.S. of R./P.N.C.C. Bowling Tournament, and join one of the pillars of the church as we gather for a spiritual and fun filled weekend. We hope to see bowlers and non-bowlers who want to come out for a summer startup vacation and anyone else who is looking for a fun and spiritual weekend.

May God bless you as you travel to this event to share some memories and make some new memories with your family and friends at this year's event.

Complete information on the tournament can be accessed from the official P.N.C.C. Facebook Page, [Polish National Catholic Church](#).

Respectfully,

The United Young Men's Society of Resurrection.

### **The United Young Men's Society of the Resurrection Winter Clothing Drive**

The call to clothe the needy is ancient: from Job (31:19-20) to Ezekiel (18:7) to Isaiah (58:7), prophets have often included in their relayed message the fact that we have a greater goal here on earth. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ taught us in St. Luke's Gospel, 3:11: "And He would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise." May we continue to heed the call of Christ in having love for our neighbor.

The call went out to all Y.M.S. of R. Branches, as well as all P.N.C.C. parishes, to hold a clothing drive for a local charitable organization. As an incentive, it was asked that the clothing items be counted and tallied by the honor system. The top 3 parishes would receive a gift from the National Board in appreciation for their efforts to be used for a social function at the parish.

With all praise, going to Almighty God the call was heard and answered. Between socks, coats, pants, shirts and more, we had over 5,000 items collected and distributed! We are also aware of other parishes who had clothing drives, coat drives, and more at the same time as ours. Many parishes have had a holiday tradition like this for decades. We want to say thank you to them as well for their selfless work.

The title went back to Cleveland, not in football or baseball, but in the Winter Clothing Drive. St. Mary's Parish of Parma, OH, brought in 2,200 items. Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Schenectady, NY, was second place, and a third place performance in Lancaster, NY, to Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral. Congratulations to Fr. Jason Soltysiak, Fr. Konicki, Bishop Mack and all the faithful. The real winners were all our parishioners who thought of others and donated. Many thanks to the pastors who pushed this at their parishes, to the parishes that allowed very large collection bins in their halls, and of course, those who donated.

Submitted by Nick Kazinetz

## 76th Annual Y.M.S. of R./P.N.C.C. Bowling Tournament

### Schedule of Events

#### **Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

10:00 a.m.

Bowling Check in at Valley Lanes, 1 Meredith St., Carbondale, PA

12:00 p.m.

Doubles and Singles Events

5:30 p.m.

Open House & Dinner at Bishop Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center Cafeteria, with Hospitality in the Commons Area, 611 Honesdale Road, Waymart, PA 18472

(There will be fellowship on the patio after dinner)

#### **Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

9:00 a.m.

Check in at Valley Lanes

10:00 a.m.

Team Event

1:00 p.m.

Children's Bowling at Valley Lanes

6:00 p.m.

Awards Banquet at Regal Room 214 W Lackawanna Ave, Olyphant, PA 18447

Cocktail Hour followed by Dinner, Awards, and More at the

Note: The pool at the retreat center will be open both Friday and Saturday – depending on the weather.

Bring your bathing suit and some towels and enjoy a swim! Parents must provide supervision for their children 17 and under at the Retreat Center. There will be a lifeguard on duty, but no staff on hand to "watch" children.

#### **Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**

*Holy Mass, celebrated by Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop, P.N.C.C., on Sunday.*

*More details to follow.*

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(P.N.C.C. Future Direction - February 2023 - Continued from Page 4.

I encourage all, especially during this Lenten season, to commit to viewing the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and maybe more importantly your participation in it, the most beautiful and important aspect of your day, your week, your year and even your life.

#### **Action Item**

When you come to Church spend a few moments in prayer giving thanks to Almighty God that you are able to participate in this most beautiful and important work of the Church, which allows you to grow closer to God, unite yourself with Jesus Christ and help to build His kingdom on earth. Offer this prayer: "O Most Merciful Father, I desire to receive the most holy Body and Blood of Your Son in thanksgiving for all Your gifts and blessings given to me. Come, Holy Spirit, help me to receive Jesus with love and reverence. Increase my faith in Him and love for Him that His will may be done through me. In flame my heart and strengthen my will that I may be more devoted to Christ, my Lord and Savior. May the Body and Blood of Christ keep my soul unto life everlasting. Amen." (PNCC Prayer Book)

We continue to implement the five themes the Synod determined for our Future Direction Committee:

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

(Continued from God's Field January 2023, Volume 101, Issue #1.)

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

Proposed Amendment #9

No section referenced

No action recommended

No motion made

Changes to Constitution noted including motions passed today. See documents from packet.

