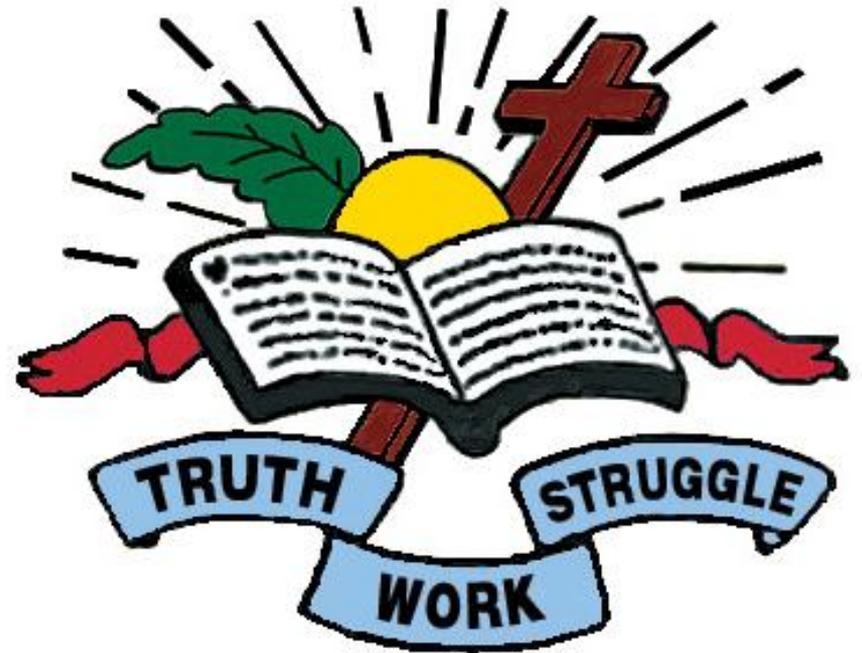


Bishop Hodur



and the
**Polish National
Catholic
Church**

Francis Hodur's Early Life



Francis Hodur's home in Zarki, Poland.

The Hodur Family



Francis Hodur attends St. Anne's High School



Francis Hodur attended this school in Krakow because of his excellent work in elementary school. He received a scholarship and tutored other students for extra funds.



This famous high school, started in 1588, is still in operation today as the Nowodworski School.

The Polish kings and many intellectuals attended this school.

Early Political and Religious Involvement



Francis Hodur joins the movement of Fr. Stanislaus Stojalowski known as the People's Tribune. Following Fr. Stojalowski, Hodur fights for the cause of the common people who are oppressed by both the Church and the government.

Francis Hodur eventually realizes the call of God to serve His people. In the same manner as Fr. Stojalowski, Francis Hodur enters the seminary after graduating from high school.

Influence of Polish Poets and Reformers

Francis Hodur studied the works and writings of the great Polish writers and reformers.

They write that the Church must not only point to salvation for all in heaven, but it also must be a road of life and an example to all on earth.

Francis begins to have a truer vision of the Church that was founded by Jesus Christ.



Adam Mickiewicz



Juliusz Slowacki

He strives to serve the Church, so that it can truly be the servant of God's people and the road to salvation.

Francis Hodur enters the Seminary

Francis Hodur excels in his studies at the seminary in Krakow.

He is still secretly working with Fr. Stojalowski.

Francis belongs to the Young Poland Movement that works to improve the plight of poor Polish people and to regain independence for Poland.

Due to political activism he is expelled from the seminary in 1892.



Francis Hodur decides to journey to America.

Fr. Francis Hodur is Ordained

Francis Hodur travels
to America in 1893.

He attends classes in St.
Vincent's Abbey in Latrobe, PA.

He is ordained on August 19, 1893
in Scranton, PA.

He serves at Sacred Hearts of
Jesus & Mary Parish in Scranton.

As he did in Poland, Fr. Hodur
continues to work with the people.



Unrest in many Communities

Immigrants in many ethnic communities were discriminated against in the US because of their language and cultural differences.

This was true in many Polish, Lithuanian, Slovak, Italian and other communities in the late 1800s.

When the immigrants turned to the Church for help, they did not find support.

Some of these immigrant communities organized parishes, separate from the Roman Catholic Church, in:

Chicago, IL - Buffalo, NY - Cleveland, OH - Detroit, MI and many others cities.

St. Stanislaus Parish - Scranton, PA



During the summer and fall of 1896 parishioners in South Scranton had a dispute with their pastor and bishop. This dispute ended in a bloody fight.

