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Lenten Encounter with Christ

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

As we now find ourselves within the season of Great Lent, we are given many opportunities to come into closer and closer contact with the life, and especially the passion and death, of our Lord Jesus Christ. During this season we will walk the Stations of the Cross as we gather together for them within our parish churches. We will also reflect on these events when we celebrate Bitter Lamentations and other penitential devotions. But within the first two weeks of the Lenten season, we also take some time to join with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as He prepares Himself to go to Jerusalem where this journey of the Passion will come to its completion. It is important that we walk this portion of the journey along with Jesus as well, since in this Lenten journey we gain strength for the journey of our own lives in striving to unite them to Jesus.

On the First Sunday of Lent, the reading from Saint Luke's Gospel is Jesus being tempted in the desert by the devil. This is a well attested event within the life of our Lord since it appears within all three of the synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. Following the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, He goes to the desert where He fasts and communes with His Father. For the Jewish people, the desert was certainly a place where you come into contact with the divine. And during this contact, you confront the challenges to your connection with God.

The Gospel reads: "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days He was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days,

and when they were over, He was famished. The devil said to Him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone.'"

"Then the devil led Him up and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to Him, 'To You I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him.'"

"Then the devil took Him to Jerusalem, and placed Him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to Him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command His angels concerning You, to protect You," and "On their hands they will bear You up, so that You will not dash Your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from Him until an opportune time." (Luke 4:1-13)

We see here only three specific temptations, but from the last sentence, we can assume that Jesus faced "every test" that was put to Him. We also notice that these temptations dealt with taking some easy way around the commandments of God, to accomplish through some shortcut, what Jesus had set out to do. We take from this that through the entire ministry of Jesus, He followed fully the commands and way set

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forward by His heavenly Father. And He did this from this moment until He prayed: “Not My will, but Yours be done,” (Luke 22:42) on the evening before His crucifixion.

In seeking to travel our own desert journey during this Lenten season, we see that Jesus has shown us that temptations are conquered by turning to the saying of God in Scripture as Jesus did. When the temptations come, Jesus sets out the way, the desire and plan of God for all of us, His people. This certainly is a Lenten lesson that we must take to heart to guide us, not only in our Lenten journey, but in our entire journey through life. The lessons are: “Be sustained by the presence of God, serve Him alone, and fully trust in His way.”

In the Gospel reading of the second Sunday in Lent we find our Lord in another place of connection with God: the mountain. The mountain is the place where Moses encountered God in the giving of the tablets of the Law and it is where Elijah encountered God as the still small voice. While Jesus is at prayer, He becomes transfigured and His disciples, Peter, John and James, witness the glory of God on the face of Jesus.

The Gospel reads: “Jesus took with Him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly, they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking with Him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of His departure, which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. Just as they were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah’ – not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is My Son, My Chosen; listen to Him!’ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.” (Luke 9:28-36)

This Gospel reading shows forth the other aspect of our moments of connection with God. Within them we can behold the glory of God on the face of Jesus.

We also see here the primacy of following Jesus. Jesus is found conversing with Moses, who represents the giving of the Law, and Elijah, who shows forth the prophetic tradition. For the people of Israel, the primary way in which God was encountered is through the Law and the Prophets, but here we see something that goes beyond. Moses and Elijah are there speaking with our Lord and they bring forth the importance of the exodus of Jesus, His Passion and Death, that will be accomplished in Jerusalem. But then the cloud comes, another sign of the presence of God, but the voice points beyond the tradition of Law and Prophets, to Jesus Himself. The voice of God says, “This is My Son, My Chosen; listen to Him!” (Luke 9:35)

So we see here, dear brothers and sisters, that during our Lenten journey we must direct all of our attention to Jesus. We must hear His words and His teachings. We must, as we have been instructed, “Listen to Him!” But we must also know, especially as Polish National Catholics that honor the proclamation of God’s Word as a sacramental experience, that Jesus not only speaks the Word of God, but He Himself is the Word of God. To listen to Jesus then, is not only following His teachings, but it goes beyond this to acknowledge Him as the Word of God made flesh, knowing that listening to Him, means entering ever more fully into the entire life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This truly must be our desire for this present season of Great Lent. Not only to honor this time of the Passion and Death of our Lord, not only to be thankful that Jesus went to the Cross for our salvation, but that during this season Jesus will take full possession of our entire lives. We must say with John the Baptist, “The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears Him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.” (John 29b-30)

Although we know that this season of Lent is one of sorrow at the Passion and Death of Jesus, let it also be the season through which our joy will be fulfilled. True joy at being united fully with Jesus, truly and fully listening to and trusting Jesus, the Word of God made flesh. And then through our Lenten disciplines, let us all seek to have the life of Christ increase in us, and our own sins and selfishness decrease.

P.N.C.C. Future Direction
March 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.

This month we focus on the second part of the Creed that deals with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

For us and for our salvation

Matthew 1:21 – “She will bear a Son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

1 Thessalonians 5:9 – For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 – This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, Who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

He came down from heaven

John 3:13 – “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.”

John 6:33-35 – “For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to Him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life.”

John 6:38 – “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My Own will, but the will of Him Who sent Me.”

By the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary

Luke 1:34-35 – Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; He will be called Son of God.”

AND BECAME MAN

John 1:14 – And 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.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate

Mark 15:15 – So, Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed Him over to be crucified.

Mark 15:25 – It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified Him.

1 Peter 2:24 – He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.

He suffered death and was buried

Mark 8:31 – Then He began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed.

Matthew 27:59-60 – So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock.

1 Corinthians 15:4 – And that He was buried and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.

On the third day He rose again

Mark 9:31 – For He was teaching His disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill Him, and three days after being killed He will rise again.”

Acts 10:40-41 – But God raised Him on the third day and allowed Him to appear, not to all people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:4 – And that He was buried and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.

In fulfillment of the Scriptures

Luke 24:45-46 – Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 – For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that He was buried and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

Luke 24:51 – While He was blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

Mark 16:19 – So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

And is seated at the right hand of the Father

Mark 16:19 – So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

Acts 7:55 – But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

He will come again in glory

Matthew 24:27 – For as lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

John 14:3 – And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 – Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.

To judge the living and the dead

Matthew 16:27 – For the Son of Man is to come with His angels in the glory of His Father, and then He will repay everyone for what has been done.

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Lent

Rev. Jim Konicki, National Vocations Director

We offer you the Savonarola Theological Seminary Newsletter for March 2025 with reflections for the start of the Great Lent.

At the end of February, we gathered with the instructors, administrators, and students of the Church's diaconate program. We see this program as a seed bed for continued growth in vocations and as a message of hope for all within God's family. Our seminarians were also present. As you meet the men in both the seminary and diaconate program please encourage them with kind thoughts, assurances of prayer, and other acts of support.

In Lent we enter a time of introspection, sobriety, and somberness which assist us in seeing past ourselves to what God asks of us (are you called to the priesthood or diaconate). We pray that the Pre-Lenten Season of Septuagesima has helped you to prepare for the journey ahead.

In the month ahead we will be setting up a prayer email where you will be able to send your prayer intentions to our seminarians. They will pray as a group for you and your needs. Stay tuned.

If you can, provide support to the Seminary Fund. Faithful P.N.C.C. member's support is vital to keeping the lights on and the seminarians' educational needs met. Donations can be sent to The Savonarola Theological Seminary Fund, c/o The Office of the Prime Bishop, 1006 Pittston Ave., Scranton, PA 18505-4109.

My First Lent

Joel Smith

As we enter the Lenten season, I feel a mix of excitement and a bit of nervousness.

Having grown up as a Pentecostal Protestant, I've never participated in Lent before. It always seemed like a Catholic tradition, something that wasn't for us, which left me questioning its purpose for a long time. I just didn't see the point and thought it was a bit silly. We did have fasting practices, like the Daniel fast, but nothing that felt like a Churchwide observance.

However, during my time in seminary these past few months, I've learned about Lent, its history, and the reasons we still observe it. Now, it's transformed in my mind from something confusing to something beautiful that challenges us to realign ourselves with Christ.

The excitement I feel comes from the liturgical season we're stepping into, including the stations of the cross, Ash Wednesday, and so on. Knowing that we are all in this together brings a great sense of unity within the Church. What makes me a bit anxious is understanding the seriousness of this season, especially when it comes to fasting. It feels a bit like making New Year's resolutions—you have good intentions, you know it's beneficial, but often you end up breaking them after a few weeks. It starts with little exceptions, like thinking, "Just one cookie won't hurt," or "If I skip my run today, I'll just run a bit further tomorrow." Before we know it, those exceptions pile up until we abandon our original goals entirely.

