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To Honor the Institution on Our Lenten Journey

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

This year on March 8, 2026, the Second Sunday of March, the Polish National Catholic Church takes a pause in the series of Lenten Sundays to celebrate the Solemnity of the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church. There are some who say that to celebrate it in this way is a distraction, because there is a pause in the solemnness of the Lenten season to celebrate this day, which certainly has a joyful note to it. Others note that it is important that we continue to remember this day, which did fall during the second week of March to commemorate what God has accomplished in the organization of the Polish National Catholic Church.

To look at the argument concerning the progression of the Lenten season. There are in fact other days which break the solemnness of the Lenten season with some celebration. On March 19, the Church honors the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and on March 25 we honor the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary as well. Since this last celebration can fall within Holy Week, it is then moved to the day after the Second Sunday of Easter. Holy Week is too solemn a time to have this celebration intervene.

In the same way, the Solemnity of the Institution is suppressed in any year when it would fall on the First Sunday of Lent or on Passion Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Lent as a season is certainly of great importance, and it must get off to the right start on the Ash Wednesday and the First Sunday, and like-

wise as we approach Passiontide, the last two weeks of Lent, we must be singularly focused on the Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In both these cases, the Solemnity of the Institution is only commemorated on the Lenten Sunday.

All this being said, there is certainly an aspect of the Solemnity of the Institution that fits well with the Lenten journey. Since the celebration is within our Lenten journey it would certainly be appropriate to consider the Lenten aspects of this celebration.

During that Holy Mass we hear the Gospel from the 15th chapter of John. Jesus says, I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in Me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit He prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in Me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from Me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in Me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become My disciples. (*John 15:1-8*)

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**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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CONTROLLER:

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

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We see here the importance of remaining with and joining our own lives to that of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are to abide in Him, and also with this is expressed the goal, that we bear much fruit. Our relationship with our Lord is to be directed outward to others, not inwardly for ourselves. This is certainly one of the pillars of the Lenten season, charity or love. It is important too that we acknowledge that the love we speak of here is not just a feeling, it is rather charity, the love which shows itself in action.

We also see within this reading that our Lord speaks about the action of Penance. He tells us, "Every branch that bears fruit God prunes to make it bear more fruit." There are a number of aspects to this pruning. It is the action of taking away the barren parts of a branch, so that the sap is not wasted on a part that will not bear fruit. But there is another aspect as well. It is the trimming back even the fruit bearing parts so that more fruit will come forth. This too reminds us of the Lenten actions of fasting and doing penitential acts. Within our action of fasting, we deny ourselves something which, of itself, is good, for something greater.

If we would go a little further in the Gospel of Saint John, we hear our Lord tells His disciples, "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you." (*John 15:12-14*) Again here we remind ourselves that the word for love is the Greek word, agape, which might be translated as "all self-sacrificing love." Jesus here invites us to join Him in His Passion, offering our own lives for the service of others.

The main theme of Lent is the Passion and Death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, and during this season we strive to grow closer to our Lord and His Passion. As we celebrate

throughout the Lenten season, this is accomplished in devotions like the Stations of the Cross or Bitter Lamentations. But there is also the way in which it is accomplished on a daily basis within the life of the Church.

This is what we honor and celebrate within the Solemnity of the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church. Yes, the celebration is a cause for joy, as we call to mind what was accomplished in the organization of the Polish National Catholic Church, but we also must honor the fact that the heritage of the Church has now been placed within our own hands. Within the Church, then we must strive to grow ever closer to the life of Jesus Christ, Who is within our midst. We must strive to offer our own lives to Christ and for each other. We must discipline ourselves to live in union with Christ and join our lives together, within God's Holy Church, to build the Kingdom of God.

Yes, the Solemnity of the Institution is certainly a cause for joy when we look to the past. But for today, we unite this celebration with our Lenten journey, so that by disciplining our lives, with prayer, with fasting, with giving, with charity, with active love, we may continue to join our lives to Christ and with His Passion. So strive to truly be the body of Christ in the World today. As St. Paul tells us, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (*1 Corinthians 12:12*) "And now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (*1 Corinthians 12:27*) Saint Paul then tells us that all this is accomplished in love, active love. "But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into Him Who is the head, into Christ, from Whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." (*Ephesians 4:15-16*)



The XXVII General Synod Future Direction

Over the past two issues of God's Field, a lot of information has gone out concerning the preparation and planning for the XXVII General Synod which will be held within the Eastern Diocese in Manchester, New Hampshire during the last week of September.

Within this article I would like to focus our attention on the importance of Synodal actions within the Polish National Catholic Church. Although we use the word 'Synod' when we are speaking about the General Synods or the Diocesan Synods, we must realize that in general very many things that the Church does are done in a synodal way.

For the Church as a whole this begins at the highest levels with the General Synod, followed by the Special Synod, the Diocesan Synod and the Parish Meeting. At the level of the Clergy, decisions are made by the Bishops gathered together, often with the clergy united with them. Within each diocese there exists the Clergy Circle or Clergy Conference which help the Bishop in his leadership tasks. The same thing is true for the Organizational Life of the Church where the National Conventions guide the Organization as a whole, followed by Diocesan Boards and finally Parish level Branches.

