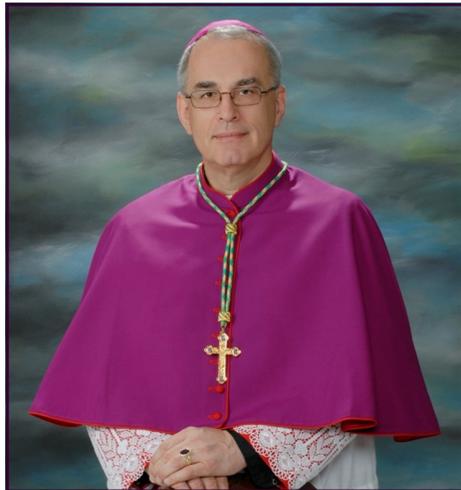
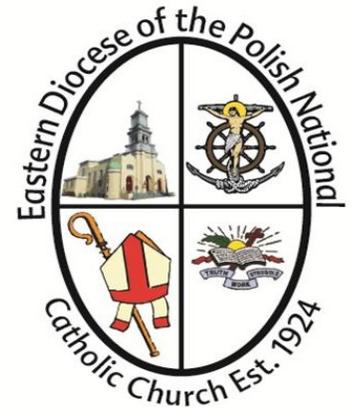


THE MESSENGER

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



THE HOLY EUCHARIST SHOULD BE THE CENTER OF YOUR SUMMER

“Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal...”

“Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

John 6:27, 35, NAB

Summer is beginning, and our thoughts are going in many directions, trying to determine how we best spend the measured days of warm weather.

I would propose that the Holy Eucharist should top everyone’s “to do” list every day of Summer. It makes sense that Holy Mass and Communion be first, because God’s direction and the love of Christ, manifested in His Body and Blood, will both ground us every day and will give us direction as to how we interact and share with others during these Summer days.

We need the focus that the Holy Eucharist provides. In fact, I would argue that if we planned on taking part in Holy Eucharist with the same energy as we plan our vacations or our one- and two- day getaways, then the vacation days, the days around the house, every day would be a celebration of life, God’s life in us and our lives reaching out to others.

New Englanders love being outdoors. They love sharing in the beauty of nature, of creation. Understanding and acknowledging God, Who, after all, created all that we see and share in, can only enhance our experiences of the world. I can assure you that temptation and secularism will be at our heels each day we’re in sandals. Society does all it can to distract humanity from our Lord and, unfortunately, it’s been successful with the majority of people.

The things that draw us in the material world are fleeting and temporary at best. The Body and Blood of Christ and the Love the

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Eucharist represents is eternal and the peace and tranquility of our souls is dependent on God's presence, daily, in our lives.

In the magazine *One Bread, One Body* we find the following written for Sunday, June 18, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi:

"The man who feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him." —John 6:56

"This book, ***One Bread, One Body***, is written to motivate you to go to Mass daily or as often as possible. ...Our prayer is that you would live the Mass and make our Eucharistic Lord the center of your life.

"Jesus proclaimed: 'The bread I will give is My flesh, for the life of the world' (Jn 6:51). This is a hard saying, and 'the Jews quarreled among themselves' about it (Jn 6:52). 'Thereupon Jesus said to them: 'Let Me solemnly assure you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. He who feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has life eternal and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is real food and My blood real drink' (Jn 6:53-55). The Lord has made it very clear that "in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist 'the Body and Blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained'.

"If we don't believe the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus, Who is God, then we shouldn't trust the Church, which has always taught this. If we don't trust the Church, we have little reason to believe the Bible, for the Bible was compiled, established, and interpreted by the Church. If we don't believe in the Eucharist, the Church, and her Bible, then we have no objective basis for believing in Christianity. We then exist in a subjective, new-age confusion or in the empty hopelessness of agnosticism. Instead, we must believe that the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of God."

Hopelessness is not something any person wants to experience and the writer minces no words in saying that "we must believe" in the Eucharist. Christ Jesus gives us reason to overcome "subjective new-age confusion." Keeping our relationship with God as our primary goal , we grow in faith and reject "the hopelessness of agnosticism." Clearly the absence of God means the absence of hope.

So let's spend this Summer rededicating ourselves to our Catholic faith, centered in the Holy Mass. Let Faith, Church, and Holy Communion have first place in our daily "to do" list. God will bless you for it.

Bishop Paul

FUTURE DIRECTION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Action Plan for 2017- A YEAR OF COMMITMENT

1. Greater Understanding of Church Solemnities: In 2017 we will focus on the Solemnity of the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church. This will be celebrated on March 12, 2017. A pamphlet will be prepared and distributed – this will complete the series of pamphlets for our four special PNCC Solemnities. Also, an online presentation will be led by our Prime Bishop on the History of our PNCC and Bishop Francis Hodur. A community service project could be tied into this effort as well.

2. Two Days of Retreat: Lent and Advent Pick a day during the seasons of Lent (March 11 in Woonsocket) and Advent in 2017 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 local community.

3. Complete at least four community service projects: One service project could be in conjunction with the Institution of the PNCC in March of 2017 and the others, selected by the local parish. It is important that these three projects be done in the local community of the parish so that these efforts will create a greater presence of the parish in the community. Various options include but are not limited to: Food Drives, serving a free meal for the community, providing a community breakfast/meal for First Responders – for Veterans, prayer blanket ministry, clothing drive for the community, sponsoring a local family in need, responding to a particular need in the local community, etc.

4. Implementing the Commitment Component: Develop and emphasize this theme through 2017. Please see the monthly Future Direction emails regarding this effort.

January – Our Spiritual Commitment to Christ and His Church

February – Our Financial Commitment and Stewardship

March – Commitment to our PNCC

April – Our Commitment as Easter People

May – A Commitment to guidance of the Holy Spirit

June – *Sacred Vocations Month*– A Commitment to Sacred Vocations
(*Encourage our men to consider the ordained ministry*)

July - Commitment to constant prayer

August – Commitment to our Youth

September – Our Commitment to Living a life of Love

October – *Clergy Appreciation Month* - Our Commitment to Faith and Family

November – Our Commitment to living Thankful lives

5. Stewardship component to increase our financial commitment to our parishes, diocese and national church will be developed. A Pamphlet will be shared with all parishes. We then encourage parish committees to communicate this with the people and stress to them that stewardship is an integral part of a lived faith.

6. Implement Lay Ministry Program in PNCC: Our national and diocesan Lay Ministry chaplains begin to implement this program across our PNCC that will enhance, encourage and strengthen the role of the laity within our PNCC.

7. Continuing Adult Education from the diocesan synod surveys many are asking for more adult education. The parish can purchase copies of ***“An Abridged History of the PNCC”*** and this book be used for a discussion series for all parishioners as we focus on the Institution of the PNCC in 2017. Other educational opportunities added to this this can be: a parish Bible Study, the Alpha Program, a Lecture series on Church teachings, etc., led by the local pastor.

8. Utilize Social Media & PNCC Future Direction You Tube Channel: Various spiritual messaging from our Prime Bishop and Bishops to be continued throughout the year. We encourage parishes to keep up to date their websites and Facebook pages. Social Media is the mode of communication most used by our younger members.

If you know of parishioners or friends who are not a part of our monthly email updates – please have them email us at FutureDirection@pncc.org to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE XV EASTERN DIOCESE SYNOD

OCTOBER 28-29, 2016

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

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

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

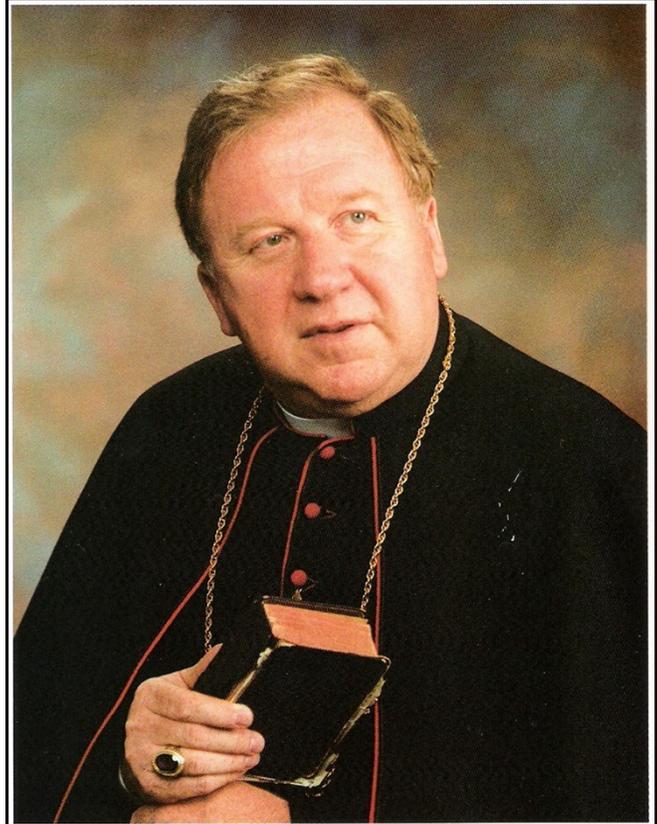
Whereas, through the work of the Committee of Twenty and the small group discussions, the Synod body agreed to focus their attention on young adults between ages of 16 to 35 and to reach this audience through the following overarching goals:

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

+Bishop Thomas Gnat

Bishop Thomas Gnat served the Eastern Diocese as Bishop Ordinary and pastor of Holy Trinity Cathedral for thirty-three years. Another way of understanding this is that Bishop Gnat served the diocese longer than any other Ordinary and he served the Cathedral as its pastor for one-third of its existence. Another way would be that three generations of Eastern Diocese Polish National Catholics were guided by the good bishop. The effect of his life and his episcopacy will continue in the many souls he touched.

" The diocese hosted many synods, both national and diocesan under his jurisdiction. Many national and diocesan gatherings of our Church societies took place under his pastoral care. Bishop Thomas also continued the many youth oriented programs of our diocese and hosted, as bishop ordinary, many national youth convocations of the Church. The cathedral complex was expanded and developed under his pastorate. So many individuals were Baptized, Confirmed, Married, Ordained, Anointed, Forgiven, and heard the Word of God Proclaimed by Bishop Thomas. For me to try to summarize how he touched all of you, who were indeed affected by Bishop Gnat and his episcopacy would necessarily fall short of giving due honor to this man who served and loved so well.



"We share with you the obituary that was prepared by his family and presents the man they would like everyone to remember. encourage you to reflect on your own memories and share them with one another, thus building a more complete picture of this many faceted bishop of the Church that we remember so well. His example continues to guide me in my ministry as your bishop today."

Bishop Paul

Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Gnat Obituary

Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Gnat, Dunmore, retired Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, died Wednesday at Geisinger Mt. View Care Center. He and his wife, the former Katherine Stanczyk, celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary April 4, 2017. Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he was the son of the late Walenty and Rose Radecki Gnat.

He completed his studies for the priesthood at the Savonarola Seminary in Scranton, Pa., and was ordained a priest of the Polish National Catholic Church on Sept. 18, 1958, by the late Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski in historic St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton.

