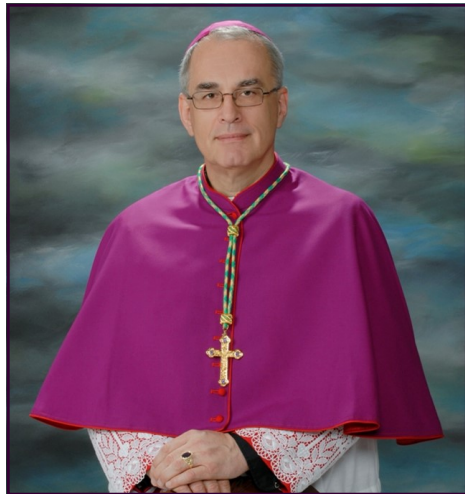


THE MESSENGER

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



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SYNOD MEANS LOOKING BACK INTO A MIRROR

"All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 3:18, NAB

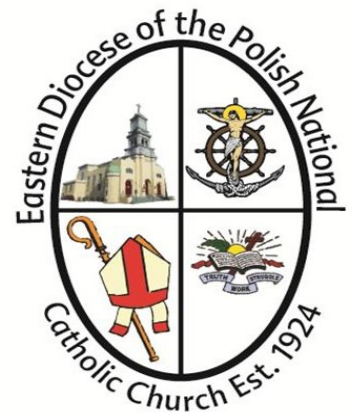
In a little more than three and a half months we will join Polish National Catholics from throughout the Church at the Our Lady of the Snows Retreat and Conference Center for Holy Synod. We will hear many reports, analyze a variety of proposals, elect a Prime Bishop to lead the Church for the next eight years, and discuss the Future Direction of this part of God's Holy Church.

To be successful in Holy Synod it will be necessary to look into our souls to see how we reflect the image of God in our lives, in our parishes and in our Church.

At the recent Mission and Evangelism "Un-Workshop" in Carnegie, PA., the forty-five in attendance were bowled over by a little book entitled I Am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference. Clergy and laity immediately purchased copies for the people in their parishes. Priests determined to have adult studies based on the book and some formed a series of sermons for their Sunday Masses based on the book. The book that was meant to be a preparation for the "Un-Workshop" became the driving force of a discussion group during the workshop. The members of that group have determined to meet again and present a report to Holy Synod of how the book has affected themselves and their parishes.

This was a complete surprise to the Mission and Evangelism Commission members who planned the "Un-Workshop," but it was a pleasant and encouraging surprise.

I hope as we prepare for Holy Synod that every parish and every delegate of the Eastern Diocese will incorporate the book in their personal and spiritual preparations. The book, for all the power it showed at the Workshop, is very small and a very easy read: seventy-nine pages that can be read in less than an hour. *Cont. next page.*



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When you purchase twenty or more it's only five dollars a copy. I'll tell you how to get it. Let me share with you a portion of the Introduction with you:

"Another way of looking at it is generationally. About two-thirds of the Builder generation, those born before 1946, are Christians. But only 15 percent of the Millennials are Christians. The Millennials are the largest generation in America's history with almost eighty million members. They were born between 1980 and 2000. And we have all but lost that generation.

"We can blame it on the secular culture. And we often do.

"We can blame it on the godless politics of our nation. We do that as well.

"We can even blame it on the churches, the hypocritical members, and the uncaring pastors. Lots of Christians are doing that.

"But I am proposing that we who are church members need to look in the mirror. I am suggesting that congregations across America are weak because many of us church members have lost the biblical understanding of what it means to be a part of the body of Christ.

"We join our churches expecting others to serve us, to feed us, and to care for us.

"We don't like the hypocrites in the church, but we fail to see our own hypocrisies.

"God did not give us local churches to become country clubs where membership means we have privileges and perks.

"He placed us in churches to serve, to care for others, to pray for leaders, to learn, to teach, to give, and, in some cases, to die for the sake of the gospel.

