



Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Volume 103

July 2025

Issue #7

Prayer

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

On the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time this year, we read about an encounter between our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His disciples concerning prayer. Jesus had just been to the home of Martha and Mary, and there He contrasted the choices of the two sisters. Martha was going about the extending of hospitality not only to our Lord, but we can surmise to all who were there with Him. Mary, on the other hand, choose to sit at the feet of Jesus, taking the position of a follower or disciple, where she listened to and took in His teaching. When Martha questioned Jesus, and asked that He tell Mary to join her in extending that hospitality rather than only listening to Him, He proclaimed that being a disciple, placing yourself at the very feet of Jesus was a “better part” and that it would not be denied to Mary, or anyone else for that matter.

Of course, this does not mean that the listening to Jesus, is a more important activity, but rather it shows that a progression must take place. We must go from hearing the teaching of Jesus, to then putting that teaching into practice, extending loving kindness to others. The difficulty of Martha can be seen in the adjective that our Lord uses to describe Martha which was “distracted.” She did not have her mind focused on our Lord and the accomplishing of His will for our lives. In this we harken back to the parable of the sower which is given and explained a bit earlier in Luke 8. In describing the seed that fell among thorns, Jesus tells us that this seed is “the ones who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.” (Luke 8:14b) In this description we see that that these earthly cares cannot

help but have us “divided” rather than “focused” on Jesus.

Following this visit, we next have an encounter between our Lord and His disciples after He was praying. It was certainly the custom of the Jews to spend time in daily prayer, as well as more structured prayer and worship in the synagogue and temple. But we also see our Lord spending time beyond these structured times in prayer in His daily life.

It was most probably at a time like this that the encounter took place: “[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.’”

Of course, we know this as the “Our Father” or “The Lord’s Prayer” but it is not quite the one we are used to. The one more familiar to us comes from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6, but us taking a look at this version of the prayer may allow us to look beyond the words themselves which can sometimes become rote and rather see what is really going on in moments of prayer.

First and foremost, we begin with the fact that we address the Lord God Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth as “Father.” This should startle us a little bit, but again it often does not because we are so familiar with the words. Scripture scholars tell us

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Publication Information**

The deadline for article submissions is the 1st of the month; online publication date is mid-month.

Submissions received after the 1st will be included in the following month’s issue.

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

Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:

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

Identification Statement

The Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church, **GOD’S FIELD - ROLA BOŻA**, is published monthly for the U.S. **\$54.50**; Canada **\$75.00**; **per subscription year** (March through February) by Polish National Catholic Church
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109

Individual issues of *God’s Field* are available for purchase from the National Church Center for \$2.40 each (pickup).

Send payments and address changes to:

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

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

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that this sort of reference to God as “Father” was certainly unheard of in Jewish prayer. It was not that God was not seen as a loving Father, and that He provided for and sustained His people as a Father, but to address Him in that way was not common. Jesus is certainly giving His disciples a new way of thinking.

This shows us that the action of prayer concerns the sustaining of a relationship. We should be able to speak and listen to God as we would our earthly Father. We are also reminded here that sometimes families can have difficulties in family relationships, so it might be difficult to relate to this familial reality, but it is here that hopefully, with the help of good Christian examples and support from a strong Christian community, all of God’s children will be able to see what a healthy family relationship should be.

It is also important for all of us to realize that God, our Father, is beyond what any other human can be in a relationship. He is pure love, pure holiness, pure otherness and therefore He is in fact the perfect Father, the best of all Fathers that we could ever want or need. It is exactly because of this that we pray in the prayer, “Hallowed be Your name.” We recognize that God the Father is beyond all that we know, and so we bless His holy name as we acknowledge Him as being beyond any father we can know or imagine.

We next come to pray about our daily needs, “Give us each day our daily bread.” One could think that there are certainly much more pressing things that need to be prayed for. There are certainly bigger issues in our own lives and in the world. I have also encountered people who say things like, “I only pray for big things, God is too busy to deal with the small stuff.” But this is not the ways of a true relationship. Imagine two people who only spoke to one another when they had something “really important” to share. This is not what relationship is about. When two individuals are in a relationship, they share all that happens to them in life. How many parents greet their children with the question, “What did you learn in school today?” just so the child can share. How many spouses ask, “How was work today?” just so they can share their daily experiences. These small moments are how love deepens and grows.

This is exactly what we are striving for in our moments of daily prayer. We certainly know that God knows all of our needs and concerns of our daily life

before we ask them, but we should articulate them anyway, so that we can share our whole lives with our Heavenly Father. Its just like the parent, who already knows what has been taught at school but still asks the question, “What did you learn today?” so that moments of connection and love can occur.

In the parable that follows this encounter when Jesus tells the disciples how to pray the Our Father, there is a description of perseverance in prayer. The parable contains the well-known words where Jesus says: “Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks, receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Luke 11:9-10)

These words too show us something of our prayer life as well. Asking, or searching or knocking is not a one-time activity. We do not ask only one question, one time and expect that we will be satisfied forever. We do not search for only a minute or two and find everything that we need. We do not knock on only one door and know that we will find everyone that we need to see or encounter. We must ask many questions, we must spend serious time in searching, we must knock on many doors. This is to be our life of prayer. Continue to ask for your “daily bread” in prayer. Ask for the things that you need to live and thrive. As you receive some of these things and are denied others you will begin to bring your asking into line with the will of the Father. Continue to search for what you desire, and in your finding you will see where those things are in line with what is holy and what is not. Through this you will begin only searching for the things of God. Continue to knock and test many doors seeking to find the places in your life where God resides. And if you find places where He does not, then it may be up to you to bring God into that situation to find the ultimate way for your life.

This is the work of prayer. It’s not just a few moments of reciting memorized words, although it can begin there. It’s not just asking God for all the things that you want or desire, but that can be done as well. Prayer is the sustaining of a true relationship between God and you, His beloved creation. Certainly, pray the “Our Father” and the other prayers you know and have learned and cherish, but also in our life and time of prayer, sustain the relationship between you and God, creature and creator.

P.N.C.C. Future Direction
July 2025
Nicea at 1700

Introduction

In this year of 2025, we 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 Canons of the Council and how this canonical tradition continues to be lived out within the Polish National Catholic Church.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 10:32-11:1 – Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, so that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Here follows summaries of each of the Canons of Nicea

For the clergy

Canon 1 – Prohibition of self-castration for clergy

Canon 3 – Prohibition of a man and a woman who have both taken vows of chastity to live together in a non-legalized partnership

Canon 4 – Ordination of a bishop in the presence of at least three provincial bishops and confirmed by the metropolitan bishop

Canon 9 – Presbyters who had been ordained without sufficient examination were not to be recognized

Canon 15 – Bishops, presbyters and deacons were not to wander into neighboring cities to officiate

Canon 16 – Clergy who refused to return to their home church were to be excommunicated, and the ordination of those who were ordained by these wandering clergy were to be considered null and void

Canon 17 – Prohibition of usury among the clergy

For the Laity

Canon 2 – Establishment of a minimum term for catechumens

Canon 13 – Those who were fulfilling penance could receive communion if they were dying, but if they got well again, they were to finish their penance

Canon 14 – Catechumens who lapsed were to have three years as hearers before being allowed to become catechumens again

Authority Structure

Canon 5 – Provision for two provincial synods to be held annually

Canon 6 – Confirmation of ancient customs giving jurisdiction over large regions to the bishops of Alexandria, Rome and Antioch

Canon 7 – Recognition of the honorary rights of the see of Jerusalem

Dealing with the Separated

Canon 8 – Provision for agreement with the Novatianists, an early sect

Canon 10 – Presbyters who had lapsed but had not been found out were to be deposed

Canon 11 – Mercy was enjoined toward those who had lapsed without compulsion, even though it was recognized that they did not deserve it

Canon 12 – Those who had left the military but later sought out to be restored to their military position were to be excommunicated; depending on the sincerity of their repentance, they could be readmitted to communion earlier

Dealing with the Liturgy

Canon 18 – Precedence of bishops and presbyters before deacons in receiving the Eucharist

Canon 19 – Declaration of the invalidity of baptism by Paulian heretics

Canon 20 – Prohibition of kneeling on Sundays and during Pentecost. Standing was the normative posture for prayer.