Members of Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish decided to organize a new parish. They built St. Stanislaus Church and asked Fr. Hodur, whom they loved and trusted, to be their pastor.

Fr. Francis Hodur, Pastor of St. Stanislaus

From the start, St. Stanislaus Parish would be run in a democratic fashion by an elected Parish Committee.



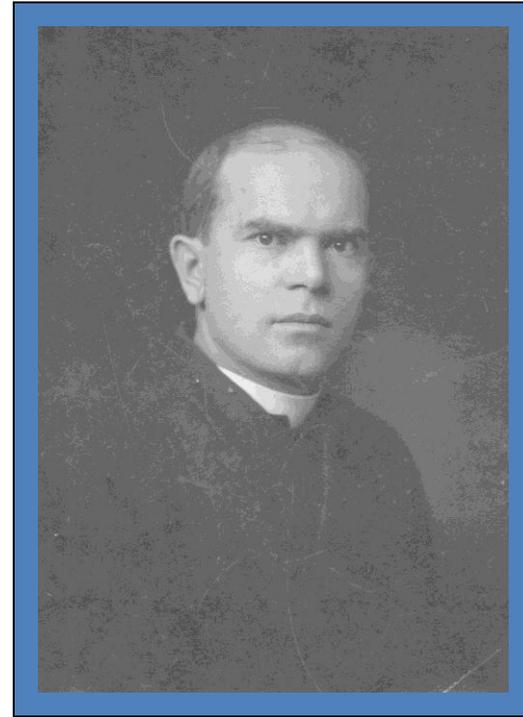
This Committee wrote the first Constitution which would later become a model for the rest of the Church.

The First Parish Committee 1897

The National Church Program

Fr. Hodur laid out a plan for a National Church Program.

He followed the example of how the early Church was organized.



1. Legal ownership of church properties by the people
2. Decisions on secular matters by elected committees
3. Appointment of priests approved by parishioners
4. Appointment of bishops from within the nation
(i.e., Polish bishops for Polish people)

Founding of STRAZ - one way to communicate in the PNCC

PISMO BEZPARTYJNE POŚWIĘCONE SPRAWOM OGÓLNO POLSKIM NARODOWYM KULTURALNYM I SPOŁECZNYM

OFFICIAL MONTHLY
of the
Polish National Union
Printed Continuously
for 111 Years



Dwumiesięcznik
Organ Polsko
Narodowej Spójni
Wychodzi bez
przerwy od 111 lat

SCRANTON, PA CZWARTEK 6 (SIERPNIA) AUGUST 2009

ROK (VOL. 111)

Winners of the PNU Essay and Poster Contest Sponsored by the Education and Youth Commission



Florence Nemkovich, Joan Scheuneman, Education and Youth Commission and Irene Jugan, President of the PNU present a certificate to Nicholas Gerardi winner of the Poster Contest.



Florence Nemkovich, Education and Youth Commission and Irene Jugan, President of the PNU present a check to Stephanie Wisniewski, winner of the Essay Contest.

Vision of Excellence

By: Stephanie Wisniewski

Imagine, for a moment, that it is the year 1908. You are an



Florence Nemkovich, Joan Scheuneman, Education and Youth Commission and Irene Jugan, President of PNU present a check to Dylan Hughes, runner-up winner of the Essay Contest.

The PNU: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow:



God's Field – another means of communication in the growing PNCC

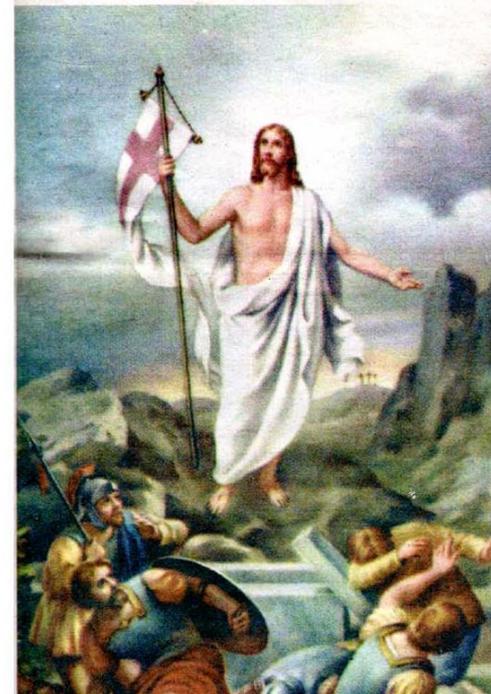
In 1923 the Rola Boza (God's Field) becomes the official Church newspaper.