From September 1958 to 1959, Father Gnat was assistant pastor at St. Stanislaus Cathedral. In February 1959, Father Gnat was assigned as pastor of St. Francis PNC Parish in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C., and for a time served as administrator of Holy Cross PNC Parish in Baltimore, Md. During his pastorate in Washington, D.C., Father Gnat represented the Polish National Catholic Church in many instances. He assisted at the laying of a wreath on Woodrow Wilson's tomb and a wreath at the bier of the Ambassador to America at the Polish Embassy in Washington.

Cont. on the next page

He also attended the Installation of the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Father Gnat also represented the Church and the official newspaper of the Church (Rola Boza) at the State Department meeting on foreign policy for non-governmental organizations and at the White House Conference of Civil Rights. He was also a representative on the National Council of Churches, participating in June 1970 during its general board meeting. While in Washington, he studied at the American University.

In 1978, Father was appointed a senior priest, and also in 1978 at the General Synod of the PNCC, he was elected a bishop of the church and consecrated a bishop in St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, by the late Prime Bishop Francis Rowinski on the Feast of St. Andrew on Nov. 30, 1978.

Upon consecration, he became Diocesan bishop of the Eastern Diocese, comprised of parishes in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, and also named as pastor of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, N.H. Bishop Gnat continued in this position from Nov. 30, 1978, until Nov. 2011, at which time he retired, and he and his family moved to Dunmore, Pa. Until his illness and medical problems started in 2016, Bishop Gnat and his wife attended as many high school plays, community theater productions and religious concerts as they could, enjoying the excellent talents in Pennsylvania. They also did a lot of sightseeing, going to Williamsport, Pa., a ride on the Hiawatha, the Dorflinger Glass Museum, the Yuengling Brewery and a scenic boat ride around Lake Wallenpaupack, to name a few.

Bishop Gnat was active in many of the Polish National Catholic Commissions, such as the liturgical, Bishop Hodur Biography and the School of Christian Living. He was chaplain of the National United Choirs, a position he held for many years, and a member of the Hymnal Commission. He was well known for his love of music and singing.

Bishop Gnat was well-respected for his knowledge of the constitution and by-laws of the Polish National Catholic Church and was called upon many times to interpret these laws. During the synods of the PNCC, Bishop Gnat was asked to conduct the synod sessions, especially those having to do with the constitution of the PNCC.

Also surviving are one son, Joseph Walenty Gnat, Dunmore; one brother, Carl Gnat and wife, Sheila, Fort Myers, Fla.; one sister, Geraldine Gnat, Redwood City, Calif.; numerous nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by three infants, a daughter and twins, a daughter and son.

Thank you to Dr. Salvatore Lawrence for his care and concern and his patience.

Thank you to the staff at Geisinger Mountain Care Center, especially B corridor, for their professionalism, care and genuine compassion.

Thank you also to PA Ambulance for driving carefully to avoid those potholes in the road and for being so nice. You know who you are.

Thank you to his sister-in-law and husband, nieces, friends and clergy who visited him in the nursing home and hospital and to those who sent countless cards and prayers for his recovery.

Mass will be celebrated Tuesday, June 27, in St. Stanislaus Polish National Catholic Cathedral at 10 p.m.

A vesper service will be held Monday at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral. Interment, parish cemetery.

Friends and family may call Monday, 5 to 7 and Tuesday, 9 a.m. until time of Mass.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Clergy Pension Fund.

Arrangements: Leon S. Gorgol Funeral Home.

Published in Scranton Times on June 23, 2017

**+ Wieczny odpoczynek racz mu dać Panie,
a światłość wiekuista niechaj mu świeci, na wieki wieków. Amen.
Niech odpoczywa w pokoju wiecznym. Amen.**

**+ Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.**

From our parishes ...

Blessed Trinity - Fall River, MA

This Spring was a busy one at Blessed Trinity, in addition to our sacramental worship and prayer life we had many activities keeping us on the move. It began with Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia thanking Blessed Trinity for the work we have done and continue to do in the city of Fall River. Specifically our mayor was appreciative of our parish opening our doors and serving as a warming center for the many homeless in the Fall River. For all twelve Mondays this past winter Blessed Trinity fed, clothed and offered shelter to several of the city's homeless. A thank you to all who helped staff, prepare meals, donate clothing and gift cards to help those in need. The Mayor met in our parish hall with citizens from our local neighborhoods and answered several questions from local residents about city issues.



On March 5th Blessed Trinity recognized Cliff Nemkovich for 15 years of service at the Altar. Cliff was presented with a plaque, St. Jan Berchmans Medal and a wall crucifix. We also welcomed Gaby as our newest Altar Server as she was installed prior to Holy Mass. Missing from the photo are Kaylana and Kallie who were sick.



On Monday, March 27th the Romeiros (Men's Prayer Pilgrimage) group came to pray at Blessed Trinity Parish. More than 90 gathered in the Church for prayer in Portuguese and English. They sang hymns and offered several prayers - one for our parish as well as the faithful departed of Blessed Trinity. As they ended their day at our parish they began their walk here Tuesday morning at 5 am. Fr. Sr. Rob prayed with them before dawn and gave them a blessing as they continued their pilgrimage of prayer.

On the fifth Friday of Lent after our Lenten Supper some of our Youth conducted stations of the Cross and did a tremendous job leading us in worship. A Book of Gospels Stand was donated and blessed in memory of + Fr. Jan Wilczek prior to the Holy Sacrifice of Mass on Passion Sunday, April 2nd. We thank the Wilczek family for this donation to our parish. The Book of Gospels is also in memory of our good friend + Fr. Wilczek.



Our PTA held their Beef Stew Dinner and Penny Sale raising funds for our youth to attend our youth retreat. On March 19th more than 120 attended our Spring clam boil and enjoyed some great food, fellowship and fun. Congratulations to Stella - the winner of the golden clam sculpture award! Our parishioners and friends gathered to make Polish Food for our spring Food Sale on Saturday April 29 — Thanks to all who helped.



Our parish opened our doors to take part in the national Expired prescription drug return on Saturday, April 29, 2017. This was in conjunction with the BOLD coalition (Building Our Lives Drug Free), the Fall River Police Department and the DEA. 230 pounds (6 large boxes) of drugs were dropped off at the parish hall. These were taken to the Massachusetts State Police incinerator. On Memorial Day Fr. Sr. Rob offered a Prayer Service for our Polish American War Veterans and thanked them for their service.



Sunday, May 21st was a beautiful day in the life of our parish as 8 of our youth received the presence of Christ in the Eucharist for the first time. Our prayer for Stella, Gaby, Emmy, Dylan, Zack, Amanda, Chris and Scott is that they will follow Jesus faithfully throughout their lives. Thanks to their teachers Jessica and Pam.





Our youth enjoyed celebrating our collective birthday as The Church on Pentecost and hopefully will remember the message of the homily for years to come. On Trinity Sunday we closed our School of Christian Living classes for the school year. We were glad that almost all (16) of our SOCL youth were present for the closing ceremonies.

Respectfully submitted, *Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich*



From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA "Building Community Through Christ"



Holy Trinity in Webster, MA has been busy reaching and building community through Christ. The first week of May Tourtellotte Memorial High School in Thompson, CT hosted a "Mock Car Crash" for the students.



The local Fire Department of which Fr. Robert Fredrickson is Chaplain, along with the EMS, State and Local Police participated in this event. Following the event an assembly was held in the auditorium. Fr. Robert was their guest speaker sharing a story of a tragic event that he was involved in at an earlier age.



On May 21st the Webster Fire Rescue Department hosted a Tri State Fire Fighters Event. Holy Trinity Parish was invited to participate in this event offering food service, face painting and fellowship with the community.



More that 500 people participated in this event. The greatest blessing was that Holy Trinity Parish was the only church invited giving them a real opportunity to build community

through Christ.

On Memorial Day Fr. Robert was invited to offer prayers at two of the Memorials along the parade route and offered the Invocation and Benediction at the closing ceremonies, which was held at the Veterans Memorial next to the Webster Town Hall. Fr. Robert of Holy Trinity Parish a few days later posted a brief video of the day's events. He also included these thoughts. "Dear friends I share this video with you out of honor and respect for all who have served, who are serving and will serve in the future. We are blessed to live in a Nation that recognized freedom, patriotism, and loyalty to God and Country. I was honored and humbled to wear my uniform for the first time in 37 years. I am proud to say that I served and I salute all who have.



For those who lost their life or limb in battle, for those who were POW's or MIA's, for the 1000 that have come home tattered and torn I salute you and pray for you. May we keep this Nation strong in its faith in belief that we are one Nation under God. May God bless you all and may He bless our Nation.”



From our parishes...

Holy Cross Parish, Enfield, CT 2017 Mothers' Day Tea

Holy Cross Parish in Enfield, CT, held a Mothers' Day Tea on Saturday May 13, 2017.

All guests were treated to a comfortable setting, with tables well garnished similar to what one would expect during a typical Victorian tea in its time.

Tea guests had their choice of many different types of teas from a large assortment that were placed on each table. Sugars (all types), creamer, honey and jelly were on the tables as well. All tables were supplied with fresh babka-style rolls & butter.

Karen Peirce and her crew did a beautiful job making and setting up the “buffet” line. The huge variety of finger foods, self serve, was substantial enough to qualify as a meal. Hearing and seeing all the positive responses from the guests, this was a big hit.

A raffle was held afterwards.

Dennis Hohenberger, a reporter for THE HARTFORD COURANT, newspaper attended, took pictures and talked to some of the guests. He's a “regular” here and told me that he likes to cover this event. His article covering this event was published in the COURANT COMMUNITY section of THE HARTFORD COURANT on May 24, 2017.



A cake that tells it all...

and

For more information & pictures, visit:

<http://www.courant.com/community/enfield/hc-en-enfield-mothers-day-tea-party-0525-20170524-story.html>



Holy Cross Parish in Enfield, CT has been doing Valentine's and Mother's Day Teas for at least 2 years now, and plans to continue in the future. It's never too early to plan your next tea with them. For further information about the church, or upcoming events, email them: holycrosspncc@AOL.com

Story: Neal Narkon
Photos; Cathy & Neal Narkon, Brian Peirce

From our parishes...

St. Valentine Parish, Northampton, MA

Zapusty



On the eve of Ash Wednesday, February 28, 2017, St. Valentine's Parish held its Annual Zapusty celebration. Zapusty is a

celebration similar to "Fat Tuesday" or "Mardi Gras". The celebration was held in the Parish Hall which was beautifully decorated with balloons and streamers, thanks to Fr. Adam Czarnecki, and his wife, Danuta.

