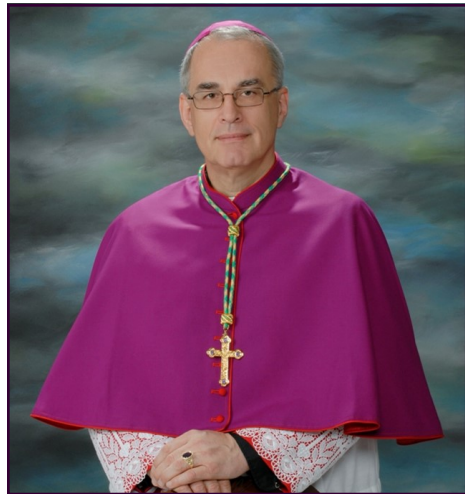


THE MESSENGER

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



A FINAL FEW REFERENCES FOR THIS YEAR OF COMMITMENT FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

"THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.

Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated."

- Thomas Paine, The American Crisis, 19 December 1776

Thomas Paine penned these memorable words and stirred the hearts of newly independent Americans to strive boldly, committed to a national struggle that was experiencing its deepest doubts and discouragements. Paine rallied a people to re-commit to a struggle that all of us are the benefactors of today.

As citizens of the United States of American we often fail to realize the obligation and commitment that is ours. We may rarely even think of it. But all those who come from other nations to become Americans are well aware of the commitment they make to this nation that has welcomed them into the U.S.A. family. Consider the words of the solemn oath every naturalized citizen proclaims:

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law;

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and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."

- United States Naturalization Oath

And to a greater degree, the solemn oath of every man and woman that enters the armed services of our nation speaks to the commitment of self to a cause greater than themselves. Every recruit knows that they may be called on to give their life in defense of the nation, and they do so willingly:

I, (NAME), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.

- United States Military Oath of Enlistment (except National Guard).

In Holy Scripture we find men making commitments to God that represent not only a personal commitment to the Almighty, but also a commitment of a people to a faith they place in a God who loves and provides for them, and who they in turn will honor and adore. So many examples are found in both the Old and New Testaments, but I would like to share the words of Joshua, leader of the Hebrew people. He pledged a commitment to God before the entire nation as he spoke of God's relationship to His chosen people, and the unflagging trust they would need to show to receive the many blessings that were waiting them in the Promised Land:

*"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.**"*

- Joshua 24:15 - Holy Bible - New International Version

Joshua was not only challenging the Hebrew people, but he was encouraging them to following the living God when it seemed all but impossible that a wandering band of people could defeat established nations in walled and fortified cities. What they saw as hopeless Joshua saw as opportunity. All that was required was a commitment of faith and obedience to God.

Following Jesus required the same commitment of faith and trust in the One Who was both Son of God and Son of Man. His teaching was difficult to comprehend. Jesus demonstrated this commitment Himself when He gave His life on the Cross for the sins of all mankind. His commitment to us includes the promise of resurrection and eternal life in His presence, the heavenly Jerusalem. But not all could follow. Even among these were "sunshine patriots" of faith; summer soldiers who liked it when he gave them loaves and fishes, but who balked at the idea of commitment to Him and His teaching, the Gospel of Good News:

"It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." As a result of this, many [of] his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

- John 6: 63-60, New American Bible

Those who were committed to Christ would be called to teach all nations, facing all dangers and even discouragements; they would be like the Apostle Paul, "ones who had run the good race and achieved the crown of victory."

Bishop Hodur demonstrated such a commitment and called upon all those who would build and become the Polish National Catholic Church to demonstrate the same courage and commitment. When we look at the Sacrament of Baptismal Rite of our Church that makes one part of Christ's Body, we see the Godparents speaking words of commitment as they prepare to speak for and represent the child to be baptized:

It is in this faith that the parents and godparents of N. have come here today, seeking that same baptism of Christ for N. and through it, admission to His community. It is your task as servants of the Lord to profess, with the whole Church, our faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in whose name this child is to be baptized. Do you intend gladly and willingly to do this?

- Contemporary Baptismal Rite, P.N.C.C.

This same child then speaks of His own commitment on the day he/she receives the Sacrament of Confirmation as the confirmand declares:

On this solemn day of my life, the day on which I received the Sacrament of Confirmation, I publicly declare before Almighty God, His holy Church, and all here present, that I shall be a faithful member of Christ's Church. Strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, I promise to do all in my power to live according to the Commandments of God and fulfill His holy will. I promise to avoid sin, the occasion of sin and evil companionship. I promise to remember always, and in all places, that I am a member of the Polish National Catholic Church and to faithfully fulfill all my obligations towards this Church.

So help me, God, one in the Blessed Trinity and all the saints. Amen.

- Traditional Confirmation Rite, P.N.C.C.

As we conclude this year of commitment to Christ and His Church and in light of all that I have shared with you, I believe it would be good for all of us, as members of the Eastern Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church to re-examine our Commitment to Christ and to His Church. Are we "summer soldiers and sunshine patriots" in our faith or do we truly put on the entire armor of God (cfr. Ephesians 6: 10 - 18) and having done all to stand for our faith when others abandon it? Remember Peter's response to Jesus... *"Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."*

May God bless us all on our journey of faith.

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

From our parishes ...

Blessed Trinity - Fall River, MA

The summer of 2017 was a bustling time at Blessed Trinity, in addition to our sacramental worship and prayer life we had many activities that kept us reaching out to our local community. Our parish hosted our Neighborhood Watch picnic, a Light The Way walk for suicide awareness, commemorated World Suicide Prevention Day, hosted several community meetings: Kitchen Table Conversations for Suicide loss support, Fall River Falcons, Polish Veterans Association, was used as a voting center and held the Funeral for a 38 year old Fall River Police Officer. The Chief of Police on behalf of the entire department thanked Fr. Sr. Rob and the parish for their care, concern and warm hospitality.



Our youth were active as well attending the diocesan acolyte and youth retreats. On Youth Sunday we held the blessing of backpacks and on the Solemnity of Brotherly Love we began our fall School of Christian Living classes. We were excited to have the Quinceañera for Isabel - what a beautiful Mass and celebration. The parish was happy to welcome Prime Bishop Emeritus and Florence Nemkovich. Prime Bishop Robert celebrated Holy Mass on the first Sunday of July and preached God's Word to us on the next.





Our summer Clam Boil was a complete sell out and we congratulate Gaby on winning the prestigious New England Clam Sculpting Award. We also had an incredible group of volunteers to help us make over 500 dozen of pierogi for our Polish Food Fest so that we can continue the work and ministry that our Lord is calling us to do.

Respectfully submitted, *Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich*

From our parishes...

St. Valentine Parish, Northampton, MA

POLISH DINNER — SELL OUT!!!



Sunday, June 11, 2017 at noon, St. Valentine's Parish, Northampton, Massachusetts held its 10th Annual Polish Dinner in the parish hall.

The menu consisted of traditional Polish fare (golabki, cabbage and cheese pierogi, cabbage with spareribs, kielbasa, ham, homefries, horseradish, ryebread/butter, pickles, chrusciki, dessert and beverage). The buffet style dinner was served to nearly 140 people.

This Polish Dinner event presents our Polish Heritage through our sumptuous Polish food prepared by our parishioners.

Raffles were held with many great prizes from our parishioners, friends and local businesses as well as a 50/50 raffle. Most importantly was that our parish hall was jam-packed with our parishioners, parishioners and

clergy from some of our sister parishes, members of the local community and many members of the Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton who enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of conversation, laughter and friendship.