Reflection

One of the lesser known items that occurred at the Council of Nicaea was the promulgation of 20 laws or canons that concerned Church discipline. There are a number of important aspects that we must consider as we examine these rules or canons. First, there is the attitude that is behind them. These canons are not taken directly from the pages of Scripture. They are certainly informed by Scripture and the Word of God, but they are a way in which the Church in a particular time and place looks to live out in a concrete way what our Lord commands. So, from this we see that the Church thinks in a canonical way. These canons listed above deal with a few matters which were not of concern when the Scripture were written, but needed to be dealt with at that time. The Church must speak to God's people at every moment, so it must be able to say something to them. It can and must make rules or canons which guide the daily life of the Church and God's people.

We see above that the Church also can have varying canons for varying groups. It holds its clergy to the highest of standards. It sets rules for those who have fallen away and how they can be restored to fellowship with the Church. The Church also sets rules for its own authority structure. We see within these canons that certain sees, and therefore their bishops have extra authority in governing areas of the Church. This is an important aspect for Polish National Catholics because we see within it that, some bishops may have a particular authority, but it is an authority that has been given to them when the Church gathers together.

We also can see that these canons still inform some of the things that we do today. The canon regarding the prohibition of clergy going from town to town, is still followed in the diocesan structure which says that if any clergyman is to celebrate within another diocese, he must have the permission of the bishops concerned. The canon regarding the excommunication of a clergyman who refuses to return to his home church informs the rules whereby today a clergyman cannot just serve in whatever church he likes, he must be assigned by a bishop and only with a bishop's permission can he move somewhere else. Within the structure of the P.N.C.C. we see a certain authority granted to the Prime Bishop and the role of Diocesan Synods. In fact we see this conciliar structure and canonical thinking everywhere in the P.N.C.C. today. When the bishops gather, either among themselves or with their clergy, when the entire Church gathers in General Synod, or when a portion of it does in Diocesan Synods, Seniorate Council Meeting or Parish Meetings. The gathering structures itself in conciliar ways and thinks canonically.

Likewise in this way of canonical thinking, there are canons or rules today, which must be instituted to solve the immediate needs of the Church and God's people. This is some of the work that continues when the Polish National Catholic Church gathers in Synod to set a direction for the membership of that portion of God's people, to follow in God's ways.

Action Item

While these canons are not the highest of concerns of the faith like the Nicene Creed, they are an important part of how the Church lives out its daily life and worships Almighty God through the daily life of its members. Realize that when you participate in this action of the Church, whether within your local parish, within the Diocese, or within our entire Polish National Catholic Church, we are following the example that was given to the Church from its earliest days.

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Surety

Rev. Jim Konicki, National Vocations Director

We offer you the Savonarola Theological Seminary Newsletter for July 2025 focused on surety.

I receive a daily scripture verse by E-mail and in recent weeks this verse was sent:

“Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.” -- Proverbs 29:25

The Book of Proverbs sets forth very practical, common-sense teachings. Much of it is in the form of ‘this is the way to live and here are the consequences of the alternative’ or vice-versa as in the passage above. In other passages Proverbs simply offers up God’s path so we might follow. Proverbs is good advice. We all need that advice because we tend to confuse ourselves amid our struggles and challenges.

In the passage above we start with a focus on our fears. We ask ourselves: What am I afraid of or what makes me nervous? Is it what another person might think or say? Is it the fear of being cancelled because we stand up for our beliefs? Is it a fear of losing respect or admiration for a step we might take? At an even more practical level is it fear that taking a risk will lead to some huge loss in my life, something I could never recover from? These are all snares (traps) we can be caught in.

Then BOOM, Proverbs blows away the twists and turns of our fears and nervousness. Proverbs breaks the snare trap. We are told: Trust in God.

Trusting in God is placing our faith in the surety He offers by His grace. Surety is defined as a person who takes responsibility for another’s obligations, for example their payment of another’s debt. God in the person of Jesus Christ certainly paid our sin debt, and more than that ushered into the Kingdom life. God is about surety; He is about taking care of His faithful. Proverbs 29:25 states this equation: Fear < Trust in God = Be safe.

Those called to the priesthood and diaconate must work our way through the equation. Can I be that man that allows my trust in God to overcome my fears and doubts, can I allow His provision of surety to be enough for me?

As noted in the article below from our neo-presbyter Sean Dodd, what is received from God is so much more than we might expect. I can attest to this in my own life. I urge all called to come and see, to lay aside fears and doubts and step your foot across the door. God has you.

Below are a few more passages from Proverbs dealing with fears:

- * Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. -- Proverbs 3:5-6
- * The fear of the Lord leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm. -- Proverbs 19:23
- * Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad. -- Proverbs 12:25
- * The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death. -- Proverbs 14:27

Ready to explore the surety God offers? Reach out to Fr. Jim at 518-522-0944 or E-mail: frjim@holynamencc.org.

Remember: 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. 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. God bless your generosity!

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Dispensationalist Theology Refuted

By: Rev. Joseph Pasquella

Dispensationalist theology, particularly its eschatological framework popularized by the *Left Behind* series, has become the dominant perspective among American evangelicals. This view, marked by a literalist interpretation of biblical prophecy, a secret pre-tribulation rapture, and a strict separation between Israel and the Church, stands in sharp contrast to the historic Christian eschatology of amillennialism, which has been the prevailing view of the Church for most of its nearly two-thousand-year history.

In this article, I argue that dispensationalism, which is rooted in the 19th-century teachings of John Nelson Darby and was propagated through the Scofield Reference Bible, deviates from the biblical record and the consensus of historic Christian theology, particularly as articulated in Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Lutheran traditions. In contrast, amillennialism offers a more faithful interpretation of Scripture, aligning with the Church's longstanding eschatological perspective.

Dispensationalism gained widespread traction in America through the *Scofield Reference Bible*, first published in 1909 by Cyrus I. Scofield (1843–1921). Scofield, a lawyer and pastor influenced by Darby's teachings, embedded dispensationalist interpretations into the study notes of his Bible, which became a foundational text for American evangelicals. The *Scofield Reference Bible* presented dispensationalism as the normative lens for understanding Scripture, particularly in its notes on prophetic books like Daniel and Revelation. Its accessible format and authoritative tone gave dispensationalism an air of scholarly legitimacy, despite its departure from historic Christian exegesis.

