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He is Risen!!!

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

Although we often encounter the Resurrection narrative from the Gospel of St. John on Easter Sunday morning, it is instructive and edifying for us to spend time in reflection on the Resurrection found in each in the Gospels. As this is the third year of our three-year liturgical cycle, let us examine the Resurrection found within the Gospel of St. Luke.

“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves then he went home, amazed at what had happened.”

As we encounter this Gospel text, we see that this account fits quite well with the one we usually hear

on Easter Sunday morning. In John’s Gospel both Peter and John run to the tomb, John arrives first and only looks in. When Peter comes along behind John, he runs right into the tomb and sees the wrappings. John then goes in, sees the wrappings and Scripture tells us, “He saw and believed.” (John 20:8b)

In both of these encounters with the empty tomb we see the faith of the apostles and disciples as something that is just beginning. It is like a small seed which needs to be tended and fed so that it may grow. In encountering the faith of the apostles on that Easter Sunday morning, we reflect on our own faith in the Resurrection of Jesus.

Within Luke’s Gospel we see this growth immediately after the encounter at the tomb, by the two disciples going to Emmaus. These disciples encounter Jesus in His expounding on the Scriptures to them as they travel. And then finally when they are taking their rest at an inn, He reveals Himself in the breaking of bread, the Eucharist. We see here that the small infant faith of the disciples is fed and grows in an encounter with Jesus in both Word and the Eucharist. And we see also that these two mutually penetrate each other. The Word, which has informed them, helps them to see Christ in the Bread, the Eucharist, and the eucharistic encounter allows them to acknowledge that their hearts burned within them, when they heard the Scriptures being opened.

My brothers and sisters, as we joyfully come to our parish churches to give glory and praise to Almighty

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***God's Field — Rola Boża*
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(He is Risen!!! - Continued from Page 1.)

God Who raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, let us realize that we too are like these women at the tomb; we too are like these disciples journeying to Emmaus. We know that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, but we often do not realize the full extent of our faith. In order to do this, we, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, must continue to encounter our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is never enough just to say that we believe and nothing more. Like those disciples on the road, we must listen to the Word of God. We also must encounter our Lord in the Breaking of Bread, the Holy Eucharist, where we receive His true Body and Blood in Holy Communion. All of this happens most fully within the context of our participation in the celebration of Holy Mass.

At Mass we partake of the Sacrament of Penance where we are joined to the forgiveness of sins that was won for us upon the Cross. At Mass we partake of the Sacrament of the Word of God, in which like the disciples on the road, the Scriptures are opened for us and our hearts are made to burn within us as we hear. And lastly and most importantly we encounter the risen Jesus within the Breaking of Bread, the Eucharist. We receive the Risen Jesus, His Body and Blood, which hung upon the Cross for the forgiveness of our sins and was raised up for our Salvation.

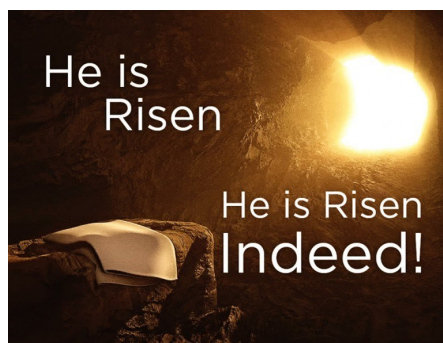
St. Paul speaks of the promises that come to us from this faith in his Letter to the Romans. “No distrust made him [Abraham] waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised. Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now the words, ‘it was reckoned to him’ were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who

believe in Him Who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, Who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.” (Romans 4:20-25)

So to my brother Bishops, the Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, the Deacons and all the faithful of the Polish National Catholic Church as well as our brothers and sisters, the bishops, priests and faithful of the Nordic Catholic Church, I extend to you all my blessings on this glorious solemnity of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He has gone to the Cross for the forgiveness of our sins and was raised from the dead to triumph over sin and death and reign victoriously. He lives today and because of His life, we too live in God’s presence. Again, St. Paul tells us, “I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the One Who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” (Romans 18-21)

So let us in this Easter season, celebrate the Resurrection of Christ from the dead. Let us celebrate in the glorious freedom of the children of God. Let us partake of His presence within the pronouncement of His Word and in the reception of Holy Communion. Let us resolve to build and extend His kingdom starting within our own hearts and then expanding it to our homes, our parishes, our community and the world.

Let us declare, not only in our words, but with our entire lives, “Christ is Risen!!! He is Risen, indeed!!! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!!!”



P.N.C.C. Future Direction
April 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 part of the Creed that deals with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life.

2 Corinthians 3:17 – Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Acts 1:8 – But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Genesis 1:2 – The earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God [spirit of God] swept over the face of the waters.

John 6:63 – It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

2 Corinthians 3:6 – Our competence is from God, Who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills but the Spirit gives life.

Who proceeds from the Father.

John 15:26 – When the Advocate comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth Who comes from the Father, He will testify on My behalf.

With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified

Matthew 3:16-17 – And when Jesus had been baptized, just as He came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is My Son, the Beloved, with Whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 28:19-20 – Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the

Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

He has spoken through the prophets.

Ezekiel 11:5 – Then the Spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and He said to me, “Say, Thus says the Lord: This is what you think, O house of Israel; I know the things that come into your mind.”

1 Peter 1:10-11 – Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory.

2 Peter 1:21 – Because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Ephesians 3:5 – In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

Reflection

In this portion of the Nicene Creed we examine what is said concerning the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit. We first make mention that in fact this portion of the Creed was not written at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, but rather was added at the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD. In the original Creed from Nicaea, the Council Fathers only said, “I believe in the Holy Spirit.” As the Church sought a more clear understanding, the present words were added at the second Ecumenical Council.

This portion of the Creed does allow us to reflect that the work of God is not something that was set into action like a watchmaker winding a watch, but rather that at the present time, God the Holy Spirit is still giving life to the faithful even in the Church today. God continues to help us at every moment, even those most difficult ones: [Jesus said] “When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you are to defend yourselves or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say.” (Luke 12:11-12)

We in the Polish National Catholic Church see this occurring, as well, within the liturgy when, before the homily, we sing a Hymn to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is invoked, to allow us to realize that through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God is still giving life to the faithful as we grow in the knowledge of God and are made fit for the building of the kingdom of God on earth. The Holy Spirit strengthens us and allows us to be witnesses to the work of God in the world and especially in our Christian lives.