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March 31, 2009

Number 7



Christ Is Risen From The Dead! Alleluia! Alleluia! Indeed He Is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Most Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich
Prime Bishop



Remember how He had told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again."—Luke 24:5-7.

During the Lenten season we have had the opportunity to meditate on the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our holy Church has brought before the various events from the last weeks of Jesus' ministry and His final encounters with His Apostles and disciples. We were all reminded on the 4th Sunday of Lent at Holy Mass of God's great love for us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that

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and die on
be saved,
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reflect upon
that He w
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His de
time for Hi
His death
He would
or, should I
Him? H
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told them.
Easte

The Church begins to Grow

In time other parishes, not only Polish parishes, but those of other ethnic groups as well, join the Polish National Catholic Movement.



Parishes in Northeast Pennsylvania were some of the first to join, but the movement soon spread north, south, east and west.

Other like-minded priests joined with Fr. Hodur and the Church leadership grew.

First Synod - 1904



Bishop Hodur

First Synod – Scranton, PA – September 6-8, 1904

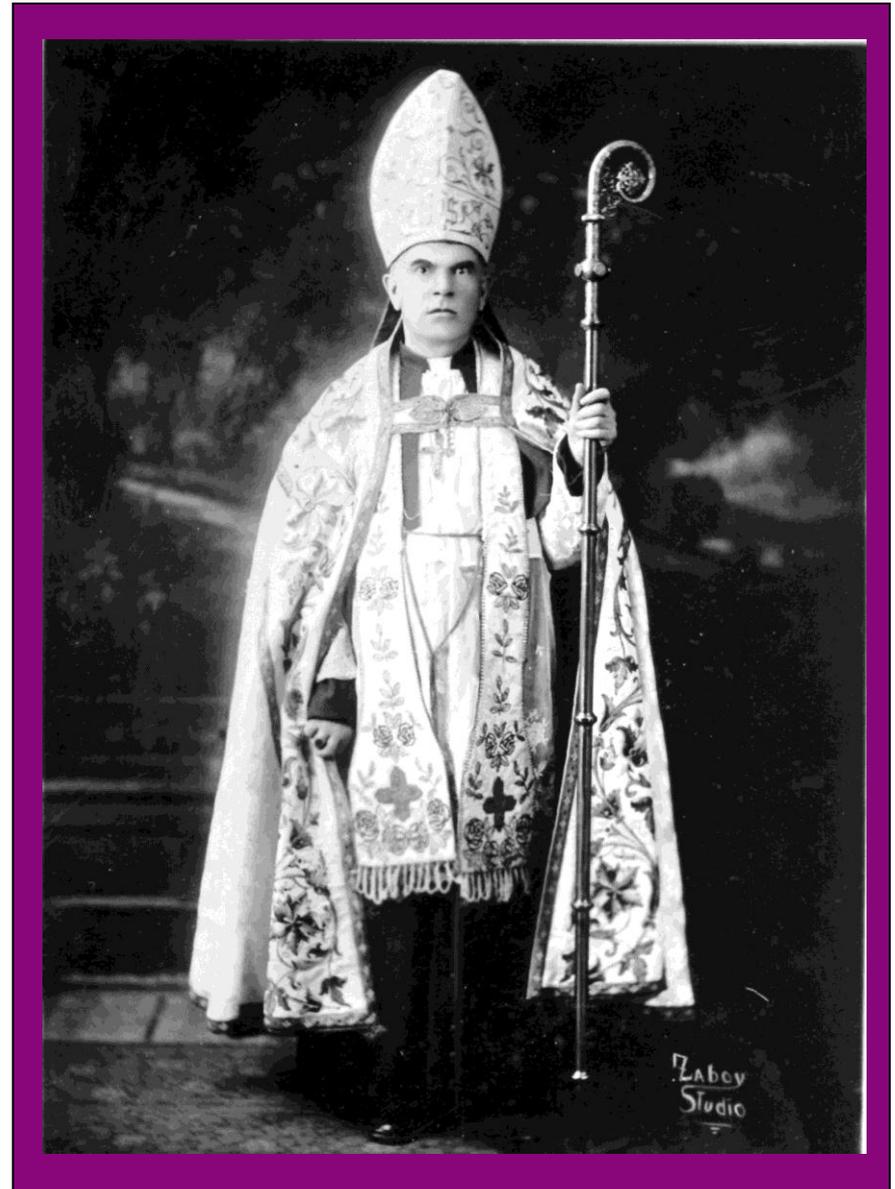
Bishop Hodur is Consecrated

In 1907 Fr. Francis Hodur is consecrated a bishop in Utrecht, Holland.

