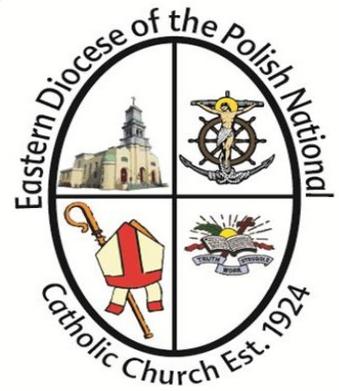
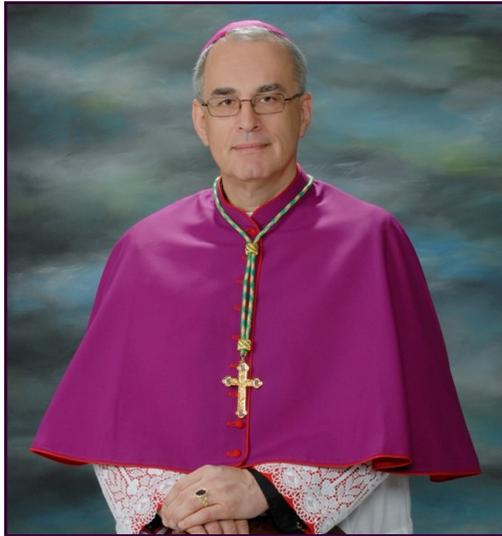


THE MESSENGER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Eastern Diocese
of the Polish National Catholic Church



CONTENTMENT



... *“Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me.”*

Philippians 4:11-13, NRSV

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what He has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” *Ephesians 2:8 - 10, NRSV*

In a pandemic world people are asking; When do things open up? What can we do now? Where do we go from here? How do I keep my loved ones safe? How do I keep safe? What’s going to happen to my savings? How will I make ends meet? When will I go back to work? Will I go back to work? When can I go to Holy Mass? When can I receive Holy Communion? What will happen to my family? to my Church family? Can I trust what I’m being told?

These are all difficult questions that we’ve posed to ourselves. And I’m sure there are many more questions we want answers for. Our parish, our diocese, the general Church also is asking and analyzing how we deal with Ecclesiology (the study of “being Church”) in new and different ways. And how can we tell if we’re doing what is right?

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That is why I shared the above two Scripture passages with you. These Scripture passages remind us that (1) God is always in control. (2) He has saved us through faith. And (3) this knowledge can be absolutely relied on. Hence we can echo the words of Saint Paul and “*be **content** with whatever [we] have.*”

Read the words of Saint Paul to the Philippians (first reading) again. Consider - Saint Paul, with all that he experienced in his life, experienced **contentment**.

Contentment is not a word I’ve heard spoken a lot these past three months. But I believe it is a word, indeed a state of being that we should learn and should begin practicing in our individual lives.

The website dictionary.cambridge.org defines **contentment** as: happiness and satisfaction, often because you have everything you need.

As Christians, we are called to be **content**.

Consider Paul’s life after his being confronted by Jesus on the Damascus Road (Acts 9) to his final martyr’s death in Rome years later. It is hard for the average person to imagine that someone who had suffered as much as Saint Paul (see 2 Corinthians 11:21-33) could be **content**. In the second excerpt from Ephesians Saint Paul tell us that our faith is a gift to us from Jesus Christ our Lord. His gift of faith has made us the Christian men and women that we are. And Saint Paul focuses on the point that **God prepared beforehand to be our way of life**.

So Saint Paul is content in all situations because he understands that God is in control and that he has a purpose for not only himself, but that God has a purpose for all of us. Saint Paul did not know this right from the start. Rather he learned it by experiencing God in his life. “*I have learned to be content with whatever I have... I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. Paul learned that he could do all things and endure all things “through Him Who strengthens me.”*”

The Polish National Catholic Church is a family of like-minded Christians who have chosen to walk their Christian walk in the manner we find in this Ecclesial community. We are neither better nor worse than other Ecclesial communities. For us this Church reflects our best expression of the relationship with our Lord God, One in the Holy Trinity.

This Church has survived all the perils that the world posed over the past one hundred twenty-three years. We’ve survived the Spanish Flu, Two World Wars, and the many military engagements that have touched the lives of her faithful, to the point of death in some cases. The Church has survived natural disasters over this time and other pandemics that had also affected its people. The Church has survived the challenge of Communism that opposed it in Poland and continues to survive the challenges against it by our increasingly secular world.

The Church survives because “*...this is not [our] own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what He has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works...*”

And we will survive into the future, if we understand the relationship we have to God. We will have an Altar Server Retreat this month. We will have a scouting camporee. We will celebrate Vespers at the Cathedral of the Pines after the Fourth of July. We will have a Youth Retreat in some form this August. We will have our Diocesan Synod in October. We will have our Clergy Retreat in November. And we will carry on the work of the God we serve, One in the Holy Trinity, in our General Church, in our Diocese, in our seniorates and parishes. And we will carry on the work God puts before us individually, as Disciples of Christ Jesus, Our Lord.

The difficult questions that we are posing to ourselves at this time can be answered once we begin to realize our relationship to God and the **contentment** we find in Him. In our contentment we will be able to address these questions with a new, Christian reality.

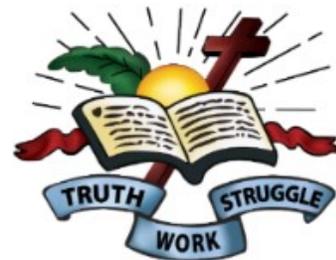
And in all of this, no matter the challenges, no matter the setbacks, no matters the barriers we perceive set before us, we will accomplish all of God's Will "...***through Him Who strengthens [us].***"

We will experience the **contentment** that only God can provide. We will be at peace as Saint Paul was. Faced with the Covid 19 virus, we will be content. In the middle of an economic upheaval, we will be content. As the world challenges and attacks our Church, our faith, we will be content.

A final quote, to perhaps sum up this meditation and to underline the hope we have for the present and the future, "***I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!***" John 16: 33, NRSV

Bishop Paul

The Resolutions of the 25th General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church



Whereas, we the delegates to the 25th General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church - representatives of the holy People of God - have convened under the leadership of our Prime Bishop and Bishops at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine in Belleville, IL, from October 1 through October 3, 2018.

Whereas, we were strengthened, nourished and enlightened by our Lord Jesus Christ, truly present in our midst through Word and Sacrament at the Holy Mass concelebrated by our Prime Bishop, Bishops and Clergy, and understand it as the most important aspect of the great work of these days;

Whereas, we offer our gratitude to the Western Diocese of the Church, under the leadership of Bishop Bilinski, and those who assumed the responsibilities of planning and carrying out this Holy Synod;

Whereas, we acknowledge the courageous presence and active participation of the gathered delegates, as we proclaim that the Mission of the Church has been entrusted to her members of all ages, each called to pursue lives of holiness as Disciples of Jesus Christ and to invite others to do likewise;

Whereas, we recognize the foundation that was laid at the 24th General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church regarding our Future Direction and celebrate the many diligent efforts to build upon this within our Dioceses and Parishes over the last four years, in pursuing true Regeneration of spirit, mind and heart; by seeking to engender deeper Reverence for God and our neighbors; by willingly Recommitting ourselves to undertaking the work of the Church within our Parishes, and faithfully striving to welcome all of these virtues into the daily lives of our Families;

Whereas, we have again considered with renewed enthusiasm and rekindled creativity the Future Direction of our beloved Church by continuing to reflect upon the meaning of Growth with regard to its Membership, the continual need for Increased Spirituality and the value of Lifelong Learning for its members of all ages, the ongoing pursuit of personal holiness as the means of enabling joyful responses to God's call to Sacred Vocations, and the need to further enhance our Community Involvement and Presence;

We, therefore, resolve to fervently ask that God the Father, through the prayers of Our Lady of the Snows, may bring forth abundant fruit from the proceedings of this 25th General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church, to seek grace and strength from our Lord Jesus Christ to embrace the work he has entrusted to our care, and to knock so that the Holy Spirit will open and inflame our hearts so that we may return to our parishes inspired to execute the work of this Synod, firm in our Catholic faith, anchored by hope and motivated by charity, unwaveringly committed as members of the Polish National Catholic Church, charged to boldly proclaim the Gospel at all times, in all places and to all people through our words, our actions and our lives of holiness, and more certain than ever that "With truth, work and struggle, we shall succeed!"

Respectfully submitted this day, October 3, 2018, by the Resolution Committee of the 25th General Synod of Polish National Catholic Church.

Christopher Cremean (Western Diocese); Marilyn Folcik (Eastern Diocese); Rebecca Kotula (Central Diocese) and Rev. Dr. Scott J. Lill (Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese)

DISCIPLESHIP

2020

PNCC



DISCIPLESHIP: 2020

PNCC FUTURE DIRECTION - ACTION PLAN FOR PNCC PARISHES BASED ON THE EFFORTS OF THE 24TH & 25TH PNCC GENERAL SYNODS

Continue to develop and emphasize Discipleship through 2020: *Our purpose is to strengthen all members in their following of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This will give us a better sense of ourselves as the Church. During 2020 we will examine the lives of some of the early disciples of our Lord and their discipleship virtues to see what we can learn from them and apply to our daily living. Please see the monthly Future Direction messages regarding this effort with reflections for living this out daily.*

Questions for Reflection each month: Name a few important “discipleship qualities” that the figure(s) demonstrate? Which one would you personally like to better emulate? How can you begin to practically do so in your daily life?

These questions could also be used in the parish for a monthly adult reflection session on the figure(s) noted below.

JANUARY – JOHN THE BAPTIST: FORTITUDE, HUMILITY

Matthew 3:1-17; John 1:15-36, 3:22-30

Reflection Question: John the Baptist called others to repent and prepare for the Lord Jesus. How can you, as a disciple, help others take their relationship with our Lord more seriously?

Begin planning/implementation of the Parish Assessment

FEBRUARY – SIMEON AND ANNA IN THE TEMPLE: PIETY, COMPASSION

Luke 2:22-38

Reflection Question: Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah and told others in the Temple about Him. Can you come up with 2 practical ways by which you can do the same?

Schedule Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

MARCH – MARTHA AND MARY OF BETHANY: PRAYERFULNESS, SERVICE

Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-45

Reflection Question: Martha and Mary together give us a balanced model of the aspects of our discipleship. Do you have this same balance of prayer and service in your daily life? What can you do to achieve it?

Schedule Mass for Healing

Schedule and conduct Lenten Retreat

APRIL – MARY MAGDALENE: FAITHFULNESS, FORTITUDE

Luke 8:1-3; Mark 15:33-47; John 20:1-18

Reflection Question: Mary Magdalene was faithful to our Lord even at the foot of the Cross and so Jesus rewarded her with being the first witness to his Resurrection. How can you better follow her example of unconditional faithfulness to Christ in your own life?

MAY – ST. PETER: HUMILITY, TRUST

Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 26:31-35; John 21:1-19

Reflection Question: Peter did not feel worthy to accept the Lord's call and he was right. Yet, he followed and Jesus used him to boldly proclaim the Gospel to others and to give the greatest witness in his martyrdom. How can you overcome your own sense of unworthiness and embrace God's great plan for you?

Schedule Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

JUNE – SAINTS JAMES AND JOHN: SONS OF THUNDER, APOSTLES OF LOVE

Mark 3:13-19; Luke 9:28-36; Matthew 20:20-28

Reflection Question: Jesus taught the "Sons of Thunder" that true honor and greatness come from putting the needs of others before your own and becoming a servant. Do you sometimes do things so that others will see you doing them instead of doing them out of love? How can you better learn the lesson that James and John learned as disciples of Jesus?