This is why I'm grateful to be surrounded by my brothers here at the seminary. We're not alone; we can encourage each other, pray for one another, and hold ourselves accountable, ensuring we don't give in to those slippery exceptions. By doing this, we can truly embrace what this season is all about—realigning ourselves with Christ by reflecting on our sins and shortcomings, seeking forgiveness, recommitting to our faith, and ultimately remembering the cost of our sinfulness and the incredible price that Christ paid for us.

So, as we embark on this season of contemplation and self-restraint, I want to encourage all of you to lift each other up, pray for each other, and support one another so that we can grow not just closer to God, but also closer to one another as a Church.

What Might I Be

Rev. Mr. Sean Dodd

“To repent is not to look downwards at my own shortcomings, but upwards at God’s love. It is not to look backwards with self-loathing, but forward with trustfulness. It is to see not what I have failed to be, but what, by the grace of Christ, I might yet become.” – St. John Climacus

My brothers and sisters,

May God bless you on your Lenten journey. The quote given today from St. John Climacus, also known as John of the Ladder, offers a lesson in true repentance. There are two misconceptions within our culture regarding repentance.

On one extreme, there is the idea that *“I am pretty good,”* where a person compares themselves to others rather than to God, allowing them to feel satisfied with their own standing. *After all, I’m not as bad as “those people.”*

On the other extreme, there is the belief that, because of my sin, I am completely and utterly incapable of living for God, leading to intense despair. We see an example of this in the reading from the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time this year, when Ezra proclaims the Law to the people of Israel. The text states:

“Then Nehemiah, that is, His Excellency, and Ezra the priest-scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people: ‘Today is holy to the LORD your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep’—for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the Law. He said further: ‘Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who have nothing prepared; for today is holy to our LORD. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength!’”

These passages reveal that true repentance leads to joy, not despair. Our Lord is not angrily standing over us, waiting to condemn us, but is instead a tender and loving Father, eagerly waiting to heal us.

Within Climacus’ words, we see what we must do:

1. We must recognize our own shortcomings and, in light of them, turn to the love of God.
2. We must not hate ourselves for doing evil, but trust that God can deliver us.

We must not dwell on what we have failed to do, but recognize that Christ will help us to be better—if only we let Him.

During this Lenten season, I encourage you to continue reflecting on the ways you have fallen short—not in despair, but in deep love for Him who will most certainly heal you if you let Him.

The Importance of the Lenten Fast

David Dudzinski

This reflection will be straightforward. In it, I will be discussing why I think every member of the P.N.C.C. should give serious consideration to adopting the practice of the Lenten Fast.

But first a history lesson! The year is 2024, and lot was happening in the world. Artificial Intelligence is sweeping the nation, Luke Combs wrote his hit song Ain't no love in Oklahoma and Chaplain Dave is making his rounds for Hospice. Lent was upon us.

Really trying to experience all the P.N.C.C. had to offer, myself and other young men in the P.N.C.C. decided to take on a Lenten Gospel Meditation and talk about how it affected us. While this had numerous benefits, I felt like I could be doing more. After talking about Lent with my wife one night, I brought up the idea of following the P.N.C.C. guidelines for fasting in the preparation for Easter. After prayerful consideration my wife and I decided to pursue this and brothers and sisters in Christ, the fruits of our labor were amazing!

But some in the P.N.C.C. might not be familiar with our Church’s rules on fasting either in Lent or in general.

As a discipline, every Friday during the year, P.N.C.C. members should attempt to refrain from meat as much as possible. This increases to two days a week during Lent, the second day being Wednesday. Of note, one should just not simply refrain from eating meat, which is to say stop doing something, but one should also start adding other things! Things like almsgiving, give up something you really hold dear such as coffee or sweets, reading spiritual books or Scripture, praying the various litanies or the Rosary or attending Bitter Lamentations or the Stations of the Cross, choose one or choose all, you really cannot lose!

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Now, I can hear the crowd say what many of my family members said as well, “isn’t that just a man-made rule?” or “Jesus never said to do that, why should I?” Well, I can tell you brothers and sisters, discipline or sticking to something because it is difficult is its own reward and after a long forty days of Cheese Steak-less Fridays (I am, after all, from South Jersey) I was able to look back and say “Hmmm. I accomplished something with God’s help.” This was its own reward.

So, in conclusion, I strongly suggest every member of the P.N.C.C. who really wants to capture the mood of Lent strongly consider using the discipline our church has set out!

When Fine is Not Fine and The Odd Ways God Tells Us So: A Lenten Reflection

Todd Godwin

Like most people nowadays, much of my thinking about everything from culture, to politics, religion, to just about everything else, is, for better or for worse, highly influenced by memes I see shared on social media. When Fr Jim Konicki asked us seminarians to write a Lenten reflection for this edition of God’s Field my mind pretty quickly went to a meme that I saw in one of several Twelve-Step groups I am in on WhatsApp.

Thankfully, I am not, nor have I ever been, an alcoholic or a drug addict. But I have long been inspired by the spirituality and fellowship of the Twelve-Step movement, originally coming out of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), but now having spawned into 500 other groups addressing virtually every known ailment faced by humankind. The meme I am going to be talking about was taken from a group where people are trying to control their caffeine consumption, something I definitely struggle with.

I am not an anti-caffeine/coffee zealot. I know coffee and caffeine affects differently people differently. Some people don’t even drink coffee and consume little caffeine. But I, however, overdo it with coffee and have long been dependent on it in an unhealthy manner. After doing research and experimenting with approaches I had heard about in this particular Twelve-Step group, I was able to remove coffee and caffeine from my diet for long periods, even months sometimes. My sleep improved drastically, making me much more alert, calm, centered, and energetic during the day. Improving sleep gave me, oddly enough, the mental energy that I had been seeking all those years by overdoing it with caffeine consumption. I felt calmer and more centered. Ridding myself of my caffeine dependency allowed a cascade of other improvements. I started running and doing yoga and Pilates, started fasting in the morning etc. The overall effect was tremendous and transformative.

But what is the connection to Lenten spirituality and the way in which we let God into our lives more and more in the season of Septuagesima? First of all, everyone I have sent this meme to finds it funny. This is because it speaks to us. The little dog, cute but ridiculous looking, reminds us of ourselves. The dog is sitting in front of a cup, which is for me coffee or a caffeinated beverage, but it could represent any substance or thought that pulls us away from our walk with God. As we see, though the dog’s life is vastly better now than before (note the rainbow and greenery in the upper panel), he says “this is unbearable.” But in the bottom panel, for a moment at least the dog thinks his former life, enslaved to his sin, was somehow better.

Life in sobriety:



Active addiction:



The meme is funny, yes, and because we recognize ourselves in it. It calls us back to where we should be, and where God wants us to be I would submit. This is what Lent is about too. When we allow ourselves to be shaped by the Church’s Lenten asceticism we gradually get called back to our true selves, and how God wants us to live. We think we are fine often, when we actually are not; and we sometimes need a good, clear, reminder that we are not OK. We need a way to hear through the noise our spirits generate, and a reminder that repentance does not always feel good. Often, in fact, asceticism and repentance just feels plain bad, at least at first. But the thing is, repentance does not *have to* feel good. God is not asking us to enjoy it, at least not now.

I am reminded in this connection of ancient Israel’s only sometimes forward journey out of Egypt. Although Moses had done all he needed to set things up for the Jewish people to move out of the servitude under the Pharaoh. As Exodus reads:

The Israelites cried out to the Lord, and they said to Moses, ‘is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the desert? What in the world have you done to us by taking us out of Egypt? Isn’t this what we told you in Egypt, leave us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians, because it is

better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert.’ Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear! Stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord that he will provide you today; for the Egyptians that you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you can be still’ (Ex 14: 11-14).

The Jews’ struggle to overcome Pharaoh’s tyranny as depicted in Exodus was both an inner and an outer struggle. Sure, the outer struggle, trying to be God’s people and create the right kind of society that follows God and worships Him rightly in Israel is one layer of the exodus story. But the story is just as much about our struggle to overcome inner tyrants and our tendency to allow unhealthy drives to rule over us, to control our minds, and keep us away from God. Both types of struggles are often characterized by forward movement, and progressive improvement. But not always. All too often we find ourselves looking back and wanting to return to our old chains and our old masters. Wouldn’t it be nice to finally say goodbye to our sins and our tyrannical chains!? I find the Lord telling me in this passage from Exodus and in the meme as well that I am to be done with my coffee and the caffeine roller coaster it puts me on. “For the Egyptians you see now, you will never see again,” the text says. Should I choose to listen to God, and “let Him fight for me,” as the text also says, rather than trying to run the show on my own, He will, as the text says too, offer me rest.