The fact that the Church gathers together, not only for worship, but for all the aspects of the building of the Kingdom of God is of vital importance. Let's begin by looking to Scripture concerning the gatherings of Christians. While these passages are sometimes employed as speaking of the Church gathered for worship and prayer, this is not the totality of the matter. The Church gathers together to address every matter that confronts it. These passages also speak to how we should act as individuals when we are gathered together to do the work of the Church.

Psalms 133:1 – How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

Matthew 18:19-20 – Jesus said, "Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them."

Acts 2:1 – When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

Acts 15:28 – *The Council's Letter to Gentile Believers* – For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose on you no further burden than these essentials.

Romans 12:3-5 – For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

Romans 12:9-10 – Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Romans 16:17 – I urge you, brothers and sisters, to keep an eye on those who cause dissensions and offenses in opposition to the teaching that you have learned; avoid them.

1 Corinthians 14:26 – What should be done then, my friends? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

Galatians 6:9-10 – So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

Hebrews 10:24-25 – And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

1 Peter 3:8 – Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing.

2 Peter 1:5-8 – For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:6-7 – If we say that we have fellowship with Him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

During this past year, we spent quite a bit of time reflecting on the 1700th anniversary of the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea. We remember this Council especially for the Nicene Constantinopolitan Creed which we still recite each Sunday as it expresses the faith of the ancient Christian Church. But less well known is the fact that this Council also dealt with the matters of the life of the Church in its own day. They discussed things like the interactions of bishops and clergy, and the daily life of Christian people. Councils and Synods such as these have occurred throughout the history of the Church to deal with the daily issues that are facing the Church, its communities and its people at that point in history. Some of these Synods were more local, others had more expansive reach, but each called the members of the Church together in order to confront the realities of the Church at that moment.

As we begin our preparations for the XXVII General Synod to be held this September, let us remember that we, as members of the Polish National Catholic Church, stand in this line of tradition. We will call together clergy and laity from throughout the entire Church to deal with the pressing issues that are presently facing and challenging us.

At the General Synod in 2014 we had set out five major themes for the Church to focus its attention. These were: 1) Growth and Membership, 2) Increased Spirituality, 3) Lifelong Learning, 4) Sacred Vocations, and 5) Community Involvement and Presence. Much has been accomplished over the past number of years. Gathered at the Synod, we will report on the good things we have done, but more importantly we will face the challenges that still confront us and set a plan for the Church in the years ahead.

I encourage each and every one of you to be a part of this ongoing synodal action of the Church. Serve as a delegate to the Synod if you can. Share your ideas, your hopes and your dreams for the Church with the leadership of your parish and your delegates. And especially pray for the success of the Synod and the advancement of the Kingdom of God within the Church. Bring your labor to accomplish the triumph of truth, light, love, justice and consolation of which our Confession of Faith speaks.

Confession of Faith (Article 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.

Solemnity of the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church

Sunday, March 8, 2026
Fr. Sr. Francis Kadryna

On Sunday, March 8th, we celebrated more than a historical anniversary, we celebrated a grace, we celebrated a calling. We celebrated a moment when God raised up a people who refused to let their faith die.

The institution of our Church was not first about disagreement or separation, it was about faithfulness. Our forebears did not gather because they wanted something new. They gathered because they wanted what was ancient – the Gospel, the Sacraments, dignity in their own language, and a Church that knew their names, their struggles, and their prayers. They desired a Church that felt like home.

And that desire is deeply biblical. Again and again in Scripture, God hears the cry of people who feel forgotten: Israel in Egypt, the exiles in Babylon, the poor in Galilee. God always responds by raising up leaders and forming a community where His presence can dwell among them. That is exactly what happened in the birth of our Church.

The organizers trusted that Christ had not abandoned them. They believed Jesus still walks with His people. They believed the Church must serve the faithful – not burden them, not silence them, not distance them. And so, with courage and sacrifice, they built parishes, schools and communities almost from nothing.

They built with their hands. They funded them with their wages. They sustained them with prayer. What they built was not just an institution. They built a spiritual family. And that is what we inherit today.

But here is the question this feast asks us: Are we only grateful for our past, or are we faithful in the present? Because the Church is not a museum of Polish-American history. It is not a monument to what our grandparents accomplished. It is the living Body of Christ now.

The same Spirit Who inspired the organizers is still at work. The same Gospel still needs preaching. The same sacraments still need celebrating. The same world still needs hope. If our organizers were courageous enough to risk everything for the faith, then we cannot be comfortable Christians. We cannot be passive parishioners. We cannot simply maintain buildings.

We are called to be missionaries. We are called to welcome the stranger. We are called to serve the poor. We are called to teach the young. We are called to live the faith so visibly that others will say, “Christ is truly among them.”