Remember Clergy Appreciation Weekend & Sacred Vocations Month

JULY – ST. PAUL: REPENTANCE, FORTITUDE AND SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE

Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-20; Romans 8:18-27; 2 Tim 4:1-8

Reflection Question: Paul understood the sacrifices that had to be made for the sake of the Gospel and he willingly made them. Have you ever been called to sacrifice something as a disciple of Jesus? How can you prepare this month to be able to give up things of the world for the sake of the Eternal Kingdom of God?

Schedule Mass for those Grieving

AUGUST – THE CANAANITE WOMAN: PERSISTENCE, HUMILITY

Matthew 15:21-31

Reflection Question: The Canaanite Woman persisted in her request for healing even when Jesus tested her faith. How do you respond when you petition the Lord through prayer but don't receive an immediate response?

SEPTEMBER – ST. BARNABAS: GENEROSITY, FORTITUDE

Acts 4:32-37, 9:22-27, 14:8-20, 15:1-29

Reflection Question: Barnabas was called "son of encouragement" by the Apostles. In what ways can you follow his example and encourage others this month on their own journeys as disciples of Jesus?

Schedule Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

OCTOBER – THE HOLY THEOTOKOS: HUMILITY, GENTLENESS, COMPASSION AND EVERY VIRTUE

Luke 1:26-56, 2:1-19; John 19:25-30; Acts 1:13-14, 2:1-4

Reflection Question: The Mother of God is the first and greatest disciple of her Son, faithful from the Annunciation to the Ascension and then still prayerfully present with the Church at Pentecost. How can you better emulate her consistent faithfulness to God when faced with both great sorrows and times of joy?

NOVEMBER – ST. MATTHEW: SELF DISCIPLINE

Matthew 9:1-13, 10:1-42; Matthew 5:1-12, 25:31-46

Reflection Question: When Jesus called Matthew the tax collector to follow Him, he did so despite what others said about him. Have you ever been the one to deem someone else unworthy of being a disciple of Jesus in some way? How can you overcome such perceptions and instead help strengthen others in their discipleship?

Schedule Mass and Breakfast for those who serve

Schedule Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

Report of the Parish Assessment

DECEMBER – ST. JOSEPH – PROTECTOR OF THE LORD: OBEDIENCE, TRUST, PATIENCE

Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-23; Luke 2:39-52

Reflection Question: St. Joseph was obedient to the will of the Father even when asked to do some very difficult things. Have you struggled to embrace God's will for your life in the past? How can you spiritually prepare to more fully surrender your life as a disciple of Jesus?

Schedule and conduct Advent Retreat/Penitential Service

PARISH ASSESSMENT – PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL

Steady and lasting *Growth* in “readiness” to reach out and welcome others to our Church and Parishes.

What and how will it be done: Focus on two project areas for parishes to systematically put their house in order both physically and spiritually. Some parishes are better maintained than others, but no parish is ever complete. Just as in our own spiritual lives there is always room for improvement, and we are never complete. We must keep moving forward in some way.

Phase 1: The outcomes of this phase would be twofold: first, the plan itself and then the actual execution of the plan resulting in improved grounds and church building.

Phase 2: The outcomes of this phase would also be twofold: first, the assessment and plan itself and then the actual execution of the plan resulting in improved (or at least confirmed satisfactory state of) the liturgical life of the parish.

Final outcome: Parishes with increased internal readiness that leads out to external growth in membership; feeling a sense of humble and grateful pride at what God had helped them accomplish and a growing sense of healthy confidence that they are truly ready to welcome others who are seeking a spiritual home.

This is really grounded in the observation that perhaps we are not as ready as we might think to welcome new growth in membership and the notion that every parish can and must continue to improve itself.

SPECIAL MASSES

Again have at least two Special Masses and open them to the community. This would be in addition to our Sunday Mass. During Lent have a Mass for Healing and invite all those who are ill, hurting spiritually or emotionally to attend and spend time in prayer, to hear God's Word and receive Christ in the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Anointing. Use the Mass for Healing during Lent – this will be emailed to all clergy as a reminder at the beginning of Lent.

In the fall (November) have a Mass to Salute those who Serve - for your first responders/those in military service and Veterans. This Mass could be followed by a meal to honor those who serve/who have served. You could also have a Mass in time of tragedy when the need may arise in your community or our nation. These could be followed by a time of fellowship and food at the parish.

You could also schedule a Mass for those grieving anytime during the Church Liturgical Year.

Welcome the community to these Masses by promoting them in your local media and newspaper, as well as fliers and social media. Invite other local groups to join you for these Masses.

CONTINUE THE BUSINESS FREE ZONE

For 10-15 minutes prior to the celebration of Holy Mass have a time where the pastor is unavailable for Church business and that no other things are being discussed but a focus on the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. This will continue to bring an enhanced spirituality and reverence for the Eucharist to our parishes. Encourage use of the introductory pages of the Mass booklet – *especially page 8* as well as prayers from our Prayer Book preparing for Holy Mass and Confession.

CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Short two minutes messages by various members speaking to our Year of Discipleship on YouTube. Continue to post monthly messages to our Facebook page and videos to YouTube and ask our members to share them. We hope more will be reached and encouraged to participate in these efforts. Parishes should have a presence of Social Media to promote their Special Masses and events. Consider streaming Holy Mass live on the internet and use these tools to promote the work of the parish. Pastors are also encouraged to record and share their Masses and Para Liturgical Services.

ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION

WINE AND CHEESE CLUB OR SOUP, SANDWICH AND SERMON

Continue to gather for adult education and formation in our Christian Catholic faith. Perhaps you could use the questions for reflection from the monthly figures for 2020 above. This can be done via the Soup, Sandwich and Sermon Concept, Wine and Cheese Gatherings concept (based on the Pub Theology: Beer, Conversation and God), using a Book Club format or even via online.

TWO DAYS OF SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Lent and one other (Advent) Pick a day during the seasons of Lent and one other time in 2020 to spend in retreat and prayer. This can be done on either a parish or seniorate level. Ideas for the Retreat include: Mass of the Day, special Lenten/Advent service of Penance, Scripture Readings/Reflections and Meditations, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament; For Lent: Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Lamentations, etc. This can be open and advertised to the local community.

COMPLETE AT LEAST SIX COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

It is important that the six projects be done in the local community of the parish so that these efforts will create a greater presence of the parish in the community.

Various options include but are not limited to: blood drives, a project to aid an assisted living facility, or other care facility i.e. nursing home, group home; volunteering for a special needs event; having a Mass or event for your local widow's group; aiding a family crisis center, food drives, serving a free meal for the community, providing a community breakfast/meal for First Responders – for Veterans; prayer blanket ministry, clothing drive for the community, sponsoring a local family in need, and/or responding to a particular need in the local community, etc.

The 5 Themes for the Future Direction of our Holy Church from the 24th PNCC General Synod and further expanded upon at the 25th PNCC General Synod

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| I. Growth and Membership | II. Increase Spirituality |
| III. Lifelong Learning | IV. Sacred Vocations |
| V. Community Involvement | |

RESOLUTIONS OF THE XV EASTERN DIOCESE SYNOD

OCTOBER 28-29, 2016

The XV Synod of Eastern Diocese convened October 28 -29, 2016 in Bristol, CT hosted by Holy Trinity Plantsville Ct by the authority of Right Rev Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop Ordinary of the Eastern Diocese and attended by the Most Rev Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the PNCC. The Synod began with Holy Mass at Holy Trinity Parish celebrated by Bishop Sobiechowski and concelebrated by the clergy of the Eastern Diocese. Through our deliberations, we learned and discussed the following:

Whereas, we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Bishop Hodur by celebrating the Hodurian mass and receiving two presentations dedicated to the life and ideals of Bishop Hodur: the Convo2016 Video Presentation on the Life of Bishop Francis Hodur by the youth of the PNCC and the presentation on the life of Bishop Hodur by Prime Bishop Mikovsky and;

Whereas, we acknowledge the dedicated and ongoing work of the Future Direction Sub-Committee of the Supreme Council as they pursue the themes defined by the 14th General Synod: Growth and Membership, Increased Spirituality, Lifelong Learning, Sacred Vocations, and Community Involvement and Presence

Whereas, through the work of the Committee of Twenty and the small group discussions, the Synod body agreed to focus their attention on young adults between ages of 16 to 35 and to reach this audience through the following overarching goals:

- Increase awareness of our church through all social media outlets addressing
 - Our founding principles and beliefs
 - Bishop Hodur and his progressive ideas
 - The spiritual needs of these young adults
 - Provide clarity on our Catholic faith

From our Parishes:

**Holy Trinity Cathedral
Manchester, NH**



- As with all of our parishes the COVID19 has affected the way we conduct activities at our parish; activities have been canceled and Bishop has held mass to an empty congregation. Fortunately, we have Luke Sobiechowski who has videotaped our masses so that they may be put on YouTube for everyone to view.
- On March 7th the cathedral held the first of the two Lenten Retreats in our diocese. It was well represented by parishioners of various parishes. Mass was held, interactive presentations were given, lunch was provided and the Stations of the Cross were read. It was a very spiritual day.



- Bishop Paul anointing the sick at the last mass in the cathedral before the virus has temporarily changed our lives.



- Bishop Paul preparing the palms for Palm Sunday. Palms were placed outside the cathedral so that parishioners could drive up to the cathedral and have no contact when receiving palms.



- Chrism mass with the blessing of the oils on April 6, 2020.



- The ANS meeting which was to be held in Fall River was done via Zoom. Our delegates along with Bishop, were in our craft room attending the meeting.



- The Saturday before Memorial Day parishioners volunteered to place United States flags on graves at our cemetery to honor our veterans for Memorial Day.



- Memorial Day mass celebrated at our cemetery.
- Pentecost Mass celebrated on May 31st. The red vestments blessed before the Mass were a gift to the cathedral from Father Christian Tutor of All Saints Anglican Church in Concord NH. Father Tutor led a retreat and training for women leaders of his diocese at our cathedral.



- As a parish we had decided to participate in “40 items in 40 days” during Lent. Before Lent began, we gave parishioners large bags for them to place unwanted clothing, one piece for every day of Lent. Even though masses were not held during a good portion of Lent, we were able to donate 27 bags of clothing to the Salvation Army.



- On June 7th we were able to hold Sunday mass in church with parishioners in attendance. Bishop Paul received and blessed his new violet chasuble and stole which was donated by our parish's ANS organization in memory of their long-standing past president, Louise Kos.



- Clergy Appreciation Day was also celebrated at the end of mass on June 7th. Ray Pieczarka, our parish chairman, presented Bishop with a token of our appreciation. Photo is of Ray and Bishop elbow bumping, after Bishop received his gift.



By Nancy Reilly

From Our Parishes...

**Discipleship Efforts Adapted this Spring
at Blessed Trinity in Fall River**



Our Lenten Season began as usual but changed quickly with the emergence of Covid-19. But even that didn't stop our parish opening up our doors for our Mayor to hold an advisory committee meeting, with social distancing, where three fine candidates for the new Police Chief in Fall River were interviewed on April 30, 2020. Fr. Sr. Rob was humbled and honored to serve on this committee for the good of our local community.