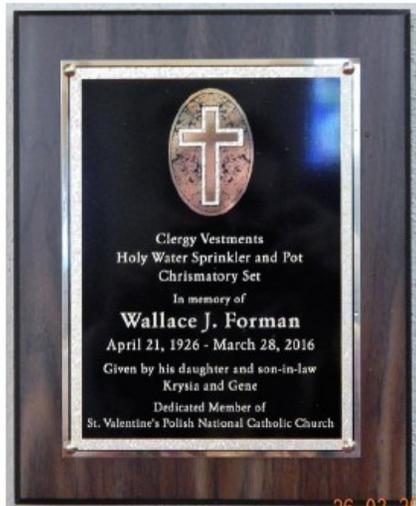
There were about twenty five people in attendance coming from Northampton, Easthampton, Hadley, Greenfield, Hatfield and



S o u t h
Deerfield. It was an evening of fun, delicious food, dancing, singing of folk songs and fellowship. The potluck menu included homemade paczki and chrusciki, kielbasa, pastries, fruit, cheese and much more. Thank you to everyone who prepared and brought the delicious food. Guests enjoyed listening and dancing to a variety of polkas and obereks. Fr. Adam provided song sheets of Polish folk songs for all to sing. Everyone had a wonderful time and we are all looking forward to next year's celebration. Mark your calendars for Zapusty 2018!

by Krysia Newman

PLAQUE DEDICATED AND BLESSING OF MEMORIAL GIFTS



Sunday, March 26, 2017 Father Adam blessed a memorial plaque recently installed in the Church



recognizing paraments received honoring the memory of Wallace J. Forman (Wally), who passed away March 28, 2016.

Father Adam also blessed two sets of clergy chasubles (purple and green), the purple cope, a Chrismatory Set and a Holy Water Sprinkler and Pot all given in memory of Wally by his daughter, Kryisia and son-in-law Gene.



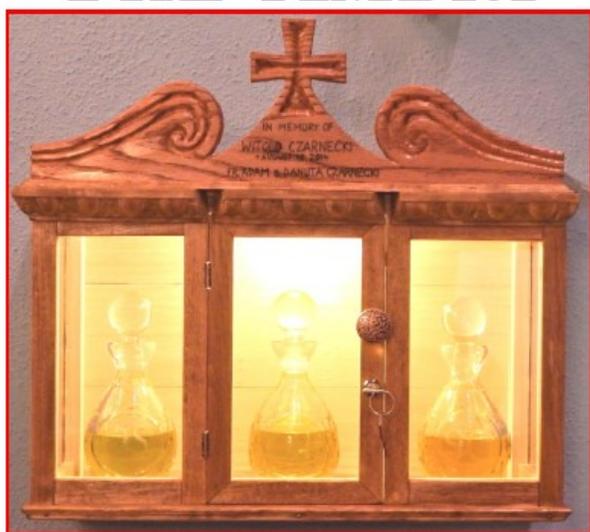
Kryisia & Eugene Newman

Wally was a dedicated member of the Church for over 68 years. He could be found at the Church cleaning, gardening, painting or cooking – whatever needed to be done. In addition, he served on the Parish Committee as a Director, was a member of the Frederick Chopin Choir and a member of the Bingo Committee for many years.

Sincere appreciation is extended to Wally's family for these beautiful gifts.

by Kryisia Newman

THE AMBRY



As a Catholic Church we are a Sacramental Church where sacramental signs and symbols are very important. Among these signs are Holy Oils, which are not only a sings of the Holy Sacraments but are also Holy intrinsically because they are consecrated by our Bishops during the Holy Mass of Chrism. The Holy Oils are used at key moments in the sacramental life of the Church: baptism, confirmation, ordination and anointing of the sick, and also in the very important ceremonies as dedication of Church and consecration of altars and some



of liturgical vessels. That is why the ambry is such a welcome addition to our worship

space. Having the Holy Oils visible helps remind us of these sacred moments and of the Parish's link with her Bishop.

In the beginning of this year it was decided that in memory of Wallace J. Forman amongst other paraments beautiful crystal Holy Oils vessels would be donated. Will be not fair to keep them with Holy Oils hidden in some place in the sacristy. I decided to make an ambry for our Church. The ambry is made mostly of oak with plexiglass door and windows. Also is designed with a light top and a glass bottom so that the light would shine on the Oils. **The ambry is donated** by Fr. Adam and Danuta Czarnecki in memory of their father Witold Czarnecki who passed away August 10, 2014. On Maundy Thursday, April 13, 2017 the ambry was blessed just before the reception of Holy Oils consecrated on Holy Tuesday by our Bishop Paul at Holy Mass of Chrism.

by Fr. Adam Czarnecki



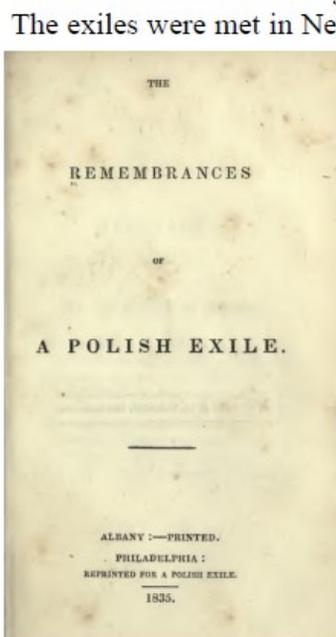
The Polish Exile from the November Uprising 1830-1831

On April 24th, a marvelous spring day a group of people interested in Polish and Polish American history gathered at Bridge Street Cemetery in Northampton to remember the life of **August Antoni Malczewski** vel **Jakubowski** a young Polish nobleman who died on this date 180 years ago at the young age of 21.

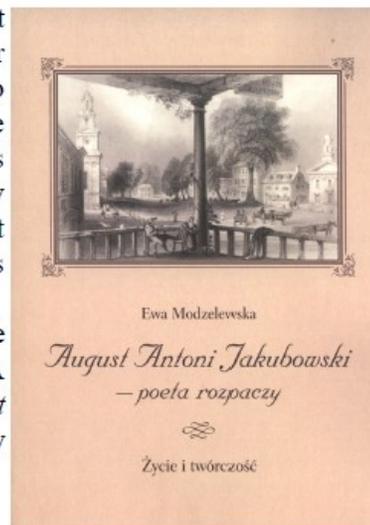


From left to right: John F. Skibiski, David Kraft, Stephanie Kraft, Helen Curtin, Fred S. Zimnoch (President of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts), Fr. Adam Czarniecki (Pastor of St. Valentine's PNCC), Robert Gibowicz (President of the Polish Heritage Committee), Tessie Gibowicz, Linda Golash, Steven Connor (Director of Veteran's Services), and David Narkewicz (Mayor of Northampton).

He was the natural son of the romantic poet Antoni Malczewski famous for the narrative poem *Maria* (1825). He left his studies at the gymnasium at Krzemieniec (Kremenets), in the Ukraine to join a group of revolutionaries in Warsaw in 1831. After the failed revolution in this Russian gubernia the leaders along with August were exiled to New York.



The exiles were met in New York city by an enthusiastic crowd who welcomed them as heroes or what we would call freedom fighters. The young August was taken into the home of Reverend William Buell Sprague. While there he learned English and wrote a book entitled *The Remembrances of a Polish Exile*. Then he learned that his uncle General Konstanty Malczewski was fighting for Mexican independence. He journeyed there hoping to stay with his uncle. But he was rebuffed. Returning to the United States he began teaching French at Miss Dwight's Seminary for Young Ladies in our city. Probably suffering from tuberculosis of the spine he died a short time later. Being penniless he was buried in a pauper's grave with a fine gravestone purchased by his students. His book *The Remembrances of a Polish Exile* is in the Hampshire Room at our local library (EJ21.A 1990). A brief description of his life and literary work titled *August Antoni Jakubowski - poeta rozpaczy. Życie i twórczość* by Ewa Modzelewska is also there (EJ21.M721.2015).



by Fred S. Zimnoch

POLISH NATIONAL CONSTITUTION DAY OBSERVANCE

Northampton's Polish Heritage Committee in conjunction with St. Valentine's Church observed **Polish Constitution Day** on Wednesday May 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall with a film screening of "**Europe's First Constitution**" by **Prof. Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski***. Northampton and its neighboring communities were invited to attend this free event. Approximately thirty individuals attended. After the film presentation light refreshments were served.

Following is a little about the holiday...

The holiday celebrates the anniversary of the adoption of a Constitution for reform in 1791 to avert further foreign intervention and improve governing internal issues ensuring conditions for future reforms. Free elections, the first in Europe, and the elimination of the paralyzing liberum veto were parts of the document. Alarmed by its loss to neighbors Austria, Prussia, and Russia who simultaneously annexed territories in 1772, Poland adopted a unique Constitution, second only to that of America, and was the first in Europe allowing for freedoms and benefits which became threatening to the autocratic ruling royalty of Europe as they were witnessing rebellions and revolutions in Russia 1773, America in 1775, France and Netherlands in 1789. A second annexation took place in 1793 followed by a heroic 1794 Polish insurrection led by Gen. Tadeusz Kosciuszko which failed and led to the third annexation in 1795. Poland, a centuries old nation, now vanished from the map of Europe until reborn after World War I, some 119 years later.



***Short bio of Professor Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski**

Professor Butterwick-Pawlikowski took up the European Civilization Chair on 1 August 2014. In his teaching and supervision at the College he aims to facilitate students' understanding of the history and civilization of all of Europe (east, west, north, south and centre). He acted as Director of Studies for the European Interdisciplinary Studies programme in the summer of 2015.

Richard studied History at the University of Cambridge where he graduated with first-class honours in 1989. Following a year at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, he moved to the University of Oxford to study for his doctorate, which he was awarded in 1994. He then held a postdoctoral fellowship at Oxford, before becoming Lecturer in Modern European History at the Queen's University of Belfast in 1997. In 2005 he moved to the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London, where in 2013 he became Professor of Polish-Lithuanian History. He is on leave from UCL in 2014-17, enabling him to hold the European Civilization Chair at Natolin. In 2016 he was awarded the degree of habilitated doctor by the Tadeusz Manteuffel History Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, with which he has long cooperated.

By Krysia Newman

Coming Events/Classes

- ◆ **BIBLE STUDY** at St. Valentine's Parish — **Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm** — Parish Hall. Discussion Leader: Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
- ◆ **From September 12, 2017 — POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES** at St. Valentine's Church — **Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm** — Parish Hall. Instructor: Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
- ◆ **Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 2:00 pm — POLISH AMERICAN CONCERT OF ENGLISH & POLISH HYMNS, FOLK AND PATRIOTIC SONGS** (in collaboration with Polish Heritage Committee)
- ◆ **Monday, October 9, 2017— PULASKI DAY PARADE, Northampton, MA**
- ◆ **Sunday, October 22, 2017 — HARVEST DINNER at St. Valentine's — 5:00 p.m.**

From our parishes...

Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI



Our Saviour's Parish Meat Raffle Good Food, Good Friends and Good Fun!!!

On Friday April 28th many attendees came to our 17th Meat Raffle. All 12 tables were filled to capacity. In addition to our following of over 50 people, there were lots of new faces present to join in the fun. The tables themes were based on the months of May, June, July, August and 2 Red Sox tables. Everyone was invited to take home all the "Freebies" on the table. As a result everyone who was present, went home a "WINNER".

Philip Kaczorowski welcomed the crowd and explained the activities involved with the Meat Raffle. Our parishioner, Lonnie Watson was presented with a



trophy titled #1 CHEF for his consistently delicious homemade soup. We had complimentary soup and bread (donated by Charlie and Katherine Caranci), followed by dessert and a beverage.

