



Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Volume 103

January 2025

Issue #1

## Spiritual Resolutions

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

As we begin the New Year, we often spend a bit of time thinking about what sort of new directions we will take in the days, weeks and months to come. This is the time of year when we commit to New Year's Resolutions in hopes of getting ourselves on the right track. These resolutions are often having to deal with some good habit that we think we should adopt, or some bad habit that we need to remove from our daily living. Certainly, these things are good for us, as long as we can remain realistic and also if we truly have the will to commit to bringing these things to pass.

Unfortunately, studies show that by the end of the first week of the New Year, 23% of people have already given up on any resolutions that they had made, and by the end of the month of January, just a few short weeks away, nearly 50% of all resolutions will fail. Studies show that "optimism alone will not result in the change we want. The reality is there are a number of things about the way we make New Year's resolutions that set us up for failure before we've even started."

Several of the studies that I've read regarding this then go on to explain about better ways to help us keep these resolutions. But I noticed that not one of them spoke about anything of a spiritual dimension to this issue. Maybe instead of just looking inwardly to see where we think we should change, even if these changes would be good for us, maybe we rather need to turn to Almighty God to see where He is leading us.

And while we are at it, maybe we need to think about exactly what sort of resolutions we should be making in the first place. It's for that reason that I titled this article Spiritual Resolutions. What are we doing to develop and bring about a richer and more meaningful spiritual life within our homes and within our parishes. It would seem to me that if we can get on the right track with our spiritual lives, then maybe our physical lives will much more easily fall into the right place.

On the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time on January 19, 2025, we are still experiencing the ways in which our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is making Himself manifest to us. In the Gospel reading of this Sunday, Jesus performs His first miracle, His first act of power, His first sign for His followers. He turns water into wine showing them that at the 'wedding feast' that is to come, the establishment of the kingdom of God, our Lord will provide an abundance of joyful things to experience. But while we rejoice at the inauguration of this work of the kingdom, we might ask ourselves, how exactly am I to be a participant in this joyful work. It is within this Sunday's readings also that we hear the words of St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians.

"There are different gifts but the same Spirit; there are different ministries but the same Lord; there are different works but the same God Who accomplishes all of them in everyone. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To

(Continued on Page 3.)

**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  
Publication Information**

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

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

Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:

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

**Identification Statement**

The Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church, **GOD’S FIELD - ROLA BOŻA**, is published monthly for the U.S. **\$50.00**; Canada **\$70.00**; **per subscription year (March through February)** by Polish National Catholic Church  
1006 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505-4109

Individual issues of *God’s Field* are available for purchase from the National Church Center for \$2.25 each (pickup) or prepaid \$4.25 each (U.S.); \$6.00 each (Canada).

**Send payments and address changes to:**

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

**CONTROLLER:**

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

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

**Inside this Issue**

Spiritual Resolutions - Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky .....	1
Financial Obligations of the Parishes of the P.N.C.C. ....	4
By-Laws of the P.N.C.C. - Regulation 11 - General Church Funds .....	5
January 2025 P.N.C.C. Future Direction Message .....	6
National United Choirs Music Scholarship Sunday.....	8
National United Choirs 2025 Music Scholarship Awards .....	8
The Nativity of Our Lord - Deacon Justin Daviault .....	9
Seminarians, Seminary and Your Help .....	10
Scout Sunday.....	10
Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese .....	11
Central Diocese .....	12
Eastern Diocese .....	15
Western Diocese .....	17

(Spiritual Resolutions - Continued from Page 1.)

one the Spirit gives wisdom in discourse, to another the power to express knowledge. Through the Spirit one receives faith; by the same Spirit another is given the gift of healing, and still another miraculous powers. Prophecy is given to one; to another power to distinguish one spirit from another. One receives the gift of tongues, another that of interpreting the tongues. But it is one and the same Spirit Who produces all these gifts, distributing them to each as He wills.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

We see within this reading that there are many spiritual disciplines that we should seek to increase within our lives. But of course, each of them begins, not with our own resolve, but rather with the initiative of the Spirit. No amount of willpower, or stick-to-it-iveness is going to bring this about. It must begin with our putting ourselves in a position to be used by God for greater things. Notice that within the reading it states that each of these works, or gifts or ministries is given “for the common good.” So just maybe the problem with our resolution making is that it is almost entirely focused inwardly on ourselves. We must seek to have our lives grow, more spiritual, more healthy, more holy for others.

