

God's Field

100th Anniversary



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Issue #7

The Seed is the Word of God

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

During this portion of the Ordinary Time season as we work our way through the Gospel of St. Matthew, we encounter a number of parables of our Lord. On the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time this year we hear the Parable of the Sower. “And [Jesus] told them many things in parables, saying: ‘Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on the rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty and some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!’” (Matthew 13:3-9)

This parable is one that is very meaningful to Polish National Catholics since we know the power of God's Word and how the presence of Christ comes to us in its hearing and explanation especially within the liturgical context of Holy Mass. Within the PNCC Catechism, this parable is explicitly referenced although it's the same parable taken from the Gospel of St. Luke. The Catechism asks: “Why should we receive the Sacrament of the Word of God?” With the answer: “We should receive the Sacrament of the Word of God because Christ commanded us to receive and proclaim it. Holy Scripture says this:

1) “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.” (Mt 29:19); 2) “The seed is the Word of God.” (Lk 8:11); 3) “Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.” (Lk 11:28); 4) “You have been born again ... through the living and abiding Word of God.” (1 Pt 1:23); 5) “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Mt 4:4)

As in all parables, we are called to ponder and reflect on these words of our Savior and how they become operable in our own lives. Although Jesus does go on later in the Gospel of Matthew to explain this parable to His disciples, this does not remove from us the duty to reflect on exactly what is being required of us in this teaching.

A first matter that is often missed as we go through the parable is the seed itself, and this is because of our own experience. When we desire to plant something from seed today, we often go to a store and buy a little packet of seeds, take it home and plant the seeds. Or maybe we even skip this step entirely and buy small, germinated seedlings which are ready to go into the ground. We have lost the reality that getting seed is hard work. In our Lord's day, the farmer had to reserve some of last year's crop and allow it to go to seed, then that seed needed to be collected and kept for the following growing season. Because of

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this a sower would most likely be very careful and judicious when sowing.

So a first reality we see within this parable is that there is really a generous abandon in how the seed is spread. It goes everywhere, on the path, on the rocky ground, among the thorns as well as on the good soil. This shows to us the graciousness of our Lord in giving His Word to His people. It is also an encouragement to the ministers of the Church, the bishops, priests and deacons to be equally generous in their preaching and announcement of the Word. It is for this reason that the PNCC Ritual states: "The clergy are reminded that ... the obligation to preach should not be omitted on any Sunday or Solemnity within the church year." (PNCC Ritual, page 44) As a young priest I was told at St. Stanislaus Cathedral that we would preach at every service where the faithful gathered.

Another important reality for the hearers of the Word of God is a consideration of the places where the seed falls. At first the seed falls on the path. Jesus tells us that the seed on the path is the one who hears the Word of the kingdom and does not understand it, so the evil one comes and snatches it away. But we also must remind ourselves that paths are things that are intentionally made in an area by others. So then, we must consider not to create for others, places and conditions where they will not be able to hear or accept the Word of God. Such is the case when we keep ourselves or others away from Church. This also may happen when we become poor examples to others of Christian life and behavior.

The second place where the seed falls is the rocky ground. The plants there wither, because they have no roots. We must consider what happens that does not allow the roots of faith to grow in ourselves or others and our role in that action. Do we feed ourselves on the Holy Eucharist to allow Jesus to strengthen us? Do we discourage others from living out their faith in the strongest possible way?

The third place the seed falls is among the thorns and there the seed is choked and produces no fruit. Jesus tells us that the thorns are the 'cares of the world and the lure of wealth.' Now, while we might not be responsible for these temptations in the lives of others, we can certainly ask what are we doing about it? If we saw thorns growing in our garden at home, we

wouldn't just throw up our hands and say, 'Well isn't that a shame.' Would we not rather seek ways to remove them? Now maybe we might not be successful, or have it work entirely, but we would still certainly try.

And of course, this leads us to a consideration of the final place where the seed lands. The seed also falls on good soil where it produces abundant fruit, as Jesus tells us, a hundred-, or sixty- or thirtyfold. In reflection here we must acknowledge that good soil, while it might happen naturally, is also something that can be accomplished through a large amount of work. It's true, both for the industrial farmer as well as the home gardener. We till the soil, fertilize the soil, water the soil, and weed it while the plants grow. And we don't just do these actions once, but we continue to do them in preparation for the seed and also the whole time the plants are growing. Good soil takes work.

If we desire to be the good soil that produces fruit in response to the Word of God sown in us, then work in preparation and work in response is called for. It is for this reason that the homily in Church is preceded by a hymn to the Holy Spirit. This is the work of prayer to get us ready to receive the Word of God and be strengthened by it. If that hymn is not sung, we should at least say a Prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking His blessing to open our hearts and minds. Likewise, the penitential rite during Holy Mass allows us to approach the Sacrament of the Word of God with clean hearts to hear our Lord and Savior. The Eucharist which we receive at Holy Mass allows us to be strengthened to go out into the world to fulfill this Word and then bear fruit a hundred-, or sixty-, or thirtyfold in our Christian lives.

So my brothers and sisters, in reflection on this parable, and also on the importance of Holy Scripture and the Sacrament of the Word of God within our Holy Church, I encourage all of you to resolve to work on the good soil of your lives: attend Holy Mass to hear the Word of God and be strengthened by the Holy Eucharist; encourage each other in your lives of faith and good works; immerse yourself in the Bible to better understand the ways of God and the teachings of our Lord. Jesus said: "The seed is the Word of God." Let's be ready to receive His Word and produce fruit for the Kingdom.



P.N.C.C. Future Direction
July 2023
True Enlightenment that Comes to Us
from the Holy Teachings of the Church

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 actual resolution portion of the accepted document of the XXVI General Synod. Last month we reflected on the Holy Scriptures as the place where we, as members of Christ's Church, seek true enlightenment. We acknowledged that these come to us in the proclamation of the Scriptures during Holy Mass and other Church services, the explanation of them through preaching, the Sacrament of the Word of God, and also in our own Bible reading. Enlightenment in the ways of our Lord Jesus Christ also comes to us through the teachings and statements of the Church, which continually draw on the Scriptures as well.

Scripture

Colossians 3:16 – Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God.

Hebrews 13:7 – Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

Proverbs 22:6 – Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.

Reflection

Following all of the items which we acknowledge within the Resolution of the XXVI General Synod of the P.N.C.C., we come to the point where we state, "We hereby resolve." The second point that is resolved is: "To seek the true enlightenment that comes to us from the Sacred Scriptures and through the holy teachings of the Church."

As we reflect on this point of the resolution, it is important that we see the connection between the Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church. Throughout history, the Church has set forth for the faithful the understanding which is found within the Scriptures and how the teachings found therein can be applied to the daily lives of the members of Christ's body, the Church.