That is how we honor the organizers – not only with celebration, but with imitation. Their legacy is not just independence, it is fidelity. Not just cultural pride; but sacramental life. Not just memory; but mission. So today we give thanks for those who came before us – for their courage, their sacrifices, their suborn trust in God.

And we pray:

Lord, make us worthy of what they handed on to us. Make us bold; make us faithful; make us a Church that future generations will thank God for, because the story of our Church is not finished, it continues with us. And by God's grace, the best chapters are still to be written. Amen.





Looking Back, Moving Forward

Rev. Jim Konicki, National Vocations Director

We offer you the Savonarola Theological Seminary Newsletter for March 2026 focused looking back and moving forward.

Amid Lent we have occasion to both look back and work to move forward. We take time to evaluate where we have been in light of the promises of Jesus that are before us. We have our homeland which we are working toward and opportunity to make changes to those areas where we have fallen short. In doing that we come to agree in all things with our Savior, Christ Jesus. Lord, You ask me to be here and to go there and I am ready to say yes to You. Give me Your grace so to strengthen me for the bright horizon ahead.

This month we have a moment to look back on the almost two full years that have passed since the current seminary class entered this time of reflection and formation, training and becoming. At times there were struggles and there were and are many joys. On March 19th, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, these men will move forward by being ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons. They will receive that diaconal charism that empowers them to preach, proclaim, baptize, serve, offer charity, and courageously defend the faith and God's Holy Church.

One aspect of looking back that I tend to be cautious of is our human tendency to dwell there. If we continue to number the sins we have been freed from, we stop looking forward. Living in the past, we lose focus on the great thing Jesus did for us by His forgiveness and the Church's ministry of reconciliation, as well as the opportunities that lie ahead. Our seminarians are not the men they were two years ago. Our Seminary is not the institution it was decades ago. In fact, as Vocations Director I am currently working with eighteen other men seeking to serve in the Church.

The Prophet Malachi heard God say this:

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put Me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. (Malachi 3:10)

We, as faithful members of the Church, have brought our full tithe of faithful prayer into God's storehouse and He has poured out an overflowing blessing of vocations. We have committed resources to God's work, and He has poured out an overflowing blessing of vocations. God has promised and God fulfills the promise. Thanks be to God!

Looking forward to the ministry these men are entering, join me in offering prayers for their work in the Church. May the ministry of David, Joel, Jonathan, and Todd be fruitful in growing God's Kingdom so many may come to know, love, and serve the Lord. Join me in thanking God for opening the windows of heaven and pouring out His blessings on His Holy Church.

Men, are you ready to engage with God's call to you? Be part of that blessing being poured out on the Church by your, 'Yes, I too will go.'

Please continue to pray for vocations and for those who are being so generous in supporting the Seminary and for our Seminarians. If you are called, please reach out to me at 518-522-0944 or rev.konicki@savonarola.net.

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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!

A Journey to the Diaconate: Reflections on Grace and Service

Cleric Joel Smith

As I stand on the threshold of my ordination to the Diaconate on March 19th, I find myself overwhelmed with gratitude and joy. This moment represents not merely a personal milestone, but a profound answer to a calling that has grown deeper and clearer with each passing day. I am being called to serve—and that reality fills my heart with purpose.

My journey to this point has been one of discovering what it truly means to dedicate oneself to Christ's mission. In serving the Lord, I have found that service is not a burden to bear but a privilege to cherish. Every encounter with His people, every opportunity to minister to those in need, every moment spent in prayer and preparation has strengthened my conviction that this is where God has led me. The joy I experience in this calling is not dependent on circumstances or personal comfort; it flows from the profound reality of being instruments of Christ's love in the world.

What strikes me most forcefully, however, is how I have not walked this path alone. Over the past year and a half, I have been held up by an extraordinary community of faithful men and women whose prayers, encouragement, and support have been absolutely essential to my journey. To each of you who has prayed for me, guided me, or simply believed in me when doubt crept in—I cannot thank you enough. Your investment in my formation has been transformative.

I must also express my deep gratitude for the warm welcome I have received into the Polish National Catholic Church. From my first days, I have felt embraced by this community's authentic faith, its rich tradition, and its commitment to living the Gospel with both reverence and compassion. The P.N.C.C. has become my spiritual home, and I am profoundly eager for the day when I can serve this beloved Church more fully as one of its ordained clergy.

As I prepare to kneel before the altar on March 19th, I do so with a grateful heart, knowing that through the grace of God and the support of this faithful community, I am being prepared for a lifetime of joyful service to Christ, His Church, and His people.

Pilgrimage to the Diaconate

Cleric Jon Johnson

My friends, by the time you are reading this, and God willing, I should be a Deacon. It seems like a long road on this pilgrimage so far, but looking back on the calendar, it was just a year ago I became a Cleric. But when I look back in retrospect, my journey goes back to my childhood, not just to when I started at Seminary.

