

# God's Field

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



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### The Way to Jesus

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

As we approach the end of the Lenten season this year we focus on two of the miracle stories within the Gospel of St. John. On the Fourth Sunday of Lent we hear the miracle of the healing of the man born blind and on the Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) we hear the Gospel of the raising of Lazarus. First we note that within these Gospel passages, John never actually uses the word 'miracle,' rather he always refers to these actions of Jesus as 'signs.' In fact oftentimes this entire section of the Gospel of St. John is referred to as the 'Book of Signs,' since Jesus does many works of power throughout this entire portion of the Gospel from chapter 2 until chapter 11.

Now as we reflect on the concept of a sign, we know that the purpose of a sign is always to point us to something else or to give us information. When we are driving, the road signs point us to where we need to go or they give us information about the conditions of the journey ahead. The same is true whenever we encounter signs within our daily lives. These 'signs' within the Gospel of John are always acts of power which point the way to Jesus and give us information regarding the works and action of our Lord in the world and among His people.

In the first 'sign' of the healing of the man born blind, Jesus helps us to make this connection Himself

in what He says. At the end of the Gospel passage Jesus addresses those around Him, especially the Pharisees, when He says: "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind. Some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard this and said to Him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, we see, so your sin remains.'" (John 9:39-41) Jesus shows here that the issue is not the physical blindness of this man, who He healed, but more importantly the spiritual blindness that afflicts many more, and also has much higher stakes.

In particular within this entire Gospel passage, we see the man born blind, once he is healed from his physical blindness begin to grasp in an ever fuller way the reality of Who Jesus really is. Following the physical 'sign' of restoring sight, the spiritual blindness is then removed.

We see this progression throughout the passage in the comments of the man who was healed. His statements begin in a rather plain way, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.'" (John 9:11a) But his confession grows when the Pharisees ask the man,

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**Email Addresses  
for the  
P.N.C.C. Office**

The email addresses for the staff of the National Church Center and God’s Field are:

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky  
pbmikovsky@pncc.org

Secretary to Prime Bishop—Julie Orzell  
secretarytopb@pncc.org

P.N.C.C. Treasurer—Joan Scheuneman  
executive03@pnu.org

God’s Field– Rola Boża Editor—Julie Orzell  
secretarytopb@pncc.org

Questions or concerns? Call us at 570-346-9131 or 570-346-2125.

**God’s Field — Rola Boża  
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**CONTROLLER:**

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky  
1006 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505

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“What do you have to say about Him, since He opened your eyes?” The healed man says: “He is a prophet.” (John 9:17) As the interaction continues, the confession grows when the healed man confronts the Pharisees, saying, “It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He would not be able to do anything.” (John 9:33) And lastly when the healed man encounters Jesus face to face the Gospel of John gives an extremely powerful confession. Jesus asks, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” and the healed man answers, “‘I do believe, Lord,’ and he worshipped Him.” (John 9:35b, 38)

A similar thing happens in the miracle or ‘sign’ of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. While it is easy to focus all of our attention on Lazarus himself as the recipient of this miracle, we must also take account of Mary and Martha as they grow in faith and belief in our Lord Jesus Christ. After Lazarus had died, both Mary and Martha say to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.” (John 11:21, 32). They know that Jesus is a miracle worker, but assume that there are also some limitations.

This confession increases when Jesus speaks to Martha concerning the resurrection, saying, “Your brother will rise,” and Martha responds, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.” (John 11:24) Finally, the confession of faith in Christ comes to its fullest when Jesus proclaims, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me, even if he die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.” (John 11:25-26) It is Martha’s answer to the question, “Do you believe this?” that shows us that this ‘sign’ is given for the increase of faith. Martha responds, “Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, the One Who is coming into the world.” (John 11:27)

While it is important for us to realize the acts of power that Jesus can perform in the passages about these ‘signs,’ it is also vital for us to see and contemplate the effects of these ‘signs’ and especially that they point us to a growing faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In the Gospel passage about the man

born blind, it is the same person who receives the healing, who then grows in faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. The Gospel uses strong words here when it states that the healed man, not only acknowledged Jesus, but in fact, “worshipped Him.” (John 9:38b)

In the Gospel passage concerning the raising of Lazarus from the dead, it is another, Martha, who comes to a fullness of faith when she states, “You are the Messiah, the Son of God.” (John 11:27) We can also imagine that following this confession, when many others witnessed the miracle or ‘sign’ of Jesus actually raising Lazarus from the dead, they too would come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God. We even hear this concern in the Pharisees who quickly report to the Sanhedrin, saying, “This Man performs many signs. If we leave Him alone, all will believe in Him.” (John 11:47b-48a)

My brothers and sisters, as we will soon come to Holy Week where we will enter ever more strongly into the retelling of the suffering, Passion and Death of Jesus Christ, let us remember these ‘signs’ and take to heart their message. They are given to us to help us grow in faith and trust in Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God. Let us also realize that as we liturgically walk with our Lord in Holy Week, these events, too, within His life are ‘signs’ pointing to how we can more fully integrate our own life into the life of our Lord. Within the P.N.C.C. Prayer Book we pray in the “Prayer Before Holy Mass”: “May the Sacraments I will receive, the prayers I will say and the hymns I will sing bring me closer to Jesus and help me to be more like Him in all that I say and do.”

May the remainder of this Lenten season, with its disciplines of prayer, fasting and giving, allow us to more fully focus on our Lord. May the Gospel passages we encounter, and especially the liturgies of the upcoming Holy Week, allow us to fully unite with our Lord prayerfully and sacramentally. Let all of the ‘signs’ of this Lenten season allow us to acknowledge that we believe in Jesus and confess that He is the Messiah, the Son of God. And allow this confession to help us to be more like Him in all that we say and do.



**P.N.C.C. Future Direction**  
**March 2023**  
**The Signing of the Declaration of the Scranton**  
**as a Witness to Unity**

### **Introduction**

As we continue with our reflections for the Future Direction program of the Polish National Catholic Church, this month we reflect on the third 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, a highlight of this time together in prayer and work was accomplished when Bishop Ottar Myrseth of the Nordic Catholic Church officially signed the Declaration of Scranton. This took place at Holy Mass when he was surrounded by all the other Bishops of the Union of Scranton gathered to concelebrate Holy Mass.