Delegate #132, Questions of changes needing separate votes.

Delegate #18, Page 47 Regulation 11 section 2D 6% levy on Parish Dues –

does this include endowments or other donations? Includes monies collected by the Parish.

Delegate #56, 6% of levy Parish dues, for this section includes regular Sunday collections.

Delegate #18, Regular Sunday collections vs mailing it or online. What qualifies? There was a group that was supposed to review from Erie Synod. Unclear as to how to meet.

Delegate #117, Part of Budget and Finance to lower percentage, determine what qualifies. Parish level contribute "Fair Share" system Adults asked to cover expenses of Parish and Diocese assessment.

Delegate #53, Review dollar amount to have a percentage assessment instead to fund Diocese or P.N.C.C.. Response- what amount is reported vs what is reality.

Delegate #3, Pledge system not dues in parish. Still submits required amounts.

Delegate #2, Dues, pledges, etc. is semantics. Monies collected for General and diocesan obligations are exempt.

Delegate #90, Levy on total income from Parish financial reports

Delegate # 3, Let stand as is. Refer to Finance Committee/ Supreme Council. Allow system to work.

Agree to leave as stated and refer to Finance Committee.

Delegate #132, Constitution vs Bylaws who has authority to change? Constitution may only be changed by General Synod with 2/3 vote of delegates.

Delegate #113, Moton to table discussion until tomorrow

Delegate #20, Second motion

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Text
36	Delegate #113/ Delegate #20	Motion to complete discussion/ decisions on constitution to Friday morning session (October 21)
Motion Result: 86 yes 35 no 2 abstain Motion passed		

Recessed at 9:58PM



## Friday, October 21, 2023

The Synod was called to order by Prime Bishop Mikovsky at 8:19am.

Housekeeping notes from John Andrzejewski. Thanked Committee for their work.

Bishop Richard Lipka, Mission Diocese of All Saints, was welcomed.

Delegate #2, Adhere to rules and regulations of the Synod.

Roll call by Kathy Yanik Delegate #151. There are 144 present

Wanda Stash Delegate #226, Mandate Report

Prime Bishop 1

<u>Diocese</u>	<u>Bishops</u>	<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Lay</u>
Buffalo Pitt	1	10	15
Central	1	18	27
East	1	10	11
West	1	12	13
Total	5	50	66

Supreme council: 19      Organizations: 8      Commissions: 1      PNU: 5

Total registered delegates 157 total attendance 154

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Motion
<b>37</b>	Delegate #67 / Delegate #8	Motion to accept the report of the Mandate Committee.
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion Passed		

Resume discussion on Report of Constitution Commission

Delegate #75, Very Rev John Kowalczyk opened discussion from podium

Delegate #132, Commented on how deacons and reserve priests vary by Diocese

Delegate #158, Have trust and pass motion.

Delegate #63, motion to accept report

Delegate #52, second motion to accept with changes

Delegate #20, What happens to 6% discussion. Return to prior wording

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Motion
<b>38</b>	Delegate #63 / Delegate #52	Motion to approve the reformatted Constitution, By-Laws and Code of Faith as presented by the Constitution Commission at the 26 <sup>th</sup> General Synod except for the wording regarding the 6% fund

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Motion
<b>39</b>	Delegate #119 / Delegate #221	Motion to accept the minutes of Thursday October 20.
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion Passed		

Corrections to minutes.

(Continued on Page 14 .)

(Synod Minutes XXVI General Synod- Continued from Page 13.)

Delegate #144, corrections to discussion in P.N.C.C./ Roman Catholic Dialogue

Comment c should read Delegate #144, Must work on the needs of Christ's church. Examples of how dialogue was beneficial to both sides. Laity an important part of making change.

Delegate #3, Bishop Paul, Correction of title of PNCC/Anglican Church of North America Dialog. Should be P.N.C.C./G3 continuing Anglican Dialog.

Delegate #144, Section a Delegate #144, change "conflicts" to areas of intersection.

Delegate #19, noted correction of spelling of "Belinsky" in YSMR Report Men's Spiritual Retreat is now the Bishop Bilinski Memorial Retreat.

Delegate #18, Question of Mandate Committee report. Add Eastern 1 Bishop 10 Clergy 11 Laity. Add PNU 5. Total delegates registered is 157. Total attending ins 154

Delegate #119, Motion to accept with corrections

Delegate #221, Second to motion

### **Future Direction subcommittee**

The Five Themes of Future Direction given by the General Synod in 2014

Growth & Membership

Increase Spirituality

Lifelong Learning

Sacred Vocations

Community Involvement/Presence

Requested delegation to complete survey and discuss in small groups. May give surveys to Prime Bishop.