The *Scofield Reference Bible* played a pivotal role in popularizing dispensationalist eschatology, including the rapture, the tribulation, and the millennial kingdom, among American evangelicals. Its widespread distribution through Bible colleges, seminaries, and churches in the early 20th century solidified dispensationalism as the dominant eschatological framework in evangelicalism. By the late 20th century, this theology found cultural expression in the *Left Behind* series written by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins, which dramatized the rapture and tribulation, further embedding dispensationalism in the popular imagination.

The Historic Christian Position: Amillennialism

In contrast to dispensationalism, amillennialism has been the eschatological view of most of the Christian Church throughout its history. Amillennialism interprets the "thousand years" of Revelation 20 as a symbolic representation of the present Church age, during which Christ reigns spiritually through His Church. This view holds that Christ's return will be a singular event, ushering in the final judgment and the new heavens and new earth, without a preceding rapture or literal millennial kingdom.

Amillennialism is rooted in the hermeneutical approach of the early Church fathers, such as Augustine, who interpreted apocalyptic texts allegorically rather than literally. This perspective emphasizes the unity of God's redemptive plan, viewing Christ as the true Israel of God, and the Church as the children of Abraham by faith in Him (Galatians 3:29). It avoids the speculative timelines and the geopolitical focus of dispensationalism, instead centering on the gospel's transformative power in the present age.

The Church condemns the idea of a future earthly kingdom, affirming that Christ's return will bring eternal life and judgment. This position reflects a Christocentric focus, prioritizing the cross and resurrection over futuristic speculation.

Biblical and Theological Critique of Dispensationalism

Dispensationalism's core tenets—particularly the pre-tribulation rapture and the biblical record or historic Christian teaching does not support the separation of Israel and the Church—. The rapture, a cornerstone of dispensationalist eschatology, relies on a questionable interpretation of 1 Thessalonians 4:17, where believers are "caught up" to meet Christ. This passage, when read in context, describes the final resurrection at Christ's return, not a separate event before a tribulation. No clear biblical text supports the idea of a secret rapture.

The dispensationalist distinction between Israel and the Church also undermines the unity of God's people as presented in Scripture. Passages like Romans 11:17–24 and Ephesians 2:11–22 depict Gentiles as grafted into the covenant promises of Israel, forming one people of God (made up of Jewish and Gentile believers in Je-

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My Thoughts on the 24th Annual Mission & Evangelism Workshop

by Cathy Andersen, All Saints Cathedral Parish, Chicago, IL

Summer is always a good time to refresh, renew and reinvigorate oneself. It is a time to remember how to laugh and to play and to just slow down a bit and relax. It's a reminder that our body is a temple of God – spiritual and physical. We should be taking time for self-care – getting enough sleep, eating healthy, enjoying some sunlight, and getting some movement. We should make time for additional Scripture reading and prayer, and to enjoy the beautiful world around us that God created. A great way to do this is to take a day off (or make it a long weekend) from your regular routine and do something fun and special either by yourself or with family or friends. One could also go on a retreat – again, either alone or with others.

I was recently blessed to travel and attend the 24th Annual Mission & Evangelism Workshop held May 30 through June 1, 2025, hosted by St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Denver, Colorado. The theme of the workshop was “One in Christ” and was very well attended by representatives from various parishes throughout the United States. The hospitality, kindness, patience and assistance offered by those of the host parish were exceptional. The high energy level and teamwork among the volunteers was very evident upon my arrival.

On Friday, May 30, after our registration and a bi-lingual (English and Spanish) devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the workshop began with Session I titled “We are One” presented by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky. During this session, Prime Bishop Mikovsky emphasized that we are to concentrate on the likenesses and similarities among us, not our differences. We are one in Christ given our faith in our Triune God – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This session was followed by a delicious Mexican fiesta (including a Taco Truck and Mariachi Band). As the evening went on and it got dark outside, the children from the host parish performed a very moving shadow play depicting the Passion of our Lord. The weather was beautiful the entire weekend apart from a pop-up thunderstorm with high winds during our registration hour, which nearly took away the tent that had been set up for Friday night's festivities. Due to quick teamwork by the host parish volunteers, the tent was secured, the rain passed, and everything went ahead as planned. God is good – all the time!

On Saturday, May 31, Fr. Alfonso Castillo, pastor of the host parish, presented Session II titled “We Belong” relating to John 15:1-4 about “The Vine and the Branches”. We learned that we are to be grounded or in union with Christ to be fruitful. We cannot do anything useful unless we are following Him. If our lives are not in harmony with our Lord's teachings, we are unlikely to bear fruit.

After small group discussions on Session II, Session III, titled “We Are Together,” followed. I had been asked to present on the questions “What are your natural talents and spiritual gifts and are you using them to serve God and His Church? -- To glorify God and to serve others?”. I prepared a PowerPoint presentation which spoke about how we can increase our faith, which is the foundation for receiving and using one's spiritual gifts. This led to how we might rekindle or reignite the Holy Spirit within us, followed by a definition of what natural talents and spiritual gifts are. I identified a list of numerous spiritual gifts (and had prepared a handout with an explanation of each of the spiritual gifts, which was then used during the small group discussions which followed). I closed by noting various opportunities within the church and community that one might participate in to use one's spiritual gifts. Throughout my presentation, I referenced various Scripture passages which included Psalm 118:24, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Romans 12:4-8, Ephesians 4:10-12, Mark 12:30-31 and Mathew 25:14-30. Following my presentation, Deacon Doug Scott from All Saints Cathedral spoke on his ministry as a deacon, and Margaret Rowinski spoke about her ministry as a teacher and superintendent of the SOCL at All Saints Cathedral for over 30 years.

Following these talks, we all grabbed a boxed lunch and headed to the Mother Cabrini Shrine as a group. At the Shrine, we enjoyed getting some fresh air and a lot of steps in while visiting the Gift Shop, the Main Chapel with beautiful stained-glass windows, the Meditation Walk, the Grotto Chapel and the Spring Water Font. I was unable to climb the 373 stairs up to the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue but many in our group were able to do so. It was nice to just sit and listen to the birds singing and to watch a butterfly or bee pollinating flowers. Near the end of our visit, as a group, we had a service in the Rosary Garden outside which included lit candles for each of us. As the service was being conducted, many visitors and pilgrims to the Shrine stopped and listened to our bi-lingual service. It was just beautiful!

Afterwards, our group returned to the convention center we were meeting at to enjoy another delicious dinner. Following dinner, Session IV titled “We are Together” was presented by Jorge Hernandez, Youth Coordinator

at the host parish. Jorge referenced various Scripture passages including Isaiah 43:16-18, Exodus 14:21-22, Exodus 12:14, and Deuteronomy 15:15 and 24:18. The key takeaways were that we can forget our past trials and look forward to the new things that God will do for us; to God's power and deliverance; to remember God's redemption and the salvation He provides. We are to acknowledge that while we are in 2025 – a different place and time of those mentioned in the Scripture readings which Jorge had noted – we are together with those people in history and now with each other, as recipients of the same gifts of God's redemption, salvation, power and deliverance.