Action Item

As an action item, pray the Nicene Creed during Holy Mass with some intention. Realize that the same Holy Spirit that was breathed upon the apostles by our Lord Jesus Christ is still active within the Church today. This Spirit allows us to be made fit for our role as disciples and followers of Jesus. Remember that Jesus told us:] “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.” (John 14:26)

Give thanks to God for sending His Spirit into the world that through His action within our lives and within the Church at present, the kingdom of God is being built and we are all being sanctified.

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



Easter

Rev. Jim Konicki, National Vocations Director

We offer you the Savonarola Theological Seminary Newsletter for April 2025 with one of those things people enjoy doing, and others like to peer into, the Top Five or Top Ten of some subject or other. This month our seminarians offer the top five things they love about Easter.

As you may know, on March 25th, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, four of our seminarians were tonsured and received Minor Orders. It was a joyous occasion for the Church. Also, Mr. Robert Grizzell was tonsured and received Minor Orders at Annunciation Parish in San Antonio, Texas on March 21st. On March 19th, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Deacon Justin Daviault was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. Deacon Marcus Tinajero was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on March 8th. God bless them all. God is doing a great thing in our Holy Church.

We have established a prayer line for the seminary. Send your prayer requests by E-mail to prayer@savonarola.net.

We also established a Seminary website at <https://www.savonarola.net>, and a Seminary Instagram channel at <https://www.instagram.com/savonarola1914/>. Check them out.

If you can, please provide support to the Seminary Fund. Faithful P.N.C.C. members' 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. God bless your generosity!

Top Five Things I Love About Easter

Rev. Mr. Sean Dodd

1. The Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
 "And if Christ has not been raised, then empty [too] is our preaching; empty, too, your faith." — 1 Corinthians 15:14
2. The music is incredibly moving. Singing „Wesoły nam dzień dziś nastał” in the cathedral for the first time was one of the most moving experiences I've had in church.
 "Therefore, we who are receiving the unshakable kingdom should have gratitude, with which we should offer worship pleasing to God in reverence and awe." — Hebrews 12:28
3. The smells of the church after the blessing of foods. The food on Easter is so delicious, and its aroma has become something that enhances the worship experience for me.
 "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." — 1 Corinthians 10:31
4. The Easter procession is powerful. Processing Christ from His tabernacle back to the high altar is like the processions of the Ark of the Covenant triumphantly entering Jerusalem.

“They transported the ark of God...while David and all the house of Israel danced before the Lord with all their might, with singing, and with lyres, harps, tambourines, sistrums, and cymbals.” — 2 Samuel 6:5

5. The overflowing love of my Christian brothers and sisters on this, our day of victory.
“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.” — 1 John 4:7

Five Things I Love About Easter

Cleric David Dudzinski

With Lent almost halfway over, I'm happy to have some good things to look forward to. Don't get me wrong, the Lenten journey done in the P.N.C.C. is truly a thing to behold, from Stations of the Cross, to fasting, to the Bitter Lamentations, the penitential season of Lent is really driven home. However, what's a hard day's work without some R&R afterward? The five things I love about Easter are:

1. The hope of warm weather,
2. The heightened liturgical drama of Holy Week,
3. Time with family,
4. Getting to eat meat on Wednesdays again, and finally
5. THE CHOCOLATE!

While Easter is not always warm, it is an indication that the cold, dark days of winter are behind us, and clear, sunny days are to come. I love the increased liturgical devotions that happen during Holy Week, from Tenebrae, to the Blessing of Water and Fire, to the Chrism Mass. Despite the drain on the priests themselves, it really drives home the celebratory mood of the Church Season. I might find myself changing my tune when, God willing, I am a priest!

Next, I love the extra time with family. Growing up, Easter was like a second Christmas, with visits from friends and family. I also love the ability to eat meat on Wednesdays, to break the Lenten fast. Who doesn't love fresh kielbasa, with horseradish and mustard? Finally, the sheer volume of chocolate consumed! The temptation to buy a candy bar during this Lenten fast has been something I've wrestled with; I look forward to finally giving in!

5 Reasons Why Easter Holds A Special Place In My Heart

Cleric Joel Smith

Easter holds a special place in my heart, with experiences ranging from simple pleasures to meaningful community outreach. Here are five things I truly enjoy about this holiday:

1. Like many people, chocolate is a highlight of Easter for me. My taste has evolved from a 'childlike' love of milk chocolate to a more 'sophisticated' appreciation for dark chocolate, but the excitement remains the same. I still look forward to this sweet tradition every year.
2. The three-day weekend has always been a blessing. It provides a rare opportunity to slow down, spend quality time with family, and catch up with friends when our typically busy schedules would otherwise make such connections difficult.
3. One of my most cherished memories is from my time as a missionary in Japan. We would hold a sunrise Easter service in the park on Easter Sunday, celebrating Christ's resurrection. With music, prayer, and a short sermon, these services attracted small crowds and served as a beautiful outreach opportunity.

(Continued on Page 8.)

(The Savonarola Theological Seminary Newsletter- Continued from Page 7.)

4. Recently, I've discovered the Stations of the Cross, which has profoundly impacted my faith journey. Walking through Jesus' passion narrative feels incredibly personal and moving. It's become something I look forward to during Lent, bringing the story to life in a way I'd never experienced before.
5. Outreach opportunities are another highlight. While in Tokyo, our church organized an annual Easter egg hunt in the local park. We'd prepare hundreds of plastic eggs filled with candy, inviting children and parents to participate. Typically, around 150 kids would join in. Before the hunt, we'd perform a short play explaining the true meaning of Easter. After the play, we would release the children to their chocolaty treasure hunt. Watching the children's joy and engaging in meaningful conversations with parents was incredibly touching. Many families became regular attendees at our events, with some even finding their way to Christianity through our community's love and hospitality.

These experiences remind me why Easter is so special, and I'm eagerly anticipating this year's celebrations.