So, while we are making some resolutions for ourselves at the beginning of this year, and even if we haven't done so, maybe this idea of allowing God to use us for the common good is something that we should consider. While we certainly can set out to do some good things for our health or our well-being, let us also give some thought to our religious life in the year to ahead.

Let us resolve to be more spiritual in this year to come. Let us spend more time in prayer, both within our parish churches and also in our daily lives. Let us be more committed to our worship of Almighty God. Let us commit to a more full celebration of the Sacraments of the Church. Let us take the Sacrament of Penance to heart, not only when we come to church, but even beforehand, that we might spend some time in thought and prayer to prepare ourselves to receive the sacrament and the forgiveness of sins worthily. Let us make a commitment to more fully participate in the Sacrament of the Word of God. We should pray for our pastors and others who preach to us, that

the Holy Spirit will bless them to preach and live the Word of God within their own lives and through that to give strong examples to all of us. Also, let us strive to listen, understand and reflect on the homilies that are preached to us. In this way we will fully participate in the “preaching and hearing” of the Word of God. Let us spend time in preparation, prayer and thanksgiving as we approach the Sacrament of the Altar, Holy Communion. And as we receive Christ present in this Sacrament, let us allow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, take full possession of our whole lives that we may be more fully conformed to His life.

And I am sure that with a little thought, we might think of many other things that would allow us to grow ever closer to Almighty God. But we also must realize that these internal spiritual things are really only the beginning of the sort of manifestation that we saw above in the First Letter to the Corinthians. Through all of these spiritual works, we become filled with the Holy Spirit and are given gifts, works and ministries all for the common good. So then, we must take our renewed spiritual lives and find ways in which we can go about serving the common good, helping our brothers and sisters..

This means that we must serve those we come into contact with, we must pray for them, help them, support them and sustain them. We can begin by better serving and helping those right within our own families and among our friends. But we also must then find ways to widen that sphere of prayer and help to include others.

In the Gospel for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, after Jesus performs the miracle, or sign, of turning water into wine, and the Gospel writer, St. John tells us, “Jesus performed this first of His signs at Cana in Galilee. Thus did He reveal His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.” (John 2:11) Jesus was manifested through this miracle He performed. As we seek to find ways to grow more fully conformed to Jesus, He will then be made manifest in our own time in our works, in our gifts and in our ministries.

Let us make many resolutions in this New Year, but in all of them let us serve Christ.

## **Financial Obligations of the Parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church**

This article serves to inform the parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church of the financial requirements as they stand at the present time. These include the decisions that were made during the General Synod held in October 2018 and they were not changed at the most recent 2022 General Synod.

The Pastors and Parish Committee Members of each Parish are reminded to review Regulation 11 of the 2022 PNCC Constitution, Bylaws and Code of Faith (formerly Article XXI) which addresses Church Funds. Each parish of this Church must act in accordance with this portion of the Constitution.

### **General Fund Dues**

During the XXIV General Synod held in October of 2014 the delegates voted to set the General Fund Dues at \$100.00 per member. This amount was unchanged by the 2018 and 2022 General Synods. This figure will continue each year until the next General Synod in 2026.

An important point for the parish to remember, noted in Regulation 11, Section 3 (formerly Article XXI, Section 4), is that the Parish is responsible to contribute \$100.00 for each member on its parish roll. Although the Parish may collect funds from its membership in various ways, either through direct assessment (dues), or Sunday collections or a pledge system, the \$100.00 is the responsibility of the Parish for each member. According to Regulation 11, Section 9 (formerly Article XXI, Section 16) of the Constitution, these funds that are collected must be submitted to their Diocesan Treasurer quarterly.

### **6% Levy**

Along with the above obligation, each parish must also submit funds according to the 6% levy. According to Regulation 11, Section 2 (formerly Article XXI, Section 3) of the Constitution, six percent (6%) of Parish Dues (counting only that part kept by the Parish), regular Sunday and Holy Day collections must be submitted to the National Church via their Diocesan Treasurers. According to Regulation 11, Section 9 (formerly Article XXI, Section 16) of the Constitution this 6% Levy on funds that are collected is to be submitted to their Diocesan Treasurer quarterly.

