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Issue #9

Brotherly Love

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

Each year on the second Sunday of September, the Polish National Catholic Church pauses in the celebration of the Ordinary Time Sundays to celebrate the Solemnity of Brotherly Love. In this liturgical year as we are following our way through the Gospel of Saint Luke, this Solemnity fits quite well with what is occurring during this present Ordinary Time. For the many weeks of Ordinary Time in this third of the liturgical cycles we are following the journey of our Lord from Galilee to Jerusalem. After His ministry of teaching and healing throughout the Galilee region is concluded, Jesus turns toward Jerusalem. It is there that we know that He will offer His life upon the cross for the forgiveness of our sins and He will rise from the dead for the restoring of new life to the faithful. During an extended period of time during this Ordinary Time journey, from the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time to the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, we will be following along with this journey of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

And we need to remind ourselves that we seek to follow Jesus not only in remembering this actual journey over 2000 years ago, but there is also a present journey that we must consider. There is the present journey of our daily lives, and we must seek to answer the question, "Within my daily living, am I traveling with Jesus, or am I rather following my own ways apart from Jesus?"

To ask this same question in an entirely different way, what lessons are we presently learning to apply to our lives of discipleship within our journey of faith, as we seek to grow each day closer to Jesus.

We also must remind ourselves that during this journey of discipleship our Lord is constantly equipping us to be ever stronger disciples. For the 19 weeks of this discipleship journey we must hold all of the lessons in tension. We cannot just say that we have learned one week's lesson and then its time to move on, each week builds upon the previous week to allow us, when we have completed the journey to be disciples who are ready to serve our Lord in the fulfillment of the two commandments of love.

As the beginning of the Gospel reading for the Solemnity of Brotherly Love, in the Gospel of Saint Luke, Jesus tells us, "Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.' And He said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'" (*Luke 10:25-28*) Within our journey of seeking to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ within our daily lives of discipleship, this Gospel lesson, which begins the Parable of the Good Samaritan can be seen as a guiding principle within the life of a disciple of Jesus.

The Solemnity of Brotherly Love was added to the liturgical calendar of the Polish National Catholic Church following the First Special Synod which was held in Scranton, PA in August of 1906. At this

(Continued on Page 3.)



**Email Addresses
for the
P.N.C.C. Office**

The email addresses for the staff of the National Church Center and God’s Field are:

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky
pbmikovsky@pncc.org

Secretary to Prime Bishop—Julie Orzell
secretarytopb@pncc.org

God’s Field– Rola Boza Editor—Julie Orzell
secretarytopb@pncc.org

Questions or concerns? Call us at 570-346-9131 or 570-346-2125.

**God’s Field — Rola Boza
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Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:

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

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(Brotherly Love - Continued from Page 1.)

Synod the two special Feasts (or Solemnities) were placed on the Church calendar, that of Brotherly Love on the Second Sunday of September and that of the Humble Shepherds on the Sunday after Christmas.

Brotherly Love was especially considered at a time when the members of the Polish National Catholic Church were severely persecuted and discriminated against for the organizing of the P.N.C.C. This Synod proclaimed this Solemnity, less than 10 years after the organization of St. Stanislaus Parish, that even in the face of difficulty and persecution, we must respond, as followers of Jesus Christ, with brotherly love.

Bishop Hodur, following the Synod wrote in *Trybuna* concerning all that had taken place. "Let us strive to preserve our soul in purity, free from the stains of sin, and when overcome by passion, or as a result of ignorance we digress from the true path and commit acts low and vile in the eyes of God and people, let us not praise them, let us not defend, let us not explain them away, let us not justify them before our own selves, before people, and before God, but let us be open and brave and let us break with sin, even if this should cost us our life."

"Between us and God there should stand no crime separating us like a wall. Between children and parents, between the members of a well-organized society, there is mutual understanding, there is harmony, there is love – thus between God and a person there should be a pure relationship based on truth and filial attachment." (*Trybuna 1907; English translation The P.N.C.C. Minutes of the First Eleven Synods 1904-1963*)

The Gospel reading for the Solemnity of Brotherly Love concludes with the Parable of the Good Samaritan. "But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him,

he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'" (Luke 29-37)

My dear brothers and sisters, as we look at the present situation of our society, we can see the great need for brotherly love. There is so much violence and hatred; our newspapers, television news and cell phones give us a daily litany of, not only violence, but also others seeking to justify or rationalize it.