This begins in fact within the pages of Scripture itself. We see there how the infant faith of Christ's followers is expressed. In St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, we see him say: "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9) Or in another Letter: "Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from Whom are all things and for Whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through Whom are all things and through Whom we exist." (1 Corinthians 8:6) and again: "Christ Jesus, Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, bring born in human likeness." (Philippians 2:6) Lastly, we see in the Gospels: "The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) We see that these statements of faith are being recounted in these writing and therefore form the faith from the Tradition of the Church. They are statements of the Church, passed on to us through Scripture.

Each of these primitive statements of faith can be seen in the much fuller statement of the Nicene Creed that we recite each and every Sunday and Holy Day when we gather for Mass. This Creed was built upon these faith statements of Scripture and but also answers some of the pressing questions of the Christians of that time. Likewise the Church has continued to speak to its faithful in regard to the expectation of the Christian life and worship and how each of us is united to the Body of Christ, which is the Church.

Some of these teachings are doctrinal, those which allow us to bring our own belief into line with the demands of our Lord given through the apostolic teachings and Holy Scripture. These teachings are like those found within the statements of the Ecumenical Councils of the first thousand years and even through the moral statements put forth through the Synods of the Polish National Catholic Church. Others are disciplinary, those

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6th Annual Y.M.S. of R. Men's Spiritual Retreat

Waymart, PA

The 6th Annual Bishop Stanley Bilinski Memorial Y.M.S. of R. Men's Spiritual Retreat took place June 14-17, 2023, emanating from historic Spójnia Farm in Waymart, PA. The theme of this year's retreat was "Christ the Same," reflecting the scripture of Hebrews 13:8- "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."



We began on Wednesday evening, with arrivals beginning to roll in on a rainy afternoon. The planning subcommittee arrived and prepared with food, liturgical items, set up, registration, and more. The first night is a soft opening of sorts, with an opening dinner, built-in fellowship time, and an exciting icebreaker. Congrats to "6foot10 dude" for winning the trivia game! As June 14 is Flag Day, the flags were prepared for the next day's activity. Rev. Jim Ploskonka (Reserve Priest-Western Diocese) led night prayer that also included the exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and short procession to the Adoration Chapel. The evening concluded with some light snacks.

Thursday, June 15 reflected the "Yesterday" in "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Our day began with breakfast and flag raising and an arrangement of vehicles and drivers for our pilgrimage to Scranton. The first stop was for Holy Mass at Providence of God Lithuanian National Catholic Church, where pastor Rev. Dr. Walter Placek and his parishioners opened their doors.

The Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the P.N.C.C., preceded Holy Mass by offering a blessing
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(6th Annual Men's Spiritual Retreat- Continued from Page 5.)

on several white stoles that were to be used by the priests at Mass this day, as well as distributed to others who offer a ministry during our retreat. Each priest donned the newly blessed matching stoles and concelebrated the Holy Mass for the Word of God, with main celebrant, the Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (St. Michael the Archangel Parish - Cedar Lake, IN). Sub-Deacon Justin Daviault (Holy Trinity Parish - Plantsville, CT) and Sub-Deacon Doug Scott (All Saints Cathedral Parish - Park Ridge, IL) assisted at the altar, as they would for all Holy Masses at this retreat. Our retreat master, Rev. Jason Soltysiak (St. Mary's Parish - Parma, OH) offered the Homily, where he opined on the changes to consumed media in the 21st Century, but remained in awe that like Christ, the Word of God endures forever. It was just ... "ok." ("OK" was a big take away to remember the sermon on the Word of God!)



With some cold drinks and hot coffee prepared by the parishioners of Providence of God, Fr. Walter offered a nice half-hour peek into the "yesterday" that was the formation of the Lithuanian Church. He joined the rest of the retreat for a trip to the hottest lunch spot in the south side of Scranton, Savonarola Theological Seminary. Our main cook, Nick Kazinetz (Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish - Dupont, PA) had a meal of chicken or beef tacos prepared to be cooked on the same stove his grandmother +Erminia Krajewski, had cooked thousands of meals for students of the seminary in the 1970s and 1980s.



Prime Bishop Anthony gave some history on the seminary while the food was being prepared. The dining room was filled to the brim, with a few others eating in the classroom. We couldn't quite put a finger on the last time nearly two dozen were fed at the seminary for one meal. A tour of the seminary took place afterward, with the clergy answering questions of "which bedroom was yours?" and "who were you in seminary with?" After a little bit, the men continued their walk of "yesterday" to the P.N.C.C. Archives, where Prime Bishop gave everyone a few minutes to look at some artifacts and check in on the files of their home parishes.

Prime Bishop then brought the group up to the Frank Bednash memorial library, where he gave a short presentation on some of the Prime Bishops and their artifacts. Pictures were taken in the chapel afterward, with comments and questions fielded on the relic of St. Stanislaus Kostka and more.



The last stop of our tour through history was the Saint Stanislaus Cathedral Parish Cemetery. Planter boxes were put together by the men as a small service project, with flowers, fresh dirt, and flags. The ten of them were placed upon various graves upon our visit. A walking prayer service was prepared, with focuses on 5 groups: organizers, the unknown & forgotten, Y.M.S. of R. members, servicemen & women, and clergy. The flags from Flag Day were blessed and our walk began, with the first altar of the cemetery in its "old section." A planter was set upon the grave of Mr. Nycz, the first Parish Committee chairman of a parish in the P.N.C.C. The walk followed suit, an appropriate planter representing each group.

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(6th Annual Men's Spiritual Retreat- Continued from Page 7.)



The final stop was at the Mausoleum of Prime Bishop Francis Hodur, where the Litany of the Dead was prayed and “Witaj Królowo Nieba” was sang. It was a prayer walk in the most beautifully balanced way – reverence in our time of prayer and recollection, and appropriate questions, thoughts, and friendly banter in-between. Upon completion of the prayer, everyone noted that their Fitbits and Apple Watches hit their step counts for the day and it was back to Spójnia Farm.

A hearty dinner of baked ziti welcomed the men after a 30-minute period to recharge our batteries. After some cleanup, we spent time in Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in our Adoration Chapel. A prayer service for vocation was held, led by Sub-Deacon Doug Scott. After some time in silence and private adoration, Sub-Deacon Justin offered the Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The bonfire was roaring that night, and a quick peek was given into the work being done and the plans in place for the lower kitchen area. Fr. Carmen's vehicle also received an appropriate upgrade.

Friday morning was the “**Today**” focus of our retreat, of “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Allowing to focus on the “today” was that Friday was a Solemnity of our Lord and Savior, the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Breakfast and flag-raising kicked us off. Dave Pecynski (Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral Parish - Lancaster, NY) was the flag coordinator for our half-week. Holy Mass was celebrated for the Solemnity by Rev. Carmen Bolock (Chaplain of the United Y.M.S. of R.). Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich (Blessed Trinity Parish - Fall River, MA) joined us via Zoom to offer the homily. He made note of the major work being done on the church edifice and sure enough, interrupted his participation in Mass. But, not after offering a reflective homily on echoing the pure love of the heart of Jesus in our own lives, in noting how quickly our hearts can become...something else.