This action gives the Polish National Catholic Church Apostolic Succession.

Its Orders are now unquestionable.

The Church can grow even more as Bishop Hodur can now ordain priests.



The Church grows in America



Prime Bishop Hodur

The Church continues to grow in the United States and Canada. New parishes are organized and former independent parishes join the Church.

The Church grows in Poland

The Polish National Catholic Church is taken to Poland in 1921. Many parishes are organized and a seminary is founded there.



Prime Bishop Hodur

Warsaw Synod in 1928

New Bishops, New Growth



In 1924 the Polish National Catholic Church took a large step in its growth through the election and consecration of four new diocesan bishops.

The PNCC at the Forefront

The PNCC was at the forefront of many changes that were occurring in Catholic worship.

In 1901 the vernacular (language of the people) was used for the first time when Holy Mass was celebrated in Polish.



In 1931 an Altar facing the people was introduced.

The Word of God became a Sacrament to emphasize the importance of Holy Scripture.

Cycles of different Readings for the Sundays of the liturgical year were introduced.

Synods continue to govern the Church.

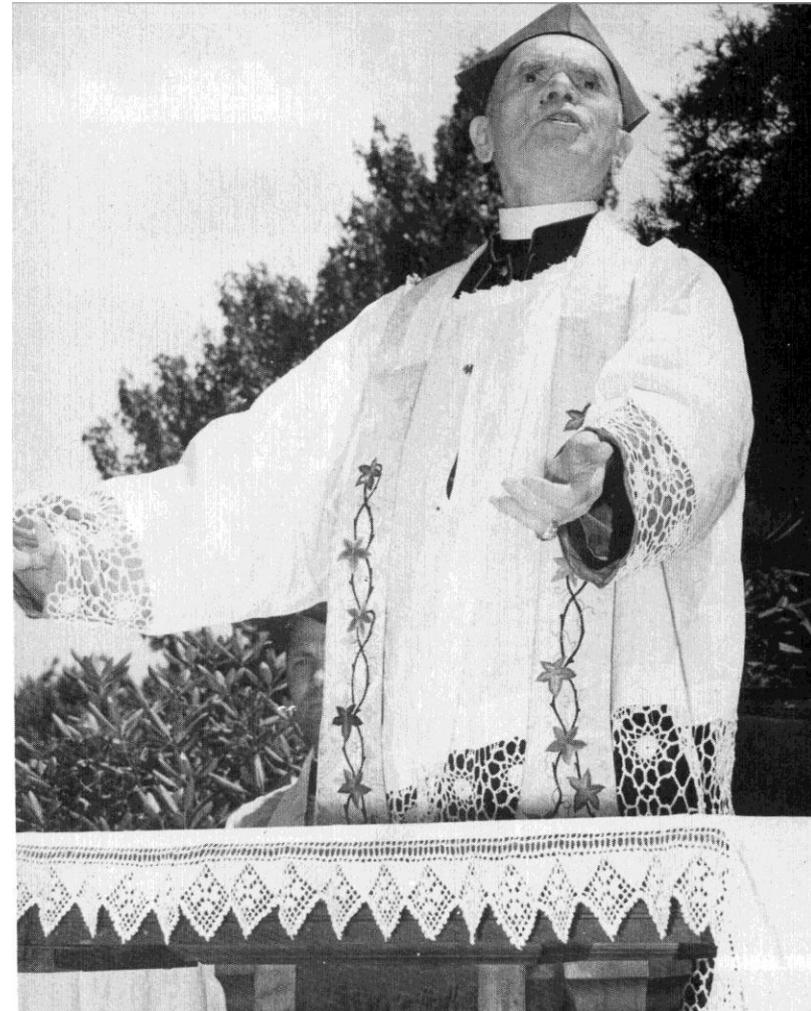
In 1909 the Word of God, heard and preached, is proclaimed a Sacrament.

In 1913 the Confession of Faith of the PNCC is accepted and proclaimed.