Our Lord and Savior showed us the way and commanded us to follow it. "Love God with everything you are and everything you have, and then love your neighbor as well." And even more so, show that love in how you treat others and respond to their needs.

We must hold on to the truth that has been shown to us through the Scriptures and through our relationship to Christ and His Church. Through all of these things we have been shown the ways of discipleship. We have sat at the feet of our Lord and heard the truth, which must be proclaimed in what we say and more importantly how we live. But in encountering those who might disagree with us, like the Samaritan from the Parable, we must be willing to respond to another with love and care. We are not called to compromise the truth, but in living the truth we are called to love.

So as Jesus told us, love God first and foremost, follow His ways and His truth in how we live our lives and in what we believe and what we do. But then too, allow the presence of God in our lives to help us to treat others with love and respect. As Jesus told us, "Go and do likewise."



P.N.C.C. Future Direction

September 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 will examine the P.N.C.C. Confession of Faith in comparison to the Nicene Creed and how it serves within the P.N.C.C. as an expression of faith which is in accordance with the Nicene Faith but allows us to speak to some of the concerns of the Church within our own day.

Scripture

Matthew 5:14-16 – You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Mark 16:15 – And [Jesus] said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.

Acts 4:19-20 – But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in God’s sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

2 Corinthians 4:13 – But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture – “I believe, and so I spoke” – we also believe, and so we speak.

1 Peter 3:15 – Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.

Reflection

Between the years 1912 and 1914 the Polish National Catholic Church proclaimed the “Confession of Faith of the Polish National Catholic Church.” Bishop Hodur first presented and explained it at three Provincial Synods which were held in Wilkes-Barre, PA, Passaic, NJ and Chicopee, MA. It was then accepted at the Third General Synod held in Chicago, IL in 1914.

This Confession of Faith was not to be a replacement for the traditional Creeds of the Church, especially the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed that we have been examining during this year, but rather in the words of the Third General Synod, “The Confession of Faith of the Polish National Catholic Church is a repetition, completion and explanation of the Apostolic Creed and the Niceo-Constantinopolitan Creed, embraced in expressions of the twentieth century, applied to the aspirations of the latest epoch.”

As we have examined the history of the Nicene Creed and how it was written after discussion among the bishops of the Church and as a response for the Church as it continued in a united fashion to proclaim its faith, we see that the Polish National Catholic Church was striving to do the same thing at the turn of the last century. The P.N.C.C. was confronting the many difficult situations that it faced as it was continuing to spread throughout the United States.

The Confession of Faith highlights many of the same points of faith as the Apostles and Nicene Creed, but it does so in an effort to draw implications from them in how our faith is to be lived in the present day. It also speaks concerning other topics which are not within those Creeds. We see to how this too was done when the larger section on the Holy Spirit was added to the original Nicene Creed at the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD. We also realize that the Confession of Faith does not hold the same position as the Nicene-

Constantinopolitan Creed since that was written at an Ecumenical Council and was accepted throughout the entire Church.

As we look back upon the Council of Nicaea and the Creed which has been given to us, we can recognize that the Church still guides its faithful at every moment of its history and in every moment of our lives. The P.N.C.C. has had to face a number of challenges during its history, especially the hostile reactions from other Catholics, when the P.N.C.C. sought to live the faith in accordance with the ways handed down to us in the intersection of the Eastern and Western Christianity that was known in Poland. This faith was in line with that of the Old Catholic Churches in Europe that we eventually aligned with. Although our relationship with other Churches has certainly improved and we are treated with greater respect, we still hold on to the faith as was handed to us and we continue to express it within the P.N.C.C. Confession of Faith.

Action Item

At the Provincial Synod in Wilkes-Barre, PA in 1912, Bishop Hodur suggested that “the pastors should read the Confession of Faith to their parishioners twice a year and that all should make a vow that they will abide by and conduct their lives according to it.” As an exercise, each member of the Church can commit to reading the Confession of Faith of the Polish National Catholic Church especially on the Solemnities of the P.N.C.C. which are held four times throughout the year, after Christmas, in March and in September and October.