Thank you to everyone who worked so very hard to make this event successful, to those who provided raffle prizes and to our guests for supporting the Polish Dinner. Dziękujemy!

by Krysia Newman



Annual Tag Sale

The ladies of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society held their annual Spring Tag Sale, Saturday, June 24th

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It was nice to see many of our parishioners, friends and acquaintances who stopped by to shop. The day was a bit challenging - we had a fifteen minute rain/wind storm which gave those who worked a nice shower. Soon after sun shine was the menu for the remainder of the day. Given the challenges the tag sale was successful. A sincere thank you is extended to those who worked very hard to set up, sell and clean up as well as to everyone who provided items for the Tag Sale.

by Krysia Newman



St. Valentine's Parish Graduates Fourteen Polish Language Class Students - 2017!



After successful participation in the Polish language course of study, fourteen students were awarded diplomas, Tuesday, May 30, 2017 in our parish. These conscientious students have attended class taught by Father Adam, every Tuesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. since September, 2016. Students learned sentence construction, enhanced their Polish vocabulary and Polish speaking skills and learned some Polish hymns for every major occasion on the Church calendar as well as some folk songs. Also, students learned many things about the solemnities in the Polish National Catholic Church and much historical information about Poland. In addition, students participated in Lenten Services (Gorzkie Zale) and May Devotions. It was not all work – there was some fun - a Christmas celebration, Zapusty celebration and our end of the year graduation celebration.

Graduates included: Robert Gibowicz, Tessie Gibowicz, Linda Golash, Michael Lambert, Barbara MacEwan, Alberta Martin, Francis Martin, Amelia Matuszko, Krysia Newman, Paula Pavelczyk, Dorothy Smarz, George Smarz, Laurie Smarz and Barbara Wilda.

Classes for the next academic year will begin September 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Valentine's Church. If you want to learn the Polish language, please join our class in the Fall – it is a great place to be on Tuesday evenings.

Please Note: The students extend a sincere thank you to Father Adam for his willingness to instruct the Polish Class.

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.**

PULASKI DAY PARADE

Northampton, MA

Monday, October 9, 2017

St. Valentine's Parish will again participate!

Holy Mass at 10 am at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. The parade will assemble after the Mass (around 11 am) on King Street, in front of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church.

We need your participation and hope you will join us!



From our parishes...

Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI

Free Community Car Wash and Yard Sale



On August 19th, Our Saviour's held a Free Community Car Wash and Yard Sale. We couldn't have asked for a better rain date, as it was originally supposed to be held two weeks earlier.

Our parking lot was full of cars waiting to be washed and folks selling their wares.



The reason why we believe it was so crowded is because we were raising funds to help a local boy, Bradley Gignac, and his family, purchase for him a new wheelchair. Back in 2003, Bradley, who was just 3 ½ years old, was in a jet ski accident with his dad, whom was killed instantly after being struck by a boat. Bradley suffered a traumatic brain injury, loss of



vision in one eye, and several fractures and paralysis. This new wheelchair, or his 'Dream Wheelchair,' is one where he has the ability to stand. This would open up a whole new world for him and help relieve him of some of the issues from staying in the one position all the time.

What a great day it was sharing information about our parish, welcoming them to our community, and then in the end, giving back to one in our community. All were touched with generosity and we were well pleased with the ability to help out Bradley towards his dream.

By Sally Watson

Parish Picnic

On Sunday, September 10th, in conjunction with the Solemnity of Brotherly Love, Our Saviour's held their annual Parish Potluck Picnic. We advertised and invited the public to join us, but many misunderstood and thought it was a full blown Polish picnic.

We were pleased they stayed and enjoyed the good meal and



camaraderie. Lots of food was had, including bigos, kielbasa, pulled pork, stuffies, and more. It was all topped off with a birthday cake for one of our eldest parishioners, Beatrice Bielat, who turned 95 years old.

Parishioner Brenda Dixon led our games once again, and the children and adults enjoyed themselves immensely. It was quite a chuckle to see Father Henryk jumping around trying to get ping pong balls to fall out of an empty tissue box he had tied around his waist. The kids also did face painting and played in a bouncy house. It was a great day, and we would love for more folks to join us in the future.

If you would like to see all photos from the Picnic, join us on Facebook: Our Saviour Parish PNCC
By Sally Watson



By Sally Watson

UPCOMING OUR SAVIOUR'S PARISH EVENTS:

- **Saturday, October 7th - Blessing of the Animals**

At 5pm, Father Henryk will hold a Blessing of the Animals service in front of the church. All are invited, but we ask you to please keep your pets leashed at all times. Dog and cat treats will be available!

- **Friday, September 29th - Meat Raffle**

Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. A free light supper, including beverages and dessert will be served. There are 10 meat raffles. Tickets are 3 for \$2.00 for each raffle or you may purchase a Meat Raffle pass for \$20.00. In addition to the meat prize; there will also be a breakfast package, 2 Mystery Envelopes, a Bonus Prize and consolation prizes, too. Also, we will feature Split-the-Pot, a Penny Social, and a Gift Card Raffle. Join us for a great night of fun!

- **Saturday, November 11th - Annual Bazaar—** Great food! Games! Silent Auction! Pastries! Kid's games and fun!

From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT

On Sunday, June 25, 2017, Holy Trinity PNCC in Plantsville, CT celebrated the Solemnity of Saint John the Baptist with a Mass that was attended by representatives from various Masonic groups in Connecticut. St. John the Baptist is considered the patron saint of all Masons worldwide.

After the Colors were presented, Mass was celebrated by the Very Reverend Joseph Krusinski, pastor of Holy Trinity. Following the Mass, the parish provided a delicious breakfast of bacon, eggs, pancakes, sauerkraut and kielbasa, pierogi, and fresh fruit cup. The food was prepared by parish members George, Diane and Billy Peck and Terry DiMartino.

A free will offering was collected and the proceeds of \$480 were given to the Scottish Rite Dyslexia Center in Waterbury, CT which provides both adults and children with dyslexia with the opportunities to help them achieve their full potential.

By Marilyn Folcik



From Our Parishes...

St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA PANCAKE BREAKFAST/SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

On Sunday, August 20, 2017, St. Casimir's of Lowell, MA hosted a Blueberry Pancake Breakfast to benefit our Scholarship Fund. The food was prepared by our parish chefs and served to a full house.

During the breakfast, four scholarships were awarded to four deserving young parishioners: Rachel Quirbach, finishing her last year at Arizona State University majoring in Music Therapy; James Kosidlo, completing his fourth year at UMASS Dartmouth, majoring in Marketing; James Bigelow, beginning his first year at Plymouth State University (NH) and Joseph Quirbach, also beginning his first year at Manchester Community College (NH).

All of these young people received the sacraments and attended our School of Christian Living. They are active in the parish, participating in Mass—collectors, singers—and as members of the Youth Group, helping serve dinners, cleaning church/cemetery properties.

We wish them good luck in school and godspeed in their future endeavors.

Janice Klimczak



Recipients of Scholarships with their families: Father Andrew Tenus, pastor of St. Casimir's, Tanya Bigelow with son James Bigelow, Linda and Stanley Kosidlo with son James Kosidlo, Diane and Dr. Bert Quirbach with son Joseph Quirbach. Absent from picture was Rachel Quirbach, daughter of Dr. Bert and Diane who has already begun her studies at Arizona State.

YOUTH SUNDAY—BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

The third annual Youth Sunday Mass was held August 27, 2017 at St. Casimir's Church, Lowell, MA. On this day, children and youth sing the hymns, read the scriptures, take up the collection, and play various instruments accompanying their sisters, brothers and friends.



Readers for the day were Ian Ford-Hunt (Isaiah 22:15, 19-23) and James Bigelow (Romans 11:33-36). Collection was taken by James Kosidlo.

Father Tenus gave a very inspiring sermon based on Jesus' question "Who do you say I am?" and asking us all to spend more time in prayer and scripture reading rather than on earthly endeavors.

The first hymn sung was "Praise Him! Praise Him!" This was followed by "Do Lord", accompanied on the guitar by Karina Tenus. "Alleluia" was sung just before Communion. Joseph Grieve accompanied himself on the keyboard while singing "Where He Leads Me I Will Follow".