Deacon Robert Karoscik (St. Adalbert's Parish - Dickson City, PA) joined the retreat to offer an hour reflection on portions of the Word of God, on his journey to the P.N.C.C., on his “today:” continuing ministry as a deacon in the church. Deacon Bob is always full of positive energy it was reflected in his time with us.

Lunch was prepared and boy, was it a big one: homemade pizza, stromboli (traditional Italian, beef-on-weck, veggie Italian), and borscht (kielbasa soup) were all coming out in shifts, leading everyone to over-eat and plan on how to burn off those calories in the afternoon. Fr. Jason announced the choices: 9 holes of golf, a trip to St. Tikhon's monastery & seminary, or personal time on the grounds. Fr. Jim Konicki (Holy Name of Jesus

Parish - Schenectady, NY) led the St. Tikhon's group and Andrew Humphreys (St. Adalbert's Parish - Dickson City, PA) led the golf group. A mini tournament amongst 10 golfers was held, with young Jeremy stealing the crown of champion away from fellow St. Adalbert's Parish member Andrew. Jeremy was quite gracious in his systematic demolition of the other 9 golfers.

Prime Bishop Mikovsky joined us for the evening dinner and session on Friday. The grill was pumping out burgers, hot dogs, and sausage as fast as we could eat them, with extra trimmings highlighting our meal. After dinner, a period of prayer was held in the Adoration Chapel, with a chaplet to the Sacred Heart prayed as the kitchen crew cleaned. Rev. Jim Ploskonka offered a session on Christianity "today,"- with statistics and trends on Catholic Church growth offered to our group in his research, with appropriate citations given. He offered two videos as well – one highlighting the issue of the church/religion today and the other showing what people might be missing in the Mass today if they do not focus. Our young visitor Harper shared her revelation of "angels...angels!" on the screen not moments before the video's protagonist shared his revelation (and that of St. Thomas): "My Lord and my God!" To add intrigue, Harpers parents have no idea where she learned what an angel even is! The evening concluded with a continued time of reflection and adoration, enjoying another bonfire and some great conversations with our brothers.

Saturday was our final day, and the focus was on "**forever**," in "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk offered morning prayer and the flag was raised on a beautiful and balmy morning. Breakfast was served, and anticipation was building for the close of the retreat. Fr. Jim Konicki offered our final session on "forever." This was daunting; Fr. Jim had to address the unknown! He compared how our hopes for the future change in our different points of life. So, he used scripture from the Old Testament, the Gospels, and later portions of the New Testament to see how God addressed the future in His Word. He also tied in previous portions of the retreat and "old lingo" to address future and forever. The Q & A that followed was quite lively.

Prime Bishop Mikovsky joined us once again for Fr. Jim's presentation and was the celebrant of our final Mass, "Mass of a Spiritual Retreat." Our homilist was once again via Zoom and once again via the Eastern Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop-Ordinary of the Eastern Diocese (Holy Trinity Cathedral Parish - Manchester, NH). He offered how his week was perfectly bookended with beginning and ending the week with Holy Mass and homily shared with our Prime Bishop, but what surprised the group was the demanding schedule of the week with an enormous amount of travel. As a part of his sermon he offered a text that he recommended for our reflection by Tracy Earl Welliver, *Everyday Stewardship: Reflections for the Journey*. After Holy Mass concluded, the men began to gather their things to leave. A final meal was prepared – leftovers from all the previous meals, which gave everyone a chance to double down on the food they enjoyed the most. Sufficiently fed, Rev. Jim Ploskonka offered a final overview of the week, with Fr. Konicki, Nick Kazinetz, and Prime Bishop Mikovsky each offering comments from their roles and points of view.

Deep appreciation for all who attended and planned our 2023 Men's Spiritual Retreat. Our planning subcommittee was led by Rev. Jason Soltysiak and consisted of Rev. Jim Konicki, Rev. Jim Ploskonka, Andrew Humphreys, Dave Pecynski, Nick Kazinetz, and Kevin McConlogue. We are thankful for the kitchen staff that improvised on the reduced kitchen space this year. We are prayerful that more men will continue to join us for this retreat, as we are fully confident in how it is run and in its future.



Planning Subcommittee



Kitchen Staff

Submitted by Rev. Jason Soltysiak

Honor Your Father on Father's Day

Clergy Pension Fund Polish National Catholic Church



As we all honor and remember the important father figures within our lives, we pray especially for those listed below. Thanks are also extended to all those who contributed to the Clergy Pension Fund's "Honor Your Father on Father's Day" program, as it continues to support those members of the clergy who have retired after many years of faithful service to God's Holy Church.

In honor of pastor, Rev. Michael Selep, offered by Holy Trinity Society of Adoration, McKees Rocks, PA.

In acknowledgment of father, George E. Clark, offered by George and Marilyn Clark.

In acknowledgement of Frank Kiska, offered by George and Marilyn Clark.

In acknowledgement of John J. Frank, offered by John and Roberta Frank.

In acknowledgement of father, Donald E. Borgarding, offered by Susan and Paul Stankiewicz.

In acknowledgement of father, Chester E. Stankiewicz, offered by Susan and Paul Stankiewicz.

In memory of father, Andrew Siedlarczyk, offered by Andrew Siedlarczyk.

In memory of grandfather, Maciej Siedlarczyk, offered by Andrew Siedlarczyk.

In memory of grandfather, Andrew Kondis, offered by Andrew Siedlarczyk.

In memory of Bishop Thaddeus Peplowski, offered by Andrew Sidlarczyk.

In acknowledgement of father, Andrew Beres, offered by Carol Hamett.

In acknowledgement of father, John Walczak, offered by Anna M. Walczak.

In memory of David J. Petrosky, offered by Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA.

In honor of pastor, Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, offered by Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA.

Supreme Council Meeting Minutes

Manchester, NH

(Continued from Volume 101, Issue #6, June 2023 God's Field)

The Report of the Prime Bishop

The Supreme Council reviewed the written Report of the Prime Bishop that covered his official calendar, his daily spiritual and administrative activities, his ecumenical activities, a thank you to his staff, the National Church Center, Future Direction, the Passing of priests and former members of the Supreme Council, parish visits, Savonarola Theological Seminary, financial matters, regular meetings with the Bishops, Church Commissions, National Organizations, Dialogue with other religious denominations, Union of Scranton, the PNU, Spójnia Inc, and bequests to the P.N.C.C. and its entities. The Prime Bishop reported the P.N.C.C. raised approximately \$150K for Ukraine from various parishes and individuals of the P.N.C.C., as well as contributions from Anglican Dioceses and Parishes who approached the P.N.C.C. to handle their contributions to Ukraine since they lacked contacts in the region. This does not include additional monies collected by two parishes in the Eastern Diocese that were sent directly to a Polish Catholic Parish in Poland that was assisting the refugees from Ukraine. The Supreme Council unanimously approved the Report of the Prime Bishop with its gratitude for his work and dedication.