### **Special Collections**

A number of special collections are identified either in the Constitution of the Polish National Catholic Church or are mandated through Synodal Action of the Church.

The following Special National Collections are to be taken in every parish of the Polish National Catholic Church for the following purposes:

- January 5, 2025 - For the Mission Fund
- January 26, 2025 - Music Scholarship Sunday – For the Music Scholarship Fund
- February 2, 2025 - For the Mission Fund
- March 2, 2025 - For the Mission Fund
- March 9, 2025 - Institution of the P.N.C.C. – For the National Church Center
- April 6, 2025 - For the Mission Fund
- May 4, 2025 - For the Mission Fund
- June 1, 2025 - For the Mission Fund
- June 15, 2025 - Father's Day – For the Clergy Pension Fund
- July 6, 2025 - For the Mission Fund
- August 3, 2025 - For the Mission Fund
- August 31, 2025 - Youth Sunday – For the Youth Fund
- September 7, 2025 - For the Mission Fund
- September 14, 2025 - Solemnity – Brotherly Love – For the Bp. Hodur Retreat Center
- October 5, 2025 - For the Mission Fund
- October 19, 2025 - Heritage Sunday – Outreach to Poland Collection
- November 2, 2025 - For the Mission Fund
- December 7, 2025 - For the Mission Fund
- December 28, 2025 - Solemnity – Humble Shepherds – Seminary Fund
- January 4, 2026 - For the Mission Fund

The funds from these collections are also to be submitted by the Parishes to their Diocesan Treasurers. According to Regulation 11, Section 8 (formerly Article XXI, Section 17) the Treasurer of each Diocese is to forward the appropriate funds to the Treasurer of the P.N.C.C. within 30 days.

Parishes are also reminded, according to Regulation 11, Section 9 (formerly Article XXI, Section 16) of the Constitution that “all monies collected and received by a Parish Committee from the sources of income in Section 3 of this Article (i.e. General Fund Dues, 6% Fund, and Special Collections) shall be paid quarterly to its Diocesan Treasurer.

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

Below is listed Regulation 11 of “The Constitution. By Laws and Code of Faith of the Polish National Catholic Church” which was adopted by the XXVI General Synod of the PNCC held in Scranton, PA in October 2022.

### **By-Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church Regulation 11 – General Church Funds**

**Section 1.** The work of this Church is supported by the following funds:

- General Fund;
- Mission Fund;
- Seminary Fund;
- Youth Fund;
- School of Christian Living Fund;
- Publications Fund;
- Parish Loans Fund;
- Clergy Aid Fund;
- Clergy Pension Fund;
- Clergy Hospitalization Plan;
- Administrative Fund

**Section 2.** The sources of income for Church Funds are:

- General Fund Dues;
- Monthly first Sunday Voluntary Mission Fund contributions of which one-half shall be retained by the Diocese;
- Donations and bequests;
- Six (6%) percent levy on parish dues, regular Sunday and Holy Day collections. For the purpose of this Section 2(d), the six (6%) percent levy shall not apply to General Fund dues.
- Such other moneys as shall be provided for by synodal enactments.

**Section 3.** The General Synod determines the General Fund Dues for adult members. For the purpose of this section an adult member of the Church is defined as a husband, wife, widow, widower, or unmarried person age eighteen (18) and above. Full time students will be exempted until age twenty-three (23). The payment of the General Fund dues shall be the obligation of the Parish and shall be remitted quarterly to its Diocesan Bishop.

**Section 4.** The annual General Fund dues shall be distributed by the Diocesan Bishop as follows: he shall retain an amount determines by the General Synod and remit the remainder to the Treasurer of this Church. A budget shall be adopted annually by the Supreme Council to fund the work of this Church.

**Section 5.** The Seminary Fund is a fund established for the support and maintenance of this Church’s Theological Seminary. The sources of income for this Fund are as follows: the apportionment of the General Fund dues; the special collection made on the Sunday of the Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds; and voluntary contributions and bequests to the Fund.

**Section 6.** The Clergy Pension Fund is a fund established for the purpose of payment of pensions to those of the clergy who shall qualify and comply with the provisions of the Clergy Pension Plan established for retired clergymen of this Church. The sources of income for this fund are as follows: Father’s Day collection for this purpose; the apportionment of the General Fund dues, and voluntary contributions and bequests made to this Fund.