There were 10 meat raffles, 10 breakfast packages, 20 mystery envelopes and 20 bonus bags. House plants were donated by church member Lenore Hutnak.

A Penny Social with 25 prizes, Split-the -Pot, a Gift Card Raffle and more made the evening very exciting.

At intermission we drew 15 names for attendance prizes and 30 more names for consolation prize winners. The highlight of the evening was drawing the name of the winner for a Meat Raffle Pass (\$20.00 value) for the next Meat Raffle on September 29, 2017. We had a free Mother's Day Gift Raffle (lovely pink slippers and a variety of hand and body lotions). There was a Birthday Month Raffle (if your birthday month was selected you chose a Jewelry Grab Bag). A certificate was given to Rose Tostarelli who travelled the farthest to attend the Meat Raffle (East Hartford, Connecticut).

Also, a trophy was presented to "THE ROWDY TABLE" (you know who you are!). The event is well publicized in the Woonsocket Call and the Valley Breeze. Another parishioner, Ed Surowiec calls our local radio station WNRI and encourages listeners to join us for a nice evening out. Sally Watson also sends out an e-mail blast and the results for us are great.



Word of mouth is our best publicity and we encourage meat raffle fans to bring a friend or family member. Many church members were on hand to help and because of them we had an outstanding Meat Raffle. As always, I enjoy working "behind the scenes" to set up this event and keep things moving throughout the night. I am so pleased to see how much people laugh, interact with each other and have a wonderful time.

By Patricia Kaczorowski



'Forty Days - Forty Items' project

This Year during Lent Our Saviour's Parish held 'Forty Days - Forty Items' project. On Ash Wednesday and on the first Sunday of Lent the trash bags, with the guideline, were distributed to the parishioners. The idea was to take one item from their house that they no longer wear or need (not broken of course) and put it in the trash bag. They could also add clothes, soaps, tooth paste, deodorants, towels, wash clothes, sheets, blankets, sleeping bags, tents, air mattresses, men's clothes

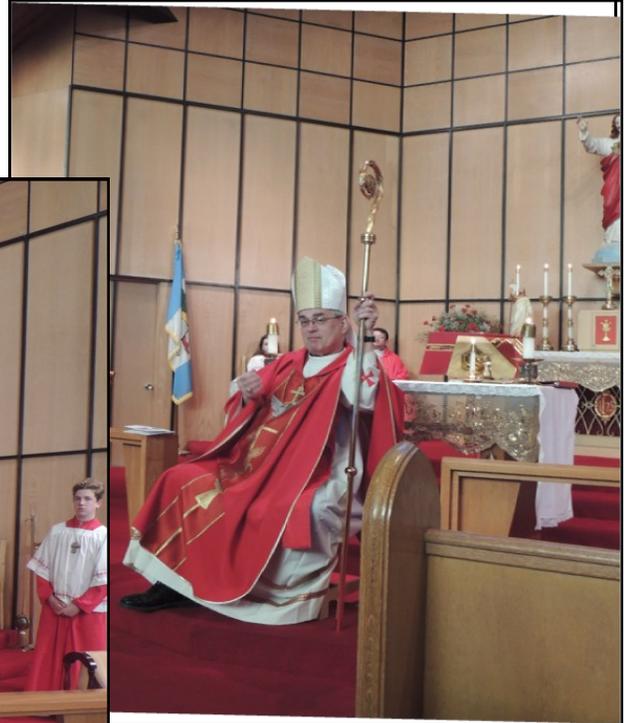


(shoes, new underwear and socks. At the end of the Lent they brought their bags to the church (Sunday following Easter). This year we collected 48 bags. The whole collection was brought to St. James Episcopal Church which distributes these items to the poor and needy in Woonsocket.



Confirmation Mass at Our Saviour's

On Sunday, May 21, 2017, Bishop Paul Sobiechowski celebrated Holy Mass with the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation at our parish. The confirmed were Jenna Vera Deshamps and Berenika Jadwiga Wos, sponsored by Ally Simphson and Elzbieta Przybylko. During the homily, Bishop Paul encouraged the confirmands to be steadfast in their faith and to remain active in the parish. As a memento of confirmation and a guide and inspiration for their Christian lives, the confirmands received Holy Bi-



bles from the parish community. The beautiful music, prepared by Sally Watson and the parish choir accompanied the liturgy. Following the Mass and photos, a reception prepared by the Deshamps and

the Wos Families was held in the parish hall.

We wish the newly confirmed the fullness of the Holy Spirit as they continue their journey as the witnesses of faith. May God bless them and accompany them in every moment of their lives.

Congratulations to Jenna and Berenika!

From our parishes...

St. Joseph's Parish, Westfield, MA News from St. Joseph's:

Easter time at St. Joseph's Church was a busy time. Lenten dinners were held three Fridays after Stations of the Cross. The delicious meals were made with love by members of the Parish Committee and other volunteers. Thanks to all those who helped. The children enjoyed an Easter egg hunt held on the social center grounds. It's such a joy to see the little ones all dressed up!

Members of the church and their relatives and friends attended one of two Masses held on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Father Joe hosted an Easter breakfast in April which was enjoyed by many. This past Sunday, the Gages who host the coffee hour after 8am Mass, presented Father Joe with a special cake in celebration of his 38th

year of priesthood. Congratulations Father Joe!

The current Dozynki dance leader, Becky, is looking for youth that are interested in dancing this year. If you know anyone, they can contact Becky at rtaylor181@yahoo.com.



Fr. Joe with the youth of our church (and his dog) in front of the War Memorial. The youth helped replace the flags on the veteran's stones and planted flowers at the altar and Fr. Kaminski's stone.

Father Joseph Soltysiak and veteran Bill Adamczyk stand with the nine member Honor Guard at St. Joseph's Church, Sunday, May 28th 2017



By Dr. Kelly Burek

From our parishes...

Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT



Spring - Summer 2017 Calendar of Events and Activities

Summer here in southeastern Connecticut is approaching very slowly this year.

There have already been a few hot days close to 90 degrees, but for the most part it has been a cool spring. Everyone can hardly wait for the good weather to arrive!

The Easter holidays were celebrated joyously at Divine Providence Church this year. Father Christopher Rogalski led our congregation through the services at this most important time. Our annual Easter dinner which took place a week after Easter Sunday was lovingly prepared by our Culinary Society and was delicious as usual.



After the Sunday Mass on April 30, Good Shepherd Sunday, eighteen of our parishioners, youth, and friends participated in our annual Greenville Neighborhood Clean-Up Walk. This is only one of the many community service events we participate in.



Mothers, living and deceased, were honored during our annual Mother's Day Service with special flowers placed in the church and a corsage given out to each mother.

The Cemetery Committee has begun mowing our cemetery grounds with the coming of spring. Flags have been put out at all veterans' graves in time for Memorial Day. A special Memorial Day Service was held in the church sanctuary rather than at the cemetery because of rainy weather.



Thanks to parishioner John Graley for connecting with the Mohegan Sun Casino Fire Department to aid in repairing our cemetery flagpole which displays both the flags of the U.S. and Poland.

Our upcoming events and activities for the next three months will include:

- **Sunday Morning Masses (June, July, August):** Sundays at 7:30am and at 9:00am, followed by a Coffee Hour in our Social Hall.
- **First Sunday Breakfasts:** Continue through the summer every first Sunday after Mass in our Social Hall.
- **Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus:** Wednesday evenings in June at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.
- **Parish Prayer Group (June, July, August):** First and third Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm in the Social Hall
- **Summer Bible Study (June, July, August):** First and third Tuesdays at 6:00pm in the Social Hall
- **Healing Services and Light Lunch:** Every third Wednesday of the month at 11:00am in the Social Hall
- **Father's Day Service:** Sunday, June 18, 2016 at 9:00am.
- **Fourth of July:** Get ready for the fireworks!
- **Brotherly Love Sunday Annual Food Drive:** Sunday, September 11, 2016 through Sunday, September 10, 2016.
- **Annual Polish Brunch:** Sunday, September, Date to be determined, after the 9:00am after Mass.
- **Semi-Annual Parish Meeting:** Sunday, September, Date to be determined) after the 9:00am Mass and Coffee hour in our Social Hall.
- **BINGO Nights:** every first Friday of the month at 7:00pm in the Social Hall. The coordinator of the event, Rick Siemiatkoski and the bingo caller, Jerry Donat agree that the attendance is growing. The Polish Kitchen doors are open at 5:00pm for snacks and beverages before bingo and during intermission.
- **Polish Language Classes:** To be held on Saturdays TBD, 12:00pm to 1:00pm in the church Social Hall. Instruction by Natalie Chmielewska.
- **Polish Cooking Classes:** To be held on Saturdays TBD, 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the church Social Hall. Hands-on instruction by Ela Chmielewska.

From our parishes...

St. John the Baptist Parish, Manchester, CT

Father Henry Smolinski Celebrates Ordination Jubilee

Saturday May 13 Bishop Paul Sobiechowski & three other priests of the Eastern Diocese joined Father Henry Smolinski in the sanctuary of the church of St. John the Baptist in Manchester, CT, to celebrate a Mass of the Thanksgiving for 50 years of Father's priestly service of the Catholic Church and a great variety of God's People.



Pictured to the right of Bishop Paul is Very Rev. Joseph Krusinski, pastor of Holy Trinity Church of Plantsville, CT, who as Administrative Senior of the Southwest Seniorate represented the PNCC clergy of CT who were unable to attend. Pictured above to the left of our bishop is our 87-year-old Senior pastor of Holy Cross parish, Ware, MA, the Very Rev. Fryderyk Banas. And next to Fr. Banas is Rev. Adam Czarnecki, pastor of St. Valentine Church, Northampton, MA, who read the Gospel of Mass and assisted Fr. Henry at the altar.

Our diocese's deacon candidate Justin Daviault (see photo below: front center), of Holy Trinity parish, Plantsville, assisted as an acolyte.

The twenty or so members of our diocese present for the Golden Jubilee Mass were joined by eighty others, who were family members or friends of Father, including an inspiring choir from his previous pastorate of St. Justin's Church in Hartford, CT.





Also present were three Lutheran pastors of the area, one of whom offered Father the hospitality of his much larger church hall for the Anniversary Dinner and reception after the 3 p.m. Mass. And Pastor Douglas Barclay of Concordia Lutheran Church also extended a warm welcome in his hall to our bishop and clergy, as well as all Father's family and guests, with particular thought to the growing ecumenical co-operation of Lutherans and Catholics in this year of 2017, which marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's starting the Protestant Reformation of the Church in western Europe. Pictured above besides our bishop, and his wife Karen, are one of Father's daughters "Toni" Slatkavitz and her husband Bob (as well as Father & pastor Douglas).

By Fr. Henry Smolinski

From Our Parishes...

St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA Confirmation at St. Casimir's Parish

At 4:00 pm on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017 the Sacrament of Confirmation was bestowed upon four young people from St. Casimir's Parish in Lowell, Massachusetts. The Right Reverend Paul Sobiechowski, Diocesan Bishop of the Eastern Diocese administered Confirmation, a gift of the Holy Spirit which strengthens faith and affirms the way Christ wants us to live. The four recipients from St. Casimir's were: Karina Anna Maria Tenus, Ian Joseph John Ford-Hunt, Joseph Peter Sigmund Grieve and Justin Joseph Robert Jaracz. Sponsors were: Agnieszka Tenus, Magdalena Hunt, John Monarca and Joseph Bigelow.