Providence Bruins Youth Outing - March 8, 2020



Prior to the virus changing our worship and calendar our parish youth attended a Providence Bruins game and had a great time - we were happy to welcome some big hockey fans Bishop Paul and Karen. Blessed Trinity hosted an active shooter training on March 10th and our Northeast Seniorate Lenten Retreat on Saturday March 14th and then our last Sunday of public worship soon followed.

We quickly adapted to the changing landscape and started to zoom! Quite honestly I never heard of Zoom - online video conferencing until Kathy suggested "you should look into this". My first reaction was "oh no" but that lasted a few hours and Zoom and Facebook Live it was. We were



able to pray together our various Lenten Services, Our Lenten Penitential Service, Meal in the Upper Room, Holy Week Services, Easter Evening Prayers and the Litany to our Blessed Mother during May all on Zoom. Our Confirmation Class, First Penance/Communion Class and SOCL classes have also been meeting via Zoom. Even our neighborhood watch continued to meet on Zoom and our mayor joined us and thanked us for our ongoing community efforts as we were the only group to not miss a monthly meeting!



1,000 masks made and delivered to health care workers & first responders during the Covid 19 pandemic

Thanks to our angels who have and are continuing to make these - God bless you! April 28, 2020 #Discipleship 2020



1000



COVID-19 RESPONSE

We immediately shifted our discipleship to meet the needs of our community - mask making ministry began as did making cards for nursing home folks who do not have any visitors and for our First Responders. To date we have made and distributed over 2,000 face masks. Thanks to Bev, Nancy, Barbara, Jim, Dave and Ryan for our amazing ongoing efforts. Masks were distributed to our local nursing homes, hospitals, First Responders (FRPD, FRFD and FREMS), SSTAR and others in need in our community.

Hundreds of cards were delivered and food and cash donations were made to help our local food pantry and others in need during this challenging time. A thank you to our parish youth who pitched in to make cards as well - Maya, Gaby, Emmy and even Charley!



Fall River Thank You for All Essential Workers II - May 6, 2020



Dinner for our Health Care Professionals at St. Anne's from a local business - God bless our Nurses some of our Angels - April 3, 2020



Thank You to our Mask Making Angels - May 24, 2020



We delivered a dinner for our nurses and health care workers at a local hospital, took part in the Food4Veterans Fall River food drive and participated in our city wide "Thank You" for all essential workers on Wednesday, May 6, 2020.

Blessed to be a part of **Food4Vets Fall River** - | April 25, 2020

With State Rep Alan Silvia, City Councilor Trott Lee & Gold Star Father Steve Xiarhos



2020 Confirmation Class Effort at Massachusetts Military Support Foundation to box meals for Veterans and Military families in need during this Covid-19 Pandemic - | May 8, 2020



Our Confirmation Class did some great community service by volunteering for the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation to pack meals for veterans and active service military families in need in Foxboro in a warehouse space donated by the Kraft Family and our New England Patriots. While we were there during our four hour shift the 2 millionth meal was packed and Fr. Sr. Rob was the one who closed it up, sealed and then held up that box! Some wonderful ways that we continued to live and adapt our discipleship during these difficult Covid 19 pandemic days.



2020 Confirmation Class Effort at Massachusetts Military Support Foundation to box meals for Veterans and Military families in need during this Covid-19 Pandemic - II May 8, 2020



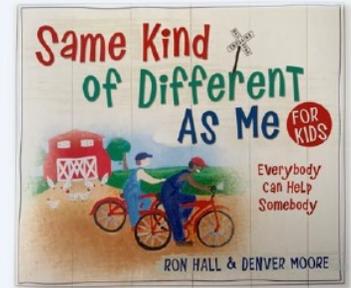
Thank you to our Cantor Laurie and welcome back to public worship - May 24, 2020



We were blessed to resume public worship on May 24, 2020! After Holy Mass with more than 50 present, Fr. Sr. Rob presented a gift to our parish cantor Laurie Dionisio to thank her for her dedication and sharing of her musical gift to enhance the worship of our parish which was enjoyed by so many throughout our church and community on Facebook.



Pentecost 2020 - a gift for our SOCL youth: "Everybody can help Somebody" - 5/31/20



Clergy Appreciation Weekend I - June 7, 2020



On Pentecost the book "Same Kind of Different as Me: Everybody can Help Somebody" was given to our parish youth to remind them we are all God's children and we can help others especially during this unsettling time. Trinity Sunday, June 7, was Clergy Appreciation Weekend and after Holy Mass parishioners and friends from the community held signs and gave a thunderous applause for their pastor - a very special moment.





Fall River Falcons is at Blessed Trinity PNCC. ...
4 hrs · Fall River, MA · 🌐

We're ready to go! We can't wait to see everyone for our first outdoor registration of the 2020 season!
... See More



We were happy to host the Fall River Falcons for their first registration of the year in our parish lot on Saturday June 13th.



On the Sunday of the Corpus Christi Octave, June 14, prior to Holy Mass five year Altar Server silver crosses were presented to Emmy, Peyton and Dylan. We thank them for their years of faithful service at the table of the Lord.





After Mass on Corpus Christi Sunday we closed our 2019-2020 SOCL year. Our School of Christian Living Students received their Certificates. Thanks to our great teachers who even in the Covid times taught remotely as well as via Zoom and to our students who continue to learn and grow in the faith.

Submitted by,
*Fr. Sr. Rob
Nemkovich*

**THANK
YOU
TEACHER!**



From Our Parishes...

Holy Cross News – Central Falls, RI



Spring did not go as we planned at Holy Cross in Central Falls due to the Covid-19 outbreak. On February 29 we held our first community soup and sandwich event with all guests coming receiving a bag of groceries too so that we can help our neighbor in need. This was to be held on the last Saturday of every month but due to the virus outbreak we had to change gears. Parishioners attended the second seniorate Lenten Retreat and then many additional Lenten and Holy Week worship services virtually via Zoom. Holy Masses were streamed on Facebook Live.

Holy Cross Community Soup, Sandwich and Groceries Outreach - Feb. 29, 2020



Holy Cross PNCC Central Falls RI
 Posted by Rob Nemkovich
 April 10 · 🌐

Holy Cross PNCC Central Falls RI was live.
 Posted by Rob Nemkovich
 April 8 · 🌐

Holy Cross PNCC Central Falls RI was live.
 Posted by Rob Nemkovich
 April 29 · 🌐

GOOD FRIDAY – LITURGY OF OUR LORD’S PASSION AND DEATH
Prepared for Parish Worship on Zoom – April 10, 2020
Blessed Trinity and Holy Cross Parishes

Lord for us, Your wounds were suffered,
 O Christ Jesus have mercy on us.

Blessed be the Holy and Undivided Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

ACT OF CONTRITION

O God, from the depth of my heart I am sorry for sinning against You. Through my sins I have turned away from You, displeased You and offended You. I promise to confess my sins, to do penance and with Your grace to amend my life by following You closely and keeping Your commandments.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, Jesus, You carried our sins in Your own body on the cross so that we might have life. May we and all who remember this day find new life in You now and in the life to come, where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

DRIVE.GOOGLE.COM
Good Friday Evening Worship 2020 on Zoom 4 10 2020.pdf

Watch together with friends or with a group **Start**

👍 14 6 Comments 7 Shares 270 Views 🌐

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Watch together with friends or with a group **Start**

👍 6 5 Comments 2 Shares 135 Views 🌐

Our Discipleship at Holy Cross adapted to the changing needs of our communities and to respond with love and help those for in need. Parishioners participated in a local drive thru food drive at which Congressman Kennedy took a moment to thank Zack for his efforts. Our parish followed suit and held a Drive Thru Food Drive on Saturday May 16th at 1 pm. This was a great success but truth be told it was more of a walk up food drive helping many in our local area from the street right in front of our church building.

Zack & Brenda working at the Attleboro Food Drive to help those in need both days - May 2 & 3, 2020

Zack thanked by Congressman Joe Kennedy - #DISCIPLESHIP 2020!!



ATTLEBORO Drive - **NEW!** FOOD DRIVE 

Saturday & Sunday
May 2ND-3RD
10:00AM-1:00PM
Senford Street, Municipal Parking Lot - Behind YMCA
Thank you! We are all in this together.



Holy Cross Central Falls - Pawtucket Walk-up/Drive-thru Food Drive I - May 16, 2020



Holy Cross Central Falls - Pawtucket Walk-up/Drive-thru Food Drive II - May 16, 2020



Our Parish also hosted the Eastern Diocese ANS Convention but not in person rather via Zoom. Thanks to Lois and Steve for doing a great presentation on our Discipleship efforts and programs at Holy Cross in Central Falls.

We were thrilled to resume public Worship on May 24th! It was so wonderful to gather again for Holy Mass to praise God and hear His Word to us.

As we have adapted to this new normal for the time being we will hold another Drive Thru - Walk Up Food Drive in front of our church building on Saturday June 20th from 10 am until 11 am or when we run out continuing to put our faith into action!

We look forward to participating in the June Altar Server Retreat and the Diocesan Youth Retreat in August.

Submitted by,
Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich

Eastern Diocese ANS Convention hosted by Holy Cross via Zoom - May 16, 2020

Thanks Lois and Steve for a great presentation on Discipleship Programs at Holy Cross!



DISCIPLESHIP
2020 PNCC

DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAMS
@ HOLY CROSS PARISH CENTRAL FALLS, RI
2020 EASTERN DIOCESE ANS CONVENTION

By: Lois Beauparlant and Steve Mendrychowski

Eastern Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church Est. 1924

PREPARED FOR THE 2020 EASTERN DIOCESE ANS CONVENTION
VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19 – MAY 16, 2020
LOIS BEAUPARLANT, STEVE MENDRYCHOWSKI & FR. SR. ROB NEMKOVICH

From our parishes...

Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI



- **Ecumenical Spirit.** Every year Our Saviour's Parish takes part in the Ecumenical Services led in Woonsocket during Lent. There are usually 5-6 different Christian Churches involved. The people in the area have the opportunity to go and participate in various liturgical services. However, due to Covid 19, our Ecumenical Service was cancelled. The parishioners could participate in two other services which were led at the Slatersville Congregational Church and at St. James Baptist Church in Woonsocket.

- **'Forty Days - Forty Items' project.** This year during Lent our parish held 'Forty Days - Forty Items' project. On Ash Wednesday and on the first Sunday of Lent the trash bags, with the guideline, were distributed to the parishioners. This year (2020) we were collecting men's clothes, shoes, soaps, detergents, toothpaste, deodorants, towels, and washclothes for the Men's Shelter in Woonsocket. The project ended earlier this year due to Covid 19 pandemic. Fr. Henryk delivered collected items to the shelter on the third week of Lent. The collection was distributed to the residents.

- **Religious Services.** Due to Covid 19 restrictions, beginning with the 4th Sunday of Lent the Stations of the Cross at Our Saviour's were led without the people. The service, however was available online at our Facebook page: **Our Saviours Parish PNCC**. Many people reach us for this service. Sunday Masses, beginning with the 4th Sunday of Lent were celebrated without people. The readings and the prayers for each Sunday and Solemnities were sent to the people via email and available on the parish Facebook page. On each Wednesday of May Fr. Henryk led May Devotions service at our church. All liturgical celebrations were streamed Live and were available on our Facebook Page. The link to the Mass was always sent to the people, so those without Facebook could reach the parish in common prayer as well.





Fr. Henryk celebrating the Liturgy of the Presanctified on Good Friday, accompanied by his daughters Berenika and Patrycja.