In the Twelve-Step tradition this is called Step One: admit powerless and let God take it. See clearly what the effects of how you have been living and make a U-turn. The Greek New Testament word for repentance, *metanoia*, almost quite literally means “a change of heart.” In my case, with caffeine, it is easy to make a U-turn when the Bible reminds me of the pay off for getting off of Caffeine. Rest and good sleep? So that I can live my life and move forward into my best self? I’ll take that over my way of running the show any day. Thank God for memes. And thank God for Lent.

Blessed Lent everyone.

Seek Him First and All Else Will Be Given You

Jon Johnson

My dear brothers and sisters, as you are reading this, we are well into the throws of Lent. Upon reflection, Lent seems like it’s a lot about discipline. As with any discipline, whether it is going on a diet, playing a musical instrument or playing on a sports team, we need to have a plan and a strategy. To be successful, we need to stick to that plan. We must be focused on our goal, but what does Our Lord exactly want us to do during this Lenten season? What is the point of this discipline? Do we have it in us? It’s a lot of work and it’s not easy.

It seems like the Church asks for us to do a lot of things: Fasting on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Abstaining from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays. Giving alms to the poor. Spending time in prayer and attending Lenten Devotions and Lenten Penitential Services. It’s even suggested to us that we should give something up; make some personal sacrifices. This is difficult. It’s not in our human nature to want to have discipline. We want to do what’s convenient for us.

The Church, in her wisdom, gives us the season of Pre-Lent, those “gesima” Sundays: Septuagesima, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima in order to help us to prepare spiritually and come up with a plan to make the season of Lent spiritually beneficial to us. Then along comes Ash Wednesday, and here we are in Lent, but have we taken the time to be ready?

Ash Wednesday is a bit of an oddity. It marks an important start of that Lenten Season and it’s a day of fast, but it’s not a holy day of obligation. It’s not a Sunday, but outside of Christmas and Easter, it seems to be probably the most well attended Mass of the year. People rush to go and get their ashes. It’s wonderful to see the church full and folks receiving blessed ashes, but come the First Sunday of Lent, the church attendance is back to normal, and it’s not packed like Ash Wednesday. Where did everyone go? Did they give up already and fail their discipline? Did they lose focus? Perhaps to want the blessed ashes is not enough. Perhaps the motivation was for the wrong reason. We all want to look good, but not necessarily do the work.

Let’s take some time this Lent to ask ourselves what our motivation is. When we go to the church, do we go to see Jesus? Is Jesus the focus of our discipline so that we might become closer to Him? John 15:5, says, “*I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.*”

Nothing? Yeah, nothing. Without Jesus, we can do nothing. So, all the self-discipline, all the wanting is of no avail, unless we seek Him out and our focus is Him. We don’t have the power of discipline in us without Him.

(Continued on bottom of Page 10.)

Theology of the Word of God as Sacrament

Reverend Dr. Jim Ploskonka

The sacred weeping of the soul bears witness to the unfathomable power of the Word of God—a Word that does not merely instruct but awakens, wounds, and heals all at once. These tears, flowing from the depths of the heart, are more than sorrow; they are the soul's silent confession, the lament of one who sees, perhaps for the first time, the desolation wrought by estrangement from God. They speak of a past marked by obstinance, of squandered grace, of a love too often ignored.

Yet, in this weeping, there is also the stirring of regeneration. For the Word of God is not a stagnant echo of past wisdom, nor a collection of idle utterances, but a living, breathing force—sharper than any two-edged sword, cutting through the illusions of self-sufficiency, exposing the hidden recesses of the heart, and summoning the soul to rise from ruin into restoration. It does not allow the hearer to remain unchanged; it compels movement, drawing one from complacency to conversion, from grief to grace, from knowledge to mission.

Such is the mystery of divine revelation in the Sacrament of the Word of God: it does not merely inform but transforms, it does not simply speak but summons. It calls forth the weary and the wayward, confronting them with truth yet clothing them in mercy. It is the voice that shakes the heavens and whispers in the silence of the penitent heart, saying: *Return, be made whole, for you were never forsaken.*

The phrase "*Return, be made whole, for you were never forsaken.*" is not a direct quotation from Scripture but rather a theologically inspired synthesis of biblical themes. It echoes several scriptural passages that convey God's enduring love, mercy, and call to repentance.

1. **Return** – The call to repentance and restoration is a central theme in Scripture:
 - "*Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.*" (Malachi 3:7)
 - "*Come, let us return to the Lord; for He has torn us, that He may heal us; He has struck us down, and He will bind us up.*" (Hosea 6:1)
2. **Be made whole** – A reference to the healing and restoration that God provides:
 - "*Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.*" (Mark 5:34)
 - "*I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, declares the Lord.*" (Jeremiah 30:17)
3. **For you were never forsaken** – A reminder of God's abiding presence and faithfulness:
 - "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*" (Hebrews 13:5, Deuteronomy 31:6)
4. "*Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.*" (Isaiah 49:15)

This phrase captures the essence of God's mercy, calling His people to return to Him, experience healing, and rest in the assurance that He has never abandoned them.



(The Savonarola Theological Seminary Newsletter- Continued from Page 9.)

We can use the opportunities we are given this Lent to seek out Jesus and to listen to Him. Besides at Holy Mass, we can seek Him out in the Blessed Sacrament. We can go visit him there anytime. Even better, go to Stations of the Cross or the Bitter Lamentations. Many parishes follow these beautiful services with Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. When the priest places Our Lord in the monstrance, we physically see Him, too! And how wonderful it is to be in His presence, to speak to Him, and receive His blessing besides.

May you have a very blessed, disciplined and focused Lent as you grow closer to Jesus and bring others to Him. Lord for us, your wounds were suffered. O Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

Growing Deeper in Your Relationship with Christ: Pre-Lent, Great Lent, Holy Week and Easter

by **Catherine Andersen**
All Saints Cathedral Parish, Chicago, IL

PRE-LENT: As Polish National Catholics, we spend the two-and-a-half-week period before Ash Wednesday, referred to as Pre-Lent, preparing ourselves to enter the period known as Great Lent. The Pre-Lenten period includes three Sundays, whose names refer to the approximate periods of seventy, sixty, and fifty days before Easter. These Sundays are known as Septuagesima Sunday, Sexagesima Sunday and Quinquagesima Sunday, respectively. The First Week is known as The Week of Recollection, the Second Week is known as the Week of Self-Examination, and the last few days following Quinquagesima Sunday are known as The Days of Decision.

It is during Pre-Lent that we have an opportunity to take stock of our lives, an inventory if you will. It is a period of introspection, reflection and evaluation -- a period of preparation wherein we can fully prepare ourselves to repent and transform ourselves during Great Lent. It is a time to rearrange our priorities and focus on what matters most and leave behind what matters least. We must remember that our Easter joy will be in proportion to the effort and spiritual struggles, if you will, that we experience during Pre-Lent and Great Lent -- the work begins now. We should examine our day-to-day life, our lifestyle, and our spiritual and prayer practices so we can determine where we fall short in completely dedicating all areas of our lives to Jesus Christ. We should take time, perhaps even over a few days, to make a very thoughtful, deliberate and thorough examination of our conscience. We must determine where we have sinned, sometimes repeatedly, against God, others and ourselves. Where have we fallen short and broken the Ten Commandments or failed in our duties towards God regarding Faith, Hope, Charity, Religious Observances, receiving of the Sacraments, attending Holy Mass, the observance of Sundays as the Sabbath, or anything against the Church? Where have we fallen short in our personal life to ourselves or in our interactions or duties to others? In your examination, are there patterns which indicate sinful habits such as ways of thinking, speaking, acting or failing to act whether regarding God, yourself or others? These are the areas you will want to focus on during Great Lent.

If I may note, from personal experience, this is also a great time to plan your Easter meal (although this is rather easy for those of us who still follow the prescribed Polish menu and consume what we get blessed in our Easter baskets). With some pre-planning and even shopping for the non-perishable items done during this time and checked off your to-do list, you will be able to attend and enjoy the Lenten services offered by the Church rather than running errands in crowded grocery stores during Holy Week.

Pre-Lent Prayer: Our Father, please guide me through Pre-Lent as I take stock of my life. Open my heart and mind and help me to see where I have fallen short so many times. I know that You forgive all my sins if I truly repent. Give me the strength to overcome temptation and to eagerly anticipate my Lenten journey with You. I ask all these things through Jesus Christ. Amen.