On Sunday, June 1, a bi-lingual Mass was celebrated which was very uplifting. Prime Bishop Mikovsky delivered a homily in English referring to the second reading from Revelation 22 which contains the last words of the Bible – “Amen, Come Lord Jesus.” We can pray these words “Come, Lord Jesus” at any time or in any scenario. No matter what we are facing whether good, bad or neutral, we should know that the Holy Spirit is within us, and we should invite Jesus to join us in each and every situation throughout our daily lives. The Spanish hymns that we sang during Mass were absolutely beautiful, and we were treated to another delicious Mexican fiesta following Mass. I had never experienced a bi-lingual mass other than English and Polish, and I was very moved by how the Holy Spirit had filled the church and how all of us were indeed one in Christ!

I was so glad I was able to make it this year to the workshop – the Holy Spirit was truly present throughout the entire weekend! All the people I encountered from the host parish, whether they only spoke Spanish or were bi-lingual, were extremely welcoming and friendly. Their hospitality, kindness, patience, assistance and love were extraordinary. The high energy level I felt upon arrival was apparent, and it was also contagious! The event was very well organized, and the content and key takeaways of all the sessions are invaluable. It was also very nice to see old acquaintances and friends, and to make new ones! I'm already looking forward to next year's workshop which is scheduled for May 29-31, 2026, at a to-be-determined location!

**Education and Youth Commission
of the
Polish National Catholic Church
Undergraduate Stipend Program Thank You's**



Dear Education & Youth Commission of the P.N.C.C.:

Thank you so much for your generous stipend. It will help so much to defray the costs of books during my next year at Temple. I am so grateful to be a part of the P.N.C.C. and cannot wait for my continued involvement.

God Bless,

Gianna Conforti
Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish
Dupont, PA

Dear Education & Youth Commission of the P.N.C.C.:

I would like to thank this organization for the generous stipend I received. I completed my Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University this past spring 2025. Being a part of my parish community and having their support throughout my four years at Penn State makes me extremely fortunate as I enter this new chapter in my life.

God Bless,

Jacob Stankowski
St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish
Scranton, PA

8th Annual Y.M.S. of R. Bp. Stanley Bilinski Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat

Rev. Jim Ploskonka



The lush hills of Waymart, Pennsylvania once again welcomed men of faith from across the Polish National Catholic Church for the 8th Annual National Y.M.S. of R. Bishop Bilinski Memorial Spiritual Retreat, held June 18–21, 2025. This year's theme, "*For us men, and for our salvation*"—invited participants to live out the creed they profess, focusing each day on a Person of the Most Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The setting of the Bp. Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center, known affectionately as Spójnia Farm, offered an ideal balance of peace, fraternity, and spiritual nourishment. With flags raised high, prayers lifted sincerely, and laughter shared freely, this retreat provided a sacred space for renewal of mind, body, and spirit.

The retreat began on Wednesday afternoon with arrivals and greetings among old friends and new faces. That evening, the retreat was formally opened with the *Mass of the Holy Trinity*, drawing attention to the central mystery of our faith. A hearty dinner followed, setting the tone for fellowship. The evening session and ice-breakers helped ease participants into the rhythm of the retreat, culminating with the *Litany of the Holy Trinity* and a joyful bonfire under the stars.

Thursday, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, centered around our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The day commenced with breakfast and a reverent *Corpus Christi Mass* with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Through diocesan breakout sessions and a unified *Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament*, men reflected deeply on the Real Presence of Christ. Afternoon tournaments of darts and cornhole added a lighthearted touch, before the group journeyed to St. Adalbert's P.N.C.C. in Dickson City for a beautiful evening Corpus Christi service. There, retreatants were warmly welcomed and treated to fellowship and refreshments that extended late into the evening.

Friday's focus on the Holy Spirit included quiet time before the Blessed Sacrament, *Holy Mass of the Holy Spirit*, and spiritual discussions meant to stir the heart. After lunch and the Angelus, attendees enjoyed well-deserved free time—with options including poolside relaxation, a historic trip to Honesdale, and even a 9-hole golf outing (or bowling, depending on the weather).

That evening's BBQ on the patio was followed by another engaging session and a *Litany of the Holy Spirit*, closing the day with both reflection and renewal.

Saturday morning's focus turned toward the First Person of the Trinity: God the Father. Morning prayer and flag-raising led into a powerful session on the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds. A concluding reflection — "*Something to Bring Home*" — challenged men to examine their spiritual growth and commitment.

The final *Holy Mass of a Spiritual Retreat* gathered all reflections, prayers, and blessings into one sacred offering. The liturgy was the mountaintop experience of a four-day spiritual climb, a sending forth to live the Creed, not only in word but in deed.

As the retreat concluded, participants were invited to reflect on five key areas of spiritual impact:

(Continued on bottom of Page 14.)

Supreme Council Meeting Minutes Chicago, IL

**Michael R Mietlicki
Secretary of the Supreme Council**

Continued from Volume 103, Issue No. 6, June 2025 God's Field

Standard Organization Reports

National United Choirs Report

The Council reviewed the report on activities of the National United Choirs submitted by its Chairwoman, Lydia Hohn. Additionally, the Supreme Council examined the report prepared by Dr. Neil Stahurski, Chairman of the NUC Music Commission, which detailed its collaboration with the National Commission on Liturgy regarding the Bitter Lamentations book. Lastly, the Council assessed the report from the National United Choirs Music Scholarship Committee, submitted by its Chairwoman, Cathy Bilinski. Bishop Mack, NUC Chaplain, announced that the next Music Workshop and convention will be hosted by Holy Family Parish in McKeesport, Pennsylvania from July 30 to August 1. The workshop aims to include youth participation. Cathy Bilinski reported that nine scholarships were awarded in 2024. A total of \$358,085 has been awarded to date. Information about the scholarships and application forms is available on the scholarship website: www.nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com. Applications for this year are currently being accepted.

United Y.M.S. of R. Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the report submitted by Nick Kazinetz, President of the United Y.M.S. of R, which included descriptions of its activities and programs such as KURS, the July 4th celebration at the Spójnia Farm Campus, fraternal activities, the Men's Spiritual Retreat, the Winter Clothing Drive, Golf Tournaments, Bowling Tournament, its convention, and efforts to establish new branches of the YMS of R throughout the P.N.C.C. The Prime Bishop noted he is very pleased with the program of work sponsored by the Y.M.S. of R. The KURS is a very successful youth program sponsored by the Y.M.S. of R.

National United Youth Association [NUYA] Report

The Supreme Council did not receive a report from the National United Youth Association.

National Youth Chaplain Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report of Father Senior John P Kowalczyk, Jr., the National Youth Chaplain that included descriptions of his activities to support the National Youth Association Officers and Diocesan Youth Chaplains and its challenges. The report of the National Youth Chaplain was discussed during the Report of the Youth Commission.

National United Women's Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament Report [SAMBS]

The Supreme Council did not receive a report from the Women's Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The Prime Bishop reported that while diocesan SAMBS boards are active, the National SAMBS Board is not and that is a concern.

The Supreme Council unanimously accepted the organization reports that were received.

Dialogue Reports

The P.N.C.C. – Roman Catholic Dialogue Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report submitted by Bishop John Mack, P.N.C.C. Co-chairman of the P.N.C.C.-RCC Dialogue Commission detailing its discussions. In summarizing his report, Bishop Mack highlighted that 2024 marked the 40th anniversary of the Dialogue. Archbishop Rozanski convened the dialogue commission meeting at the basilica in St. Louis. Additionally, a joint worship service was held at the Basilica, presided over by Archbishop Rozanski. Bishop Mack reported that Fiducia Supplicans, the Roman Catholic approach to irregular relationships, was discussed at the meeting, along with synods. The P.N.C.C. participates in discussions with Roman Catholics as a separate but equal church. The dialogue team presents their beliefs. The next meeting is scheduled for May in Scranton.