"Many churches are weak because we have members who have turned the meaning of membership upside down. It's time to get it right. It's time to become a church member as God intended. It's time to give instead of being entitled....

"Join me on this journey of discovering or rediscovering the privilege and the joy of church membership... When this journey is over for you, two things will likely take place. First, you will likely have a new or renewed attitude about your church. You will learn the joy of being last instead of seeking to be first. Instead of being a whiner complaining about what's wrong with your church, you will be a unifier seeking what's best for your church.

"Second, your church will begin to change. It will become healthier because one of its members is healthier. And as the church gets healthier, it will have a greater impact on its community and the world.

"We may just discover that the reason our nation is in such bad shape is because our churches are so unhealthy. That lack of health is evident when nine out of ten churches are no longer reaching their communities.

"But that can change. With you. Beginning now.

"I am a church member...."

Bishop Paul

FUTURE DIRECTION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Action Plan for PNCC Parishes in 2018

“THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY”



I. Growth and Membership

II. Increase Spirituality

III. Lifelong Learning

IV. Sacred Vocations

V. Community Involvement

1. Greater Understanding of Church Solemnities: In 2018 we will focus on the Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds. Re-distribute the Humble Shepherds pamphlet. Perhaps a video presentation from our Prime Bishop on this Solemnity.

2. Two Days of Retreat: Lent and Advent Pick a day during the seasons of Lent and Advent in 2018 to spend in retreat and prayer. Maybe do this as a family activity. This can be done on either a parish or seniorate level. Ideas for the Retreat include: Mass of the Day, special Lenten/Advent service of Penance, Scripture Readings/Reflections and Meditations, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament; For Lent: Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Lamentations, etc. This can be open and advertised to the local community.

3. Complete at least five community service projects: One service project could be in conjunction with the Solemnity of Humble Shepherds and the other, selected by the local parish. It is important that the five 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: A project to aid an assisted living facility, or other care facility i.e. nursing home, group home; volunteering for a special needs event; having a Mass or event for your local widow's group; aiding a family crisis center, Food Drives, serving a free meal for the community, providing a community breakfast/meal for First Responders – for Veterans; prayer blanket ministry, clothing drive for the community, sponsoring a local family in need, and/or responding to a particular need in the local community, etc.

4. Implementing the Year of the Family Component: Develop and emphasize this theme through 2018. Our purpose is to strengthen all families in living out our Christian faith, virtues and values during this special year. Please see the monthly Future Direction emails regarding this effort with concrete actions.

- **January – The example of the Holy Family** - A blessing of families after Holy Mass on Sunday January 7th and a prayer card for all to take home.
- **February – The importance of unconditional Love in the family.**
- **March – Celebration of Lent as a Family** - Encourage various ways that the family can pray and meditate together during this Sacred season. Have the family prepare an Easter basket together or Easter table together for the blessing of the Church on Holy Saturday.
- **April – Living out our Easter Joy in the family and the parish** – the importance of regular attendance at Holy Mass.
- **May – The love of our Blessed Mother** – her submission to the will of God as an example for all.
- **June – Sacred Vocations Month** – The Guardianship of St. Joseph – his submission to the will of God as an example to all - Family Vocations event and prayer.

- **July – The importance of Family Time/Vacation to the family.** Also remembering to continue the practice of daily prayer and worship during this time.
- **August – Importance of youth in the family** – raising children as an important ministry in the church – an event for the parish youth and prayers for parents and guardians.
- **September – Sharing our gifts and talents in the home and in the parish.** Create a fun exercise/game that lists one's gifts and talents and then challenge them to share them at home as well as in the parish.
- **October – Clergy Appreciation Month** – On the Solemnity of the Christian Family. Have a sharing family event at the parish where troubles and joys are Shared; strengthening the bonds of our parish families.
- **November – Family Gratitude** – stress the importance of giving thanks and doing it as an individual and parish family. Thanksgiving Day prayer placemats. Helping those in need or alone on Thanksgiving.
- **December – Resources for the family to spiritually prepare for Christmas together,** a shared prayer when putting up their Christmas tree – small advent wreath for the home lit during the family meals. Recognizing and living the true meaning of Christmas as a family.