Father Tenus accompanied the children/youth on his guitar while they sang "We Were Made To Love The Lord".

Following the end of Mass, Father blessed the children/youth and their backpacks as they start back to school, asking for God to guide these young people in their studies and to keep them safe.

The Mass concluded with the singing of "God Bless America".

Janice Klimczak



Front row--Left to right: Jade Divila, James Bigelow, Ella Keating, Olivia Keating, Kaderlyn Lopez, Kimberly Lopez, Emma Ford Hunt, Amelia Tenus, Christopher Tenus, Jonasz Tenus. Back row: Brianna Bigelow, Father Tenus, Karina Tenus.

From Our Parishes...

Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT Summer - Fall 2017 Calendar of Events and Activities



Another summer is passing quickly. The cooler days of the end of the season are now with us. The weather has been beautiful for the last few weeks and we hope for a long Indian summer to come moving through fall before the cold days of winter settle in.

The Divine Providence Parish has been quiet over the summer, but it has been a summer full of spiritually uplifting events. Our special Healing Masses continue and are well attended. They take place in our social hall every third Wednesday of the month at 11:00am and are specifically meant for those who are aging and who have health issues that prevent them from climbing up the steps to attend regular Mass in our sanctuary. These Masses are an amazing way to receive Christ through the Eucharist. The Healing Masses are followed by a light lunch.

We continue to welcome new people into our church, and try to be living Christian examples to others. We attend Mass and join in Bible Study on Sundays. Our members are eager to help and to volunteer. We participate in parish activities such as our Brotherly Love Fall Food Drive, our monthly Bingo and Polish Kitchen, our Polish Brunch, and our Harvest Festival and Flea Market. And when we want to reach out to our community, we volunteer and participate with our neighbors in events such as our church neighborhood Greeneville Revitalization Zone.

A special event at our parish this summer was the celebration our pastor's birthday in July. Father Christopher Rogalski has now led the spiritual life of our parish for the past 18 years. He joined us in 1999 after our former pastor, Father Senior John Urban, retired after serving our church for 60 years. "Sto lat", Father Chris!



Upcoming events and activities at Divine Providence Parish:

- **SUNDAY SERVICES:** Mass at 9:00am and 12:00pm every Sunday
- **HEALING SERVICES** Mass at 11:00am every third Wednesday of the month in the church social hall
- **BIBLE STUDY** After Sunday 9:00am Mass
- **FIRST SUNDAY BREAKFASTS** Breakfast follows every First Sunday 9:00am Mass
- **SUNDAY SOCIAL HOURS:** Coffee and snacks after 9:00am Mass every Sunday except the first Sunday
- **September 10, Sunday** Brotherly Love Sunday Annual Brotherly Love Fall food Drive, September 10 through September 30
- **September 17, Sunday** Semi-Annual Parish Meeting, after Social Hour after 9:00am Mass

- **September 24, Sunday** Polish Brunch and ANS Bake Sale, after 9:00am Mass, 10:00am to 2:00pm
- **October 8, Sunday** Christian Family Sunday, Election of Parish Officers, after Social Hour after 9:00am Mass
- **October 14, Saturday** Harvest Festival & Flea Market, 8:00am to 2:00pm
- **October 29, Sunday** All Saints and All Souls Service at Cemetery at 2:00pm
- **November 1, 2; Wed., Thurs.** All Saints and All Souls Days
- **November 11, Saturday** Veterans' Day
- **November 19, Sunday** Parish Thanksgiving Dinner, 1:00pm
- **November 23, Thursday** Thanksgiving Day
- **December 16, Saturday** Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying at Cemetery, 12:00pm
- **December 24, Sunday** Christmas Eve Service, Pasterka, at 10:00pm
- **December 25, Monday** Christmas Day, Mass at 9:00am
- **January 1, Monday** New Year's Day
- **January 7, Sunday** Service of Readings and Carols, 1:00pm and Christmas Dinner, 2:00pm
- **Bingo Nights** Every first Friday of the month at 7:00pm. The Polish Kitchen is open from 5:00pm until after intermission
- **Polish Language Classes** Saturday afternoons TBD, 12:00pm to 1:00pm
- **Polish Cooking Classes** Saturday afternoons TBD, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

National and Diocesan Events and Programs:

2017 EASTERN DIOCESE ACOLYTE RETREAT – COMMITTED TO SERVE



"Committed to Serve in our Holy Church" was the theme of our sixth annual Eastern Diocese Acolyte Retreat held on June 26, 2017. On a beautiful summer day 30 altar servers, adults and clergy gathered with our bishop, The Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, at Our Saviour's Parish in Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

The retreat began with Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul. Our diocesan youth chaplain, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich and host pastor, Fr. Henryk Wos concelebrated. Cliff Nemkovich served as the lector for the Mass and acolytes from Woonsocket did an outstanding job of serving at the Altar with Reverence and Commitment. Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich proclaimed the Gospel and preached the Sacrament of the Word of God to the Acolytes. Fr. Sr. reminded them that our purpose is to serve Christ – that He is the vine and we are the branches, our Lord is the one we need to pattern our lives after. The servers were reminded about the most important role they play during the Holy Mass





when we are privileged to receive the wonderful gift of Christ truly present in the Eucharist. During the Mass prayers were offered for ✠ Bishop Thomas Gnat and ✠ Fr. Sr. Stanley Skzrypek who recently passed away. May they rest in peace.



Following a group photo all enjoyed some outstanding Dunkin Donuts provided by our host parish.

The Acolyte Retreat reinforced our Year of Commitment across our PNCC in 2017 with a special focus on the Institution of the PNCC. The Altar Servers enjoyed watching the Convo 2016 presentation on the life of Bishop Hodur, the organization and purpose of our holy Polish National Catholic Church. Some of those who took part in leading roles in this presentation were with us for this retreat and enjoyed the accolades they were given.

Fr. Henryk Was gave a presentation on serving with reverence and commitment. Fr. Henryk pointed out some do's and

don'ts for the acolytes and reminded them about the great privilege it is to serve at the Lord's table and be so close to the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. He also encouraged some of the older servers



to continue to give instruction to newer Altar Servers.

After grace offered by Fr. Robert Fredrickson, the altar servers were treated to a great lunch for youth – pizza.



The third and final presentation of the retreat was given by Fr. Robert Koerber. Fr. Koerber spoke on "I Chose You". Some time was spent speaking to the men and boys gathered about how God calls particular men to the ordained Priesthood and that they should be open to that call in their lives. Fr. Koerber then spoke about all have various roles to serve the Church and God calls all to fulfill these and work for the realization of His Kingdom. The servers were reminded they need to embrace the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and be witnesses to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Our acolytes, clergy and laity then traveled to the beautiful Lincoln Woods State Park. A great time was enjoyed on this gorgeous day where many of the Altar Servers spent time swimming. A few made the walk around the lake. Some quality refreshing



time with some incredible sights of God's beautiful creation.

Thanks and appreciation are given to Fr. Henryk Wos and our host parish, Our Saviour's in Woonsocket for their fine hospitality and to all the clergy gathered: Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, Fr. Robert Koerber, Fr. Robert Fredrickson and Fr. Henryk Wos. Six diocesan parishes were represented: Central Falls, RI; Fall River, MA; Webster, MA Manchester, NH; Stratford, CT and Woonsocket, RI. Plan to join us next summer for our 2018 Eastern Diocese Acolyte Retreat where we will again gather in prayer, worship, learning and great fun. Also don't forget our upcoming Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat at Camp Howe in Goshen, MA from August 20-24, 2017 "#Commit tot Christ".

- Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich



4th ANNUAL CAMPOREE OF THE EASTERN DIOCESE OF THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

On the weekend of July 7-9th at Our Savior PNC Parish in Woonsocket, RI, the 4th Annual Camporee of the Eastern Diocese took place. The theme of this year's Camporee was "Commitment", which focuses and corresponds to the 2017 theme of "Commitment" throughout the entire Polish National Catholic Church. It should be noted that a prepared binder was presented to each participant which covered a variety of useful information dealing on several topics in scouting; how to tie different knots, how to survive in the woods, how to use a compass and facts on first aid injuries and emergencies.