The P.N.C.C. – G-3 Joint Anglican Synod Churches Dialogue Report

The Supreme Council reviewed the prepared report by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, P.N.C.C. Co-chairman, that included descriptions of dialogue activities with the G-3 Joint Anglican Synod Churches. Bishop

(Continued on Page 12.)

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

Sobiechowski in summarizing his report noted that the last dialogue meeting took place on August 13-14, 2024, hosted by the Polish National Catholic Church in Chicago. The February 2025 meeting was canceled by the G-3 Joint Anglican Synod Churches for unexplained reasons, likely an internal issue needing resolution. The Polish National Catholic Church waits until the G-3 is ready to resume.

The Supreme Council unanimously accepted the dialogue reports.

Report From the Ecumenical Officer of the P.N.C.C.

The Supreme Council reviewed Father Senior Robert M Nemkovich, Jr.'s report as Ecumenical Officer of the P.N.C.C. His major activities include working with the P.N.C.C. Dialogues and the Union of Scranton, receiving updates from various ecumenical organizations, and attending Union of Scranton Theological Conferences in Europe. He shares relevant information with P.N.C.C. Bishops and clergy regularly. The Prime Bishop thanked Father Senior for his excellent work.

The Supreme Council unanimously accepted the Report from the Ecumenical Officer.

Second Day of the Meeting

At the start of the second day's session, Bruce Kaniewski announced that Carl Gnat, the older brother of Bishop Gnat, recently passed away. His obituary has been released. He served the music ministry of the Polish National Catholic Church for many years in various local, seniorate, diocesan, and national roles. The members of the Supreme Council were asked to remember him in their prayers.

The Budget & Finance Committee Report

Prime Bishop Mikovsky and Joan Scheuneman, P.N.C.C. Treasurer, presented the proposed budget. Prime Bishop thanked Joan Scheuneman for creating the budget. During the presentation, the following points were made: The expense side of the budget is accurate, but predicting income remains challenging. Gas royalties, a major income source, are unpredictable. Major capital projects are planned for the NCC, including roof recoating to maintain the warranty and upgrading the heating system with a budget of \$150K.

Salaries

The Supreme Council approved a 3% COLA salary increase for the Prime Bishop and his staff. It also approved an expense allocation to cover the travel expenses of the Prime Bishop.

Dues Apportionment

The following dues allotment was unanimously accepted by the Supreme Council for fiscal year 2025.

Diocese	\$ 3.00
Youth	\$ 2.00
Clergy Hospitalization	\$ 40.15
Administration	\$ 46.60
Mission	\$ 1.00
Clergy Pension	\$ 7.00
Seminary	\$.25
Total	\$100.00

Clergy Aid to Parishes

Prime Bishop emphasized to parishes that Clergy Aid is meant for paying clergy, not covering income short-falls. Aid will be reduced in 2025. No applications were received from Buffalo Pittsburgh, Central, and Eastern Dioceses. Three parishes in the Western Diocese will receive a total of \$16,800 during 2025 in Clergy Aid. The Supreme Council previously limited aid to three years per parish. At this meeting the Council decided that parishes could reapply for Clergy Aid after a one-year break following the three-year maximum period.

The Supreme Council passed the revised budget unanimously.

New Business

Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

Loan Requests

There were no parish requests for loans.

2026 General Synod

The Eastern Diocese will host the synod in Manchester, New Hampshire from September 28 to 30 2026 at the Doubletree Hotel. The event will be held in a 12,000 square foot room that can accommodate 800 people for sessions and meals. There may be an additional evening event on September 27th if needed. The synod hosting committee will reserve 120 rooms. It is expected that most delegates will likely check out on Thursday due to the late end of Wednesday's session. To save travel time to and from the cathedral, the opening mass will take place at the hotel.

Election of Candidates for Bishop and the Election of the Prime Bishop

Candidates for Bishop and the election of the Prime Bishop will occur at the 2026 General Synod. The Prime Bishop will announce the number of candidates to be elected and further details as the election process begins in January 2026.

Financing the Church

The Prime Bishop pointed out that parish dues were last raised in 2014. Inflation since then has been around 37%. Today, \$100 from 2014 is worth \$73. The Synod will need to consider this especially if a portion of the increase can support the Clergy Pension Fund. Another challenge is the 6% Fund which started as a 4% Fund and existed for a significant period. Initially, the fund was established by allocating 4% or 6% of the entire collection to the National Church. In the past it was all placed in one collection basket. Currently, parishes have special collections, special envelopes, and special funds, leading to confusion among parishes regarding the accurate calculation of the 6% Fund contribution. The Supreme Council created a subcommittee to research the fund and determine an easier way for parishes to support the National Church.

The Mission of the Polish National Catholic Church

The question of how to increase the spirituality of members was discussed. The Church needs to develop plans to expand existing parishes and establish new ones. Some parishes are experiencing significant growth, particularly within Hispanic communities where there is a strong spiritual life supporting their development. This missionary spirit needs to be cultivated at the local level. The Polish National Catholic Church effectively communicates the essence of the Church, emphasizing that it includes everyone. At gatherings, laypeople often outnumber clergy, highlighting the important roles each member plays within the Church. The next Pope in the Roman Catholic Church will be elected exclusively by cardinals, with no lay participation. Conversely, the next Prime Bishop and candidates for bishop in the Polish National Catholic Church will be chosen by a synodal body where laypeople outnumber clergy. We value our identity and recognize the strengths of our Church. The close-knit nature of our parishes and their smaller size attracts many individuals seeking an intimate spiritual community. It is unfortunate that membership is often viewed primarily in financial terms, where paying dues signifies membership status. The sacramental aspect of membership should be emphasized, and the sacramental life within parish communities must be prioritized. Parishes need to be challenged to grow. For example, a parish could set a goal to increase membership by 10% a year.

The Date of the Annual Supreme Council Meeting

The current P.N.C. Constitution requires the Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council to be conducted on the last Tuesday in April. It was proposed that the date of the annual Supreme Council meeting be moved to May to allow more time between Easter and the meeting. This change will require modification to the Church's Constitution.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Father Senior Zawistowski expressed gratitude to Father David Rowinski, Deacon Doug Scott, the staff, and parish members of All Saints Cathedral for hosting the meeting. The Prime Bishop also conveyed appreciation to Father Rowinski, Deacon Scott and the Cathedral Parish for their hospitality. Father Senior Zawistowski offered the closing prayer, the Prime Bishop offered his blessing, and members ended the meeting singing the Hymn of the Polish National Catholic Church. The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

(Savonarola Theological Seminary Newsletter - Continued from Page 6.)

Being a New Priest

Neo-Presbyter Sean Dodd

On May 10th, I was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. Having prepared for this moment for over three years, it still feels a little surreal. On the day of the ordination, I experienced a tremendous outpouring of love and support—a level of kindness and goodwill I'm still trying to make sense of, even now, writing this twenty days later.

When I stop to reflect on what I am now, many emotions rise to the surface. I often feel amazed. Often thankful. And quite often, I feel like an impostor. But it's in the holy moments—the Sacraments—where we can have faith in the proclamations of God's Church. In the Sacrament of Penance, our sins are pronounced forgiven. In the same way, I have been pronounced a priest. I am unworthy.