Take some time to read through the Confession of Faith. Choose one article and spend some time in prayer concerning it. How does the article speak to your present life today and how your faith directs how you live and what you do? How does it inform your personal life and your life within the parish? Although this Confession of Faith was written over a hundred years ago, how does it still speak to the concerns and conditions of our faith and life today? Since there are twelve articles, maybe spend some time like this on one article for each month of the year.

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

Confession of Faith of the Polish National Catholic Church

(1) I BELIEVE in Almighty God, the cause of all existence, in a Being who permeates the universe and is the source of its life and development, both material (physical) as well as spiritual and moral. In relation to man, God reveals Himself through His creative power, His inexpressible wisdom, His provident influence on the formation of the destiny of individual man, nations, states and all of humanity. In a more particular way, God as the Spirit of Life, Light and Goodness, influences chosen spirits of nations, who in a given epoch of human development, are the creative agent in building God’s Kingdom on earth. This direct influence of God – is not limited to one nation, to one epoch, but is directed to all nations and times – for the purpose of stimulating life, progress and the attainment of the highest degree of culture by individual nations, states and all mankind; it is the outpouring of Divine forces acting upon humanity and the benefiting from these forces by individuals, nations, states and all mankind.

(2) I BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, the Savior and Spirit Regenerator of the world.

(3) I BELIEVE that Christ the Lord, was the Emissary of God, of one substance with Him, and as to humanity born of the humble woman Mary. I believe that this Nazarene Master revealed His Divine mission on earth through His life, an unsurpassed ideal of goodness, wisdom and self-sacrifice for others, especially for sinful and disinherited people; that by His work, teaching and sacrificial death, He became the glowing ember of a new life of mankind, taking its beginning and deriving its strength and fullness in knowing God, loving Him and fulfilling His Holy Will.

(4) I BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, rules the world in the natural as well as in the moral order; that all the laws of the universe, as well as those by which the soul of individual man and humanity as a whole are guided, are an emanation of the will, goodness and righteousness of the Divine Being.

(Continued on Page 23.)

National United Choirs Music Scholarship Awards Announcement

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him. Praise the Lord with the harp, make music to Him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully and shout for joy! -Psalm33: 1-3 NIV

Holy Family Parish in McKeesport, PA, was the scene for the announcement of the 2025 National United Choirs Music Scholarship Awards. It occurred mid-way through the NUC Workshop Participants' Concert.

Three of the four Awardees picture below participated in the concert – Samantha Durisko as a singer and soloist, Jathan Kotulsky on trumpet and handbells, and Joel Kotulsky on Alto Sax and handbells. We were blessed to have their talents used to enhance our concert program. A total of eleven scholarships were given this year.



Cathy Bilinski - Music Scholarship Administrator, Joel Kotulsky, Jathan Kotulsky, Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Bishop John Mack - NUC Chaplain, Samantha Durisko, Jan Dryfik, Lydia Hohn - NUC President.

2025 Music Scholarship Awards

John Dryfik

Bishop Eugeniusz Magyar Award \$400
Holy Family Parish
McKeesport, PA
Piano

Katherine Drezewski

Bishop Francis Bonczak Award \$450
Holy Trinity Parish
Washington, PA
Voice

Stephanie Drezewski

Adam Pikulski Award \$500
Holy Trinity Parish
Washington, PA
Voice

Samantha Durisko

Cecilia Shumlas Award \$750
All Saints Parish
Carnegie, PA
Voice

Mikaela Hoefler

Bishop Thomas Gnat Award \$800
Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish
Latham, NY
Piano and Organ

Devin Junko

George Balcar Award \$1700
Holy Trinity Parish
Washington, PA
Piano and Organ

Jathan Kotulsky

Bishop Francis Bonczak Youth Award \$1000
 Holy Family Parish
 McKeesport, PA
 Trumpet