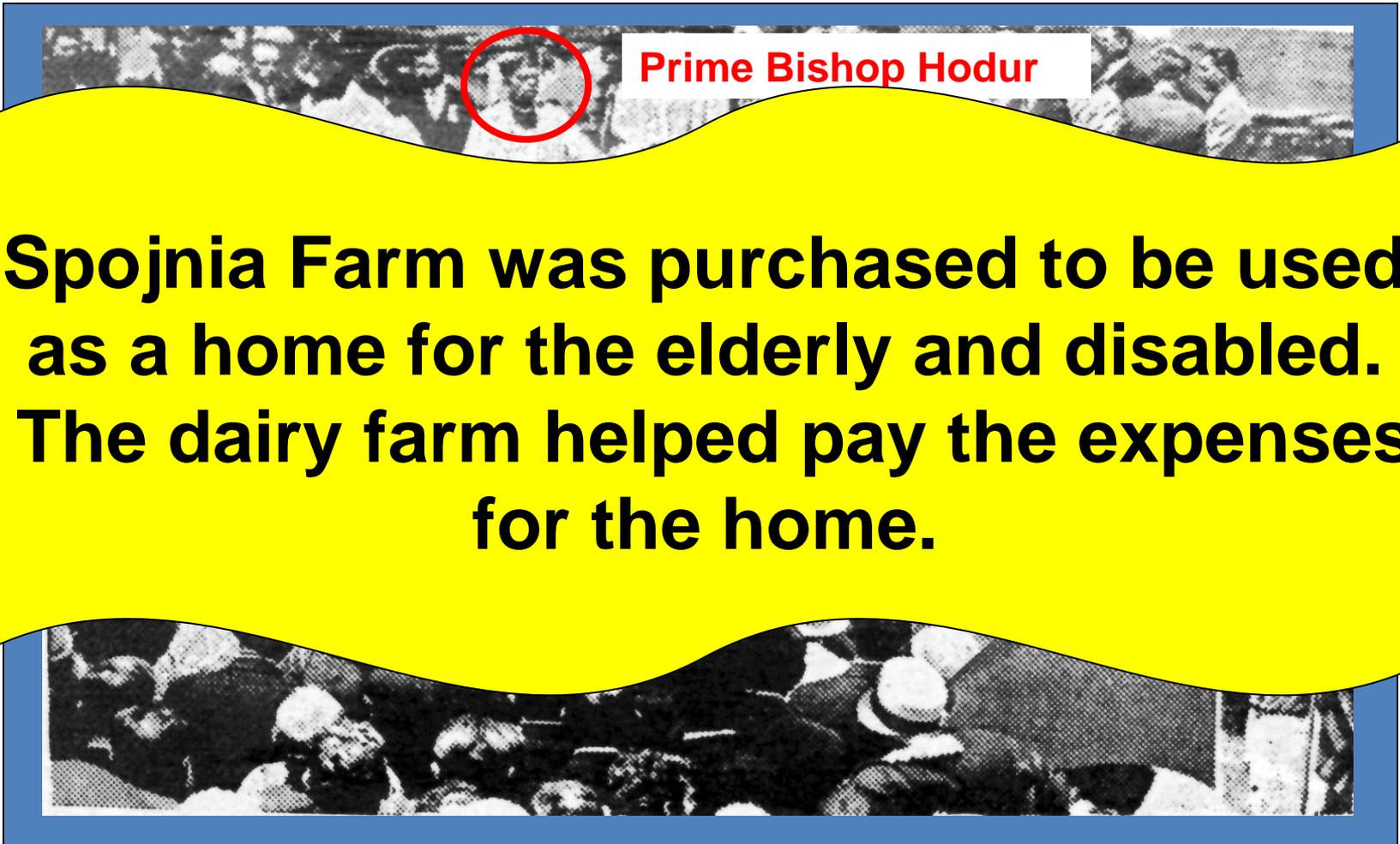
Feast days are added:

- Feast of Brotherly Love (1906)
- Feast of Institution of PNCC(1914)
- Feast of the Christian Family (1914)

In 1921 mandatory celibacy for clergy is abolished. Priests are now permitted to marry.



The Church cares for the Elderly



Prime Bishop Hodur

Spojnia Farm was purchased to be used as a home for the elderly and disabled. The dairy farm helped pay the expenses for the home.