Five things I love about Easter

Cleric Todd Godwin

1. Easter egg hunts as a kid, and with my own kid (it's an intergenerational thing). My grandparents used to put one on for all the grandkids at their country house in Georgia. I had no idea at the time how precious it was and that it would in a few years be gone, never to return to our family. As for my own daughter, now 12, when she was 6 and below, we would take her to multiple egg hunts across the city where we lived. One time she was the only kid in her age group and had an entire field of eggs to herself (fields were cordoned off by age group). She wound up with a cart full of like 85 eggs, and we had candy for weeks.
2. Bitter Lamentations, and Stations of the Cross. I know these are not the same thing, but they are very similar. I had never been taken into the Life of Christ and His Passion quite like this before. Wearing heavy vestments and sweating in them at the altar and chanting these things out loud during the services made me feel even more connected to Christ.
3. The Pascha service with the Orthodox following Holy Week. The Eastern Orthodox start their Sunday Easter/Pascha service about ten PM Saturday night. It begins, like the P.N.C.C.'s, with a procession around the church, coming from a darkened sanctuary. Everyone is holding candles and singing a beautiful hymn. You bang on the door to be let in after, also like the P.N.C.C., signifying Christ's return. The joyous, raucous service then kicks off and goes into the wee hours of the morning, shouting Christ is Risen! Countless times. Following this would be some of the best food I would eat all year.
4. The fact that Easter means "Springtime" in Old English, and the warming of the world coincides with the warming of our hearts as we move into and experience Christ's Resurrection in the Church. The Church, in its wisdom, or God in His, or both, tied the cosmic cycle to our Liturgical year.
5. Fasting. Seriously, how could we ever clean up our lives on our own? We need the Church to help us out on this.

Top 5 Things I love about EASTER Countdown!

Cleric Jon Johnson

5. Easter Candy/Goodies! I'm not a big candy person and I try to limit myself to one Cadbury Egg a year, but I do look forward to those special treats! It always reminds me of shopping on Holy Saturday with my Grandma for those Cadbury eggs on sale at Woolworths! Psalm 34:8 "*O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him*"

4. Easter Food Baskets! Throughout Lent, we have days of abstinence on Wednesdays and Fridays. I'm not a fish/seafood person, so this is always a challenge and a good discipline for me. Although it was a "thing" in the Upper Midwest, it is a big thing in my parish here in Pennsylvania, and I didn't really get into doing it until I moved here. Meat! Cheese! Breads! My favorite things. The symbolism of the candle as Christ as the light of the world! The Parable of the Prodigal Son, the 4th Sunday of Lent, reminds us that we too were, "*once lost, and have been found.*" Luke 15:32
3. Easter Hymns! As a church musician, some of the Easter hymns can be a challenge with all those refrains of "Alleluias", but what joy they bring! After the absence of the Alleluia in Lent, I love to sing as many of those joyous Easter hymns filled with Alleluias as possible. "Christ is Risen, Alleluia". Revelations 19:1, "*After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God.'*"
2. Holy Saturday! I just love the Triduum, and not just because the organ is silent after the Gloria on Holy Thursday; in fact, all that acapella singing and chanting can be a challenge. One of the things I've noticed, no matter where I've been over the years is the service of Holy Saturday seems to be the least well attended. Let me tell ya, you're missing out on one of the most beautiful services of the year. It is so very anticipatory, with the Service of Fire and Light, the new fire and the blessing of the pascal candle. The Lessons, that tell the History of Salvation, and the Blessing of the Easter Water! John 8:12, "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.*"
1. New Life! Living in the Upper Midwest most of my life, Spring was often late, and one didn't associate Easter so much with Spring weather, but when Easter came, you could see signs that Spring was coming. Even when one of those May 1st blizzards hit, we knew that the snow would not stay, and Spring was coming soon. Here in Pennsylvania, I usually see some daffodils and crocuses popping up and buds on my magnolia tree. What a great reminder that Jesus came to bring me new life! John 10:10, "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*"

***Chris is Risen!
He is Risen, Indeed!***



***Easter Greetings
from the staff of
God's Field***

**Controller: Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky
Editor: Julie Orzell**

*Let us all celebrate the triumph of
our Lord, Jesus Christ, over the grave!*

**The Supreme Council
of the
Polish National Catholic Church**



Tradition at Savonarola Theological Seminary Scranton, PA

One of the traditions at the Savonarola Theological Seminary is the burning of the ties.

When Seminarians are Tonsured, thus leaving the lay state and entering the clerical state, they burn the ties they wore with their suits and white shirts. Those are replaced with clerical wear, the black suit, black shirt, and white collar as well as the cassock. This symbolizes their detachment from worldly things and their focus on heavenly things.

After the conclusion of their Tonsure and Minor Orders at Holy Mass on March 25th, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Seminarians, David Dudzinski, Todd Godwin, Jonathan Johnson, and Joel Smith gathered at the Savonarola Seminary to burn their ties under the watchful eye of senior seminarian, Deacon Sean Dodd.

Submitted by Rev. Jim Konicki



Tonsure and Minor Orders

St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA

On Tuesday, March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at 10:00 am, the first-year seminarians, David Dudzinski, Todd Godwin, Jon Johnson, and Joel Smith received the Tonsure and the first four Minor Orders of the Church at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA.

A man who is to become a priest first receives the "tonsure" -- i.e., he is received into the clerical state by being given a cassock, surplice and clerical collar, and by having hair shaved away at the crown of the head (ancient practice) or today, by having a lock of hair snipped from his head.

With the tonsure, he becomes a cleric, but still has not received the Sacrament of Orders. The tonsured cleric is then ordained to each of the four Minor Orders (Porter, Reader, Blesser, Acolyte), one at a time, receiving the power of each office, and later, ascending up through the ranks until he is raised to the dignity of the priesthood, at which time he receives the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

A small luncheon was held in the Parish Hall following Holy Mass, where everyone present congratulated these seminarians. Please keep them in your prayers as we continue to pray for Vocations.



Ordination at Holy Trinity Parish Plantsville, CT

The ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Rev. Justin Daviault by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski at Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, CT took place on March 19th, the Solemnity of St. Joseph. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky preached God's Word to the congregation on this joyous occasion for the Eastern Diocese and the entire Polish National Catholic Church. May God bless our neo-presbyter Fr. Justin and his family as he begins his priestly ministry following the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Eastern Diocese Liturgical Commission served as the Masters of Ceremonies for the Sacred Ordination Mass.



Ordination at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral

Lancaster, NY

The ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Rev. Dr. Marcus Tinajero by Bishop John Mack at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral Parish was held on March 8th, 2025. May God bless Rev. Dr. Tinajero and his family as he begins his pastoral ministry in the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese and in the Polish National Catholic Church.