GREAT LENT: When we are marked with ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday with the words, "Remember man that you are dust and unto dust you shall return but your soul returns to God," our Great Lenten journey of spiritual transformation and renewal begins. We should have joyous hope as we enter this 40-day penitential period knowing that it offers us a new beginning through true sorrow (an expression of regret) and true repentance (a change of heart that involves a commitment to change behavior) for our sins, spiritual growth and penance -- all of which allow our reconciliation with God. It is a time during which we should form life-giving habits and abandon self-destructive ones. During this time, we should increase the three spiritual practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These practices or disciplines are intertwined and help allow us to turn away from sin and open our hearts towards God and others. We start Great Lent noticing that we are to *increase* these disciplines in our daily lives as all three should already exist in our Christian lives.

Daily prayer should already be an integral part in our lives as we express gratitude to God for the abundant blessings we receive from Him each and every day. During Great Lent, the Church provides many opportunities to deepen our prayer lives in addition to participating in Sunday Mass. These opportunities include the Stations of the Cross, Bitter Lamentations / Gorzkie Zale, a Lenten Retreat and a Meal in the Upper Room. It is prudent to take advantage of these additional services.

(Continued on Page 12.)

(Growing Deeper in Your Relationship with Christ - Continued from Page 11.)

The discipline of fasting should also increase during Great Lent as it helps us focus on the spiritual needs of the soul over the physical needs of the body – that is, the need for Jesus Christ over the needs of self. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, fasting should occur (one regular meal and two smaller snacks which equals less than a meal). On all Wednesdays and Fridays in Great Lent, we should abstain from meat. Let us also be reminded at this time that the Church recommends that we continue our practice of abstaining from meat on all Fridays of the year in remembrance of the Passion and Death of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We can, and should, extend our fasting and abstaining to other areas of our lives as well. Here are a few suggestions:

- abstain from the common unhealthy habits of smoking and the overindulgence in alcohol, unnecessary drugs and/or food (yes, this may include reducing our consumption of sugar, caffeine or sodium as well) and replace these items with drinking more water, becoming more active and eating a healthy diet;
- reduce our response to others in an unloving or critical manner and replace these actions with words and acts of love;
- spend a lot less time on social media, eliminate TV or just say “no” to social activities and replace that time by immersing yourself in reading and meditating on the Word of God and attending the Lenten opportunities offered by the Church;
- decrease the amount of time we spend on unnecessary work, running frivolous errands and shopping for unnecessary items and instead spend more time with our loved ones or giving ourselves even a bit of needed rest.

The disciplines of self-control and self-denial learned here should enable us to remove negative things in our lives and add positive things in their place which will remain long after Great Lent has ended. I dare say this, however, do not overwhelm yourself in taking on too many do's and don'ts. The focus during this time is prioritizing what is and what is not important in our lives in relation to God and others.

The third discipline of almsgiving should also intentionally increase during Great Lent. This can include your financial support as well as giving of your time, talents and other treasures to the Church, other worthwhile organizations or others in need.

Great Lent Prayer: Almighty and Eternal God, I eagerly await the transformation that You have planned for me during this Great Lent. Give me the strength I need to willingly increase the three spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving which will then allow You to take complete control of my life. Please arouse a deep sorrow within me for all of my sins so that I may truly repent and grow closer to You day by day. I pray all of these things in Your Son's Most Holy Name. Amen.

HOLY WEEK: Our preparations during Pre-Lent and Great Lent culminate in the most important week in Catholicism which occurs from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Holy Week is a beautiful time in the liturgical calendar and offers many, many opportunities for worship, personal prayer and meditation. While we are already anticipating the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter, we must pause this week and very reverently ponder the true meaning of His sacrifice of love and the suffering He endured for each and every one of us.

Palm Sunday – Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem. The Liturgy of the Palms is celebrated this day as palm branches are blessed and distributed. These symbolize the crowd's welcoming gesture as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Holy Monday – Jesus clears out the temple. This is a day focused on the humanity of Jesus. It is on this day that Jesus entered the temple, made a whip out of chords, flipped the tables of money changers, and drove them out of the sacred space. This is a day on which Jesus felt the human emotion of anger. Jesus, however, expressed His anger appropriately in a harnessed and controlled manner.

Holy Tuesday – Jesus teaches by the fig tree, preaches on the Mount of Olives and is anointed in Bethany by Mary with expensive oil. The Mass of Holy Chrism is held this day during which the Oil of the Sick (used during the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick), the Oil of the Catechumens (used during the Sacrament of

Baptism) and the Chrism Oil (used for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Orders) are blessed by a Bishop. These oils are then distributed to the priest of each parish to be used for the sacraments named above throughout the year. It is also during this mass that every priest renews his priestly promise, and we are invited and encouraged to pray for all priests and their ministry. If you have never experienced this Mass of Holy Chrism in person, it is a beautiful service and highly recommended.

Holy Wednesday (also known as Spy Wednesday) – Jesus is betrayed by Judas. Judas spies on Jesus and secretly plots to have Him arrested. For a mere thirty pieces of silver from the chief priests, Judas turns on Jesus, all of the disciples and the future he would have had with a life of faith.

Holy Thursday (also known as Maundy Thursday and first day of the Easter Triduum) – Jesus celebrates the Last Supper, prays in the Garden of Gethsemane, and is arrested. This is the first day of the Easter Triduum, the three most sacred days of our faith. The Mass of the Lord's Supper is celebrated which commemorates the Last Supper celebrated by Jesus and His disciples on the Jewish holiday of Passover. The Eucharistic Procession to the Altar of Repose and the Stripping of the Altars follows the Mass of the Lord's Supper. This is an ideal day to attend Mass as the most significant thing that happened on Holy Thursday was that Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

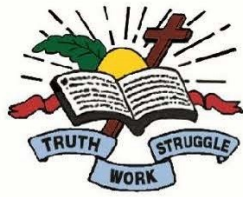
Good Friday (and second day of the Easter Triduum) – Jesus is sentenced to death, tortured, mocked, scourged, beaten, spat upon, crucified and dies on the Cross. It is a day of suffering, sacrifice, sorrow, loss and love. While it was an incredibly tragic day, it was also one of the greatest days in history as it is on this day that Jesus saved us from our sins. This is a day in which worldly things are to be eliminated and we are to respect the solemnity of the day by refraining from listening to the radio, music or other forms of entertainment, watching TV, using social media, engaging in any forms of monetary transactions, running unnecessary errands, etc. Good Friday is a day in which you should be completely focused on the sacrifice that Jesus made for you. Churches are usually open most of the day for private meditation before the Most Blessed Sacrament. There are a few different services on this day which include the Mass of the Pre-Sanctified, Adoration or Veneration of the Cross, and Opening of the Symbolic Grave of Christ; Stations of the Cross; and the Tenebrae and Lamentations of the Polish National Catholic Church. Each service is very moving and all are highly recommended.

Holy Saturday (and third day of the Easter Triduum) – Jesus is buried in the tomb and descends into hell. It is a day of darkness, doubt, anxiety and confusion. A day where faith is tested. This is the day when the Ceremony of New Light with the Exhortations and Blessing of the Paschal Candle and Water takes place, followed by the blessing of Easter food. Again, if you have never experienced this service in person, this year is a good year to do so.

Holy Week Prayer: Almighty God, thank you for the vast array of feelings and emotions that I will experience this week. So much will occur – the joyous entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, the renewing of our clergy's priestly promises, the betrayal by Judas of Jesus, the Institution of the Holy Eucharist, and the Passion and Ultimate Sacrifice of Jesus as He dies on the cross. I acknowledge that it is my sins for which You died. Please remove any obstacles in my life preventing me from completely engaging in and understanding the scope of Holy Week and the Passion and Death of Jesus as my Savior. I ask these things in Your Son's Most Holy Name. Amen.

Easter Sunday (also known as Resurrection Sunday or the Solemnity of the Resurrection of our Lord) – Jesus rises from the dead. It is a day of new life. A day in which death is defeated. A day in which hope is born. This is the day when our hearts are light as we celebrate the Liturgy of the Resurrection and resume singing The Gloria. What a truly glorious day it is! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!

Easter Prayer: Dear God, thank you! Thank you! Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ – Savior of the world. My Savior! Unleash the power of the Resurrection in my life today. Jesus has conquered death and hatred with love! Teach me to do the same. Renew my faith even more. Reignite the Holy Spirit within me even more. Bless all those who have lost faith in You and those who while believing have never truly encountered or embraced You fully. I beseech these things in Your Son's Most Holy and Precious Name! Amen!



“ONE IN CHRIST/UNO EN CRISTO”

24th National Mission & Evangelism Workshop
 Polish National Catholic Church
 Friday, May 30 - Sunday, June 1, 2025



Dear Most Reverend Prime Bishop, Rt. Rev. Bishops, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Deacons, and Faithful of the Polish National Catholic Church,

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

We invite you to the 24th Mission & Evangelism Workshop, which will be held on **Friday, May 30, through Sunday, June 1, 2025**, at **Saint Francis of Assisi Parish of the P.N.C.C. in Denver, CO**. We hope to see you there. Our goal for each Mission Workshop is that the faithful come away with a burning desire to bring the faith-driven work of the Workshop back to their parishes. Please consider participating in this event. Our hotel accommodation is at the **Hampton Inn & Suites Denver-Cherry Creek, 4150 East Kentucky Ave., Glendale, CO 80246**.

