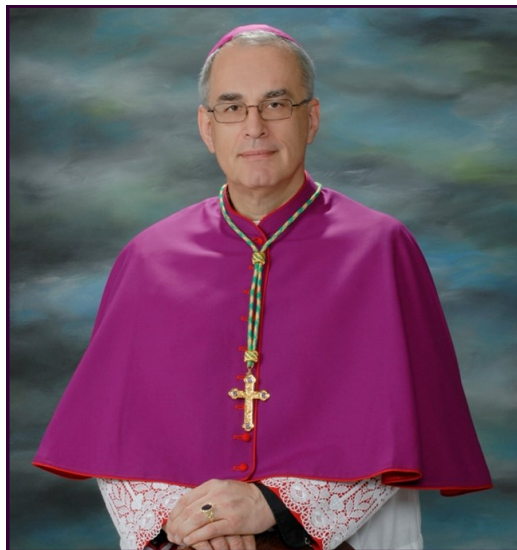


# THE MESSENGER

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



In keeping with the continuing “Discipleship” theme of our Church this year and as we focus on our need to be “A Eucharistic People”; I am sharing with you an article I abridged that appears on TheCatholicJournal-us website, written by Father Dino Vanin, and dated July 30, 2017. It has some important points for us to consider and is titled:

## The Joy of Being “Eucharistic People”

Bishop Paul

“I am God’s wheat and shall be ground by their teeth so that I may become Christ’s pure bread. Pray to Christ for me that the animals will be the means of making me a sacrificial victim for God. No earthly pleasures, no kingdoms of this world can benefit me in any way. I prefer death in Christ Jesus to power over the farthest limits of the earth. He who died in place of us is the one object of my quest. He who rose for our sakes is my one desire...I no longer take pleasure in perishable food or in the delights of this world. I want only God’s bread, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ, formed of the seed of David, and for drink I crave his blood, which is love that cannot perish.”

This is a quote from the letter that Bishop Ignatius of Antioch (c. 35 – c. 107) wrote to the Romans on his way from Syria to Rome to be torn to shreds by hungry lions in the Circus Maximus.

Let us add the following to that quote: “Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.” (Mt 13:30)

*Cont. next page.*

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That [is] the order that the heavenly Householder [gives] to his harvesters on the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time. On the 17th Sunday, we have a similar setting: “When the fishnet is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away.” (Mt 13:48)

Do we realize that the best scenario foreseen by Jesus is for us to be wholesome food: wheat saved in our Father’s barn until it is ground and made into bread as well as good quality fish?

St. Ignatius of Antioch understood and lived this unusual, yet incredibly true insight to the very end of his life, to his martyrdom.

The parables of Jesus are much more than symbols or metaphors, they are challenges directed at our minds and hearts so that, in freedom, we can make the right existential choices to make our journey to the Kingdom successful. We are instructed to react properly and effectively to God’s love-filled overtures.

The desirable result comes solely from our proper reaction to [these parables]. On the other hand, our part could not be any easier. As we go about whatever we are doing and thinking and desiring and talking about and dreaming of, we are “besieged” by grace.

Anywhere in the world if a person stumbles upon a buried treasure and gets to keep it [he/she] must consider himself/herself lucky. Yet, Jesus assures us that this is never the case with the Kingdom of God. It is never a question of merits, special skills, methodical planning, or luck, or chance. It is exclusively grace. The Father has hidden the treasure in such a way that we must work hard not to find it!

Are we curious, then, as to the nature of the treasure that the Father has buried with the sole purpose of helping us find it as soon as possible?

If we appreciate St. Ignatius’ desire to be fed the Eucharist so that he could become bread broken for Christ; if we place much value on St. Paul’s rejoicing in his sufferings because he was filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ for the sake of his Body, the Church (cf. Colossians 1: 24), we would know that the true treasure is the desire to become Christ-like, “Eucharistic people,” to become bread broken for and offered to others and blood poured out for their sake.

The treasure consists also in being “found” by the Father, the divine merchant; and become convinced that our joy is in living out the New Commandment of loving each other as Jesus loved us when he allowed his body to be broken and his blood to be poured out for our redemption. We are called to be wheat in the Father’s barn only for a short while. According to his design we are destined to become bread for others. We are meant to be good fish selected to feed the various “hungers” we notice on the faces of those around us.

He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer...” (Lk 22:15)

Jesus’ eagerness to feed us his Flesh and Blood should be echoed by our eagerness to become food and drink for our neighbor. Today, we realize that whenever we hear Jesus’ solemn words: “Do this in memory of me” we should take them as his burning desire to have us step forward and be counted as those who are willing to be sacrificed in union with him so that his Life may quicken in many more people. By now it should have dawned on us that every time we gather to do Eucharist, some of us are guided by the Holy Spirit towards the treasure hidden in the field of their life, while others are enlightened to value the call to be broken bread and poured blood as the treasure worth all they possess.

The cycle of joy in our self-immolation in union with Christ might begin with these words: “Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the [Table] of the Lamb.” Right after those words settle in our hearts, although completely unworthy, we cue up to feed on the Body of Christ to become Eucharist ourselves, mindful that our willingness to be sacrificed for others is a foreshadowing of the endless Supper of the Lamb and the joy that we experience now is but a little taste of the joy that will never cease.

## 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)*

## **Resolutions of the XVI Eastern Diocese Synod October 10, 2020**

Due to the Coronavirus and the inability to meet face to face, the XVI Synod of the Eastern Diocese convened virtually October 10, 2020. Hosted by Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River MA the Synod was summoned under the authority of Right Rev Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop Ordinary of the Eastern Diocese and attended virtually by the Most Rev Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the PNCC. Very Rev Robert Nemkovich Jr served as the moderator for this virtual Synod. Additionally, Bishop Paul Hewitt, Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of the Holy Cross joined us and presented to the Synod.

The Synod began with a morning prayer which set the tone and inspiration for the proceedings of the day. Through our deliberations, we learned and discussed the following:

Whereas, we are thankful to Bishop Sobiechowski, our senior priests-Very Rev Joseph Krusienski, Very Rev Joseph Soltysiak and Very Rev Robert Nemkovich Jr for the planning and execution of a very successful virtual Synod; additional gratitude is extended to Very Rev Robert Nemkovich Jr for hosting and moderating this Synod.

Whereas we acknowledge the active participation of the delegates, guests, and clergy in fulfilling their discipleship role entrusted to them as members of our Holy Church and through their attendance and commitment in spreading God's word throughout our communities, our diocese and our Church.

Whereas we as delegates, reflect upon the legacy of faith set forth upon us by our organizer, Bishop Francis Hodur, the clergy, and organizers of the Church.

Whereas, we continue to support the endeavors of Future Direction and the overall theme of Discipleship towards increasing growth and membership, lifelong learning and renewed Spirituality among all members; to expanding community engagement efforts; and to enabling joyful responses to God's call to Sacred Vocations and service.

Whereas we acknowledge the work of the Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Committee who over four years has worked diligently to:

a. increase the awareness of our church by enabling parishes to use more social media technologies, especially Facebook in promoting masses and special services, and various events and fund-raising activities.

b. encourage the expansion of community engagement efforts among our parishes as a way of exemplifying our Christian discipleship to help those in need, those in transition, and those organizations striving to assist others.

Whereas, the Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Committee presented to this Synod body a four year strategic and action plan devoted to commitment and moving forward, to tradition and branding, to growth by expanding our digital efforts and community involvements, and to reporting our efforts that will measure our success and achievements.

We, therefore, seek the grace and strength from our Lord, Jesus Christ to embrace the work He has entrusted to our care, to be inspired to execute the proceedings of this Synod as we return to our parishes and to stay strong in our commitment and firm in our Catholic faith as members of the PNCC in spite of the everchanging and challenging environment around us. With truth, work, and struggle, we shall and will continue to succeed!

Respectfully Submitted, October 10, 2020 by the Resolution Committee of the XVI Eastern Diocese Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church

Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd (Central Seniorate); Laurel Curylo (Central Seniorate); Larry Gagnon (Northeast Seniorate); Tom Zarek (Northeast Seniorate) and Very Rev Joseph Krusienski (Southwest Seniorate)



# DISCIPLESHIP

2022

PNCC



## DISCIPLESHIP: 2022

### BEING EUCHARISTIC PEOPLE

**PNCC FUTURE DIRECTION - ACTION PLAN FOR PNCC PARISHES  
BASED ON THE EFFORTS OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup> PNCC GENERAL SYNODS**

*Continue to develop and emphasize Discipleship through 2022: Focusing on the importance of receiving our Lord in the most Holy Eucharist for the strength to faithfully follow Him in word and action.*

*During 2022 we hope more will return to in person worship and an active participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord in Holy Communion. As this is the central aspect of our worship – our Catholic Christian living will have its root therein. We will reflect on different aspects of the Eucharist and how we can live daily as Eucharistic people. Please see the monthly Future Direction messages regarding this effort with reflections for living this out daily.*

#### **JANUARY – PREPARING TO RECEIVE OUR LORD IN THE EUCHARIST *FASTING, PRAYERS BEFORE AND AFTER HOLY COMMUNION***

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

#### **Reflection and Action Item:**

Receiving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist is a sacred and important moment for which we should be prepared. This is not something to take lightly as we are receiving Jesus to strengthen us on our earthly journey in the way that God has planned for our salvation. We must prepare to meet Jesus by fasting, prayer and participation in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass.

#### ***From PNCC Prayer Book:***

Fasting is an ancient religious tradition, helping one focus on the needs of the soul over the needs of the body; the need for Christ over the needs of self. As Jesus said during His own forty-day fast, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." Fasting before

communion helps us properly prepare for the solemn and reverent receiving of His sacred Body and Blood. Fasting before Communion is not primarily an act of Penance, but one of homage to our Lord.

The faithful are required to fast for two hours before receiving Holy Communion. This means eating no food of any kind (except when necessary with medication) and drinking nothing except water. Exceptions to this fast are when someone has a medical condition that requires eating or drinking, when someone has diabetes, when a woman is pregnant, when the Eucharist is taken to someone who is sick, homebound or dying. This does not discourage the pious practice of fasting from midnight.

**Action Item:** Remember to fast and offer the Prayer before Holy Communion prior to beginning of Holy Mass and then remember to offer the prayer after Holy Communion from the prayer book.

Also consider a few minutes reading page 8 of the Mass Book prior to the beginning of Holy Mass.

When approaching the priest for Holy Communion make sure to do so reverently.

**FEBRUARY – ACTIVELY ENGAGE THE FORTHCOMING PRE-LENTEN SPIRITUAL PREPARATION PROGRAM – BOTH THE PERSONAL AND PARISH COMPONENTS**

**MARCH – IMPORTANCE OF THE EUCHARIST - CATECHISM REMINDERS AND REFLECTIONS**

Scripture: John 6:51-58; Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Reflection and Action Item: In the PNCC the moment of receiving Holy Communion is sacred and holy. Our practice is that only those men ordained to Holy Orders may distribute the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Their hands are consecrated as are the Chalice, Paten and Intinction used during Holy Mass. Following the words of consecration, the priest keeps his thumb and index finger together as he has touched the divine. Communion is administered with reverence under both species – the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ are received by the faithful. A beautiful and precious moment. Let us reflect this month on just what this moment means by recalling some of our catechism questions.

**362) Why does Christ give us His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist?**

Christ gives us His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist:

- 1) To unite us with Himself in Holy Communion.
- 2) To remain ever on our altars, as a proof of His abiding love for us.
- 3) To unite us with our heavenly Father.

**364) What is Mass?**

Mass is the Sacrifice of the New Testament, in which bread and wine is consecrated into the Mystical Body and Blood to God through the ministry of a priest, for a perpetual commemoration of Christ's Sacrifice upon the Cross, offered once and for all time.

**365) When was the Sacrifice of Mass instituted?**

The Sacrifice of Mass was instituted at the Last Supper, when Jesus commanded His Apostles to do what He had done, that is, to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood.

And having taken bread, He gave thanks and broke, and gave it to them, saying: "This is My Body, which is being given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In like manner He took also the cup after supper, saying: "This cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which shall be shed for you." (Lk 22:19-20)

**366) What is the place of Mass in the Polish National Catholic Church?**

In the Polish National Catholic Church Mass is the central point of worship and life, in perfect continuity with the teaching of the Apostles and practice of the primitive church. The Sacrifice of Christ upon the Cross is the supreme act of love.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that, whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (Jn 15:13)

When we take part in the Mass, we are called upon to offer ourselves with Christ to God, through our own acts of faith, love and sacrifice.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (Jn 15:13)

### 376) Why do we offer the Sacrifice of the Mass?

We offer the Sacrifice of the Mass:

- 1) To adore God.
- 2) To thank Him for all the benefits He bestows upon us.
- 3) To ask His blessing.
- 4) To obtain His mercy for the living and the dead.
- 5) To apply the merits gained on Calvary to the Church in general, and to individual souls, in particular.

### 390) Why does Jesus Christ come to you in Holy Communion?

Jesus Christ comes to me in Holy Communion so that He may:

- 1) Unite me with Himself.
- 2) Strengthen me in the practice of good works.
- 3) Strengthen the divine life which I first received in baptism.

*Schedule Mass for Healing*

*Schedule and conduct Lenten Retreat (in person or on Zoom)*

## APRIL – THE LAST SUPPER – DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

Scripture: John 13:1-15

Reflection and Action Item: On Holy or Maundy Thursday we hear about the Last Supper, the Passover Meal our Lord celebrated with His disciples from John’s Gospel. What is important for us to realize in this most important passage of Holy Scripture is how Jesus yokes receiving His Presence in the Eucharist to a life of serving others. In God’s Word we hear how during this most sacred meal during which the Holy Eucharist was instituted our Lord taught them to wash the feet of others. To serve and wash others feet is tied directly to receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord. Receiving Holy Communion should compel us to action as servants and disciples of our Lord – living as He commanded. “*You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.*”

**Action Item:** Strengthened by receiving the Holy Eucharist, allow Christ to live in you by your works of love and mercy to others, especially those in need. During this month offer three works of mercy or deeds of kindness for others in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## MAY – DEVOTION TO THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

Scripture: John 6 (Bread of Life Discourse); Luke 1:36; John 1:14

Reflection and Action Item:

During the month of May we honor the Theotokos (The Mother of God – The Blessed Virgin Mary). We do this in part through the Liturgical Worship of the Church, one paraliturgical service we celebrate is May Devotions. The Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The Blessed Virgin Mary gave her consent to God through the Archangel Gabriel: “Behold I am the servant of the Lord, be it done unto me according to your word.” Then, “The word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Mary’s yes to God resulting in receiving Jesus into her heart, mind, body and soul and we receive Jesus in our hearts, minds, bodies and souls in receiving Holy Communion and adoring his presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

*From PNCC Prayer Book:*

Make our dear Lord in the Blessed Sacrament your constant thought; remember that He is your friend; tell Him all your sorrows; go often in the week, if only for a few minutes, to relieve your mind in trouble, and you will find that the hardest trials will seem to pass away in a moment. Go to Him always, you will wonder at the fullness of the comfort and support which you will receive, and at the clearness of the answers that will come in time of doubt. Place your cares into the hands of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and they will become light, very light.