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

6. Move forward with PNCC Office of News & Media Relations: implement proposal accepted by the 2017 PNCC Supreme Council.

7. Create a PNCC Future Direction Facebook Page – by posting the monthly messages to this page and asking our members to share them, we hope more will be reached and encouraged to participate in these efforts.

8. Constant Prayer to prepare for our October 2018 General Synod – special intercessions for the month leading up to the synod – encourage a novena for this Holy Gathering.

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. Please keep this church-wide undertaking in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church.

As we begin this Holy season of Advent may we use this time to spiritual prepare ourselves to again celebrate the Incarnation and be ready for His return in glory. May we show our thankfulness to God not just in our words, but more importantly by our actions. May God bless you and your family during this Advent season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., Chairman

We continue to implement the five themes the Synod determined for our future direction:

Growth and Membership
Increase Spirituality
Lifelong Learning
Sacred Vocations
Community Involvement and Presence

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 Parish, Fall River, MA

Spring Time in full bloom at Blessed Trinity in Fall River

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. We opened our doors to welcome the Romeiro's Prayer Pilgrimage on their Lenten journey of prayer, a community meeting with our city officials for the street scapes project, the annual Narcotics Anonymous Seminar, the National Ex-



Fall River Falcons's Post



Fall River Falcons is with Jacqueline Duarte and 4 others.

14 mins · 🌐

Father Rob, and Blessed Trinity PNCC have always been a sponsor and huge supporter of our organization. They are an amazing congregation and never cease to amaze us.

Today was no exception. In addition to all they do, they have sponsored an athlete for the 2018 season!

Thank you so much for everything that you do to support us!

👍❤️ You and 3 others

2 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share





During this past Lenten Season our parish participated in the 40 Days - 40 Items challenge to downsize and help those in need across our community. Nearly 50 bags of clothing were donated. All of this was given to Marie's Place and is given out to families in need in the greater Fall River area. The Volunteers at Marie's place were shocked with the amount we brought, and Sister Karen was very thankful for this effort of our parish. Additionally, numerous bags of canned food and non-perishable food items were given to the Citizens for Citizens Food Pantry for our Lenten food drive.



Our PTA held their Beef Stew Dinner and Penny Sale raising funds for our youth to attend our youth retreat. Our parishioners and friends gathered to make Polish Food for our spring Food Sale on Saturday April 28. On March 11 our Spring clam boil was sold out and everyone enjoyed some great food, fellowship and fun. Congratulations to Chris - the winner of the golden clam sculpture award!



May was filled with special celebrations at Blessed Trinity. On May 6 after Holy Mass both Lee and Ezekiel were baptized into the Holy Catholic Church. We were also honored to have Prime Bishop Mikovsky celebrate Holy Mass and preach on this Sunday. On May 13 during Holy Mass Lee received First Holy Communion and all our Mother's received roses. The following Sunday on Pentecost our parish recognized Kaylana for her five years of faithful service at the Altar. She was given a silver crucifix that she will now wear as she continues serving at the Table of the Lord.





On Memorial Day Fr. Sr. Rob offered Holy Mass, then celebrated a Prayer Service at the Monument on Plymouth Avenue for our Polish American War Veterans and thanked them for their service.





On Sunday June 3rd the parish celebrated the PNCC Clergy Appreciation weekend. Catherine Fortier-Barnes gave thanks and appreciation to Fr. Sr. Rob on behalf of the parish and then some of our parish youth took turns reading the poem "The Good Shepherd" by Laura Smith while some of our smaller kids held up thank you signs and wore sheep hats saying "baaa".



Our parish School of Christian Living closing ceremonies were held after Holy Mass on Sunday – June 10th. All our SOCL students received certificates of completion and Fr. Sr. Rob thanked our wonderful teachers with a special gift.