Report of Diocesan Bishops

The Report of the Bishop of the Buffalo Pittsburgh Diocese

The Supreme Council reviewed the written Report of the Bishop of the Buffalo Pittsburgh Diocese, Bishop John Mack, that included diocesan statistics, finances, diocesan structure, organizations, specific parish achievements and challenges, the memory of diocesan priests who died, and a recognition of the current priests and their families of the diocese who make daily sacrifices to serve the needs of the people of the Buffalo Pittsburgh Diocese. During his report, Bishop Mack spoke of the current challenges facing the diocese and the steps being taken to address them. The Buffalo Pittsburgh Diocese will host the 2024 Youth Convocation.

The Report of the Bishop of the Canadian Diocese

The Supreme Council reviewed the written Report of the Bishop of the Canadian Diocese, Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, that included clergy matters, legal requirements and documents of the diocese that need to be filed with Canada Revenue Agency, the Welland property and diocese financials. Essentially the diocese has little to no assets. The only major listed asset of the Diocese of Canada is the Welland property.

The Report of the Bishop of the Central Diocese

The Supreme Council reviewed the report of Bishop Bernard Nowicki regarding the Central Diocese that focused on the challenges of his dual ministry, his activities supporting a diocese and Cathedral during Covid, the Rising from the Ashes Diocesan Program, Diocesan Statistics, National Youth Convo 2018, various diocesan teachings, Diocesan Music Commission, and financial reports of the Central Diocese. During his report, Bishop Nowicki requested, and the Supreme Council unanimously concurred to close and sell St. Mary's Parish in Duryea, PA, Holy Name [Slovak] Parish in Passaic, NJ, St. Joseph's Parish in Middleport, PA, Holy Cross Parish in Wilkes Barre, PA and Nativity Parish in Howell, NJ.

The Report of the Bishop of the Eastern Diocese

The Supreme Council reviewed the report of Bishop Sobiechowski regarding the Eastern Diocese. The report included a financial status of the diocese, the status of the Enfield CT parish, pastor installations, the diocesan deaconate program, the use of Zoom technology within the diocese to support meetings and masses, the work of the various diocesan commissions, organizations, the PNU within the diocese, diocesan archives, synod resolutions, and his calendar. During his report, Bishop Sobiechowski requested, and the Supreme Council unanimously concurred to close and sell Holy Cross Parish in Enfield, CT. including its cemetery. Former members of Holy Cross Parish who own plots in the cemetery will retain a right to burial in the cemetery. Bishop reported his diocese collected \$12K for Ukraine. In addition, two other parishes in his diocese collected monies that were sent directly to a Polish Catholic Parish in Poland that aided Ukraine refugees.

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(Supreme Council Meeting Minutes- Continued from Page 11.)

The Report of the Bishop of the Western Diocese

The Supreme Council reviewed the report of Bishop Rafalko regarding the Western Diocese. It included the financial status of the diocese, a list of the Administrative Seniors and Priests and Deacons of the diocese, the parishes of the dioceses and a status of highlighted parishes, pastoral activities within the diocese, the diocesan deaconate program, diocesan wide bible study, Bishop's participation in Polonia in the Chicago area and his calendar. During his report, Bishop Rafalko requested, and the Supreme Council unanimously concurred to close and sell St. Josephat's Parish in Duluth, MN that merged with Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Minneapolis, MN and Our Savior Mission Parish in Hobart, IL that merged with St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Cedar Lake, IN. He reported the new mission in Marathon FL is a year old and showing promise. He is also working on the reestablishment of St. Hedwig's Parish in Chicago, IL.

The Supreme Council unanimously accepted the Reports of the Diocesan Bishops.

Commission and Organization Reports

History & Archives Commission Report

Joseph Seliga, the Chairman of the History & Archives Commission, recently passed away. And his main assistant, John [Jack] Ostrowski also passed away this past year. Prime Bishop paid tribute to both Joe Seliga and Jack Ostrowski in their passing. As a result of their deaths, no one comes to work at the Archives each month. While the commission still exists, the Prime Bishop needs someone in the Scranton area to assume the necessary hands on work the Archives require.

National Commission on Liturgy Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the report submitted by Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr. its Chairman that included descriptions of the commission's activities and programs including its current work to translate liturgies into Spanish and Polish, its rites and ritual work, rubrics for a deacon assisting at Mass, a booklet for funerals of clergy, the addition of P.N.C.C. Solemnities to the Liturgy of Hours, completion of a Pontifical for Bishops, Sunday Worship in the Absence of a Priest/Deacon and a Holy Week Worship booklet. The commission will be meeting within a month to continue its work.

National Mission & Evangelism Commission Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Father Senior Jaroslaw Nowak, Chairman, that included descriptions of the commission's activities and programs. The Commission's responsibility is to prepare mission programs, offer evangelism resources, and conduct the P.N.C.C. Annual Mission Workshop held in different areas of the Church each year. The National Commission on Mission & Evangelism Commission has met four times since the last Supreme Council meeting. Two meetings were conducted via Zoom, and two were in person. The latest Mission Workshop was hosted by St. Stephen's Parish in Reading, PA.

Church Doctrine Commission Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by its Chairman, Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, that included descriptions of the commission's activities and programs including an update to a document entitled, *To Live in the Spirit of God*, a paper accepted by previous synods that spoke to moral issues affecting the daily lives of Polish National Catholics, the P.N.C.C. View of Anglican Orders, veneration of the Saints and Relics, Prayer, and the creation of the collection of theological writings of the P.N.C.C. through its history. Prime Bishop recognized the contribution Father Scott Lill makes to the commission including a soon to be released pamphlet on the Sacrament of Penance. During discussion, it was reported that a pamphlet on fasting during Advent, Lent, and special days, is being prepared. It will also cover the Eucharistic Fast.

National Committee on Scouting Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Father Adam Czarnecki, Commission Chaplain. It included a description of actions taken to promote scouting within the P.N.C.C., Church Scouting Awards, new Scouting Metals, and the National Camporee. Prime Bishop Mikovsky reported that the scouting booklets and medals are housed within the Office of the Prime Bishop and can be requested from his office.

National SOCL Commission Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of Father Senior Charles Zawistowski, Commission Chairman, that included descriptions of the commission's activities on a post confirmation curriculum, and lessons on Reverence. Father Senior Zawistowski reported that the commission met within six weeks of the recent synod and again in January and February utilizing Zoom video conferencing. He also mentioned articles on how parishes can attract children to their parishes will be published in *God's Field* in 2023.

Sacred Vocations Commission Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Father James Konicki, Chairman of the Sacred Vocation Commission, that included descriptions of the commission's activities and programs. It reported that twenty-one men engaged in various levels of discernment from prospective entry in the seminary to a simple expressed interest. Regular Zoom meetings are held with these men. In Summer/Fall 2022 several active priests of the Western Diocese undertook studies at the seminary, for a period of reflection and edification in living the life and practices of the Polish National Catholic Church. A Sacred Vocations Facebook page remains active. The page currently has six hundred forty-eight followers, an increase of three-hundred fifty-four since the last report. The commission encourages laity and clergy to refer potential vocations to this page. <https://www.facebook.com/sacredvocations/>. During discussion, Prime Bishop highlighted the value of the regular Zoom meetings that are conducted with those considering a Vocation. The Supreme Council acknowledged the energy Father Konicki brings to Vocations.