Jesus, my God, I adore You, here present in the Sacrament of Your love.

Divine Redeemer, Who in Your infinite goodness has been pleased to give Your precious Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist, I adore You with the most profound respect. I thank You for all the favors You have bestowed upon me, especially for the institution of this Most Holy Sacrament. As You are the source of every blessing, bestow Your benediction upon me, my relatives and friends. Bless my Church, bishops, priests, deacons and all those for whom I pray (*especially ...*). Let Your blessing flow abundantly and may it be felt in the souls of those who cannot come here to receive it. May the weak and tempted feel its power wherever they may be. Let all feel its influence, moving them to come to You. O Lord, grant me a strong love of You, a hatred of sin, a greater respect of grace, and great zeal for your honor and glory and for my sanctification and salvation. Amen.

My Lord and my God!

Blessed and praised be the most holy and divine Sacrament now and forever. Amen.

**Action Item:** Offer this reflection from our PNCC Prayer Book weekly during this month giving reverence and respect to the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

*Schedule* Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary with Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament

*Schedule* Zoom video conference: Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

## JUNE – THE SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

Scripture: John 1:1-14; John 6:35-53; John 15:1-8; Matthew 26:18-20, 26-29

Reflection and Action Item: On Thursday after the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, the Catholic Churches around the world celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, also known as the Solemnity of the Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ.

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi is a religious manifestation and confession of Christian and Catholic faith. By the presence and active participation in the liturgy Catholics publicly profess their faith in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This is a time when Catholics show their love for Christ by honoring Him in a public way and show their love for their neighbors by bringing the Lord and Savior closer to them.

On that day, after celebrating the Eucharist the faithful go in a solemn procession with the Blessed Sacrament to four altars.

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi has been solemnly celebrated in parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church since her organization. It was adapted from Western Catholic tradition and is strongly connected with our faith in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The procession associated with the feast day may be performed on the feast day itself, the Sunday within the octave, or any day throughout the octave. The Sequence within the Mass is said for the octave of this feast.

Processions held within the octave are often combined parish and/or seniorate celebrations. They usually incorporate the local branches of the United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

**Action Item:** Attending the Parish or Seniorate Corpus Christi Mass and Procession giving thanks and praise to God for His precious gift of the presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

*Remember Clergy Appreciation Weekend & Sacred Vocations Month, pray that the Lord Jesus will send more priests and deacons to his Church, and be sure to show your gratitude to your parish clergy by some meaningful gestures of appreciation.*

#### **JULY – ALTAR SERVERS – ST. TARCISIUS**

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Reflection: In our celebration of the Holy Mass, our altar servers play such an important role. Consider just how much they do in serving God and the Church by assisting our priests and deacons during the Sacred Liturgy. They carry the cross and lit candles during processions, carry and handle the incense in procession and during the Mass, present the wine and water to the priest during the preparation of the gifts, wash the hands of the priest, ring the bells during the consecration, and hold the patten as the faithful receive the Most Sacred Body and Blood of our Lord. Our altar servers participate in the Mass by joining in the spoken responses and the singing of the hymns and music of the Mass. In doing all of these things with piety and attention, though, our altar servers fulfill a commission that we may sometimes overlook: they set a good example for us of true, loving piety for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

St. Tarcisus, known as the “boy martyr of the Eucharist” was a young Christian in the Church of Rome in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century, whose love and reverence for Christ’s true and abiding presence in the Eucharist inspired him with the courage to give his life for our Lord! He is an ideal Patron Saint for our altar servers and an inspiration to all. His traditional feast day is August 15 but is secondary to the Solemnity of the Dormition and Assumption of the Blessed Mother. St. Tarcisus, pray for us!

**Action Item:** Here is an article about St. Tarcisus at the end of which you can assess your own reverence for the Holy Eucharist.

Schedule Sometime this month recognize all of your parish’s altar servers: list their names in the bulletin, acknowledge them at the end of weekend Masses, pray for them by name during the General Intercessions, etc. Have a reception/picnic for the whole parish to thank them for their service and example of reverence to the Holy Eucharist.

Schedule Mass for those Grieving

#### **AUGUST – SINGING OUR FAITH IN EUCHARISTIC HYMNS**

Scripture: (Ephesians 5:19-20) Sing psalms and hymns in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection and Action Item:

If given some time to think, I am sure that most of us could name a large number of Church hymns that we know by heart. The singing of hymns has been a part of our Christian celebrations whenever we gather for Holy Mass and at the many other devotions within our parishes. These hymns are certainly beautiful and we are often moved in a deeply spiritual way when we hear them or sing them. Some of these hymns are only used in certain seasons of the Church year, but there are also hymns that speak to certain Catholic Christian realities, in particular, the Eucharistic Hymns. These hymns almost serve as a mini-catechism speaking truths that we all hold about what occurs when we gather for Holy Mass and when we receive Holy Communion. Just looking at one Eucharistic Hymn within our PNCC Hymnal “Hallowed Be Forever” allows us to see many aspects of our faith. This hymn contains lines such as “Hallowed be forever, Living Host Divine” showing us that the living Christ is present to us at Mass and in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. “Sacrament Most Holy, by which we are fed,” reminds us that in the reception of Holy Communion we are sustained and strengthened by the presence of Jesus. Another hymn “Jesus, My Lord and Savior” sums up exactly what we do each time we gather for Mass: “Jesus, my Lord and Savior, here I would worship Thee. All that I have I give Thee for Thou didst die for me. Here in this Bread of Heaven, here in this Host divine, thanksgiving, praise and honor be every moment Thine.” Each of these Eucharist hymns says something to us and to all who hear us about our faith in Christ Jesus, present to us during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

**Action Item** – Sing along with the hymns when gathered during the celebration of Mass. Also taken a favorite Eucharistic Hymn, such as “Hallowed Be Forever” or “Jesus, My Lord and Savior” and sing it, either by yourself or with your family, each day.

**SEPTEMBER – THE EUCHARIST IN THE DECLARATION OF SCRANTON**

Scripture: (Acts 2:46-47) Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home, and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

Reflection and Action Item:

The Declaration of Scranton formulated and accepted by the P.N.C.C. Bishops on April 28, 2008 and later accepted by the Clergy Conference and the General Synod, helps guide the Church in its relationships with other Christian bodies. The document has allowed us to enter into fruitful and real ecclesial relations with the Nordic Catholic Church in Scandinavia and the rest of Europe. The largest and most vital paragraph of this document speaks to our faith in the Holy Eucharist and the celebration of Mass, which must be a part of any agreement that we have between Churches.

Important aspects of our faith are spoken of within this paragraph: Holy Mass is “the true central point of Catholic worship.” We confess that we receive “the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.” When we gather for Mass we also know that we unite ourselves with “the one offering which Jesus Christ makes in Heaven.” During the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we participate in a true connection between heaven and earth.

This paragraph also shows us that when we gather at Holy Mass as a parish, there is also something else that occurs. It allows us to come together and unite ourselves to each other. The Holy Eucharist is “at the same time, a sacrificial feast by means of which the faithful in receiving the Body and Blood of our Savior enter into communion with one another (1 Cor. 10:17).” This reference to the First Letter to the Corinthians is recited during the Contemporary Rite of Mass, “Because there is one bread, we who are many, are one body, because we all partake of the one bread.” This one body, our parish church, is also Christ present in the world today in another way. All that the parish does, in the worship of God and in service to God’s people, especially those within our local communities, is participating in the work of Jesus Christ in the



world today. What we do at Holy Mass allows us to extend the presence of Jesus Christ, outside our Church walls.

**Action Item** – Read the Eucharistic (6<sup>th</sup>) paragraph of the Declaration of Scranton as well as the Scripture quotes cited. Spend some time at Holy Mass reflecting on what actually occurs when we gather to worship God and receive His Son in Holy Communion

*Schedule* Zoom video conference: Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

## OCTOBER – CLAIRE OF ASSISI

Scripture: Philippians 3:8-14, Matthew 19:27-29

*Reflection:* St. Clare of Assisi, whose August 11, came from a wealthy family which was devoted to our Lord within the Church. Tradition tells us that, after hearing St. Francis preach, she felt God’s call to follow Jesus is a way similar to Francis’ and embrace a life of detached poverty, simplicity, chastity, and prayer. Her family was against this, but she firmly held onto the call of the Holy Spirit and pursued this vocation along with other women whose leader and example she became to the point that they referred to her as “alter Franciscus”—“another Francis.”

When St. Clare’s life became challenging or overwhelming, when she grew tired or even afraid, she ran into the arms of Christ in the Eucharist. In this way, she is a wonderful example to all of us as disciples of Jesus. Whenever the unique pathway of discipleship that God has set out in front of each us becomes rocky or ridden with holes, and we feel like we can go no further and might even like to give up, we can go to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and receive our strength. St. Clare, pray for us!

**Action Item:** Here is St. Clare’s Prayer to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist:

Every weekend this month, get to Mass early or stay a while after Mass and pray it to our Lord Whose true and abiding presence is in the tabernacles of our churches.

*Schedule:* October is also the month of the Holy Rosary, so schedule a time for the members of the Parish Family to gather in church and pray the Holy Rosary in the presence of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

## NOVEMBER – CYRIL AND METHODIUS

Scripture: Mark 6:34-44

*Reflection Prayer:* St. Cyril and his brother St. Methodius were born in the early 9<sup>th</sup> century in what is today Greece within a devout Christian family. They both dedicated their lives to Christ within the Church living this out many different ways—including Cyril’s being a professor in a University and Methodius becoming the abbot of a monastery—but they are best known for being “the Apostles to the Slavs.” Called by the Holy Spirit and sent by the Church as missionaries to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the peoples of Eastern Europe, the brothers traveled to what was then called “Great Moravia” which included territories that are today part of Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Serbia. There they had great success in founding churches and training new clergy, preaching to the people, baptizing them and feeding them with the Body and Blood of the Lord. In order to translate the Scriptures—starting with the Gospels and the Psalms—and liturgical texts of the Church into the language of the Slavs, they even devised an alphabet. Although it has passed through some stages of development over the many years, is still used today in many languages.

The spiritual (and even cultural influence) of these brothers on so many of us within the Polish National Catholic Church cannot be overstated. It is as if Jesus saw so many people hungering for Him, and asked Cyril and Methodius to go and feed them on his behalf, and because they willingly and sacrificially did, the Slavic people have been encountering Christ in the proclamation of the Word and in receiving Him in the Most Holy Eucharist for over 1,150 years! St. Cyril and St. Methodius, pray for us!

**Action Item:** Follow the loving and courageous example of “the Apostles to the Slavs” and share your own faith with some else in this simple way: Invite them to come to Mass with you.

*Schedule* Mass and Event (Breakfast) for those who serve

*Encourage* Giving to those in need on Giving Tuesday

*Schedule* Drive of Collection to help homeless veterans in some way

*Schedule* Zoom video conference: Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

## DECEMBER – THE EUCHARIST: THE HEART AND CENTER OF WHO WE ARE

*Scripture:* (Ezekiel 36:26-27) A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit in will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you and make you follow my statutes.

### Reflection and Action Item:

As we were all beginning to once again open up our parish churches following the most difficult parts of the pandemic, I had the opportunity to distribute Holy Communion to a number of individuals who had not received our blessed Lord in Holy Communion for some time. I remember seeing the tears of joy in their eyes as they approached the altar to receive Jesus and how moved they were to be united, at that moment, with our Lord. These individuals were aware that up until that time they were missing something precious and holy within their lives.

It is so very easy for each of us to lose track of exactly what are the most important things in life. First and foremost of these things must be the worship of God in the Holy Eucharist and the reception of His Son in Holy Communion. When we do not participate in this central point in our lives or when we do not attend to it the way we should, we begin, in fact, to have “stony hearts.” God desires that we come to Him in worship and in love; He desires that we are united to Him in the reception of Holy Communion. He seeks to put within us “hearts of flesh,” hearts renewed under His continuing creative power and love.

In order to us to be true and faithful Catholics, true and faithful followers of Jesus Christ, our worship and participation at the Holy Eucharist is essential. It is our worship of the God Who created us, our union with the Lord Who loves us and gave Himself for us upon the Cross. It is the opportunity to join with others into the one body of Christ on earth to accomplish His work and build the kingdom of God. It is truly the heart and center of who we are and all that we are, as individuals and as parishes together. In fact, it is the heart and center of all creation.

**Action Item** – After the reception of Holy Communion at your parish church, pray the Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion from the PNCC Prayerbook and contemplate the great gift you have received as Christ comes to you in Holy Communion.

*Schedule and conduct* Advent Retreat/Penitential Service

## PARISH ENGAGEMENT– PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL

As we move towards a post-Covid world we need to encourage a return and renewal of our worship and building the Kingdom of God with the opportunities presented to us. While continuing to encourage vaccination, all parishes should return to all previous as well as additional discipleship activities/engagement. This should be done by the parish committee, other committees and groups of the parish following the Bishops Covid guidelines and CDC guidance.

### **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

As we focus on the Holy Eucharist in 2022 make time for Eucharistic Adoration in the parish. Stress the importance of this time in prayer and reflection before the Most Blessed Sacrament. Pray the Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament either corporately or privately during this time.

### **INCREASE PARISH SPIRITUALITY**

In addition to Eucharistic Adoration. Consider purchasing PNCC Prayer Books for the pews in your parish. Also provide daily prayers and reflections for different Liturgical Seasons of the Church Year.

For 10 minutes prior to the celebration of Holy Mass have a time when 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.