Delegate #139, How many people attend weekly Masses?

Delegate #56, Focus on Youth attendance of 620 and priests needed

Give 20 Minutes to complete survey prior to 10am break.

Prime Bishop called a break at 10:00am.

Meeting resumed at 10:30am

Delegate #143,, Normally take a collection at Synod Mass for Clergy Pension Fund. Neglected to do this. Taking collection now.

New pamphlet on Penance was distributed

### **New Business**

Prime Bishop called for discussion on sharing ideas for future

How to assist youth Commission to reach 620 for Convo?

Delegate #128, How do we respond to "are you saved?" "Are you reborn", "why do you call your worship leader a priest?" Has a program to address these questions.

Delegate #141, Enlivenment Program of Central Diocese used in Parish for membership growth. Initially to be a Parish Committee retreat, extended to members. Outside speaker on Evangelism. Look at our websites, watch acronyms. Marketing, messaging, social media are important. What is our "Secret Sauce"? Examine Strengths and weaknesses.

Delegate #53, We did not publicize that we reopened after Covid.

Prime Bishop wanted to avoid political issues related to the CDC and Covid.

Delegate #78, Want church to know who we are before we can tell anyone else. Use catechism

Delegate #18, Lenten retreats that were planned. Was it for youth or just adults? Use Stations that are age appropriate? Add youth programs

Delegate #97, Eastern Diocese Youth retreat, Did role play of different people. Charged to do community projects. Decided homeless on a homeless project.

Delegate #89, Sermon, soup and sandwich program

Delegate #26, "Gift for Kids" program. Mexican women's prison Christmas gift collection for their kids. Project of Parish youth. Sent letters/notes.

Delegate #224, Marketing conversion is caused by referral. Bring one person to church. Works though referring people to Jesus.

Delegate #33, Inspired by other parish stories. Had Tricky tray auction for financial support. Provide Thanksgiving dinners and Advent charitable program. New members gained by community support programs.

Delegate #82, Cannot secure our future without engaging discipleship today.

Delegate #100, Wonderful ideas that have to do with external outreach. Need to do internal work as well. Related teaching to investing in our members. Town Hall format with questions. "What do you like about the Parish?" "What would you change?" "What would you add?"

Delegate #221, Been an inspiration by being here as new parish. Establish youth program- may need to be told what to do since they don't know. What are the expectations? Need to have them rise up to our expectations.

Delegate #58, What do you do if priest didn't listen to the needs of the parish? Focus on love, faith etc. Need to figure out a way to resolve differences.

Prime Bishop discussed virtual worship. A way to share but not a substitute. Consumers of religion. Need to be witness. Weekly video is an outreach for connection

Delegate #3, those who video record, can track viewing numbers. Can help with people who cannot attend.

Delegate #86, Crocheting grocery bags mats for homeless

\$2,657.00 collected for Clergy Pension Fund

Irene Jugen Heart and Soul Awards of the Polish National Union announced by Delegate #97, Kathy Nembkovich

2019 Henrietta Kleckner

2020 Chris Wachna

2021 Mary Jane Stankowski

2022 Christina Danielkiewicz

Lunch break

Resume meeting at 1:20PM

Comments-

Delegate #65, Always Forward, Never Back. YMSR retreat Norwich CT Fall of 2023

Delegate #158, Elevator comments on the ten commandments

Delegate #20, Thanked everyone for the inclusion and welcome given the delegation from Las Vegas parish.

Delegate #4, Bishop Nowicki offered thanks for attending the Synod. 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the P.N.C.C. will be celebrated tomorrow, Saturday, October 22. Mass at 11AM, banquet and organ recital at 7pm

The Resolution of the XXVI General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church read by Delegate #10 Jorge Hernandez.

(Continued on Page 16.)

(Synod Minutes XXVI General Synod- Continued from Page 15.)

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Motion
40	Delegate #75/ Delegate #124	Motion to accept the Resolutions of the XXVI General synod of the Polish National Catholic Church
Motion Result: Universally accepted by voice vote. Motion passed		

Prime Bishop announced the appointments to commissions.

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Motion
41	Delegate #2/ Delegate #151	Motion to accept the appointments to Commissions as presented
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion passed		

Delegate #156, question on Orthodox dialog.

Delegate #3, None at this time.

Delegate #10, Looking forward to working with new commission. Requested list of the people who were interested in serving.

Prime Bishop announced elected and appointed members of Supreme Council and Supreme Tribunal.