Clergy Salary & Benefits Commission Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Cathy Bilinski, Commission Chairwoman. She reported the commission's major challenge is getting information to parishes. Comments made at the synod indicate the information is not being received by the right people in parishes. The commission will examine other ways to get the annual information packet to parish committees. Another concern for some parishes this past year was the high Cost of Living Adjustment [COLA] that pastors received.

Constitution Commission Report

The *P.N.C.C. Constitution* underwent major structural changes at the last synod. A new *P.N.C.C. Constitution* is currently being edited and will be published on the P.N.C.C. website with some hard copies printed.

The Youth Commission – National United Youth Association – Youth Chaplain Reports

The Supreme Council reviewed the reports of the Youth Commission, offered by Kathryn Nemkovich, Commission Chairwoman, the National United Youth Association [NUYA], submitted by its officers and Father Senior John Kowalczyk, National Youth Chaplain.

The Youth Commission was recently appointed at the last synod and has met four times since then. Its focus is to support the youth and support the NUYA. It will sponsor a youth focused Zoom event once a quarter. The first conference was a meditation during Advent. In February an ice breaker event was conducted specifically for the youth. Another event is scheduled for the end of May that the NUYA will plan.

The NUYA Report included descriptions of its activities and programs, namely, monthly Zoom meetings, trips to Albany, New York and Las Vegas, Nevada to share a message of faith to youth, its participation in Youth Commission meetings, and offering ideas for the upcoming Convo.

The Report of Father John P Kowalczyk, Jr., the National Youth Chaplain included descriptions of his activities working with the NUYA and Diocesan Youth Chaplains. Through his contacts at Youth Specialties, a National Youth Workers Organization, resources are available at little or no cost to assist diocesan chaplains in this vital ministry of the Church. Youth workers are urged to contact Father Senior Kowalczyk for more information at frjohn121185@gmail.com. Father Senior Kowalczyk also submitted a report on Convo 2022 that included attendance breakdowns, the convo schedule, and financials.

During discussion it was suggested the NUYA might want to consider as one of its nationwide programs the sponsorship of large community outreach projects across the P.N.C.C. Operation Christmas Child was a past nationwide project of the NUYA that was very successful. It was noted that in the past, the Annual Track and Field Meet in Scranton, PA enabled the NUYA to annually meet in person over the Labor Day Weekend.

(Continued on bottom of Page 27.)

NUC General Convention and Music Workshop Planning Committee Meets

Dupont, PA

The National United Choirs of the Polish National Catholic Church will hold its 36th National United Choirs General Convention and the 28th Music Workshop and Concert, August 9-11, 2023 at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA.

The National Choir members will perform a concert on Friday, August 11th at 7:00 PM in Dupont. The concert is free and open to the community. All are invited to attend.

The Planning Committee recently met at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish to prepare for the upcoming event.



Front: Susan Baldan, Debbie Fritz, Al Micka. Rear: Jan Cwikla, Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Rose Kazinetz, Debbie Bilinski, Wanda Stash and Jackie Stash



Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid

Central Diocese

Good Shepherd Parish and Resurrection of the Lord Parish are Pierogi Champions!

Plymouth, PA/Edwardsville, PA

A whole lot of time and talent were given by the parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish in Plymouth, PA, and Resurrection of the Lord Parish in Edwardsville, PA, while they were preparing for a big local community event — the Edwardsville Pierogi Festival. Over 5,800 pierogi were made and sold by the parishes at this annual event, held on June 9-10, 2023. A chicken barbecue was also served up during the festival.

Thanks to everyone who came out and helped the to win First Place in the church pierogi category for the second year in a row, and thanks to the Edwardsville Pierogi Festival for this wonderful event!



Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish June Activities

Dupont, PA

Holy Mother of Sorrows parishioners made and donated pierogi for the Independence Day Picnic and Kurs Summer Camp held at the Bishop Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center at Waymart, PA.



Front: Debbie Fritz, Donna Micka; Rear: Wanda Stash, Debbie Bilinski, Paul Kazinetz Jr., Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid, David Petrosky, Dorothy Kishel



Rose Kazinetz, Joyce Jopling, Stephanie Shumlas, Lois McHugh



Louise Lentini, Lois McHugh, Dorothy Kishel, Mary Jo Searfoss, Joyce Jopling, Debbie Fritz



Everyone enjoyed the delicious Father's Day Brunch.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid

St. Stanislaus Cathedral Honors Graduates

Scranton, PA

On Sunday, June 25th, St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish honored graduating students during the 9:30 am Mass. Bishop Nowicki spoke at the end of Mass about the newly graduated youth and presented them each with a gift, *The Wisdom of Fulton Sheen: 365 Days of Inspiration*; something to help guide them in their future endeavors. The following graduates were recognized.

Jessica Notari graduated magna cum laude from the University of Scranton with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early and Primary Childhood Education. She will attend the University of Scranton in the fall to complete her master's degree in special education.

Jake Gerardi recently graduated from Temple University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Development. He is continuing his educational studies at Temple, working towards a Master of Science degree in City and Regional Planning. This summer, Jake is interning with the Montgomery County Planning Commission.

Elizabeth Pfohl graduated in December 2022 from Marywood University with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and is pursuing her master's degree in clinical Mental Health Counseling. She is working at Children's Service Center in their school-based behavioral health program.

Olivia Pfohl graduated from West Scranton High School. She is traveling to Europe this summer. Her plans are not complete yet, but she is planning on studying business in the future.

Ava Kalteski graduated from Riverside High School. She will be attending Penn State main campus in the fall. Ava will be majoring in Nursing and would like to study to become a nurse anesthetist. Unfortunately because of a previous commitment Ava could not attend on Sunday.

After Church, the graduates were treated to a graduation cake during coffee hour.

Congratulations to our graduates and may God bless them as they take their next steps in the life.



Front: Jake Gerardi, Olivia Pfohl, Elizabeth Pfohl, Jessica Notari; Rear: Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Rev. Janusz Lucarz

Holy Name of Jesus Parish Pop-up Mobile Pantry Schenectady, NY

Holy Name of Jesus Parish hosted a pop-up mobile food pantry on Tuesday, June 27th from 10am until 12:30pm at 1040 Pearl Street in Schenectady, NY.

This was the first in the parish's new series of food bank events in partnership with the Regional Food Bank, Schenectady Foundation, and Nationally Touching Greatness.

Blessings were provided to many households in Mont Pleasant. Thank you to all the volunteers who turned out to help.



St. Adalbert's Polish National Catholic Parish Celebrates 125th Anniversary

by Jordan Daniel for The Valley Advantage

Jun 23, 2023

St. Adalbert's Polish National Catholic Parish, Dickson City, is celebrating 125 years this summer. This anniversary festivities will kick off Saturday, June 24, with an open house, tours of the church and grounds and activities for adults and children. Plans are also underway for a parish celebration dinner in the fall.