### COMPLETE AT LEAST EIGHT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

It is important that parishes continue their outreach into the local community. This year we are to increase the project by another one and making it eight. These efforts will create a greater presence of the parish in the community. Even during this ongoing pandemic there are many opportunities and ways that we can live out our discipleship and put our faith into action bettering our local communities and thus our world.

### **SPECIAL MASSES (IN PERSON)**

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 at any time 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 AND STRENGTHEN YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Begin or continue to post regular messages to your parish Facebook – Instagram pages and appropriate videos to your parish YouTube page. Ask your members to share them through their social media accounts as well to reach more people. Keep your websites current and user friendly. Take advantage of the opportunities that technology offers to promote our precious faith and how this faith is lived in the work and ministries of your parish.

## **ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION**

### **VIDEO CONFERENCING, 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 reflections from the monthly figures for 2022 above. This can be done via Zoom, Internet Conferencing, 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.

### **DAYS OF SPIRITUAL RETREAT AND**

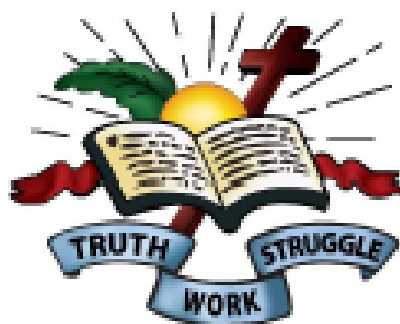
**Lent and one other (Advent)** Pick a day during the seasons of Lent and one other time in 2021 to spend in retreat and prayer. This can be done on either a parish or seniorate level. Ideas for the Retreat include: Mass of the Day, special Lenten/Advent service of Penance, Scripture Readings/Reflections 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 either in person or virtually.

### **DAY OF CARING AND SERVICE**

Pick a day to designate as a day of caring and service living out your discipleship as a parish family. After beginning with prayer there are many things you can do. Caring cards for those sick and in nursing care, put together something for the homeless (food or clothing), prayer blankets for those in need, treats for our health care workers or first responders. There are just a few things that could be done for those in your parish and local community to show your love of God by showing kindness and love to them.

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

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



## THE PENTECOST EXPERIENCE

By the Rev. Robert Koerber

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

***Bp. Francis Hodur***

**“Bethlehem was God with us, Calvary was God for us, Pentecost is God in us.”**

***Robert Baer***

The Solemnity of Pentecost celebrates the birth of the Christian Church. The term **“Pentecost”** comes from the Greek word **“Πεντηκοστή”** meaning **“fifty.”**

On that first Pentecost, Luke records in the Acts of the Apostles, that the Holy Spirit came as a “rushing and mighty wind.” He also records that there were 120 persons gathered, both men and women, On that day, we are taught that the Holy Spirit, as promised by Jesus, came and would sanctify and edify the Church, which is the “Body of Christ.”

According to our faith, we believe that God exists in three Divine, but separate persons: God the Father, the Creator of all things, God the Son, the Redeemer and Regenerator of the World and the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier of the Church and its believers. We read in the Old Testament, that the Holy Spirit was with God from the beginning. **“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters.”**

The Holy Spirit is known in Judaism as “Ruach”, the very breath, the “wind of God”. In the OT He was also known as the “Elohim” the Seven-fold Spirit of God.

We also find in the Old Testament, that the Holy Spirit came unto a select few, with divine gifts for the purposes of providing wisdom and leadership, but most importantly the gift of prophecy. One of the Prophets, Joel, prophesied over 500 years before the Pentecost: **“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams.”**

In the New Testament, the revelation of the Holy Spirit begins with Jesus. For Jesus was the unique bearer of the Spirit. He came unto Jesus in the form of a dove at His baptism. Jesus was guided and empowered by the Spirit throughout His public ministry, which included the miracles as well as His preaching and teachings of the “Good News.” It was at the Last Supper, that Jesus further reveal His promises to His disciples that the Spirit would be with them, to protect them as a Comforter, and help them to remember and testify everything He taught them. Our Lord Jesus reminds all of us that this same Spirit would be with those who formed the Church.

I would like to share with you two thoughts of the truth of the Holy Spirit on this Pentecost:

**1. The first truth is that the Holy Spirit empowers all God’s people.** The prophecies of the Old Testament and the promises of Jesus concerning the Holy Spirit were fulfilled on that first Pentecost. At that time, God did pour forth His Spirit on all those gathered as it was foretold by the prophet, Joel. The Spirit of God would also bring forth various gifts for the purpose of edifying or bringing the Church together in “One” Spirit. On that first Pentecost, the outpouring of the Spirit also caused those assembled with the speaking of all the known languages of the world. This would give them the ability to preach in different languages as they were to be the bearers of the “Good News” of Jesus. Prior to His Ascension, Jesus told them: **“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the ends of the earth.”**

**2. The second truth is that the Holy Spirit leads individuals.** The NT Epistles tells us that the story of that first Pentecost continues to the present day. We learn that the Holy Spirit guides the Church and brings new life, to its members, who form the “One Body” of Christ. Jesus teaches us in the Gospel of John that the Holy Spirit will come into the hearts of the believers.

The Holy Spirit imparts different gifts to better serve God and His people. He assists them in prayer and worship. He transforms Christians into persons, bearing the “gifts of the Spirit”; love, joy, peace patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control. The Holy Spirit creates a new family of God, and a new fellowship with each other which is the Church.

The one question that puzzles many people about the Holy Spirit is: How do we know when the Spirit is present? The Holy Spirit cannot be defined by logic or reason in the mind of man, but only in a sincere heart and trust in Jesus, the Anointed One of God. When Christ is not Lord, the Spirit is not at work. When Christ is Lord, then the Spirit is at work. The major work of the Holy Spirit is to pour out God’s love into the hearts of people so they may have a new understanding of the love God has for all. As we learn and share this divine love, each believer is sanctified (made holy) and the Church is edified (enlightened). Together, the individual and the Church are bound together by this Spirit. We are taught that Christ is the “Bridegroom” and that the Church is His “Bride.”

## THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

I find that the two works of Saint Luke in the New Testament; his Gospel account of Jesus and the Book of the Acts of the Apostles are perfect companions to each other. Holy Scripture brings to us, through his writings, the events leading up to the Pentecost experience. The following are several key scriptural passages which brings to us chronologically greater insights to this day.



**“On one occasion, while He [Jesus] was eating with them, and He gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:4-5).**

Luke continues to record the words of Jesus:

**“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.” (Acts 1:8-9).**

**“Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He was blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.” (Luke 24:50-52).**

We continue to read in the Gospel of Luke:

**“Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James, son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.” (Luke 1:12-14).**

That first Pentecost, as recorded by Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles, became the fulfillment of our Lord’s “Promise” that exists to all of us this day.

**“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues’ as the Spirit enabled them.” (Acts 2:1-4).**



We read that there were travelers from around the world who gathered in Jerusalem that day to celebrate **Shavuot**, which is also known as the “Feast of the Last First Fruits.” In Judaism, the celebration of Shavuot, commanded by God, was and is tied to the giving of the “Ten Commandments of God”, also known as the “**Matan Torah.**”, which was and is celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover. We find that St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians, refers to the fruits of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22).

## **THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS FOUND IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

Saint John, the “Beloved” disciple of Jesus, most importantly, records in his Gospel account, the words of Jesus speaking at His Last Supper, with a “Promise” of the coming of the Holy Spirit, whom He called “the Spirit of Truth,” “**Paraclete,**” “**Advocate,**” and “**Comforter**”



### **Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit** (John 14:15-21)

**“If you love Me, keep My commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see Me anymore, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in Me, and I am in You. Whoever has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love them and show Myself to them.”**

In John 15, Jesus again speaks of the coming of the Spirit:

### **The Work of the Holy Spirit** (John 15:26-27)

**“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—He will testify about Me. And you also must testify, for you have been with Me from the beginning.**

Jesus was to tell His Apostles that evening that they were to be His witnesses and in John 16:7-8, 12-15 John writes that Jesus again speaks of the coming of the Spirit:

### **Jesus Promises the Spirit of Truth** (John 16:7-8, 12-15)

**“But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When He comes, He will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment. I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what He will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from Me what He will make known to you.”**

From our parishes...

## Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH

### Parish News:

- At the end of February, the ladies of the ANS enjoyed an outing to the Palace Theater in Manchester to see the Shen Yun Chinese Acrobatic show.



- In February we collected winter items such as hats, gloves, scarves for Families In Transition. Bishop Paul delivered the items.





- For March our outreach project was to fill the Lenten Alms boxes to help with the Afghani people who have been repositioned to Manchester after being displaced from their homes. Bishop Paul and Ray were able to deliver a check for \$2,000 to the International Institute of New England to help families.
- Bishop Paul blessing the baskets of Easter food.



- Our Outreach project for April was what all of the PNCC did, we collected money for the Ukraine Relief Fund. Bishop Paul was given a \$1,000 donation by the Rotary Club of Manchester to help our mission. With the generosity of our parishioners we were able to raise and send to Scranton a total of \$17,335.





- With the warm weather the work on the outside stucco as well as reconstructing the doors and windows has begun again.



- And it begins....we have started making our pierogi for our food sale in the late fall. We are thankful for the volunteers who come to help but also to enjoy each other's company in the process.









- Members of our ANS went to our May Diocesan Annual Meeting at the Lowell parish. Good presentations, great raffles (of which we were lucky enough to win 2) and a wonderful meal cooked by the Lowell ANS women was had by all who attended.



- On Monday May 31st Bishop Paul held our Memorial Day Service at our cemetery.





- At the beginning of June, Cindy and Ray presented Bishop with a gift from the Diocese recognizing his work during Clergy Appreciation month. On Father’s Day, Nancy presented Bishop with a gift card from the parishioners of Holy Trinity.



- **Our Outreach projects:**

May – collection for the needs of the Liberty House.

June – collection for the needs of the Webster House.

July – collection of baby needs for Mom’s Place.

August – collection of back to school needs.

***By Nancy Reilly***



**FROM OUR PARISHES:**

**BLESSED TRINITY PARISH  
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS**



**INTERFAITH SOLIDARITY WALK FOR UKRAINE**



On Sunday May 1st our parish hosted the beginning of an Interfaith Solidarity Walk for Ukraine.

Over 200 folks gathered to show their support for Ukraine. Powerful testimonials of Polish relief efforts

were given by Joanna Barker and Jessica Miranda. We then walked to St. John's Ukrainian Church.





Lenten Supper I & Stations - Thanks Kathy

3/4/22



Blessed to Offer Prayer and Serve our local Veterans at the Fall River Veterans' Kitchen St. Patrick's Day Luncheon - Corky Row Club - March 9, 2022



With Mayor Coggan, Commander Derwood above & serving with Councilor Pereira to the left







Feast of St. Joseph Vigil Mass  
and the St. Joseph's Table

Thank You  
Michael & Paula  
March 18, 2022



Third Sunday in Lent & Animal Rescue League Drive - March 20, 2022







Spring Clam Boil Finally!  
And another Sell Out! - 3/20/22



Spring Clam Boil Finally! And another Sell Out! - 3/20/22





Parish Youth Lenten Day of Caring and Service - 3/26/2022  
Feeding the Homeless



Blessed Trinity Parish:  
Thank you for  
your generous gift to our patients!  
Saint Anne's Hospital

Parish Youth Lenten Day of Caring and Service - 3/26/2022  
Chemo Care Bags





Meal in the Upper Room - A Beautiful Sacred Solemn Hour in Prayer and Reflection 4/3/2022





Youth Stations of the Cross - April 8, 2022



Easter Babka Bread Making - Thanks to our great Crew - 102 Made! April 9, 2022





Some time with Mass Governor Charlie Baker and Bristol County Sheriff Hodgson - 4/20/22



2022 Lenten Almsgiving to Help Those in Need in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ





Interfaith Solidarity Walk for Ukraine - May 1, 2022



The Interfaith Solidarity Walk for Ukraine Sunday in Fall River started at Blessed Trinity Polish National Catholic Church, followed by Saint Stanislaus Church, ending at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church.



Interfaith Solidarity Walk for Ukraine - May 1, 2022 - Ending at St. John's Ukrainian Church





### FAST Response Team presentation to Father Kelly Neighborhood Meeting - May 16, 2022



### Blessed to Provide Lunch for our FRPD during National Police Week - May 19, 2022





Parish Baby Shower to Help Young Families with Babies in Need through People Inc. - May 22, 2022



Delivery of Baby Items to People Inc. Children's Center - Thanks to All who Donated! May 26, 2022



**DISCIPLESHIP**

2022

PNCC





**MEMORIAL DAY WREATH LAYING CEREMONY, HOLY MASS AND BREAKFAST - MAY 29, 2022**

With many local veterans, Atty. Richard Urban, Mayor Coogan, State Rep Silvia and Councilor Pereira



## Upcoming Parish Events and Information

**June 11 - Fall River Veterans Breakfast at Blessed Trinity**

**June 12 - Closing of School of Christian Living**

**June 13 - Diocesan Strategic Plan Opening House on Zoom**

**June 16 - Corpus Christi Mass and Procession - Woonsocket, RI**

**June 19 - Hygiene Drive for our local homeless concludes**

**June 20 - Fall River Westport CARES Presentation**

**June 23 - Altar Servers Retreat at our parish**

**July 9 - Fall River Veterans Barbecue and Cook Out**

**July 10 - Parish Youth-PTA Pool Party and Cook Out**

**July 11 - Neighborhood Association annual Cook Out**

**July 15 & 16 - FRPD Smoke on the Water Prep**

**August 14 - Summer Clam Boil**

**August 20 - Onion Angels Prep**

**August 22-24 - Diocesan Youth Retreat at our parish**

**August 28 - Youth Sunday with blessing of backpacks**

**September 3 & 4 - Pierogi Making - We Need You!**



## **BLESSED TRINITY PARISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH SUNDAY HOLY MASS @ 8:30 AM**

### **Mailing Address:**

**1340 Plymouth Ave.  
Fall River, MA 02721**

**37 Winthrop Street  
Fall River, MA 02721**

***Pastor:* Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich**

***Facebook:* Blessed Trinity PNCC**

***Phone:* 508-672-4854**

***Website:* BlessedTrinityChurch.org**

***Email:* RobNem21@aol.com**

***YouTube Page:* Blessed Trinity PNCC**

***Serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His Holy Church  
In the greater Fall River community since 1898***