You are responsible for your hotel reservations and confirmations. You need to call the hotel directly for room reservations.

Please use the hotel code **M&E 2025** when making reservations. To make your reservation, contact the hotel directly at (303) 692-1800. Or use our on-line registration link at www.sfdenver.org/mission-and-evangelism.

The cut-off deadline date for obtaining the guaranteed room rate of 30 double queens or 10 king size, \$120.00, plus tax, is **Thursday, May 1, 2025**.

Please fill out the registration form and send it to St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Or use our on-line registration form at www.sfdenver.org/mission-and-evangelism. The registration fee is waived in order to support your cost of travel expenses, but we only have capacity for 100 participants. The deadline for registration is **Tuesday, May 13, 2025**.

Outreach to the community will be the support of the charity, **The women's prison of Ciudad Juarez, known as CERESO (Centro de Readaptacion Social)**. We invite participants to support CERESO, an effort to support 310 inmates in a women's prison in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. St. Francis Parish has provided toys for their children in the past but recently discovered that the women lack essential items such as clothing and toiletries. A donation of forty dollars (cash or check) from each registrant will go a long way in providing the means for St. Francis Parish to purchase items for these women. We ask you to support that project.

The deadline for registering for the Workshop is Tuesday, May 13, 2025. Please make your reservations by that date so Saint Francis of Assisi Parish can prepare the food for this event.

We hope you will consider joining us for the 24th National Mission & Evangelism Workshop of the P.N.C.C. We look forward to your attendance.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Commission Chairman

Parish Phone: (313) 365-0218

email: Fr.J.Nowak@gmail.com

Rev. Alfonso Castillo, Commission Member, Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, P.N.C.C. Cell Phone:

(720) 225-7157

email: acastillo@spanish-clinic.com

Jorge Hernandez, Youth and event coordinator

email: jorgeha2020@gmail.com

Respectfully,

Rev. Alfonso Castillo

Pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, P.N.C.C. in Denver, Colorado National Mission & Evangelism Commission Member

Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak

National Mission & Evangelism Commission Chairman



“ONE IN CHRIST/UNO EN CRISTO”
 Vigésimo Cuarto Congreso de Misión y Evangelización Iglesia Católica
 Nacional Polaca.
 Del viernes 30 de mayo al domingo 1 de junio del 2025.



Estimado Señor Obispo Primado, Obispos Ordinarios, Monseñores, Sacerdotes, Diáconos, Fieles de la Iglesia Católica Nacional Polaca.

Reciban un cordial saludo de la Comisión de Misión y Evangelización de la Iglesia Católica Nacional Polaca

Por este medio, queremos invitarlos al Vigésimo Cuarto Congreso de Misión y Evangelización, que se llevará a cabo del viernes 30 de mayo al domingo 1 de junio del 2025 en la Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís de la P.N.C.C. en Denver Colorado. ¡Los Esperamos! Nuestro objetivo en este Congreso es que cada uno de los participantes regresen a sus parroquias, apostolados y ministerios con un renovado entusiasmo y con deseo de compartir su experiencia de fe vivida en este Congreso con sus comunidades. Por favor, considere seriamente la posibilidad de participar en este evento. Hemos hecho acuerdos para ser recibidos en el hotel **Hampton Inn & Suites Denver-Cherry Creek, 4150 East Kentucky Ave., Glendale, CO 80246.**

Usted es responsable por la reservación y costos del hotel y confirmar su asistencia. Usted necesitara contactarse directamente con el hotel para sus reservaciones.

Por favor, use el código M & E 2025 cuando llame para hacer su reservación. Puede usted comunicarse directamente al hotel en el teléfono 303-692-1800. Usted también puede reservar directamente utilizando la siguiente liga: www.sfdenver.org/mission-and-evangelism .Le recomendamos utilizar esta forma de reservación.

La fecha límite para poder obtener el costo garantizado de \$120.00 (más impuestos) por cuarto con cama doble matrimonial (30 cuartos disponibles) o cuarto con cama matrimonial grande (10 cuartos disponibles) es el **jueves 1 de mayo del 2025.**

Por favor, llene la forma de registro (documento anexo) y envíelo a la Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís. O utilice nuestra forma de registro en línea en: www.sfdenver.org/mission-and-evangelism . El costo de registro se ha quitado para apoyar a los participantes en sus

gastos de viaje, sin embargo, considere que solamente tenemos capacidad para recibir a 100 participantes. La fecha límite para registrarse es el **13 de mayo del 2025.**

En cada Congreso los participantes apoyamos una obra de caridad realizada por la parroquia que nos recibe. Este año queremos apoyar a las Presas del CERESO (Centro de Readaptación Social) de Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, México. Queremos invitar a los participantes a apoyar esta obra de caridad, puesto que hay 310 presas en esta institución. La parroquia de San Francisco ha entregado por varios años juguetes a los niños de las presas, pero en nuestra última visita, nos han hecho saber de muchas otras necesidades que tienen estas mujeres como ropa adecuada, necesidades de higiene básicas, etc. Por ello, queremos recomendar una donación de cuarenta dólares en efectivo o en cheque para cada uno de los participantes para poder comprar algunos de estos artículos y hacérselos llegar a las presas en nuestra próxima visita al CERESO. Por favor, apóyenos en este proyecto.

Como hemos dicho, la fecha límite de registro para este congreso es el martes 13 de mayo del 2025, por favor, registrense tan pronto como les sea posible, para poder preparar de la mejor manera posible este gran evento. **Cabe mencionar que tendremos interpretación Simultanea inglés-español en todas las Conferencias y la mayoría de las actividades serán bilingües (inglés-español).**

De corazón deseamos que consideren el participar en este Vigésimo Cuarto Congreso de Misión y Evangelización de la P.N.C.C. Los estamos esperando.

Si tiene alguna pregunta por favor comuníquese con Monseñor Jaroslaw Nowak, Presidente de la Comisión.

Teléfono de la Parroquia: (313) 365-0218

email: Fr.J.Nowak@gmail.com

Padre Alfonso Castillo, Miembro de la Comisión,

Párroco de la Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís en Denver Colorado.

Tel celular: (720) 225-7157

email: acastillo@spanish-clinic.com

Jorge Hernández, Coordinador de evento

email: jorgeha2020@gmail.com

Quedamos de ustedes,

Padre Alfonso Castillo

Párroco de la Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís en Denver Colorado. Miembro de la Comisión Nacional de Misión y Evangelización

Monseñor Jaroslaw Nowak

Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de Misión y Evangelización.

Twenty-Fourth Annual Mission & Evangelism Workshop

**ONE IN CHRIST/
UNO EN CRISTO**



St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Polish National
Catholic Church
Denver, CO
Friday, May 30th
Saturday, May 31st
Sunday, June 1st
2025

5:30 pm – Dinner at
Infinity Park Event Center

7:00 pm – Session IV:
WE ARE NOW
Jorge Hernandez, Youth Coordinator

7:45 pm – Open Discussion

8:15 pm – **Evening Prayer**

8:45 pm – **Get Together- at Infinity
Park Event Center**

Return to hotel

Sunday, June 1, 2025

at St. Francis of Assisi Parish,
556 S. Jersey St.