"We have a great camaraderie with the parishioners we have," said parish president David Humphreys. "Whether we are making pierogi on Saturdays or hosting a chicken barbecue, or just having cake and coffee on a Sunday after Mass, we are ultimately one church family that strives for a common goal — and that is to serve God and help one another."

Unraveling the history

The Polish National Catholic Church was formed in Scranton in 1897 during a time of religious unrest. Polish American immigrants became dissatisfied with the Roman Catholic Church, and many parishioners of Polish descent and other supporters from the nearby Roman Catholic Church in Scranton protested for inclusion in decision making and a host of other important matters.

Those parishioners purchased land and began to build the first church of the P.N.C.C., St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Cathedral. In March 1897, the Rev. Franciszek Hodur, who was a Polish-born priest in the Roman Catholic Church in Nanticoke, accepted the invitation to become pastor of St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Cathedral.

A month after the Rev. Hodur's arrival, he presented an idea to form a National Church, envisioning it as part of the Roman Catholic Church. When he took his ideas to Rome, however, they were rejected, and he was excommunicated.

From that point on, the P.N.C.C. continued to grow, and new parishes were started throughout the U.S. and Canada. The Rev. Hodur was elected the first bishop and eventually the prime bishop during subsequent church synods.

St. Adalbert's P.N.C.C. is the second Parish in the Polish National Catholic Church. It was formed when people of Polish descent from Dickson City and the surrounding towns invited the Rev. Hodur to a meeting on Aug. 25, 1897, to discuss forming a parish in Dickson City.

On Sept. 13, 1897, the Rev. Hodur gave the greenlight to build a new church. The land was purchased from the Roman Catholic church on Sept. 19, and St. Adalbert's church was built. The Rev. Hodur blessed and consecrated the church on April 24, 1898.

In August 1920, a fire destroyed the beloved church. The parishioners were determined to rebuild, and on Oct. 30, 1921, Prime Bishop Hodur blessed the new church.

The P.N.C.C. today

Today, the Rev. Dr. Anthony Mikovsky of Scranton is prime bishop, and the P.N.C.C. and the Roman Catholic Church have been in dialogue for over 25 years. Both meet on a regular basis to discuss their similarities and differences. The P.N.C.C. is also a member of the Union of Scranton, which was signed into agreement in Oct. 2022 after many years of dialogue.

The parishioners and members of St. Adalbert's take much pride in their church and church family, which is why they continue to treat it with love. They recently installed a video and sound system for individuals who are unable to climb the stairs, so they can still participate in services.

In addition to the elected parish committee, there are two organizations that serve the parish: the ANS Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Young Men's Society of the Resurrection. Both were created by Prime Bishop Hodur for all parishes of the P.N.C.C. St. Adalbert's also supports the Bishop Hodur Retreat Center in Waymart and sponsors children from the parish to attend Camp Kurs every July.

"It's been a pleasure serving the people here," said the Rev. William Chromey, pastor of St. Adalbert's since 1985. "They're nice people, hardworking people, people of faith. They support their church and the activities of the church and so forth. I've been fortunate to have a parish of this caliber."



Eastern Diocese

Blessed Trinity Parish Happenings

Fall River, MA

On Monday, June 5th, Blessed Trinity Parish provided some breakfast for local unsheltered residents. Later the same day following a Mass at West Warwick Manor in West Warwick, RI, Fr. Sr. Rob picked up a bin of new clothes collected for people in need in the local community.



The Blessed Trinity Parish food drive (ending on June 30th) helps local Veterans and their families who can use some assistance. This is supporting an Eagle Scout project for one of the Troop 15 Scouts who meet at the parish. Drop off donations were accepted throughout the month. Thanks to everyone for donating!



Boy Scout Hunter of Fall River Troop 15 Eagle Scout Project - Food Drive for Veterans in Need

Thank You for Your Consideration
Drive Ends June 30th

Eagle Scout Project - Canned Food Drive for Veterans in Need

Run by: Boy Scout Hunter of Fall River Troop 15 in cooperation with Bristol County Veterans Association

Email Address: kayblairhammer2005@gmail.com






On Flag Day, June 14th, Fr. Sr. Rob prayed with and served lunch to local Veterans at the Wednesday Veterans Luncheon, sponsored by The Veterans' Kitchen at Corky Row in Fall River. Veteran Andy (USAF) spoke about the history of Flag Day, the Pledge of Allegiance was said with great reverence, and everyone sang God Bless America. Chaplain Ed (USMC) and Fr. Sr. Rob offered prayer. A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all!

On June 17th a cookout for veterans and the local community was held. It was a great time of friendship, food, people and many laughs. Thanks to Michele Hamilton, Rolling Thunder ®, Inc, Mass Ch 2 and The Veterans' Kitchen for their efforts. It was wonderful to see so many local veterans, MD State Rep Alan Silvia, FRWVC Commander Denmead and Councilor Pereira. The rain before and after didn't stop a great afternoon.



On June 24th, Blessed Trinity Parish hosted a Chick- en & Rib BBQ. 100 racks of ribs for the Smoke on the Water Fundraiser supporting the Christmas Toy Drive that the parish and the FRPD sponsor each year. Lunch was also provided to the FRFD at the Niagra/Candeias Fire Station and the Globe/Kosior Fire Station .



On June 27th the Altar Server Retreat at Blessed Trin- ity Parish focused on the Word of God. The servers began the retreat with a prayer before serving for Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Sr. Rob assisted by Subdeacon Justin. After Mass Bishop Paul addressed the altar servers and thanked them for their important min- istry in the Church.

The servers then enjoyed some donuts and got plenty of energy for a presentation on God’s Word. After getting an overview of Holy Scripture and the Sacra- ment of the Word of God in our P.N.C.C., Joane led

them in a Bible Activity applying God’s Word to their lives. Subdeacon Justin reviewed with the servers how to assist at a Gospel Procession.

After enjoying some great local pizza, everyone went to the New Bedford Whaling Museum. The youth had a great time learning about the whaling history of this region by the sea and now ongoing conservation and preservation efforts for whales and our oceans - a part of God’s creation. We ended our time in the theater enjoying Oceans 3D!

Thanks to Bishop Paul, Subdeacon Justin and our adults chaperones who gave of their time today for our precious youth!



On June 28th Fr. Sr. Rob again prayed with and served lunch to local veterans at The Veterans’ Kitch- en - Corky Row in Fall River. Chef Sandy, Dawn and the crew do a fantastic job each week.



Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River celebrates 125th Anniversary



On Sunday within the octave of Corpus Christi June 11, 2023, Blessed Trinity Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church in Fall River, Massachusetts celebrated our 125th Anniversary. The glorious celebration began with Holy Mass celebrated by our Prime Bishop, the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky. Our Eastern Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski gave a beautiful homily and concelebrated the Mass along with our pastor, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich. Our bishops were greeted with bread and salt by Thomas Cory and Robert Bradbury welcoming them to Blessed Trinity for this historic occasion. Our parish youth sang “All Things Bright and Beautiful” with Dylan introducing it on the glockenspiel.