### **Scripture**

1 Corinthians 1:10 – Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.

### **Reflection**

When all the Bishops of the Polish National Catholic Church gathered in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist for the beginning of the Holy Synod, we had the great pleasure of joining with the Bishops of the Nordic Catholic Church in Scandinavia, Bishop Roald Flemestad and the most recently consecrated Bishop Ottar Myrseth.

In 2012, the Union of Scranton was officially inaugurated when Bishop Roald Flemestad, the elected candidate for the Nordic Catholic Church was consecrated at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA. The Declaration of Scranton, together with supporting information and the Statutes of the Union of Scranton, put forward in 2008, were developed in an effort to build unity among faithful Catholics throughout Europe who desired to join with the Polish National Catholic Church. Since that time every bishop of the Union of Scranton, presently either the Polish National Catholic Church or the Nordic Catholic Church, must assent to this Profession of Faith at the time of their consecration.

Because of the Covid Pandemic, the consecration of Bishop Ottar Myrseth was held in Oslo, Norway, since he could not travel to the US to be consecrated together with Bishop Jarosław Rafalko at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA. At his consecration, Bishop Myrseth assented to the Declaration of Scranton, but gathered together with all of the bishops at our General Synod, he finally signed the official document.

This Declaration stands for the bishops, as well as for the Churches that they oversee, a point of unity in catholic faith and catholic discipline. In attesting to this Declaration, we also unite ourselves with the undivided church of the first centuries in adhering “to the Rule of Faith laid down by St. Vincent of Lerins in these terms: We hold that which has been believed everywhere, always and of all people: for that is truly and properly Catholic.” The Declaration goes further to explain how this is expressed within the life of the Church: “For this reason we persevere in professing the faith of the primitive Church, as formulated in the ecumenical symbols and specified precisely by the unanimously accepted decisions of the Ecumenical Councils held in the undivided Church of the first thousand years.”

As we witness this strong expression of Church unity among the Bishops of the Union of Scranton, we also pray and work that others seeking unity with this expression of the catholic faith may come and join with us. It is with this in mind that we embark upon the ecumenical work of the Church. The Polish National Catholic Church meets in dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church as well as the continuing Anglicans within the United States. The Nordic Catholic Church has a number of outreaches including to disaffected Catholics throughout Europe and some Orthodox groups as well. Through all of these interactions we seek to grow in unity and especially to show forth to the world the faith which was handed on to the Church by our Lord Jesus

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## **LORD, I am not worthy.**

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

Just before we receive Holy Communion we engage in a declaration. The Priest, or Bishop will say:

*I will take the Bread of Heaven and call upon the name of the Lord.* (Contemporary Rite) or  
*Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world.* (Traditional and Hodur Rite)

We respond (in all Rites): *Lord, I am not worthy to receive You, but only say the word and I shall be healed.*

As members of the Polish National Catholic Church, we should immediately harken to foundational scripture. A Roman Centurion, the commander of one hundred (centurion, century, centennial all having the same root) approaches Jesus in relation to his servant who was very sick (Matthew 8:5-13). Jesus says He will go with the Centurion immediately, and the Centurion makes a great statement of faith: ‘*Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed.*’ (Matthew 8:8)

Jesus speaks of the Centurion’s faith saying: ‘*Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith.*’ (Matthew 8:10)

We easily recognize the fact that the Centurion should not have had faith in Jesus. He was, to get to the rank he had, at least outwardly a believer in the Roman pantheon of gods. Yet here he stood. His motivation, the healing of his servant. The impetus, knowledge of Jesus and all Jesus could do. We could say the Centurion was pragmatic – he dealt with what was right in front of him: facts, figures, strategies, orders. Yet he had to go beyond all that in recognizing God’s power in Jesus. The Centurion had to make a leap of faith in going to this Jewish Rabbi – Jesus. This was way outside his wheelhouse. It was the realm of pure faith.

This Lent, these facts should help inform our journey. We may be very pragmatic in everyday life – but we cannot leave it there, we need to make a leap of faith. We may think we have all things well organized, but, our eternal life is not yet settled, we must go to Jesus and seek His healing, His grace, His strength so to walk the gospel path more diligently, to do His will. Our faith must be as resolute as that of the Centurion.

In the centuries that have elapsed, the Church has taken the Centurion’s statement and has made it self-referential. We speak it knowing we are going to receive Jesus and admitting our unworthiness. We come before Jesus humbled while acknowledging His perfect gift to us, His abiding presence within us as we say Amen, Yes, I receive You.

There is one more aspect we easily overlook in saying the words: *Lord, I am not worthy.* It is this – that we are referring to the Lord by name and speaking to Him in the most intimate of ways.

If we look at Scripture, we find three different renderings of the word Lord. There is lord, Lord, and LORD.

When we see the word “lord,” written in all lower-case letters, it is the Hebrew word *adon* and referring to humans means “lord” or “master,” one who has authority over another. In our example of the Centurion, he would be one who could be referred to as lord.

When the Hebrew scriptures refer to God, the first letter is written in upper-case as translated Lord. It may be a bit confusing, but the Hebrew word Adonai translated as “Lord,” doesn’t exactly mean “Lord.” Rather, it is a plural form of *adon*. All other references to God are in plural Hebrew words including *Elohiym* (literally meaning “powers”) and *Shaddai* (relating to mountains). The word *Adonai* (a plural word) is another name used for God that literally means “my lords.”

But... when the word “lord” is written in all upper-case letters as LORD, the Hebrew behind this rendering is actual name of God, “YHWH,” which we render Yahweh.

Thinking through this, our response to ‘*call upon the name of the Lord*’ in our declaration ‘*Lord, I am not worthy*’ is the Centurion, and thus us, calling on the actual name of God. We call God by name, to enter us, to come to us even in our unworthiness, and to heal us.

As we continue to reflect this Lent, let us recognize the intimate relationship we have with God in Jesus. Let us say yes to the fact that He can and will heal us of our sin if we ask Him to. Let us be both humble and faith filled in our declaration. Let us make that leap of faith that moves us from where we are to someplace truly extraordinary – life in Jesus.