Submitted by,
Fr. Sr. Rob

From Our Parishes:

Holy Cross Parish– Central Falls, RI

Holy Cross Parish celebrates its 100th Anniversary of Love and Service to God and our Neighbor

Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, Rhode Island is celebrating their 100th Anniversary during 2018. The first Mass of the parish was held on February 17, 1918 by Rev. R.L. Zawistowski. A special Holy Mass of Thanksgiving and Centennial Banquet was held on Saturday, May 5, 2018.



Prior to this historic commemoration in the life of Holy Cross Parish, our Rhode Island State Senator, Elizabeth Crowley, invited our pastor, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, and parishioners to be her honored guests at the Rhode Island State House on the National Day of Prayer – May 3, 2018. Senate Resolution No. 2836 was passed unanimously, it states: “*Senate Resolution joyously celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls.*” Seven from Holy Cross were honored guests in the Senate chambers, warmly welcomed and thanked for the service and work of our parish for our parishioners and the local community.



Holy Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church on Saturday, May 5, 2018. Prime Bishop Mikovsky was greeted with bread and salt by Chairman, Michael Zarek, and Bishop Paul Sobiechowski was greeted with bread and salt by Vice-Chairman Thomas Zarek. During the Mass Prime Bishop prayed: “Almighty Father, this day we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the organization of Holy Cross Parish. We give You thanks for Your grace and blessing and we remember the dedication of her faithful members. As we continue to worship You in sincerity, help us experience and share Your saving love.” “Lord and Savior, we know

the joy and power of Your blessing in our lives, especially as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Holy Cross Parish. Strengthen us by Your Body and Blood, that we may rededicate ourselves to serve You through Your holy Church.”



The Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese offered the homily thanking the parish for their past years of faithful service and challenging them to continue bringing the presence of Jesus Christ into the local community and region by how they choose to live their lives

as Jesus' disciples. Janice Dzialo and Paula Kalafarski were the lectors for the Mass, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich proclaimed the Holy Gospel and Eric Nemkovich offered the Intercessions. The Mass was concelebrated by Prime Bishop Mikovsky with Bishop Sobiechowski, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, Fr. Sr. Joseph Krusinski and Fr. Henryk Vos. Altar Servers were Zack Richard and Eric Nemkovich. Thank you to our organist Ed Paluch and choir for the beautiful music that enhanced this beautiful liturgical celebration.





A Centennial Luncheon and banquet followed in the parish hall. Chairman Michael Zarek welcomed everyone to Holy Cross for this special day and commemoration in the life of the parish. Fr. Sr. Rob offered the Invocation and Brenda Richard gave the toast. Following a delicious lunch, greetings and a mayoral citation were given by the Honorable James Diossa, Mayor of Central Falls and City Council President Robert Ferri. The Honorable Donald Grebien the Mayor of Pawtucket gave greetings and mayoral citation to the parish. The parish rectory is in Pawtucket. Our State Senator Elizabeth Crowley then offered greetings, congratulations and a Senate Citation to the parish.

100th Anniversary Committee member Stephen Mendrzychowski read greetings from United States Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse; from United States House of Representative David Cicillinie and Polish National Union of America CEO Irene Jugan and CFO John Andrzejewski.



Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky then gave the keynote address. He reminded all present of the great gift they received from their ancestors in the faith and that they need to continue to live their precious faith in their second century in meaningful and effective ways. Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, in his remarks, reminded all that they need to continue to be Jesus to others and thanked the bishops, clergy, dignitaries and 100th Anniversary

committee. Special appreciation from the 100th Anniversary committee was given to Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, organist – Ed Paluch and Altar Servers – Nicholas and Zachary Richard. The Banquet concluded with Benediction and an Apostolic Blessing from Bishop Paul Sobiechowski.



Coverage of this special day appeared in the Sunday May 6, 2018 edition of the Providence Journal with an article and four-color pictures from the Holy Mass of Thanksgiving.