Annual Easter Greetings

**Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski
Manchester, NH
Christ, our Hope, is risen, indeed!**

**Prime Bishop Emeritus Robert and Florence Nemkovich
Cape Coral, Florida
We wish everyone a Happy and Blessed Easter!**

**Very Rev. William Chromey
Mrs. Julia Chromey & Family
The Lord is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

**He is risen!
Wishing you a Happy Easter full of blessings.
Nick & Jessica Kazinetz**

**Christ is risen
and hope is born anew!
Bishop Paul & Clergy of the Eastern Diocese
Wishing you a blessed Easter season.
Clergy Circle of the Western Diocese
Priests and Deacons**

**Clergy of the Plymouth Seniorate
Very Rev. Lucian Urbaniak, Rev. Robert Plichta, Rev. Boguslaw Janiec
Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!**

**He is risen! Celebrate His greatest miracle.
Happy Easter!
The United Y.M.S. of R.**

**Eastern Diocese United Women's Society
Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Diocesan Bishop
Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Chaplain
All Saints Cathedral Parish, Chicago
Rev. David Rowinski, Administrator
Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!**

**Wesołego Alleluja!
Church of Resurrection, Brooklyn, NY
Rev. Andrzej Koterba & Parish Committee**

**Guardian Angel Parish, Los Angeles
Fr. Andrew Machowski
Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

**Holy Cross Parish, Woodland Park, NJ
Rev. Joseph Cyman & Parishioners
Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!**

**Holy Cross Parish - Hamtramck, MI
Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Pastor
Glory to the risen Lord!**

**Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA
Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid
May God shower you with blessings, love and peace this Easter.**



**Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH
Bishop Paul Sobiechowski & Parish Committee
Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

**Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT
Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski
Rejoice! Christ is risen, indeed!**

**Our Savior Parish
2300 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Rev. Fr. Carmen G. Bolock, Administrator**

**Our Saviour's Parish
Woonsocket, RI
Rev. Henryk Wos, Pastor**

**Resurrection Parish, Temperance, Michigan
Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Administrator
Christ is truly risen!**

**Alleluia! Easter blessings to all!
St. Casimir's P.N.C.C. - Lowell, MA
Rev. Andrzej Tenus, Pastor**

**St. John the Baptist Parish - Frackville, PA
Christ is risen!**

May God bless everyone with good health and happiness.

**Saint Joseph's Mission Parish, Fairhope, PA, USA
Praying a joyful and blessed Easter to all.
Alleluia! Christ IS risen!**

**May our resurrected Lord bless you!
St. Mary's Parish — South Bend, IN
Fr. Sr. Charles Zawistowski - Pastor, Parish Committee and Organizations**

**St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN
Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr. - Pastor
Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!**

**A blessed Easter to all!
Parish Committee & Parish Family
St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA**

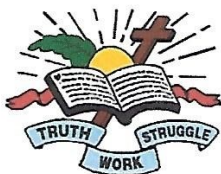
**St. Valentine Parish, Northampton, Massachusetts
Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
Życzenia Radosnych Świąt Wielkanocnych.**

**St. Valentine's Parish
2330 Margaret Street, Philadelphia, PA 19137
Rev. Fr. Carmen G. Bolock, Pastor**

**SS Peter and Paul's P.N.C.C. McAdoo, PA
Wishing everyone a blessed Easter.
Pastor, Rev. Boguslaw Janiec**

**Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, Wallington, NJ
Very Rev. Gregory Mludzik, Pastor
Alleluia! Christ is risen! Wesolego Alleluja!**

**From the Board of Directors, Committee Members,
and Employees of Spójnia Credit Union
Wesolego Alleluja!**



***Holy Family Parish
Polish National Catholic Church***

1921 Eden Park Boulevard

McKeesport, PA 15132

Rectory: (412) 678-0566

www.hfpncc.org

April 1, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our parish is the host site for the 37th National United Choirs General Convention and the 29th Music Workshop and Concert, July 30, 31 and August 1, 2025. As is customary, we will be remembering this event with a commemorative program booklet which will be presented to all participants and guests at the concert on Friday, August 1, 2025. We are asking for your support by placing your greetings in this booklet. Our theme is, "Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord." We are asking for your support of this event.

The donations are as follows:

Composer's Page	\$80.00	three-line greeting
Director's and Accompanists' Page	\$50.00	two-line greeting
Singer's Page	\$30.00	one-line greeting
Patron's Page	\$10.00	name only

The printed size will be 7 ½ inches by 4 ½ inches (actual page 8 ½ by 5 ½ inches).

Please submit your greetings, with payment, by June 1, 2025 at the address below. Please make checks payable to: ***Frederic Chopin Choir***

Frederic Chopin Choir
Cathy Bilinski
4051 Washington Crescent Drive
Troy, MI 48085

Thank you for your anticipated support. If you cannot be with us during this event, we ask you to pray for the safety of all travelers and for God's blessing on great days of music ministry preparation and Christian fellowship.

Sincerely,

Wendy A Blotzer
Workshop Committee Chair
412-926-6029



REGISTRATION FORM
Due by June 1, 2025

**NUC 29th Music Workshop
 and
 37th General Convention**

Wednesday, July 30, 2025 – Friday, August 1, 2025
Holy Family PNCC, McKeesport, PA 15132

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY, ST, ZIP _____
 HOME PHONE _____ MOBILE PHONE _____
 EMAIL _____

I am a member of _____ Parish, _____ (city, state)

Voice Part: Soprano ___ Alto ___ Tenor ___ Bass ___

If you play any instruments, please list _____

Special Dietary Needs _____

_____ **CONVENTION AND WORKSHOP \$200.00.**
 Includes concert music packet and meals for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

_____ **CONVENTION ONLY \$50.00.**
 Includes dinner on Wednesday.

_____ **WORKSHOP ONLY \$150.00.**
 Includes concert music packet and meals for Thursday and Friday.

Early Bird Rate!! Register by May 1 and get a \$25 Discount.
Registrations due by June 1, 2025

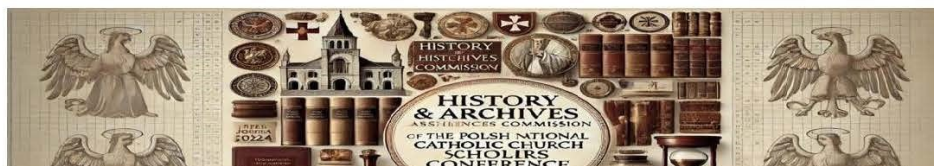
Please make check payable to:
Frederick Chopin Choir

Mail to:
Holy Family PNCC
c/o NUC Workshop Committee
1921 Eden Park Boulevard
McKeesport, PA 15132

Hotel Accommodations: Springhill Suites, 1000 Regis Avenue, West Mifflin PA 15236
 412.653.9800
 at a rate of \$169 plus taxes and fees
 This hotel is about 50 minutes away from the Pgh airport.