Are you ready to make that leap of faith, to enter into relationship with the God you can call by name, and offer Him to your brothers and sisters as a priest or deacon in our Holy Church? Then take the step God is directing you to take by Step up today by calling or texting me at 518-522-0944 or by E-mailing me at [frjim@holynamenc.org](mailto:frjim@holynamenc.org), You can also get info so you can join in on our monthly Zoom meeting.

## Forgotten Patriot: Prime Bishop Franciszek Hodur

By Rev. Dr. Stan Jasiurkowski New Jersey, USA)

16 February 2023

Bishop Franciszek (Francis) Hodur is well known among the members of the Polish National Catholic Church as its organizer, visionary, patriot, and charismatic leader. He dedicated his time and effort to preserving the catholic faith and Polish heritage among immigrants in the United States and Canada. Bishop Hodur had a unique gift of not only practicing his faith, but also inspiring others to love God, and to love our neighbors, especially those poorest in our society, and build the Kingdom of God without forgetting about our earthly fatherland – Poland. This amazing spiritual leader and patriot seems to be forgotten by the current Polonia. Therefore, it is just right and appropriate to remind us of this exceptional individual and spiritual leader, who has changed the course of our Polish-American history, on the 70th anniversary of his passing.

The beginnings of this spiritual and intellectual giant can be traced back to Poland, then non-existing on the European map, to a little village of Zarki, approximately 35 miles from Krakow, where he was born on April 1, 1866, as a son of Jan and Maria Hodur. Life in the Austrian-ruled part of Poland, called Galicia, was difficult for most Poles. The same daily struggle was part of the Hodur's life. The parents of future Bishop Franciszek were very hardworking and religious individuals who supported their family of seven children by working on a small farm and through Jan's part-time job as a village tailor. Young Franciszek started his education at ten at his village school and finished it as an excellent student at thirteen. He already desired to become a priest then. Therefore, Franciszek continued his education at the prestigious St. Anne Gymnasium in Krakow, which he finished in 1889. During his school years, he rented a room, but lived in very difficult conditions, supporting himself just by tutoring other students. Although he was extremely intelligent and talented, being a poor peasant's child, Hodur had to endure bullying and humiliation from other students and teachers which left a permanent mark on his psyche [Kubiak 1982].

After completing the secondary school, Franciszek entered the Krakow Theological Seminary and began his academic endeavor in the Department of Theology at Jagiellonian University. Besides his academic studies, Hodur extensively immersed himself in readings that fluctuated from the newly issued social encyclical *Rerum Novarum* of Pope Leo XIII, to some of the socialist thinkers. The seminarian Hodur also became a passionate follower of the activist Father Stanislaw Stojalowski and got involved in a student group promoting Stojalowski's program for peasant rights — educational and economic.

Hodur studied for three years, passed all the required course exams with a *summa cum laude* degree, and received minor clerical orders. However, for some uncertain reasons, he resigned from the seminary in Krakow and emigrated to the United States. There is no evidence that he was a member of any organized movement which would have gotten him into problems with religious or civil authorities. Some historians point out his involvement in a seminary "strike" for better living conditions improvement that could have been perceived as an act of insubordination by the Church authorities. [Kubiak 1982; Wiczerzak 1983; Wlodarski 1974].

Upon arrival in New York in 1893 and with the help of Fr. Benvenuto Gramlewicz of Nanticoke, PA, Hodur was accepted to the Scranton Diocese and the Seminary at St. Vincent's Benedictine Archabbey. After several months, he was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest by Bishop William O'Hara on August 19, 1893. Fr. Hodur was assigned to the ethnically Polish congregation of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish in Scranton, PA. He immediately became famous among Polish immigrants as a patriot, enthusiastic propagator of Polish literature, organizer, and civic leader fighting for the rights of those oppressed, exploited, and persecuted, especially coal miners and factory workers. Therefore, Fr. Hodur was called the "people's priest." In 1895, Bishop O'Hara transferred Fr. Hodur to Nanticoke, PA as the pastor of Holy Trinity Parish where he continued to be a "people's priest" organizing cultural, educational, and religious activities. He also encouraged parishioners to join the Polish National Alliance and the Alliance of Polish Youth.

Fr. Hodur was equally shocked by the starvation wages of the coal miners and factory workers, as by the heartlessness of some of his clergy colleagues who extorted fees and donations from their parishioners threatening them with the withholding of sacraments or Christian burial, or with hell, to name a few. In some parishes, the administration of finances by their pastors was not transparent and created unnecessary tensions. This was the exact situation between Fr. Aust, the pastor of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish in Scranton, PA, and the parish committee. After several attempts by the committee to control parish finances and establish transparency in 1896, around 700 parishioners gathered to prevent Fr. Aust from celebrating Mass. At the

request of Fr. Aust, police brutally intervened, severely wounding a few people and arresting some, including three women [Kubiak 1982]. After this incident, the parish committee decided to leave the parish and build a new church.

The Polish immigrants started organizing a new St. Stanislaus church and invited — without the bishop's approval — the "people's priest," Fr. Franciszek Hodur, to be their spiritual guide. He accepted the call, left Nanticoke, and returned to Scranton. Initially, the building committee had Bishop O'Hara's consent for the new construction and there was nothing against the Roman Catholic tradition. However, a change in the goals and the radicalization of the movement took place when the diocesan bishop retracted his consent to consecrate the church. The creators of the parish decided to send Fr. Hodur to Rome to present their petition to Pope Leo XIII. They petitioned for a Polish bishop, autonomy in parish affairs, and possessing of a title of ownership to consecrated objects by parish committee [Kubiak 1982]. The answer to the petition was negative, and on October 2, 1898, Fr. Hodur and the parishioners of St. Stanislaus were ex-communicated. Formally, this is considered to be the beginning of the Polish National Catholic Church. Nonetheless, it is assumed that the church existed from March 14, 1897, the day of the general assembly in the St. Stanislaus church hall.