A special Thank You to the 100th Anniversary Committee for their numerous meetings, work, planning, dedication and efforts to have a wonderful celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, Rhode Island. Holy Cross's 100th Anniversary committee is: Janice Dzi-

alo, Paula Kalafarski, Jackie and Steve Mendrzychowski, Evelyn Nadeau, Claire and Michael Osienky, John Radny, Brenda Richard, Linda Warzycha, Thomas Zarek and Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich.

To God be the glory for great things He has done!

Submitted by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich



Holy Cross 100th Anniversary Committee

From our parishes...

Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI



'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 49 bags. The whole collection was brought to St. James Episcopal Church which distributes these items to the poor and needy in Woonsocket. *The Coat of Many Colors* Committee of St James said thank you to all who got involved in this project.



Our Saviour's SOCL Activities

The School of Christian Living of Our Saviour's Parish in Woonsocket, RI has been recently busy with several activities and fundraisers to raise money for Convo 2018, the Youth Retreat at Camp Howe in August, and a fun activity for the younger children in the parish.

The last few events includes the Passion Sunday Breakfast, and the Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale. On Palm Sunday we also had an Easter egg hunt, children's Mass, and the play on The Good Shepherd, presented by the SOCL kids in the parish hall.

The children once in a month participate in a special children's Mass. They read the Readings, collect the money and animate the Mass with the music. After every children's Mass the youngest SOCL kids distribute to the people small packages with candies prepared during classes.

For Easter and Christmas seasons our SOCL kids together with their teachers and some parishioners prepare packages for the sick parishioners and the residents of the local nursing homes.



On Sunday, May 6, 2018 after mass our SOCL appreciated Our Saviour's Parishioners and Friends by offering a free Spaghetti & Meatball luncheon with salad, rolls and desserts. The Luncheon was followed by talent show. All present enjoyed delicious food and had a lot of fun.



By Fr.
Henryk
Wos



Our Ecumenical Spirit

Our Saviour's Parish takes part in the Ecumenical Services led every year in Woonsocket during Lent. There are usually 5-6 different Christian Churches involved. The people in the area have the opportunity to go and participate in various liturgical services. This year Our Saviour's led the Ecumenical Lenten Service on Wednesday, February 28. Over 90 people joined us that night. Collection was taken for the **New Beginning**, a local soup kitchen in Woonsocket. We collected over \$300. A free supper followed the service.

Our Saviour's Meat Raffle

Spring has Sprung !?!? We all know the saying, "April Showers Bring May Flowers." However, at Our Saviour's Church in Woonsocket, R.I. it means April Showers brings our Meat Raffle. Our Meat Raffle was held on Friday evening April 27th in the church hall.



Fourteen tables were decorated to celebrate the months of May, June, July and August. There were flowers on the tables for May and June, the month of July featured items that were patriotic in colors of red, white and blue and the month of August featured seashells and other beach/travel items.

Our chef Lonnie Watson and wife Sally were busy in the kitchen providing a complimentary sausage and kale soup. Chris Kozlik was our dessert and beverage volunteer.



Edmund Fox spent MANY hours preparing the raffle tickets packets that were sold at the door as a \$20.00 Meat Raffle Pass. Sixty passes were sold and the church hall was full of patrons who reacquainted themselves with old friends and were eager to make new friends.

Gail Surowiec sold the Penny Social chances...25 prizes in all and her husband Ed Surowiec had a very busy table also. Ed's table consisted of Split-the-Pot, a Gift Card Raffle (16 Gift Cards in all)

donated by members of the Parish Committee and 6 Gift Items. The items were: an Easter Basket donated by E. Bunny, a Summer Tote donated by Joe Kozlik, a Breakfast Basket donated by Bev Russell, a Summer Beverage Set donated by a Friend, Red Sox Memorabilia donated by Mark Kaczorowski and a Game/Movie Basket donated by Deb Boucher.



In addition to the 10 meat items we have 10 breakfast packages, 20 mystery envelopes, 20 mystery bags and other surprises, too. The tables are filled with "FREEBIE" items to take home so that we make sure that everyone goes home a WINNER.