The Synod was adjourned at 2:04PM with the Hymn of the Church.

Motion #	Made by / Seconded By	Motion
42	Delegate #98/ Delegate #90	Motion to adjourn the XXVI General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church.
Motion Result: Voice vote. Motion passed		

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretariat from Central Diocese  
Sally and Michael Traczuk  
Very Rev. Donald Wunderlich



**Prayer for Bishop Francis Hodur** *from the Mass for Departed Bishops (2006 P.N.C.C. Missal):*

**Let us pray.**

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Who did assure Your holy Apostles that the highest reward awaits those who strive zealously for the continuance of the Kingdom of God on earth, receive into Your glory the soul our Your servant, Francis Hodur, Bishop of Your Holy Church.

Have compassion on him as You had compassion on the erring Apostles. Mindful of his desire to bring souls to You, reward him with eternal happiness. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Most Rev. Franciszek Hodur**  
**Organizer and First Prime Bishop**  
**of the**  
**Polish National Catholic Church**

**Born: Sunday, April 1, 1866**

**Died: Monday, February 16, 1953**





## **Supreme Council Meets Following the 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod David Petrosky Honored for 36 Years of Service to the Council**

**Submitted by  
Michael R Mietlicki  
Secretary of the Supreme Council**

Following the adjournment of the 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod, the first meeting of the Supreme Council took place to reconstitute itself for the 2022-2026 term.

In addition to the Prime Bishop and the Diocesan Bishops, the following members were either elected by diocesan caucuses at the synod, appointed by the Prime Bishop, or will represent organizations based on the PNCC Constitution for the 2022 – 2026 term.

### **Most Rev. Anthony M. Mikovsky, PhD**

Prime Bishop

### **Bishop John Mack**

Vice Chair of the Supreme Council and Diocesan Bishop: Buffalo Pittsburg Diocese.

### **Bishop Bernard Nowicki, DD**

Diocesan Bishop: Central Diocese

### **Bishop Jarosław Rafalko**

Diocesan Bishop: Western Diocese

### **Bishop Paul Sobiechowski**

Diocesan Bishop: Eastern Diocese

### **Representing the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese**

Rev. Scott Lill, D. Min

Diane E. Cheek

Robert T. Giczkowski

### **Representing the Canadian Diocese**

To be Announced

### **Representing the Central Diocese**

Very Rev. Marian Pociecha

Ronald Deluca

Paul Gorgol

### **Representing the Eastern Diocese**

Very Rev Robert Nemkovich Jr.

Laurel Curylo

Raymond J. Pieczarka

### **Representing the Western Diocese**

Very Rev Jarosław Nowak

Cathy A. Bilinski

Bruce S. Kaniewski

### **Savonarola Theological Seminary**

Very Rev Zbigniew Dawid – Vice Rector of the Seminary

### **Representing the Polish National Union**

Martin Wachna Jr, PNU CEO

John Andrzejewski III, PNU CFO

(Continued on Page 18.)

(Supreme Council Meets - Continued from Page 17.)

### **Appointments of the Prime Bishop**

Very Rev Charles Zawistowski

Kathryn Nemkovich

Joan Scheuneman – Treasurer of the PNCC

Michael R. Mietlicki – Secretary of the Supreme Council

### **David Petrosky Honored**



At the beginning of the meeting Prime Bishop Mikovsky and the Supreme Council paid special tribute to David Petrosky who retired from the Supreme Council after 36 years of service. He was first elected to the council in 1986 representing the Central Diocese. His expertise and dedication to the PNCC earned him continued appointments to the Supreme Council under the leadership of Prime Bishop John Swantek, Prime Bishop Robert Nemkovich and Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky. In his retirement David will continue to offer his counsel to the Supreme Council as needed.

### **Appointments and Elections**

During the meeting the following appointments or elections took place:

Prime Bishop reappointed Bishop John Mack as Vice Chairman of the Supreme Council.

John Andrzejewski III was selected as the Supreme Council's representative to the Supreme Tribunal. The Prime Bishop serves as chairman of this tribunal.

Joan Scheuneman and John Andrzejewski III were selected to join the Prime Bishop as Trustees of the Polish National Catholic Church.

Bishop John Mack, Joan Scheuneman, and John Andrzejewski III were selected to join the Prime Bishop as Signatories of Authority for the financial and investment assets of the church.

### **26<sup>th</sup> General Synod and Future Direction**

The council spent most of the meeting reviewing the results of the 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod and the special mandates it charged to the Supreme Council. Likewise, the future composition and mission of the Future Direction Subcommittee were discussed.