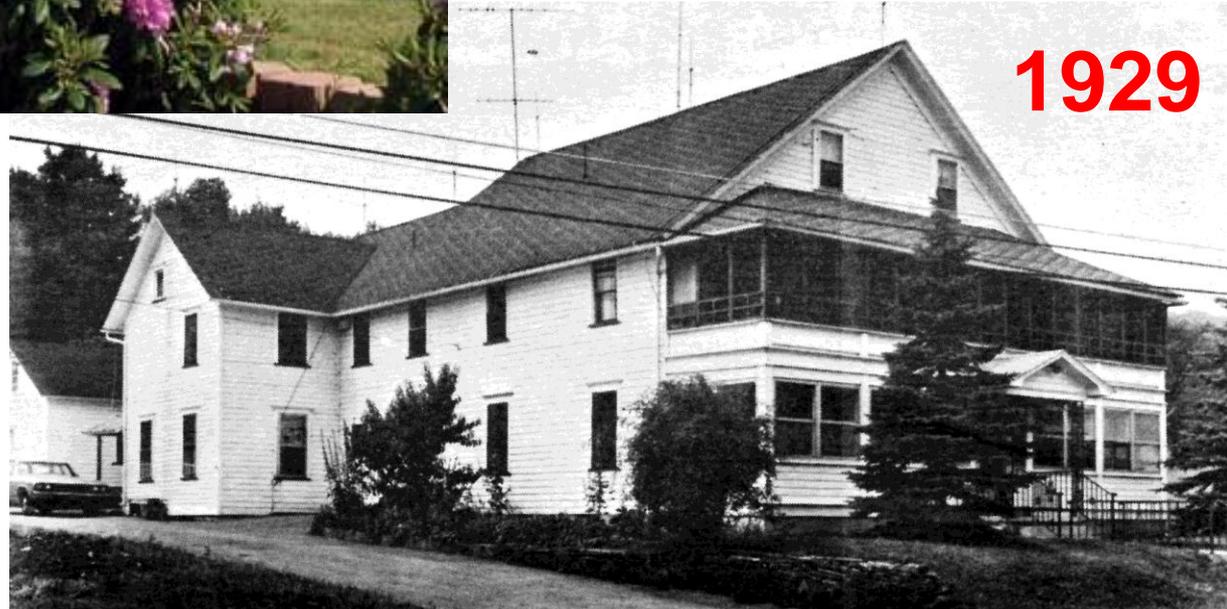
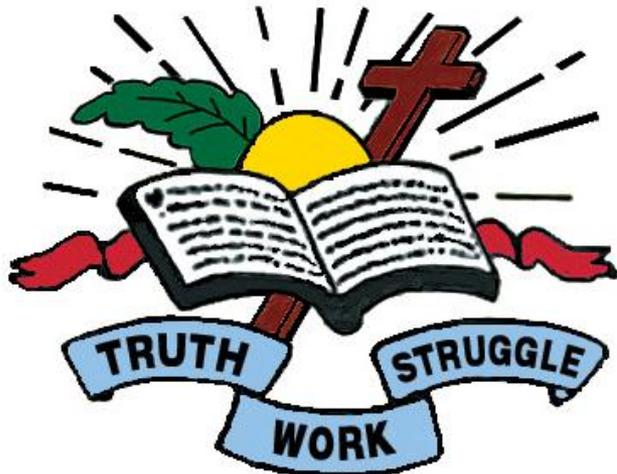
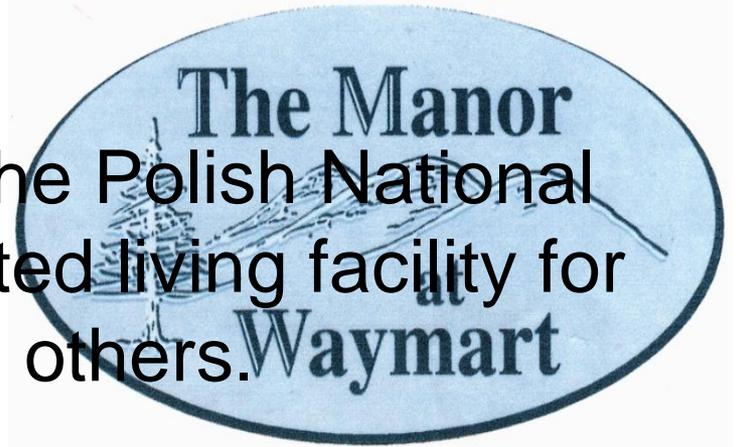
In 1929 Prime Bishop Francis Hodur blesses the Spojnia Farm property in Waymart, PA.

The Church cares for the Elderly

Today



Since 1929 the Church and the Polish National Union have provided an assisted living facility for their members and others.



The Church cares for its Youth



**This tradition is
still observed today.**

Prime Bishop Hodur blesses the fire at the beginning of the marathon run for the annual Track and Field Meet.