We have many local people in attendance and others who travel from New Bedford, Fall River, Uxbridge, Webster, and Blackstone in the state of Massachusetts.

The meat is purchased from Shaw's Meat Market in Woonsocket, RI and 10 dozen farm fresh eggs were donated by Christine Scoggins from Blackstone, MA.

The highlight of the evening was a surprise birthday cake for Patricia Kaczorowski, who was turning 39 (Ha! Ha!) again. This was planned by her husband Philip who also serves as the ticket caller for the evening. Everyone enjoyed a slice of the Wright's Dairy Farm strawberry and whipped cream frosting cake. It is a great way to spend the evening which generally ends around 9p.m. If you've never been before- our next Meat Raffle will be held on Friday September 28th. The doors open at 6:15p.m.

We have fun and you're sure to leave with a smile on your face and some good prizes too! Hope to see you in the Fall!

By Patricia Kaczorowski

Pastor Appreciation Weekend

"The Lord commanded that those who preach the good news should be supported by those who benefit from it."

Our Saviour's was pleased to celebrate our Pastor, Father Henryk Wos, on Pastor Appreciation Weekend in the PNCC. We had special plants on the altar for him, which were fresh basil. They were a bit unusual for an altar flower, but we knew Father Henryk loved them. We thought that tomato plants would be equally enjoyed, but we were pretty sure Father already had about



twenty-five plants already in his garden. At the end of mass, one of our parishioners offered a prayer for Father Henryk and family.

Every year, we try and make it special by having someone write one. Sometimes they are tearjerkers, but they always tell how much we love Father, Renata, and their girls like our family.

Following mass, there was a big potluck luncheon followed by cake in place of our regular coffee hour.

We truly are blessed to have Father Henryk serving us at Our Saviour's.

By Sally Watson

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

- Congratulation to Linda Gonyea on her graduation from Dean College in Franklin, MA. She graduated with an Associates Degree with Summa Cum Laude honors, Maintaining 3.95 average. She plans to continue classes in the summer and to finish with a Bachelors degree next year.



- Congratulations to Ian Gonyea on his graduation from the Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, MA.



From our parishes...

St.Valentine Parish, Northampton, MA



CELEBRATION OF POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY AND 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLAND'S INDEPENDENCE

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

Polish Constitution Day was celebrated Thursday, **May 3, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** with Holy Mass of remembrance at St. Valentine's Church, 127 King Street, Northampton. Following the Mass, at **6:45 p.m.**, in the Parish Hall, **Rev. Adam** made a presentation on the Polish Constitution and the 100th Anniversary of Poland's Independence.

The Polish Constitution of 1791 was the second such Constitution in the world, following that adopted by the United States. Poland reacted after being partitioned by its neighboring nations by adopting a Constitution allowing freedoms which the neighboring nations feared would spread and destabilize their autocratic rule so they continued to partition until Poland no longer existed until 1918.

The changes offered by the Constitution now included judicial, legislative and executive branches, protection of the peasants as they were now to be recognized as part of the nation, religious tolerance, and abolishing the *liberum veto* which tended to paralyze legislation.

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of when Poland regained its independence, November 11, 1918 after 123 years of partitions by Austria-Hungary, Germany and Russia. On this day, the Polish Military Organization's clandestine departments, demobilized soldiers and legionnaires disarmed the Germans in Warsaw and other Polish towns. The Regency Government appointed Józef Pilsudski as commander in chief over the Polish forces and 3 days later he was given complete civil control. He formed a new centralized government which on November 21 issued key measures including a manifesto of agricultural reforms. Pilsudski also brought in more favorable conditions for the workers and called parliamentary elections.

Thirty-five individuals attended this celebration and presentation. We thank Fr. Adam for the excellent PowerPoint presentation which made the information easy to understand. Coffee and cookies were served.



by Krystia Newman

St.Valentine's Parish Graduates Fourteen Polish Language Class Students - 2018!