(Continued on bottom of Page 20.)

## P.N.C.C. Future Direction January 2025 Nicea at 1700

### Introduction

In this year of 2025, we will spend some time considering the treasures that were left to the Church at the Council of Nicea in the year 325 AD. This year we honor 1700 years since the time of this important Ecumenical Council of the Church. We will examine, not only the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, but also other aspects of this Council that are important to us in the Polish National Catholic Church today. We will see within this tradition the conciliar aspects of the governance of the church and also the canonical aspects concerning how the church operates in the present day.

### Nicene Creed

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary AND BECAME MAN. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life Who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. I believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Scripture

#### *One God*

Deuteronomy 6:4 – Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Mark 12:29 – Which commandment is the greatest of all? Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ...’”

Ephesians 4:6 – One God and Father of all, Who is above all and through all and in all.

1 Corinthians 8:6 – Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from Whom are all things and for Whom we exist,

#### *Father Almighty*

Isaiah 63:16 – For You are our Father, though Abraham does not know us and Israel does not acknowledge us; For You are our Father; our Redeemer from of old is Your name.

Isaiah 64:8 – Yet, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand.

Matthew 6:9 – Jesus said: “Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, ...”

Ephesians 4:6 – One God and Father of all, Who is above all and through all and in all.

2 Corinthians 6:18 – And I will be your Father, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.

#### *Creator of Heaven and earth*

Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth...

Job 38:1a, 4 – The Lord answered Job: “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?”

Revelation 4:11 – You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created.

*Of all things seen and unseen*

John 1:3 – All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being.

Hebrews 11:3 – By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Revelation 4:11 – You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created.

## Reflection

In this first look at the Nicene Creed we will examine the first portion which deals with God the Father. The Creed States: *I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.* Each of these things that we confess concerning our belief in God, the Almighty Father, are supported within the pages of Scripture. Although the Creed was composed by the Bishops of the Church gathered during the Council, each thing said was built on a foundation that was laid in Holy Scripture.

Above we give just a few of the Biblical references to support what we confess concerning God the Father each and every time we say the Creed during Holy Mass. In fact, this belief in Almighty God is that which shows the continuation of the Old Testament faith in One God to be kept in the pages of the New Testament within the Christian Church.

In confessing these things concerning Almighty God we are also speaking about the relationship that we have with Him in our own religious life. We confess God to be our Father. He is not just an impersonal Creator, but He is One Who has a true relationship with us. And it is a relationship of both love and expectation. Taking the example of fatherhood within our own world, in the Creed we confess, a consideration of fatherhood serves as an example of the love that God has for us, as well as the expectation that God places upon us.

We also confess that God is the Maker of all that is, seen and unseen. We remind ourselves in this confession that God is preeminent, He is before all things that exist. In this too, He is almighty, because He made all things, both those that are seen and those that are unseen, from nothing.

## Action Item

As an action item pray the Nicene Creed during Holy Mass with some intention. Realize these individual things that you confess concerning God the Father. Realize that God is not just the all-powerful Creator, but He is also your loving Father. And in that role, He desires the best for you and for you to live with Him eternally.

Also, spend some time reading through the Creed apart from Holy Mass. Make in a part of your daily prayers realizing that in confessing the Creed we confess a succinct expression of the entire Catholic faith. In praying the Creed we confess the totality of Holy Scripture.

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





### National United Choirs Music Scholarship Sunday

Music Scholarship Sunday is January 26, 2025. Hopefully your parish will celebrate this special Sunday by recognizing those who provide the music for your liturgies, as well as take up the collection for the program, as authorized by Synodal vote.

As an individual, please consider donating to this worthy program. Since it began in the previous century, \$358,085.00 has been awarded to 1145 members of our PNCC. Your donations have helped so many people improve their musical skills to the benefit of our beloved parishes. Our church is blessed to have this scholarship program and to have so many past and present recipients still providing their talents for the Glory of God!

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

Liz Kaniewski  
 NUC Treasurer  
 7719 W. Coventry Drive  
 Franklin, WI 53132

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

**Parish Treasurers:** Please submit your parish donations to the scholarship fund to your diocesan treasurer by the end of the first quarter so they can be forwarded in a timely manner for use in the 2025 awards. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!