The first step of the new religious movement was the replacement of Latin with the Polish language in the liturgy. Fr. Hodur desired to prepare immigrants for a future free Poland, as well as to defend their social, cultural, and economic interests while they were living in the United States. To be effective in these efforts, he decided to unify Polish independent organizations and independent parishes. The first attempt took place in 1904, and the Synod I of national and independent parishes was called to Scranton, PA, including Bishop Kozlowski (Polish Catholic Church) and Bishop Kaminski (independent). After Synod I, the charismatic leader, Fr. Hodur was elected bishop and the constitution of the church was adopted. Fr. Franciszek Hodur was consecrated as bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.) at the hands of a representative of the church of the Union of Utrecht (the Old Catholic church) on October 29, 1907. [Wieczerzak 1983] From this time on, an autonomous Catholic church begins its full existence by having a bishop with an unquestionable Apostolic Succession.

Bishop Hodur, among other things, introduced very transparent rules for church administration, including that the church estate be administered by the church committee elected by the parishioners, properly approved, supervised by the priest, and answerable to the general assembly representing the majority of the parishioners. Additionally, the ownership of the church property rested in the hands of the parishioners and all arrangements in the church had to be done through an elective process. Successive General Synods of the Church solidified the democratic character of the P.N.C.C., leading to its current organizational form. It is why the P.N.C.C. is called a Catholic and democratic Church.

The emphasis on serving the Fatherland was not merely a cheap declaration of Bishop Hodur. It materialized itself in the pastoral programs of the P.N.C.C. and his engagements in organizations supporting independent movements. As an example, I will mention that Bishop Hodur had to work hard due to the opposition of the Roman Catholic clergy to ensure that P.N.C.C. had representation at the Convention of the Committee of National Defense in Chicago in 1913. [Kubiak 1982] Six years later, Bishop Hodur proposed in Buffalo, NY, to obtain a loan of twenty million dollars to help in rebuilding Poland after it regained its independence. He also introduced other initiatives to strengthen the spirit of patriotism among Polonia. One of them was the introduction of national holidays in the P.N.C.C. liturgical calendar, e.g., the holiday of the Polish Fatherland introduced by the General Synod in 1921 and celebrated on the second Sunday in May.

As mentioned before, he sanctified the national culture and the Polish language by introducing them into liturgy seventy years before the Roman Catholic Church did. It was decided on December 16, 1900, at St. Stanislaus in Scranton, to use the Polish language in the liturgy, and the first mass in Polish, the Midnight Mass, was celebrated by Hodur on December 24, 1901.

Bishop Hodur placed a very strong emphasis on the cultivation of Polish literature and Renaissance thinkers in every P.N.C.C. parish. As a result, all parishes in the U.S. established Slowacki, Mickiewicz, Krasinski, or Konopnicka societies which helped in raising the new generation of Polish-Americans in the spirit of patriotism. Throughout his life, Bishop Hodur remained focused on the social well-being of all hard-working people in coal mines, factories, and other establishments. In 1908 the P.N.C.C. faithful started organizing and, in 1909, established the Polish National Union, "Spójnia," as a fraternal aid organization providing death benefits, insurance policies, establishing nursing homes, Polish schools, reading rooms, and scholarships for all

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## 70th Anniversary of the Death of Bishop Hodur Commemorated

St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA

A Requiem Mass to mark the 70th Anniversary of Organizer and First Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.), Franciszek Hodur's Death (February 16, 1953), was celebrated on February 16, 2023, at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA.



**John Andrzejewski, CFO Polish National Union of America; Rev. Janusz Lucarz, Assistant Pastor of St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish; Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop, P.N.C.C.; Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Administrator of the Central Diocese, P.N.C.C. and Pastor of St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish; Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Administrative Senior of the Scranton Seniorate, P.N.C.C. and Pastor of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA**

(Forgotten Patriot - Prime Bishop Franciszek Hodur - Continued from Page 7.)

students at every level of education. The Union also supported the church in its charitable, educational, and national activities.

Prime Bishop Franciszek Hodur died on February 16, 1953, in Scranton, PA. He witnessed the P.N.C.C. grow from a single congregation of 250 families to 150 parishes in the United States and Canada, and 95 in Poland. This charismatic leader will be always remembered as a protector of the abused, the organizer of a new religious movement, and an incredible patriot loving his Fatherland, Poland, wholeheartedly. Prime Bishop Hodur, during his entire life, fearlessly spread God's love, equality, and justice, within the realm of the people's hearts.

Rev. Dr. Stan Jasiurkowski  
New Jersey, USA

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## Church Doctrine Commission Meets

National Church Center, Scranton, PA

The Church Doctrine Commission of the Polish National Catholic Church met at the National Church Center in Scranton, PA, on March 7—8, 2023. The Church Doctrine Commission is made up of the bishops of the P.N.C.C., and those who are able to conduct serious theological work to develop teachings for various theological, ethical or moral positions of the Church. The Commission also conducts research and produces position papers on various topics of faith, morals and discipline



**Church Doctrine Commission members present for the March 2023 meeting:** Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Administrator of the Central Diocese, P.N.C.C.; Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the P.N.C.C. and Administrator of the Canadian Diocese, P.N.C.C.; Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw (Jerry) Rafalko, Bishop of the Western Diocese, P.N.C.C.; Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese, P.N.C.C.; Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Administrative Senior of the Scranton Seniorate, P.N.C.C. (Central Diocese); Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr., Administrative Senior of the NE Seniorate of the Eastern Diocese, P.N.C.C.; Rev. Dr. Scott J. Lill, Pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Lily, PA (Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese). Absent from photo: Rt. Rev. John Mack, Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, P.N.C.C.; Rev. Joseph Cyman, Pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Woodland Park, NJ (Central Diocese); Rev. Dr. Henryk Wos, Pastor of Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI (Eastern Diocese)



## God be in my thinking – Mainz in February 2023

Bishop Roald Nikolai Flemestad

*Mainzer Dom (Moguntiner/CC BY-SA)*



During the weekend of February 10-12th, the International Theological Conference of the Union of Scranton convened in Mainz, for the second time hosted by the Nordic Catholic Church in Germany. The theme was “God be in my thinking – The intellectual background of the secularization”, following up on the proceedings from the conference in 2020. Also this year, the conference was held at the Conference Center of the Roman Catholic Diocese in Mainz, Erbacher Hof, located in close vicinity of the Cathedral.