Reservations must be made by June 27th, 2025 under NUCPNCC

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



APRIL 26, 2025

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA OR VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

Register today by calling: 1.570.466.4069 (Rev. Dr. Jim Ploskonka)

jploskonka62@gmail.com

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PROGRAM SESSION FOR 2025

Christ and the Coal Mine: Francis Hodur and the Labor Movement, 1897-1905

Gavin Moulton

The establishment of the Polish National Catholic Church and Lattimer Massacre are pivotal events in American labor and religious history. Both occurred mere months from each other within the coal region of northeastern Pennsylvania. This presentation seeks to understand the interconnected roots of labor issues and the establishment of the Polish National Catholic Church through analysis of Francis Hodur's writings and cartoons, as well as by revisiting the initial events that led dissatisfied parishioners in Scranton to establish St. Stanislaus Church. This paper directly builds on feedback received at last year's History and Scholars' Conference and is based on research at the Polish National Catholic Church Archives in Fall 2024. As very few archival documents from the earliest years of the church survive, the visual sources in *Straż* constitute one of the most important, yet least utilized sources for understanding Hodur and the independent movement.

Gavin Moulton is a Ph.D. candidate in History at the University of Notre Dame. He is a cultural historian with research and teaching interests in religion, migration, and architecture, especially Slavic diasporas in the industrial United States. Gavin holds an M.A. in History from the University of Notre Dame and a B.A. in History of Art and Architecture and Near Eastern Languages with a secondary field in Italian from Harvard University.

History of a Canadian Parish

Father Ted Zawistowski

The first two Polish National Catholic churches in Canada were also among the earliest in the PNCC as a whole. St. Mary's PNCC is still active in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and St. Ludwiga's PNCC parish cemetery in remote Stony Hill, Manitoba, is still being used. That cemetery has been declared a Canadian Historical Site. Their histories include the rather unusual life and work of Rev. Pawel Markiewicz.

Father Theodore L. Zawistowski, born in Philadelphia, is a respected theologian, social psychologist, and educator with a distinguished career in religious and academic circles. He earned degrees from Savonarola Theological Seminary, Southeastern Massachusetts University (B.A.), the University of Connecticut (M.A.), and Marywood College (M.A.). He served as pastor of Blessed Virgin Church in Fall River, MA, and later as editor of Straz. He also taught at Savonarola Theological Seminary, Pennsylvania State University, and Marywood College.

Recognized for his contributions, he has received multiple grants, scholarships, and awards from religious, academic, and cultural institutions, including the Bishop F. Hodur Order and the Kosciuszko Foundation's Medal of Recognition.

"Struggles and Service: The Polish National Catholic Church in Poland and the Ministry of Bishop Józef Padewski (1930–1951)"

Father Damian Heratym

Kościół Polskokatolicki (do 1951r., PNKK w Polsce) zorganizowany przez bp. F. Hodura w Stanach Zjednoczonych i przeniesiony na tereny Polski od 1918 roku. Celem tekstu jest przedstawienie jak wyglądał Kościół oraz praca bp. Padewskiego podczas tych dwu dekad. Główne poruszane tematy to: Trudna sytuacja PNKK w Polsce na początku lat 30. XX wieku.

Misja ks. Józefa Padewskiego. Próby stabilizacji i legalizacji za czasów administracji ks. Padewskiego (1933-1936). Posługa Biskupia Józefa Padewskiego. Okres powojenny i powrót bp. Padewskiego do Polski.

Polish Catholic Church (until 1951, PNCC in Poland) organized by Bishop F. Hodur in the USA, and then, since 1918 transformed to Poland. The aim of the text is to present the situation of the Church and Bishop Padewski's service for two decades. The main topics are: The difficult situation of the PNCC in Poland in the early 1930s. The mission of Father Józef Padewski. Attempts at stabilization and legalization during the administration of Father Padewski (1933-1936). The ministry of Bishop Józef Padewski. The post-war period and Bishop Padewski's return to Poland.

Father Damian Heratym, graduate of Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw, Master of Theology, Ph. D. candidate of ChAT, priest of Polish Catholic Church in Poland.

**THE 1700TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF NICAEEA:
REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2025 UNION OF SCRANTON THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE,
MAINZ, GERMANY**

Most Reverend Mikovsky Ph.D. and Very Reverend Robert M. Nemkovich Jr

An overview of the 2025 Union of Scranton Theological Conference, held in Mainz, Germany, marked the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.). The gathering explored the Council's enduring theological, liturgical, and ecumenical significance through a series of scholarly presentations and worship services.

A historical overview of the Council highlighted its role in establishing foundational Christian doctrines, particularly the divinity of Christ and the formulation of the Nicene Creed. Another presentation examined how Nicaea's theological clarity continues to shape contemporary expressions of faith and understanding in the Church. A liturgical perspective was offered in a talk on how the Council's teachings influenced Eucharistic worship and the structure of Christian prayer. Finally, a forward-looking discussion reflected Nicaea's continuing call to ecumenical unity and cooperation among churches today.

(Continued on Page 20.)

(History & Archives Commission Scholars' Conference 2025 - Continued from Page 19.)

The conference also featured Holy Masses in two historic settings, including a 10th-century cathedral and a medieval chapel, incorporating traditional Candlemas rites and the blessing of throats on the eve of the Feast of St. Blaise. Together, the presentations and liturgies affirmed Nicaea's enduring legacy and challenged participants to carry its vision of faith, truth, and unity into the contemporary world.

The Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Ph.D., is the Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church. He previously served as Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese. Ordained to the priesthood after theological formation, he has held various pastoral and episcopal roles. Bishop Mikovsky holds a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Pennsylvania, bringing academic depth to his leadership. He represents the PNCC in national and international ecumenical and theological engagements.

Very Reverend Robert M. Nemkovich Jr.

A RETROSPECTIVE VIEW OF THE INNOVATIONS IN ORGANIZATION, LITURGY, THEOLOGY, AND CULTURE OF THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH 125 YEARS, A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION Moderator Rev. Jim Ploskonka, Ph.D.

This round table session offers a reflective exploration of the Polish National Catholic Church's 125-year journey, focusing on the significant innovations that have shaped its identity. Panelists will examine developments in ecclesial organization, liturgical expression, theological thought, and cultural engagement. The discussion will highlight how these areas have evolved in response to historical contexts and contemporary challenges, providing insight into the Church's enduring mission and relevance. Attendees are invited to join in a dialogue that honors the past while envisioning the future.