Bishop Sobiechowski spoke with the young people and guests in his sermon about their promises to God during the Confirmands' Declaration. His address was spoken gently but seriously. Special emphasis was placed on their promise to fulfill faithfully their obligations to the Polish National Catholic Church.



The gifts of the Holy Spirit are many: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, advice, strength, piety and fear of the Lord.

It is hoped these confirmands will always be faithful members of the PNCC.

During the service, carefully chosen hymns were sung by the choir and those present as Janice Klimczak played the organ.

We were fortunate to have Karen Sobiechowski's beautiful voice joining the choir. After singing the Hymn of the Polish National Catholic Church Bishop and the Confirmation class processed outside where a group picture was taken.

We at St. Casimir's are thankful Bishop Paul confirmed our young people and are grateful to Father Andrzej Tenus for preparing the class for Confirmation. We also recognize the support and guidance from the parents and the grandparents of those confirmed.

By JoAnn Menzia

National and Diocesan Events and Programs:

Ordination to the Holy Priesthood Congratulations to the Rev. Thomas Walsh

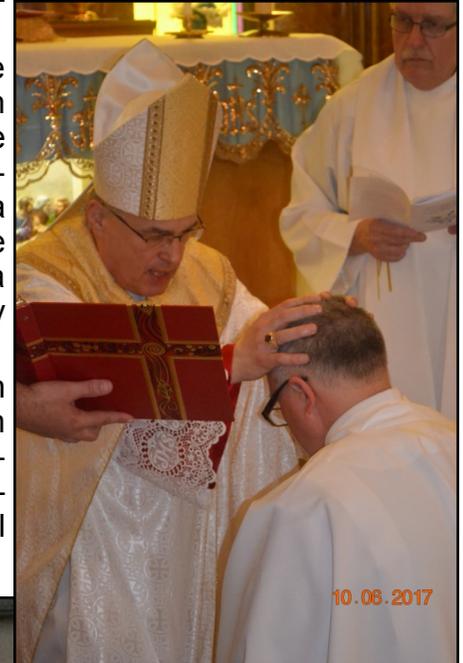
On Saturday, June 10, 2017, at 11am Holy Saviour Parish in Naugatuck/Union City, CT hosted the solemn Mass with the ordination to the Holy Priesthood of deacon Thomas Rocco Walsh.

In the beautiful decorated church of Holy Saviour deacon Thomas have received the Sacrament of the

Priesthood from the hand of our diocesan Bishop Paul Sobiechowski.

The homily was given by the Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky. In his homily Prime Bishop spoke about the spirit of service as an indispensable part in the life of a priest. The Priesthood, said Prime Bishop, is a commission to serve, a privilege to lift, and an opportunity to bless the life of others.

Several clergy from the Eastern Diocese, the guest priests from other dioceses, as well as ecumenical guests from other denominations were present for this special Mass.



The whole liturgy was prepared and led by the ED Liturgical Commission.

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

At the end of the Mass the newly ordained priest Thomas Walsh gave the solemn personal blessing to all gathered in the church.

Following the Mass the clergy and the guests gathered for an excellent meal prepared by the Parishioners. Thank you to Fr. Paul Dudek, his family and the Parishioners of Holy Saviour for their hospitality.



Dear Father Thomas, may you be filled with the grace to love and serve all those whom you meet. May Christ, Our Lord, bless you abundantly in your priestly ministry.

By Rev. Henryk Wos

2017 Northeast Seniorate Retreats, Worship and Annual Meeting

The parishes of the Northeast Seniorate held two Lenten Retreats, our annual Meal in the Upper Room Service and combined Corpus Christi Mass and Procession.



Lenten Retreats were held on Saturday March 11 and 18 at Our Savior's Parish in Woonsocket and St. Casimir's Parish in Lowell. The retreats began with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich and Bishop Paul Sobiechowski was the homilist. Our first session was a Reflection on our Lenten Journey by Fr. Robert Fredrickson. After silent meditation Fr. Andrzej Tenus celebrated Sorrowful Lamentations/Gorzkie žale. A Guided Lenten Meditation was given by Fr. Sr. Rob. Kathy Nemkovich then gave a meditation on the Passion "Who are You?" Karen Sobiechowski led singing of Lenten Hymn with reflection. The Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was read and the retreat concluded with Fr. Henryk Woś leading the Stations of the Cross. A spiritually uplifting time in prayer and reflection was enjoyed by those who attended. Thanks to both Our Saviour's and St. Casimir's Parishes for their warm gracious hospitality.



The Meal in the Upper Room was hosted at Blessed Trinity Parish on Passion Sunday – April 2nd. A special meal symbolic of the Passover Meal was served with readings from Holy Scripture, hymns and representation of Jesus' words and actions during the Last Supper institution the Holy Eucharist. Bishop Paul Sobiechowski concluded this service by giving his Apostolic blessing. Special thanks is given to the Nemkovich family and Joanne Oliveira for their efforts in preparing the meal and setting the room for this special commemoration.



The parishes of the Northeast Seniorate gathered for Corpus Christi on June 15th at Our Saviour's Parish in Woonsocket, RI. Fr. Sr. Rob celebrated Holy Mass with the priests of the seniorate – Fr. Vos, Fr. Tenus and Fr. Fredrickson con-celebrating. Fr. Tenus preached a beautiful sermon on the importance of the Eucharist in our lives. Fr. Henryk Vos led the beautiful procession with the Most Blessed Sacrament outside the Church. An excellent meal followed in the parish hall.



Members of the Seniorate had their annual meeting via teleconference on Thursday – May 11, 2017. The activities and events for the seniorate for the next year were planned. Our Candlelight Service will be held on December 17th at Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI. Next year our Lenten Retreats will be held on February 24, 2018 at Holy Cross in Central Falls and March 3, 2018 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, NH.

Submitted by, *Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich*

Polish National Catholic Church
Seventeenth Annual Mission & Evangelism Workshop
“Faith That Works: The Letter of St. James”

Hosted by Holy Cross Parish, Woodland Park, New Jersey

May 5-7, 2017

Polish National Catholic clergy and faithful from four dioceses gathered recently in **Woodland Park, New Jersey**, to participate in the PNCC’s **Seventeenth Annual Mission Workshop**. All received a warm welcome from the **host pastor, Rev. Joseph Cyman**, and the **good people of Holy Cross Parish**. The **Very Rev. Gregory Młodzik**, a member of the Commission on Mission and Evangelism, opened the Workshop with **an introduction to the Letter of James**. With its emphasis on works, some theologians (notably Martin Luther) have not held it in high regard, insisting that one is justified by faith in Christ alone. On careful examination, however, one can see that James never implied that human efforts can earn salvation. The good works do not save us, rather, they give tangible evidence to a person’s faith.

Rev. James Konicki continued the opening session with an **exegesis** (critical look) at this Biblical text. He stated that on its surface, James’ letter has nothing to do with Mission and Evangelism! It is probably the oldest New Testament text, dating to 50 AD, so its content is very connected to what was happening in the early church. **Written to Jewish believers in Jesus** who were in exile because of persecution, it closely parallels the material in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount; and though it was written centuries ago, its message is applicable to the challenges we face today. James advises believers to “count it all joy” when trials come, approaching them with steadfast faith in Christ. God, in His wisdom, allows these difficulties in our lives to hone our faith, thereby giving us the opportunity to become mature believers. **Our faith becomes visible and illustrates our friendship with God, to a world that needs to know Him**. Father Konicki summarized the theme of James - **the call to a genuine practice of the faith**, to “get our house in order.” The fruit of living an authentic Christian life is what draws others to Jesus (mission and evangelism).

We took a break for dinner and fellowship, renewing old acquaintances and meeting new friends. Friday’s activities concluded in the sanctuary with **Evening Prayer for the Feast of St. James and the Sacrament of Penance**, led by the **Bishop of the Central Diocese, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki**. The readings and prayers helped us to examine our consciences and reflect on St. James’ admonition to put our faith into practice.

We started on Saturday at 8:45 AM with **Morning Prayer, led by Very Rev. Gregory Młodzik**, and a **Votive Mass to Saints Philip and James, Apostles**, celebrated by Bishop Nowicki. **Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the PNCC**, was the homilist. He commented on the beauty of the sanctuary and how we are often inspired as we spend time in worship, only to forget that holy experience in the reality of our daily lives. We are to draw strength from the love of God we experience in the hour of worship, demonstrating it in our love of our neighbor during the remaining hours of the week. When people see Jesus’ love living in us, they will be drawn to Him.

The **Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese**, led the morning session, an **interactive Bible Study on the first chapter of James’ letter**. Bishop Paul gave us a homework assignment on Friday evening in preparation for this session, and there was plenty of thoughtful discussion as a result. He shared his audio visual and study sources with the group, encouraging them to finish this study on their own and perhaps start a similar study in their home parishes.

After our lunch break, **Deacon Tom Walsh** presented the **“Prayer of Faith,”** examining various types of prayer mentioned in James: Blessing and Adoration, and Prayers of Petition, Intercession, and Thanksgiving. James gave practical instruction on prayer to the early Christian community drawn from the Scriptures available to them at that time. He calls his readers to **pray with assurance** for what God has promised, and **pray with submission** when no promises have been made. Many circumstances call for prayer:

When one is suffering, “undergoing hardship or experiencing sadness,” he should cry out to God for deliverance or help to endure.

When one is in good spirits, he should sing praise to God.

When one is experiencing illness, he should call on the elders to pray and anoint him in the name of the Lord. In this Sacrament of Anointing, we unite our prayers with Jesus to overcome the forces of evil, sickness, suffering and sin in the world. He emphasized that a person’s sickness is not necessarily a consequence of sin, debunking a commonly held notion.

During this session, Deacon Tom asked if anyone would like to share a testimony of answered prayer, and several people did so. He concluded the session with a prayer of assurance, that God would grant personal revival to each individual, strengthening them to confidently share their faith with others and lead them to Christ.

After a short break, **Sherry Mack** helped us to put our faith into action by preparing **Prayer Blankets** for people in need. We divided into several small groups, and before beginning our work, the bishops blessed our hands for this ministry. We proceeded to cut, pin, and tie the edges of the blankets, praying for the recipients as we did so. Sherry directed us to the website for prayer shawl ministry which gives detailed instructions for making various types of prayer blankets, explaining the symbolism of colors and patterns used. She also provided “technical assistance” as we worked, emphasizing that perfection was not the goal, but that our love and prayers would benefit the recipients of our blankets. The finished products would be blessed at Sunday’s Mass. We all signed cards for those who would receive the blankets. Following the session, there was time for group members to share personal experiences of faith which carried them through difficult or challenging situations in their lives.