Around 20 laypeople and clergy from Germany, Italy, the USA, Ireland and Norway participated in lectures and discussions, divine offices, Mass celebration and social talks about the current challenges. The next step will be to communicate thoughts and plans to clergy and laity within our churches and ecumenical dialogue partners.

The Western Christian churches are today facing an increasingly aggressive Gnosticism, much like the first Christians. We need to deepen our understanding of this challenge and do as we are exhorted by St. Peter: “Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts! Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” (1 Peter 3:15).

The conference theme was presented and debated in the light of five main lectures, as follows:

“Marx’ idea of a ‘new man’” (Roald N. Flemestad, via zoom from Oslo)

“The gender issue” (Ottar M. Myrseth)

“Keeping the faith in a hostile culture, inspiration from D. Bonhoeffer” (John Needham)

“A way forward from the present crisis” (Jeremy Boccabello)

“To discover Ecumenical Imagination in a Post Church World” (Kevin Donlon)



Organizational and practical cooperation issues were on the agenda, and local programs and plans from several countries were exchanged. This was also an occasion for presentations of gifts. Bishop Ottar Myrseth gave a copy of the newly printed Scandinavian Missal to Archbishop Anthony Mikovsky, while the Secretary General of the Union of Scranton, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, handed over a photo to Fr. Daniel Gerte, as Vicar General of the German administration, presenting the bishops of the Scranton Union gathered at the General Synod in Scranton in October 2022.

Laudes on Saturday was celebrated in the Gotthard Chapel of the cathedral, all other offices and Sunday Mass in the chapel of Conference Center. Celebrant on Sunday was Vicar General Daniel Gerte and homilist was Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky.





***National United Women's Societies for the  
Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament  
of the Polish National Catholic Church***

## CALL TO CONVENTION - 2023

The 29<sup>th</sup> Convention of the National United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Polish National Catholic Church will convene on Friday, May 19, 2023, through Sunday, May 21, 2023, at Holy Trinity Polish National Catholic Church, Plantsville, Connecticut.

The Convention agenda will include the election of the Society's National Board of Directors for the next four-year term, business reporting from the last four years, religious services and our keynote speaker, Victoria Triano. Society members may submit a topic or issue for discussion during the business portion of the Convention. These requests must be submitted in writing to the National Board President no later than March 31, 2023. Convention packets have been emailed to all societies. The packet includes nomination forms for Board of Director positions.

Registration deadline for all elected delegates, clergy, and accompanying guests is April 19, 2023. Please submit completed registration forms and fees to Sally Watson as indicated on the registration form.

For accommodation during the proceedings, a limited number of rooms have been reserved at the Courtyard by Marriott in Southington, CT. Hotel reservations and payment are the responsibility of each attendee, however when making your reservation at the Courtyard by Marriott use the name "Holy Trinity Church" to receive our established group rate. The deadline for booking a reservation is 3pm EST on April 19, 2023.

The National Board of Directors is looking forward to meeting with many of our "Sisters in Christ" as we gather from all Dioceses and is especially grateful to the Eastern Diocese and Holy Trinity Church for hosting the Convention. Please plan to join us and to participate in the decisions impacting our Society both now and in the future.

May the Peace and Blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

With Sisterly Love,

*Cheryl Weinhold*

Cheryl Weinhold  
National Board President  
[caw429@hotmail.com](mailto:caw429@hotmail.com)

## 29<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION

### *National United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Polish National Catholic Church*

May 19, 2023 – May 21, 2023

Holy Trinity Polish National Catholic Church  
200 Summer Street, Plantsville, CT 06479

## Registration/Mandate Form

DELEGATE

CLERGY

GUEST

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Email is required. This is how you will receive your Convention Packet.*

If Delegate is checked above, named individual is a member in good standing of the National United Women's Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Polish National Catholic Church

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Society President Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

and has duly been elected as a delegate -or- is attending as a guest/clergy  
(circle one of the above) to this convention.

**Registration Fee: \$40** (make checks payable to "ED-ANS")

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form and fee to the Registration Committee as follows:

Sally Watson  
15 Sherman Avenue  
Lincoln, RI 02865  
Email: sallywatson75@gmail.com

\*\* Registration Deadline: April 19, 2023

## ***HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS***

Call or click the link below to reserve your hotel room for the  
29<sup>th</sup> National Convention  
May 19, 2023 – May 21, 2023

Courtyard by Marriott  
1081 West Street  
Southington, CT 06489  
PH: 860-620-1100

Book your group rate for Holy Trinity Church Block

**Reservations must be made no later than 3pm EST on 04/19/2023 to  
guarantee the group rate.**

### **Hotel Amenities:**

Check In: 4:00pm EST  
High-Speed Internet Access  
Complimentary On-Site Parking

Check Out: 11:00am EST  
Complimentary Public Area

### **Room Rates:**

Standard King w/Pullout Sofa	\$149.00/night
Standard Queen w/Two Beds	\$159.00/night

All room rates are subject to 15% local sales tax and occupancy taxes.

A limited block of rooms has been reserved for our convention attendees. If calling to make your reservation, please be certain to ask for a room under the name of Holy Trinity Church to ensure the quoted room rate.

**Reserve today – rooms are limited!**

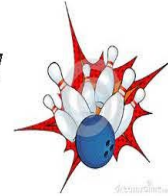
## United Y.M.S. of R. National Events for 2023

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.



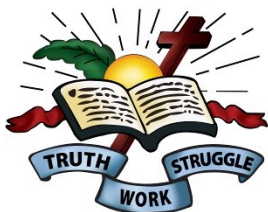
- **Fall 2023- Y.M.S. of R. Convention** - Branch 27, Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT.



- 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.”



**“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

(Continued on Page 16)

(Continued from Page 15.)

**“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. Jaroslav Nowak.*  
 2 :30 - 2:45 pm – Small Group Share  
 3 - 4 pm – Session V - External Mission - *Bp Jaroslav 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





**Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese**

**From the Diocesan Bishop  
of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese**

According to Article IX, Section 3 of the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church, the Rev. Adam Kotas is suspended as a priest of the Polish National Catholic Church as of February 7, 2023.