Reverend Jim Ploskonka received his Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation from the University of Kentucky. He previously completed academic studies at Boston University, Mansfield University, Harvard University, and the New England Conservatory. He currently serves as a visiting priest at All Saints Parish in Sterling Heights, Michigan. Reverend Ploskonka brings a diverse background in higher education, music, theology, and pastoral ministry to his work, reflecting a deep commitment to both academic excellence and spiritual leadership.

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

Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

Easter Message from Rt. Rev. John E. Mack Bishop Ordinary, Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

In the world you will have tribulation, but I have overcome the world.

I was recently on a trip to San Antonio and Las Vegas to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation and to celebrate minor orders for a candidate. A brother priest of the diocese accompanied me on the journey. We had a portion of the day on Friday open, so I asked him if he wanted to go to the famous “river walk” in downtown San Antonio or to a small town named New Braunfels that was about 45 minutes north. Being that he enjoyed nature, taking pictures and discovering new things, the answer was easy – New Braunfels. I had been there on previous trips to San Antonio, so I showed him the delicious German bakery and a local church, Saints. Peter and Paul, that has beautiful stained glass from Germany. He also wanted to take some shots of nature, so we headed for a local park that he had looked up on his phone. When we got there, the parking lots were filling up but we didn’t know why. After seeing some people walking by in tree-climbing gear, we realized that we had stumbled upon the International Tree Climbing Competition. After getting out of the car and walking around a bit, we inquired of some people what it was all about. It turns out that climbing rescue groups from across the country had sent their best climbers to compete in this competition. This park in New Braunfels had some stately 200-foot tall cypress trees along the banks of the Guadalupe River. We both thought that the most intriguing challenge was the aerial rescue. This mock scenery was this: a tree trimmer had cut his arm with a chain saw while trimming a tree, he/she fell from the branch and was dangling by their safety harness and ropes about 50 feet off the ground. By the way, did I mention that a heavy chain saw was still tied attached to their harness? This life-size dummy was suspended by ropes and the object was to rescue that person and get them to the ground safely. Each climber was given five minutes to assess the situation (which they had to voice out loud) state their plan of rescue, climb up the tree, walk across a branch, lower themselves to the victim, stop their bleeding and get safely to the ground. Co-team members, family, friends and spectators all cheered them on with encouragement and support! The first competitor was the only one we saw (during the time we stayed) that completed the entire task in the allotted time. It was truly a sight to see!

So what does tree rescue have to do with Christ’s Resurrection? I think that a number of parallels can be drawn. I see in the rescuers, the image of **Jesus Christ, the Son of God**. God the Father created the heavens, the earth and then gave life to man and woman. He also gave us something called free will, which we sometimes use to do sinful and dangerous things. Whether it be in tree climbing or any other aspect of life, we sometimes go “out on a limb” and hurt not only ourselves, but others as well in the process. In the fulness of time, God chose to send His only begotten son, Jesus, to earth for us. He lived amongst us, was subject to the same temptations and sin, yet remained spotless. Most importantly He was sent to earth because we needed to be rescued from ourselves. He was the rescuer that came to us when we were in peril of death. Just as the competitors did, Jesus willingly ascended another tree that was shaped in the form of a cross. We know that he was an innocent victim, the spotless lamb, who would take away the sins of the world. He risked pain, suffering and degradation so that we could be freed from sin. He was and is our comforter and rescuer. Why do we need a rescuer? Simply because we cannot rescue ourselves, any more than a stricken victim, injured in an accident, can save himself. When we fall, when we are alone, when we are afraid, in times of crisis, in times of doubt and despair – your protecting friend Jesus stands ready to save you. Jesus doesn’t save us in a pretend way (as was in this competition); He doesn’t save us in a magical way like a movie-superhero; He doesn’t save us in a warm and fuzzy kind of way. He saved us with His very life on the cross at Calvary. Then, through the power of God, He conquered death and the grave once and for all by Rising on the Third Day! Jesus also made us many promises during His ministry. Two of my favorites are these: “I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you.” (John 14:18) and “Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Matt 28:20).

My prayer for you is that you will always feel secure in knowing that the same resurrected Lord, Who walked the road to Emmaus, Who was seen by thousands after His resurrection and Who ascended into heaven, thus returning to His Father, still walks beside us today. Feel His presence, use His strength in times of trouble and proclaim Him as Lord and Savior to the ends of the earth!

Wesołego Alleluja! / Easter Blessings to All!

A Busy March at Holy Family Parish McKeesport, PA

Holy Family Parish in McKeesport, PA, held its Spring 2025 Craft / Vendor Show on Saturday, March 29, 2025 in the Parish Hall.

Numerous crafters and vendors showcased their talents and products. A Chance Auction of many baskets, a 50/50 Raffle and plenty of food was on hand.

The menu choices included stuffed cabbage, halushki, kielbasa sandwiches, hot dogs and homemade baked good selections.



On Sunday, March 30th, Holy Family Parish conducted an Easter Egg Decorating Workshop in the Parish Hall. The women, men and children in attendance had a great time decorating eggs and enjoying some creativity and fellowship. The handmade results were really quite beautiful!



Central Diocese

Easter Message from Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA

Because of the action of our gracious God in raising his Son from death, I am able to greet you with the exuberantly uncontained exclamation of the season, *Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!* And I do so with the greatest of joy, elation and exultation not only at this time of lilies and earth's re-energizing but ever and always because of my belief in what the Lord God of creation, my heavenly Father, has accomplished specifically for my sake, for my soul.

But to understand what it is that God has produced and achieved in this great event central to our Christian faith, you have to know that I've had the comfort and security of experiencing God's ceaseless yearning for me, His seeking me, His coming to me, surprising me with an arousing grace that engaged my curiosity and opened my heart to His only-begotten Son, Jesus. My God was extending to me what's termed as *prevenient grace*, a reality that prepares a person to respond to God's call, enabling him to choose good and turn towards salvation. At its root, my joy, elation and exultation is based on the knowledge, derived through scripture, that God is out to get back what belongs to Him. It is that which I see to be the Easter message.