Perhaps like Jonah, I was called to preach and fought God and ran off in a different direction. Maybe like the rich young ruler, I struggled to let go of money and my things. Maybe I was not as spiritually mature as God need me to be?

I have come to the realization now that it's because God's timing is perfect. 1 Peter 5:6-7 reminds us, *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you."* (NRSV)

Balancing life in the Seminary has been a struggle for me. Continuing with my full-time job has been a challenge, as it is technical and rather demanding. I have a home with 3 acres to maintain, pets at home, and I am very active in my parish - all of which is some 50 miles away.

There are times I have gotten angry, frustrated and wanted to quit. But, I have had wise counsel that has advised me to look forward to the prize, to that what God has called me to. I have also come to the realization that this whole process is a pilgrimage, a journey to a fuller service of God and His church in Holy Orders.

I have been active in some form of ministry for years. Catechist, cantor, choir member, treasurer, organist, but the ministry of serving at the altar is different. Having been over thirty years mainly in a choir loft puts you in a different space in worship. In either role, it's not performance, it is a ministry. I am not afraid of speaking to people or being at the altar, I have certainly taught many classes of children and adults and spoken to crowds, so I am not frightened of being at the altar, but leading people in worship is different. It requires a different perspective of ministry than ministering from the choir loft, and it requires a complete adjustment in spiritual attitude.

Preparing for the Diaconate can be scary, too. What about all these things I am now required or should do? Do I have enough preparation? Do I have enough practice? Do I have enough knowledge? I put this all in the Lord's hands and ask His Blessed Mother to be a mother to me also and to intercede on my behalf. I ask you to please continue to pray for me and my classmates as we continue our Seminary education and our pilgrimage to the priesthood. To make us good and worthy deacons to serve His Church and throughout the rest of our lives. Amen.

(Will Be) A Deacon

Cleric David Dudzinski

At the time of the writing of this article, the Seminary Class will be made Deacons, God willing. I am looking forward to taking one step closer to the altar, but I feel as though I should "stop and smell the roses." For me, the path has been long and winding, but I am thankful to God and everyone He has put into my life for the support I have. The Diaconate is an important part of the Holy Orders journey. Deacons do so much for our Church, am I really ready to join their ranks? By the Grace of God, I hope so!

Stumbling Upwards

Cleric Todd Godwin

The P.N.C.C. seminarians are about to be elevated to the rank of Deacon. We were asked to reflect on this for this edition of God's Field. I am sure that I, myself, will be interested to know what I was thinking at this stage of life. What I would like to do here is convey something of my growing sense of being incorporated into the body of the Church.

One example of this is that we seminarians have had our acolyte duties steadily increase over the last year; we have been assisting at the altar more and more, and quite literally getting close to the Chalice (which we still can't touch, but that is ok and expected). Having gone to Mass daily (sometimes more) with the same people for almost two years now, I have a sense of the pattern of heavenly worship slowly making an imprint on me, and becoming muscle memory. It is feeling more and more like prayer as a result.

The seminarians have also recently mastered the Deacon Service (the Service of Worship and Holy Communion) and have been cleared by our Liturgics professor to begin celebrating it in parishes after elevation to the Diaconate on March 19th. The Deacon Service was for me a challenge. Maybe I am just too slopy, or uncoordinated (I was never particularly good at sports), or I was resistant to leaving my lay status. It was likely a combination of all of these. But what pulled me through was my brothers in the seminary who helped me by giving me pointers, by watching me fumble through the service enough times, and then offering corrections. It was quite literally a collective effort.

The word liturgy comes from a Greek word (*liturgos*) meaning "the work of the people." Its origins are in pre-Christian Greek ceremonial and civic life. When I finally mastered the Deacon Service, I had a sense of being beyond myself, a sense of embodying the Church's practices and being shaped by them in a new way. It was a good feeling, and should continue to grow as we seminarians celebrate the Deacon Service in parishes. I think this is an effect of the Diaconate, what we might call the *habitus* (the embodied knack, logic, and innate feel) of the Diaconate.

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The seminarians have also begun to preach weekly and deliver sermons in our homiletics class. I enjoy greatly the chance to dig into the Sunday readings and to allow the scriptures to slowly shape my thinking over time. I have heard these readings for years and have had myriad inchoate thoughts about what they mean, and plenty of half-baked ideas. Take for instance the three temptations of Jesus in Saint Matthew's gospel. After mulling over these for a week, and after having heard five or six sermons on the same topic, and having researched it from various angles, I was able to come to a far deeper understanding of these temptations than ever before. The temptation to turn stones into bread is about what we do in life and making our achievements primary rather than our rootedness in God. In the second temptation Satan offers to call angels to save Jesus should he throw Himself down from the temple parapet—this has to do with the lure of reputation and social status—the prioritizing of who we know and what others think of us. The third temptation is to have power over the kingdoms of the world. This is about what we own. What we do, who likes us, and what we own. Everyone falls prey (and prays) to these idols. Being able to engage the scriptures like I did for this preparation, and being able to preach in front of a congregation, and to attempt bring them something edifying, was another example of putting on and refining the *habitus* of the diaconate, an incorporation into the body of the Church at this clerical level.