The scouts and their chaperones began to arrive on Friday. Those in attendance enjoyed a welcome meal. The evening was an "open" schedule and lights out came early. On Saturday morning, most of our participants arrived. There was the raising of the American and the Polish National Catholic flags welcoming the attendees. Mr. Michael Kuchar, the chairman of the Eastern Diocesan Commission on Scouting spent time creating a Scouting "Gateway" and lashed our scouting banner to it, representing the boys and girls who a part of this year's Camporee.



After morning prayers, breakfast was served. The famous "eggs in a bag" were prepared. For those unaware of this delicacy, eggs and other toppings are placed in a plastic bag and are placed in boiling water and then served. Juice and other breakfast items were also available. At 9:00 AM, the first session was held by Father Robert Koerber who spoke on the "Commitment in Scouting" and what "commitment" means. The second session at 10:00 AM was held by Mr. Michael Kuchar, who took the participants on a "nature hike" in nearby Globe Park. Mike spent this time, having the children and youth collect various leaves and taught them how to identify each one.

At 11:00, the third session was presented by Father Robert, who broke the group into two competing teams, using the scenario "Lost at Sea". In this scenario, individuals who are stranded on life rafts, must decide on the priority of 15 items, from the most important to least important, helping them survive. There was a lot of interaction and participation. Afterward, Father Robert revealed the answers and the reasoning of the items chosen.

After the morning sessions, lunch was served by our chef, Father Adam Czarnecki, Chaplain of the Eastern Diocesan Council on Scouting. Father Czarnecki, who was involved in Scouting in Poland, prepared a wonderful "Polish Soldier's Pea soup" and served it with bread. Many went back for seconds even thirds.

The first afternoon activity was focused on "how to use a compass". Bishop Paul graciously approved the purchasing of very nice "field compasses" and after Mike Kuchar gave a brief discussion, on the various parts of the compass, everyone went out-



doors where "field stations" were set up. A Compass reading was taken at each "station", using not only the heading to the next station, but also how to measure distance by "pacing" out the steps. One of the many stations, created a scenario where an individual was injured and proper first aid was needed to be performed. Father Robert, having served as a Trauma Paramedic, showed the proper first aid to the individual. Another station, called upon the group to properly "lash" logs together to form a triangle, used for many purposes in scouting.

After coming back indoors, Father Robert led a discussion on other first aid emergencies, which included treating cuts and burns, as well as knowing the signs of someone having a possible heart attack or stroke. Each participant received a portable "first aid" kit, a gift from Father Adam and Father Robert. One of the highlights of the Camporee, was the "catapult" competition which each of the participants spent time creating their own "catapults" using tongue depressors, rubber bands, and "launching" balls of cottons. It was interesting to see the assorted designs and how far some of the "catapults" launched the weapons. Before supper, Bishop Paul called upon Cub Scout Tyler Dixon who was awarded the "Love of God" medal, that is given to a Cub Scout in the Polish National Catholic Church, once completing the necessary requirements. Bishop Paul also presented to Tyler the Centennial Boy Scout commemoration silver dollar, an award that Bishop said he would give to any boy or girl who completes the necessary requirements of the 4 Scouting awards in the Polish National Catholic Church. After a long but enjoyable day, it was time for supper which consisted of hot dogs and other food items. The evening came quickly and the Bishop as well as Father Czarnecki and Father Koerber left the group to return to their respective homes in preparation for Sunday services. Those who remained, had an early evening. On Sunday morning, those who stayed broke camp, lowered the flags and attended Holy Mass. Afterward, a simple breakfast was served.



At this time, we wish to thank our Diocesan Bishop, Paul Sobiechowski, for his continued support. We wish to thank our host, Father Henryk Wos and the Parish family of Our Saviour Church who graciously opened their Parish to us. We wish to also thank the members of the Eastern Diocesan Commission on Scouting; to Mr. Michael Kuchar chairman, Father Adam Czarnecki, chaplain and Father Robert Koerber, secretary for all their help in preparing this successful Camporee. And finally, to the parents and to the youth for their participation, in making this 4th Camporee successful.

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By Father Robert Koerber

Summer Music in Manchester, NH

Holy Trinity Cathedral was pleased to welcome 66 musicians and guests from throughout the PNCC to Manchester, NH, for the National United Choirs 25th Music Workshop and 33rd General Convention from July 26-28. The Frederick Chopin Choir hosted the biennial event, which featured sessions led by Dr. Barbara Nowicki, Vanessa Murawski, Dr. Neil Stahurski, and Karen Sobiechowski. Two of "The Reverends," Fathers Andrew Tenus and Pawel Łukaszewicz, shared some of their original music, with the assistance of Mrs. Monika and Miss Patricia Łukaszewicz. Local entertainer Ken Sheldon (a.k.a. Fred Marple, of "Frost Heaves" fame) gave our visitors a taste of New England life and humor, and he invited a few of them to assist him in his presentation. During a choral reading session, participants had the opportunity to sing service music which was written by PNC composers, and they were given a packet of "user-friendly" anthems to take back with them to their own parishes. The three days culminated with a free concert featuring a 55-voice choir in the beautifully restored Holy Trinity Cathedral. A reception followed with "heavy hors d'oeuvres" and with music by DJ Father Robert Fredrickson. The fun and famous Auction yielded \$1,000 in donations to the NUC Music Scholarship Fund, and we are thankful for all of those who participated. If you would like to see some wonderful photos from the Workshop, here is a link:

https://nationalunitedchoirs.shutterfly.com/#%26emid%3dsite_send%26cid%3dSHARE3SXXXX



Many thanks to our photographer, Holy Trinity Parishioner Wanda Piotrowski.

The Frederick Chopin Choir worked very hard to provide our guests with a meaningful, inspirational, and educational experience, and we were gratified to receive positive feedback from a number of Workshop participants. The Choir would like to thank God for the beautiful weather for those three days - an answer to persistent and fervent prayer! We are also grateful to all the parishioners and friends who helped in any way with hospitality, photography, shopping, cooking, clean-up, and just being available. *Bóg zapłać* (God will reward you)! We couldn't have done it without you!

By Karen Sobiechowski

Cathedral of the Pines

Annual Cathedral of the Pines Service, Rindge, NH

The Annual service at Cathedral of the Pines took place on Sunday, July 9, 2017 at 3:30 pm. Vespers were celebrated, led by Bishop Sobiechowski, diocesan bishop, accompanied by Karen Sobiechowski on the organ. Father Senior Fryderyk Banas (Ware, MA) and Father Senior Joseph Soltysiak (Westfield, MA) were present as well as Father Andrzej Tenus (Lowell, MA), Father Adam Czarnecki (Northampton, MA) and Father Pawel Lukaszewicz (Chicopee, MA), Father Robert Koerber (supply priest).

The sermon was preached by



Father Lukaszewicz based on the Gospel reading for the day: Matthew 11:25-30, specifically: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your

Father Paul Lukaszewicz preaching the Word of God.

souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." He finished his homily with an original song accompanying himself on the guitar and keyboard.



Congregation from the Eastern Diocese

COMMITMENT TO CHRIST AT THE 2017 EASTERN DIOCESE YOUTH RETREAT

"#Commit to Christ" was the theme of the 44th annual Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat. Nearly 50 youth, adults and clergy from nine parishes across the Eastern Diocese gathered at Camp Howe in Goshen, Massachusetts for a beautiful, inspiring, calm and peaceful retreat.