Celebrating Mass feels a lot like dancing (granted, I'm no authority on dancing). At first, it was incredibly stressful. I couldn't help but think about all the things I might do wrong. But just as, when you become comfortable with dancing, you can begin to focus on the person you're dancing with, the more I celebrate Mass, the more I can focus on God and the tremendous work He is doing on the altar.

As time goes on, I find myself increasingly blessed with the confidence and authority to do the things the Church calls priests to do: to say Mass, to preach the Gospel—both in the Church and among neighbors who don't yet know Him. Deep down, I sense that I'm doing what I was called by God to do—and the Church has affirmed that calling.

As Christians, we ALL have vocations—callings. For many of us, it's witnessing to Christ through our actions in a world that does not know Him. For some, it's marriage. For others, it's the priesthood. For a few, it may be all three of those things.

If I could give readers one piece of advice, it would be this: if you know the Lord is calling you to something, take this as your sign to be obedient to His voice. If anyone doubts that the Lord is faithful, they can come and speak to me. I'll tell you all about how good God has been to me.

(8th Annual Y.M.S. of R. Bp. Stanley Bilinski Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat - Continued from Page 10.)

1. **Did you connect with yourself?** By retreating from daily demands, each man had the opportunity to rediscover the voice of God within his own heart.
2. **Did you find peace?** Whether around a campfire, before the Blessed Sacrament, or in quiet conversation, many found moments of unexpected grace.
3. **Did you build brotherhood?** New friendships blossomed, and old ones deepened—sometimes sparked by a joke, a shared prayer, or even a simple can of soda.
4. **Did you experience joy?** From light-hearted games to moments of quiet laughter, the retreat proved that joy and holiness walk hand in hand.

Are you a better-equipped Catholic? Through engaging sessions, rich liturgy, and insightful side conversations, men left with more than just knowledge—they departed with conviction.

As one participant shared, “This might have been the most time I've ever spent in front of the Eucharist—and I'll never forget it.” For another, it was “the first-time attending Mass four days in a row.” For many, it was simply the rediscovery of what it means to be a man of faith, a man of the Creed.

Whether pondering the mysteries of the Trinity, walking through the streets of Honesdale, or sitting quietly with hearing aids tucked away, the men who gathered at Spojnia Farm in June 2025 did more than attend a retreat—they stepped into a sacred rhythm of prayer, purpose, and community.

As they return to parishes, families, and daily routines, may the words of the Creed echo louder in all our lives. And may this retreat serve as both anchor and inspiration until we gather again next year.

Central Diocese

Scranton Seniorate Corpus Christi Celebration Dickson City, PA

The Annual Corpus Christi celebration for the Scranton Seniorate of the Central Diocese of the P.N.C.C. was held at St. Adalbert's Parish in Dickson City, PA, on Thursday, June 19, 2025. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky presided over the service.

A dinner was sponsored by the United Y.M.S. of R. Participants of the Annual Men's Spiritual Retreat that was being conducted on June 18 - 21 at Spójnia Farm attended the service and joined the parishioners and guests for the dinner.

Submitted by Fr Sr Zbigniew Dawid



June at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish Scranton, PA

In June, St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish celebrated Bishop Bernard's birthday! Parishioners sang a round of Sto-Lat and expressed their birthday wishes to Bishop after Sunday Mass.



Everyone enjoyed some cake in Bishop Nowicki's honor.

On Sunday, June 1st, during the Holy Mass, two students - Ella Coolbaugh and Shelby Tempaugh - received their First Holy Communion.

Father Janusz's students each completed a special class project which are on display in the church auditorium. They were learning about aspects of the Mass and special services of worship within the church building, along with people they would encounter there for Mass and services. The lessons also emphasized the difference between the physical church building and the Church (with a capital "C"), as the Body of Christ in the world.

Special Congratulations to both Ella and Shelby!



Project by Ella Coolbaugh



Project by Shelby Tempaugh



Ella Coolbaugh & Shelby Tempaugh

On June 15, St. Stanislaus Cathedral celebrated our graduates from the Class of 2025!

Elizabeth Pfohl graduated with her Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She has secured a position as a child therapist at Geisinger Behavioral Health Center. She is pursuing her counseling license with the goal of opening a private practice specializing in trauma.

Matthew Pfohl graduated cum laude with his Bachelor of Arts in accounting. He is currently working at Kronick Kalada Berdy and Co. as an auditor. He is studying to become a certified public accountant and his future goal is to become a partner in an accounting firm.

Jacob Stankowski earned his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Penn State University. He will begin his career at LaBella Associates. He is currently studying for his State Certification to further his degree and career choice.

On Sunday, June 8th, during the Holy Mass, Elle Sossong, received the Sacrament of Confirmation from The Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky. Elle is the granddaughter of Donna Schouten, a parishioner of St. Stanislaus Cathedral.



Bishop Bernard Nowicki with Elizabeth Pfohl, Matthew Pfohl, and Jacob Stankowski



Rev. Janusz Lucarz, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky, Elle Sossong, Father Sean Dodd

Submitted by Frank Gerardi



Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish June Highlights

Dupont, PA

A delicious Father's Day Brunch was sponsored by Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish's ANS Society (Towarzystwo Adoracji Najszwieszego Sakramentu) on Sunday, June 15, 2025.

During the Sunday Mass on this day, Carol Bondurich was recognized for being a 50-year member of the Women's Society of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament (SAMBS).



Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Carol Bondurich, Mary Jo Searfoss, Parish ANS Society President



Parish ANS Society members serving Father's Day Brunch: Debbie Fritz, Lois McHugh, Christine Wasko, Joyce Jopling, Mary Jo Searfoss, Louise Lentini, Rose Kazinetz



Parishioners at the Father's Day Brunch

The Solemnity of the Word of God was celebrated on Sunday, June 29, 2025 at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish. Blessing and Commissioning of the Parish Lectors was at 8 AM & 10:30 AM Masses.



Parish lectors: Lois McHugh, David Petrosky, David Fritz, Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid, Anthony Shumlas, Nick Kazinetz, Hunter Anderson



Parish lectors, Grace Morgan, Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid, John Orluk

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid

Holy Cross Parish Picnic

Woodland Park, NJ

Holy Cross Parish, Woodland Park, NJ, hosted its annual parish picnic on Sunday June 8, 2025 from noon to 4 pm. This was our way to thank our parishioners, friends and our community for support and participation in our parish life.

Thanks to all committee members, the parish Adoration Society and parishioners who provided delicious food, games and enjoyment for many children and adults.

Thanks to everyone who prepared the hall and tents outside on Saturday and those who cleaned up after the event. We thank those who worked in the kitchen, at the BBQ station, donated favorite dishes, pastry, ice cream and helped in any shape or form making our annual picnic another success. There were several younger parishioners who helped to organize, and to serve at the picnic. This was a very important part of our success. It takes a village to prepare a picnic for over one hundred people. God bless you all!



Eastern Diocese**† śp. Very Rev. Joseph R. Krusienski**

Very Reverend Joseph R. Krusienski, 75, of the Plantsville section of Southington, entered into the eternal rest of the Lord, on Saturday, June 28, 2025, with his children and close friends at his side at the Hospital of Central Connecticut (HOCC) after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. He was the devoted husband of Lorraine Drazba, who predeceased him just a few months ago in November 2024.