### National United Choirs 2025 Music Scholarship Awards

Applications are now available! Are you currently taking paid music lessons for organ, piano, voice, or another instrument? Do you participate in the music ministry of your parish? If so, you may be eligible for a Music Scholarship from the National United Choirs.

All necessary criteria, instructions and forms can be downloaded from the scholarship website: [www.nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com](http://www.nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com) Instructions and necessary forms are revised yearly due to technology and music changes ***Please use the current website publications to insure you will be following the proper instructions.*** Deadline for submission is **May 1, 2025.**

Pastors, Organists, and PNCC members: Please encourage those eligible in your parish to apply to this very rewarding program that has provided financial assistance to so many people in the PNCC over the past six decades.

Any questions can be submitted to: Cathy A. Bilinski  
 Music Scholarship Administrator  
[nucscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:nucscholarship@gmail.com)



## The Nativity of Our Lord

by Deacon Justin Daviault

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.” These words are taken from the gospel for the Midnight Mass of the Shepherds.

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Brothers and Sisters, here we have very historical references in the events in the gospel and we see God working through and with the least of us. Joseph and Mary had to go to the “City of David,” Bethlehem, due to a census. Both were of David’s line and the prophecy was that the messiah would be born in the City of David. Who were Joseph and Mary? Were they kings, queens or important people? No, they were both very simple and humble people that were chosen to fulfill God’s purpose. Mary having said ‘yes’ to God’s angel and Joseph also saying ‘yes’ in his own way by keeping Mary as his wife.

In society at that time and even in ours today, humble and poor people were, and sometimes still are, looked down on. But these simple and humble people were about to change the entire world by following God’s plan. Who were the first to hear about the birth of the messiah? The humblest of people at the time, shepherds. The poorest of the working class in Israel, shepherds that lived in the fields with their flocks of sheep. By the way, Bishop Hodur recognized this and it is for this reason that we have a feast of the Humble Shepherds in our church. Bethlehem was also a very poor and humble town.

So, we have a small unimportant town, with simple and unimportant people and the announcement to the most humble of shepherds. God chooses to do his work through the most humble of people. God is about to begin the change of the entire world with a few humble folks. Amazing if we truly consider God’s wisdom here though we might not fully understand it. Interestingly, what does the word ‘Bethlehem’ mean? House of bread. A town where bread is baked. Bread is the “staff of life”, the most basic and simplest of food for most people. It is the main staple as it is the most inexpensive for people to obtain eat and survive. Isn’t it interesting that Jesus uses bread with his disciples to signify his body and we consecrate bread at every Mass to be His Body for our spiritual food? Born in the house of bread to the humblest of people consecrating bread the simplest of food to be his body for our spiritual food. All of this is wonderful.

It’s the time to rejoice as our Savior has been born. Let us remember this as we celebrate that Jesus taught us to be humble and remember those who are in need at this joyous time. As we remember Jesus’ humble entry and his teaching us to serve, let us do what we can to serve others as he would have us do.

Rejoice, rejoice, for He is born.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



## Seminarians, Seminary, and Your Help

We have been regularly praying for the gift of vocations and God is answering our pleas. We have six men in formation for the priesthood and several on track for entry into the Savonarola Theological Seminary. Others regularly contact Fr. Jim, who is the National Vocations Director, seeking information. This is indeed a great blessing, and we should give thanks.

As you may be aware, the seminary building was in significant need of updating and repair. Pipes were leaking, the restrooms and showers were unusable (imagine wide open toilet stalls), the furnace/boiler dating to 1968 was shot with water leaking on the burners, old cast iron stack pipes needed replacement, dorm room furniture was in bad shape, and mattresses – well imagine sleeping on a camel.

We have undertaken these projects in a phased approach. The focus is on creating a residence not of luxury but of basic dignity.

The Y.M.S. of R. Central Committee put together a team to clean out the seminary. Thank you to Nick Kazinetz, Nick Cimino., Kevin McConlogue, Jeremy Nichols, and the Stankowski men (Ethan, Austin, Lucas) for your hard work. They filled a thirty cubic yard dumpster to the brim.

In the weeks and months ahead, the library will be re-cataloged, plumbing repairs will be completed, the bathroom and showers completed, and the boiler replaced. New dorm room furniture and mattresses are being procured.