The retreat began with a prayer service on Sunday, August 20, 2017. The theme for the retreat was again done in conjunction with the Year of Commitment across our entire Polish National Catholic Church. An opening prayer service began the retreat where the American, PNCC and youth retreat flags were raised. Everyone gathered in the rec hall for the opening session led by our diocesan youth chaplain, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich. After a quick overview of the week and a review of the camp rules, Joanne Oliveira led the group with some fun and exciting Ice Breakers. The youth had many laughs as each told the group some fun and exciting facts about themselves and their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. After our youth spent time going to private confession they enjoyed "Sing" at our camp movie night. Fr. Robert



Fr. Robert Fredrickson led the youth in evening prayer. All the campers experienced many creatures during the evening. Several field mice looking for food and a few chipmunks found their way into the cabins. We heard the owls howling but Bishop Paul was most blessed and he got to share his Episcopal Residence with a wonderful cute family of raccoons - thankfully they didn't keep our Bishop awake all night.

Monday began with a few deer making their way





across Camp Howe - a beautiful sight for the early risers. The celebration of Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich. During the Mass + Jason Fairclough was remembered in prayer (it was fourteen years ago that he lost his life as he traveled home from our youth retreat). + Bishop Thomas Gnat was also remembered during the Opening Mass of the Retreat, Bishop Gnat attended more than 30 diocesan youth retreats during his tenure as Bishop of the Eastern Diocese. During a short sermon – Fr. Sr. Rob encouraged the youth to commit to Christ and be Jesus to others. Thanks to Dylan, Gaby and Emmy for serving at the Altar for this Mass for Youth. After breakfast, the first session on our retreat theme was given by Fr. Michal Gitner. His session was “Why Jesus?” and he shared with the youth Jesus healing the paralytic after he was lowered through the roof to the place where Jesus was preaching. The youth were asked to write a letter to themselves about what Jesus means to them. The first activity was led by Joanne Olivera on Commitment. The youth were asked to come up with many ways that they could show

their commitment to Christ in various aspects in their lives. Here are some of them: Commit to Church—attending Mass, donating time and money to Church, mission work and serve God as an Altar Server; Commit to Family—household chores, helping family members, family gatherings; Commit to Community - volunteering, donating books to schools, animal shelters, buying from local businesses and giving food to the homeless; Commit to their education - doing your best, studying for tests, reading in free time, going to school everyday and doing homework on time; Commit to Country - serve and support the military, voting, protecting human rights, community service and paying your fair share.



Our second session was again presented by Fr. Michal Gitner on Jesus’ Own Commitment. Focusing on Jesus’ commitment first to His Father in heaven and then to all of God’s children. Some moving clips from Jesus’ ministry were shared with the youth—very dramatic was Jesus walking on the water and calming the storm at sea. A special thanks to Fr. Michal for presenting two sessions at our retreat while he was in great pain - following his efforts later on in the day he ended up in the hospital for treatment. He was remembered in prayer during the remainder of the retreat and we are glad that he was doing much better by the time our retreat was ended. Our second activity followed where our youth made kites - the theme for the activity was Rise Up and Commit. So





this theme was on the kites as well as a list of the ways each of the youth would commit. It was great to see many of our campers flying their kites as they ran up and down the road.



After our camp lunch the participants enjoyed an afternoon of free time. There were many who ventured up the 45-foot-high climbing wall – great job to so many who made the wall look like climbing a ladder. There was time for swimming, kayaking, archery, arts and crafts, four-square and much more. The famous Country Store was opened for business and the youth enjoyed their snacks as always!

Fr. Sr. Joe Soltysiak gave the evening session on the Commitment of Jesus' Apostles. Fr. Sr. Joe gave a nice overview of the 12 Apostles and illustrated their commitment to Christ and their dedication to building the Church. The

youth especially enjoyed a game where they got to name to the Apostles (figures were brought out of the box and the youth had to guess which figures match the commitment of the various Apostles). All campers were rewarded with glow sticks for their efforts and they were enjoyed by most!

Christian Olympics followed. Thanks to Joanne and Heather for leading these games of the 44th camp Olympiad. Balloon races, blindfolded cotton ball scooping and gloves and gum were just a few of the exciting competitions. Fr. Robert Fredrickson then shared Ice Cream with the youth - he had ten gallons of Ice Cream donated to the retreat and wow did the kids enjoy it. Thanks Fr. Robert! Following the first of our camp Ice Cream socials the youth and adults enjoyed time at the camp fire and some four square in the dark. Fr. Fredrickson led the group in evening prayer and the younger campers were off to bed while the older ones gathered around the camp fire and





spent some time star gazing on a crystal clear evening up in the Berkshire mountains.

Tuesday began with Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich leading the morning prayer service during which the youth asked our Lord for help in their daily lives when facing the many choices they have to make with peer pressure they face. Fr. Robert Frederickson gave the morning session on Witnesses. He shared with the youth the many opportunities they have to witness to their faith in Christ in their everyday lives—even in standing in

line at McDonalds they can witness to Christ. Fr. Robert told them to speak and live the truth in Christ Jesus and gave examples of some of the saints and through their witness showed their commitment to Christ. All the participants got a rock that said "Witnesses - Acts 1:8" - *You shall be My Witnesses*.

Community Service was the next morning effort as our youth gave back to 4-H Camp Howe. They sanded and painted a few of the camp picnic tables which needed the sprucing up. What a great job they did. The youth gave of their time to give back to the camp for all the camp has done for our diocesan youth program through the years. After the second coat was applied the youth enjoyed many team building activities



teaching them the importance of depending on one another and being there for others. Thanks to the great Camp Howe staff for teaching such important lessons of working together and depending upon one another to accomplish a given task. Some great life skills for our youth.



After lunch our youth were able to go out in God's creation and enjoy swimming, kayaking, archery, arts and crafts, the ropes course, four-square and more.

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich presented his session: How to Commit to Christ today. The words of Jesus were used to present this. Some ways the youth were encouraged to commit were to follow Jesus, to love as Jesus taught and did, to serve, to use their gifts and to be Jesus to others as "You may be the only Jesus some people see". Fr. Sr. Rob also showed a clip from Nick Vujicic about having hope because of Christ and that with God we can always get back up.

The youth then enjoyed a second ice cream social thanks to Fr. Fredrickson. We thank he and Kathy for serving all delicious ice cream sundaes. Fr. Sr.

Rob Nemkovich led the annual candlelight service and with a weather front coming though the winds hit us from every direction. It was a challenge to keep all the candles lit but we did mange to do so with help from each other. Soon after the service concluded the lightning found us and we were off to our cabins to shelter in place . An incredi-



ble storm passed through where inches of rain fell and a lightning strike on the boys sides of camp. All weathered the storm and then beautiful refreshing fall air followed.

Wednesday began with Fr. Fredrickson celebrating Morning Prayer. After a bacon-packed breakfast our next presentation was on the Institution of the PNCC. Brenda Richard with help from Fr. Sr. Rob did a great job show-

ing the early days of our PNCC under the leadership of Bishop Hodur and the purpose and work of our PNCC here in North America and throughout Europe. The 2017 Camp Spirit Award (that is given each year in memory of Jason Fairclough remembering his camp spirit and looking out for others) was awarded to Erin Tudryn from Holy Name of Jesus Parish in S. Deerfield, MA. Her name will be added to the plaque and will be remembered at future Youth Retreats. Congratulations Erin!

Then it was off to Spare Time Bowl for a couple of strings of bowling. The youth and adults had a wonderful time bowling and laughing and having great fun. A big Thank You to District 3 of the Polish National Union for sponsoring this bowling trip. There were many strikes made and our younger ones found creative ways to use the bumpers to get those scores up. The afternoon was spent in free time where the high ropes, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, archery, arts and crafts and foursquare were bustling. Our campers again assisted the Camp Howe



Staff by bringing in the docks for the season—a sure sign the fall is finally coning :)

After southern country chicken, Bishop Paul Sobiechowski gave the final session of Youth Retreat 2017: Bishop Hodur's Commitment. Bishop spoke about how Bishop Hodur was



committed to following Christ and did so faithfully during his life. Our Bishop also taught the youth how Bishop Hodur rooted the PNCC in the Catholic and Apostolic faith of the Undivided Church. After this session Fr. Fredrickson handed out Camp Howe -

Eastern Diocese Retreat 2017 - #Commit To Christ T-shirts to all gathered. Thanks to Fr. Robert, Bishop Paul and the Eastern Diocese for donating these shirts to our participants.