*From Our Parishes...*

## Holy Cross News – Central Falls, RI



An event filled spring at Holy Cross with a blessed Lenten journey and joyous Easter season. Discipleship abounded in many ways as we live our faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Blessing Glen as he begins service in the National Guard  
on this Solemnity of the Institution of our PNCC  
May God bless him and all who serve  
March 13, 2022**



**Thanks to all who helped us make Pierogi at Holy Cross for this Lenten Season - March 12, 2022**





### Holy Cross Community Food, Bread & Coat Distribution - March 19, 2022



Holy Cross Community Food, Bread & Coat Distribution - Thanks Brenda, Steve & Tom  
Rain moved us inside too! March 19, 2022





### Ladies Society \$1,000 & PNU District 3 \$500 Donations to Support Ukraine 3/27/2022



**Prayer for Peace in Ukraine**  
Allpowerful and eternal God, we look forward to the day when nations will no longer wage war against nations and all people will live in security and peace. No nation whose conflicts may flare up, whenever we will, we work for peace. As we seek justice and equity and all that is right, may we pray to be nations of peace and good will, and all that is right and just. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen. (Prayer Book, 1978) (Prayer Book, 1978) (Prayer Book, 1978)



**Blessing of new Easter Vestments  
Thank you Michael and Paula!  
3/27/2022**





**Holy Cross Spaghetti Supper - Thanks to all who Supported this Event for our Parish - 4/2/2022**



**Holy Cross Spaghetti Supper - Thanks to all who Supported this Event for our Parish - 4/2/2022**





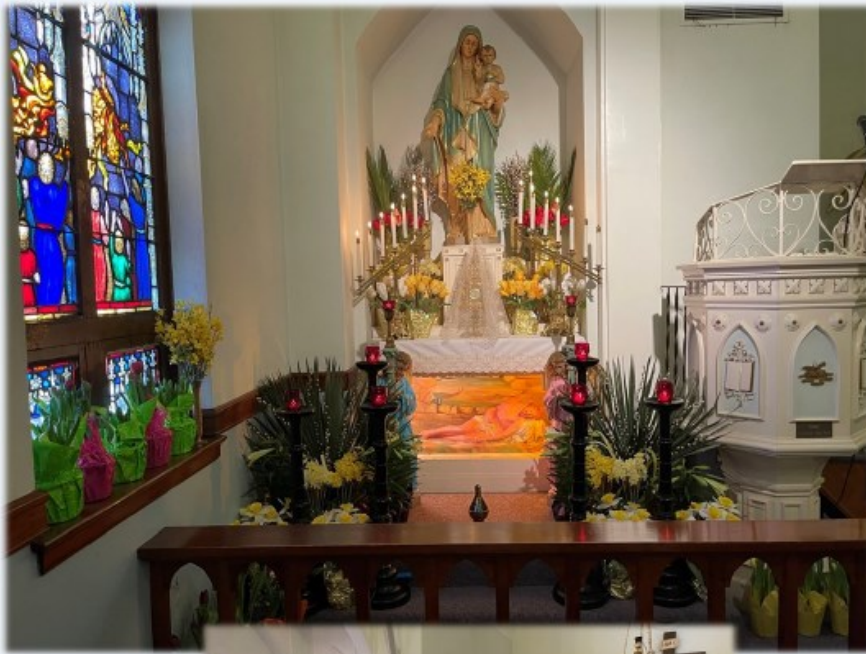
Pierogi Making at Holy Cross - Thanks to our Crew - 4/1/2022



PALM SUNDAY 2022







Good Friday 2022



Easter 2022





Holy Cross Central Falls - Pawtucket Food Distribution - April 23, 2022



Easter Swieconka Dinner - Thank You Michael and Paula - May 1, 2022





### Easter Swieconka Dinner and our Marian Altar for May - May 1, 2022



### Holy Cross Community Food Distribution - Thanks Brenda, Lois and Steve May 14, 2022





Thanks to all who helped us make pierogi for our upcoming Polish Supper - God Bless! May 14, 2022



**TRADITIONAL POLISH DINNER**

AT HOLY CROSS PARISH  
320 High Street - Central Falls, RI

Saturday - June 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm

Tickets are \$15 per person



Each Dinner Includes: Cheese Pierogi, Cabbage Pierogi, Golabki, Kielbasa with Rye Bread and a Bowl of Kapusta

For Tickets or Reservations  
please contact:

button9744@gmail.com or

call 508 328 4047



MEMORIAL DAY PRAYERS AT OUR HOLY CROSS VETERANS MONUMENT - SUNDAY 5/29/2022





From our parishes...

## Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI

### • Monthly Community Outreach

Since October 2020 on the third Saturday of each month Our Saviour's has been serving free Lunch to the local community from 11am-12:30pm.

This lunch is for everybody who stops by. No question asked. In winter season we serve a delicious hot soup, prepared by our "master cook" Lonnie Watson, with crackers, snacks, and water. In summer we serve sandwiches, American chop suey, and other food as well. We give away around 75 lunches. Part of it is delivered to the Woonsocket Men's Shelter and distributed to the homeless in Woonsocket.

Thank you to the parish volunteers and to all who support this event financially. We are happy we can serve our



community!



## • POLISH FOOD DRIVE THRU SALE

A special thank you to all who helped April 9, 2022 with our Polish Food Drive Thru Sale. The event was a huge success. We served over 100 cars serving pierogi, golabki, fried cabbage with kielbasa and bread, cabbage soup, babka, and apple pie! We also collected \$1,139 to support the Ukrainian refugees in Poland. Thank you to all of you for spending days working in the kitchen. May God bless ALL of you for your hard work and care for our church!



By Fr. Henryk Wos



## • Our Saviour’s Spring Meat Raffle

SPRING refers to a season, and also to ideas of rebirth, rejuvenation and renewal.

On Friday, April 29, 2022, Our Saviour’s Church celebrated RENEWAL with our first Meat Raffle since January 2020. The church hall was ready for the evening. Seventeen themed tables were designed by Patricia Kaczorowski in addition to the Penny Social and Gift Basket Tables. Raffle ticket sellers for the evening were Carol Bibeault and Ed Surowiec. Dressed as the “King” of the Meat Raffles and greeting new and old friends, was Philip Kaczorowski, MC for the evening. Edmund Fox and Gail Surowiec sold over 75 \$20 Meat Raffle passes at the door. Everyone enjoyed a complimentary bowl of Lasagna Soup made by Lonnie Watson and served by Sally Watson. Deb Boucher and Christine Kozlik manned the



dessert and beverage table. Judging by the noise level and excitement in the church hall... our Meat Raffle was in full swing! This event was very successful due to the RENEWED friendships and social interaction that was lacking from the past two pandemic years. Also, we have the best clean up crew ever... within minutes the church hall was RESTORED and looking great. A special “Thank you”! to Father Henryk (Greeter and Photographer) and his family for their help throughout the evening. Our theme is “Everyone goes home a winner”!

This event was a win-win evening... We were RENEWED, REJUVENATED and RESTORED in mind, body and soul. Join us for our next Meat Raffle scheduled for Friday October 28th. Doors open at 6pm and the raffle begins promptly at 7 pm.

**Submitted by Patricia Kaczorowski**



• **MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE**

On Memorial Day - May 30th, Parishioners of Our Saviour's gathered at the parish cemetery for prayers for those who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces, especially for those from Our Saviour's Parish. In the past, seven of our parishioners paid the highest price in service to our country. During the Mass celebrated at the cemetery we prayed as well for those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the past and for those who serve now, guarding the security and freedom of our country.



By Fr. Henryk Wos





## OUR SAVIOUR’S HOSTS THE NORTHEAST SENIORATE CORPUS CHRISTI CELEBRATION

On June 16, 2022, on the Feast of Corpus Christi our Northeast Seniorate parishes gathered at Our Saviour’s Parish in Woonsocket, RI for a special Mass with procession with the Blessed Sacrament to four altars.

During the Holy Mass Bishop Paul Sobiechowski consecrated a new Altar of Sacrifice for the parish. Fr. Andrzej Tenus read the Gospel; Fr. Sr. Robert Nemkovich preached a sermon on the importance of the Holy Eucharist in Christian life, and Fr. Henryk Wos led the procession with the Blessed Sacrament.

A delicious lasagna dinner was served after the service in the parish hall.







Thank you to all who joined us that day for a common prayer. Thank you to all who helped to prepare this beautiful service, especially Edmund Fox. Thank you to Mrs. Sobiechowski for beautiful music; thank you to Lonnie and Sally Watson for delicious lasagna, and to parishioners for desserts.



**By Fr. Henryk Wos**



- **CONFORMATION AT OUR SAVIOUR’S**

On Sunday, June 26, during the Holy Mass at 4pm, Our SOCL students: Patrycja Wos, Juliana Palin, Zachary Kaczorowski, Tyler Dixon, and Cyle Caranci have received the Sacrament of Confirmation by the hands of Bishop Paul Sobiechowski. During the homily Bp. Paul Sobiechowski focused on the necessity of being authentic witnesses of Jesus in this difficult time. The Holy Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Adam Piekarczywski from Manchester, CT; Fr. Paul Lukaszewicz from Chicopee, MA, and the Pastor Fr. Henryk Wos. As a gift from the parish the confirmands each received Holy Bible to lead them in time of distress and doubts in their lives.

Those who attended enjoyed a delicious supper and desserts in the parish hall after the Mass. Thank you to the families and confirmands and the parish family for their help in organizing this important event.

*By Fr. Henryk Wos*





• **PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Congratulations to Patrycja Wos and Tyler Dixon on being members of the National Junior Honor Society, and on their graduation from Middle School with High Honors.

We are proud of both of you!

**Upcoming Parish Events:**

- Parish Potluck Picnic in Honor of Fr. Henryk - July 10, 2022
- Golf Tournament - July 25, 2022
- Fall Festival - September 11, 2022
- Meat Raffle - October 28, 2022

# Golf Tournament

Monday, July 25th, 2022

8:30 AM Shotgun start

New England Country Club  
180 Paine Street  
Bellingham, MA



Sponsored by  
Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI

\$125 per golfer  
Includes Golf, Cart, Food, & MORE  
ALSO Raffles and Silent Auction

Hole Sponsors - \$100  
Corporate Sponsors - \$500

Contact: Gerry Ethier at 401-487-4887 or [gnetier@cox.net](mailto:gnetier@cox.net)

## *Free Lunch Saturday at Our Saviour's Parish*

*Every third Saturday,  
11am-12:30pm or until we run out*



**Our community is invited to drive thru  
and grab some lunch free of charge!**

***Our Saviour's Parish  
500 Smithfield Rd, Woonsocket, RI  
Call 401-762-3072 for more info***

From our parishes...

## Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA

It's been a busy spring at Holy Trinity Church.

- We had a local gentleman that approached us during our craft fair last fall and inquired about renting our hall to have auctions. We had 2 Christmas auctions and since late winter we've been having auctions every other Saturday.

The ladies of the church run the kitchen serving food and drinks. We've made crafts which we get to sell at the auction also.



And they run a weekly 50/50 raffle with half of the proceeds going to Holy Trinity.

It's a great way for Holy Trinity to get our name out into the public more and we often go home with some great deals.

- We've recently done some renovation to our parking area located behind our church. Instead of the grassy area we now have a hard packed gravel parking area where we no longer have to worry about getting stuck in during the spring when the ground thaws out.

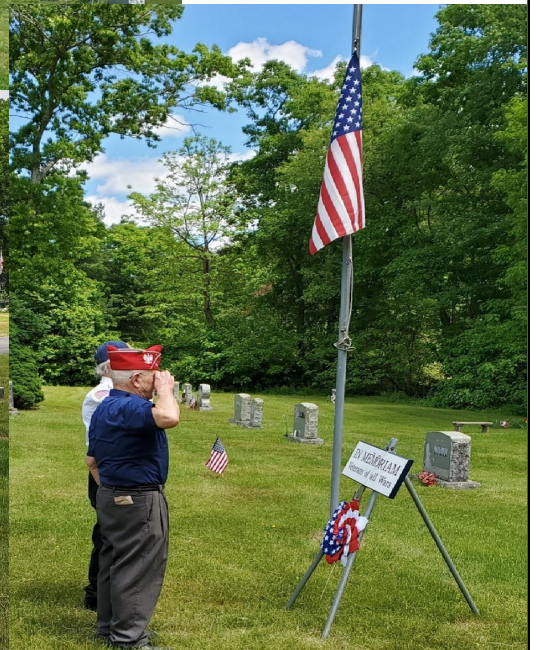




- We continue to have our monthly community breakfasts which everyone seems to enjoy.



- Our local veterans had a Memorial Day service at our cemetery with Fr. Henryk leading the prayer service. It was a very solemn service honoring our veterans who have passed away. We at Holy Trinity always support our veterans.



**By Rita Ouellette**



From our parishes...

## St. Valentine’s Parish, Northampton, MA LENTEN OFFERING BOXES PROJECT

During the period of Lent this year Lenten collection boxes provided by the Eastern Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church were made available to the parishioners and friends of our Parish for the sole purpose of



raising funds that would aid Parish outreach in the local community. Lent is a time for reflecting on God’s mercy with kindness toward others. Parishioners and friends, who took a Lenten collection box, were asked to turn in their donation boxes to the church, so that our parish as a whole could provide funds toward our Parish outreach. Donations received this year (\$ 257.00) were sent to the Northampton Survival Center.



*By Krysia Newman*

## POLISH EXILE AUGUST MALCZEWSKI VEL JAKUBOWSKI REMEMBERED

On Sunday, April 24, 2022 was the 185th anniversary of the death of August Malczewski vel Jakubowski, a Polish exile was remembered. Members of the Polish Heritage Committee as well as two guests gathered at August’s gravesite at Bridge Street Cemetery for a memorial service. Father Adam Czarnecki conducted the prayer service and a new Polish flag was placed at the grave. John Skibiski read a short history of Mr. Malczewski vel Jakubowski and Fred Zimnoch read his obituary that was published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

Short history as provided to the Gazette by Fred Zimnoch:

August was a young Polish nobleman who was exiled from Poland with a group of Revolutionaries who participated in the failed uprising of November 1830 that hoped to free Poland from under the yoke of Russia. While in this country he wrote a history of Poland called “The Remembrances of a Polish Exile”.