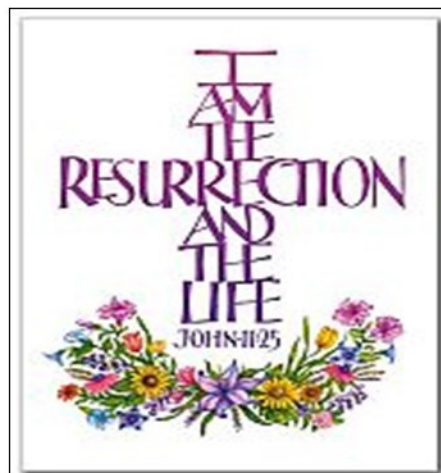
Easter unveils that loving act in which God reaches out to get you and me back, to get back what belongs to Him from the time of Eden. And, God does it through His crucified and resurrected Son, Jesus, who comes back to you and me to ask who we are looking for, thereby showing His willingness to identify Himself to those seeking Him; who comes back to walk along with you and me on the road as with the pair to Emmaus; who comes back to breathe the Holy Spirit on you and me and to commission you and me to "feed His sheep."

In the reality of Easter's resurrection event, many of us have our doubts turned to belief. Many of us have our fear transformed into faith. Many of us have our indifference transformed into passion and our own brokenness transformed into an healing ointment. And many of us are inspired to speak the unwavering assertion of Thomas about Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" I pray that because of this great and triumphant festival of the Church, you are reckoned among the 'many' who rejoice, who know and who believe.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Alleluia! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! A blessed and glorious celebration of our Lord's resurrection to you all now, and ever and always.

Bishop Emeritus Bernard, pastor

Saint Stanislaus Cathedral



Holy Cross Parish Sunday School Project Accomplished

Woodland Park, NJ

In early March, 30 care packages for the homeless in Paterson, NJ, were prepared by Holy Cross Parish Sunday School children with the help of parents, parishioners and under the direction of Sunday School teachers Ms. Natalie and Mr. Paul. These packages had new socks, new gloves, handwarmers, antibacterial wipes, granola bars, and \$5 - \$10 gift cards for McDonald's and Wendy's.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in helping the less fortunate of the local community. God Bless you for your generosity.



March at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Dupont, PA

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish started March by hosting the Meals on Wheels of the Greater Pittston Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, March 2.



The Lenten Fish Fry Dinner was held on Friday, March 7.



Two mat making events for the homeless took place every Thursday in March in the Parish Hall.



SOCL Teacher, Debbie Bilinski taught her class and confirmation class how to bake Lenten Pretzels.



Two Masses were held on Ash Wednesday. Stations of the Cross were held every Wednesday throughout Lent.



The parish Men's Organization (Y.M.S. of R.) Branch #2 held its Annual installation lunch and meeting on Sunday, March 23.



(Continued on Page 26.)

(March at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish - Continued from Page 25.)

Monthly food distribution was on Thursday, March 27th in the Parish Hall.



Parishioners participated in the Scranton Seniorate Lenten Retreat at St Stanislaus Cathedral.



The Lenten Potato Pancake and Clam Chowder Dinner was held on Friday, March 28th.



On Sunday, March 30th, the Parish A.N.S. held its meeting and the new officers were sworn in.



Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Scranton Seniorate Lenten Retreat & Meal in the Upper Room

St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA

On Saturday, March 29th, a program of melody, meditation, and meal was conducted in conjunction with the Scranton Seniorate Lenten Retreat at St. Stanislaus Cathedral. The Lenten Retreat included our seasonal penitential preparations along with the opening meditation on the Upper Room Meal conducted in the parish's lower Chapel. The gathering then proceeded to the Youth Center where the "Meal" was presented.

We are so very thankful to all the volunteers that contributed to this beautiful seasonal event. Thank you to our clergy, ANS, Y.M.S. of R., local scout troop, parish committee and all those who freely gave their time in the kitchen in the days and weeks leading up to this event. It truly was a parish and Church effort.



Scranton Seniorate clergy and Savonarola seminarians gather for the Meal in the Upper Room. Seated: Rev. Janusz Lucarz, Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki; Standing: Cleric Jon Johnson, Deacon Sean Dodd, Cleric Dave Dudzinski, Cleric Joel Smith and Cleric Todd Godwin



Eastern Diocese

Eastern Diocese Bishop's God's Field Easter Message 2025

The Call to a Resurrected Lifestyle

I want to share three readings from the Gospel of Saint Luke:

*But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. **But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.** (Luke 24:1-11, NRVCE)*

*Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and **how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!** Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. (Luke 24:25-27, NRVCE)*

*While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have. "And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. **While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"** (Luke 24:36-41, NRVCE)*

The bold type is mine.

The Apostles of Jesus' time were similar to Christians today.

On Easter Sunday we will observe the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The teaching, liturgy, and actions of the Church are built upon the foundation of Jesus' Resurrection. Nationalities have, over the centuries, developed traditions to celebrate the Resurrection. We greet one another with expressions like, "Christ is risen...He is risen indeed."

And yet....

The hearts and minds of many contemporary Christians have a little voice of doubt gnawing at their hearts. Did Jesus really die and resurrect the third day, or is this just a story? Well, the apostles doubted big time, and they were with Jesus for three years. They heard His teaching, saw the miracles, including Lazarus rising from the grave, and yet we read the words highlighted in the scripture excerpts above.

Clearly, even after His resurrection, Jesus had to continue teaching His followers. They had to be re-introduced to the words of the Old Testament prophets. Things finally came together for the apostles at Pentecost.

Today we have not only the Old and New Testaments, but the two thousand year experience of the Church with its teachings of the Church Fathers as well. We have the experiences of our predecessors and the living body of Christ's Church to strengthen our faith.

There was a moment in Jesus' ministry when the father of a boy possessed by a demon asked Jesus to help. Jesus' response and that of the father are interesting, *Jesus said to him, "If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes."* *Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!"* (Mark 9:23-24, NRSVCE)

So faith is necessary, and through faith all things are possible. But faith grows stronger when it is built on the knowledge of Scripture, a knowledge that we as individuals strive for. The little thoughts of doubt that enter our minds (as they did in the Apostles), change to certainty the more we study and gain a greater understanding of Holy Scripture. Resurrection people, Easter people, committed Christians become so by spending time every day in the study of Holy Scripture.

In the same twenty-fourth chapter of Luke cited above we read, *"Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.'"* ***Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures.... You are***

(Continued on bottom of Page 32.)

Eastern Diocese Clergy Conference

Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA

On Saturday, March 1st, Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA, hosted the Eastern Diocese Clergy Conference.



Northeast Seniorate of the Eastern Diocese Lenten Retreat

Our Savior's Parish, Woonsocket, RI

On March 9th, the Northeast Seniorate Lenten Retreat of the Eastern Diocese P.N.C.C. was held at Our Savior's Parish in Woonsocket, RI. It was a sacred time in prayer, reflection, meditation and fellowship drawing closer to our Lord during the 40 days of the Lenten journey. Many thanks to the presenters and to the host parish.