Joel Kotulsky

George Balcar Award \$1000
 Holy Family Parish
 McKeesport, PA
 Alto Saxophone

Elvira Anne Lau

Bishop Eugeniusz Magyar Award \$350
 Holy Trinity Parish
 McKees Rocks, PA
 Violin

John Paletta

Bishop Francis Hodur Award \$1000
 Holy Trinity Parish
 Washington, PA
 Piano, Organ, and Clarinet

Maria Paletta

Cecilia Shumlas Award \$1250
 Holy Trinity Parish
 Washington, PA
 Piano, Organ, Saxophone, and Voice
 11 Awards, \$9,200

Since inception: 1156 Awards, \$367,285

Congratulations to these talented young people! They have received a special gift from God, have acknowledged that gift, and have used it to glorify God in their parish and the P.N.C.C.

Our scholarship program continues to be successful because of the generous donations we get from the faithful of the P.N.C.C. Thank you for your support and we hope we continue to be so blessed with talented applicants and the funding to provide them financial help as they pursue their music education.

Information on the scholarship program can be found on our website: www.nucmusicsscholarship.weebly.com
 The next cycle starts January 1, 2026.

Cathy A. Bilinski

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

Over 300 Hymns, including Service Music for Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Vespers and Penance Service. Numerous hymns in both Polish and English with additional hymns in English.

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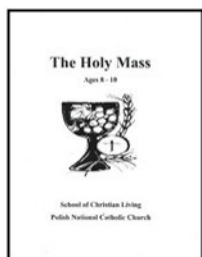
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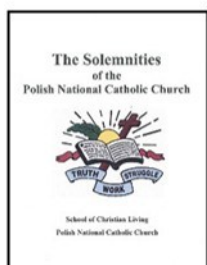
National School of Christian Living Commission SOCL Materials

The National School of Christian Living Commission developed four sets of lessons contained in loose leaf binders which allow SOCL instructors to easily follow the lesson plans and produce copies of activities for students. If your parish doesn't have a set of these volumes, they can be purchased by the parish or pastor/administrator from the [P.N.C.C. Book Department](#).



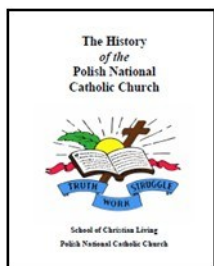
The Holy Mass

This binder contains 25 lessons that are suitable for instructing students aged 8 to 10 about the central act of worship in the Polish National Catholic Church. The price is \$15.00 plus shipping costs.



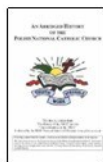
The Solemnities of the Polish National Catholic Church

This binder contains groups of lessons that are suitable for students from pre-school age through teenager. They instruct students about the unique P.N.C.C. solemnities: Brotherly Love; Christian Family; Humble Shepherds; Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church. The price is \$15.00 plus shipping costs.

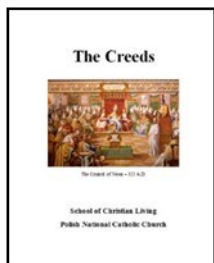


The History of the Polish National Catholic Church

This binder contains lessons geared for ages Confirmation through Adult. The lessons teach the history of the P.N.C.C.



This also contains the soft cover booklet *An Abridged History of the Polish National Catholic Church*. The price is \$25.00 plus shipping costs.



The Creeds

This binder contains lessons geared for ages 11 through Adult. The lessons teach the most prominent creeds used within the P.N.C.C. The price is \$15.00 plus shipping costs.

United Young Men's Society of Resurrection
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

Call to the 77th United Y.M.S. of R. Convention

With this official notice, the United Young Men's Society of Resurrection is calling its 77th Biennial Convention to be scheduled from Friday, October 24th through Sunday, October 26th, 2025 at St. Mary's Parish, Parma, Ohio in the presence of Fr. Jason Soltysiak, pastor, St. Mary's Parish, local priests and all the faithful of St. Mary's Parish. The United Y.M.S. of R. has a two-fold objective: first to unite the youth of the Polish National Catholic Church in God's name and in the name of the endeavor for the perfection of life.