9:45 am Morning Prayer

10:00 am **Holy Mass**
Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky

Brunch follow-
ing the Holy
Mass
And Concluding
Remarks



Schedule

Friday, May 30, 2025

5:00-6:00 pm - **Registration**
at St. Francis of Assisi Parish,
556 S. Jersey St.
Denver, CO 80224

6:00 pm - Welcome
Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky
Fr. Sr. Jaroslaw Nowak

6:15 pm **Devotional celebration
to Our Lady of Guadalupe**
Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky

7:00 pm – Session I:
WE ARE ONE
Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky

8:00 pm- Mexican Dinner and
Mariachi

9:00 pm- **Youth Play: Shadows**

Return to hotel

Hotel & Registration

**Individuals are responsible
for hotel payment:**

**Hampton Inn & Suites
Denver-Cherry Creek,**
4150 East Kentucky Ave.,
Glendale, CO 80246.
Phone: (303) 692-1800
\$120.00- double Queen Bed
or King size Bed per night plus tax
Code: **M&E 2025**

Hotel Rate Expiration Date:

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Workshop Registration

2025 Workshop Registration
The registration fee is waived
in order to support your cost
of travel expenses, but we
only have capacity for 100
participants. The deadline for
registration is **Tuesday, May
13, 2025**

**We will have simultaneous
interpretation services English-
Spanish at this event!**

Saturday, May 31, 2025

Breakfast at hotel

at **Infinity Park Event Center**
4400 E. Kentucky Avenue
Glendale, CO 80246

9:00 am – **Morning Prayer**

9:15 am – Session II:
WE BELONG
Fr. Alfonso Castillo

9:50 am – Small Group

10:45 am – Session III:
WE ARE TOGETHER
Larry Chockley,
Margaret Rowinski,
and Deacon Doug Scott

11:25 am - Small Group

12:00 pm - Lunch -Departure to

Mother Cabrini Shrine:

**Activities at
Mother Cabrini Shrine**
20189 Cabrini Blvd,
Golden, CO 80401

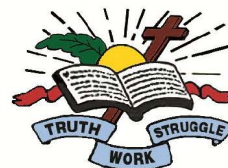
Please mail your registration to:

St. Francis of Assisi, Parish
24th Mission Workshop
556 S. Jersey St
Denver, CO 80224

If you have any questions please
contact:

Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak
Phone: (313) 505-2964
email: Fr.J.Nowak@gmail.com
or

Fr. Alfonso Castillo
Phone: (720) 225-7157
email: acastillo@spanish-clinic.com
Jorge Hernandez
email: jorgeha2020@gmail.com



www.pncc.org

Vigésimo Cuarto
Congreso de Misión y
Evangelización

UNO EN CRISTO
ONE IN CHRIST



Parroquia de San Francisco
de Asís de la Iglesia
Católica Nacional Polaca
Denver, Colorado
Viernes, 30 de Mayo
Sábado, 31 de Mayo
Domingo, 1 de Junio del
2025

5:30 pm – Cena en:
Infinity Park Event Center

7:00 pm – Sesión IV:
ESTAMOS AQUI
Jorge Hernández,
Coordinador de Jóvenes.

7:45 pm – Diálogo abierto

8:15 pm – **Oración de la noche**
8:45 pm – **Convivencia en Infinity
Park Event Center**
Regreso al hotel

Domingo, 1 de junio del 2025

***En la Parroquia de
San Francisco de Asís,***

9:45 am Oración de la mañana.

10:00 am **Santa Misa**
Obispo Primado Anthony Mikovsky

Comida-
Convivencia
después de
Misa y despe-
dida.



Horario

Viernes 30 de mayo del 2025

5:00-6:00 pm - **Registración**
***En la Parroquia de
San Francisco de Asís, PNCC:***
*556 S. Jersey St.
Denver, CO 80224*
6:00 pm - Bienvenida
*Obispo Primado Anthony Mikovsky
Monseñor. Jaroslaw Nowak*

6:15 pm **Celebración a Nuestra
Madre María de Guadalupe**
Obispo Primado Anthony Mikovsky

7:00 pm – Sesión I:
SOMOS UNO
Obispo Primado Anthony Mikovsky

8:00 pm– Cena Mexicana y
Mariachi

9:00 pm– **Obra Juvenil: Sombras**
Regreso al hotel

Hotel y Registración

**Usted es responsable por su costo
de hotel:**
**Hampton Inn & Suites Denver-
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4150 East Kentucky Ave.,
Glendale, CO 80246.
Tel: (303) 692-1800

\$120.00 (mas impuestos) por
noche para un cuarto con cama
doble matrimonial o cama sencilla
matrimonial grande.

Utilice el código: **M&E 2025**

Este costo especial termina el
jueves **1 de mayo del 2025.**

Registro del Congreso

El costo de inscripción del
congreso 2025 se ha quitado para
apoyar a los participantes a este
congreso con los costos de viaje
que implicara este evento. Es
importante considerar que
solamente tendremos capacidad de
recibir 100 participantes. La fecha
limite para registrarte es el martes
13 de mayo del 2025

*Tendremos servicios de
Interpretación simultanea de
ingles/español en este Evento!*

Sábado, 31 de Mayo del 2025

Desayuno en el hotel

En el Infinity Park Event Center
*4400 E. Kentucky Avenue
Glendale, CO 80246*

9:00 am – **Oración de la mañana**

9:15 am – Sesión II:
PERTENECEMOS
Padre Alfonso Castillo

9:50 am – Grupo de Trabajo

10:45 am – Sesión III:
ESTAMOS JUNTOS
*Larry Chockley,
Margaret Rowinski,
Y el Diácono Doug Scott*

11:25 am - Grupo de Trabajo

12:00 pm - Lonche y salida a

Mirador de la Madre Cabrini:

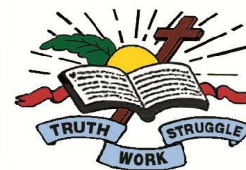
**Actividades en
Mother Cabrini Shrine**
*20189 Cabrini Blvd,
Golden, CO 80401*

Por favor envíe su hoja de registro a:
**Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís
Comisión de Misión y Evangelización**
**556 S. Jersey St.
Denver, CO 80224**

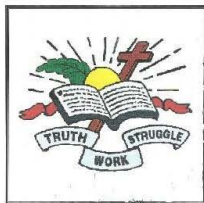
Si tiene alguna pregunta por favor
contacte a:
Monseñor: Jaroslaw Nowak
email: Fr.J.Nowak@gmail.com

O al
Padre Alfonso Castillo
Tel: (720) 225-7157
email: acastillo@spanish-clinic.com

O con Nuestro coordinator general:
Jorge Hernandez
email: jorgeha2020@gmail.com



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IGLESIA CATÓLICA NACIONAL POLACA**

MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2025/ MAYO 30 A JUNIO 1, 2025

MAIL THIS FORM TO: / ENVIAR ESTA FORMA A:

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH/PARROQUIA DE SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS
556 S. JERSEY ST. DENVER, CO 80224**



2025 REGISTRATION FORM / 2025 FORMA DE REGISTRO

Name/Nombre: _____

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City/Ciudad State/ Estado Zip Code/Código Postal:

Phone Number/ Teléfono: (____) _____ E-mail _____

Name of your Parish/ Nombre de su parroquia: _____

Parish Address/Dirección: _____

City/Ciudad State/ Estado Zip Code/Código Postal:

Travel Plans/Planes de viaje:

Car/Carro: _____ Plane/Avión _____

Are you planning to rent a car during your stay?

¿Planea rentar un carro durante su estancia? Yes/Si ___ No ___

Where do you plan on staying? ¿Donde piensa quedarse?

Hotel _____ Airbnb _____ Family/Familia _____

How can we help you? ¿Como le podemos ayudar?

Food concerns/ Cuestiones de comida:

Do you have any dietary restrictions?

¿Tiene restricciones dietéticas? Yes/Si ___ No ___

Please share/Cual es: _____

Do you have any food allergies?

¿Es alérgico a alguna comida? Yes/Si ___ No ___

Please share/Cual es: _____

Are you...? ¿Eres...?

___ Vegetarian/ Vegetariano

___ Vegan/Vegano

___ N/A

We will provide interpretation services English/Spanish.

Ofreceremos servicios de interpretación simultánea.

Languages you speak: Idiomas que habla:

1. English/ Ingles _____

2. Spanish/Español _____

3. Bilingual/Bilingüe: _____

Interpretation needed? /¿Necesita interpretacion? Y ___ N ___

Statistical purposes/ Por propósitos de estadísticas. Age range/Rango de edad:

_____ 18-24

_____ 25-34

_____ 35-44

_____ 45-54

_____ 55-64

_____ 65 and over/ 65 y mas

Limited space to 100 participants /

No hay costo de registraci3n. Aceptaremos solamente 100 participantes.

The deadline for registering for the Workshop is May 13, 2025 /

Fecha límite para registrarte es el 13 de mayo del 2025.

APPEAL FOR 2025 EASTER GREETINGS



Please send in your greetings and payment

(U.S. \$20.00 check or money order, payable to God's Field)



Line 1:

Line 2:

Line 3:



It is the time of year for us to appeal to the parishes, the organizations and the individual members of the Polish National Catholic Church -- to publish your Easter greetings in the Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church, *God's Field—Rola Boza*.

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

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

Example greetings:

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

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

ALL GREETINGS, ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENTS, MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 1, 2025 IN ORDER TO ENSURE THEY ARE INCLUDED IN THE EASTER 2025 ISSUE. We no longer publish greetings submitted without payment, so please be sure to send in your payment with your greeting.

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

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

Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

Cleric Anthony Anderson Ordained to Deacon

Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, Mt. Pleasant, PA

Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish in Mt. Pleasant, PA, proudly celebrated the ordination of Cleric Anthony Anderson to the Order of Deacon. The special Saturday service on February 15th, 2025, was celebrated by Bishop John Mack and several other clergy in attendance that were instrumental in the early formation of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish.