Parishes and Y.M.S. of R. branches have reached out to help through fundraisers and financial donations, as well as in-kind work. Some have suggested that they would like to “adopt a seminarian.” We are hopeful that parishes and dioceses who will benefit from having these men in ministry will also step up to help.

Let us consider what we might do personally and collectively. Your generosity is definitely needed.

Donations may be sent to: The Savonarola Theological Seminary Fund, c/o The Office of the Prime Bishop, 1006 Pittston Ave., Scranton, PA 18505-4109.

Submitted by Rev. Jim Konicki

## Scout Sunday

On Sunday, February 2, 2025, the Boy Scouts of America (from February 8, 2025, officially as Scouting America) will celebrate Scout Sunday, Interfaith. This is a special interfaith day set aside by the Scouting movement for all Scouts to reflect on their acknowledgement of duty to God in the Scout Oath or Promise and the 12<sup>th</sup> point of Scout Law - *A Scout is Reverent*.

We request that for the Holy Mass on February 2<sup>nd</sup> you invite all Scouts both youth and adult members of your Parish to wear their scout uniforms. If possible, during the Liturgy or during fellowship afterwards, please acknowledge the Scouts in uniform and also ask any former Leaders or Scouts who are present to stand and to be recognized.

In the Liturgy on that day, you may add following Pastoral Prayer:

**O God, Your will is that all Your children should grow into the fullness of life. We lift to You the ministry of scouting. We offer You thanks for camping, to teach us that the world is our great home; for study and work, to build character; for service, to see our responsibility to those in need; for encouragement in genuine patriotism and vital faith. Bless the work of scouting, in this place and around the world, that, through its efforts, the young may, like our Lord, increase in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with You and all people. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

And an addition to the Intercessory Prayer:

**God loves His creation, and His goodness sustains the universe. Let us pray that He will bestow His blessings upon all scouts and their families. May they be renewed and supported with His strength.**

(Continued on bottom of Page 11.)

## Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

### Lunch with Santa at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral Lancaster, NY

On Saturday, December 7, 2024, Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral Parish in Lancaster, NY, hosted a Lunch With Santa.

A special “Thank You” to the Mission & Evangelism Group, Parishioners, and the Lancaster Youth Bureau Volunteers, for making the event so much fun and for bringing joy, goodwill, and the love of the Christ Child to our community!

Forty-five children and fifty adults were treated to a delicious lunch, Christmas movies, cookies, and cake after singing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus. Then excitedly, the wide-eyed children shared a magical visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus!

The time, effort, and generosity that everyone put into this day will be remembered in the hearts of the children forever!



(Scout Sunday - Continued from Page 10.)

Please, remind all the Scouts of the religious awards of the Polish National Catholic Church that can be earned and assist them in requesting the award requirements from diocesan representatives of the Polish National Catholic Church Committee on Scouting.

Even, if you don't have scouts in your own Parish, you can always pray for those who are in the Parishes in our Church!

Girl Scouts observe Girl Scout Week each March, starting with Girl Scout Sunday (this year it will be March 9) and ending with Girl Scout Sabbath on Saturday.

In Canada Scout Guide Sunday is observed on February 16, 2025,

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky – Prime Bishop  
Rev. Adam Czarnecki – Scouting Commission Chaplain

**Central Diocese****Scranton Seniorate Conducts Advent Penitential Service at Providence of God Parish  
Scranton, PA**

On Saturday, December 7, 2024 the Scranton Seniorate of the Central Diocese of the P.N.C.C. conducted its annual Advent Penitential Service , at the Providence of God Lithuanian National Catholic Church Parish in Scranton, PA.

In attendance were: Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Bp. Bernard Nowicki, Fr. Walter Placek and Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid who conducted the service and had homily. Savonarola Theological Seminary's students as well as parishioners from St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish in Scranton, PA, Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA and Providence of God Parish participated in this Advent Service. Lunch was served in the Parish Hall following the service.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



## December at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish

### Dupont, PA

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA, held its annual Breakfast with Saint Nicholas on Sunday, December 8, 2024. Breakfast was complimentary to all parishioners and friends of our parish. All children received gifts from St Nicholas. During the breakfast we made a donation of toys to the Greater Pittston Santa Squad. We would like to thank our parish volunteers for setting and decorating the Parish Hall and all the cooking.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Peace & Blessings at Christmas & in the New Year  
 Fr. Koterba & Parish Committee  
 Church of Resurrection, Brooklyn, NY



## Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Children & Youth Christmas Play

Dupont, PA

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish School of Christian Living children and youth presented “An Itty-Bitty Baby Boy” Christmas play before the Christmas Eve Mass. Special thanks to Debbie Bilinski who prepared the play.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



**Eastern Diocese****Eastern Diocese Clergy Retreat  
Madison, CT**

From December 2–5, 2024, the clergy of the Eastern Diocese convened at the serene Mercy Center in Madison, CT, for their Annual Clergy Retreat. Under the spiritual guidance of Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, this retreat served as an opportunity for prayer, reflection, and renewal of their sacred mission.