Then in Northampton he taught French at Miss Dwight’s Seminary for Young Ladies. After one year, he became grievously ill and died. At the time he was about 21 years old. His students provided for his burial and the gravestone shown in the photos in the article.



*By Krysia Newman*





# POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY OBSERVANCE MAY 3, 2022

The Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton in conjunction with our parish observed Polish Constitution Day with a holy Mass of remembrance and celebration on Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022 at 6 pm in our Church. Father Adam celebrated holy Mass and presented a brief presentation on the Polish Constitution.

Left to right; first row: Christine Newman, Mary Ellen EnGLISH, Alberta Martin, Mike Wiater; second row: Robert Bibowicz (President of the Polish Heritage Committee), Fr. Adam Czarnecki (Pastor of St. Valentine's PNCC), Frederick S. Zimnoch (President of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts), Isaac Scott. Not in the photo: John Skibiski.

The 3rd of May, 1791 is celebrated as one of the most important National Holidays in Poland because it marks the declaration of one of the first National Constitutions designed to supplant the long-standing anarchy of the ruling classes with a more democratic constitutional monarchy.

This was a progressive document for its time and served as a model for many countries in the nineteenth century wave of democratic reform that swept throughout Europe.

Following the Mass, refreshments were served in the Parish Hall.

~Krysia Newman

## Saint Valentine's Parish Graduates Four Polish Language Class Students

After successful participation in the Polish language course of study, four students were promoted on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 in our Parish Hall. These conscientious students have attended class taught by Father Adam, every Tuesday evening from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm since September, 2021. Students learned sentence construction, enhanced their Polish vocabulary and Polish speaking and reading skills. Also, students learned many historical information about Poland and about Polish traditions and customs.

Graduates included: Robert Gibowicz, Michael Lambert, Alberta Martin, Edward Kaczenski.

Classes for the next academic year will begin Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall of St. Valentine's Church. If you want to learn the Polish language, culture and traditions, please join our class in the Fall.

*Kurs Języka Polskiego*  
*przy Parafii Św. Walentego*

Niniejszym zaświadcza się, że  
*Edward Kaczenski*  
ukończył(a) Kurs Języka Polskiego w roku szkolnym 2021/2022

*ks. Adam Czarnecki*  
Podpis

24 Maja  
Roku Pańskiego 2022






# MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

On Monday, May 30, 2022 10 a.m. Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Adam at the Chapel in our parish cemetery, Holy Trinity Cemetery of St. Valentine's Parish in Hatfield, Massachusetts. Fr. Adam prepared a program honoring all of the soldiers who gave their lives for our freedom, those who



are serving in the military, their families and all the departed souls of our Parish who worked so very hard for St. Valentine's Church. May they all rest in peace. It was a beautiful service and a gorgeous day – thank you to all who attended (Isaac Scott took pictures).

*by Krysia Newman*

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## Coming Events/Classes

- ◆ **BIBLE STUDY** at St. Valentine's Parish — **Thursdays evenings at 6:30 pm (from September 8)** — Parish Hall. Discussion Leader: Fr. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
- ◆ **POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES** at St. Valentine's Church — **Tuesdays evenings at 6:30 pm (from September 13)** — Parish Hall. Instructor: Fr. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
- ◆ **POLISH HERITAGE COMMITTEE OF NORTHAMPTON MEETINGS** at St. Valentine's Church — **every first Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm**
- ◆ **ROAST PORK DINNER** — **Sunday, June 26 at 12 noon**
- ◆ **POLISH DINNER** — **TBD in the Fall time** (look for the announcements)



## From our parishes...

### St. Joseph Parish, Stratford, CT



#### • Acolytes return to serving at the altar!

On Easter Sunday, not only did Mass return to its previous celebration time of 9:30 a.m., but for the first time since the pandemic shut everything down, our acolytes returned to assisting Father Tom on the altar. Despite the last-minute change in time, the service was well attended.



#### And more good news!

Little by little, things are starting to open up and become closer to the pre-pandemic normal. On Pentecost, after Mass, our coffee social hour resumed to the enthusiastic welcome of parishioners and the guests they'd invited to share in the Pentecost service. It was great to be able to catch up on everyone's lives during the last few years of isolation while enjoying fruit salad, buttered rolls, and many baked goods ranging from cookies to cakes, sweetbreads, and cupcakes, with our coffee, tea, lemonade, or iced tea.



Many thanks to our Ladies' Society for the successful return of a much-missed tradition!

#### Lenten Almsgiving boxes

So that the giving would have greater meaning, our parishioners donated the contents of their almsgiving boxes to the charity of their choice and informed the office of which charity they'd supported. Several parishioners pooled their contributions to make their donation larger. There were four organizations that benefitted from this: Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry, Bridgeport Rescue Mission, Lord Chamberlain residents' Bingo Fund, and Trumbull Special Needs Programs.

## **Ukrainian Relief Fund**



Our parish had been trying to decide an appropriate way to help those in the Ukraine so that maximum funds would go directly to those in need. Bishop Paul's appeal for donations to aid our Polish churches in their ministry to our Ukrainian brothers and sisters suffering the ravages of war was perfectly timed to settle all debates on this topic and parishioners correspondingly stepped up to honor the appeal, raising \$2000 in the two short weeks of the collection.

## **Food for the hungry**

Collection of food for the local food pantry continues at a steady rate each week. Many thanks to Joe and Jane Pelland for tirelessly delivering the non-perishables!

## **Saturday Mass suspended for the summer**

As in previous years, the Saturday 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass has been suspended for the summer. With so many people away on vacation from week to week in the summer months, attendance at this service drops significantly. But don't worry, it will be back in September!

## **Upcoming Events**

With the relaxation of mandates on gatherings, we are beginning to entertain ideas for various programs and enhanced community outreach. Right now there are only two events scheduled for the future, but more are on the horizon for autumn and winter.

The first is a tailgating party in the parking lot for Stratford's 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display on 30 June (rain date – 5 July). Gates open at 6:00 p.m. Check with the office in advance to get the "password" – we want to make sure all parishioners and their families and guests have priority access to the lot. It's a great place from which to view the festivities (bring bug spray!), but those who wish can take the short walk down to the beach for a closer view.

The second event will be Quarter Night on Saturday, 29 October. Reserve the date now to join us for a night of fun, winning, and camaraderie! More details will follow in the next issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Vasas, Music Director



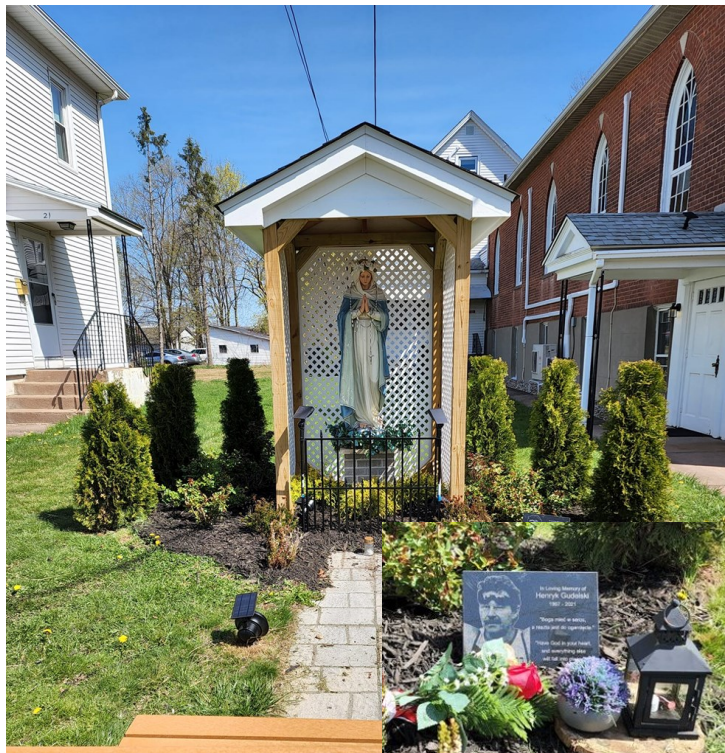
## From our parishes...

### St. John the Baptist Parish , Manchester, CT

#### Parish News:

- Spring cleaning at the Shrine of Mary in Manchester CT.

Statue covered with protective film, new mulch layer, weeds removed, new solar lamps. Getting ready for May devotions!



- Holy Triduum celebrations at St. John's.





- On Easter Sunday, Enrique became officially an altar server of St. John's church. Congratulations!



- Parishioners and friends of our Parish enjoyed the Easter Breakfast held after solemn Easter Sunday Mass. We served delicious & traditional Easter food: Zurek (sour rye soup with egg), white kielbasa, deviled eggs, Polish Ham and Mazurek – traditional Easter cake.





## From our parishes...

### St. Casimir Parish, Lowell, MA

- **Mother's Day Gift Bags**

During the month of April, St. Casimir's ANS spearheaded a drive to collect items for Mother's Day gift bags. ANS sisters and parishioners pitched in to help fill gift bags for area mothers who had fallen on hard times.

We learned of the Mother's Day endeavor from our friends at Project Wish, a non-profit agency helping thousands of people in Greater Lowell. We were supplied with a list of suggested items ie, shampoo, moisturizer, novels, gift cards, nail polish and more.

At the end of April, two boxes filled to the top were delivered to Project Wish in Chelmsford, MA by ANS member, Paula Jones. We were happy to join in this Mother's Day endeavor and hopefully our donation brought happiness to the mothers who received the Gift Bags.

- **Bottle and Can Drive**

St. Casimir's ANS began a project of collecting refundable cans and bottles on April 1. We wanted to do an activity to mark Earth Day in our city. This activity is positive in two ways. First monies collected will fund our group's charitable endeavors and second, it will help the environment by recycling.

A large bin is located in the parish center where ANS members and parishioners can drop off their clean bottles and cans. The cans and bottles are then bundled and brought to a local Redemption Center. Our Recycling chair is Deb Charette who is always ready to help.

**By JoAnn Menzia**

- **Memorial Day Observance**

On Sunday, May 29 Dom Polski and the Polish American Veterans of Lowell, MA invited the community to a joint service to honor veterans.

The event began at 12 noon on the grounds of Dom Polski. Fr. Andrzej Tenuś, Army Captain and Chaplain to the PAV, offered prayers. Janice Klimczak, organist of St. Casimir's Parish in Lowell sang both the Polish and American National Anthems. The names of deceased veterans and auxiliary members who passed away during 2021-2022 were read.

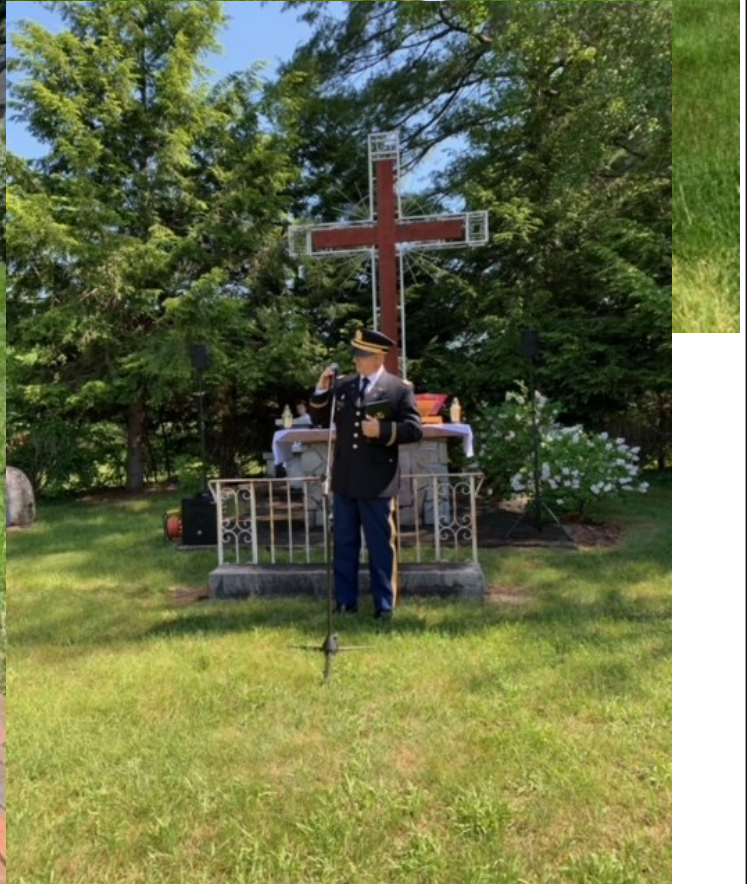




A remembrance wreath was placed at the monument to Polish American veterans by Irene Jaracz of the women’s auxiliary and her daughter, Tanya Jaracz Bigelow. Sadly, Irene’s husband Commander Robert Jaracz, died in January 2022.

The Honor Guard provided volley and taps. Guests were invited for refreshments served courtesy of the Dom Polski.

**By Janice Klimczak**





- **Polish Easter Basket**

St. Casimir's ANS recently held a Polish Easter basket raffle to raise funds for ongoing projects. The winner of the raffle was Beverly Runowicz, shown here with our pastor Father Andrzej Tenus.

- **Annual May 3 Constitution Day**

St. Casimir's Parish took part in the Annual May 3 Constitution Day ceremonies at Lowell City Hall. Father Tenus, chaplain of the local Polish American Veterans, gave the invocation as well as the benediction. Irene Jaracz, widow of the late PAV Commander Robert Jaracz, and grandsons, Justin and James Bigelow were chosen to raise the Polish flag during the program.



- **Aid to Ukraine**

The generous parishioners and friends of St. Casimir's have provided humanitarian relief to Ukrainian refugees who have been accepted into Poland and are being aided by many of our parishes. \$8,020 has been collected and recently sent to our diocesan office to be transmitted to our general church and then to the parishes in Poland.

In addition, the alms boxes program, sponsored by the Mission and Evangelism Commission of the Eastern Diocese netted \$110. This money has been sent to the local International Institute to help Ukrainian refugees who are expected to arrive in Lowell for resettlement in the Fall.