As a suspended priest, Adam Kotas is removed from the ranks of the active clergy of the Church and is not allowed to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of Mass nor administer any sacraments within any parish of the P.N.C.C.

Rt. Rev. John E. Mack  
Bishop Ordinary  
Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

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**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.

**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

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Central Diocese

### Winter Clothing Drive at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish Scranton, PA

Branch #1 Y.M.S. of R. would like to thank everyone who donated to the United Y.M.S. of R. Winter Clothing Drive at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish.

There were many bags dropped off and many items of clothing in each bag. The items were counted by Frank and Nick Gerardi. The totals: 39 coats; 75 sweaters/sweatshirts; 22 pairs of pants; 149 shirts/t-shirts; 6 winter hats; 15 pairs of gloves; 28 pairs of underwear; 8 under shirts; and 74 pairs of socks. Other items were 2 pairs of slippers; 8 scarves; 2 blankets and 1 winter face covering. Our grand total was 3,280 points.

All items were donated to the local Salvation Army, dropped off by Frank and Jake Gerardi. Even if the Parish doesn't place in the contest, we can be proud that we are helping those in need in our community. Again, thank you!



### Music Scholarship Sunday at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish Scranton, PA

On Sunday, January 29th, Music Scholarship Sunday is celebrated throughout the P.N.C.C. The Cathedral Parish is happy to announce that two of their parishioners, Kaitlyn Gingerlowski and Leslie Doyle, have received a Music Scholarship from the program to assist in their musical pursuits.

At the beginning of Sunday Mass, Leslie addressed the parishioners on the advantages of singing in a church choir and what the music ministry at St. Stanislaus Parish has meant to her. Becky Elfman, the Cathedral organist and music director, then presented both Leslie and Kaitlyn with their certificates and small gifts from the Cathedral Chorale.

During Mass Kaitlyn, on her violin, accompanied the Chorale on their anthem *When In Our Music God Is Glorified* and concluded the service with the Postlude, *Sonata in F Major - 3. Allegro* by G. F. Handel.

Kaitlyn is pursuing a degree in Music Therapy at Marywood University. A talented violinist, Kaitlyn has played on several occasions at the Cathedral.

Leslie is a member of the Cathedral Chorale and has also accompanied the choir on her guitar. She is using her scholarship toward guitar lessons.

Please be as generous as you are able in supporting the Music Scholarship Program and the Music Ministry of your parishes. Applications for 2023 scholarships are currently available at [nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com](http://nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com). The deadline for applying is May 1, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact the Scholarship Administrator at [nucscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:nucscholarship@gmail.com).



Kaitlyn Gingerlowski, Leslie Doyle and Becky Elfman

## A Scout Is Reverent

by Leon Stankowski

The Boy Scouts of America was founded on February 8, 1910, and Scouts BSA designates the Sunday that falls on or before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday. It is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. However, as was the case at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish in Scranton, PA, each chartered organization (Troop or Pack) can adopt a specific Sunday to celebrate, or a pastor or congregation can choose the Sunday most acceptable to them. In 2023, St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish celebrated this event on February 12.

St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish hosts Boy Scout Troop 42 and Cub Scout Pack 42, and both meet on Wednesday evenings in the lower level of the Cathedral Youth Center. Their youth and leaders have returned the favor and shown their appreciation by helping in various ways, including the Spring Cleanup at the Y.M.S. of R. Park in Moosic, PA, and as waitstaff at the last parish Breakfast with Santa. Participating in this year's Scout Sunday service were Pack 42's Danny and Matthew King, Luke Golembeski, Lawson Price and Cubmaster Dan King; and Troop 42 Scoutmaster Anthony Polster.

Also joining the service were St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish parishioners from Pleasant Mount Pack and Troop 407: Joshua, Ryan, Terra and Lorne Notari – all who serve in various committee and leadership roles, including Cubmaster, Assistant Cubmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters and others too numerous to list; and from Clarks Summit Troop 160: Austin, Ethan, and Lucas Stankowski, and Troop Committee members/leaders Jo Ann and Leon (Mac) Stankowski.

Any boy or girl can join a Cub Scout Pack starting in kindergarten, or a Scout Troop starting at age 10 1/2. Scouting builds character and opens a world of opportunity for all involved. For example, Lorne and his sons have been on multiple week-long camping trips at Camp Wall in St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, and last summer the Stankowski boys completed a week-long backpacking trip at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM.

More information on opportunities can be found on your local council websites.



**First Row: Danny King; Luke Golembeski; Lawson Price; Matthew King**  
**Second Row: Anthony Polster; Lucas Stankowski; Ethan Stankowski; Austin Stankowski; Mac Stankowski; Dan King**  
**Third Row: Terra Notari; Lorne Notari; Ryan Notari; Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki; Joshua Notari; Jo Ann Stankowski**



## Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Activities

### Dupont, PA

Scout Sunday was celebrated at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish on Sunday, February 5, 2023. Scouts and Leaders recited the "On my Honor" pledge. The ceremony was concluded with a prayer offered for God's blessing upon scouts.

Holy Moly of Sorrows Parish and parishioners were recognized for their help, volunteerism and dedication to Meals on Wheels of Greater Pittston by receiving a certificate of appreciation. Our Parish organizes food drives, provides our facilities and helps this organization throughout the year.



**Front:** Merrit Nash, John Orluk Jr., Alex Orluk  
**Rear:** Myles Nash, Very Zbigniew Dawid, Joseph Azaravich, Mary Azaravich



**Dorothy Kishel, Joyce Jopling, Debbie Fritz, Lois McHugh**

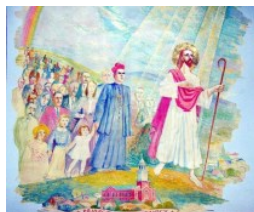
The Annual Parish Meeting of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA, was held on Sunday, February 26, 2023 at the Parish Hall. Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor, administered an oath of office to the elected parish officers.