In the words of the Y.M.S. of R.'s organizer, Prime Bishop Francis Hodur, "Our society is what individual members desire it to be, based on our own will and effort, coupled with God's eternal plan in the microcosmic world in which we live and work. If we seek a particular course and prepare ourselves properly for this pilgrimage, then surely we shall attain our designated objective and our goal. We learn from history, religion, and human experience."

We desire that all Polish National Catholic Church youth never lose their link to our Polish heritage and traditions of our past generations, but to reunite them through strong ties and shall stand ready to fulfill mutual tasks and obligations.

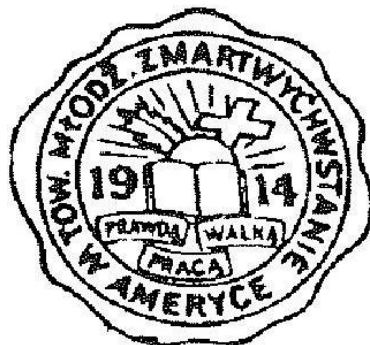
This effort is a lofty and noble one, worthy of the combined efforts of the young and the old, but primarily of the youth. The United Y.M.S. of R. needs your help to carry out this mission and preserve our heritage and traditions.

In order to realize this aim, it requires work and proper preparation, constant vigilance, and an energetic centralized administration. We need an organization committed to this cause; an organization that will unite the youth under one banner, inspire it with spirit and perseverance, and lead us to a brighter tomorrow.

The Young Men's Society of Resurrection is indeed such an organization. We cordially welcome the Bishops of the Polish National Catholic Church, the Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, and our Y.M.S. of R. Brothers to our 77th Convention.

Branches needing information can contact President Nick C. Kazinetz at (570) 604-2620 or Charles Repede at (440) 213-6927

Nick C. Kazinetz
 President – United Young men's Society of Resurrection



77th Biennial Convention – Registration Instructions

Registrations should be sent to:

Charles Repede
5675 Wellesley Avenue
North Olmsted, OH 44070

The registration fee is \$70.00 per delegate. Make checks payable to St. Mary's Y.M.S. of R. and mail to the address above (registration does not cover the cost of the hotel).

The deadline for registration is Friday, October 17, 2025.

Hotel Information

Here is the hotel information – please book asap.

Please find below the hotel information to share with guests. They can also call the hotel directly at 216-524-8050 and ask for the \$129.00 discounted rate.

Room rate is for checking in Friday, October 24, 2025, checking out Sunday, October 26, 2025.

St. Mary's Church is the booking link for Holiday Inn Cleveland South-Independence

To contact directly

Holiday Inn & Candlewood Suites
6001 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131
216-524-8050
216-264-2601

We encourage delegates to make reservations immediately!



United Y.M.S. of R.

77th Biennial Convention Registration Form
St. Mary's Parish, 5375 Broadview Road, Parma, OH 44134

Branch Number _____ Parish _____ State _____

Name of delegates attending (no limit on delegates)

Branch Committee

Pastor: _____

President: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Number of Delegates _____ x \$70.00 (registration fee) = _____

All Registrations need to be returned with payment by Friday, October 17, 2025

Mail this form along with your check to:
Charles Repede
5675 Wellesley Avenue
North Olmsted, OH 44070

77th Biennial Convention Schedule

Friday, October 24, 2025

- * Social Hour – Greeting of guests and hospitality at the home of Rev. Jim Ploskonka, 349 Justo Lane, Seven Hills, OH 44131 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- * Pizza & refreshments will be provided.
- * There is plenty of room for all delegates.

Saturday, October 25, 2025

- * Breakfast at the hotel
- * Registration 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. - coffee and light refreshments
- * Convention begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.
- * Lunch will be provided by Branch 29 when the Convention breaks for recess.
- * The convention will last until approximately 4:00 p.m.
- * Upon adjournment, delegates and guests are invited to a night of evening entertainment 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Wild Eagle Steak and Saloon at 5001 East Royalton Road, Broadview Heights, OH 44147 – 15 minutes from the church and only 10 minutes from the hotel. This is a BBQ-forward restaurant that has an indoor game space that features bocce, cornhole, shuffleboard, mini-bowling, and more. A beer wall with over 30 beers will welcome our guests as well.