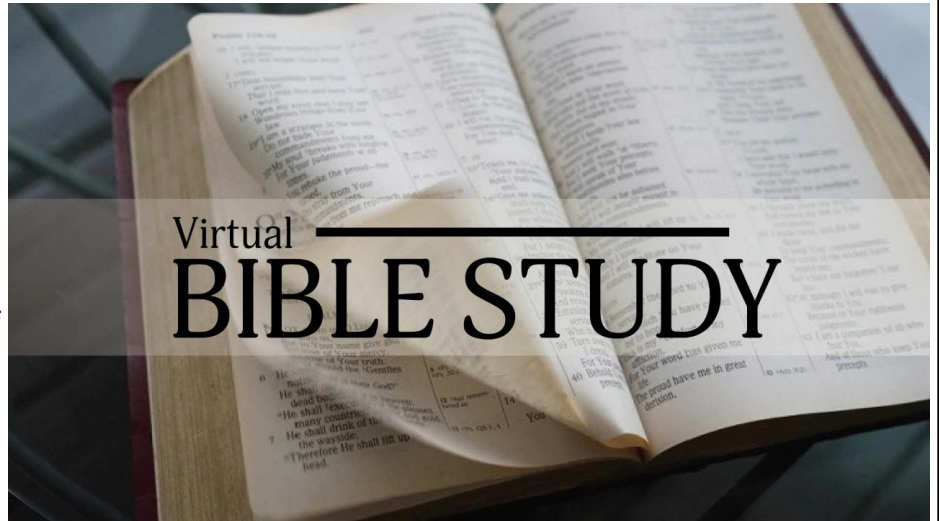
**By Janice Klimczak**



## National and Diocesan Events:

### Eastern Diocese Virtual Bible Study

Since January 2021 the Eastern Diocese leads its monthly virtual Bible Study. This was the idea of the Diocesan Mission and Evangelism Commission to provide sources for the spiritual growth of the members of our parishes. The topics of the monthly Bible Study follow the themes from the action plan for PNCC parishes, prepared by the PNCC Future Direction Committee.



This year we focus on the Eucharist and how to be eucharistic people.

The Eastern Diocese virtual Bible study is led on the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM. To register email either [revpauls@yahoo.com](mailto:revpauls@yahoo.com) or [ksobiechowski@yahoo.com](mailto:ksobiechowski@yahoo.com)

**By Fr. Henryk Wos**



## NORTHEAST SENIORATE LENTEN RETREATS 2022

Our Northeast Seniorate of the Eastern Diocese led two Lenten Retreats during Lenten season this year. The first one was led on March 3rd at Our Saviour’s Church in Woonsocket, RI. The second retreat was supposed to be led at St. Casimir Parish in Lowell, MA, on March 12<sup>th</sup>, however, due to the expected storm, it was led online, via zoom.

All participants who attended these spiritual retreats (personally or via zoom) had an uplifting time in prayer, worship, meditation, and reflection on the salvific death of our Lord on the cross.

The retreat (in Woonsocket) began with the Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, and concelebrated by Fr. Andrzej Tenus, and Fr. Henryk Vos. After the Mass there were two presentations made by Fr. Sr Rob and Kathy Nemkovich: Stations of the Cross led by Fr. Andrzej Tenus: a beautiful music reflection on Lenten hymns, made by Karen



Sobiechowski,; Lenten Lamentations and the exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament made by Fr. Henryk Vos.

Thank you to all presenters for bringing us closer to Jesus on this Lenten Journey. Thank you to the parishioners of Our Saviour’s Parish for their hospitality and delicious food.

**By Fr. Henryk Vos**





## DIOCESAN CHRISM MASS 2022

On Holy Tuesday April 12, 2022 Our Saviour's Parish in Woonsocket, RI, hosted the Diocesan Chrism Mass. The Holy Mass of Chrism was celebrated by Bp. Paul Sobiechowski and the Clergy of the Eastern Diocese.

The Chrism Mass manifests the unity of the priests with their bishop. During the Mass the clergy reaffirm their ordination vows. The Holy Oils, used by the Church in the Sacramental Rites, are blessed by the Bishop. During the Mass bishop blesses the Oil of Catechumens used in Baptism; the Holy Chrism which is used in Confirmation, Baptism, the Ordination of Priests, the consecration of Bishops, and in the consecration of altars, chalices and Church buildings, and bells; and the Oil of the Sick used in the anointing of the sick. These Holy Oils are symbols of spiritual nourishment and the light of grace, and are presented to and received by the parish communities on Holy Thursday during the Mass of the Institution of the Holy Eucharist (The Lord's Supper).

The beautiful music for the Mass was provided by Karen Sobiechowski and the United Choir members of the Eastern Diocese.

Following the Chrism Mass the clergy and the faithful gathered for a delicious meal prepared by the

Parishioners. Thank you to the Parishioners of Our Saviour's Church for their hospitality.



**By Fr. Henryk Wos**



## ANGLICAN G3 – PNCC CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR UKRAINE

On March 15 and 16, 2022, the G-3/PNCC Ecumenical Dialogue Group met at the Anglican Cathedral of the Epiphany in Columbia, South Carolina. Representing the G-3 were Archbishop Mark Haverland (Anglican Catholic Church – ACC), Archbishop Chandler Jones (Anglican Province in America - APA) Bishops Paul Hewett (Anglican Catholic Church - DHC), , Brian Marsh (Anglican Church in America - ACA), and Alexander Webb (ACA) and Fathers Robert Bader (ACC - DHC), Jonathan Foggin (ACC), Creighton McElveen (APA) and Christian Tutor (ACA). Polish National Catholic Church members included Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Father Seniors Robert Nemkovich Jr. and John Kowalczyk and Father Scott Lill. Bishops Hewett and Sobiechowski served as the Dialogue Co-Chairman for this meeting.

With prayer and concern for the war in Ukraine the Anglican G3 and PNCC Churches decided to work together to aid those fleeing from Ukraine. Contributions from the churches and The International Anglican Fellowship (IAF) will be sent to parishes of the Polish Catholic Church in Poland (Sister Church to the PNCC) which is undertaking regular humanitarian relief efforts on behalf of the Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

Updates were given by the various churches and the Union of Scranton about recent events within their respective communions and to how they are now moving forward in our post Covid situation. The dialogue also discussed aspects of Intercommunion between the PNCC and Episcopal Church prior to 1976 and other issues and ways the Churches can continue to grow closer together and achieve the unity that our Lord prayed for His Catholic Church. Bishop Hewett celebrated the Holy Mass during the meeting and Evensong.

Thanks to Bishop Hewett, Fr. Braddock and the Cathedral of the Epiphany for their hospitality in hosting this meeting. The next meeting of the G3/PNCC Ecumenical Dialogue will take place in January of 2023 to be hosted by the PNCC.





## 71ST CONVENTION OF THE ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT SOCIETY MAY 21, 2022

The 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament was held on Saturday, May 21, 2022, hosted by the sisters of St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA. Holy Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak (St. Joseph's Parish, Westfield, MA), ED-ANS chaplain assisted by the Rev. Andrzej Tenus (St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA); ) and Sub-deacon Justin Daviault (Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT). Seated in the sanctuary were the Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, (Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH), diocesan bishop, the Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski (Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT) and the Rev. Robert Koerber (Holy Name of Jesus Parish, South Deerfield, MA). The sermon was preached by Father Senior Soltysiak.

The readers were Phyllis Hunt and Beverly Runowicz. The Gospel was proclaimed by Father Senior Krusienski.

Karen Sobiechowski, diocesan organist, led diocesan choir members in appropriate hymns dedicated to the Holy Eucharist.

Father Tenus pastor of St. Casimir's Parish, extended greetings of his parish and the local ANS Society. He invited all to the sanctuary to have a group picture taken after which we adjourned to the parish center for light refreshments.

At 11:37 am the Convention was called to order by President JoAnn Menzia who led us in prayer. welcomed all to the convention and made introductions.

In conjunction with Future Directions, the theme of our convention was "Becoming Eucharistic People" emphasizing our devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

The Mandate committee report was ratified on a motion by Marilyn Folcik, seconded by Phyllis Hunt. The Roll Call was completed by the recording secretary after which Bishop Sobiechowski administered the oath of office to the delegates.

Minutes of the 70<sup>th</sup> Convention had been sent electronically and were accepted with a motion by Marilyn Folcik seconded by Diane Bielizna.

The financial reports, also sent electronically (see below), were accepted on a motion by Arlene Strazzulla and seconded by Deb Charette.

The treasurer's report indicated the following:

Beginning balance January 1, 2021	\$ 1,893.04
Income	1,330.00
Expenditures	<u>-574.00</u>
Balance December 31, 2021	\$ 2,649.04

The Financial secretary's report indicated ten parishes have sent in dues and are up to date. A total \$585.00 has been collected in dues and \$680.00 in donations. We have 117 members in the diocese.

Election of officers for 2022-2024 was conducted by Vice-president Marilyn Folcik.

A motion to accept the proposed slate of officers with the addition of Nancy Reilly as auditor was made by Karen Sobiechowski, seconded by Phyllis Hunt. The following were elected: President JoAnn Menzia (6<sup>th</sup> term), Vice-President Marilyn Folcik (6<sup>th</sup> term), Recording Secretary Janice Klimczak (8<sup>th</sup> term), Financial Secretary Susan Locks (8<sup>th</sup> term), Treasurer Sally Watson (7<sup>th</sup> term), Auditors: Sue Pretola (6<sup>th</sup> term), Diane Hodgkins (6<sup>th</sup> term), Anne Barnet (6<sup>th</sup> term), Nancy Reilly (1<sup>st</sup> term), Organizers: Cynthia Hebert, Northeast seniorate (4<sup>th</sup> term), Mary Ann Curylo, Central seniorate (3<sup>rd</sup> term), Open position, Southwest seniorate; Marshals: Karen Sobiechowski (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Deb Charette (1<sup>st</sup> term), Janice Soltysiak (4<sup>th</sup> term), Phyllis Hunt (6<sup>th</sup> term), Arlene Strazzulla (3<sup>rd</sup> term).



A game of bingo, featuring words referring to the Eucharist was played, led by Marilyn Folcik and Arlene Strazzulla. Game was won by Sub-deacon Justin Daviault.

Lunch was served at 12:30 pm.

The meeting resumed at 1:20 pm with our guest speaker, Father Robert Koerber, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, South Deerfield, MA. His presentation was entitled: "The Eucharist- -"The Center of Our Worship and an Historical Perspective".

In his talk Father Koerber emphasized that the Holy Eucharist is the real presence of Jesus Christ in the form of bread and wine. In our church, as in the Orthodox faith, the Eucharist is considered a "mystery".

Father also explained that our Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Society is important because we bear witness to the devotion and adoration of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

In addition our responsibilities include demonstrating love of God and loyalty to the Polish National Catholic Church. We promote spiritual development, care for the church sanctuary including flowers, linens and cleanliness, attend and assist at worship services, remember the ill with visitations, cards and calls and pay final tribute to deceased sisters at their wakes and funerals.

### **New Business**

The National ANS convention will be held May 19-21, 2023 hosted by the ANS sisters of Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT. This will also be the 72<sup>nd</sup> consecutive convention of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eastern Diocese.

Vice President Marilyn Folcik informed those in attendance that the National Board will send mandates out via regular mail. Guests will be housed at Courtyard by Marriott, 1081 West St., Southington, CT. A tentative schedule has been proposed including registration from 1-5 pm on May 19, meet and greet at 5:30 pm with light supper, greetings and opening remarks from 6:30-8:30 pm. Registration on Saturday, May 20 at 8 am will be followed with Mass at 9 am and group picture. A continental breakfast/meeting will begin at 10 am. Lunch will be served at 12 noon continuing with the business meeting and elections. Vicki Triano, local minister, will be guest speaker in the afternoon followed possibly by a Bible Study video or other activity. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be celebrated at 5 pm followed by dinner/adjournment. Sunday, May 21 Mass will be celebrated at 10 am followed by breakfast and adjournment by noon.

Future locations for 2024 were discussed. We are overdue for a convention in the Central Seniorate. To make attending easier and lessen the work load for hosting sisters it was suggested that we hold the convention in a central location with perhaps a potluck lunch.

Bishop Sobiechowski explained why the Youth Retreat will be held at Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA again this year in person. Covid restrictions and health considerations make it impossible to arrange activities at Camp Howe this year but hopefully things will change soon. A motion to fund the Youth Retreat in the amount of \$200 was made by Nancy Reilly, seconded by Sue Locks and passed.

President Menzia then said a prayer for our sisters departed since last year. Prayers were also said for those who are ill, anxious or under stress. It was suggested individuals and sodalities send our sister Emilia DeVore birthday cards for her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday.

President JoAnn Menzia spoke about "Angels Among Us", about serving others. Each organization represented was given a gift bag containing lap afghans created by member Jean Doda, now deceased. These should be given to people who are ill or ailing to bring them cheer. She also suggested sending cards and making phone calls to keep in touch with those unable to get around.

After an explanation of an adult education project to be more mindful of the Bible's teachings, sunflower seedlings, symbol of hope in the Ukraine, were distributed to those in attendance. It is hoped that as the sunflowers grow, so too will the Eucharistic people of the PNCC.

The basket raffle brought in a total of \$307. Half will go into the ED-ANS treasury, half will go to the ANS of Lowell for their favorite charity

Bishop Sobiechowski thanked all for their attendance and listed upcoming activities in the diocese/ seniorate/general church: Bible Study, second Thursday of each month; NE seniorate Corpus Christi Mass, Woonsocket, RI June 16; Diocesan Council, June 4, Plantsville, CT; Cathedral of the Pines, July 10.

Bishop Sobiechowski gave the closing prayer and his blessing. The convention ended at 3:10 pm.

Parishes in Lowell, MA, Manchester, NH, Plantsville, CT, South Deerfield, MA, Westfield, MA participated. There were 22 lay participants and 6 clergy representing 5 parishes.

Respectfully submitted,

**By Janice Klimczak** -Recording Secretary ED-ANS



ED-ANS convention  
participants  
May 21, 2022



Father Senior Soltysiak, ED-ANS chaplain celebrating Mass assisted by Father Andrzej Tenus, pastor of St. Casimir's and Sub-deacon Justin Daviault. On left are Father Senior Joseph Krusienki and Bishop Paul Sobiechowski. On right is Father Robert Koerber





Father Senior Joseph Soltysiak preaching the homily



Gift bags containing lap robes for sick and shut-ins



Centerpieces



Being mindful of the Bible's teachings, sunflower seedlings, symbol of hope in the Ukraine, were distributed in the hope that as they grow, so too will the Eucharistic people of the PNCC





Basket raffle prizes—one half of proceeds go to the ED-ANS treasury, the other half to a charity of the host parish.