Our cabins then gave their reflections on the week of retreat and gave some examples of how they can commit to Christ in their lives. We hope and pray they do just that. On the final evening of camp we had our annual Bonfire. The Camp Howe staff did a great job with skits, songs and stories. The Moose and other camp songs were quite a hit. S'mores and popcorn popped on the camp fire were then enjoyed with the Camp Howe Staff. The youth also spelled out #Commit with their flashlights - so cool.

Bishop Paul Sobiechowski began our final day of retreat celebrating Holy Mass on the Feast of St. Bartholomew. Bishop in his sermon spoke about St. Bartholomew and asked the youth to take the important teachings they learned this past week and apply them in their lives. He told them to commit to Christ and His Church and take what they have learned this week and share it with others. Thanks to Charles and Zack for serving at the



Altar for this Holy Mass.

At our last meal at Camp Howe for 2017 the participants sang their eleventh and final grace of the retreat to the tune of the doxology: "For food and health and happy days - accept our gratitude and praise - in serving others Lord may we - repay our debt of love to Thee. Amen."

After camp clean up, everyone gathered for our closing session, led by Fr. Robert Fredrickson. He thanked all the youth for attending, all the chaperones, session presenters and activity leaders for their work for the youth of our diocese. He asked the youth to make a real commitment to Christ and show that commitment in how they live: walking in the way of Jesus. Thanks are given to Bishop Paul, the session presenters, our activity coordinator Joanne Oliveira, our country store manager -





Brenda Richard, to Janice Dzialo and Maryann Zarek for a great job on the backdrop, to Natalie Chmielewska for being our retreat photographer, to our Eastern Diocese Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society for their generous annual donation to our retreat and to all the chaperones who gave of their time to make Youth Retreat 2017 an outstanding success! The retreat ended with a prayer service and the lowering of the American, PNCC and Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat flags. We are excited to announce that Youth Retreat 2018 will again be held at Camp Howe in Goshen, Massachusetts beginning on Sunday August 19, 2018. The countdown on a few cell phones to Youth Retreat next year has already begun!

We are excited to announce our next diocesan youth event will be our Winter Youth Gathering/Lock In - Friday, December 29th to Saturday December 30th at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA. We will begin Friday afternoon and lock ourselves in at Blessed Trinity and wrap up this winter retreat late Saturday morning. It should be a great time. God bless and we look forward to seeing you all again at our 45th annual Diocesan Youth Retreat beginning next August 19th. #Commit to Christ!

Committed in Christ,

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich

Upcoming Events:

2017 EASTERN DIOCESE PNCC WINTER YOUTH GATHERING & LOCK IN



When: Friday - Saturday - Dec. 29 & 30, 2017

begins at 3 pm Friday and ends Saturday morning

Where: Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA

Bring a sleeping bag, pillow and be ready for some fun!!



**Our Theme:
The PNCC Solemnity
of the
Humble Shepherds**

Cost - \$20.00 per person - To register please contact:

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich - Robnem21@aol.com

Come see your friends in Christ over the Christmas Vacation



District 3 Polish National Union 2017 Thanksgiving Raffle



The PNU has been supporting our Polish National Catholic Church since its organization in 1908 and with your support will continue to do so.

The Thanksgiving Turkey Raffle will take place on Sunday, November 12, 2017 immediately following the 10:30 AM Holy Mass at Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI. Four \$25.00 cash prizes are being awarded.

Tickets are \$1.00 each, 6 for \$5.00 and 13 for \$10.00. For tickets ask you Pastor. Your generous support of this District's fundraiser is greatly appreciated.

Checks in payment for the Turkey Raffle tickets should be made payable to "District 3 PNU". Checks and ticket stubs should be returned to District 3 PNU c/o Blessed Trinity Parish, 37 Winthrop Street, Fall River, MA 02721.

Thank you for your help in this fund raising effort for our District.

Fraternally yours,

Maryann Zarek

District 3 Director



FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

Assignments:

Randolph Calvo is suspended from the priesthood of the Polish National Catholic Church effective September 1, 2017.

Father Robert Koerber is appointed as administrator of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, South Deerfield, MA Effective October 1, 2017

Bishop's Visits to Parishes:

None scheduled

Diocesan and National Meetings: (all times are Eastern)

Tuesday September 19 - Wednesday September 20 -

Anglican Church in North America / Polish National Catholic Church Dialogue Meeting,
National Church Center, Scranton, PA

Monday, September 25 - Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Sub-Committee Teleconference - 6:30 PM
National School of Christian Living Commission Teleconference - 8:00 PM

Wednesday September 27- Eastern Diocese Commission on Scouting Meeting,
Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI - 4:00 PM

Monday, October 2 - Eastern Diocese Finance Committee Meeting - Chancery boardroom,
Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH - 6:00 PM

Tuesday, October 10 thru Thursday October 12 - National Liturgical Commission Meeting,
National Church Center, Scranton, PA

National Mission and Evangelism Commission Meeting - Holy Trinity Parish, Washington, PA

Wednesday, October 18 -District 3 Polish National Union of America Teleconference - 7:00 PM

Monday, October 23 thru Wednesday October 25 — National Mission Commission Meeting,
Holy Trinity Parish, Washington, PA

Sunday, October 29 - Conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation, Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA

Monday, November 13 thru Wednesday November 15 - National Clergy Conference,
Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, Lancaster, NY

Friday, September 29 - ***Feast of St. Michael the Archangel***

Monday, October 2 - ***Feast of the Guardian Angels***

Saturday October 7 - ***Solemnity of the Holy Mother of the Rosary***

Sunday, October 8 - ***Solemnity of the Christian Family***

Sunday, October 15 - Conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation - St. Joseph Parish, Westfield, MA, - 3:30 PM

Wednesday, October 18 - ***Feast of St. Luke - Evangelist***
Tuesday, October 24 - ***Feast of St. Raphael the Archangel***
Saturday, October 28 - ***Feast of Ss. Simon and Jude, Apostles***
Saturday, October 28- Conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation - Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA, 11:00 AM
Wednesday, November 1 - ***Solemnity of All Saints***
Thursday, November 2 - ***Observance of All Souls***
Tuesday, November 21 - ***Solemnity of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary***
Thursday, November 23 - ***Thanksgiving Day - U.S.A.***
Sunday, November 26 - ***Solemnity of Christ the King***
Thursday, November 30 - ***Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle***

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

Sunday, September 17 - World Week of Peace begins - sponsored by the World Council of Churches
Sunday, September 24-Spojnia Sunday in the Polish National Catholic Church
Saturday, September 30 - Benefit Concert supporting the Ronald McDonald House of
Springfield, MA sponsored by the Lutnia Choir and Father Paul Łukaszewicz and family -
Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish, Chicopee, MA - 4:00 PM (free will offering)
Friday September 29 thru Sunday October 1 - Y.M.S.R. National Convention
- All Saints Parish, Sterling Heights, MI
Sunday, October 1 - Pulaski Day joint celebration of Holy Trinity Cathedral Parish and St.
Hedwig Roman Catholic Parish in Manchester, NH (9:00 AM Mass - Cathedral;
10:30 AM Commemoration at Pulaski Park; 10:30 AM Polka Mass - St. Hedwig R.C.
Parish; Dinner/Dance at 1PM in the St. Hedwig Parish Hall
Sunday, October 8 - 120th Anniversary Eucharistic Celebration - Holy Mother of the Rosary
Cathedral - Chicopee, MA - Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski
- 10:00 AM (A complimentary brunch follows)
Monday, October 9 - Pulaski Day Celebration Holy Mass and Parade - Northampton. MA
Sunday, October 15 - **Heritage Day in the Polish National Catholic Church**
Thursday October 19 thru Saturday October 21 - "Who Am I" Women's Gathering sponsored
by the National Ladies Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Sodality - Erie Bayfront
Convention Center and Marriott Hotel - Erie, PA
Sunday, November 5 - **Daylight Savings Time Ends**
Tuesday, November 7 - **Election Day - U.S.A.**
Tuesday, November 7 and Wednesday November 8
Eastern Diocese Clergy Retreat - Mercy Retreat Center - Madison, CT (Retreat master
- The Very Rev. Richard Lipka - Bishop - Missionary Diocese of All Saints, Anglican Church in North America
Saturday, November 11 - **Veterans Day - U.S.A.**
Sunday, November 12 - District Three Polish National Union of America - Thanksgiving Raffle
Drawing - Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI



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

Zofia Bohdanowiczowa



Zofia Bohdanowiczowa (z d. Czaplicka) urodziła się 30 kwietnia 1898 w Warszawie. W 1915 roku wraz z rodzicami została ewakuowana do Jekaterynosławia (dziś Dnipro), gdzie ukończyła pedagogiczną szkołę średnią. W 1918 r. Zofia przybyła do Wilna, gdzie najpierw pracowała jako nauczycielka literatury, a później w dyrekcji kolei. Jednocześnie studiowała na Wydziale Humanistycznym Uniwersytetu Stefana Batorego w Wilnie. Jako poetka zadebiutowała w 1921 r. w lwowskim piśmie *Wiek Nowy*. W tym samym roku poślubiła Feliksa Bohdanowicza, polskiego oficera artylerii. W związku z pracą męża wielokrotnie zmieniała miejsce zamieszkania: Lwów, Warszawa, Wilno, Brześć na Bugu. Podczas II Wojny Światowej wyjechała z Polski i poprzez Rumunię, Jugosławię, Włochy i Francję przybyła w 1943 r. do Walii, która stała się jej domem do czasu jej przyjazdu do Kanady w 1960 roku. Tworzyła poezję i prozę, za które w 1951 r. otrzymała nagrodę katolickiej organizacji wydawniczej *Veritas*, która wydała też kilka książek z jej poezją i prozą. Niektóre z jej wierszy zostały opublikowane w polskich czasopiśmie w Anglii. Tłumaczyła też na język polski poezję amerykańską, angielską, francuską i białoruską. W 1958 r. w Nowym Jorku wydano tom jej tłumaczeń *Czas niepokoju*. Ponieważ Zofia Bohdanowiczowa należała do nurtu *Skamander* w poezji polskiej, większość jej wierszy jest rymowanych. W tłumaczeniu rym ten nie został odtworzony ażeby interpretacja mogła odzwierciedlić pełną wymowę utworu, a nie poświęcać ją w celu tworzenia rymów. Zofia zmarła 13 października 1965 roku w Toronto.

Zofia Bohdanowiczowa (née Czaplicka) was born April 30, 1898 in Warsaw. In 1915 with parents she was evacuated to Ekaterinoslav (today Dnipro), where she finished Pedagogic High School. In 1918 Zofia arrived to Wilno where first she worked as a teacher and later in the Railroad Board of Directors. In the same time she studied on Faculty of Humanities on Stefan Batory University in Wilno. As a poet she debuted in the Lwow magazine *Wiek Nowy* in 1921 with. In the same year she married Feliks Bohdanowicz, Polish artillery officer. Because of her husband work she changed the place of living many times: Lwow, Warsaw, Wilno, Brzesc-on-the-Bug. During World War II she left Poland, and having travelled via Romania, Yugoslavia, Italy and France, came to Wales in 1943 where she made her home until her arrival in Canada in

1960. She wrote poetry and prose for which, in 1951, she received an award from the Catholic publishing organization *Veritas*, who also published several books of her poetry and prose. Some of her poems were published in Polish periodicals in England. She also translated American, English, French, and Belarusian poetry into Polish. A volume of these translations, *Time of Unrest*, was published in New York in 1958.

Because Zofia Bohdanowiczowa belonged to the *Skamander* tradition of Polish poetry, most of her poems, are rhymed. In translation, this rhyme has not been reproduced in order to give the interpretation of the imagery its full force, rather than sacrifice it in order to contrive rhymes.

Penrhos* - Polski dom

Wieczorne letni, ileż w tobie smutku!
 Wije się ścieżka wśród barwnych ogródków
 Niby wioskowa ulica.
 Z baraku zwisa znak czerwono-biały,
 Bo jakiejś dawnej narodowej chwały
 Dzisiaj przypada rocznica.
 Trzepot dwubarwny po niziutkich ścianach,
 Zapach maciejki, kapliczka drewniana
 I malwy i liście chmielu...
 A za kapliczką w jeżynowych krzakach
 Ktoś patrząc w gwiazdy gwizdże kujawiaka,
 Zsunawszy z czoła kapelusz.
 Wieczór na ziemi i wieczór na niebie.
 Oczy wieczorne zapatrzone w siebie,
 Wieczorna skroń i siwizna.
 A my na scenie ciemnego teatru
 Pod kołującą różą obcych wiatrów
 Wciąż gramy sztukę - "Ojczyzna".

*Penrhos - wieś w Walii



Penrhos* - Polish Home

Summer evening, how much sadness in you,
 A path weaves among the colored gardens
 Like a country road.
 A red and white insignia hangs from the barracks
 Today is the anniversary
 Of some long-past national triumph.
 A two-tone flutter along squatting walls,
 A scent of gillyflowers, a wooden chapel,
 Mallows and hop leaves...
 And behind the chapel in blackberry bushes,
 A star-gazer whistles the kujawiak,**
 Pushing back his hat.
 Evening on the ground and evening in the sky
 Evening eyes introverted,
 Evening temples and grey hair.
 And we on the stage of a dark theater
 Under the whirling rose of foreign winds
 Continually act our play, "The Native Land".

*Penrhos - village in Wales

**National dance of Poland

By Rev. Adam Czarnecki

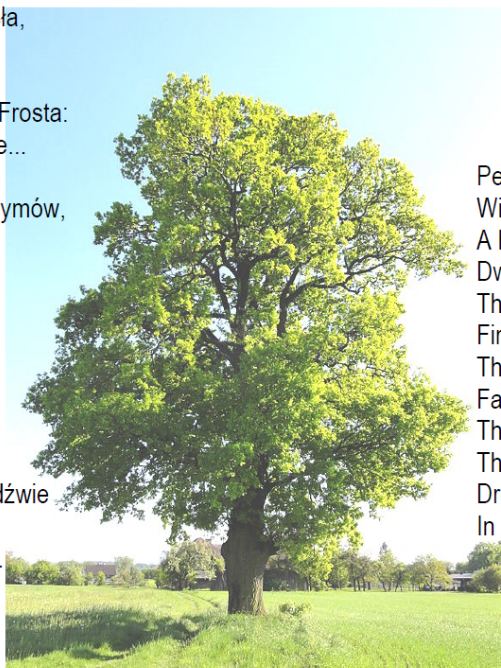
Nekrolog

Było drzewo wiadomości dobrego:
 Finezji liści i prostoty ptaków,
 Przyjaznych szeptów i znaków
 Wśród mrugających gałęzi.
 Drzewo ciche jak myśl,
 Tajemne w treści jak przypowieść,
 Wyniosłe jak katedra na czarnych wsparta łukach,
 Gdzie ulani ze słońca aniołowie
 Tańczyli po skłębionych stiukach
 Malowanych akwamaryną.
 Drzewo przystań, gdzie pod brzeg cienisty
 Podpływały smukłe ryby poranka
 Koloru mleka i miodu,
 A koralowe okręty zachodu
 Zaczepiały żaglami o szczyt.
 Potem ciemność na liściach rosła,
 Tryskały rosy, falowały mgły
 I mówiłam drzewu na dobranoc
 Sentymentalny wiersz Roberta Frosta:
 Tree at my window, window tree...