After a hearty dinner, we had more testimonies, and then we took time for **silent prayer** in the sanctuary. The peaceful atmosphere and soft candlelight quieted us and afforded an opportunity to reflect on the many topics presented earlier. To conclude the day, an **Evening Prayer and Commissioning Service** was led by Prime Bishop Mikovsky, with the assistance of Father Cyman. Candles, pins, and certificates were distributed to all participants, along with the charge to “put (our) faith into work and action in spreading the good news and bringing others to a knowledge of Jesus Christ”.

On Sunday, we gathered for **Morning Prayer**, led by Father Cyman, and **Holy Mass**, with Prime Bishop Mikovsky as celebrant and homilist of the liturgy for the Fourth Sunday of Easter. He focused on Jesus’ statement, “I AM the Good Shepherd,” one of seven “I AM” statements included in Holy Scripture. Although portrayed idyllically in art, the life of a shepherd in Biblical times was far from glamorous. He lived out in the field doing the vital work of caring for the sheep which were needed for religious sacrifice, but as an individual he was not highly regarded. With infrequent opportunities for bathing or personal care, he did not mingle much in society. When we say “The Lord is my Shepherd,” we acknowledge that “Jesus cares for us so much that He is willing to delve into our lives and get dirty.” Jesus told His followers, “I AM the gate”: At night, shepherds would lie on the ground across the opening of the sheep pen, a stone enclosure, to keep the sheep from wandering away. Sometimes several flocks and more than one shepherd would share the pen. In the morning, when it was time to lead sheep to pasture, the sheep would follow the voice only of their particular shepherd. **As Christians, we need to become familiar with the voice of Jesus and follow Him**, instead of the many other voices in the world (in the media, on our phones, and elsewhere) clamoring for our attention. “He is speaking all the time, if we choose to hear Him. We have a choice every moment, to listen to the voice of evil...or to listen to the voice of Jesus. Which voice do I hear? Which voice do I follow? Which voice do I serve?” Jesus calls us to share His message, His love, and His victory over sin and death; and to invite others to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, the One who brings life, love, and healing to all who seek Him.

During the Mass, the youth of Holy Cross Parish offered the prayers of intercession. At the end of Mass, they sang “Our Symbol,” a song which describes the symbol of the PNCC and tells of God’s love for us.

After Mass, we enjoyed brunch in the parish hall with the parishioners of Holy Cross. Mission and Evangelism Commission Member **Ron DeLuca** spoke about his relationship with the chairman of this commission, **Father Raymond Drada**, who recently passed away after battling cancer. Father Ray was actively involved in many endeavors of our Church, and we keenly feel his absence. After sharing these thoughts, Ron presented his traditional “**wrap-up**” of the Workshop. One Scripture passage which made an impression on him was James’ admonition: “**Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry**” (James 1:19). Ron also took the Prime Bishop’s words to heart about living for Christ every hour of every day, not just for an hour on Sunday. He shared with us a song, “I Am a Friend of God” and finished his presentation with a call to “Go where Jesus wants you to go and do what He wants you to do.”

Prime Bishop Anthony gave his closing remarks, mentioning the challenge of putting this Workshop together and of the many hands needed to complete the tasks that typically were done by Father Ray. Prime Bishop echoed Ron’s appreciation for James 1:19. His “takeaway” from this Workshop is “Listen to Jesus. Be friends of God and of each other.” With this in mind, attending Church won’t be seen as merely an “obligation” but as a privilege. Prime Bishop remarked, “Every moment is a work...Who - or what - does it serve?” Prime Bishop thanked Father Cyman and Holy Cross Parish for the hospitality extended to us and presented them with a gift from the Mission and Evangelism Commission, a plaque with the word “FAITH” in the middle, surrounded by four Scripture passages on the subject. Father Cyman in return thanked the Commission for the privilege of hosting the Workshop and spoke about incorporating some of the ideas which were presented.

Bishop Mack issued an invitation to the 2018 Mission Workshop which will be held in the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, most likely in Carnegie and Stowe Township, PA. Bishop Mack also shared his reminiscences of Father Ray and asked for prayers for Pennie Drada.

To conclude the Workshop, Bishop Nowicki prayed and gave everyone his blessing.

Much more happened in the individual conversations that took place: divine appointments, in which new friendships were forged and common experiences shared. Answers to prayer, ongoing needs, and words of encouragement were all a part of this gathering, and I pray that more PNC faithful would take the opportunity to experience the Body of Christ in this way. It doesn’t only happen at a national gathering, but it can be a part of our local experience when we are friends of God and friends of each other. “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says” (James 1:22). May God draw near to us as we draw near to Him.

Karen Sobiechowski,
Chair, Eastern Diocese Mission/Evangelism

Eastern Diocese United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament— 66th Convention Holy Trinity Cathedral Parish, Manchester, NH

The 66th Annual Convention of the United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament was held on Saturday, May 20, 2017, hosted by the sisters of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH. Holy Mass, celebrating the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church using the Hodurian Rite, was con-celebrated by the Right Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, diocesan bishop assisted by the Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski (Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT); the Rev. Andrzej Tenus (St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA); and the Rev. Paul Dudek, (Holy Saviour Parish, Union City, CT). The sermon was preached by Bishop Sobiechowski. Readers were Diane Bielizna and JoAnn O'Connell. Organist, Karen Sobiechowski, led diocesan choir members in appropriate hymns.

Bishop Sobiechowski, pastor of Holy Trinity Cathedral, extended greetings of his parish and the local ANS Society. After a group picture, all present assembled in the parish center to partake of light refreshments.

President JoAnn Menzia introduced the theme of our convention which was chosen to coordinate with the program instituted by the 2014 General Synod entitled "A Year of Commitment" for stewardship and prayer. This year we concentrated on the Solemnity of the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church.

The meeting was called to order at 11:47 am by President Menzia who asked Father Senior Krusienski to give the invocation. President Menzia then welcomed Bishop Sobiechowski, clergy, delegates and guests.

The mandate committee was approved on a motion by Linda Gonyea, seconded by Janice Dzialo.

Sally Watson gave the Mandate report. Present were 1 bishop, 3 priests, 12 executive board members, 13 delegates and 7 guests, for a total of 36 people representing 8 parishes.

Recording Secretary Janice Klimczak then conducted the Roll Call after which Bishop Sobiechowski administered the Oath of Office to delegates.

Minutes of the 65th Annual Convention, held in Lowell, MA May 21, 2016 had been sent out with the mandates and were accepted on a motion by Phyllis Dalton seconded by Marilyn Folcik and passed.

The treasurer's financial report was prepared by Sally Watson. The report of the financial secretary was prepared by Susan Locks.

Diane Hodgkins, auditor, reported that the financial books had been examined at the annual executive board meeting held in March and were found to be in order. A motion to accept all reports was made by Linda Gonyea, seconded by Arlene Strazzulla and passed.

President Menzia introduced the Rev. Andrzej Tenus, pastor of St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA, who gave the keynote address entitled "Christian Stewardship". The presentation talked about how we can be good stewards and featured a beautiful power point presentation showing ways in which we can give of our time, talents, as well as treasures.

Those in attendance were asked to write down some of the ways they use their talent, time and treasures in their parishes and attach them to a foam board at the front of the auditorium.

After grace was offered by president JoAnn Menzia, the meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:45 pm. A delicious meal was served by the ladies of the parish.

The meeting resumed at 1:23 pm at which time President Menzia spoke of the activities the delegates and guests would enjoy. They included:

Hymns written by Bishop Hodur were introduced by Arlene Strazzulla, Marilyn Folcik and Janice Klimczak. Polish, English and phonetic pronunciations were made available. All in attendance were able to sing *Do Ciebie Przyszli*, *Do Głębi Duszy* and *Tyle Lat*, accompanied by Karen Sobiechowski on keyboard.

JoAnn Menzia gave helpful hints for praying which were followed by a demonstration by Phyllis Hunt with suggestions on how to make prayer pockets. These can be filled with favorite prayers one can take along in daily travels or as a gift when visiting sick and shut-ins. Samples were available for those in attendance to take home.

Carolyn Dickson, member and archivist of the Cathedral parish, gave an enlightening talk on the history of the cathedral after which she gave a tour of the beautifully renovated facilities.

All of these activities emphasized stewardship and commitment to Christ and His Church.

President JoAnn Menzia led us in prayers for our sisters who have passed away in the past year as well as for the health of those sisters who are ill.

JoAnn Menzia announced that the 2018 Convention will be hosted by Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT. The convention of 2019 will take place in Westfield, MA at St. Joseph's Parish.

The National ANS will hold a retreat in Erie, PA in October. More information will be forthcoming. Vice-president Marilyn Folcik informed the assembly that ANS medals are available for purchase at a cost of \$10 each.

On a motion by Dorothy Stahelski, seconded by Linda Gonyea, a donation of \$500 was made to defray costs of the Youth Retreat at Goshen to be held August 21-25. We were reminded to encourage the youth of our parishes to take part.

The basket raffle brought in \$306. As has been the custom, half the proceeds were given to the Manchester ANS to donate to a charity of their choice, the New Hampshire Food Pantry.

President Menzia thanked all for their attendance as well as the host parish ANS sisters, Bishop Sobiechowski, Karen Sobiechowski, Father Andrew Tenu, our keynote speaker, clergy, executive board members, readers, kitchen workers, liturgical commission members, choir, and presenters.

Bishop Sobiechowski made closing remarks, reminding us of the following dates/activities: Diocesan Council meeting, June 3, Northampton, MA, 10 am; Ordination of Deacon Thomas Walsh, June 10, Union City, CT; Acolyte retreat, end of June, Woonsocket, RI; Scouting Camporee, July 7-8, Woonsocket, RI; Cathedral of the Pines, July 9, Rindge, NH; Youth Retreat, August 21-25, Camp Howe, Goshen, MA. Bishop also expressed his thanks to everyone for such a beautiful and inspiring convention.

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm with a prayer by Bishop Sobiechowski.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Klimczak
ED-ANS Recording Secretary



Upcoming Events:

EASTERN DIOCESE ACOLYTE RETREAT

MONDAY – JUNE 26, 2017

OUR SAVIOUR PARISH – WOONSOCKET, RI

“COMMITTED TO SERVE IN OUR HOLY CHURCH”

BEGINS AT 10:00 A.M. WITH HOLY MASS AND ENDS AT LINCOLN WOODS PARK

INTERACTIVE SESSIONS ON OUR PNCC, BEING CHOSEN AND SERVING WITH REVERENCE



Time in prayer, learning, fellowship and fun with your fellow servers - Plus a trip to Lincoln Woods Park

Open to Altar Servers of our diocese – registration is just \$10

Deadline to register is June 20th



To register or for additional information contact:

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich (508) 672-4854 RobNem21@aol.com

Cathedral of the Pines

The annual Eastern Diocesan Service at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH will be held on Sunday, July 9, 2017 at 3:30 PM.