### **Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council**

The next meeting of the Supreme Council will be held January 31, 2023, via Zoom. The Annual Meeting will be conducted during the last week of April 2023 in the Eastern Diocese.



## APPEAL FOR 2023 EASTER GREETINGS



It is the time of year for us to appeal to you -- the parishes, the Standard Church Organizations, the Supreme Management of the Polish National Union of America (Spójnia), its districts and branches, and the individual members of the Polish National Catholic Church -- to publish your Easter greetings in the Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church, *God's Field—Rola Boza*.

In past years your responses to our appeals have been very enthusiastic and we sincerely hope your generosity and support will continue this year.

The cost for publishing Easter greetings for individuals, parishes and organizations is \$20.00. Due to space constraints in the *God's Field* page setup, greetings are limited to up to three (3) lines of text.

Example greetings:

Adoration Society of St. John's Parish, Everytown, USA  
Eve Adams, President  
Wesołego Alleluja!

St. John's Parish, Everytown, USA  
Rev. Abel Adams, Pastor  
ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

**ALL GREETINGS, ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENTS, MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 1, 2023 IN ORDER TO ENSURE THEY ARE INCLUDED IN THE EASTER 2023 ISSUE. We no longer publish greetings submitted without payment, so please be sure to send in your payment with your greeting.**

Detach, complete and submit the form, below, along with your payment, to:

God's Field Easter Greetings  
National Church Center, P.N.C.C.  
1006 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505

-----  
**Please send in your greetings and payment  
(U.S. \$20.00 check or money order, payable to God's Field)  
before APRIL 1, 2023.**  
-----



Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3: \_\_\_\_\_

## Major Renovation Program Begins at Spójnia Farm Campus Waymart, PA



### Spójnia - Great Hall Rendition

A major renovation project has recently started at the Spójnia Farm Campus, the home of the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center, and Ustronie in Waymart, PA. The campus includes over four hundred pristine farmland acres in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains. New campus entrance and building signs were designed and will be installed this coming spring. The Great Hall, formerly The Pavilion will undergo major renovations that include a new roof, bathrooms, HVAC, kitchen, front entrance, and a new patio. The entire building will be updated to make it a multi-purpose building for year-round use. The campus is a popular rental facility for youth and retreat events for Polish National Catholics as well as the surrounding communities of Waymart, PA. The project is expected to complete in time for this summer's calendar of programs. More information will be published as the project progresses.

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## NOTICE TO PARISHES

**If your parish is in need of financial assistance and you seek to request Clergy Aid from the Polish National Catholic Church, you must follow the procedures as outlined by the XIX General Synod.**

**All individual parish requests must be sent through the proper Diocesan Bishop as soon as possible before March 15, 2023, along with all of the required supporting financial documentation.**

**The Diocesan Bishops must forward all parish requests to the Office of the Prime Bishop no later than March 20, 2023.**

**(PLEASE NOTE: Requests sent by Buffalo-Pittsburgh, Eastern, Central or Western Diocese parishes directly to the Office of the Prime Bishop and not through the proper Diocesan Bishop will be returned to the parish. This may result in delayed paperwork and missed deadline submission.) Canadian Diocese submissions can be sent to the Office of the Prime Bishop as he serves as acting Diocesan Bishop for this diocese.**

## Central Diocese

### Music Workshop in Reading, PA

#### St. Stephen the Martyr Parish

The second workshop of the Central Diocesan Music Commission, “There Is Nothing Ordinary about Singing the Ordinaries,” took place at St. Stephen the Martyr Parish in Reading, PA on January 14, 2023. The workshop was hosted by the parish choir. Cheryl Heckman, parish organist, coordinated the event.

Organists and choir members from St. Stephen’s Parish and from Our Lord’s Ascension Parish in Bethlehem, PA were in attendance. Fr. Sr. Donald Wunderlich, host pastor, was also present as a participant. Members of the Commission, Jonathan Johnson, Barbara Nowicki and Regina Pollack (via Zoom) conducted the workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the new booklet published by the Music Commission, [A Selection of Simple Sung Ordinaries for Holy Mass](#). This booklet consists of six or seven selections for each of the Ordinaries, and The Litany (Bishop Hodur), along with The Blessing and Dismissal. The publication of the booklet was made possible by the Enlivening Church Growth Program of the Central Diocese.

The Ordinaries are compliant with the liturgical language approved by the Polish National Catholic Church and have properly secured copyright permissions. They are ready to be used, easily, by all parishes.. Copies of the booklets, along with an accompaniment book, were made available to those parishes present, based on their needs.