Prime Bishop Anthony directed the retreat sessions, centering his reflections on the profound theme of the Sacrament of the Word of God. His insightful meditations explored the transformative power of Scripture in the life of the Church and the ministry of the clergy. In addition to this central theme, the retreat master addressed other significant pastoral, spiritual, and theological topics, including the crucial subject of priestly identity and mission amid the challenges of contemporary society.

The spiritual rhythm of the retreat was marked by daily celebrations of the Holy Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. In the peaceful atmosphere of the chapel, the clergy also availed themselves of the Sacrament of Penance, ministered by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, providing an opportunity for personal renewal and grace.

Special thanks are extended to Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky for his leadership, wisdom, and dedication in guiding the clergy throughout this retreat. His reflections and spiritual insights were a source of inspiration and encouragement. The clergy are also deeply grateful to the Sisters of Mercy for their warm hospitality, meticulous care, and the delicious meals that nourished both body and soul during their stay.

This retreat not only strengthened the clergy in their spiritual journey but also reaffirmed their commitment to serving God and His people in these challenging times.

## Fall River's Father Rob the definition of clergy serving the community

Published December 14, 2024

By Ken Paiva – Fall River Reporter

FALL RIVER, MA – Father Rob Nemkovich, pastor of Blessed Trinity parish of the Polish National Catholic Church, doesn't just preach the gospel, he lives it.

Father Rob, with the parish committee, allows the use of the church property at 1340 Plymouth Avenue and puts his own time into an array of events in the city to help others.

Here are some examples:

On Christmas Day there will be the annual Fall River Community Brunch for anyone alone or in need in our community at Blessed Trinity. Doors open at 10 am and they begin serving at 11 am.

In partnership with the Father Kelly Neighborhood, Holy Trinity will be holding suicide prevention gatekeeper training on December 16th at 6:30 p.m.

The annual Christmas Toy Drive pick up at Blessed Trinity by the Fall River Police Department will take place on December 21st starting at 9 am at Blessed Trinity to help wrap.

Holy Trinity holds an annual Thanksgiving Day Fall River Community Turkey Dinner. This past Thanksgiving over 200 meals were served thanks to Father Rob and community members who helped and donated to the dinner.

In November, Father Rob and the Fall River Police Department held the annual Guns For Groceries event that set a record for guns turned in.

Despite there being many, Father Rob just doesn't put on, or have a hand in, events.

If you ask members of the community, Father reaches out to help the youth in the city, such as the Fall River Falcons. He also is there for our seniors. Actions that don't always make headlines.

During COVID, Father Rob prepared Sunday Worship by video for those who couldn't attend Mass due to the outbreak.

With the help of community members, Father Rob and Blessed Trinity Parish truly make Fall River a better place.



Community Brunch



Toy Drive



Gatekeeper Training



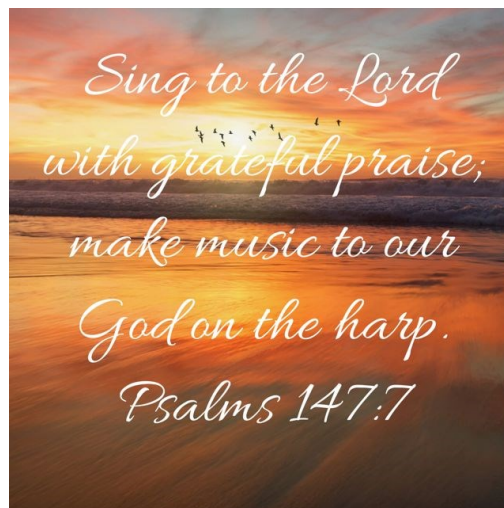
**Western Diocese****Milwaukee Circle Choir Performs****Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, South Milwaukee, WI**

On Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Milwaukee Circle Choir performed for an enthusiastic and cheerful crowd at South Milwaukee Christmas at the Commons held at the Bucyrus Commons in South Milwaukee.