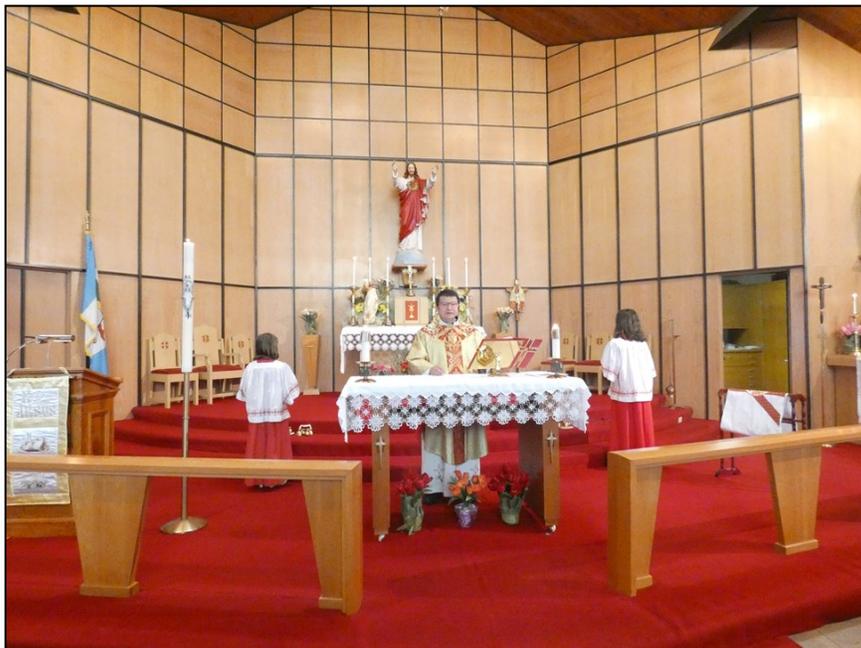


May Devotions - Mary's Altar



- **Memorial Day.** On Memorial Day a solemn Mass was celebrated in the church with intention for those who gave their lives for our country. At the end of the Mass a special prayer was offered for our heroes.

- **School of Christian Living.** Due to Covid 19 restrictions our SOCL was suspended. We plan to reopen it after vacation.



- **Daily Mass.** Beginning with the 6th Sunday of Easter, the Holy Mass at Our Saviour's Parish is celebrated every day at 8:30 a.m. The Mass is streamed live and is available on our Facebook Page. Fr. Henryk celebrates the Mass each day in different language (English, Polish, Italian, German, and Spanish).

Holy Mass on Easter Day. Fr. Henryk accompanied by his daughters Patrycja and Sara.

- Our Parish Community supports all its members in this difficult time for us all. Mrs. Christine and Mrs. Carol Bibeault send cards to those parishioners who are alone to support them. Other parishioners also try to contact each other via post cards and telephone calls. This is the sign of brotherly love and Christian spirit.

- On Sunday, June 7th, on Clergy Appreciation Sunday, Father Henryk was appreciated by the parish at the end of the Mass. Mr. Gerry Ethier, the chairman of Our Saviour's read a beautiful reflection and wished Fr. Henryk many blessings.

- On Thursday, May 7, 2020 on the National Day of Prayer Fr. Henryk Wos and the leaders from several religious denominations participated in a "Blessing over the



City" event. Pastors and priest travelled to the top of the Cornerstone building where they were joined by the Mayor of Woonsocket Lisa Baldelli - Hunt, and prayed together for the welfare of the city during Covid 19.

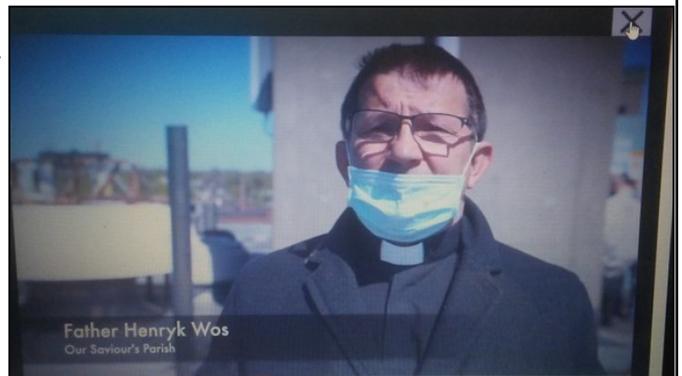


The **REV. HENRIK WOS** of Our Savior Polish National Catholic Church prays during the "Blessing Over the City."



together for the welfare of the city during Covid 19.

The event was published in the local newspapers and a video was made. To see the articles and video of this event go to the links below:



For article: https://www.woonsocketcall.com/.../article_5f3a2f34-8ff0-11ea...

For video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=rMuGLtAaGfY>



Back in the Church on the Solemnity of Pentecost....



Congratulations to the Parishioners of Our Saviour's who graduated this year!

We would like to offer congratulations to our recent graduates! May God be with you and bless you on all of your future endeavors.

- Berenika Vos graduated from Woonsocket High School, as a member of RI Honor Society and she will be continuing her studies in the Engineering Program at CCRI.
- Michael Jeffrey Ethier graduated from North Smithfield High School as Class President and will attend Michigan State University majoring in Saxophone Performance.
- Eric Christopher Ethier graduated from Providence College, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and American studies. He has obtained a position at Chisholm, Chisholm & Kilpatrick Law firm in Providence RI as a claims advocate and Paralegal.
- Christopher Lawrence Forbes earned a Masters of Music in Saxophone Performance from Northwestern University in Chicago Illinois with plans of pursuing a Doctorate Degree.

By Fr. Henryk Was

From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA

Not much has been happening at Holy Trinity Parish in Webster due to the ongoing pandemic.

A few of the ladies of the parish have taken to making and distributing masks to nursing homes and a local charity called the Blessed Backpack Brigade. This organization provides guidance and support for the local homeless, elderly, disabled and impoverished people. They also provide meals twice monthly to those in need. During these food distributions we have donated over 100 masks. This has provided a wonderful opportunity for us to give back to the community and to get our church information out to the public.



Holy Trinity looks forward to restarting our monthly community outreach breakfast and hope to host a car wash in the near future.

Be safe and God Bless,

By Rita Ouellette, chairperson

From our parishes...

St. Joseph's Parish – Stratford, CT



Barely had we celebrated Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent when the virulent spread of virus began. Even before the official shelter-in-place directives were given, parishioners exercised great caution in their interactions with others. The elderly and those who were most at-risk stayed home from services. Soon afterwards, we received the orders to keep everyone home.



Father Tom began taping Mass for rebroadcast on the parish website, adding services for the Rosary and the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the week to complement what the Eastern Diocese and Prime Bishop provided for the faithful. Bulletins continued to be issued weekly, posted on the website for all to keep up on the latest news. Parishioners reached out to Father to form a list of helpers who could perform services like shopping and food delivery for those who were unable to get out.

Groceries were dropped off at the church for delivery to the local food banks. All you had to do is let Father know it was coming and leave it at the front door. We had a socially-distant blessing of Easter foods on Holy Saturday and a special blessing for mothers and mother figures on Mother's Day. Meanwhile, Father Tom resumed his work at Yale-New Haven in the COVID unit, providing comfort to those afraid and in need of spiritual reassurance. He also kept in touch with parishioners through phone calls and emails to see how everyone was holding up in isolation.



Regretfully, we lost two long-time parishioners during this time, Bill Petrino and Art Niedzielski. Although we were unable to gather as a community to celebrate their lives and mourn their passing, the weekly broadcast services remembered both men and their families. Parishioners could only express their condolences through cards, emails and phone calls.



Now that this stage of pandemic is waning, we have begun celebrating Mass together again, albeit from our cars in the church parking lot observing social distancing protocols. A local company broadcasts the Mass on a radio channel so all can hear in their cars. The weather has somewhat cooperated, giving us sunny skies both weeks, but quite a bit of wind. Our biggest interruptions have been planes taking off/landing at nearby Sikorsky Airport and a high volume of motorcyclists passing by our property out enjoying the summerlike weather.



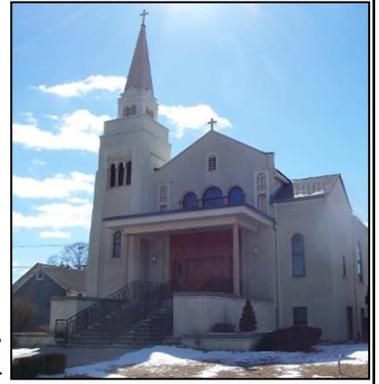
We are looking forward in anticipation to the day we can once more celebrate Mass inside our church. Events that had been planned, like the Colossal Kielbasa stand, are predictably on hold until they can be held safely for all involved.

Stay safe!

By Lisa Vasas, Music Director

From our parishes...

St. Joseph Parish, Westfield, MA



- We are excited to announce that Saint Joseph's Parish in Westfield, Massachusetts is celebrating its 100th Anniversary. A group of seven people met and formed the 100th Anniversary committee. They planned monthly breakfasts to help aid them in making the 100th celebration a time to remember. Members of the 100th Anniversary Committee are Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak, pastor and treasurer; Sandra Gil, Chairperson; Christine O'Connell, Secretary and members: Lyman Barnet, Elizabeth Paulson, Eugene Paulson and Janice Soltysiak.



⇒ The 100th Anniversary Committee. From left to right: Lyman Barnet, Christine Daniels, Janice Soltysiak, Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak, Sandy Gil, Elizabeth Paulson and Gene Paulson.

⇒ Sandra Gil, Anne Barnet and Lyman Barnet serving eggs and French toast at one of the monthly breakfasts.



⇒ Our monthly 100th Anniversary meeting at Sandra Gil's house. After the meeting, we enjoyed a delicious meal all prepared by Sandra Gil.

Here is Lyman Barnet working on a project for the town's festival.



Pictured: Gene Paulson, Host, Sandra Gil, Fr. Sr. Joseph and Chris O'Connell.



- Our newly purchased banner, which will be hung on the front of the church.



- Mrs. Wanda Palmer turned 90 years young and we helped her celebrate her birthday. Fr. Sr. Joseph in the background getting the crowd ready to sing happy birthday.



- Helen Brzys and Edward Brzys. Helen also celebrated her birthday with us. Her 86th birthday.

- The Men's Club held a Church Picnic in January. The parishioners were treated to hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings. The meal ended with a s'more type dessert. Pictured: Dan Carpenter, Curtis Yetton and Lyman Barnet.



- The President of St. Joseph's Men's Club, Mr. Clifford Lajewski.

- Marie Quinn and Jane Carpenter, twins sisters making breakfast for our parishioners.



- The 100th Anniversary Kick Off Breakfast! As entertainment we had a game of Bingo with wonderful prizes to be won. The breakfast consisted of: Sausage, bacon, pancakes, home fries, croissants, juice, coffee and tea.
- Pictured: Michael Sittard, Our organist, Collin Taylor, A student, Fr. Sr. Joseph and Kathy Taylor, parish committee member.



- We had a great crowd attend our KickOff Breakfast.
- Pictured: Betty Paulson, Gene Paulson, Tom Gil, Edward Brysz, and Nancy Osowski.

- Every Year St. Joseph's has a Food collection at Thanksgiving and again at Christmas. We also adopt a few families.
- The Westfield Salvation Army is now located in our Social Center. We are proud to have them here.