He was born on June 30, 1949, in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, to the late John and Anna (Sopp) Krusienski. From a young age, he felt a deep calling to serve God. After graduating high school, he followed this calling by attending the Savonarola Theological Seminary of the Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.) in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1970.

For 55 years, he faithfully served the P.N.C.C., dedicating his life to his faith, his church, and his parishioners, most notably St. Casimir's Parish in Wallingford and his beloved home parish, Holy Trinity in Plantsville. In 1985, he was elevated to Administrative Senior Priest and served as Senior of the Southwest Seniorate of the Eastern Diocese of the P.N.C.C. His service extended beyond the pulpit, as he served as the chairman of the Eastern Diocese Clergy Conference and Chaplain at Kurs Youth Camp at Spójnia Farm and contributed to the Eastern Diocese Youth Commission, Liturgical Commission, United Choirs, and the Supreme Council of the P.N.C.C. Affectionately known as Father Joe, his life was a reflection of unwavering devotion—to God, to the Church, and to every parishioner he served.

He was affiliated with Compass Lodge No. 9 for over 51 years and was also an active member of Ashlar Lodge No. 332, both in Wallingford, CT. As a dutiful member of his local community, Fr. Sr. Joseph also served as a volunteer firefighter for Engine Company 2 in Plantsville, CT where he was known as "Rev Joe." He joined the force in 1977 and served as Second Lieutenant in 1984, First Lieutenant in 1986 and Captain from 1988-1990. He was made a lifetime member in 2009. He was still serving as Chaplain for the Southington and Naugatuck fire departments.

Anyone that met Father Joe saw his zest for life, his optimistic outlook and his ability to not sweat the small stuff. Despite having many distinguished roles, he was down to earth and understood people. While he did not have much time for pure leisure, he enjoyed fishing, talking cars, watching the Steelers, eating whole belly clams and grilling a good steak. He loved the lottery, and although he never won the jackpot, he surely won at living a full and complete life.

While Fr. Sr. Joseph had many titles in his life, the most important ones were dad and grandpa. He is survived by his son, Jacob Krusienski and his wife Melissa of Halfmoon, NY, and his daughter, Lisa Berliner and her husband Nicholas of Southington, CT. He leaves behind four beloved grandchildren: Kyrah, Brynleigh, Luke, and Zachary. He is also survived by his sister Janis Cutright and her husband Travis of Canonsburg, PA, his niece Tracie, and his two treasured cats, Tiger and Abby.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Holy Trinity Parish and Saint Casimir's Parish, 200 Summer St., Plantsville, CT.

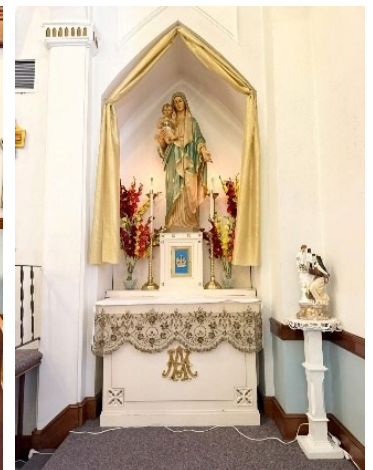
Eastern Diocese Northeast Seniorate Corpus Christi Mass

Central Falls, RI

The Northeast Seniorate of the Eastern Diocese Corpus Christi Mass and Procession was hosted by Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI. Thanks to Fr. Andrew Tenus for an excellent homily and to Fr. Henry Wos for leading the Eucharistic Procession to the four Altars.

A wonderful dinner and fellowship hour followed in the Parish Hall. Thanks to those who prepared the church proper for this commemoration and to the Ladies Society for the festive supper.

It was truly a joy to celebrate, receive and adore our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist



Blessed Trinity Parish Hosts Altar Server Retreat

Fall River, MA

The 2025 Altar Server Retreat 2025 at Blessed Trinity Parish was held on June 25th. The retreat began with Holy Mass, followed by a session on the Nicene Creed -1700th anniversary of this First Ecumenical Council of the Church. Kathy Nemkovich then presented a session on the dos and don'ts of serving.

The older servers at the retreat then went to help serve 100 Veterans a luncheon at the Fall River Veterans Kitchen where they enjoyed talking with our Veterans (especially Larry) and Mayor Coogan while the younger ones played Altar Server Bingo.

After a pizza party it was an wonderful and refreshing afternoon at the beach. After cooling off in the ocean on this 95 degree day, the servers made a huge cross in the sand showing their faith in our Lord! A wonderful day serving, learning, discipleship and beach fun!



Western Diocese**Celebrations at St. Michael the Archangel Parish
Cedar Lake, IN**

On June 1st, St. Michael the Archangel Parish held its annual MaPa Brunch which combines the Mother's & Father's Day breakfasts into one celebration. Everyone enjoyed French toast bake, bacon, sausage, baked chicken, rice pilaf, carrots, fresh fruit, 8 layer salad and a variety of desserts, juices, teas and coffee. Thanks to the Men's Club and the Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament (SAMBS) for hosting this annual event.

We also thank our pastor, Father Senior John Kowalczyk for everything he does for us at St. Michael's Parish, the Western Diocese, the P.N.C.C. and the town of Cedar Lake. May God continue to bless him in his ministry.



Summer at All Saints Parish

Sterling Heights, MI

Sunday, May 11, Mother's Day, was a joyful and heartfelt occasion filled with smiles, stories, and warm fellowship at All Saints Parish in Sterling Heights, MI. It was a time to honor and celebrate the incredible women of our parish - mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and all those who nurture others with grace and love.

Throughout the morning, the church was alive with the beauty of spring and the radiant spirit of those we recognized. The women of All Saints bring strength, kindness, and generosity to our community. Their devotion to family, faith, and service continues to be an inspiration to all.

A special thank you to the Young Men's Society of the Resurrection (Y.M.S. of R.) for providing beautiful flowers, a delicious breakfast, and for making the women of our parish feel truly appreciated and loved.



What better way to celebrate the end of the school year and School of Christian Living classes than a fun night out at the movies? Thanks to the Friends of Sunday School (FOSS), the parish youth enjoyed a fantastic evening filled with laughter, popcorn, pop, and great company. The featured film—*Dan Da Dan: Evil Eye*—was a Summer 2025 smash hit, and tickets were in high demand!

It was a wonderful way to kick off the summer, allowing our young people to connect, relax, and simply enjoy each other's company. The energy and excitement of the group were contagious, and everyone left the theater with smiles and full hearts.

A special thank you goes out to our FOSS team for organizing this memorable event. And for those who missed it—don't worry! Rumor has it that more Friday night youth events are already in the works for the remainder of the year. Stay tuned and keep those calendars open. It's going to be a great year for our youth ministry!



All Saints Parish is proud to announce that our youth group has taken the lead in coordinating both the Diocesan and National Youth Projects for 2025 and 2026. With the support of our parish family, the youth—under the leadership of their president, Michael—have already created over 130 handmade placemats to adorn the dining rooms at the Chesterfield Veterans Home. This project offers a heartfelt way to honor and express gratitude to those who have served our country with courage and sacrifice.

At the upcoming 2025 Youth Gathering this July, participants will continue this meaningful work by designing additional placemats for distribution to other veterans homes. It is a creative and compassionate way for our young people to make a difference.