The next workshop is planned for February 18, 2023 at Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish in Albany, NY. Another is planned for the spring at Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish in Wallington, NJ, on a date to be announced. All are welcome!

Parishes in the Central Diocese that would like more information regarding the workshops or the work of the Commission may contact us via email at [musiccommissioncd@gmail.com](mailto:musiccommissioncd@gmail.com), or write us at Music Commission, Central Diocese, 515 E Locust Street, Scranton, PA 18505.



Very Rev. Donald Wunderlich, host pastor; Jonathan Johnson and Dr. Barbara Nowicki, Commission members.



Participants Cheryl Heckman, Karen Amate, Tara Broczkowski, Jonathan Johnson and Sally Traczuk. Absent from the photo are William Powell, Marjorie Powell and Janet Reed.



## News from the Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish

### Latham NY

During Holy Mass on February 5<sup>th</sup>, Everett Hoefer was commissioned and installed as an Altar Server. Fr. Mark Gnidzinski prepared Everett for this ministry over the last several months. Everett now joins Abby Fazziola and Maddie Fazziola as Acolytes in the parish. It was a day of great joy for the parish family!



Father Mark commissions Everett as a new Acolyte.

Holy Mass concluded with the St. Blaise Blessing of Throats on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Blaise lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer, but he made friends with the wild animals. One day a group of hunters seeking wild animals stumbled upon Blaise's cave. The bishop was kneeling in prayer surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions, and bears. Legend has it that a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat as the hunters were bringing Blaise to prison. At Blaise's command, the child was able to cough up the bone. Blaise was later martyred in 316AD for his refusal to worship pagan gods and became the Patron Saint of throat ailments.



Fr. Mark administers the Blessing of Throats.



The Central Diocesan Music Commission will present its 3<sup>rd</sup> mini-workshop on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> for the Mohawk Valley Seniorate. The session entitled, “There is Nothing **ORDINARY** about Singing the **ORDINARIES**,” will be held at BVMC Parish. The CD Music Commission compiled a booklet of simple sung Ordinaries, which is the focus of the presentation. Approximately 15 participants from the Mohawk Valley Seniorate are expected to attend.

From BVMC Parish's Y.M.S. of R. President, Jacob Krusienski:

Due to generous donations, our Clothing Drive was a huge success. We collected over 341 items that included coats, jeans, sweaters, suits, bedding, tee shirts, socks, dress pants and so much more. Items were taken to Captain's Treasures in Clifton Park, NY. Our idea was to keep all the donations local and the funds they raise are used to support their other efforts in the community.

The Lord works in mysterious ways. As I started bringing the items into the receiving area one of the volunteers commented that they just said to each other "We are in need of clothing donations." The other lady said, "Ask and you shall receive!" They were beyond appreciative.

Thank you to all those who made this clothing drive a success! God Bless!

Submitted by Regina Pollack



Donations are gratefully received by Captain's Treasures.

## January at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Dupont, PA

Holy Mother of Sorrows parishioners were very busy during January, celebrating the liturgical solemnities (Circumcision of Jesus, Epiphany, Humble Shepherds, Baptism of our Lord) and participating in social and community events.

With the help of many parishioners and SOCL children, all indoor and outdoor Christmas decorations were taken down and put away until next Christmas.



**SOCL children helped to take down Christmas decorations.**

The parish also concluded its annual winter clothing drive. Parishioners sorted and packed all the collected clothes to help out those in need in the community.



**Volunteers helped to pack winter clothing.**

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Blanket Ministry continued making mats and pillows for the homeless.



**The Blanket Ministry makes mats for the homeless.**

A ‘Dożynki Volunteers Appreciation Dinner’ was held to thank everyone who helped out with that annual event that is held every autumn.



**Dożynki Volunteers Appreciation Dinner**

Many people gathered in the Parish Hall to help pack bags for the monthly food distribution that helps feed local community members who need a hand.



**Volunteers pack bags for the monthly food distribution.**

The Parish Y.M.S. of R. held its Installation Meeting and Dinner.

The Parish Hall was made available for the local Meals on Wheels Volunteers Appreciation Dinner.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid

**Eastern Diocese**

Please join us in prayer, every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon:



Almighty and Eternal God, You desire that all should be saved. Enable those who do not believe in Jesus Christ to accept Him as their Lord and Savior. Help them grasp the mystery of the Incarnation, so that they may come to know, love and serve Him and thus become faithful witnesses of His Gospel. We ask this in His Holy Name. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name;  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

*Eastern Diocese PNCC  
Mission and Evangelism Commission*





## Blessed Trinity Parish Helping the Community

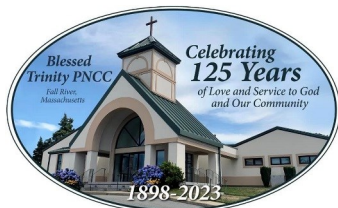
### Fall River, MA

On Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA concluded its annual Sock Drive to benefit MA Sate Representative Alan Silvia’s Warm Feet Program.