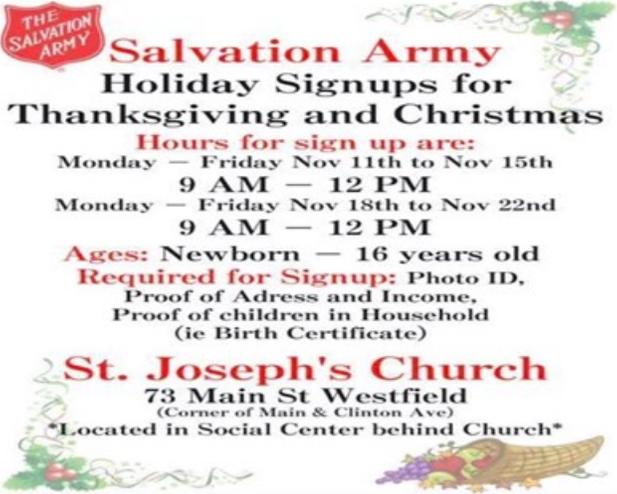


Salvation Army
Holiday Signups for Thanksgiving and Christmas

Hours for sign up are:
 Monday – Friday Nov 11th to Nov 15th
 9 AM – 12 PM
 Monday – Friday Nov 18th to Nov 22nd
 9 AM – 12 PM

Ages: Newborn – 16 years old
Required for Signup: Photo ID,
 Proof of Address and Income,
 Proof of children in Household
 (ie Birth Certificate)

St. Joseph's Church
 73 Main St Westfield
 (Corner of Main & Clinton Ave)
 Located in Social Center behind Church





- Father Joe visiting the School of Christian Living, the 8 am Class. December 2019.



- The 10:30 am School of Christian Living class.

- Katlyn Rowell, Rosalyn Rowell and Grandpa Daniels. Future S.O.C.L student...Rosalyn.

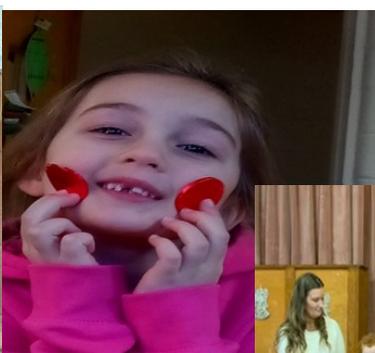
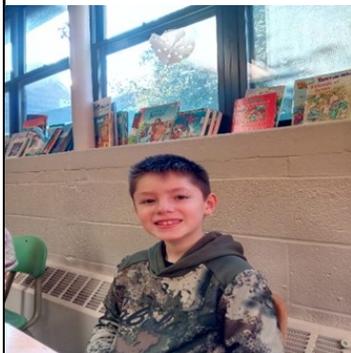


- Oplatek Dinner and Play was held on Sunday, January 5, 2020. The Play was Polish Christmas Traditions.



- Aiden Soltysiak was the narrator. The other children acted it out. They sang a few songs. All the children did a wonderful job and hopefully Polish traditions were learned as well.
- Our Birthday Party for Jesus. The cake was made by Susan Pretola.

- Lil' Miss Isabella stole the show with her rendition of Twinkle, Twinkle.



- Happy Birthday Jesus Program: Aiden was the only child who could read, so it was his job to read. Father Joe led us in song. The children served the cake to all in attendance.

Mr. Collin

Miss Ava



- All Star Dance Holiday Show was held December 29, 2019. Entrance fee was a non-perishable food item. This generous donation of a full truck load was donated to Westfield Food Pantry. Mrs. Kim Starsiak, is a parishioner and owner of the All Star Dance Studio. For the past two years Kim has donated her time and efforts for this fundraiser. The students have done a terrific performance and seem to have a good time as well.



By Janice Soltysiak

From our parishes...

St. Valentine's Parish, Northampton, MA

• St. Valentine celebrates Zapusty

Polish Classes students and friends observed Zapusty or Tłusty Wtorek (Fat Tuesday). This is the day before Ash Wednesday and closes the party season inaugurated on Sylwester. This holiday is celebrated elsewhere as Mardi Gras. Friends enjoyed eating, talking and singing Polish Folk tunes. Food



enjoyed during the festive occasion included kiełbasa, crackers, pastry, homemade pączki filled with fruit preserves and faworki - chruściki (angel wings). Eating the pączki is supposed to bring to mind the contrast between the sweetness of the preceding carnival season and the fast days of the forthcoming Lenten season. All in attendance had a great time, socializing and enjoying this wonderful Polish custom and tradition.



~
By Fr. Adam Czarnecki

• Memorial Day Service

On Monday, May 25th at 10 a.m., Father Adam and a few of our parishioners gathered for a Memorial Day Service at our Holy Trinity Cemetery of St. Valentine's Church to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, those who are serving in the military and their families. We of today's America owe them so much and seem to appreciate them so little. Far too often, our nation takes for

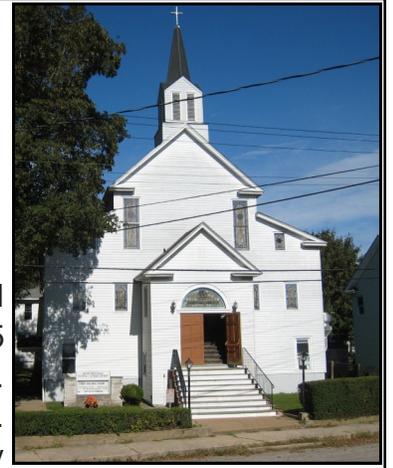
granted the freedoms we all enjoy. We also remembered all the departed souls of our Parish who worked so tirelessly for our beloved St. Valentine's Parish. By honoring these very special people, we preserve their memory, thus their service and sacrifices in the memories of future generations. May they all rest in peace.



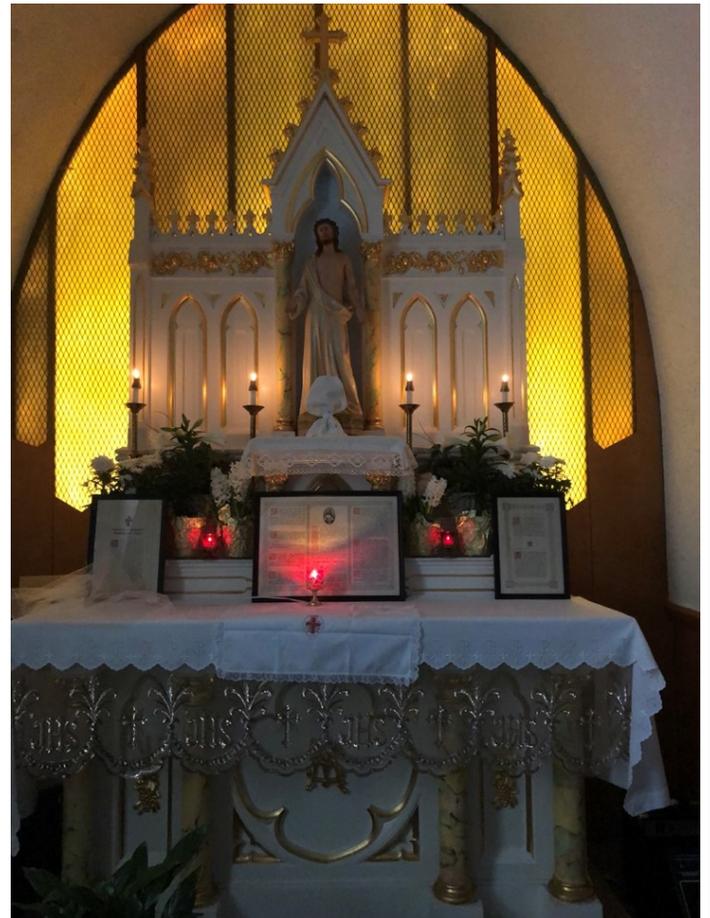
By Krysia Newman

From Our Parishes...

Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT



- During this difficult time of Covid 19 our Parish had limited activities. We still have two Masses every Sunday. The first Mass is at 9 a.m. and we had 2-5 participants. Last month we had 5-7 participants. The second Mass is at 5p. m. with 4-5 parishioners attending. All parishioners had to follow the rules. We also had May and June devotions after Sunday Masses. Every Sunday after Mass two officers of the parish committee and pastor had a short meeting to take care of finance and administrative issues.
- Parish plans for June, July, August:
 - ⇒ Every second Friday from 5 to 7pm. -Taste of Poland. Pick up at the door only.
 - ⇒ Polish Festival in the city is pending. We hope it will take place traditionally in the Fall.
- **Divine Providence church during the Holy Week celebrations:**





- Memorial Day Mass was 10 am. at our cemetery. All together there were 10 participants.



By Fr. Krzysztof Rogalski

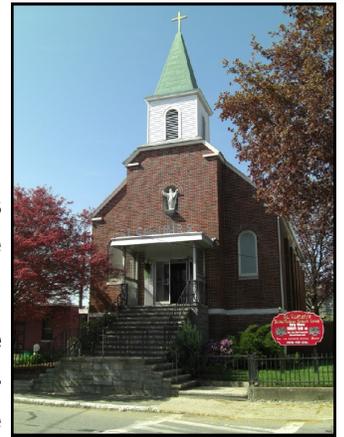
From our parishes...

St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA

MEMORIAL DAY MASS 2020

Although the day appeared dreary and the pandemic rules and regulations were in place, St. Casimir's Parish of Lowell, MA celebrated Memorial Day at the parish cemetery in Pelham, NH.

Robert Jaracz, commander of the local Polish American Veterans began the program, asking Father Tenus, chaplain of the PAV and Captain in the Army Reserves to give the opening prayer. This was followed by Karina Tenus singing the Polish National Anthem and Janice Klimczak the Star Spangled Banner. The honor guard of the PAV did volley and taps. The names of PAV members deceased since last Memorial Day were read and veterans in the congregation were asked to stand and be recognized. Father Tenus gave the concluding prayer. Mass proceeded with protocols promulgated by our church.



Though things were a little different this year, the thirty-five persons who were present were grateful to attend Mass and see their loved ones from their church family. Unfortunately we were not able to hug as we usually do but seeing people in the flesh filled our need for togetherness as we celebrated the brave men and women who served our country.

- *Commander Robert Jaracz and his color guard from the Lowell Polish American Veterans begins the program. Father Tenus is in the background at the altar.*



View of our beautiful cemetery achieved by the hands of Robert Hunt and his wonderful group of hardworking men and women as well as participants at the Mass, socially distancing themselves.

- *Karina Tenus sings the Polish National Anthem.*

By Janice Klimczak

Diocesan Events and Programs

2020 Northeast Seniorate News: Lenten Retreats, Meal in the Upper Room, Corpus Christi & Annual Meeting

The parishes of the Northeast Seniorate of our Eastern Diocese held two Lenten Retreats, our annual Meal in the Upper Room Service and Corpus Christi Evening Prayer with reflection via Zoom and our annual seniorate meeting.



Lenten Retreats were held on Saturday March 7 and March 14 at Holy Trinity Cathedral and Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA. The retreats began with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich and Frs. Tenus and Nemkovich were the homilists respectively. Our first session was a presentation “Walk This Way” by Kathy Nemkovich. Kathy reflected on our Lenten Journey and we as Jesus’ disciples are to walk the way He did.

Fr. Henryk Was then lead a reflection on the meaning of the Lenten Season in our Catholic Tradition. Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich gave a presentation “Easter Upside Down” that featured Mary of Bethany: after the Palm Parade; Mara: The Last Supper and Reversing the Curse; Judas: Great Expectations and Missed Opportunities; Peter: Marveling at What You See and showed the video, “Remember Me” with scenes from the Passion of the Christ. Mid-day prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours was led by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski prior to lunch.