**Seated:** Rose Kazinetz, Board Member and Scranton Seniorate Council Representative; Susan Baldan, Recording Secretary; Paul Kaspriskie, Jr., Parish Committee Chair; Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor; Paul Kazinetz, Jr., Parish Committee Vice Chair and Scranton Seniorate Council Representative; Lois McHugh, Parish Committee Treasurer and Alternate Scranton Seniorate Council Representative; David Petrosky, Jr., Parish Committee Financial Secretary and Alternate Scranton Seniorate Council Representative

**Standing:** Jeff Baldan, Parish Tribunal Member; Atty. Heather Kazinetz, Auditor; Al Micka, Parish Committee Member and Scranton Seniorate Council Representative; Atty. Andrew Shumlas, Parish Committee Member; Angelo Conforti, Sr., Parish Committee Board Member; Nick Kazinetz, Parish Tribunal Member; Debbie Bilinski, Parish Tribunal Member; Wanda Stash, Auditor; Carl Cwikla, Parish Committee Member

**Absent from photo:** Carol Bondurich, Parish Committee Member; David Fritz, Jr., Auditor

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid.



## † sp. David J. Petrosky



David J. Petrosky, 88, of Covington Township, passed away after an illness early Monday morning, March 6, 2023 at Regional Hospital in Scranton, PA.

Born in Dupont, PA, he was the son of the late Josephine Mayhoff Petrosky. Graduating from Dupont High School, he worked as a weighmaster at Valley View Coal Company before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He was honorably discharged in 1954 after obtaining the rank of Corporal.

After returning to civilian life, David married the love of his life, Rosemary (Liberasky), and they moved to Bridgeport, CT, both working at Sikorsky Aircraft, while he attained a bachelor's degree at Southern Connecticut University and a master's degree at Fairfield University. He then began teaching history at the Trumbull School District. David and his wife moved to Hackettstown, NJ, where he was a Guidance Counselor and football coach, before returning to their roots in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

He began working at the Lackawanna County School Board, before moving to the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). While working for PHEAA, he attended Marywood University for his master's in education and then Lehigh University for his Pennsylvania School Superintendents Certification. In addition, he was a school board member at the North Pocono School District. David then transferred to the newly created Northeastern Intermediate Unit 19, where he served as Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Director of Special Education and finally as Executive Director before retiring in 1998. His retirement was short-lived, as David was asked to temporarily take up the mantle as Superintendent of Schools at both Montrose Area and North Pocono School Districts.

Continuing to serve his community, David was past chairman and member of the Board of Supervisors of Covington Township for over 20 years. He was a devoted member of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont and the Polish National Catholic Church, serving on its Supreme Council for 36 years. He was also a long-time member of the Central Diocesan Council, a director of the Polish National Union of America and a member until his death of the Parish Committee of Holy Mother of Sorrows and Y.M.S. of R. Branch 2. David also served on the Board of Directors of Spójnia, Inc. spending much time and effort in the care of Spójnia Farm and the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center.

David is survived by his son, David M. Petrosky, daughter Deborah Bilinski, two grandchildren, Joshua and Hannah Bilinski, sister Janet Koshinski, brother and sister-in-law, The Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki and Dr. Barbara Nowicki, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Rosemary Petrosky, his son-in-law The Rt. Rev Stanley Bilinski, sister and brother in laws, Helen and Stanley Knick, Jean and Edgar Kopcza, and the Very Rev. Leonard Koshinski.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, March 11, at St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA. Interment was at Holy Mother of Sorrows Cemetery in Dupont, PA.

In lieu of flowers, due to the Lenten season, please consider making a memorial contribution in David's name to the Clergy Pension Fund of the Polish National Catholic Church, 1006 Pittston Ave, Scranton, PA 18505.



## Eastern Diocese

### 50th Annual Eastern Diocesan Youth Retreat to be Held at Camp Berea Hebron, NH

The 50<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Retreat of our Eastern Diocese will be held from the afternoon of Monday, August 21 through the morning of August 24, 2023 at Camp Berea in Hebron, NH.

The theme of our retreat this year is *“Through the Years”*. This year all our sessions will be small group based on age, hands-on and interactive. We have planned an exciting time of worship, prayer, learning, recreational activities at the lake and camp, a camp fire, community service and more.

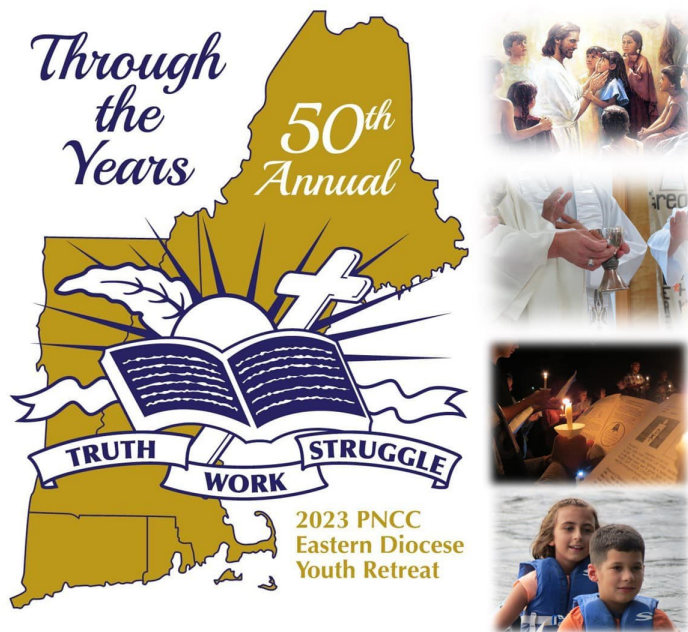
The retreat is open to diocesan youth ages 8 – 17 and again this year they can bring a friend (*even if the friend is not a member of our P.N.C.C.*). The cost per participant is \$225.00. *Please Note that the deadline for registration is June 15, 2023.*

Please like our Facebook page: Eastern Diocese Youth to get updates on this retreat and all diocesan youth activities.

If you have any questions about our Youth Retreat, please do not hesitate to contact me. I thank you in advance for your support of your diocesan youth retreat and I hope to see you there. *Reverend Fathers I ask your encouragement for the youth of your parish to attend.* If the fee is a hardship for anyone, please let me know as we have a donor who will help cover the cost for our youth to attend.