Several hundred pairs of socks were collected to help others in need in the Fall River community. After Sunday Mass, Representative Silvia addressed the congregation about the Warm Feet Program.

Many thanks to those who donated to this wonderful cause.

On Sunday, January 29th, the parish annual pancake breakfast was held after Holy Mass. Thanks to the DeTemple-McLean family for preparing and serving this excellent breakfast. Ten pancake breakfasts were delivered to the local Niagara FRFD Fire House.



## Souper Socks Saturday at Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish

### Chicopee, MA

On Saturday, January 28th, Souper Socks Saturday was held at Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish Hall in Chicopee, MA. Donations of new socks, hats, gloves

and underwear for men, women and children were accepted to be distributed to local organizations in need of the items.



## Western Diocese

## St. Mary Parish - South Bend, IN Parish Committee Chairperson Annual Report

By Kathy M.



In preparing for today's meeting, I was trying to think of what new message I could share with you. What new words could I say to encourage and inspire you? But I had a total writer's block. I was stuck. So I did what I always do when I am without direction. I stopped a moment and prayed for guidance. No, I did not hear a voice booming from heaven and words did not magically appear on my paper. But God did answer me. I heard my own thoughts change. Instead of wondering what new words I could say, I knew that I didn't need to find my own "new words" but instead needed to turn to some very old words. The Word. No human words can ever be more relevant, encouraging or inspiring than God's Word spoken more than 2,000 years ago. God tells us to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). God is not merely making a suggestion to us; He is commanding us. It is our duty to share His Word with others. In Joshua we read, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Just last week, I heard Fr. Sr. Charles tell us those

same words, encouraging us to be bold and brave and stand up for what we believe as Christians. I thought about those words and I agree, and I would like to expand on them. Yes, those of us who can be outspoken about our faith, should be. However, each of us is unique and God has intentionally given us different talents, abilities and personalities. So it may not be in each of our natures to be bold, to speak up, to be brave with our words. But God has definitely given each of us a gift and a way to serve Him boldly, fully, meaningfully everyday. It is our job to discover our gifts and put them to use for the glory of God.

If you are not an outspoken person, then what kind of person are you? What are your talents? How can you use them to serve God today and throughout this year? Are you a caregiver? A nurturer? Then do God's work caring for those in need. Are you a good cook? Make some food to share with a friend, neighbor, or loved one. Can you fix things? Help others who struggle to make things work; help to fix things at the church. Do you like to sing? Play music? Share your musical gifts with us at church or to brighten the day of others. If you feel like you have

nothing to give, think again... Can you donate to the church or to those in need? Can you send a card? Can you listen to someone who needs to talk? Can you share a smile to brighten someone's day? Whenever we do something for the good of others, we are being examples of our Christian faith. By our actions, we are sharing God's goodness with others. Whatever your talent or your gift, it is meant to be shared; to be used to help others and to glorify God. In Corinthians it says "there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit" and "to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." It is our commandment to use the gifts God has given us to help others and to serve Him every day. Many of us feel like we are not good enough to serve God or our gifts aren't important enough to count. Just remember that all of these gifts came from God. It is not our job to second guess the Creator. God made you to be good enough and He gave each of us important gifts; the exact gifts that He wants us to have.