Our parish cantor Laurie Dionisio sang Praise God during the offertory.

Eric Nemkovich served as the lector for this Holy Mass.



An Anniversary Brunch and program followed Mass in our Parish Hall. Fr. Sr. Rob welcomed everyone in our full hall and introduced Kathy Nemkovich as the MC for the program. Bishop Paul Sobiechowski offered the Invocation, BMC Matthew Oliveira of the US Coast Guard led the pledge of allegiance. Thomas Cory gave the toast and we enjoyed a delicious brunch prepared and served by the Veterans' Kitchen of Fall River.



The history of the parish was presented by our parish youth giving 10 Fun Facts highlighting some interesting and important events in the life of our parish. Greetings and sincere appreciation were given to Blessed Trinity Parish, Fr. Rob and Kathy by Fall River Mayor Paul Coogan, Fall River Police Chief Paul Gauvin, FRPD Officer Jonathan Ferreira (Representing the Fall River Patrolman's Union), Fall River City Councilors Linda Pereira and Laura Washington, Massachusetts State Representative Carole Fiola, Massachusetts State Senator Michael Rodrigues and Fall River Veterans Service Officer Michele Hamilton.

Fr. Sr. Rob gave a reflection on this milestone celebration recalling the 100th anniversary of the parish in 1998. A vision was created at that time which has become a reality with our merger and building a new church facility in 2005. This allowed our parish to be more active and effective in opening our doors for the betterment of our Fall River community in the Holy Name of Jesus. Prime Bishop Mikovsky thanked the parish for their efforts in the past and encouraged us to continue to do the work of our Lord Jesus Christ through Blessed Trinity Parish in our Fall River community.

Our parish chose this occasion to commemorate Clergy Appreciation weekend in our P.N.C.C. This was done by our parish youth thanking Fr. Sr. Rob for his service to our parish with a banner highlighting some of the ways that he has impacted their lives. The banquet concluded with Prime Bishop Mikovsky giving the Benediction and his Apostolic Blessing.

Thank You to Prime Bishop Anthony and Carol Mikovsky, Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski, our Precious Parish Youth, the Veterans' Kitchen of Fall River, Mayor Coogan, Senator Rodrigues, Representative Fiola, Chief Gauvin, Officer Ferreira, Councilors Pereira and Washington, VSO Hamilton, our Cantor Laurie Dionisio, our organist Ed Paluch, our Altar Servers and all who made this day so special and beautiful.

May God bless our efforts as we continue to live and spread the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in our greater Fall River community. May we be faithful in our discipleship each day that God gives to us and with truth, work and struggle we will succeed!



Our Saviour Parish in the Community and at the Parish

Woonsocket, RI

On June 11th Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI, hosted a party in honor of their pastor's 25th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination. It was a truly joyous occasion enjoyed by all, especially Rev. Henryk Wos.

June 17th was a very busy day as parish volunteers made and served 5 lbs. of American Chop Suey along with a take-along snack bag with some goodies. We saw many new faces and look forward to seeing them again for our July Free Drive-Thru Lunch.



St. John's Parish Offers Free Lunch to the Community

Manchester, CT

On Saturday, June 17th, St. John's Parish, Manchester, CT, held a free drive-thru lunch at the parish grounds. Plenty of pizza and some extra goodies were served throughout the event. Thanks to everyone who made this such a wonderful event.



Western Diocese

An Active Six Months at St. Mary's Parish South Bend, IN

Our annual Christmas/New Year's Brunch was held January 1 following Mass. Our parish provided the entrée and beverages and parishioners brought side items and desserts. Sharing of the Christmas Wafer and fellowship were enjoyed. Guests were also invited to join us.

In January a drive to collect items for moms and newborns was started as a support for the local right to life "Stuff a Semi" annual event. Many needed items were donated.

As an outreach tool, the parish has business cards which parishioners can use and give to anyone who may be interested in visiting St. Mary's and joining our church family.

During the Lenten season, a variety of Lenten materials were available to parishioners. This year, a Schedule of Lenten Services was prepared which could easily be given to relatives and friends to encourage participation. In March, the parish had a "pot luck" dinner and Lenten service. Also in March, the Lord's Supper Remembrance was held. This inspirational event has grown each year. Parishioners as well as guests are invited to participate.



Lord's Supper Remembrance

Very Reverend Charles Zawistowski was invited by Chief Elder Clarence White to attend the dedication and opening of the 4 Winds Hotel in South Bend. Chief Clarence White, a parishioner of St. Mary's, presided over the dedication.

The Outreach Team of St. Mary's met in March, and several ideas were presented by members including: delivering a potted plant to residents in the immediate

neighborhood of St. Mary's which included the Schedule of Lenten Services. Subsequently, the parish provided parishioners with potted plants to give to relatives, friends and neighbors which included a note stating that someone cares for them and a welcome to St. Mary's Parish with mass time. We are now sending "Thinking of You" cards to parishioners who have not been attending regularly and also to homebound parishioners who, due to medical issues, are unable to attend church.

The Chopin Choir sold fudge eggs for Easter and sold out! This has become an annual fundraiser of these delicious eggs. The eggs come from the South Bend Chocolate Company in South Bend and are sold at a discounted price.

St. Mary's is fortunate to have a second musician to offer music and singing during mass. Our long-time Choir Director and Organist, Carol Dzikowski Shamory, offers hymns on the organ. Our newest addition, Cassie Mielcarek, offers contemporary and traditional Christian music on the piano. Cassie also has a daughter who is an altar server.

A capital project to repair the roof and bell tower over the next four years has started. The bell tower was actually cut into the church building and is a source for leaking. Tuck pointing above the roof line of all mortar joints and replacement of fractured bricks will also be performed. The plan is to complete one side each during the next four years. Fund raising has begun for the estimated cost of \$20,000, and donations are already being received.

As part of our Mother's Day program, flowers are given to all Moms, or in memory of all Moms, by the Chopin Choir. The choir started this remembrance many, many years ago and it continues today as a tribute to Mothers.

The Ladies Adoration Society had a Gift Card drawing in May which was very successful. These funds are used for purchasing flowers for the altars as well as replacing linens needed for the altars.

Everyone was asked to wear red on Pentecost as a remembrance that the Holy Spirit descended on earth to guide and govern the Church and its people.

In early June we again gave flowers as an outreach effort. This time, we asked parishioners to sign up to

(Continued on Page 26.)

(An Active 6 Months at St. Mary's Parish - Continued from Page 25.)

give flowers to a family member, neighbor, or friend. An assortment of flowers and greens were planted in pots with the message "These flowers are a gift from someone who cares about you" along with parish information. Parishioners then gave these to anyone they chose. We received many great comments, and we thank Carol Kolecki for all of her efforts with this project!