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Holy Mass at St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church at 10:00 a.m. Delegates must attend. Please assemble in the Parish Hall to process into Holy Mass as a unified body.

We will have some refreshments after Mass in the Parish Hall and close out the convention.

All meals are included in the registration fee for delegates.

A separate fee for guests for Saturday evening dinner and entertainment will be paid the day of convention and is \$35.00.



Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese**Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral Parish Celebrates 130th Anniversary****Beverly Basinski**

It was August 8, 1895, that a new parish celebrated its first mass on an empty lot on Sobieski Street, Buffalo, NY. Subsequently, lots 150 & 182 were purchased on Sobieski Street with the intention of building a new parish and parish hall. A temporary wooden structure was constructed to serve as the church building while a brick building was constructed to serve as the parish hall. Eight acres of land were also purchased on Dale Road, Cheektowaga, for the purpose of a parish cemetery.

As the parish continued to thrive, groundbreaking for the new Cathedral took place in 1903 at 182 Sobieski Street, supporting approximately 2,000 members of the newly organized Polish National Catholic Church. The parish was by led by its first Bishop, Bishop Stefan Kaminski.

Although the original parishioners faced many challenges, the parish continued to grow. The Cathedral has been pastored by several bishops over the years. However, most notably, the parish was led by Bishop Thaddeus Peplowski from 1991-2015. Bishop Peplowski was instrumental in securing Parish approval to sell the Sobieski Street property and build a new Cathedral complex in Lancaster, NY. On August 8, 1995, Holy Mass was celebrated at the new Cathedral site on the exact day and time that the first mass was celebrated on August 8, 1895. 100 years had passed and the Parish had new life in Lancaster as Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, National Catholic Church serving former parishioners and a new community of worshipers.

This year of our Lord, 2025, Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, referred to as HMRC, is celebrating 130 years as a Catholic-based, friendly, and welcoming parish pastored by the current Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, Bishop John Mack.

STO LAT HMRC.



Dożynki at St. Barbara's Parish

Houtzdale, PA

On Sunday, August 17th, St. Barbara's Parish, Houtzdale, PA, held its annual Dożynki Polish Harvest Festival on the parish grounds. This was the 53rd year for the festival which pays homage to the roots of the local and parish community and its Polish heritage.

A harvest wreath, consisting of parishioners' own garden-grown "harvests," was built and blessed and taken to the festival grounds. Many people and businesses also donated items for the huge Polish Festival Basket Raffle.

The parish festival is known for its best seller, the Polish Platter, consisting of pierogi, haluski, a kielbasa sandwich and gołąbki. Also available were hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream, and a cake booth. All the food was available for carryout as well as to enjoy at the festival.

Prep work for the Dożynki festival started two weeks prior to the event, but the parish has year-round pierogi-making that sells into the thousands! St. Barbara's Parish is well-known in the area for their delicious pierogi, which they offer not only at the Dożynki, but also at the Harvest Festival at DelGrosso's (a local amusement park).

In addition to the delicious home-made foods, the parish teamed up with the Houtzdale Lions Club and added a cruise-in for car enthusiasts to enjoy while at the Dożynki. People brought cars and motorcycles to the ball field for showing.

It was a truly joyous day throughout the Houtzdale community, and everyone looks forward to next year's festival.



Preparing for Dożynki

Central Diocese**Central Diocesan Clergy Retreat
Dalton, PA**

The Central Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church held its Clergy Retreat at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton, PA, from August 11—13, 2025.



Rev. Jim Konicki, Rev. Sean Dodd, Rev. Thomas Basta, Rev. Mr. Mark Kosciński, Rev. Bogusław Janiec, Very Rev. Donald Wunderlich, Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Rev. Marian Pocięcha, Very Rev. Gregory Mludzki, Rev. Robert Plichta, Rev. Andrew Machowski, Very Rev. Lucian Urbaniak



Good Shepherd Parish Participates in Local Festival

Plymouth, PA

Good Shepherd Parish in Plymouth, PA, participated in the 18th annual Plymouth Alive Kielbasa Festival on August 8-9, 2025.