Karen Sobiechowski lead singing of Lenten Hymns with reflections in between: sacred time of meditation, singing and prayer. The Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was then read, and the retreat concluded with Fr. An-



drzej Tenus leading the Stations of the Cross. Thanks to both Holy Trinity Cathedral and Blessed Trinity Parish for their warm hospitality.

The Meal in the Upper Room was hosted at Blessed Trinity Parish on Passion Sunday – March 29th via Zoom due to the Covid 19 pandemic. There were readings from Holy Scripture, hymns, and a representation of Jesus' words and actions during the Last Supper - the institution of the Holy Eucharist and at this time everyone shared bread and wine together vir-



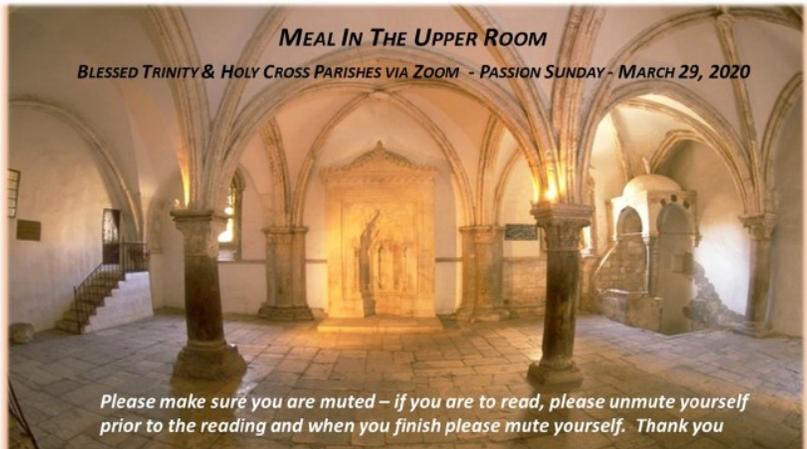


tually form their own homes. Bishop Paul Sobiechowski concluded this service by giving his Apostolic blessing. We were blessed to also have Prime Bishop Mikovsky, Bishop Mack and Prime Bishop Emeritus Nemkovich join us virtually for this special hour.

Members of the Seniorate had their annual meeting via *Zoom* on Thursday – May 7, 2020. The activities and events for the seniorate for the next year were planned.

Our Seniorate Corpus Christi Seniorate Joint Worship was held again via *Zoom* on Thursday June 11, 2020. Prayer, readings and a reflection on Corpus Christi was prayed together by members across our seniorate from their homes during this ongoing time of social distancing.

Our upcoming seniorate events are our Candlelight Service will be held on December 20th at Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI. Next year our Lenten Retreats will be held on February 27, 2021 at Our Saviour's in Woonsocket and March 6, 2021 at St. Casimir's in Lowell. The Meal in the Upper Room will be on March 21, 2021 at Blessed Trinity and our next Seniorate meeting will be held on May 3, 2021.



CONCERNING THE FEAST – FR. SR. ROB



Submitted by, *Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich*

District 3 PNU Easter Raffle benefits Covid-19 Relief

2020 PNU District 3 Easter Raffle Report, Drawing – April 16, 2020 @ 7pm via Zoom

Winners:

- 1st Prize - \$75.00 – Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd – *donated to Massachusetts Covid-19 Relief Fund*
- 2nd Prize - \$50.00 – Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd – *donated to Massachusetts Covid-19 Relief Fund*
- 3rd Prize - \$25.00 – Brenda Richard – *donated back to PNU District 3*

Tickets Sold:

- Holy Trinity Cathedral – Manchester NH - \$130
- Holy Cross – Central Falls - \$97
- Blessed Trinity – Fall River - \$88
- St. Joseph's – Westfield - \$20

Individual ticket sales - \$25

Total = \$360.00

Donations for cash prizes = \$100:

- \$25 – Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski
- \$25 – Janice Dzialo
- \$25 – Mike & Maryann Zarek
- \$25 – Fr. Sr. Rob & Kathy Nemkovich

Profit for PNU District 3 = 335.00

Donation to Mass Covid-19 Relief Fund - \$250.00 – \$125 gift matched by Fr. Sr. Rob & Kathy Nemkovich

Fraternally in Christ,
Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich



69th Convention of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society

May 16, 2020

The 69th Convention of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society was called to order by President JoAnn Menzia at 10:09 am. The convention was scheduled to be held in Holy Cross PNCC in Central Falls, RI but, because of the coronavirus pandemic was held virtually on Zoom.

Clergy present included Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, bishop of the Eastern Diocese; the Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, our chaplain; the Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich; the Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski; the Rev. Andrzej Tenus; the Rev. Pawel Lukaszewicz; the Rev. Paul Dudek; Cleric Justin Daviault.

Minutes of the 68th Convention and financial reports had been sent electronically and were accepted.

Our program began with the playing of the hymn “Gentle Woman”, sung by Laurie Dionisio, cantor, Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA.

The litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary was led by Bishop Sobiechowski assisted by Karen Sobiechowski and Janice Klimczak. The Prayer in time of distress and the Regina Caeli were also recited.

Steven Mendrzychowski and Lois Beauparlant from Holy Cross, Central Falls gave an enjoyable and informative power point presentation on discipleship practices in Holy Cross Parish.

Before planning a program, they suggested parishes consider the needs of their community or if there is a need for seasonal assistance. Research outside funding to assist in covering costs of supplies/ food or partner with other churches. Consider a relationship with public service groups who can point to needs in the community. If providing food, insure proper permits are in place as well as handicap accessibility.

President Menzia thanked Steve and Lois and commended them and Holy Cross for being good disciples, sharing, caring and being friends.

Sally Watson, our treasurer, spoke of a change in the amount of dues per member we are requested to send to the National ANS. At the National Convention of ANS held in 2019 it was decided that dues to the national ANS will be \$2/year rather than \$1/year per person beginning in 2020. Our executive board suggested we discuss this at the 2020 convention and raise diocesan dues from \$3/person per year to \$5/ person per year. We would send in \$1/member to the National ANS for 2020 until this is passed at convention and then catch up. Obviously, this matter cannot be acted upon until the next convention when more delegates are present.

Marilyn Folcik, vice-president, was called upon to conduct the election of the executive board for 2020-2022. She explained that a slate of officers was sent to our local officers. All officers present at the executive board meeting had agreed to serve another term. Karen Sobiechowski agreed to serve as marshal. Hearing no volunteers from the floor to serve in any office, a motion to accept the slate as is for 2020-2022. Officers include:

JoAnn Menzia, president (5th term); Marilyn Folcik, vice-president (5th term); Janice Klimczak, recording secretary (7th term); Sally Watson, treasurer (6th term); Susan Locks, financial secretary (7th term); Diane Hodgkins (5th term), Anne Barnet (5th term), Sue Pretola (5th term), auditors; Organizers: Cindy Hebert (Northeast, 3rd term), MaryAnn/Bunny Curylo (Central, 2nd term), Southeast open; Marshals: Phyllis Hunt (5th term), Kathleen Sherman (6th term), Janice Soltysiak (3rd term), Arlene Strazzulla (2nd term), Karen Sobiechowski (1st term).

Plans for the annual Youth Retreat are pending, depending on the laws in Massachusetts. Father Senior Nemkovich suggested we wait until plans are finalized. He will contact our president and then we can make a decision as to how much to donate.

President Menzia then said a prayer for our sisters departed since last year and for those ill, anxious or under stress.

The convention next year will be held in St. Joseph's Parish, Westfield, MA with the ANS groups of Westfield and Chicopee working together.

The National ANS convention will be held May 19 and 20, 2023 hosted by the sisters of Holy Trinity Parish ANS, Plantsville, CT.

After announcements, several sisters and clergy members shared thoughts on how they were faring during the pandemic.

The president acknowledged those who helped coordinate this first virtual ANS convention: Bishop Sobiechowski, Father Senior Nemkovich, Father Tenus, Steve Mendrzechowski and Lois Beauparlant, presenters, Janice Klimczak and officers of the local societies.

Father Senior Nemkovich mentioned that twenty four devices were connected to the convention. We had lay participants from nine parishes. It is difficult to determine how many participants we had because more than one person could have been on a computer.

Father Senior Joseph Soltysiak gave the closing prayer. Bishop Paul gave his blessing and the convention ended at 11:45 am.

By Janice Klimczak



2020 Eastern Diocese Clergy Videoconference

On March 31, 2020 the Clergy of the Eastern Diocese met Via Zoom at the Annual Clergy Conference. There were 15 Clergy present: Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Fr. Sr. Robert Nemkovich, Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak, Fr. Sr. Joseph Krusienski, Fr. Sr. Fryderyk Banas, Fr. Henry Smolinski, Fr. Andrzej Tenus, Fr. Adam Czarnecki, Fr. Christopher Rogalski, Fr. Robert Koerber, Fr. Thomas Walsh, Fr. Paul Dudek, Fr. Paul Lukaszewicz, Fr. Adam Piekarzewski, Fr. Henryk Vos, and cleric Justin Daviault.

The Conference began at 10am with the opening prayer. The Conference was led by Fr. Sr. Joseph Krusienski -the President of the Clergy Circle of the Eastern Diocese.

Several pastoral issues, on the parochial, diocesan, and national level and the current situation regarding the Covid—19 pandemic were addressed during the meeting. The Conference ended at 1 p.m. with the final prayer and blessing offered by Bp. Paul Sobiechowski.

By Fr. Henryk Vos



2020 Eastern Diocese Annual Council Meeting

On June 6, 2020 the members of the Eastern Diocese Council meet Via Zoom at the Annual Meeting. The Meeting was opened by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski and the opening prayer was offered. The Council received several reports from different diocesan Commissions, groups, and organizations and several administrative and pastoral matters were addressed.. One of them was how we can be the church today, facing Covid—19 restrictions.

The Council also addressed the upcoming Diocesan Synod, which will be held this year, October 10, at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA. The meeting ended at 1:30 p.m. with the concluding prayer.

By Fr. Henryk Wos



Upcoming Events:

2020 EASTERN DIOCESE ALTAR SERVER RETREAT

THURSDAY – JUNE 25, 2020

OUR SAVIOUR’S PARISH – WOONSOCKET, RI

“DISCIPLESHIP: 2020”

BEGINS AT 9:30 A.M. WITH HOLY MASS AND ENDS AT LINCOLN WOODS PARK

SESSIONS ON DISCIPLESHIP AND SERVING DURING THE LITURGIES OF THE CHURCH



*Time in prayer, learning, fellowship and fun with your fellow
Altar servers - Plus a trip swimming at Lincoln Woods Park
Open to Altar Servers of our diocese - registration is just \$10*



*To register or for additional information
contact:*

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich

(508) 672-4854 - RobNem21@aol.com

CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES

The annual Eastern Diocese Worship Service at Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH will take place on Sunday, July 12, 2020 at 3:30 PM. Our group may be up to fifty people based on the Cathedral's guidelines during this time.



A Vespers Service will be held. Following the service, a repast will be held at Four Star Catering (Hidden Hills). We do need forty people in order to be served. The buffet style meal will consist of broiled chicken and salads, along with rolls and butter and corn on the cob and much more. More information will shortly be sent to all parishes with the dinner price. Please reserve your Sunday afternoon to partake in the worship and fellowship that has been held by our diocese for over fifty years.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

Father Senior Joseph Soltysiak, Event Coordinator

Save the date!!!

July 31 – August 2, 2020

Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI

„Be a Witness”

Family Camporee open to all scouts and all families of our Church!