The Deacon has been a clerical rank within the Church since New Testament times. The word diakonia fundamentally means service, but not “menial help” in a modern sense. It denotes authorized service carried out on behalf of Christ or the Church, commissioned assistance, liturgical and material stewardship. This word is used for Christ's own mission (Mark 10:45), and apostolic ministry (Acts 1:17, 25). St Paul assumes a recognized diaconal office in Philippians 1:1 “To all the saints ... with the bishops (*episkopoi*) and deacons (*diakonoi*).” And 1 Timothy 3:8–13 shows us that Deacons had moral and ascetical requirements similar to Bishops, indicating that this was a stable ecclesial rank. There was public trust in them. There was proximity to the sacraments. And Deacons were and are iconic—they represent Christ the Servant.

I am not worthy of any of this. There are times I want to quit. There are times I don't know how I even got here in the first place. But in the spirit of the phrase “stumbling upwards,” I don't think I am doing this on my own, which is how it's supposed to be. I have tried to convey something of what that this feels like from my vantage point and at this point in time. Perhaps it transpires across the page. Pray for us. We pray for you.

79th Annual Y.M.S. of R. Bowling Tournament



Holy Trinity Parish in Woodlawn, NY (Buffalo area), will be the host parish for the annual P.N.C.C./Y.M.S. of R. Bowling Tournament on May 15-17, 2026. We are returning to the old format of the tournament as was requested by many people. The option to bowl only 3 games on Friday is available. You can choose either Doubles or Singles. All scores will be with handicap.

The Schedule of Events and all of the registration forms for bowling, hotel and banquet, along with the form for the program booklet, can be found online at: [79th Annual P.N.C.C./Y.M.S. of R. Bowling Tournament - The Polish National Catholic Church](#).

Please help us make this event a success by participating as either a bowler or a guest. Please feel free to make copies of the forms and pass them on to other members that might wish to participate. It is a great way to share our time and faith.

God's blessing and we hope to see you in May!

Fr Nadeem Yaqoob, Pastor and 2026 Tournament Committee

Springtime

Cathy Andersen - All Saints Cathedral Parish, Chicago, IL

Aah, Springtime at last! By the time you read this message, most, if not all, of the winter snow will have melted, even that from the Nor'easter that dumped up to 41" inches of snow in late February! The days are longer, the temperatures are warmer and the sun even seems brighter. We shed our winter coats and heavy sweaters for a lighter jacket and maybe even short sleeves. Our heavy winter boots can now be stored away as well.

If your Lenten Journey was fruitful through theological reflection, repentance and reconciliation, your heart will feel lighter on Resurrection Sunday as you once again raise your voice to sing The Gloria during Mass, and may we all joyfully sing together, "Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!" During your Lenten Journey, you may have replaced a couple of your bad habits with good habits and also engaged in the three pillars of Lent. Now is the time you choose to continue your increased time in prayer, the discipline of fasting, and the generosity of almsgiving -- for you have left behind your old life and ways. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come," 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Springtime is a time of rebirth, refreshment, renewal, growth and hope. "For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is here in our land," Song of Solomon 2:11-12. Nature awakens after a long winter of dormancy. Grass begins to grow green again. Forsythias are blooming. Flowers sprout from the ground. Trees blossom with their flowering buds. We may enjoy sitting or walking outdoors breathing in the warmer fresh air. We watch as a bumble bee looks for its first food of the season. Chipmunks and groundhogs cautiously exit their burrows for the first time since hibernation started in early November. It seems as though the robins, cardinals and blue jays all sing a new song. Woodpeckers tap, tap, tap, tap, tap, tap on a tree branch high above. You may also see bunnies chasing each other around the yard as they enjoy the warmer weather. Baby squirrels come out of their nests to explore their environment for the first time while following their mother closely. If you're up during the night, you may see an opossum or raccoon with babies foraging in your yard. Let us be thankful to God for all of His creation!

Those people who are a little older or who may have a heart or lung condition, arthritis or any number of ailments may once again be able to get out and return to church. The harsh elements of winter made it either impossible or difficult for them to get out. Driving may not have been a safe option for them. Perhaps they were unsure on their feet in the slippery conditions. Inhaling cold air has adverse effects for those with heart or lung issues. The fear of catching a cold or the flu for those with decreased immunity was a reality for some as well. Let's welcome all those people back to church with open arms! Let us smile and converse with them. Let us hold them in a longer than usual gentle embrace or hug. They may have been captive in their home or in the four walls of their apartment during the winter season, some home alone. Let us be thankful that they can join our church community once again!

Springtime is a wonderful season of the year! We have anticipated it since winter began. Each day brings us abundant blessings from God. Each day is a new beginning! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Almighty Father - Thank You for Your Son, Jesus Christ! Thank You for Your beautiful creation! May this Springtime be a time of rebirth, renewal, refreshment, growth and hope. May I increase my service to You and others for Your greater glory. I pray these things in Your Son's most Precious and Glorious Name! Amen!

Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

Three Priests Ordained to Serve Our Lord!

The last three to four months have brought an increase to the number of clergy serving our Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese. We continue to attract candidates who see in our denomination an opportunity to serve a valid, catholic, apostolic church without the trappings and restrictions of the *other* Catholic church. Most of the time they have heard about the P.N.C.C. through a personal contact that develops into a possibility; that develops into an avenue to serve our Lord; that develops into a fulfilled vocation. It may not completely resemble a *traditional model* of formation, where the candidate would have to commit to a three-year course of study at our seminary in Scranton. For most, this would not be a possibility without totally disrupting their work responsibilities, family life and other commitments. Why not utilize the educational background, spiritual accomplishments and life experiences of men such as these to help alleviate the shortage of clergy and the dearth of vocations within the P.N.C.C.? Why can't we *think outside the box*?

Fr. Robert Grizzell – Fr. Robert hails from San Antonio, Texas, where he lives with his wife Mikenzie and son, Jibril. He became associated with the P.N.C.C. through Sts. Martin and Rose Parish in San Antonio, Texas and mentored under Fr. Dr. Marcus Tinajero. His educational background includes an associate's degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences; Bachelor's degree in Philosophy; CPE accreditation and he is working towards a Master's Degree at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He serves as a Hospice Chaplain at Nightingale Hospice in San Antonio, TX. Fr. Robert was ordained to the holy priesthood on November 15, 2025 in the newly formed mission parish of St. Jude. Fr. Robert has been assigned to St. Jude Parish in San Antonio, as an assistant priest. He will continue to work as a hospice chaplain as well. Fr. Robert and Mikenzie are expecting their second child later this year. We welcome Fr. Robert and his beautiful family!

Fr. John Setera – Fr. John Setera and his wife, Lynda are part of the northern seniorate of the diocese and reside in Irving, NY. John's ministry began about 30 years ago, when he entered into training for the permanent diaconate program of the Roman Catholic Church. After completing the prescribed course work, John was ordained a deacon by the late Bishop +Henry J. Mansell on May 1, 1997. He was assigned to the office of charismatic renewal as assistant director. He assisted at healing masses, visited prayer groups and organized new groups. He helped to establish *Life in the Spirit* seminars. Later, he was appointed director of the Eucharistic Adoration Society. After his first wife's passing, Fr. John reacquainted with a long-time high school friend, his current wife, Lynda. Due to the restrictions of the Roman Church, deacons are allowed to be married, but cannot *re-marry* (if a spouse dies) once they are ordained. This led Fr. John to a dilemma in which he had to choose between ministry and the sacrament of marriage. He chose the latter, and was relieved of his vocation. He also had become increasingly frustrated with various aspects and recent *innovations* of spirituality and theology in his former church. How did Fr. John come upon us? In his own words: "I was driving by and saw cars. (outside of the parish of Our Lady in Brant, NY) I was drawn to the church and welcomed by the people there." Although Fr. John is 77 years "young" he continues to have a burning desire to use however many years the Lord gives him to serve His people. He was ordained on January 10th (the commemoration of St. John the Good – Bp) at the mother cathedral in Lancaster, NY. He is assigned as a reserve priest of the diocese at this time.

Fr. Anthony Anderson - Fr. Anthony hails from Manor, Pennsylvania. He began his association with the P.N.C.C. through Transfiguration Parish in Mt. Pleasant, PA. Fr. Dr. Joseph Mazurkiewicz is pastor at Trans-

figuration Parish. Fr. Tony has always felt a calling to ministry and acted upon that when he was a member of the Roman Church. He attended St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA and received minor orders in the Diocese of Covington, KY in 2018. Things did not progress in that endeavor and he returned to his lay work. Upon associating with Transfiguration Parish, he and Fr. Joe developed a deeper friendship and the diaconate formation was begun. After his ordination as deacon, Tony expressed a desire to continue his studies towards the priesthood. With Fr. Joe as his mentor and the course work provided by both Fr. Joseph and Fr. Dr. Don Seekins, Deacon Tony advanced in his studies. He also kept ties with former priests/instructors at St. Vincent Seminary who supported and encouraged him in his ministry. Fr. Tony was also able to audit additional courses at St. Vincent's Seminary in preparation for his priestly ordination. Fr. Anthony is married to his wife, Sherri who supports him and encourages him in his ministry. Fr. Anthony's greatest strengths are his ability to empathize with people, listening with his whole heart and being able to bring theological concepts to an understandable level in his homilies. His many and varied life experiences (including the tragic death of his son in an automobile accident) have provided him knowledge beyond anything learned from a book or a classroom. He loves to serve his God through his ministry and our denomination. Fr. Anthony was ordained on January 17, 2026 (the commemoration of Anthony of Egypt) at Transfiguration Parish in Mt. Pleasant, PA. He is assigned as a reserve priest of the diocese.