Parishioners spent weeks preparing for the festival. They made sure to have on hand plenty of their award-winning potato cheese pierogi, haluski with homemade noodles, piggies, red clam chowder and fabulous baked goods for sale to all the hungry festival attendees.

The parish offered their fine food and refreshments to be enjoyed in its air-conditioned Parish Hall to attendees who wanted a break from the summer heat.

Each year the festival takes over Main Street in Plymouth, featuring food and craft vendors from all over the area; live bands; a parade; and the annual Kielbasa Cook-off Competition.



Good Shepherd Parishioners Participated in the Kielbasa Festival Parade.



St. Stephen the Martyr, Reading, PA, Polish Picnic

Temple, PA

St. Stephen the Martyr Parish, Reading, PA, held its 49th Annual Polish Picnic at Willow Glen Park in Temple, PA, on August 9, 2025.

This highly successful and well-attended event featured a variety of Polish food, live music, and activities for the whole family. Delicious Polish fare included potato, sauerkraut, and cheese pierogi; gołąbki and gołąbki soup; kielbasa; Manhattan clam chowder; haluski; potato pancakes; and plenty of delectable desserts. There was also a food court for people to try other vendors' delicious fare.

Polka music was featured throughout the day, and a live performance of polka music was provided by the Eddie Forman Orchestra. Games of chance were also offered.

The day was a huge hit with everyone who attended, as always.



Eastern Diocese**52nd Annual Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat
Camp Berea, Hebron, NH**

From August 18-21, 2025, the Eastern Diocese held its 52nd annual Youth Retreat at Camp Berea in Hebron, NH. This year's retreat theme was 'What God Can Do with You!'



The first day of the retreat featured the opening flag raising prayer service, a penitential service, game night and retreat regatta boat prep! Everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening on Newfound Lake at Camp Berea!



The second day of the retreat was a blessed and glorious day that began with Morning Prayer at the Lake, followed by a Session on Samuel, Timothy and themed activities. There was also a Holy Mass for Youth, swimming time, tubing, kayaking, archery, and an evening session on David, along with more activities, crafts, candlelight, games and s'more's.

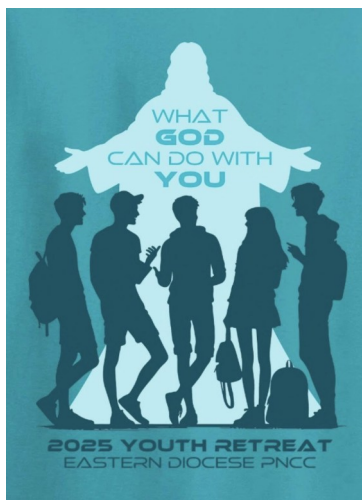


Day Three of the retreat began with Morning Prayer, a session with Kathryn Nemkovich playing the role of the Blessed Mother, a canvas activity, Holy Mass, a visit from Bishop Paul, some gaga ball, tubing, fun on the climbing wall, a teamwork course, a session on God in Nature. This was all followed by the highly successful first annual Youth Retreat Regatta. The day ended with a camp fire, s'mores and prayer.



Just like that the 52nd annual youth retreat had come to its end on the fourth day “What God Can Do With You” is in the books. An inspiring and uplifting week with our amazing youth! This year our Camp Spirit Award in memory of + Jason Fairclough was given to “The Faithful Eight!” So well done you all!!

So many blessings from a special time in prayer, fun, fellowship, worship and wonderful memories made of another year at Church Camp @ Camp Berea on Newfound Lake in beautiful New Hampshire! Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!



Holy Name of Jesus Parish Hosts Chicken BBQ

South Deerfield, MA

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, South Deerfield, MA, held a takeout Chicken BBQ Dinner and Raffle on Sunday, August 24, 2025.

The dinner included barbecue chicken, baked potato, corn on the cob, salad and dessert.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the preparation, setup, distribution, sales, and cleanup for the event. Special thanks to everyone who came out and supported the parish by purchasing a dinner and raffle tickets.



Very Rev. Nemkovich Offers Prayers at Purple Heart Day Ceremony Fall River, MA

On Thursday, August 7, 2025, Very Rev. Rob Nemkovich offered the Invocation and Benediction at the National Purple Heart Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Bicentennial Park in Fall River, MA.