Przyszli ludzie z piłami, siekierami,
 Z sercami ze śrubek i fabrycznych dymów,
 Garstką liliputów wyroili się, u pnia
 I rzekli: „Zamordujemy drzewo.”
 Karty nienawidzą olbrzymów.
 Piłowali je systematycznie,
 Najpierw dłonie, potem ramiona,
 Długo na czarnym kadłubie
 Chwiała się, głową zieloną.
 Potem rznęli ciało na ćwierci
 Przez piersi, przez brzuch, przez lędźwie
 I wywieźli na nieznaną cmentarz
 W ciężarowych karawanach śmierci.

Teraz runął w me okno świat:
 Dynamo i bęben z cyny,
 Seksologiczne afisze,
 Uszmkowane witryny,
 Słupy, kominy, druty
 I wiatr benzyną otruty
 I niebo darte na strzępy
 W żelaznych palcach śmigieł.

A na odsłoniętym parapecie,
 Co nagą bielą nad ulicą lśni
 Oszołomiony gołąb drepcze w kółko
 I grucha wciąż to samo:
 Tree at my window, window tree...



Luna

Tutaj nie ma księżycy, co by drżał na wodzie
 I sywał złote iskry po czarnych lagunach.
 Tu czasem z Europy utraconej przychodzi
 Błada Luna, mleczna Luna, śliczna Luna.
 Lecą, wichry z Jukonu i chmurami trzęsą,
 Wszystkie drogi runęły w otchłań Atlantyku.
 A Luna milczy i patrzy w oczy lunatyków,
 Którzy wciąż jeszcze tęsknią.



Obituary

There was a tree bearing good news:
 Subtle leaves and simple birds
 Friendly whispers and gestures
 Amidst wavering branches.
 Tree silent as thought
 Mysterious as a parable
 Elevated as a cathedral propped on black arches
 Where angels cast from the sun
 Dance along billowing stucco,
 Painted aquamarine.
 A tree-port where towards the shadowy bank
 Swam the slender fish of dawn
 In colors of milk and honey
 While western coral ships
 Caught their sails on the peaks.
 Afterwards darkness grew on the leaves,
 Dew welled up, fog floated,
 And I said good night to the tree
 With Robert Frost's sentimental poem
 Tree at my window, window tree...

People came with saws and axes
 With hearts of screws and factory smoke
 A handful of Lilliputians they swarmed at the trunk.
 Dwarfs hate giants.
 They sawed it systematically
 First the hands then the arms
 The green head on the black carcass
 Flattered for a long time.
 Then they butchered the body into quarters
 Through breast, stomach, loins
 Drove it to an unknown cemetery
 In the truck caravans of death.

Now the world tumbled into my window:
 Dynamo and tin drums
 Sexological posters
 Rouged showcases
 Posts, chimneys, wires.
 And gasoline-poisoned wind
 And sky torn into shreds,
 By propellers' iron fingers
 While on the uncovered window-sill
 Whose naked whiteness glints above the street
 A stupefied pigeon tramps in circles
 Always cooing the same thing:
 Tree at my window, window tree...

Luna

There is no moon here trembling on the water
 Casting gold over black lagoons.
 Here from lost Europe sometimes comes
 Pale Luna, milky Luna, lovely Luna.
 Winds race from the Yukon shaking the clouds,
 All roads have collapsed into the Atlantic pit.
 While Luna silently gazes into the eyes of lunatic
 Who still yearn.

Parishes of the Eastern Diocese

Holy Trinity Cathedral 166 Pearl St., Manchester, NH-03104-4236 Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Pastor (603)622-4524	St. Joseph's Parish 73 Main St., Westfield, MA 01085-3189 Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Pastor (413)562-4403
Blessed Trinity Parish 37 Winthrop St., Fall River, MA 02721—2541 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Pastor (508)672-4854	St. Valentine's Parish 127 King St., Northampton, MA 01060-3234 Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor (413)584-0133
St. Casimir's Parish 268 Lakeview Avenue, Lowell, MA 01850-2313 Rev. Andrzej Tenus, Pastor (978)453-0742	Church of the Transfiguration 8 Concord St., New Britain, CT 06053-2904 Rev. Paul Dudek, Administrator (860)229-2693
Holy Cross Parish 320 High St, Central Falls, RI 02863-3108 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Administrator (401)722-5130	Divine Providence Parish 11 Silver St., Norwich, CT 06360-4731 Rev. Christopher Rogalski, Pastor (860)887-2812
Our Saviour's Parish 500 Smithfield Rd., Woonsocket, RI 02895-6285 Rev. Henryk Wos, Pastor (401)762-3072	Holy Saviour Parish 118 Prospect St., Naugatuck, CT 06770-3056 Rev. Paul Dudek, Pastor (203)729-4035
Holy Cross Parish 723 Enfield St., Enfield, CT 06082-2903 Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Administrator (860)745-5066	Holy Trinity Parish 200 Summer St., Plantsville, CT 06479-1119 Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Pastor (860)628-0736
Holy Cross Parish 61 Maple St., Ware, MA 01082-1545 Very Rev. Fryderyk Banas, Pastor (413)967-5233	St. Casimir Parish 240 Quinnipiac St., Wallingford, CT 01850-2313 Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Administrator (203)294-8888
Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish 26 Bell St., Chicopee, MA 01013-3002 Rev. Pawel Lukaszewicz, Pastor (413)592-2032	St. John the Baptist Parish 23 Golway St., Manchester, CT 06042-2016 Rev. Henry Smolinski, Pastor (860)643-5906
Holy Name of Jesus Parish 15 Thayer St., South Deerfield, MA 01373-1136 Rev. Robert Koerber, Administrator (413)665-2129 / (413)530-8575	St. Joseph's Parish 1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford, CT 06615-7639 Rev. Michal Gitner, Pastor (203)923-2424
Holy Trinity Parish 68 Lake St., Webster, MA 01570-2160 Rev. Robert Fredrickson, Pastor (860)833-6296	

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Polish National Union of America (Spojnja) District 3 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich	Youth Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich
School of Christian Living Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski	Deacon Program Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich
Young Men's Society of the Resurrection	Lay Ministries Rev. Adam Czarnecki

Other Clergy serving in the Eastern Diocese

Rev. Thomas Walsh-Phone: (860) 417 - 9888

A Thank You Message from Mrs. Catherine M. Gnat

For over 30 years Bishop Thomas Gnat, sometimes accompanied by me, traveled throughout the Eastern Diocese, for Pastoral visits, confirmations, anniversaries, family invitations, and personal visits, meeting many wonderful people, seeing beautiful churches, and watching parishes and families grow. It was bittersweet leaving the diocese, for retirement, in 2011.

However, for most of our five years here in Dunmore, Pa, we enjoyed meeting new people, renewing old friendships, and doing a lot of sightseeing.

Unfortunately, Bishop Gnat became ill in 2016, and continued to be ill, until June 21, 2017, when he passed away. During his stay in the hospital and nursing home, he received many cards, get well wishes and prayers, from the wonderful people of the Eastern Diocese. He always read the cards, and then, eventually, I read them to him. Bishop was always surprised and happy that our old friends remembered him.

So to those who sent prayers, and cards to Bishop Gnat, and to me as well, to those who visited him in the hospital or nursing home, to those who attended the viewing, and funeral services, to those who may continue to have fond memories of our time in the Eastern Diocese, I say, "Thank You".

Katherine M. Gnat

THE MESSENGER-Quarterly Newsletter
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2017 THE MESSENGER deadline for articles:

Winter issue: November 21

The e-mail address to send articles is:

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All issues of THE MESSENGER are available on diocesan website:

<http://www.easterndiocesepncc.org>, or through the smart phone app "Eastern Diocese PNCC."

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!