Karen Sobiechowski, Phyllis Hunt, JoAnn Menzia.



Father Robert Koerber presents “The Eucharist—The Center of Our Worship and an Historical Perspective”



Bishop Sobiechowski listening to President JoAnn Menzia make introductions





# Moving Towards the Future

Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission



## The time is now!

The Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission (EDSPC) was established in 2017. Since its inception it has diligently worked on fulfilling its charge of, ***“...to create a long-term strategic plan based on the 2016 Synod Goals and guide efforts to grow the church physically in membership and spiritually.”***

## “Open House” (online)

On **Monday, June 13, 7pm**, EDSPC members captivated attendees in less than 30 minutes and...

- \* Gave a brief reflection on its history and its on-going objectives.
- \* Shared a list of our accomplishments thus far.
- \* Highlighted present focus areas based on an established and Synod accepted action plan.
- \* Provided a glimpse of what is to come.
- \* Stressed the need for parish liaisons from across the diocese

For those that were in attendance they were entered into a raffle for a \$25 gift card, and the winner was Marilyn Folcik!



*Gathered Together*

For more details on the details of this “Open House”, please contact one of these EDSPC members:

- Tom Zarek (tom@iseengineering.com)
- Laurel Curylo (lrlcurylo@gmail.com)
- Shirley Mietlicki (shirleym@umass.edu)
- Larry Gagnon (larry.gagnon@comcast.net)



## Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission

### The Future is Yours!

The Polish National Catholic Church Eastern Diocese (PNCC ED) is growing and will continue to grow because of you.

The PNCC ED established a Strategic Planning Commission to work across all parishes to create and act on a long-term plan to grow our diocese. A lot of work has been accomplished, a vibrant plan for growth has been created and now is the time for action.

Some of the plan's key focuses are:

- Commitment
- Traditions and Branding (Increasing Spirituality and Learning)
- Growth and Membership (Community Engagement and Social Media Usage)

The question is: *Will you join us in this great work of discipleship?*

If you are interested in hearing more details or would like details on how you can help, then please contact Subdeacon Justin Daviault at [deaconjustinPNCC@gmail.com](mailto:deaconjustinPNCC@gmail.com)



## Be Part of and Create the Future of the Eastern Diocese!

### Parish Liaison Opportunity

#### Duties and Responsibilities

The Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission is seeking Parish Liasons to assist in delivering on its mission to grow our church both physically in membership and spiritually. Please consider these active and engaging items and ask to be included in this valuable work.

- Be an information conduit between the Strategic Planning Commission and the Parish family.
- Communicate with other Parish Liaisons to share information and to discuss and share parish level activities. Includes discussion on inter parish activities, fund raising and diocese activities.
- Working with the Clergy and Parish Committee articulates and institutes the Strategic plan at the Parish level.
- Attend Monthly/Quarterly Strategic Planning Commission meetings to provide input to the plan and to provide a status on the implementation of the Strategic plan at the Parish level. The status may be provided via email in lieu of meeting attendance.
- Work closely with a Diocesan Staff member (TBD) to keep social media accounts up to date and containing new content where needed. Along with the Staff member implements new social media accounts, modifies social media pages for ease of use, and makes changes for new formats, and layouts.
- Assists/Provides PNCC awareness (“branding”) to the Parish Family.



## **THE 50TH (+2) ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD OF FR. SENIOR JOSEPH KRUSIENSKI**

On Sunday June 12, 2022 on Trinity Sunday at Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, CT, Fr. Sr. Joseph Krusinski celebrated his 50th (+2) Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood. Prime Bishop Mikovsky, Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, the diocesan seniors, clergy and faithful gathered to commemorate this beautiful day and Fr. Sr. Joe's faithful and zealous service to the Holy Church.

Fr. Sr. Joe celebrated the Holy Mass of thanksgiving together with the PNCC Clergy. Ecumenical guests offered the readings, and Fr. Sr. Robert Nemkovich delivered an uplifting sermon.

At the testimonial banquet after the Mass different guests gave their greetings to Fr. Sr. Joe the occasion of his Anniversary. Mrs. Kathy Nemkovich, as PNU Vice President, gave greetings on behalf of the Polish National Union.

Dear Fr. Sr. Joe! May God bless, lead, and protect you in the years to come! May He bless and protect your family and parishioners. Sto Lat!









## FATHER ROBERT KOERBER CELEBRATES HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD

On a beautiful Sunday, June 26, 2022, Fr. Robert Koerber, the Pastor of the Holy Name of Jesus Parish in South Deerfield, MA, celebrated the Mass of Thanksgiving for his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood. Dear Fr. Robert -You have been serving faithfully our Lord for this long time and we can only say thank you to our Father in heaven for your call and for your dedication to the Gospel.

May our good Lord give you strength, wisdom, knowledge to continue serving in His Church. May our good Lord bless you more and more in the years to come. Happy anniversary, servant of God.





## ***BEING EUCHARIST PEOPLE & ST. TARCISIUS AT THE 2022 EASTERN DIOCESAN ALTAR SERVER RETREAT***

On a beautiful early summer day Altar Servers from four of our diocesan parishes gathered for our 11th annual Diocesan Altar Server Retreat at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, Massachusetts. The theme of this retreat followed the ongoing efforts of the PNCC Future Direction committee and focused on Discipleship 2022; Being Eucharistic People and focusing on the patron saint of Altar Servers - St. Tarcisius.



Bishop Paul Sobiechowski celebrated Mass on the last day of Octave of Corpus Christi. He was assisted by Subdeacon Justin Daviault. Fr. Sr. Joe Soltysiak delivered another classic sermon to the youth gathered on Gru, the Minions and of course Jesus. Sr. Soltysiak Fr. Wos and Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich concelebrated.





After a group picture, and a devouring of the Dunkin' treats it was off to the first presentation on St. Tarcisius by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich. After this presentation on his life, love and sacrifice for the Holy Eucharist our youth made a video on St. Tarcisius for the July 2022 PNCC Future Direction message. They were great and hopefully you all will enjoy the video and learn about St. Tarcisius.

Joanne Olivera from Blessed Trinity led the servers in a discipleship, Eucharist and Church trivia activity. They broke up into two groups and just loved hitting the buzzers. The excitement was incredible and the youth shared their knowledge about the Holy Mass, our Catholic and Apostolic faith in a fun game format.

Fr. Henryk Was presented on the important role that our altar servers play during the Mass and about living as Eucharistic People. He prepared guidelines for the servers and concluded with everyone praying the Altar Server's Prayer.

It was then time for some delicious pizza - Thank you PNU District 3. Thanks to Kathy Nemkovich for serving everyone and for making Bishop Paul's favorite dessert - dirt! That was quite a treat with the worms too!

After much laughter at lunch it was off for swimming and a great time of fellowship, fun and catching up at South Shore Beach! A perfect New England day at the beach! The servers had a great time and you know that the day went well when they didn't want to leave and are excited for the upcoming youth retreat and next year for our 12th Annual Diocesan Altar Server retreat.



2022 EASTERN  
DIOCESE  
ALTAR SERVER  
RETREAT  
DISCIPLESHIP 2022:  
**St. Tarcisius**  
Presentation by  
Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich  
June 23, 2022









A big thank you to Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River for hosting this retreat! Thanks to the Altar Servers from Blessed Trinity in Fall River, Our Saviour in Woonsocket, St. Joseph's in Stratford and Holy Trinity in Plantsville for making the time to learn and grow in the Apostolic and Catholic Faith.

Our Diocesan Youth Retreat is next on the horizon and coming quickly. This will begin August 22 at Blessed Trinity in Fall River. Discipleship 2022 in action continues - let us be Jesus to all and live and honor His Presence in the Holy Eucharist.

*Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich* Diocesan Youth Chaplain













# DISCIPLESHIP

2022

PNCC

EASTERN  
DIOCESE  
YOUTH  
RETREAT



BLESSED TRINITY PARISH - FALL RIVER, MA

*Come and Worship, Learn and have great beach fun!*

@ Blessed Trinity in Fall River  
August 22-24, 2022



Registration and Health Forms are available from your pastor or email: [Robnem21@aol.com](mailto:Robnem21@aol.com)

The cost is only \$75 per person.

Follow us on Facebook: *Eastern Diocese Youth*

**Come and end your summer with friends in Christ!**



## The 202 Eastern Diocese Worship Service at Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH

The 2022 Eastern Diocese Worship Service at Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH will take place on Sunday, July 10, 2022 at 3:30 PM. A vespers service theming on “Being Eucharistic People” will be

held. After the service, All participants, including clergy and their families, can eat at no charge at the local Woodbound Inn in nearby Rindge, as the Eastern Diocese will be paying the bill.

The menu includes barbecued chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, garden salad with choice of dressing, loaded potato salad, summer slaw, corn on the cob, New England style baked beans, watermelon slices, strawberry shortcake, coffee and tea. Deadline for all signups is Monday, July 4, 2022. Please call ahead or email [Soltysiak@comcast.net](mailto:Soltysiak@comcast.net).



*Yours in Christ,*

**Fr. Senior Joseph Soltysiak**





## COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE AND ALMS COLLECTION (FROM SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY UNTIL MAUNDY THURSDAY)

We thank all parishes of the Eastern Diocese for participating in the Diocesan Collection to support Ukrainian refugees in Poland,  
And in the Diocesan Alms Collection to support the local charity organizations.

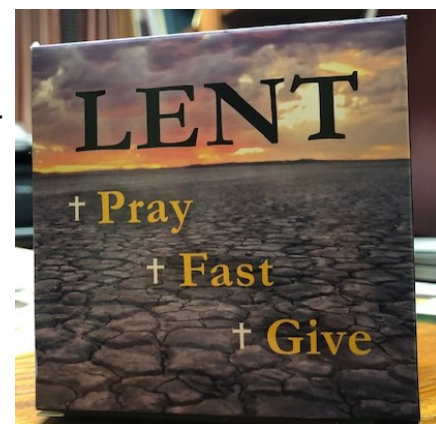
### Diocesan Collection for Ukraine:

- Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, NH—\$17,335.
- Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA—\$7,500
- Holy Cross in Central Falls, RI—\$4,000
- Our Savior’s Parish in Woonsocket, RI - \$1,860.00
- St. Casimir Parish, n Lowell, MA—\$8,020
- Holy Trinity Parish in Webster, MA— \$150.00
- St. Joseph’s of Stratford, CT—\$2,000



### Diocesan Alms Collection:

- Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, NH—\$2,000. Donated to the International Institute of New England to help families.
- Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA—\$515. Donated to sponsor an Angels Anonymous Food Drive, DEA Drug Return ,and Feeding the Homeless with Thrive.
- Holy Cross in Central Falls, RI—\$267. Donated to Central Falls Food Pantry
- Our Savior’s Parish in Woonsocket, RI - \$180. Donated to Men’s shelter in Woonsocket.
- St. Casimir Parish in Lowell, MA—\$110. Donated to the local International Institute to help Ukrainian refugees expected to arrive in Lowell this Fall.
- Holy Trinity Parish in Webster, MA— \$50. Donated to support the local Veterans.
- St. Joseph’s of Stratford in CT—(All anonymous) Donated to different local organizations.
- St. Valentine Parish in Northampton, MA—\$257. Donated to Northampton Survival Center.



⇒ **As reported today the total from the parishes collections for Ukraine is: \$40,865.00**

⇒ **The total collected in Alms Lenten Boxes is: \$3,379.00**

It was also noticed that some of our parishes sent their donations immediately to the PNCC Parishes in Poland who are hosting or supporting refugees from Ukraine. Some others supported the local organizations who help people in Ukraine.

***May God bless ALL of you for your generosity and caring and compassionate hearts!***





## FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

**Note: all outlying events may be affected by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Events may be adjusted from face-to-face to a Zoom platform as we draw nearer the event.**

### A reminder:

Our diocesan family is being asked to pray the “Prayer for the Youth” and the “Our Father” prayers, found in the in the PNCC Prayer Book on pages 35 and 87, each Wednesday at 12 Noon during the month of July for the intention of the youth in our parishes, our diocese, and the PNCC, and for healing and peace in our communities, nation and world.

Prayers for August and September will be announced via internet to all parishes of the Eastern Diocese.

We thank all parishes that participated in the Diocesan Alms Collection from Septuagesima Sunday until Maundy Thursday. Individual parish collection efforts can be seen in this issue of [The Messenger](#).