Flowers for Giving

On June 18, a blessing of Lectors was given during Mass, and on June 25 a blessing for students, teachers, and school staff was given.

The Men's Club is planning an outing to see the South Bend Cubs play in July. This activity is open to all parishioners and guests.

An announcement was made that the city of South Bend will be planning a Fusion Fest scheduled for September. Ideas for participating in the event will be discussed by parishioners and a decision made as to whether St. Mary's will participate.

We have decals available for vehicles for the purpose of inviting the community to our church. Parishioners are asked to sign up for a decal.

We at St. Mary's wish all of you a wonderful summer!

Fran Lemanski



St. Mary's Parish Represented in Parma Constitution Day Parade Parma, OH



Preparations for St. Mary's participation in the Parma Constitution Day Parade began in April, with the filling of candy bags and preparation of informational sheets for those in attendance by those working from the church.

Then, on Sunday, May 7, a contingent of parishioners from St. Mary's met at the infamous "Parma Circle" to congregate in parade formation and await assignment. In a whoosh, we began, with the Polish School

that meets at our parish on Friday nights in formation right behind us!

As is parish custom, we gave out candy and dog treats along the way...and (another parish custom) we ran out of candy before arriving at the finish of the parade. Upon reaching the end, there was a 20 or so minute period of waiting until the program began.

Fr. Jason was called to pray the invocation, and to provide a Polish blessing to all.

I Love a Parade

St. Michael the Archangel Parish Prayer Craft Ministry Cedar Lake, IN

The Prayer Craft Ministry (PCM) of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN, had its 6th blessing on Father's Day, June 18th since its inception in November 2020. To date a total of 224 items: Scarves, shawls, blankets of various sizes and prayer bears have been blessed. Our crafters have either knitted crocheted, sewed (quilts/bears) or tied (fleece) items. These blessed PCM items of comfort are available to anyone, any time for free.

We not only have distributed them to parishioners, family and friends but to also those in the Northwest Indiana area and throughout the US and beyond.

Thanks to everyone who has prayed, crafted, donated supplies or monetary gifts to cover postage.

Christine Wachna, PCM Coordinator



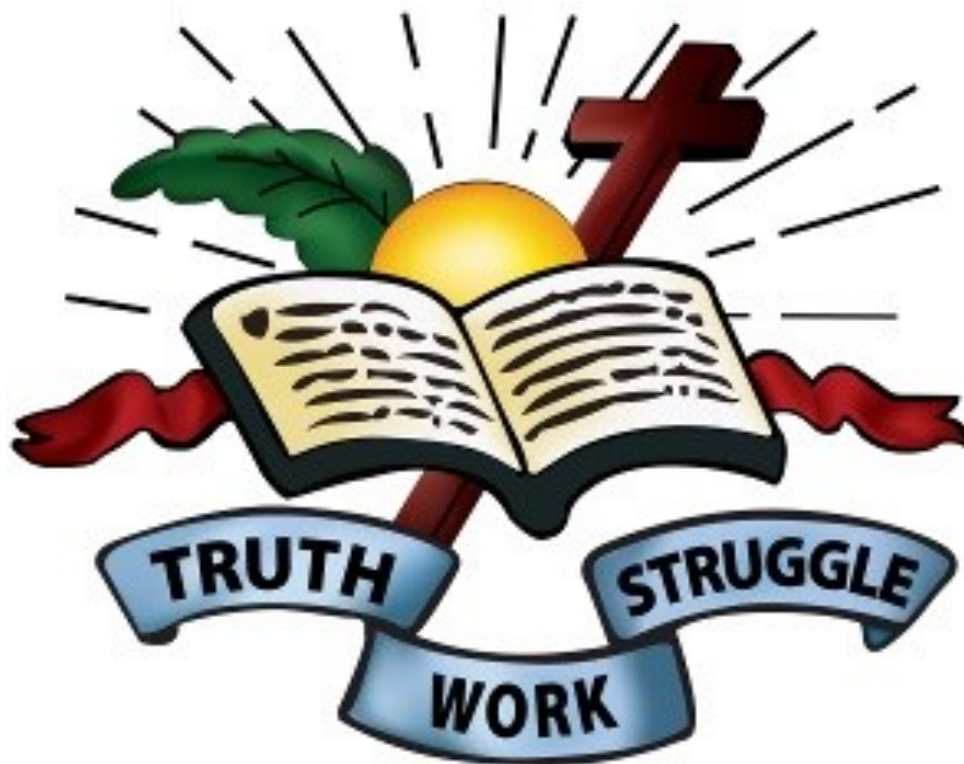
(Supreme Council Meeting Minutes- Continued from Page 13.)

Because this event is no longer held, the need was expressed for more annual events to bring young people together so that opportunities to reach this age group are not missed. To control housing expenses, the Spójnia Farm Campus in Waymart, PA, twenty minutes from Scranton, PA was suggested as a venue. Possibly the NYUA could plan such an event separate from Convo. Also, possibly diocesan youth convocations, typically held in the off year of the National Convocation could be opened to all youth of the P.N.C.C. to encourage youth in closer dioceses to attend. The more opportunities for P.N.C.C. youth to gather, the better. The Youth Commission's quarterly Zoom event is meant to bring the youth together virtually on a regular basis and establish relationships.

The Prime Bishop was very appreciative of the discussion since it showed the Supreme Council is concerned about the youth. The Youth Commission is a wonderful addition to supporting the work of the youth and the P.N.C.C. The Prime Bishop will suggest to the synod that it become a mandated commission of the P.N.C.C. going forward.

(To be continued in Volume 101, Issue #8, August 2023 God's Field.)





(Future Direction July Message - Continued from Page 4.)

which allow us to form ourselves into disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through our attendance at liturgical services and Christian discipline within our daily living.

Through all of these teachings we seek to submit ourselves to the 'gentle yoke' of Jesus. He said: "Come to Me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Action Item

As we gather for Holy Mass each week, take a moment to reflect on the Nicene Creed as you recite it. Remind yourself that in reciting it you stand on the solid foundation of the faith that was handed down from the time of our Lord to the present day through the Church. Also take some time to read this Creed, as well as the Apostles Creed and the Confession of Faith of the Polish National Catholic Church to understand better the faith that you hold as a Polish National Catholic. Realize that the Church is still a living body, and therefore it continues to speak to its members and, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, leads them to salvation.

Also take a look through the pages of the PNCC Prayer Book to familiarize yourself with what is taught within it. Just a few are: *The Two Commandments of Love*: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind; and You shall love your neighbor as yourself. *The Corporal Works of Mercy*: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, harbor the needy, visit the sick, minister to captives and bury the dead. *The Spiritual Works of Mercy*: instruct the ignorant, correct offenders, counsel the doubtful, comfort the sorrowful, suffer injuries with patience, forgive offenses, pray for the living and the dead. And many others found there as well. Also see that each of these teachings allow us to find other ways to reach out to each other in Christian love.

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