May God bless us all we labor to building His Holy Church and integrally involve our precious youth.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
**Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich**  
Diocesan Youth Chaplain



*Come and Worship, Learn and have great beach fun!*

*@ Camp Berea in Hebron, NH*

*August 21-24, 2023*

Registration and Health Forms are available from your pastor or email: [Robnem21@aol.com](mailto:Robnem21@aol.com)

Registration Deadline: June 15, 2023 - The cost is \$225 per person

Follow us on Facebook: *Eastern Diocese Youth*

*Come and end your summer with friends in Christ!*

## Lenten Retreat at St. Casimir's Parish

Lowell, MA

The Lenten Retreat for the NE Seniorate of the Eastern Diocese was held at St. Casimir's Parish in Lowell, MA, on Saturday, February 25, 2023. A blessed time was had at Holy Mass, in prayer, reflection, worship, song and fellowship. This is a time to pray, fast-abstain and give to help others



Participants of the Lenten Retreat of the NE Seniorate of the Eastern Diocese



Rev. Henryk Wos, Pastor of Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI; Rev. Andrzej Tenus, Pastor of St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA; Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese; Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Pastor of Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA, and Administrator of Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI

## Holy Cross Parish in the Community

### Central Falls, RI

On a cold, windy Saturday, February 18th, some brave members of Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI, distributed food bags and coats for the Central Falls-Pawtucket Food Distribution. Luckily, the food and coats were gone in only 20 minutes. We were very blessed to help others in the name of Jesus on this winter day.



As part of the Souper Bowl of Caring 2023, we would like to thank everyone who supported the discipleship effort to support Holy Cross Central Falls—Pawtucket monthly Food Distribution on February 19, 2023





## Blessed Trinity Parish Activities

### Fall River, MA

On Sunday, February 5, Blessed Trinity Parish had a beautiful celebration of Scout Sunday with Cub Scout Pack 15 and Boy Scout Troop 15 present for Holy Mass and then a Scout Blue and Gold Breakfast.

Leftovers from the breakfast were shared to Homeless Outreach to help feed local homeless brothers and sisters.



On the morning of February 7, it was wonderful to spend some quality time with Angels Anonymous to help offload 10,000 pounds of food to help many in need across the parish community. We are blessed to help others.



On Saturday, February 25, the parish held its first Lenten Supper of this season followed by walking the Way of the Cross following our crucified Lord. Thanks to Kathy for preparing the supper and nice to have many attendees for this sacred time in prayer, sharing a meal and fellowship. Another tray of homemade mac and cheese was shared with our unsheltered brothers and sisters in Fall River.



## Western Diocese

### Lenten Retreat at All Saints Cathedral

Chicago, IL

On Saturday, February 25, the North Central Seniorate gathered at All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL, for the 2023 Lenten Retreat. The theme was "Renewed by the Cross."

The facilitators were Fr. John Cramer - Liturgy, Fr. David Rowinski - Spiritual Renewal, Mrs. Christine Wachna - Music Ministry, Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk - Lenten Journey and Bishop Rafalko - Lenten Resolutions.

Over 30 faithful and 8 clergy gathered to be "Renewed by the Cross" through fellowship, prayer, reflection and discussion.

Special thanks and appreciation to All Saints Cathedral for being the Host Parish and Mrs. Margaret Rowinski and Mrs. Leslie Rafalko for the delicious lunch.



## Natural Food Dyes

**Yellow:** Turmeric



**Orange:** Onion or Shallot



**Red:** Red Beet



**Green:** Parsley



**Blue:** Red Cabbage



**Lavender:**  
Blueberry

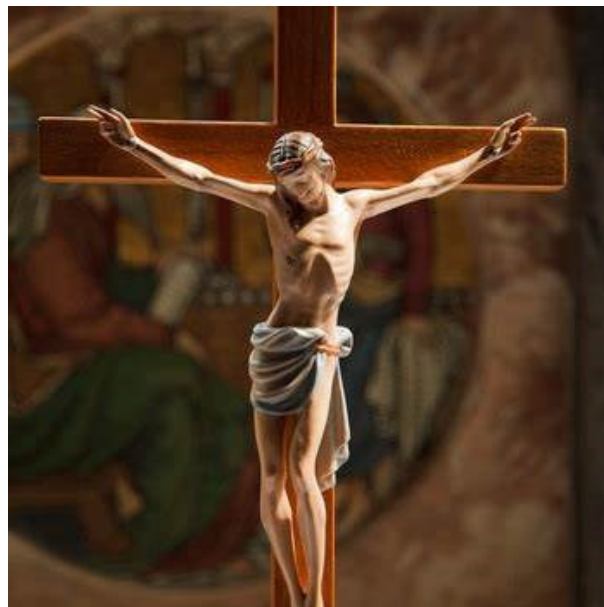


**Brown:** Coffee





**Cross of compassion, cross of salvation,  
Cross of all wisdom, cross of love.  
: He who would seek thee, love thee and  
know thee,  
He shall find guidance from above.”**



**Cross of Contrition, cross of Redemption,  
Cross of all victory, cross of gain.  
:We would come near thee, there rest our  
burden,  
and share our sorrow, grief and pain.”**



P.N.C.C. Future Direction Message March 2023 (Continued from Page 4.)

Christ, Who is the Savior of the world. We also seek to live lives in accordance with the teachings and ways of Jesus Christ, especially regarding “the true central point of Catholic worship,” the Holy Eucharist.

#### **Action Item**

As a part of your regular devotions or spiritual reading, read the Declaration of Scranton, which can be found within the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church or is available online at [TheUnionofScranton.org](http://TheUnionofScranton.org). After reading this Declaration, pray the prayer “For the Unity of the Church” found within the P.N.C.C. Prayer Book: “O Lord Jesus Christ, before Your Passion and Death, You prayed to Your Father for the Apostles “so that they may be one, even as We are one ... so that the world may know that You have sent Me and You have loved them even as You have loved Me.” Reveal to the members of Your Church the peace, love and unity that comes through living in accordance with Your Word. Good Shepherd, lead us and make us one flock, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.” (P.N.C.C. 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