I give my thanks to Fr. Dr. Don Seekins of Batavia, NY, who continues to serve as our vocations instructor for both diaconal and priestly vocations. Although he is unable to serve in the capacity of a "parish pastor" (due to physical limitations) he uses his knowledge and expertise in the formation of others.

What a blessing it is for the diocese to have a number of vocations continuing to be fulfilled by men such as these. I have faith and confidence that their ministries will continue to flourish and be fruitful in the P.N.C.C. At a time when our denomination as well as others have been handcuffed by the lack of vocations to holy orders, these men have proven that God is still calling "workers to his vineyard." Through the prayers of intercessions for vocations offered at every weekend mass, as well as the prayers of the faithful of the P.N.C.C., we can reverse this trend if we open our eyes to the possibilities that God has provided.

Or - we can simply close the door and have our priests serve two or three parishes simultaneously out of sheer necessity.

The choice is ours. Certainly I have been burned by "wolves in sheep's clothing" on occasion. Every bishop has, including +Prime Bishop Francis Hodur, in the infancy of this church. I also believe in the old adage, "nothing ventured, nothing gained." Someone penned the words: "we are not a cloying and needy church" but I would also add, we cannot afford to be "an arrogant and haughty church." We (the P.N.C.C.) were once called and treated as outcasts and schismatics. Time has proven our legitimacy and worth. May we never be guilty of committing those same sins towards others who seek to serve Christ in His Holy Church through their call to vocations.

Welcome, my brothers, to the joy and fulfillment of serving our Lord through the sacred ministry of ordination. May God Bless you in every good deed done in His Holy Name!

Bishop John E. Mack – Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

(Continued on Page 14.)

(Three Priests Ordained to Serve Our Lord - Continued from Page 13.)



Fr. Robert, Jibril, Mikenzie Grizzell



**Fr. Robert blessing his mother
(with Jibril's help)**



Vows of Obedience – Fr. Robert



Laying on of hands – Fr. Robert



Fr. John Setera and wife: Lynda



Bp Mack & Fr. John Setera



Fr. John Setera Ordination – Clergy



Anointing of the hands – Fr. Setera



Litany of Supplication



Ordination of Fr. Anthony Anderson



Deacon Tom Klusek proclaims the Gospel



Laying on of hands – Fr. Anthony

(Continued on Page 16.)

(Three Priests Ordained to Serve Our Lord - Continued from Page 15.)



Fr. Anthony blessing Fr. Mike Selep



Fr. Anthony with his family



Almighty and Eternal God, in Your plan for our salvation You provide priests as shepherds for Your people. Inspire men to answer Your call to become priests, because “the harvest is great but the laborers are few.” Grant Your Church an increase of priests and keep them faithful in their love and service to You and the people entrusted to their care. Through their faith and ministry may Your light shine in the world and Your kingdom be built among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our High Priest. Amen.

Central Diocese**73rd Anniversary Requiem Mass at St. Stanislaus Cathedral****Scranton, PA**

The 73rd Anniversary of the death of Bishop Hodur was observed on Monday, February 16th at St Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Bp. Bernard Nowicki, Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid and Fr. Sean Dodd celebrated the Anniversary Requiem Mass. Seminarians Dave Dudzinski and Todd Godwin were in attendance.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



February at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish

Dupont, PA

Even though February recorded very cold temperatures and big snowfalls, we were very busy at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA.

We began February with Mat Making for the homeless. Scout Sunday was celebrated on February 8th. Leaders and scouts recited "On My Honor" and the Prayer of Intercessions. ANS pierogi making for Lent was on February 13. We observed Ash Wednesday with two Masses. Stations of the Cross are held on Wednesdays. The Men's Organization (Y.M.S. of R.) Branch #2 held its Annual Fish Fry Dinner on Friday, February 20th. The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Sunday, February 22nd. Our monthly food distribution was on , February 26 in the Parish Hall.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Mat Making for the Homeless



Men from the parish helped make pierogi.



Scout Sunday



ANS Ladies making pierogi.



Volunteers at the Lenten Fish Fry



Elected Officers, Auditors and Parish Tribunal



Ned & Andrew Frying Fish



Food Distribution Volunteers at Work

Branch 1 Y.M.S. of R. Welcomes Newest Member

Scranton, PA

On February 10th, St. Stanislaus Cathedral's Branch 1 of the Y.M.S. of R. welcomed its newest member, David Seliga, to the organization. Rev. Sean Dodd administered the oath to Dave during the Branch 1 meeting.

Submitted by Jen Gerardi



St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish Conducts Annual Meeting

Scranton, PA

On March 1st St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish conducted its annual meeting after the 9:00 am Mass. About 50 parishioners attended and engaged in lively discussion and fellowship.

Bishop Nowicki, pastor of the parish, opened the meeting with a prayer. Kevin Pfohl was the chair of the meeting. Reports were presented by the parish chair, Fred Aebli; the treasurer, Lynn Pfohl; and the investment committee chair, Bernie Kalteski. Bishop Nowicki delivered his pastor's report and Fr. Sean Dodd provided his perspective to the attendees. Prime Bishop Mikovsky updated the members on details of this year's XXVII General Synod, asking parishioners to consider becoming delegates for the September event.