Outside of our Church too!!!

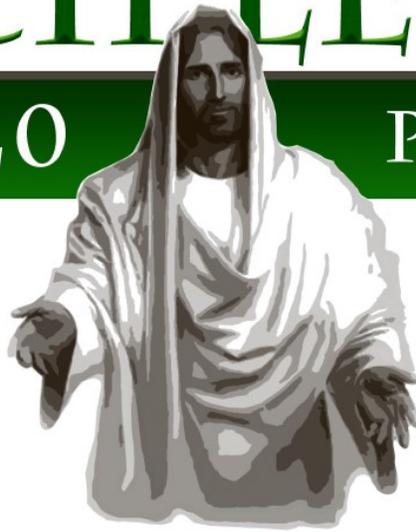
More information will follow.

DISCIPLESHIP

2020

PNCC

EASTERN
DIOCESE
YOUTH
RETREAT



Come and Worship, Learn and have great camp fun!

At Camp Howe in Goshen, MA

August 16-20, 2020



Registration and Health Forms are available from your pastor or email: Robnem21@aol.com

The cost is only \$150 per person.

Follow us on Facebook: *Eastern Diocese Youth*

Come and end your summer with friends in Christ!



FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

Dear Very Rev. and Rev Fathers, Diocesan Council Members and Parish Families of the Eastern Diocese:

Preparation for our diocesan synod continues. We plan on holding the synod in person. However, with the present Covid-19 pandemic, we are preparing to revert to a Zoom format, if necessary, for this important and Holy gathering.

Mandates will be going out to parishes, clergy, council members and sub-central organizations and the Polish National Union of America in July.

Bishop Paul Sobiechowski

Diocesan Bishop



- The SS. Peter & Paul Grant program continues. There are funds still available to any parish that has yet to submit a grant application. Reports on the success of the various grants as well as the amounts conferred to each parish will be reported either at the diocesan synod, or at the 2021 meeting of the diocesan council
- At the Eastern Diocesan Council meeting held June 6, 2020 it was decided to donate twenty-five thousand (\$25,000.00 US) dollars to the Clergy Pension Fund and to, once again, match all donations for the pension fund that come from Eastern Diocese parishes this year.
- It was also decided that, as of July 1st, 2020, the Eastern Diocese would assume all costs involved in the health insurances of Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski. This action removes the obligation of the cathedral parish to provide for health care. The diocesan council further decided not to ask for the one third reimbursement from the national Church, thus somewhat relieving the General Church with its financial obligations.
- The diocesan council also voted to increase the monthly stipend to its administrative seniors and the diocesan treasurer by one hundred twenty-five (\$125.00 US) dollars. They also increased the quarterly stipend to the editor of The Messenger by one hundred twenty-five (\$125.00) dollars. The monthly salary of the diocesan bishop was also increased by three hundred (\$300.00) dollars.



Assignments:

- There have been no new assignments made since the last publication of The Messenger.



Diocesan and National Meetings: (all times are Eastern)

- Tuesday, June 23 - PNCC Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 11:00 AM (and tentatively every two weeks for the foreseeable future)
- Monday, July 6 - Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Committee Zoom Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, July 28 - G-4 Anglican - PNCC Dialogue Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Monday, August 24 - District Three Polish National Union of America Zoom Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, September 14 - Wednesday, September 15 - Supreme Church Council Meeting in the National Church Center, Scranton, PA

Diocesan and National Liturgical Celebrations: (all times are Eastern)

- Friday, June 19 - Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Sunday, June 21 - Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Wednesday June 24 - Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
- Sunday, June 28 - Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday, June 29 - Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostle
- Thursday, July 2 - Solemnity of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, July 5 - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday, July 6 - Memorial of Jan Hus - Martyr
- Sunday, July 12 - Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Annual Eastern Diocese Cathedral of the Pines Liturgy -Vespers and the Proclamation of the Word of God - 3:30 PM
- Sunday, July 19 - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Saturday, July 25 - Feast of Saint James the Greater, Apostle
- Sunday, July 26 - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Sunday, August 2 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday, August 3 - Feast of the Finding of the Body of Saint Stephen, Deacon and Proto-Martyr
- Thursday, August 6 - Solemnity of the Transfiguration of Our Lord
- Sunday, August 9 - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Saturday, August 15 - Solemnity of the Dormition/Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, August 16 - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Sunday, August 23 - Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday, August 24 - Feast of Saint Bartholomew, Apostle
- Thursday, August 27 - Solemnity of Our Lady of Czestochowa
- Saturday, August 29 - Solemnity of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist
- Sunday, August 30 - Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Sunday, September 6 - Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Tuesday, September 8 - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Saturday September 12 - Sacrament of Confirmation conferred at Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA for candidates from this parish and Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI
- Sunday, September 13 - Solemnity of Brotherly Love
- Monday, September 14 - Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Consecration of Bishop-elect Jaroslaw Rafalko at Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr Cathedral, Scranton, PA
- Tuesday, September 15 - Solemnity of Our Holy Mother of Sorrows
- Sunday, September 20 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday, September 21 - Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- Sunday, September 27 - Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Tuesday, September 29 - Feast of Saint Michael, Archangel

Diocesan and National Event Schedule: (all times are Eastern)

- Wednesday, June 17 - Saturday, June 20 - Y.M.S.R. sponsored Bishop Bilinski Memorial Men's Zoom Retreat
- Sunday, June 21 - Father's Day - U.S.A.
- Thursday, June 25 - Eastern Diocese Altar Servers Retreat - Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI.
- Saturday, July 4 - Independence Day - U.S.A..
- Saturday, July 4 - Saturday July 11 - Y.M.S.R. Kurs Youth Zoom Encampment
- Friday, July 31 - Saturday, August 1 - Eastern Diocese Scout Camporee at Our Saviour Parish - Woonsocket, RI
- Sunday, August 16 - Thursday, August 20 - Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat at Camp Howe, Goshen, MA

Polish Poetry



"Poetry comes nearer to vital truth than history." - Plato
„Prawdziwą, typową formą współżycia duchowego jest poezja.” - Karol Irzykowski

Edward Stachura

(August 18, 1937 – July 24, 1979)

"Everything is poetry, We are all poets"

Rys autobiograficzny

Urodziłem się 18 VIII 1937 r. w Pont-de-Cheruy (dep. Isere) we Francji. Dzieciństwo miałem spokojne i piękne. Kiedy miałem 7 lat, śniło mi się, że posiadam zdolność lotu. W tym czasie zacząłem uczęszczać do francuskiej szkoły elementarnej i sny zaczęły się zmieniać jak nowe obrazy w fotoplastykonie. Drugą wojnę światową pamiętam tylko ze smaku czekolady, którą obdarowywali nas Amerykanie. Pamiętam jeszcze pająka na suficie naszej piwnicy, w której musieliśmy się ukrywać przez dwa tygodnie.

Kiedy miałem 11 lat, rodzice doszli do wniosku, że należy opuścić słodką Francję i powrócić do jeszcze słodszej Polski. Nie rozumiałem jeszcze wtedy słowa: nostalgia. Teraz dopiero rozumiem, ileż smutku się w nim zawiera. Z opowiadań i książek słyszałem dużo o wilkach grasujących w Polsce. Nie widziałem nigdzie wilków, ale nie mogłem się spodziewać, że tak małe będzie moje rozczarowanie.

Osiadliśmy się w ponurym miasteczku, w Aleksandrowie Kujawskim. Było to kiedyś graniczne miasteczko i słynęło szeroko z przemytu. Tutaj skończyłem szkołę podstawową. Ponieważ wykazywałem wysokie zdolności, oddano mnie do gimnazjum w Ciechocinku, żeby zrobić ze mnie "inżyniera" lub "doktora". Po trzech latach przeniosłem się do liceum ogólnokształcącego w Gdyni, które ukończyłem i gdzie do tej pory otoczony jestem legendą, jak wyczytałem w tamtejszej szkolnej gazetce. Jeden rok, tzn. 1956, włóczyłem się po Polsce napotyając wszędzie ślady wilków, a nigdy ich samych. Potem zacząłem studiować filologię francuską na KUL-u, gdzie doskonała dobroć kilku osób wzruszyła mnie do głębi. Studia przerwałem przede wszystkim z własnej winy, a może z winy wierności tradycjom moich wielkich "ancetres".

Życie to nie teatr

Życie to jest teatr, mówisz ciągle, opowiadasz;
Maski coraz inne, coraz mylne się zakłada;
Wszystko to zabawa, wszystko to jest jedna gra
Przy otwartych i zamkniętych drzwiach.
To jest gra!

Życie to nie teatr, ja ci na to odpowiadam;
Życie to nie tylko kolorowa maskarada;
Życie jest straszniejsze i piękniejsze jeszcze jest;
Wszystko przy nim blednie, blednie nawet sama śmierć!
Ty i ja - teatry to są dwa!
Ty i ja!



Autobiographical Sketch

I was born on August 18, 1937 in Pont-de-Cheruy (dep. Isère) in France. My childhood was peaceful and beautiful. When I was seven, I dreamt I had the ability to fly. At that time I started to attend the French elementary school and dreams began to change like new images in a magic lantern. The Second World War I only remember from the taste of chocolate we always got from the Americans. I also remember a spider on the ceiling in our basement, where we had to hide for two weeks.

When I was eleven, my parents decided that it's time to leave the sweet France and return to the even sweeter Poland. Then, I did not yet understand the word nostalgia. Only now do I know how much sadness there is in it. From people and books I learned about wolves prowling all over Poland. In November 1948 we came to Poland. I didn't see any wolves, but I couldn't expect how small my disappointment would be.

We settled down in the gloomy little town of Aleksandrów Kuj [awski]. Once it was a border town and was widely famous for contraband. There I finished grade school. Because I was showing unusual talents, I was sent to the "middle school" in Ciechocinek to be turned into "an engineer" or "a doctor." After three years I transferred to highschool in Gdynia, from which I graduated, and in which I am still surrounded with legends, as I read in the local school newspaper. One year, i.e. 1956, I wandered all around Poland finding wolf trails everywhere but never the wolves themselves. Then I started studying French philology at CUL where I was deeply moved by the perfect goodness of a few people. Withdrawing from college was mostly my own fault, and maybe also the fault of fidelity to the traditions of my great "ancêtres."



Life Is Not Theater

Life is theater, you say, you explain;
Masks and such, and false pretenses;
All entertainment, nothing but a game,
From the opening to the closing –
It is a game!

Life is not theater, these are the facts;
Life is not a colourful masquerade;
Life is difficult, then beautiful once again;
Everything else pales, pales like death!
You and me – theater for two!
You and me!

Ty - ty prawdziwej nie uronisz łzy.
Ty najwyżej w górę wznosisz brwi.
Nawet kiedy źle ci jest, to nie jest źle.
Bo ty grasz!

Ja - duszę na ramieniu wiecznie mam.
Cały jestem zbudowany z ran.
Lecz kaleką nie ja jestem, tylko ty!

Dzisiaj bankiet u artystów, ty się tam wybierasz;
Gości będzie dużo, nieodstępna tyraliera;
Flirt i alkohole, może tańce będą też,
Drzwi otwarte zamkną potem się.
No i cześć!

Wpadnę tam na chwilę, zanim spuchnie atmosfera;
Wódki dwie wypiję, potem cicho się pozbieram;
Wyjdę na ulicę, przy fontannie zmoczę łeb;
Wyjdę na przestworza, przecudowny stworzę wiersz.
Ty i ja - teatry to są dwa.
Ty i ja!