Congratulations to Deacon Anthony Anderson. May your service to the Church and our Lord be fruitful!



Hymnal of the Polish National Catholic Church, 3rd edition, 2011.

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Central Diocese

Recycle with a Cause

Plastic recycling efforts in Dupont and Duryea benefit homeless, community improvements

By Erin Linnen-Berlew - Pittston Progress

PUBLISHED: February 14, 2025 at 12:00 PM EST



Linda Falzone and Lois McHugh hold an American flag made of plastic grocery bags.



The Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, pastor of Holy Mother of Sorrows, with some of the blankets that were made from plastic bags.



Members of the Holy Rosary Class of 2023 who worked on the project to collect plastic bags that were turned into a bench for the school's playground.

(Continued on Page 22.)

(Recycle with a Cause - Continued from Page 21.)

Recycle. Reuse. Renew. Rethink. While residents of Dupont and Duryea might not say they perfectly carry out the “Four Rs,” they have certainly made recycling part of their lives.

In fact, both communities — and their neighboring towns — have shown a willingness to recycle with a cause. Whether it's making mats and blankets for veterans and the homeless, or benches for children, local plastic recycling is improving life in many ways.

Bags become blankets for those in need

Holy Mother of Sorrows Polish National Catholic Church, Dupont, credits Corky Krupp, of Forty Fort, with teaching its volunteers the process of crocheting grocery store bags into sleep mats, lap blankets, carrying straps and pillows back in 2021.

“This group is open to everyone, and new people are always welcome,” said Lois McHugh, of Hughestown, volunteer coordinator. “You do not have to be a parishioner of our church to participate — or know how to crochet.”

Volunteers snip handles, fold bags and construct a ball of bags that is then crocheted into mats and assorted other items. Requiring about 400 bags and two weeks to make one mat, the Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, pastor, then blesses the items before they are lovingly donated to churches, Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, homeless centers and to police officers who directly pass them along to people in need.

Great for socialization, this group brings people together, forming friendships for a good cause.

“I have reconnected with friends from other phases of life. It's really enjoyable,” McHugh said.

Fifteen to 17 volunteers meet the first and third Thursdays of the month from 10 a.m. until noon. Lunch is served around noon, and the day wraps around 12:30 p.m. Accommodating all schedules, two volunteers even pick up their supplies and work from home. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to do what works best for them.

Annually, depending on multiple variables, 15 to 20 mats also are produced and gifted to veterans at the Holy Mother of Sorrows Veterans' Appreciation Dinner.

Donations of plastic bags are welcome. Holy Mother of Sorrows is collecting donations from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first and last Thursdays of the month and from 9 to 11 a.m. Sundays. Please leave donations inside the Frank Bednash Memorial Hall at Holy Mother of Sorrows or at St. John's Lutheran Church or Our Lady of the Eucharist Church in Pittston.

“The best part of what we do as a group is knowing where the mats and blankets go, and how much they are appreciated,” said volunteer Linda Falzone, Jenkins Twp. “It's a fun time with a diverse group of friends for such a good cause.”

Anyone with questions is invited to contact Lois McHugh at 570-299-9430 or Lamchugh@verizon.net.

Plastic bags transformed into park benches

In 2023, Ben and Max Shupp, sons of Stephanie and Ryan Shupp, were in eighth grade at Holy Rosary School in Duryea when their mother, a member of Duryea Council and the Duryea Betterment Committee, learned of the NexTrex Recycling Challenge Program. Through this program, 500 pounds of plastic had to be collected within six months in exchange for a NexTrex bench.

The Holy Rosary family stepped up to the plate, and with generous support from surrounding communities, 500 pounds of donated plastic was traded in for the Holy Rosary Eighth Grade Class of 2023 / Duryea Betterment Committee bench for the Holy Rosary playground.

While the Holy Rosary bench project is complete, the recycling program is continuing to benefit the entire Duryea community. Currently, all plastic donations now go to the Duryea Borough Building, located at 315 Main St. Plastic donations from the community are welcomed and encouraged.

A second bench is in storage, awaiting the ongoing renovations at Healy Playground, which are anticipated to be completed in the spring. The Duryea Betterment Committee is now collecting plastics for a third bench, and

since requirements for the program have changed, the committee needs to collect 1,000 pounds of plastic by November 2025 in order to receive another bench. The committee is halfway to that goal.

Donations left at the borough building will fill the Duryea dump truck and are then taken by the street department to The Grassroots, a plastics processing facility in Covington Twp. A photo of the donated plastic is taken, sent to NexTrex, and with each truckload, the Duryea Betterment Committee is closer and closer to its goal of a third bench.

“We all collected plastic bags from grocery stores, plastic bags from carrots, apples, Amazon white bags, any type of bubble wrap. It was great teamwork spearheaded by Stephanie Shupp, and the children are very grateful for the gift,” said Melissa Skutack, Holy Rosary principal. “The 2023 eighth grade class was an energetic class who were happy to jump in and help, and we are thankful for the wonderful bench they gifted us for our playground.”

According to the NexTrex website, a variety of plastic items can be collected for the project, including grocery bags, produce bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, plastic shipping envelopes, resealable food storage/sandwich bags, cereal bags, case overwrap, salt bags and pallet wrap/stretch film. Please note, all plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.

Think of ways to lend a hand, get involved with your community, and help the planet. Recycle. Reuse. Renew. Rethink. Be it blankets, benches or the environment, there are countless ways to make a difference.

Scout Sunday at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish

Dupont, PA

Scout Sunday was celebrated at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA on Sunday, February 2, 2025. Scouts and Leaders recited the "On my Honor" pledge. The ceremony was concluded with a prayer offered for God's blessing upon scouts.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Front: Merrit Nash, Myles Nash; Rear: Joseph Azaravich, Very Zbigniew Dawid, Mary Azaravich

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Holds Annual Meeting

Dupont, PA

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish held its Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 23, 2025 in the Parish Hall in Dupont, PA. Officers of the Parish Committee, Tribunal and Auditors of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish were elected and sworn in during the meeting.

Following the meeting, everyone in attendance enjoyed some homemade pagash made by Mike Manganiello.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Seated: Al Micka, Susan Baldan, Paul Kaspriskie, Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid, David Petrosky, Lois McHugh, Rose Kazinetz;
Standing: Wanda Stash, Carl Cwikla, Jeffrey Baldan, Angelo Conforti, Nick Kazinetz, Heather Kazinetz;



Meeting Attendees

Eastern Diocese

Blessed Trinity Parish Scout Sunday Fall River, MA

On Sunday, February 16th, Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop 15 attended Scout Sunday Mass at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA. The scouts received a blessing after Mass and each were also presented with a "Scout Sunday 2025 " patch - a gift from Very Rev. Rob and Katherine Nemkovich. Thanks to these scouts for the gift of a beautiful camping sweatshirt and tee shirt for Fr. Sr. Rob!

Following Mass a Blue and Gold Brunch was enjoyed in the Parish Hall.



On February 26th, patches were given to the scouts who were not able to attend the Scout Sunday Mass.



Northeast Seniorate of the Eastern Diocese Lenten Retreat

Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI

The Northeast Seniorate Lenten Retreat of the Eastern Diocese was held Saturday, March 9th, at Our Saviour Parish in Woonsocket, RI. It was truly a sacred time in prayer, reflection, meditation and fellowship drawing closer to our Lord during these 40 days of this Lenten journey. Thank you to the presenters and the host parish.



Western Diocese

Ordination to Diaconate

All Saints Cathedral, Chicago, IL

On October 17, 2024, Sub-Deacon David Talaga was ordained a Deacon by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky at All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL. Among those present were Fr. Sr. Charles Zawistowski – Administrator of the Western Diocese, Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk, Fr. Sr. Bogumil Czaja, Fr. Jim Ploskonka, Fr. Zbigniew (Marion) Talaga, Fr. John Kutek, Fr. John Cramer, Deacon Doug Scott, and Deacon David's mother, grandmother, and other family.

For Deacon David, the ordination ceremony was very emotionally moving, and he felt a sense of accomplishment in his hard, dedicated work paying off, and now being able to fulfill his calling and begin his ministry as a Deacon.

Deacon David extends his utmost gratitude toward all who supported him along the way, both clergy and family alike. He also extends a special thank you to all of his instructors who were with him on his journey to being ordained a Deacon.

Submitted by Deacon David Talaga



Greetings from St. Mary's Parish

South Bend, IN

Our fall was filled with events and activities, many of which provided service to our community and to each other as part of our parish family.