Submitted by Jen Gerardi



The annual parish meeting commences.



Parish chair, Fred Aebli, offers his report at the meeting.



Meeting Participants



Fr. Sean Dodd speaks to the attendees.



Bishop Nowicki presents his annual pastor's report.



Prime Bishop Mikovsky discusses the upcoming Synod.

Eastern Diocese

Scout Sunday at Blessed Trinity Parish Fall River, MA

Scout Sunday was celebrated during Holy Mass at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA, on February 8th. It was wonderful to have so many Scouts and their families at Mass this year. The scouts received blessed 2026 Scout Sunday Patches. Their blue and gold breakfast followed in the Parish Hall.



Western Diocese

Elevation of Subdeacons Allan Becker and Jason Fox at All Saints Cathedral Chicago, IL



On March 3, 2026, at All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois, the Most Reverend Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, celebrated a solemn Mass of the Word of God during which the Minor Orders of Blesser, Acolyte, and Subdeacon were conferred upon Cleric Allan Justin Becker and Cleric Jason Aaron Fox. The liturgy marked a significant moment in the ongoing formation of these two men as they continue their journey toward service in the Church.

During the rite, Reverend David Rowinski formally called the candidates forward with the traditional words: *“Let those who are to be ordained Subdeacons come forward.”* Both clerics responded with the simple yet meaningful declaration, *“Present,”* signifying their readiness to serve Christ and His Church in this sacred ministry.

The day prior to the ordination was devoted to spiritual preparation and reflection. Father Senior Charles Zawistowski, Father Senior John Kowalczyk, and Father Jim Ploskonka offered thoughtful reflections on the sacred vestments and vesting prayers associated with ministry at the altar, focusing particularly on the Amice, Alb, and Cincture, as well as the significance of the Book of Lessons. The reflections invited the candidates to consider deeply the spiritual symbolism of these liturgical elements and the responsibility that accompanies service at the altar of the Lord.

Following these reflections, the clerics received the Sacrament of Penance from Father Jason Soltysiak as part of their spiritual preparation for the following day's liturgy. Prime Bishop Mikovsky was present for the entire program, which extended over four hours and included prayer, instruction, and fellowship.

During the liturgy itself, Allan Justin Becker proclaimed the First Reading from Proverbs 30:5–9 and led the Responsorial Psalm. The Second Reading, from Acts 13:46–49, was proclaimed by newly ordained Subdeacon Jason Aaron Fox, who then assisted Prime Bishop Mikovsky at the altar in his new capacity as Subdeacon.

The gathering concluded with a festive dinner that offered an opportunity for clergy, seminarians, and guests to give thanks for the blessings of God, the work of the Savonarola Theological Seminary, the vitality of the Church's vocation program, and the support of the families of Subdeacons Allan and Jason. Special gratitude was extended to the parish community of All Saints Cathedral for their hospitality, patience, and generous meals.

The Diaconate Formation Program of the Savonarola Theological Seminary continues to prepare candidates through concentrated study in homiletics, church history, spirituality, ministry, biblical studies, and liturgical practice. The faithful are encouraged to continue praying for Subdeacons Allan Becker and Jason Fox as they proceed in their formation toward the Sacred Order of Deacon.

Submitted by Rev. Jim Ploskonka

Strategic Planning Retreat at All Saints Parish Sterling Heights, MI

On Friday, January 9, the newly elected Parish Committee and members of the 2025 Committee gathered at the Parish Rectory for an evening of fellowship and reflection hosted by Father Jim Ploskonka. The gathering marked the beginning of a three-day retreat dedicated to prayer, visioning, and strategic planning for 2026 and the years beyond. The purpose was simple yet profound: to place all ideas on the table, speak candidly, and seek a clear and unified direction for the future of All Saints Parish.

Saturday, January 10, began with Lauds (Morning Prayer), grounding our work in gratitude and dependence upon God before entering the important conversations ahead. We were blessed to have as our facilitator the Very Reverend John Kowalczyk, Pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish and Administrative Senior of the Central Seniorate, which includes parishes in Kewanee, Chicago, Ellisville (MO), and South Bend (IN). Father Senior John is widely respected and frequently called upon to assist at seniorate, diocesan, and national programs and events. His steady leadership and thoughtful guidance helped focus our discussions and ensure that every voice was heard.

The central work of Saturday was a comprehensive SWOT analysis—identifying our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as a parish community.

The retreat affirmed that All Saints Parish is spiritually vibrant and relationally strong. The work before us is not to reinvent ourselves, but to align structure, communication, and outreach with the powerful sense of family that already defines us. With prayerful unity and intentional planning, we move forward with confidence toward our centennial celebration in 2029 and into the next decade of faithful service.

Submitted by Rev. Jim Ploskonka



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