The Chesterfield Veterans Home provides private accommodations for 128 members across four residential neighborhoods, alongside a 33,000-square-foot community center offering therapy, worship, and recreation, all within a connected, compassionate, and dignified environment.

A special youth gathering was called on June 25th to make 36 center pieces for the Veterans 4th of July celebration at Chesterfield. Gloria said, “they (our youth) are amazing!”



What a beautiful and joy-filled occasion it was as Yullia received her First Holy Communion at All Saints Parish. Dressed in white and adorned with reverence and innocence, she carried with her not only a prayer book and calendar but also a most treasured gift—a delicate rosary once owned by a beloved, now-departed parishioner. The rosary, passed lovingly into her hands, became a powerful symbol of the unity of the Church across generations, binding the living and the faithful departed in the presence of Jesus Christ.

Submitted by Rev. Jim Ploskonka



25 Years of Preaching, Laughing, and Giving Back: Father Mark's Impact

Published in Voice of South Marion Volume 55, Issue 40, June 19, 2025



Rev. Mark J. Niznik is celebrating his 25th anniversary of priesthood and his time as Pastor of St. Paul Parish here in Belleview, FL (5245 SE 112th Street). Father Mark has been a dynamic preacher for the last quarter-century, still ignited by the Holy Spirit every time he delivers the gospel message. He teaches the historical context of the Christian faith and applies it to everyday life. His ability to incorporate humor ranks him among the best public speakers, and he is sought after in the community as a keynote speaker. Additionally, he regularly hosts a monthly comedy dinner show at Capers Comedy Room in Francesco's Ristorante in Summerfield (September–April).

Father Mark has been married for over 21 years to Valda Niznik, an administrator in the Leesburg public school system. He also leads a charitable outreach from the church, the Clean Kids Backpack Program, which collects personal care and hygiene items for homeless schoolchildren.

Since its inception in 2006, Father Mark has overseen the collection of nearly 1,000,000 items, improving the lives of some of the area's most vulnerable children.

Father Mark is also responsible for organizing St. Paul's famous Friday Fish Fry, a local favorite. He has authored an Amazon #1 Best Seller in five categories, titled *27 Messiah*, a remarkable piece about soul-searching that highlights some of today's most controversial issues.

Well-known in our community, Father Mark attributes his success and pastoral longevity to the power of the Holy Spirit through his faith in Jesus Christ. He has been hosting a popular Bible study throughout his entire tenure at St. Paul's, welcoming anyone interested in learning more about the Word of God. The community wishes Father Mark all the best for the next 25 years, though he says he won't be able to retire until he's 87 years old—God willing.

*Anniversary
Blessings* 

Exploring Our Spiritual and Cultural Heritage: Pilgrimage to Poland

Have you ever dreamed of walking the streets of Kraków, praying before the Black Madonna in Czestochowa, or tracing the footsteps of Prime Bishop Hodur or Saint John Paul II? Father Jim is in the early stages of planning a Polish National Catholic Church Pilgrimage to Poland, and we would like to know—would you be interested in joining us?

This sacred journey is envisioned as a rich blend of spiritual reflection, historical discovery, and cultural immersion. Below is a *sample itinerary* from a recent pilgrimage in 2024 to give you a sense of what such a trip could include:

Sample Pilgrimage to Poland

Dates: September 9–19, 2024 (10 days)

Estimated All-Inclusive Cost (from Detroit): \$3,970 per person

Single Room Supplement: \$660

Highlights May Include:

- * Walking tour of Gdańsk:
- * St. Mary's Basilica
- * Long Market & Main Town Hall
- * Visit Oliwa Cathedral with organ concert
- * Stroll the Baltic coast pier in Sopot
- * Visit the Lenin Shipyard, birthplace of *Solidarity*
- * Free time to shop for amber jewelry and crafts
- * Tour Malbork Castle, Europe's largest Gothic fortress
- * Continue to Toruń, a UNESCO site
- * Evening walk through Old Town, home of Nicolaus Copernicus
- * Toruń's: Leaning Tower, Town Hall and Copernicus Baptismal Site
- * Warsaw's Explore rebuilt Old Town and Royal Castle, St. John's Cathedral, Constitution Square, Walk the Royal Route to Łazienki Park
- * Visit to Jasna Góra Monastery in Czestochowa
- * Visit to Zarki, birthplace of the Organizer of the P.N.C.C., Bishop Hodur
- * Continue to Wadowice, hometown of St. John Paul II
- * Tour Zakopane: unique wooden architecture and folklore
- * Ride funicular to Gubałówka Mountain for views of the Tatras
- * Visit open-air market for highlander crafts
- * Afternoon raft ride on Dunajec River in Pieniny National Park
- * Optional highlander dinner with music and local specialties
- * Explore the Wieliczka Salt Mine—underground chapels and sculptures
- * Visit the Divine Mercy Shrine in Łagiewniki, home of St. Faustina
- * Evening arrival and check-in at a Kraków Old Town hotel
- * Walk to the Market Square and enjoy Kraków at night
- * Tour Kraków's medieval treasures:
 - * Market Square
 - * St. Mary's Basilica
 - * Wawel Castle and Cathedral (tombs of kings)
- * Visit to Auschwitz Concentration Camp

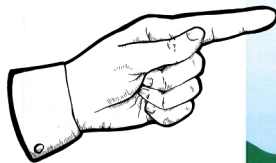
The pilgrimage would be led by Father Jim and include round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, most meals, local guides, entrance fees, and transportation within Poland. This tour is designed not merely as a sightseeing experience, but as a spiritual journey—strengthening our faith, deepening our identity as Polish National Catholics, and connecting us to the land from which our Church's heritage was born.

Space on such pilgrimages is often limited, and group pricing depends on early commitment. If you are interested or would like more information, please reach out to Father Jim Ploskonka, jploskonka62@gmail.com. No commitment is needed yet—we are simply gauging interest to determine feasibility.

Let us rediscover the treasures of our faith and culture together in the heart of Poland!



Hope to see you there!



United YMS of R Golf Tournament 2025 Buffalo NY

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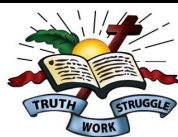
Saturday, 16th August

10 AM - Registration

11:30 AM - Shotgun Start

Rothland Golf Club

\$150 per player includes golf,
lunch at the turn, dinner



(July 2025 P.N.C.C. Future Direction Message - Continued from Page 5.)

If you have the opportunity, take a look through the “Constitution, By-Laws and Code of Faith of the Polish National Catholic Church” and strive to read it with these eyes which see within it a desire for the Church today to live within the tensions of the present age while still holding fast to the commandments of Almighty God.

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

(Dispensationalist Theology Refuted - Continued from Page 7.)

sus). Dispensationalism’s insistence on a future restoration of national Israel apart from the Church introduces an artificial division that contradicts the New Testament’s emphasis on the Church (those connected to Christ by faith) as the true Israel.

Furthermore, dispensationalism’s literalist hermeneutic often misreads apocalyptic literature, which is rich in symbolism. Revelation’s “thousand years” is better understood as a symbolic period, consistent with the book’s genre, rather than a literal chronology. Amillennialism, by contrast, interprets these texts in light of the broader biblical narrative, emphasizing Christ’s present reign and the hope of His return.