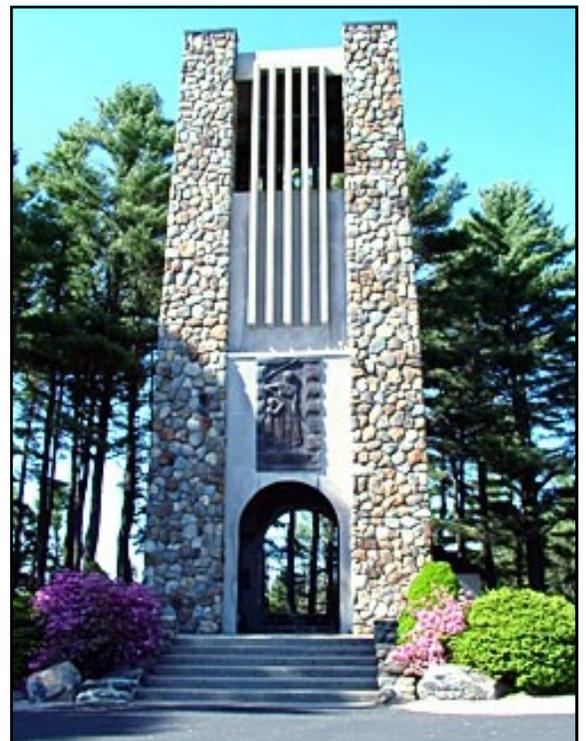
In case of inclement weather, the service (the Solemn Vespers) will be held in the nearby indoor facility.

Cathedral of the Pines is located just off Rts. 202 and 119 in Rindge, NH, and there are many road signs to get you there.

The Eastern Diocese has been using this facility annually well over 50 years.

- Following the service, Dinner will be served at 4-Star Catering in Rindge at 5:30pm. Cost for adults is \$20.25, for children \$14.25. Tickets may be reserved by contacting Fr. Sr. Soltysiak. Tickets will be distributed at the Cathedral of the Pines.

For registration and more information please call Father Senior Joseph Soltysiak in Westfield, MA at 1-413-562-4403 or email him at Soltysiak@comcast.net.



"COMMITMENT"



**4TH ANNUAL
CAMPOREE
OF THE EASTERN DIOCESE
OF THE PNCC**

JULY 7-8-9TH 2017

**OUR SAVIOUR PNC CHURCH
500 SMITHFIELD RD, WOONSOCKET, RI**

COST: \$15.00 PER PARTICIPANT

DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2017

CONTACT:

MR. MICHAEL KUCHAR (401) 473-4121

FR. ADAM CZARNECKI (413) 584-0133

FR. ROBERT KOERBER (413) 530-8575

**THE CAMPOREE IS OPEN TO ALL WHO WANT PARTICIPATE:
CURRENT, PAST AND PROSPECTIVE SCOUTS (BOY AND GIRLS)
FROM OUR CHURCH AND EVEN OUTSIDE OF OUR CHURCH**



NUC 25th Music Workshop and 34th General Convention
July 26-28, 2017

Hosted by the Frederick Chopin Choir
Holy Trinity Cathedral
166 Pearl Street
Manchester, NH

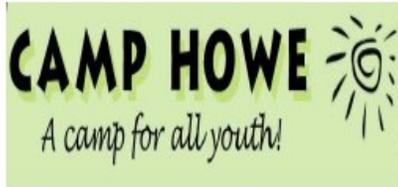
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, NH, is the site for the National United Choirs Convention and Music Workshop. This biennial event will take place from July 26-28, 2017. Workshop sessions will be led by experienced music ministers of the PNCC to provide training and practical help to singers, musicians, and directors of all ages and experience. The Workshop will culminate with a sacred music concert on Friday July 28, at 6:30 PM in the beautifully restored Cathedral. The concert is free to the public and will be followed by a reception in the auditorium, featuring refreshments, music, and a fun-filled "trinkets and treasures" blind auction whose proceeds will benefit the Music Scholarship Fund of our Church. This year's scholarship recipients will be announced during the concert. We hope you will plan to join us!

Registration for the Workshop is \$100 per person and includes music packet, workshop sessions, and meals (lunch and dinner on Thursday, lunch and reception on Friday).

For further information, please contact Karen Sobiechowski at 603-622-4524 or ksobiechowski@yahoo.com

Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat 2017



Come and Worship,



#Commit to Christ



Learn and



All at Camp Howe in Goshen, MA
From August 20-24, 2017

Registration and Health Forms are available from your pastor
and the cost is only \$135.00 per person



have great Fun!



Come and end your summer with friends in Christ



Celebrate Polish Heritage!

Polish American Concert Sing Along



Sponsored by St. Valentine's PNC Church and
the Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton

Sunday, September 24, 2017 - 2:00 pm

St. Valentine's Church

127 King Street, Northampton, MA

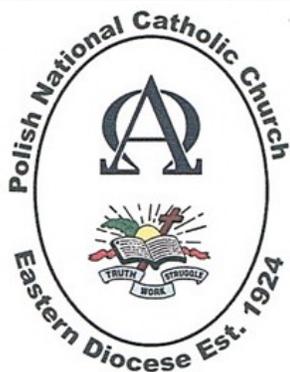


All friends of Polonia are cordially invited to attend this Polish American Concert / Sing Along. The religious hymns and folk, soldiers and patriotic songs in Polish and English will be led by singers from area Church choirs. An afternoon of music and fellowship is surely to be enjoyed by all.

Please Join Us!

Refreshments will follow in the Parish Hall





FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

Assignments:

- No new assignments have been made for this period.

Bishop's Visits to Parishes:

- None scheduled.

Diocesan and National Meetings: (all times are Eastern)

- Monday June 19 - Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Teleconference - 07:00 PM
- Tuesday June 20 - Thursday, 22 - National School of Christian Living Commission Meeting
St. Mary's Parish - Parma, OH
- Wednesday July 19 - District Three Polish National Union of America Teleconference - 07:00 PM
- Monday August 28 - Tuesday August 29 - National Mission and Evangelism Commission Meeting
National Church Center - Scranton, PA
- Wednesday, September 13 - Eastern Diocese Rites and Rituals Commission Meeting
Our Saviour's Parish - Woonsocket, RI
- Tuesday September 19 - Wednesday September 20 - A.C.N.A. / P.N.C.C. Dialogue Meeting
National Church Center - Scranton, PA

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

- Monday, June 26 - Acolyte Retreat at Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI
- Saturday, July 1 - Saturday July 8 - Kurs Youth Encampment - Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation
Center, Waymart, PA (sponsored by the Young Men Society of the Resurrection)
- Friday, July 7 to Sunday, July 9 - Eastern Diocese Scout Camporee
Our Saviour's Parish - Woonsocket, RI
- Sunday, July 9 - Diocesan Vesper Liturgy - Cathedral of the Pines - Rindge, NH (dinner follows).
- Wednesday July 26 - Friday July 28 - National United Choir Convention and Music Workshop
Holy Trinity Cathedral - Manchester, NH
- Sunday, August 20 - Thursday, August 24 - Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat-Camp Howe, Goshen, MA

LETTER TO THE EDITOR...

Dear Readers of the Messenger-our Diocesan Newsletter!

As the Editor of The Messenger I have been receiving different materials for publication. A lot of the ED PNCC members are looking for the new ideas to help our parishes in their struggles.

They are dedicated members of their parishes and express concern for the future of our Polish National Catholic Church. The Author of this letter is one of them. I hope you will find this letter interesting and inspiring as it was for myself.

Fr. Henryk Wos

My thoughts inspired by praying to God:

Disintegration definition by Merriam-Webster: to lose unity or integrity by or as if by breaking into parts

Change definition by Merriam-Webster: to undergo a modification of, to replace with another

My name is Kelly Burek and I am currently a member of the St. Joseph's Church in Westfield, MA. I am a member of the PNCC. I have been involved in the School of Christian Living, the Scholarship coordinator, and the Mission and Outreach group at our parish in the past. I have been observing how the numbers in the parish have been decreasing over the years and heard many discussions on why this may be. As I sat quietly one evening thinking about my faith, this is what I thought. These are the ideas that came to me as I prayed to God and asked for guidance:

Disintegration: There seems to be disintegration all around us. Disintegration of the church, of religion, of society, of morality. Obviously, the PNCC is not the only religion seeing a decline in participation. There are so many factors involved in the changes occurring in our world today that one could not possibly place a blame on one thing. However, I look at the disintegration of what is still there, the people that are still going to church, the communication between the priest and his followers, the communication between one another between churches, the communication with the Bishops and I can't help but think if we cannot keep our own parishes from disintegrating, how do we expect to attract new members or followers? If we cannot speak freely to one another without being concerned about stepping on toes or being chastised, if our Priests and Bishops do not reach out to us, if we continue to struggle with communication, we will continue to disintegrate. Of course, there are positives in the World as well and we should learn by example. Take a look at the parishes that are thriving, that are growing and what steps they are taking to adjust to the changes around us while still teaching and living by the Word of God.

Change: What I have observed over time is people hate change. People love tradition and having things stay the way they are. Why are people so afraid of change? Why can't we see that without change, problems cannot be corrected or solved? Without change we cannot move forward. When God had Jesus come to us, was He not looking for change in the world? I truly believe if the PNCC cannot change, cannot modernize, cannot see that things are not set in stone and can be altered, that it will cease to exist. Change can be a good thing, a great thing but we will never know if we are not willing to try. We need to open up our hearts and minds to change. Listen to the people that are in your parishes. See what new ideas can be brought to light and try them and really give them a chance. Let's talk to our Priests and Bishops, let's talk to our Parish Committees, to our Parish Groups and Organizations, hopefully they will reach for change too. We are all one, we are all members of our parishes because we believe in the Word of God, we believe in the fundamentals of the PNCC, we are brothers and sisters.

I see people join the church and leave the church. I have seen people that have been in the PNCC all their lives and had truly loved the church that leave or worse yet, stop going to any church. What is wrong? We need to take a hard look at what is happening and how to change. I pray that we begin to communicate better with one another, with our Priests and Bishops. I pray that we are guided by God to make the changes that allow us to continue our service to God, that help us continue to live by God's word.

I also see people who have been members of the PNCC and the leaders of the PNCC time and time again try their hardest to make the Parish survive and grow. They love their Parish and do everything they can, volunteer their time and labor, donate, participate in community activities and charity drives and more. There are many good things in the World and in the PNCC. We need to harvest this positive energy somehow when striving to spread the Word of God and grow the PNCC.

GOD is LOVE and with this love we can make the world a better place.

Sincerely, Kelly Burek



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

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

Ewa Lipska



Born October 8, 1945, in Kraków. Ewa Lipska is one of the most important Polish poets of her generation. She studied painting at the Academy for Fine Arts in Krakow, and from 1970 to 1980 she worked as an editor at the Krakow publishing house Wydawnictwo Literackie. In the 1990s she

Urodziła się 8 października 1945 r. w Krakowie. Ewa Lipska jest jedną z najważniejszych polskich poetek swojego pokolenia. Studiowała malarstwo na Akademii Sztuk Pięknych w Krakowie, a od 1970 do 1980 roku pracowała jako redaktor w wydawnictwie Wydawnictwo Literackie w Krakowie. W latach 90-tych przez siedem lat przebywała w Wiedniu, gdzie kierowała Instytutem Polskim.

Jako poetka debiutowała w 1967 r. zbiorem *Wiersze*, i od tego czasu do 1978 r. opublikowała cztery kolejne zbiory, poczynawszy od *Drugiego zbioru wierszy* kończąc na *Piątym zbiorze wierszy*. Dotychczas opublikowała ponad dwadzieścia zbiorów poezji i kilkanaście antologii.