Western Diocese**Easter Message from Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski****Administrator of the Western Diocese**

He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities. *Isaiah 53:5*

As we progress in our journey during life on this earth, we are surrounded by symbols which are things that point to other things. When we drive on the road we may see a red light which means stop, even though it doesn't say so. Yet running a red light may result in the reality of a ticket.

The Tomb is a symbol of the reality of death. Though Jesus was God in human form, our salvation story required that one without sin was made to be sin, in order to pay the price for our sinfulness, that through Him we may become the righteousness of God. (*2 Cor. 5:21*). "The wages for sin is death" (*Romans 6:23*). Though Jesus was without sin, He took our place, was punished for our crimes, suffered and died.

If Jesus had not truly died, then He could not have been brought to His glorious Resurrection. By arising from death, God demonstrated His approval for Jesus' life, and diminished the role that death plays. "Death has no power over Him anymore" (*Romans 6:9*). The Tomb is also the "rock of faith" for Christians around the world. By believing in Jesus' life, passion, death, and resurrection, many are brought to His saving grace, and may also have victory over death!

May this beautiful Easter story be fresh and new every time we participate in Mass throughout the year, and may the reality of God's love for us brighten our outlook throughout the remainder of our earthly journey.

Happy Easter!

Wesołego Alleluja!
Alleluja,
Zmartwychwstał Pan
Prawdziwie!

¡Feliz Aleluya!
¡Aleluya, el Señor ha
resucitado
verdaderamente!

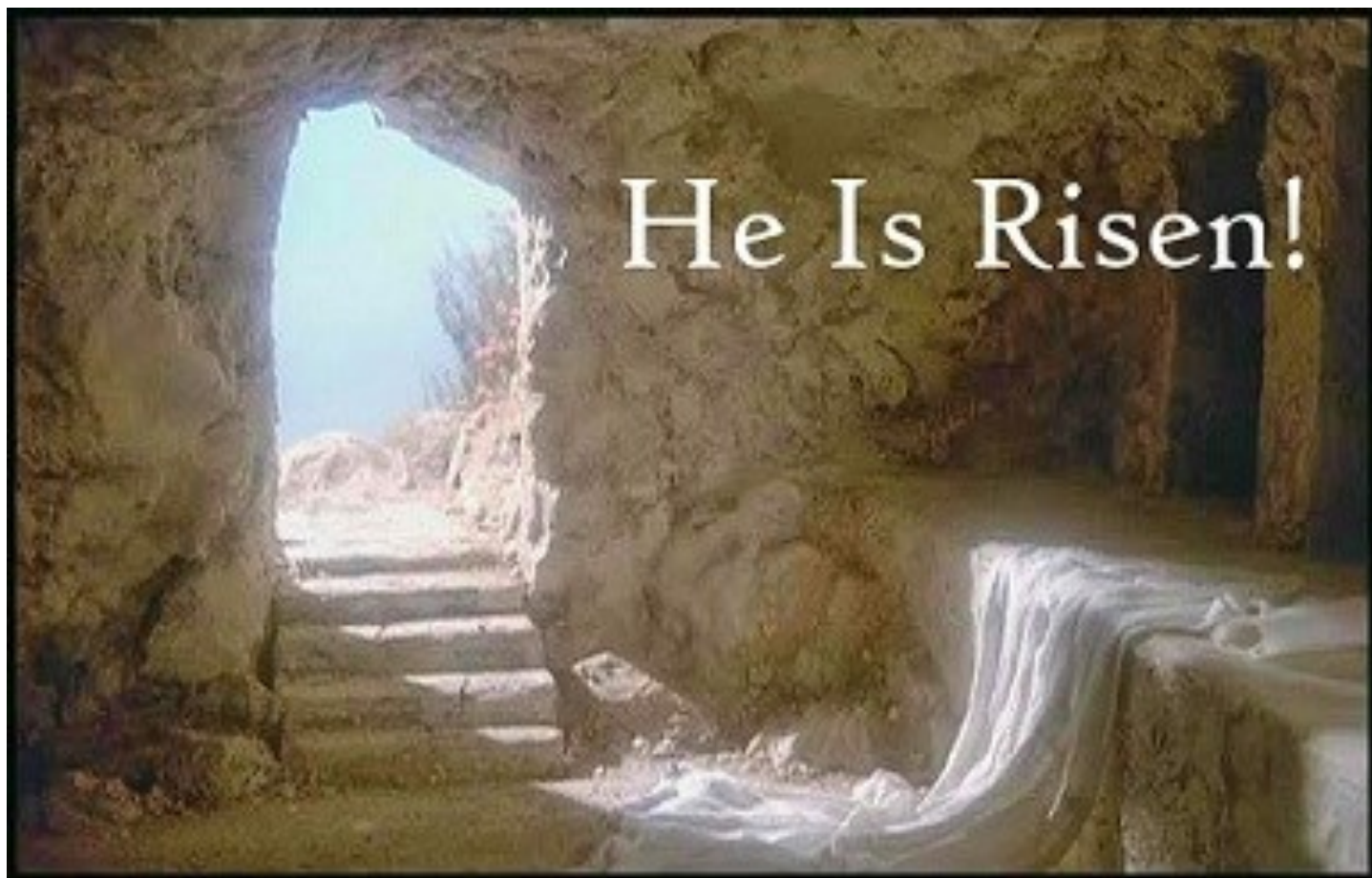


Northwest Seniorate of the Western Diocese Lenten Retreat

SS Peter & Paul Parish, South Milwaukee, WI

On Saturday, March 26th, SS Peter & Paul Parish in South Milwaukee, WI, hosted the Northwest Seniorate of the Western Diocese P.N.C.C. Lenten Retreat.





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witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24: 44-45, 48-49, NRSVCE)

We have been clothed with the Holy Spirit at our Baptism, our Confirmation, and at many other moments in our lives. We have all we need. It is for us now to immerse ourselves in Holy Scripture, read the Bible every day, come to know the teachings of the Church, and "be witnesses of these things."

Jesus really rose from the dead and as Paul wrote to the Galatians "...and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20, NRSVCE)

Get out there and spread the Good News!

Together with all the clergy and faithful of the Eastern Diocese, I wish to everyone who reads this message an Easter of hope.

Chrystus zmartwychwsta³! Prawdziwie zmartwychwsta³!

¡El Señor ha resucitado! ¡ ¡Él ha resucitado!

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!

R+Rev Paul Sokolowski

Bishop Ordinary - Eastern Diocese
Polish National Catholic Church