The ceremony marked the official designation of Fall River as a Purple Heart City. The event featured keynote addresses, speeches and proclamations by local dignitaries. Gold Star Family members and community members attended to convey the deep respect and gratitude for the bravery and service of Fall River's military heroes.



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

(5) I BELIEVE that from the Holy Spirit flows grace, that is an invisible power which brings it to pass that, when a man cooperated and works in harmony with it, he becomes better, more perfect, better fitted for his tasks, a participant in the peace of heart and soul, until one day, through union with God in Eternity, he finds infinite bliss and the fulfillment of his own being.

(6) I BELIEVE in the need of uniting all followers of Christ's religion into the one body of God's Church, and that the Church of Christ, Apostolic and Universal, is the representation of this Divine community of mankind, which the Savior proclaimed, for the realization of which all noble minded people labored, are still laboring and for which the soul of man yearns, desiring truth, light, love, justice and consolation in God.

(7) I BELIEVE that the Church of Christ is the true teacher of both individual man as well as of all human society, that it is a steward of Divine Graces, a guide and a light in man's temporal pilgrimage to God and salvation; in so far as the followers and members of this Church, both lay and clerical, are united with the Divine Founder through faith and life proceeding from this faith.

(8) I BELIEVE that every true Christian should take an active and vital part in the spiritual life of the Church; through the hearing of the Word of God, through the receiving of the Holy Sacraments, through fulfilling the laws and regulations established by Christ and His Apostles, as defined and given us by the Church.

(9) I BELIEVE that all people as children of one Father, God, are equal in themselves: that privileges arising from differences in rank, from possessions of immense riches or from differences of faith, sex, and race, are a great wrong, for they are a violation of the rights of man which he possesses by his nature and the dignity of his divine origin, and are a barrier to the purposeful development of man.

(10) I BELIEVE that all people have a equal right to life, happiness and those ways and means which lead to the preservation of existence, to advancement and salvation, but I also believe, that all people have sacred obligations toward God, themselves, their nation, state and all of human society.

(11) I BELIEVE in the ultimate justice of God, in a future life beyond the grave, which will be a continuation of this temporal life and which, as to its condition and degree of perfection and happiness is dependent on our present life, but above all on the state of our soul in the final hour before death.

(12) I BELIEVE in immortality and everlasting happiness in eternity, in the union with God of all people, races and ages, because I believe in the Divine power of love, mercy and justice and for nothing else do I yearn, but that it may be to me according to my faith.

The Most Rev. Francis Hodur

This Confession of Faith was first adopted in 1912 at Provincial Synods convened at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Passaic, N.J., and Chicopee, Mass.; and finally at the Third General Synod convened at Chicago, Ill. in 1914 and has not been modified since.

The Solemnity of the Christian Family P.N.C.C. Pamphlets Available to Parishes

The Solemnity of the Christian Family is Sunday, October 12, 2025. A full color brochure describing this unique feast of the Polish National Catholic Church is available for purchase from the Office of the Prime Bishop.

This brochure was created to help us understand and commemorate this Solemnity, and we hope that all parishes will help to spread the awareness of the Solemnity of the Christian Family by sharing this information with all parishioners.



25 brochures:	\$10.00 (includes shipping costs)
50 brochures:	\$17.00 (includes shipping costs)
75 brochures:	\$24.00 (includes shipping costs)
100 brochures:	\$31.00 (includes shipping costs)

Checks, payable to P.N.C.C. Book Department, should be sent to:

P.N.C.C. Book Department
National Church Center
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

If you wish to pick up brochures at the Office of the Prime Bishop in Scranton, PA, the cost of the brochures are \$6.25 per 25 pamphlets.

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Adult S-3XL
Red/White or Red/Heather

\$20 ^{2XL} \$25 ^{3XL}



T-SHIRT – Green

Youth M, L, XL

\$20

Adult S-3XL

\$20 ^{2XL} \$25 ^{3XL}



HOODIE – Green

Youth M, L, XL

\$30

Adult S-3XL

\$35 ^{2XL} \$40 ^{3XL}

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