Twórczość Lipskiej została wyróżniona licznymi nagrodami literackimi, a jej książki zostały przetłumaczone na piętnaście języków, w tym na angielski, niemiecki, francuski, hiszpański, szwedzki i hebrajski.

Chociaż Lipska bywa traktowana jako część grupy "Nowa Fala" z lat 70-tych, sama dystansuje się od takich skojarzeń, wołając tworzyć samodzielnie. Z biegiem lat jej nieufność do języka z jej codziennego otoczenia, do języka masek i kłamstw, wzrosła. W odpowiedzi Lipska opracowała język przeciwny, który jest konfrontacyjny i często złowieszczy. Jej wiersze są klarowne i w kilku słowach z łagodną ironią wnoszą jej własną rzeczywistość. Zafascynowana ludzkimi zachowaniami obnaża fałszywe znaczenie słów, udowadniając, że wciąż jesteśmy tylko "Ludzkimi Debiutantami".

Mieszka i pracuje w Krakowie.

lived for seven years in Vienna, where she managed Polish Cultural Institute.

She debuted as a poet in 1967 with the collection *Wiersze* (Poems), and from then until 1978 she published four more collections, from *Drugi zbiór wierszy* (The Second Poetry Collection) up to *Piąty zbiór wierszy* (The Fifth Poetry Collection). She has now published more than twenty poetry collections and several anthologies.

Lipska's work has been awarded various literary prizes and her books have been translated into fifteen languages, including English, German, French, Spanish, Swedish and Hebrew.

Although Lipska is sometimes considered as part of the "New Wave" group of the 1970s, she distances herself from such associations, preferring to operate autonomously. Over the years, her mistrust of the language of her daily surroundings, for her a language of masks and lies, has grown. In response, Lipska has developed an inverted language, which is confrontational and frequently ominous. Her poems are lucid, and in few words, she puts forth her own reality with gentle irony. Fascinated by human behavior, she strips away the false meaning of words, proving that we're still merely "Human Beginners".

She lives and work in Kraków

11 Września 2001

Poeci wywiadowcy świątobliwi podatnicy
pieśniarze jubilerzy
ogłaszają będą
rysepisy zbrodni.

Czasami nawet wiersze. Czasami nawet pieśni.

Jubilerzy starannie będą szlifować fakty.
Odpowiedni kształt. Odpowiedni połysk.
Precyzyjna biżuteria katastrofy.

Naturalnie
wszyscy poddawać się będą do druku.

I tylko mój krawiec
z którym cicho rozmawiamy
ściegiem płaskim
mówi
że świat się spruł.

A maszyna do szycia
zjadliwie się śmieje.



11 September 2001

Poets undercover agents pious tax-payers
songwriters jewelers
will all be announcing
reports of the crime.

At times even poems. At times even songs.

Jewelers will polish the facts meticulously.
Proper shape. Proper shine.
Catastrophe's precise costume jewelry.

Naturally
everyone will submit themselves to print.

And only my dress-maker
with whom I talk quietly
in satin stitches
says
the world has unraveled.

And the sewing machine
Laughs maliciously.

All trans. by Robin Davidson and Ewa Nowakowska

Krzyk mody

Umieramy coraz piękniej
w kolekcji Gianniego Versace.
Elegancja jest pisklęciem estetyki.

Biegamy po kościołach mody
wierząc że w pomarańczy będzie nam do twarzy.

Całujesz mnie w przymierzalni
patrz, w zieleni po prostu kłęska Rzymu.

Rozwiązujemy rebusy naszych archetypów.
Przekładamy berety na języki obce.

Wieczorem mamy zaproszenie
na wernisaż Sądu Ostatecznego.

Wchodzimy bez biletów.
Dzisiaj jest martwy wstęp.



Fashion Craze

We die more and more beautifully
in Gianni Versace's collection.
Elegance is aesthetics' nestling.

We bustle about the churches of fashion
believing that the orange will suit us.

You kiss me in a changing room
Look, it's just Rome's fall in green.

We solve the puzzles of our archetypes.
Translate berets into foreign languages.

Tonight we are invited
to the opening of the Last Judgment.

We enter without tickets.
Today is dead admission.

Gdzie indziej

Chciałabym mieszkać Gdzie Indziej.
W haftowanych ręcznie miasteczkach.

Spotykać się z tymi
którzy nie pochodzą na świat.

Bylibyśmy wreszcie szczęśliwie samotni.
Nie czekałby na nas ani jeden przystanek.

Żaden przyjazd. Żaden odjazd.
Przemijanie w muzeum.

Żadne wojny nie byłyby się o nas.
Żadna ludzkość. Żadne wojsko. Żadna broń.

Śmierć na rauszu. Byłoby wesoło.
W bibliotece wielotomowy czas.

Miłość. Nieprzytomny rozdział.
Przewracałaby nam szeptem kartki w sercach.



Elsewhere

I'd like to live Elsewhere.
In hand-embroidered towns.

To meet those
who are not born into the world.

At last we would be happily alone.
No stop would wait for us.

No arrival. No departure.
Evanescence in a museum.

No wars would fight for us.
No humanity. No army. No weapon.

Tipsy death. It would be fun.
In the library a multi-volume time.

Love. A mad chapter.
It would turn the pages of our hearts in a whisper.

Ciasto ze śliwkami

Zdejmuję z twojej twarzy
okruszek kruchego ciasta ze śliwkami.
Maleńka czcionka czułości.

Z dala od wszelkich pomysłów
kładę go na starej porcelanie kartki.
Niech się zapisze na zawsze.

Nie wiadomo kiedy
zdmuchnął wszystko przeciąg.
Ktoś otworzył okno. Ktoś otworzył drzwi.

Po latach wciąż
spaceruję po cukierniach.
Mam żal że mi się tylko zdajesz.
I nawet noc się nie domyśla
kiedy jesteśmy razem.



Plum crumb cake

I pluck from your face
a crumb of plum crumb cake.
A tiny press of tenderness.

Away from all ideas
I set it on the fine china of the page.
Let it be recorded forever.

It's hard to tell when
a draft has blown everything away.
Someone opened a window. Someone opened a door.

Years later
I still walk among the pastry shops.
It's a shame I only think you up.
Even the night doesn't realize...
when we are together.

By Rev. Adam Czarnecki

Parishes of the Eastern Diocese

<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Trinity Cathedral 166 Pearl St., Manchester, NH-03104-4236 Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Pastor (603)622-4524</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Joseph's Parish 73 Main St., Westfield, MA 01085-3189 Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Pastor (413)562-4403</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Blessed Trinity Parish 37 Winthrop St., Fall River, MA 02721—2541 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Pastor (508)672-4854</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Valentine's Parish 127 King St., Northampton, MA 01060-3234 Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor (413)584-0133</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">St. Casimir's Parish 268 Lakeview Avenue, Lowell, MA 01850-2313 Rev. Andrzej Tenus, Pastor (978)453-0742</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Church of the Transfiguration 8 Concord St., New Britain, CT 06053-2904 Rev. Paul Dudek, Administrator (860)229-2693</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Cross Parish 320 High St, Central Falls, RI 02863-3108 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Administrator (401)722-5130</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Divine Providence Parish 11 Silver St., Norwich, CT 06360-4731 Rev. Christopher Rogalski, Pastor (860)887-2812</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Our Saviour's Parish 500 Smithfield Rd., Woonsocket, RI 02895-6285 Rev. Henryk Wos, Pastor (401)762-3072</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Saviour Parish 118 Prospect St., Naugatuck, CT 06770-3056 Rev. Paul Dudek, Pastor (203)729-4035</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Cross Parish 723 Enfield St., Enfield, CT 06082-2903 Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Administrator (860)745-5066</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Trinity Parish 200 Summer St., Plantsville, CT 06479-1119 Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Pastor (860)628-0736</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Cross Parish 61 Maple St., Ware, MA 01082-1545 Very Rev. Fryderyk Banas, Pastor (413)967-5233</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Casimir Parish 240 Quinnipiac St., Wallingford, CT 01850-2313 Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Administrator (203)294-8888</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish 26 Bell St., Chicopee, MA 01013-3002 Rev. Pawel Lukaszewicz, Pastor (413)592-2032</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. John the Baptist Parish 23 Golway St., Manchester, CT 06042-2016 Rev. Henry Smolinski, Pastor (860)643-5906</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Name of Jesus Parish 15 Thayer St., South Deerfield, MA 01373-1136 Rev. Randolph Calvo, Pastor (413)665-2129</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Joseph's Parish 1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford, CT 06615-7639 Rev. Michal Gitner, Pastor (203)923-2424</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Trinity Parish 68 Lake St., Webster, MA 01570-2160 Rev. Robert Fredrickson, Pastor (860)833-6296</p>	

Diocesan Chaplains

<p style="text-align: center;">Diocesan Newsletter Editor Rev. Henryk Wos</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Scouting Commission Rev. Adam Czarnecki</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ladies Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">United Choirs Rev. Krzysztof Rogalski</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Polish National Union of America (Spojnia) District 3 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Youth Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">School of Christian Living Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Deacon Program Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Young Men's Society of the Resurrection Rev. Randolph Calvo</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lay Ministries Rev. Adam Czarnecki</p>

Other Clergy serving in the Eastern Diocese

<p style="text-align: center;">Rev. Robert Koerber-Phone: (413) 530-8575 Rev. Thomas Walsh-Phone: (860) 417 - 9888</p>
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2 Morning Prayers to Use Daily

."Lord, may nothing separate me from You today. Teach me how to choose only Your way today so each step will lead me closer to You. Help me walk by the Word and not my feelings. Help me to keep my heart pure and undivided. Protect me from my own careless thoughts, words, and actions. And keep me from being distracted by MY wants, MY desires, MY thoughts on how things should be. Help me to embrace what comes my way as an opportunity... rather than a personal inconvenience. And finally, help me to rest in the truth of Psalm 86:13, 'Great is your love toward me.' You already see the ways I will fall short and mess up. But right now, I consciously tuck Your whisper of absolute love for me into the deepest part of my heart. I recognize Your love for me is not based on my performance. You love me warts and all. That's amazing. But what's most amazing is that the Savior of the world would desire a few minutes with me this morning. Lord, help me to forever remember what a gift it is to sit with You like this. Amen."

- **Lysa Terkeurst**

"Dear Lord, I don't know who or what will cross my path today. But I do know that You are my Rock and my Fortress. You are my Shield and my Strong Tower. Help me to anchor myself to You today. Teach me how to stand strong in You and choose only Your way today. Help me walk by Your truth and not my feelings. Help me to embrace anything that comes my way as an opportunity to see You at work and as an opportunity to point others to You. Thank You that You love me and nothing can ever take that away from me! Even if I fail today and fall short, You whisper Your unconditional love deep into my soul and remind me that Your mercies are new every morning. That truly amazes me, Lord. Thank You for meeting with me today. Would You wake me again tomorrow with the same sweet whisper of Your love? I can't wait to meet with You again. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

- **Wendy Blight**

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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!