The Church cares for its Youth



The Church cares for its Youth



The Church cares for its Youth



The Church has extended far beyond this with the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center,

The Church cares for its Youth



as well as National Youth Convocations,

The Church cares for its Youth



Diocesan Youth Retreats

The Church cares for its Youth



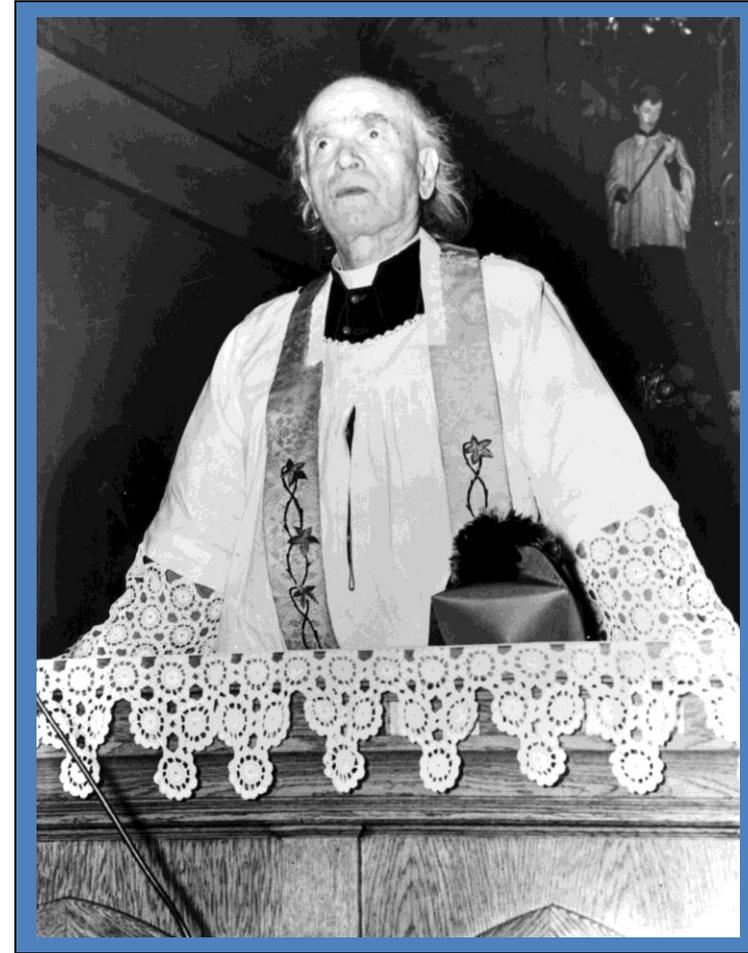
and KURS (Summer camp for the youth of the Church).

A Transition

On February 16, 1953 Prime Bishop Francis Hodur died at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Rectory in Scranton, PA.

The Church he organized did not die with him.

The Polish National Catholic Church is strong in its Faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and in its assertion that the rights of all God's people must be respected and preserved.



**Last photograph
of
Bishop Hodur**

Prime Bishops of the Church

1907 - 1953	Prime Bishop Francis Hodur
1953 - 1969	Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski
1969 - 1978	Prime Bishop Thaddeus Zielinski
1978 - 1986	Prime Bishop Francis Rowinski
1986 - 2002	Prime Bishop John Swantek
2002 - 2010	Prime Bishop Robert Nemkovich

Leading the Church Today

The National Church Center



This center coordinates
is the administrative
PNCC activities that are
headquarters of the PNCC.
continuing the legacy of

As of the year 2010 Prime Bishop Robert
Nemkovich fulfills the role that Prime Bishop Hodur
originally had as leader of the PNCC.

OH

MO

FL

CO

Quebec



Italy

NH

Ontario

RI



IL

Bishop Hodur's vision

NJ

continues to live through

NY

the people joined in faith in

all PNCC parishes.

CT

PA

MN

MI

MA

TX



CA

IN



Manitoba

WI

MD



The Church Today

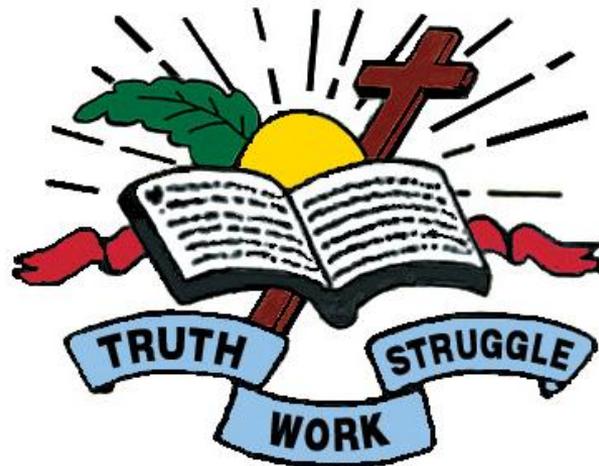
Today others continue to carry on the work of the
Polish National Catholic Church:

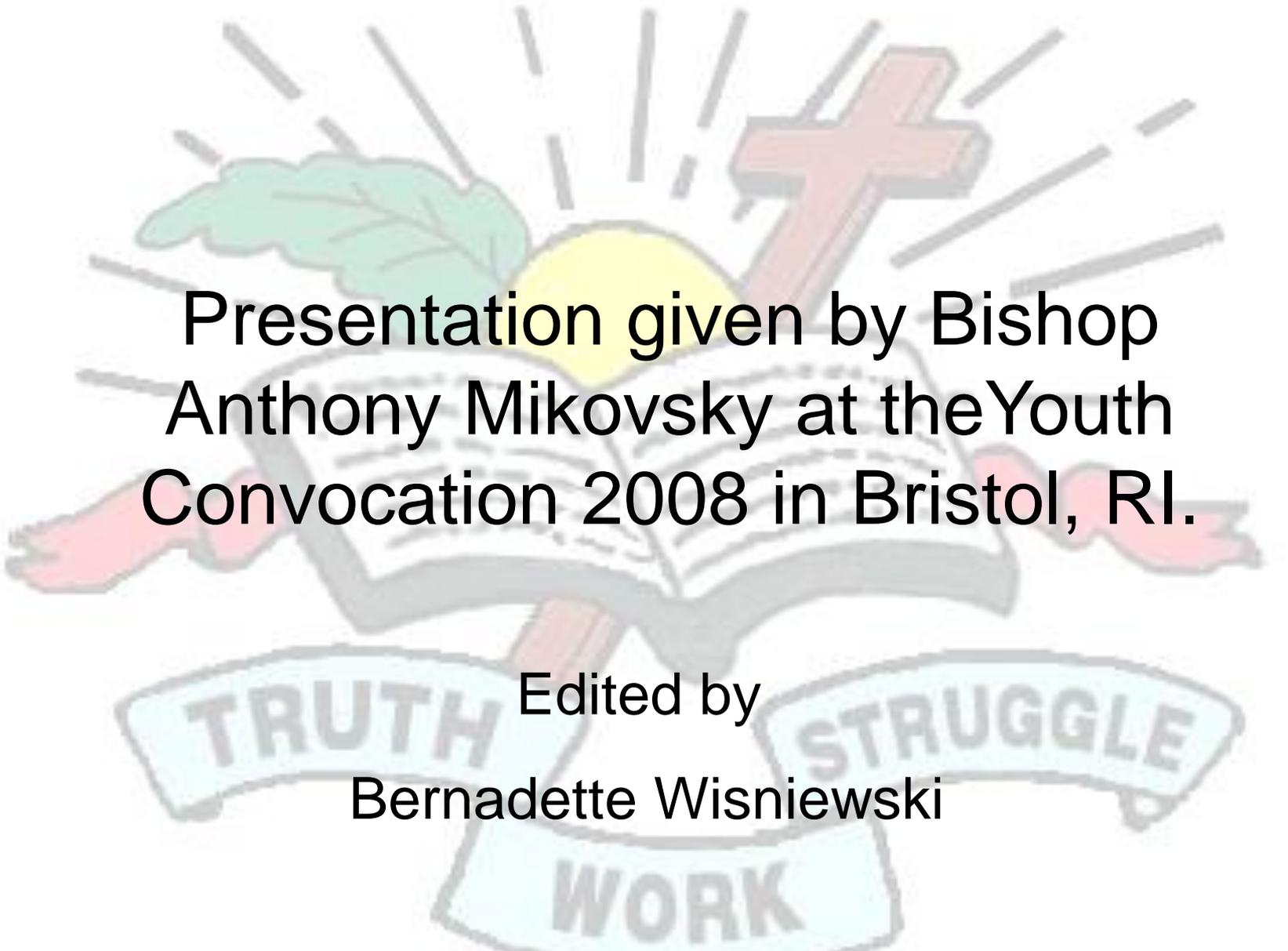
Our Clergy - Prime Bishop,

Bishops, Priests and Deacons,

Our Faithful - members who work and strive
to build up the Kingdom of God in our
parishes, and

YOU!





Presentation given by Bishop
Anthony Mikovsky at the Youth
Convocation 2008 in Bristol, RI.

Edited by
Bernadette Wisniewski