We had our Blessing of Pets the first Saturday of October which has really grown over the last few years. This year we blessed 44 pets brought by 58 people, which included dogs, cats, guinea pigs and snakes. Pets did not mingle with other pets and received individual blessings. This event is greatly embraced by our community! We also had a pet drive to support Pet Refuge, a local non-kill animal shelter, in which we raised \$800 in cash and in-kind donations. We are already planning for next year!



A Thanksgiving Potluck was held on November 24, 2024 following Mass. The Parish provided the turkey and beverages and parishioners brought sides or desserts. 45 attended, and this is always a fun event which guests look forward to!

Our Building Repair Drive goal was achieved. The total cost was \$71,934 to repair issues with the roof and complete mortar and brick repair on our bell tower. We thought it would take 3 years to raise the funds, but thanks to parishioners and benefactors, we

were blessed to collect the funds and complete the substantial amount of work in less than one year!

A Mini Advent Retreat was held on Sunday, December 1 following Mass, with 18 attending. The Retreat was spiritual and informative. A continental breakfast was also included in the free event.



Our community service project during the Advent season was to support the local Right to Life chapter. The event was Stuff-A-Truck for moms and babies. Many items were collected including cash donations of \$450 which the Right to Life was very pleased to receive from us. Our cash donations helped sponsor a mobile outreach unit which goes into neighborhoods with information and support.

The Chopin Choir sold hand-decorated Christmas Cards and Christmas Ornaments along with Rudolph Noses and Christmas Turtles (delicious!) from South Bend Chocolate Factory. This fund raiser is always a hit with our parishioners.

A combined Christmas and New Year's Brunch was held December 29 with 35 participating. We shared the Christmas wafer, had a toast for the New Year and for the first time played holiday bingo where winners could select their prizes. It seems that everyone won!

The Church Christmas decorating took place on December 22 following Mass, with 16 volunteers helping.

One of our younger parishioners, Norah, won 1st place for vault and beam, 2nd place for bars and floor, and won the overall competition with the highest

score of 37.65. She qualified to compete for the State title in April. We are very proud of Norah!

Father Charles visited our sister parish in Winnipeg, Manitoba in Canada in December. The visit was used to celebrate Christmas and gifts were given to the children. They have been without a priest since the passing of their priest, so priests from our diocese have been visiting monthly to celebrate Mass and administer sacraments.

One of our parishioners is an American Legion post commander and is working with the Legion Post Commander of Michigan City. They are collecting new or gently used men's clothing to be used for prisoners who served their time and are being released.

The released inmates often have few clothing items, making it difficult to get a fresh start. Parishioners are donating clothing to help out.

Our church building was blessed by Fr Sr Charles for Epiphany so that parishioners could see how it is done. Home blessings are arranged for dates and times convenient for parishioners

Plans are underway for a Lenten community service project to support St. Margaret's House, a local shelter for battered and abused women. Our parishioners are always thoughtful and compassionate in their service to our community.

We wish all of you a safe and healthy New Year.

Submitted by Fran Lemanski

“Make Your Own Taco & Games” Youth Night at All Saints Parish

Sterling Heights, MI

On February 21st, the All Saints Parish Friends of Sunday School sponsored a “Taco Dinner & Games Night” for the youth of the parish. The evening began with the kids assembling their own tacos with all the trimmings and enjoying tortilla chips with salsa. For dessert there were double chocolate and oatmeal raisin cookies.



Following dinner the games began. Placed around the hall tables were various games such as Uno, Yahtzee, Aggravation, Pick-up Sticks, Jumbo Blocks Tumbler, Sorry, Guess Who, Ping Pong, Air hockey and more for them to choose from. Whoever won each game was allowed to choose from an array of sweet treats to take home as their prize.

The evening continued with lots of bantering, laughing and screams of joy at winning. It was a great night of fun and comradery with everyone leaving with a big smile and happy hearts. We thank God for blessing our parish with such a “great” group of young people.

Sharon Stachurski

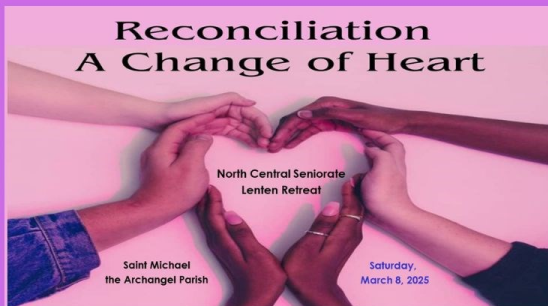
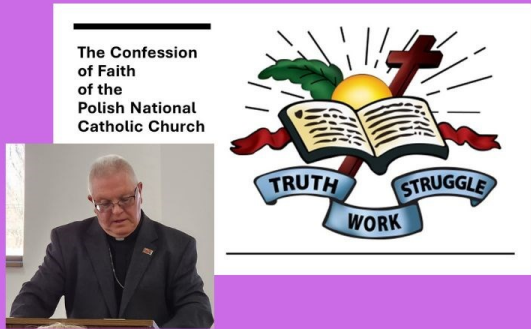


North Central Seniorate of the Western Diocese Lenten Retreat

St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN

The North Central Seniorate of the Western Diocese held a Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 8 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The Retreat was held at Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Cedar Lake, Indiana.

Submitted by Very Rev. John Kowalczyk, Jr.



Rev. John Cramer - Sacrament of Reconciliation
 Christine Wachna - Reconciliation Through Music
 Very Rev. John Kowalczyk - The Confession of Faith
 Penitential & Healing Service

Participants & Presenters from the Parishes of:
 All Saints Cathedral, Holy Trinity,
 Parroquia San Juan Bautista,
 Sts. Cyril & Methodius & St. Michael the Archangel



(March 2025 Future Direction Message - Continued from Page 5.)

Acts 10:42 – He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

1 Peter 4:5 – But they will have to give an accounting to Him Who stands ready to judge the living and the dead.

And His kingdom will have no end.

Luke 1:32-33 – He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.

2 Peter 1:11 – For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.

Hebrews 1:8 – But of the Son He says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.”

Reflection

In this second part of the reflection on the second person of the Holy Trinity, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we focus our attention on His earthly life, from the time of His birth in Bethlehem to His death and resurrection. We also confess that Jesus will come again in glory and be our judge. While in the first part of the Creed concerning our Lord we confess that He is truly God, within this part we confess that He is truly human. We confess that He was truly born of the humble woman Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit. That He truly lived. While He suffered throughout much of His life, in a particularly historical way, He suffered after being condemned by Pontius Pilate. At this time He was crucified, He died, He was buried. And of course He rose from the dead on the third day. Each of these things we confess as a historical fact

We also confess in this portion the reason that our Lord came to the world. We acknowledge that all that He did and accomplished was and is, “for us and for our salvation.” Within this confession we are also confessing the great love that God has for us, His people.

There of course is also the issue of what will happen to us and to all in the life beyond the grave. We are not destined to remain there. The Lord will return again in glory from heaven. There will be a judgement, of all things and all people. And the righteous will enter the eternal kingdom of God.

Action Item

As an action item, pray the Nicene Creed during Holy Mass with some intention. Realize that the same Lord Jesus Christ that we confess during the Creed is the same Christ that came to the world, as one Who is truly God and truly human to accomplish our salvation. He set us all an example of following the will of the Heavenly Father, even if that will leads to suffering. He will also be the judge of all our actions, all of our thoughts, words and deeds. But in this too, Jesus offers us forgiveness through the Sacrament of Penance, that these sins can be forgiven. Jesus offers us a guide to allow our lives to grow ever closer to God in following His teaching and example, expounded through the Sacrament of the Word of God. And He offers us the opportunity to be ever united to Him, beginning in this life through the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the true presence of Jesus in Communion

Give thanks to God for sending His Son into the world that through His life, death and resurrection we have received forgiveness and we have been offered the gift of renewed life, united to His, in Him, through Him and for Him.

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

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Please note that the gratis online version of *God's Field* will continue to be available to everyone on our website at pncc.org.

If you want to continue to receive *God's Field* for the March 2025 - February 2026 subscription year, please send a check or money order in USD, payable to God's Field, along with current name and full mailing address. Please include zip+4 (U.S.) or postal code (Canada) to ensure delivery of your subscription; if you do not include a complete, valid mailing address including zip+4 or postal code we cannot guarantee delivery by the Post Office.

Only paid subscriptions will be mailed, so please make sure your payment is received in the God's Field office prior to the end of the annual subscription year (February 28, 2025). If your annual subscription is not paid on time, you may experience a gap in monthly issues of *God's Field*. The order form (below) and payment should be sent to:

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Scranton, PA 18505

Thank you.

The Staff and Management of *God's Field*—*Rola Boza*



God's Field Annual Subscription Form March 2025 - February 2026

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