Ty - ty prawdziwej nie uronisz łzy.
Ty najwyżej w górę wznosisz brwi.
I niezaraźliwy wcale jest twój śmiech.
Bo ty grasz!

Ja - duszę na ramieniu wiecznie mam.
Cały jestem zbudowany z ran.
Lecz gdy śmieje się, to w krąg się śmieje świat!

Nie Brooklyński Most

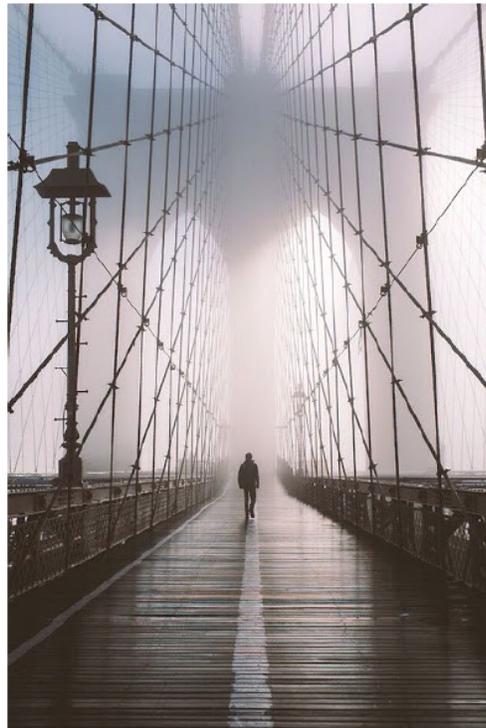
Rozdzierający
Jak tygrysa pazur
Antylopy plecy
Jest smutek człowieczy

Nie Brooklyński Most
Ale przemienić
W jasny, nowy dzień
Najsmutniejszą noc-
To jest dopiero coś!

Przerażający
Jak ozdoba świata
Co w malignie bredzi
Jest obłąd człowieczy

Nie Brooklyński Most
Lecz na drugą stronę
Głową przebić się
Przez obłądu los-
To jest dopiero coś!

Będziemy smucić się starannie!
Będziemy szaleć nienagannie!
Będziemy naprzód niesłychanie!
Ku polanie!



You — you never shed a real tear.
At most you raise an eyebrow.
Even when things are bad, they're not bad.
Because you're playing.

Me — I carry my heart on my sleeve.
My life built upon hardship.
But I am not crippled, only you!

Today an artist's party, you will certainly go;
Many guests, mingling;
Flirting and drinking, certainly dancing,
Whatever opening will close afterward.
And "bye!"

I will stop in for a moment, until it gets stuffy;
Two vodkas, and I'll quietly slip out;
I will walk to the fountain and drench myself.
I will walk out, creating a miraculous poem.
You and me— theater for two!
You and me!

You — you never shed a real tear.
At most you raise an eyebrow.
Your happiness is not infectious.
Because you're playing.

Me — I carry my heart on my sleeve.
My life built upon hardship.
But when I laugh, the whole world laughs with me!

Not the Brooklyn Bridge

Tearing the heart
Like a tiger's claw's
tearing oryx's back
is sadness of man

Not the Brooklyn Bridge
But to transform
In the bright new day
the most somber night
That's a thing to make

As formidable as
The grace of earth
in delirium rage
Is madness of man

Not the Brooklyn Bridge
But to push through
to the other side
through the madness veil
That's a thing to make.

We'll take our sadness diligently
We'll take our madness impeccably
We'll go ahead just so immensely
To the valley

List do pozostałych

Umieram
za winy moje i niewinność moją
za brak, który czuję każdą cząstką ciała i każdą cząstką duszy,
za brak rozdzierający mnie na strzępy jak gazetę zapisaną hałaśliwymi
nic nie mówiącymi słowami
za możliwość zjednoczenia się z Bezimiennym, z Pozasłownym,
Nieznany
za nowy dzień
za cudne manowce
za widoki nad widoki
za zjawę realną
za kropkę nad ypsilonem
za tajemnicę śmierci w lęku, w grozie i w pocie czoła
za zagubione oczywistości
za zagubione klucze rozumienia z malutką iskierką ufności, że jeżeli
ziarno obumrze, to wyda owoc
za samotność umierania
bo trupem jest wszelkie ciało
bo ciężko, strasznie i nie do zniesienia
za możliwość przemienienia
za nieszczęście ludzi i moje własne, które dźwigam na sobie i w sobie
bo to wszystko wygląda, że snem jest tylko, koszmarem
bo to wszystko wygląda, że nieprawdą jest
bo to wszystko wygląda, że absurdem jest
bo to wszystko tu niszczeje, gnije i nie masz tu nic trwałego
poza tęsknotą za trwałością
bo już nie jestem z tego świata i może nigdy z niego nie byłem
bo wygląda, że nie ma tu dla mnie żadnego ratunku
bo już nie potrafię kochać ziemską miłością
bo noli me tangere
bo jestem bardzo zmęczony, nieopisanie wycieńczony
bo już wycierpiałem
bo już zostałem, choć to się działo w obłędzie, najdosłowniej i
najcieleśniej ukrzyżowany i jakże bardzo i realnie mnie to boleło
bo chciałem zbawić od wszelkiego złego ludzi wszystkich i świat cały i
jeżeli tak się nie stało, to winy mojej w tym nie umiem znaleźć
bo wygląda, że już nic tu po mnie
bo nie czuję się oszukany, co by mi pozwoliło raczej trwać niż umierać;
trwać i szukać winnego, może w sobie; ale nie czuję się oszukany
bo kto może trwać w tym świecie - niechaj trwa i ja mu życzę zdrowia, a
kiedy przyjdzie mu umierać - niechaj śmierć ma lekką
bo co do mnie, to idę do ciebie Ojczy pastewny żeby może wreszcie
znaleźć uspokojenie, zasłużone jak miemam, zasłużone jak miemam
bo nawet obłęd nie został mi zaoszczędzony
bo wszystko mnie boli straszliwie
bo duszę się w tej klatce
bo samotna jest dusza moja aż do śmierci
bo kończy się w porę ostatni papier i już tylko krok i niech Żyję Życie
bo stanąłem na początku, bo pociągnął mnie Ojciec i stanę na końcu i
nie skosztuję śmierci.

A Letter to the Remaining

I am dying
for my sins and my innocence
for the lack which I feel with each particle of my body and each particle of my
soul; for the lack which is tearing me to pieces like a newspaper covered with
noisy meaningless words
for the chance to unite with the Nameless, the Extraverbal, the Unknown
for a new day
for wonderful wilderness
for the sight above all sights
for the true apparition
for the dot over ypsilon
for the mystery of death
in fear, in terror, in sweat of toil
for the loss of the obvious
for the lost keys of understanding
with a tiny spark of trust that if the seed dies, it will bear fruit
for the loneliness of dying
since all body is always the corpse
since it's hard, frightful and unbearable
for the chance to transform
for people's misfortune and my own which I bear on me and in me
for it all looks like it's only a dream, a nightmare
for it all looks like it's not true
for it all looks like it's absurd
for all here decays, rots and nothing is permanent
but longing for permanence
for I no longer am of this world and maybe never have been
for it looks like there is nothing here that can save me
for I no longer can love with earthly love
for noli me tangere
for I am very tired, indescribably exhausted
for I have suffered much
for I have already been, although it happened in madness, crucified in the
most literal and most physical way and how deep and how real was my pain
for I wanted to deliver from evil all people and the whole world and if it did not
happen, I cannot call it my fault
for it looks like there is no need for me here
for I don't feel cheated which would help me rather stay than die; stay and
search for the guilty one, maybe in myself; but I don't feel cheated
for he who can stay in this world—let him stay and I wish him well, and when
his time comes to die—let his death be light
for I—I'm going to you, Father of the pastures
to maybe at last find peacefulness, deserved I suppose, deserved I suppose,
for I wasn't spared even from madness
for everything hurts me terribly
for I am suffocating in this cage
for lonely is my soul until death
for the last piece of paper ends on time and it's only a step and long Live Life
for I have stood at the beginning, for the Father pulled me and I will stand at
the end and I will not taste death.

This leave-taking poem Stachura wrote just before he took his own life in his Warsaw apartment on July 24, 1979.

By Fr. Adam Czarnecki

Parishes of the Eastern Diocese

Holy Trinity Cathedral 166 Pearl St., Manchester, NH-03104-4236 Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Pastor (603)622-4524	St. Joseph's Parish 73 Main St., Westfield, MA 01085-3189 Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Pastor (413)562-4403
Blessed Trinity Parish 37 Winthrop St., Fall River, MA 02721—2541 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Pastor (508)672-4854	St. Valentine's Parish 127 King St., Northampton, MA 01060-3234 Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor (413)584-0133
St. Casimir's Parish 268 Lakeview Avenue, Lowell, MA 01850-2313 Rev. Andrzej Tenus, Pastor (978)453-0742	Divine Providence Parish 11 Silver St., Norwich, CT 06360-4731 Rev. Christopher Rogalski, Pastor (860)887-2812
Holy Cross Parish 320 High St, Central Falls, RI 02863-3108 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Administrator (401)722-5130	Holy Saviour Parish 118 Prospect St., Naugatuck, CT 06770-3056 Rev. Paul Dudek, Pastor (203)729-4035
Our Saviour's Parish 500 Smithfield Rd., Woonsocket, RI 02895-6285 Rev. Henryk Wos, Pastor (401)762-3072	Holy Trinity Parish 200 Summer St., Plantsville, CT 06479-1119 Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Pastor (860)628-0736
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Holy Cross Parish 61 Maple St., Ware, MA 01082-1545 Very Rev. Fryderyk Banas, Pastor (413)967-5233	St. John the Baptist Parish 23 Golway St., Manchester, CT 06042-2016 Rev. Adam Piekarczywski-Pastor (860)643-5906
Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish 26 Bell St., Chicopee, MA 01013-3002 Rev. Pawel Lukaszewicz, Pastor (413)592-2032	St. Joseph's Parish 1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford, CT 06615-7639 Rev. Thomas Walsh, Pastor (203)923-2424
Holy Name of Jesus Parish 15 Thayer St., South Deerfield, MA 01373-1136 Rev. Robert Koerber, Pastor (413)665-2129 / (413)530-8575	Holy Trinity Parish 68 Lake St., Webster, MA 01570-2160 Rev. Henryk Wos, Administrator (508)-943-0608 / (401)-762-3072

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A Prayer For Your Family Vacation

Dear Lord,

Please bless this time of family vacation. Help my family to get along, to enjoy one another. Maybe toss a couple of those idyllic imagined scenes into our path?

May we be able to see the wonder You instill within the chaos of our days – whether we vacation near or far away from home.

On this everyday, normal day that’s somehow still outside of our routine, help me to embrace my family, this time of vacation, and the ordinary yet extraordinary gifts You’ve given.

Open my eyes to see that vacation will end but the memories of it will remain and give me the strength to make them sweet.

Pour some of that strength into my very being and bring me through to the end of vacation with a thankful heart and unceasing praise. Amen.

Adapted from “DaySpring”: <https://www.dayspring.com/articles/a-prayer-for-your-family-vacation>

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Editor: Rev. Henryk Wos, PhD

Corrections: Mrs. Karen Sobiechowski

Controller: Rt. Rev. Bp. Paul Sobiechowski

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woshenryk@gmail.com

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The quality and style of this newsletter depends upon your cooperation. It is also a great way to let others know about our church, parishes and people. We look forward to your contributions!