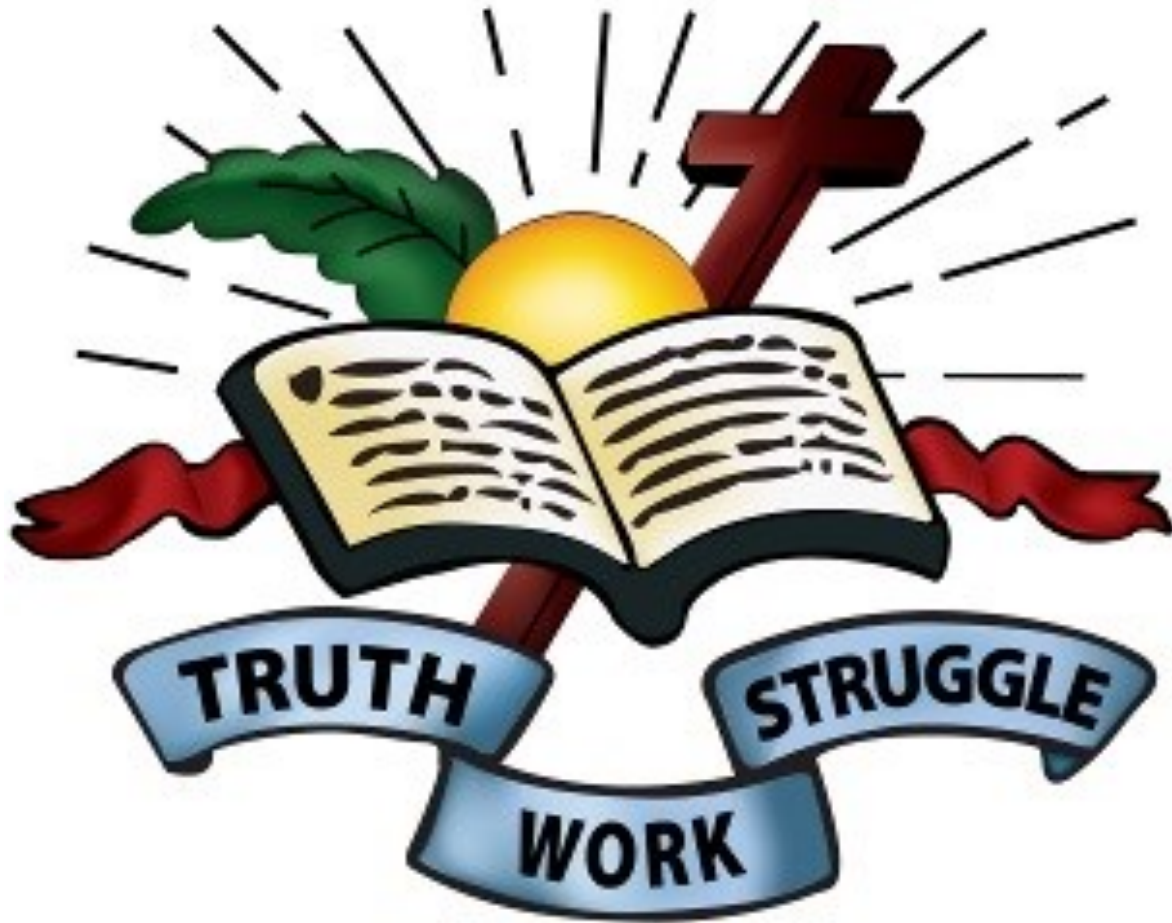
For example, my mother had a gift of kindness. Throughout her life she helped at church, she taught children, she found many ways to use her gifts. But as she aged and became ill, she could no longer do the things she used to do. She found new ways to help. She couldn't stand long enough to serve at church dinners, so she volunteered to sit and peel potatoes the day before. She couldn't visit the homebound so she wrote and sent cards to them. Finally when she found herself in the hospital, just days before her death, she still found ways to share her gift of kindness. As I sat in her room, I heard her call each of the hospital staff by name and thank them for bringing her water, for changing her bedding, for bringing her food, for hooking up her dialysis. And in her last moments of life, unable to speak, she still found a way to show her kindness and encourage oth-

ers. Lying in her hospital bed with a ventilator disconnected, she smiled at me and the doctors and nurses and winked before she passed away, as if to confirm that all is good. Was she a saint? Yes. Because we who are baptized in the name of Christ are all saints and we have a duty and responsibility to share God's Word with others through our words and our actions every day.

I want to thank Fr. Sr. Charles for using his many gifts to lead our parish throughout the past year. We are truly blessed to have him as the pastor of our parish. Because he is humble, many of us are unaware of the tireless work that he does to sustain and grow our parish and to serve our Diocese and National Church. Fr. Sr. Charles has led by example and inspired us through faith. On behalf of the parish, I would like to thank Fr. Sr. Charles for his dedication, and faithful leadership.

I would also like to thank our parishioners, volunteers, and parish organizations for using their talents and gifts to support the Church. We are truly a family because of you and your efforts! One of my friends recently attended Mass here at St. Mary's, and she asked me "How does your little church survive? You have so few people and yet you do so much?" The answer is "By the grace of God." God put us here for a reason...to spread His Word. He gives us what we need to make His mission happen. He sends us parishioners with the gifts that we need to succeed. That includes each of us. We are meant to be here. In 2023, with Fr. Sr. Charles' leadership, our goal is to increase attendance from 25 to 40 each Sunday. Right now I'm asking each person to think of one person that you could invite to church. Just one. If each of us did that we would exceed our goal for attendance. Live your faith and share your faith this year.





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