The following day, Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>, the choir performed in concert at Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in South Milwaukee. Their performance featured the cantata "A Noel Celebration, A Cantata of the Christmas Story" as well as choral selections of traditional English and Polish Christmas carols.

Everyone attending were treated to joyous music, community connection and were able to celebrate God during the Christmas season.

The Milwaukee Circle Choir is the performance choir of the Milwaukee area Polish National Catholic Church.



## Western Diocese North Central Seniorate Advent Retreat St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN



On Saturday, December 7, St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Cedar Lake, IN, hosted an Advent Retreat with the theme of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Presentations were extended on the four themes of the Advent Season followed by discussion, contemplation and prayer.





**HISTORY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH  
SCHOLARS CONFERENCE 2025**

**APRIL 26, 2025**

**SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA**

Participants are encouraged to attend in person. A virtual option will be provided. Contact us for additional information.



Students receive all meals provided at no cost.  
Two \$500.00 stipends are available for graduate student presentations!  
Inclusion in the PNCC Studies Publication

Register today at:

Email: [pbmikovsky@pncc.org](mailto:pbmikovsky@pncc.org)  
Phone: 570-346-9131



**NEW DAY  
NEW WAY**

**PNCC/YMSofR  
BOWLING OUTING  
2025**

**STAY TUNED!!**

**WORKSHOP**

**MISSION & EVANGELISM**

**Denver, Co**

**MAY 30 - JUNE 1 2025**

# SPOJNIA FARM APPAREL FOR SALE

**ONLINE ORDERS**

Scan this on your smartphone to place an order.



Additional \$10 shipping cost. Credit card transactions will be processed under the name Pools, Patios & Porches on your billing statement.



**BASEBALL 3/4 SLEEVE**

Youth M, L, XL	Adult S-3XL
Red/Heather Only	Red/White or Red/Heather
<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$20 <del>\$25</del></b>



**T-SHIRT - Green**

Youth M, L, XL	Adult S-3XL
<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$20 <del>\$25</del></b>



**HOODIE - Green**

Youth M, L, XL	Adult S-3XL
<b>\$30</b>	<b>\$35 <del>\$40</del></b>

All proceeds will be used for future improvements to the Spojnia Farm Campus



(By-Laws of the P.N.C.C - Regulation 11 - General Church Funds- Continued from Page 5.)

- Section 7.** The Mission Fund, Youth Fund, School of Christian Living Fund, Publications Fund, Parish Loans Fund, Clergy Aid Fund, Clergy Hospitalization Fund and Administrative Fund shall be funded in accordance with the budget set annually by the Supreme Council.
- Section 8.** The General Church or Supreme Council shall order annual or special collections to support causes within the Polish National Catholic Church or its affiliates, such as Spójnia, Inc. These collections will take place on the days designated and shall be remitted by parishes through their Diocesan Bishop to the Treasurer of this Church within thirty (30) days. A list of these collections will be distributed to the Parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church each year.
- Section 9.** All monies collected and received by a Parish Committee from the sources of income set forth in Regulation 11, Section 2 of the Constitution, By-Laws and Code of Faith of this Church shall be paid quarterly to its Diocesan Bishop.
- Section 10.** The Diocesan Bishop shall remit all monies due to this Church to the Treasurer of this Church within thirty (30) days, who shall give his receipt therefor.
- Section 11.** The Prime Bishop shall appoint an Auditing Committee of three (3) members whose duty shall be to examine and audit the financial books and records of this Church and to annually render a summary of the Church's Funds to each member of the Supreme Council.
- Section 12.** The Supreme Council shall establish a Finance Commission whose task will be to see to the performance of the enactments of the Synods pertaining to the securing of funds for the general purposes of this Church. The Commission shall consist of a chairman, secretary, treasurer and two members appointed by the Prime Bishop from among the members of the Supreme Council.
- Section 13.** All funds designated for the general use of this Church are to be transferred through the Office of the Prime Bishop where the Treasurer of this Church shall enter the same into the Church's financial books, and, once a year, it will render a published record of the funds, which shall be sent to every Parish.