### Assignments:

- no new assignments

### Bishop's Visits to Parishes:

- Sunday, June 26 - The Sacrament of Confirmation to be conferred on candidates in Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI 4:00 PM
- Saturday in July or August - The Sacrament of Confirmation to be conferred on candidates in St. Joseph's of Stratford Parish, Stratford, CT (*date and time yet to be determined*)
- Sunday, September 11 - The Sacrament of Confirmation to be conferred on candidates in Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT 4:00 PM

### Diocesan and National Meetings: (all times are Eastern)

- Tuesday, June 28 - Possible Eastern Diocese Finance Commission Zoom Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, July 12 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM



- Tuesday, July 26 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Monday, August 1 - Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism Commission Meeting - 6:30 PM
- Tuesday, August 02 - PNCC Episcopal Nomination Commission Meeting - National Church Center - Scranton, PA (all day)
- Monday, August 08 - Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission Zoom Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, August 09 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, August 23 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Monday, August 29 - Spojnia District 3 Zoom Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, September 06 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, September 13 - National Mission and Evangelism Commission Zoom Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Monday, September 19 - Wednesday, September 21 - National Liturgical Commission Meeting - National Church Center, Scranton, PA
- Tuesday, September 27 - Wednesday, September 28 - Doctrine Commission Meeting - National Church Center, Scranton, PA

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

- Saturday, July 2 - Solemnity of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, July 3 - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday, July 4 - Independence Day - Federal Holiday
- Sunday, July 10 - Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Sunday, July 17 - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Sunday, July 24 - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday, July 25 - Feast of Saint James the Greater - Apostle
- Sunday, July 31 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Wednesday, August 3 - Feast of the Finding of the Body of Saint Stephen
- Saturday, August 6 - Solemnity of the Transfiguration of our Lord
- Sunday, August 7 - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Sunday, August 14 - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday, August 15 - Solemnity of the Dormition / Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, August 21 - Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Wednesday, August 24 - Feast of Saint Bartholomew - Apostle
- Friday, August 26 - Solemnity of Our Lady of Czestochowa



- Sunday, August 28 - Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - *Youth Sunday*
- Monday, August 29 - Solemnity of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist
- Sunday, September 4 - Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday, September 5 - Labor Day - Federal Holiday
- Thursday September 8 - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, September 11 - Solemnity of Brotherly Love - *Twenty-First Anniversary of 9/11/2001*
- Wednesday, September 14 - Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Thursday September 15 - Solemnity of Our Holy Mother of Sorrows
- Sunday, September 18 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Wednesday, September 21 - Feast of Saint Matthew - Apostle, Evangelist
- Sunday, September 25 - Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - *Spojnina Sunday*
- Thursday, September 29 - Feast of Saint Michael - Archangel

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

- Friday, July 8 - Sunday July 10 - Eastern Diocese Scout Camporee - Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI
- Sunday, July 10 - Eastern Diocese Cathedral of the Pines Vespers and Dinner - Rindge, NH - 3:30 PM
- Thursday, July 14 - Eastern Diocese Adult Zoom Bible Study led by Sub-Deacon Justin Daviault - 7:00 PM
- Monday July 18 - Friday July 22 - National Youth Convocation "Live, Laugh, Love with God" - Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN
- Thursday, August 11 - Eastern Diocese Adult Zoom Bible Study led by Father Paweł Lukaszewicz - 7:00 PM
- Sunday August 21 - Wednesday August 24 - Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat - Blessed Trinity Parish - Fall River, MA
- Saturday, September 3 - National Y.M.S.R. Golf Tournament - Parma, OH
- Thursday, September 8 - Eastern Diocese Adult Zoom Bible Study led by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski - 7:00 PM





"Poetry comes nearer to vital truth than history." - Plato

„Prawdziwą, typową formą współżycia duchowego jest poezja.” - Karol Irzykowski

## Stanisław Wyspiański

Born on 5th January 1869 in Kraków to the family of a sculptor. His relatives raised him from 1880. He studied at St. Anne's Grammar School, where he made friends with Józef Mehoffer, Lucjan Rydel, Stanisław Estreich. In 1887 he commenced his study of painting at the Fine Arts School in Kraków, where Jan Matejko was the principal. Matejko trusted his outstanding student with collaboration in the creation of polychroming during the renovation of St Mary's Church. In 1887-90 and 1896-1897 he attended the Jagiellonian University, where he listened to lectures on history, art history and literature. In 1890 he travelled abroad through Italy and Switzerland to France, and then to Germany and Prague. Between 1891 and 1894 he went to Paris three times and attended a private school - the Académie Colarossi, he came into contact with Paul Gauguin, he frequented the theatre and opera. He came back to Kraków in 1904. He designed and partly created the polychrome surfaces in a renovated church of the Franciscans. He

Urodzony 15 stycznia 1869 w Krakowie w rodzinie rzeźbiarza. Od 1880 wychowywał się u krewnych. Uczył się w gimnazjum Św. Anny, zaprzyjaźnił się wówczas z Józefem Mehofferem, Lucjanem Rydlem, Stanisławem Estreichem. W 1887 rozpoczął studia malarskie w krakowskiej Szkole Pięknych, której dyrektorem był wówczas Jan Matejko. Matejko powierzył wyróżniającemu się studentowi współdziałanie w wykonaniu polichromii odnawianego kościoła Mariackiego. W latach 1887-90 i 1896-1897 uczęszczał na Uniwersytet Jagielloński, gdzie słuchał wykładów z historii, historii sztuki i literatury. W 1890 udał się w podróż zagraniczną przez Włochy i Szwajcarię do Francji, następnie do Niemiec i Pragi. W latach 1891-1894 trzykrotnie przebywał w Paryżu, gdzie uczęszczał do prywatnej Académie Colarossi, zetknął się m.in. z Paulem



Pastel self-portrait by Stanisław Wyspiański (1903)

Gauguinem, uczęszczał na spektakle teatralne i operowe. Do Krakowa powrócił w 1904. Zaprojektował i częściowo wykonał polichromię w restaurowanym kościele Franciszkanów. Nawiązał współpracę z Teatrem Miejskim w Krakowie. W roku 1897 rozpoczął współpracę z krakowskim "Życiem" jako ilustrator, w 1902 został docentem Akademii Sztuk Pięknych, w 1905 radnym miasta Krakowa. Projektował wnętrza i meble. W 1905 stawiając swoją kandydaturę na stanowisko dyrektora krakowskiego Teatru Miejskiego planował odnowienie i wzbogacenie wielkiego repertuaru teatralnego; ostatecznie dyrektorem został L. Solski. Od wielu lat ciężko chory podupadał na zdrowiu, wreszcie unieruchomiony w podkrakowskich Węgrzcach kończył rozpoczęte dzieła, częściowo już tylko dyktując. Zmarł 28 listopada 1907 w Krakowie. Pogrzeb Wyspiańskiego stał się manifestacją narodową, pochowany w grobach zasłużonych na Skalkę.

Dramaturg, poeta, malarz, reformator teatru. Napisał w sumie 37 tekstów dramatycznych - jak William Shakespeare. Zorientowany w rozmaitych konwencjach dramaturgii europejskiej, pisał dramaty nawiązujące do tradycji dramatu antycznego (*Powrót Odysa*, *Achilleis*), szekspirowskiego - napisał traktat-parafrazę *Hamlet*; *Legenda* i debiutancki *Daniel* nawiązuje do dramaturgii Wagnera; do dramatu Maeterlincka - *Protesilas i Laodomia*; skomentował w swoich dramatach powstanie listopadowe: *Warszawianka*, *Lelewel*, *Noc listopadowa*; reinterpretację historii Polski przeprowadził w *Legendzie*, *Bolesławie Śmiałym* i *Skalce*. W trylogii ideowej: *Wesele* (1901), *Wyzwolenie* (1903) i *Akropolis* (1904) zaproponował zasadniczy rozrachunek z Polską współczesną. Był pierwszym inscenizatorem całości *Dziadów* Mickiewiczowskich; twórca i ideolog polskiego teatru monumentalnego, wyprowadzonego z *XVI Lekcji* Mickiewiczowskich wykładów o literaturze słowiańskiej. *Wesele*, uważane za najważniejszy dramat Wyspiańskiego, zostało zainspirowane ślubem przyjaciela poety - Lucjana Rydla. Wystawione po raz pierwszy 16 marca 1901 rychło utraciło swój charakter reportażowy, stało się jednym z najważniejszych głosów w dyskusji o Polsce, obok licznych inscenizacji tego dramatu na uwagę zasługuje film Andrzeja Wajdy (1973).

established co-operation with the Municipal Theatre in Kraków. In 1897 he commenced the co-operation with Kraków's "Życie" ("Life") as an illustrator, in 1902 he became a reader at the Fine Art Academy, and in 1905 an alderman in Kraków. He was an interior and furniture designer. In 1905, when he ran for the post of the principal of the Municipal Theatre in Kraków, he planned to reconstruct and enrich the great theatre repertoire; J. Solski eventually obtained the post. He was seriously ill for many years and was finally confined in Węgrzce near Kraków. There he finished the commenced works, partially by means of dictation only. He died on 28th November 1907 in Kraków. His funeral became a national manifestation; he was buried at the cemetery for the distinguished at Skalka.

Dramatist, poet, painter, reformer of theatre. He wrote 37 plays altogether - just like William Shakespeare. Being familiar with various conventions of European drama writing, he wrote dramas referring to the tradition of ancient drama (*Powrót Odysa*, *Achilleis*), and that of Shakespearean drama - he wrote a treatise-paraphrase of *Hamlet*; *Legenda* ("A Legend") and his debut *Daniel* refers to Wagner's work; *Protesilas and Laodomia* to Maeterlinck's play; he commented on the November Uprising in his dramas: *Warszawianka*, *Lelewel*, *Noc listopadowa*; he reinterpreted Polish history in *Legenda*, *Bolesław Śmiały* and *Skalka*. In his ideological trilogy: *Wesele* ("The Wedding") (1901), *Wyzwolenie* ("Liberation") (1903) and *Akropolis* ("Acropolis") (1904) he proposed a fundamental reckoning with contemporary Poland. He was the first to stage the whole of Mickiewicz's play - *Dziady* ("Forefathers' Eve"); the creator and ideologue of Polish monumental theatre, derived from *XVI Lekcje*, Mickiewicz's lectures on Slavic literature. *Wesele*, which is considered the most important of Wyspiański's dramas, was inspired by the wedding of the poet's friend - Lucjan Rydel. *Wesele*, staged for the first time on 16th March 1901, soon lost its journalistic character and became one of the most important voices in the discussion about Poland; apart from numerous theatre productions, the film by Andrzej Wajda (1973) deserves attention.



### Jakżeż ja się uspokoje

### How can I calm myself

Jakżeż ja się uspokoje -  
pełne strachu oczy moje,  
pełne grozy myśli moje,  
pełne trwogi serce moje,  
pełne drżenia piersi moje -  
jakżeż ja się uspokoje ...

How can I calm myself -  
full of fear are these eyes of mine,  
full of terror these thoughts of mine,  
full of shudders these lungs of mine,  
full of panic this heart of mine -  
How can I calm myself ...

*Translated by Jerzy Peterkiewicz and Burns Singer*

### Gdy przyjdzie mi ten świat porzucić (fragmenty)

### When I must leave this world behind (fragments)

Gdy przyjdzie mi ten świat porzucić,  
na jakąż nutę będę nucić  
melodię zgonu mą wyprawną?  
Rzuciłem przecież go już dawno.

When I must leave this world behind  
What tune will come to mind  
Will it be the melody of my departure?  
For I abandoned it long ago.

Nad jakąż rzeką, w jakimś mieście,  
gdzie ślubowałem ślub niewieście,  
gdzie dom stworzyłem jej i sobie  
z myślą o jednym wspólnym grobie.

Over some river, in some town,  
Where I said my vows to a woman,  
Where I built a house for us to live in  
Thinking of a common grave.

Niechże mi rano słońce świeci,  
niech świeci jasno, mocno grzeje.  
Nad grób niech przyjdą moje dzieci  
i niech się jedno z nich zaśmieje.

Let the morning sun shine for me,  
Let it shine brightly, warmly  
To my grave may my children pay a visit  
And let one of them burst out laughing.

*Translated by Maya Boncza*

### Niech nikt nad grobem mi nie płacze

### I want no weeping at my grave

Niech nikt nad grobem mi nie płacze,  
krom jednej mojej żony,  
za nic mi wasze łzy sobacze  
i żal ten wasz zmyślony.

I want no weeping at my grave,  
except my wife's lamenting brief;  
I need no tears of yours and save,  
oh save yourselves the bogus grief.

Niech dzwon nad trumną mi nie kracze  
ni śpiewy wrzeszczą czyje;  
niech deszcz na pogrzeb mój zapłacze  
i wicher niech zawyje.

I want no moaning of a bell  
nor all that mourners' gloomy yowling;  
oh, may the wind and rain raise hell,  
and to my funeral come howling.

Niech kto chce grudę ziemi ciśnie,  
aż koniec mnie przywali.  
Nad kurhan słońce niechaj błysnie  
i zeszlą glinę pali.

A lump of earth, if you're so bound,  
hurl down before it's through, and may  
the Sun illumine my burial mound,  
and ever burn the withered clay.

A kiedyś może, kiedyś jeszcze,  
gdy mi się sprzykrzy leżeć,  
rozburzę dom ten, gdzie się mieszczę,  
i w słońce pocznę biec.

But maybe there will come the time  
when I feel weary of my rest:  
I'll wrack the tomb and out will climb,  
against the sun I shall contest.

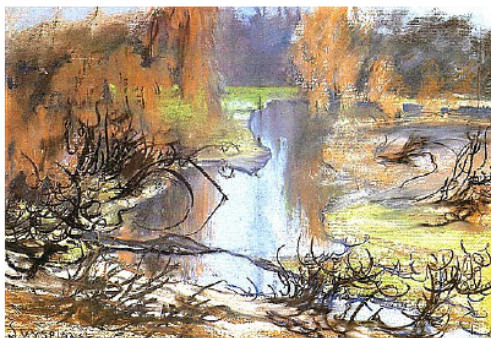
Gdy mnie ujrzycie, takim lotem  
że postać mam już jasną,  
to zawołajcie mnie z powrotem  
tą mową moją własną.

And when you see me then in flight,  
my form aglow and out of reach,  
require me to forsake the height,  
but use the words of my own speech.

Bym ją posłyszał, tam do góry,  
gdy gwiazdą będę mijał –  
podejmę może po raz wtóry  
ten trud, co mnie zabijał.

So I can hear them, as of yore,  
when then I pass a starry lane –  
and maybe I'll take up once more  
the strife that used to be my bane.

*Translated by Jarek Zawadzki*



Stanisław Wyspiański, *Landscape from the Ore Mountains*, 1905



Stanisław Wyspiański, *Chocholy (Straw Wraps)*, 1898, pastel on paper

**By Fr. Adam Czarnecki**

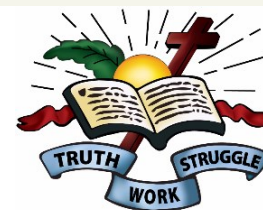


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**THE EASTERN DIOCESE MISSION & EVANGELISM  
COMMISSION OF THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC  
CHURCH, IN THE MONTH OF JULY CALLS UPON CHURCH  
MEMBERS, AS WELL AS OTHERS, TO OFFER PRAYERS EACH  
WEDNESDAY AT 12:00 PM**

**FOR THE YOUTH OF OUR CHURCH. PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER.**

## **PRAYER FOR THE YOUTH**

**Loving and kind Father, because You created us in Your image and likeness and determined that one generation should follow another in order to continue life, keep in Your tender and steadfast care the youth of the Church.**

**May they come to know and understand that true happiness can be attained when they live in harmony with Your teaching.**

**May they, like our Lord and Savior in His youth,**

**“grow in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.”**

**Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen** (PNCC Prayer Book, p. 87).

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

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**The e-mail address to send articles is:**

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All issues of THE MESSENGER are available on diocesan website:

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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!