After successful participation in the Polish language course of study, fourteen students were awarded diplomas, Tuesday, May 22, 2018 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, 2017. Students learned sentence construction, enhanced their Polish vocabulary and Polish speaking and reading skills. Also, students learned 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 Żale) and May Devotions. It was not all work – there was some fun - Christmas and Zapusty celebrations.

Graduates included: Helen Curtin, Robert Gibowicz, Tessie Gibowicz, Linda Golash, Michael Lambert, Barbara MacEwan, Alberta Martin, Francis Martin, Edward Kaczinski, Krysia Newman, Paula Pavelczyk, Dorothy Smarz, George Smarz, Laurie Smarz.

Classes for the next academic year will begin September 11, 2018 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.



Memorial Day Service

On Monday, May 28, 2018 10 a.m. a Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Adam on the grounds of our parish cemetery, Holy Trinity Cemetery of St. Valentine's Parish in Hatfield, MA.

Fr. Adam prepared a program honoring all of the soldiers who gave their lives for our freedom, those who are serving in the military, their families and all the departed souls of our Parish who worked so very hard for St. Valentine's Church. May they all rest in peace.



By Krysia Newman

WHAT IS A PROTESTANT GUY LIKE ME DOING IN A CHURCH LIKE THIS?



There is not one drop of Polish blood in my veins or a single drop of papal Catholicism in my doctrine. My ancestral history goes back to England, Scotland, and Ireland, and my theological heritage is squarely rooted in the Reformation. However, on the first Sunday of Advent in 2017 I officially joined St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church in Northampton, Massachusetts.

The obvious question, of course, is why did I commit myself to a congregation whose cultural and ecclesiastical identity is so different than my own? As one friend put it, *"Just when I thought your life couldn't get any more interesting!"*

The reasons are rather straightforward:

1. I reside in Hatfield and wanted a church close to home for the sake of being able to regularly participate in its congregational life. Although I lean towards conservative Anglicanism, it simply does not exist anywhere in western Massachusetts. Consequently a local alternative had to be found, unless I was willing to drive 60 miles to the nearest Anglican parish. St. Valentine's became the only logical choice, especially since I have little affinity for contemporary evangelicalism and none whatsoever for progressive liberalism. Area churches within those traditions were not up for consideration.
2. Although I am Reformational, a few years ago I largely abandoned the competing "isms" of Protestantism and moved towards paleo-orthodoxy, which is something of a Protestant return to the pre-Schism accents of the early Church. Thus, I hold to the nonnegotiable tenets of biblical Christianity summarized by the Ecumenical Creeds. St. Valentine's likewise adheres to the Athanasian, Nicene, and Apostles' definitions of the Faith.

3. I value God-honoring liturgy. St. Valentine's is a liturgical church.
4. St. Valentine's confesses the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. So do I, although I prefer not to use either consubstantiation or transubstantiation to explain how that holy mystery actually works. Instead, I favor the position of Queen Elizabeth (1533 –1603) who wrote:

*Tw'as God the Word that spake it,
He took the Bread and brake it;
And what that Word did make it,
That I believe and take it.*

5. I demanded a church that understands Christ to be the exclusive Savior of fallen humanity, and rejects the idea that all religions lead to God. St. Valentine's properly regards religious pluralism as antithetical to the claims of Christ.

St. Valentine's is absolutely Catholic, but not Roman Catholic, and I am obviously neither. Nevertheless, by virtue of our mutual subscription to the essential truths of genuine Christianity, the congregation and I can worship God together in unity. Plus the pastor and people put up with me . . . a pipe smoking eccentric who hunts, fishes, rides a motorcycle, and reads old books by dead theologians . . . brotherly love at its finest!

There is no ideal church, no ecclesiastical heaven on earth. Perfection must await the Second Coming. Nevertheless, if you are looking for a church characterized by a focus on following Christ and a belief in the core doctrines of *"mere Christianity"* (to borrow language from C. S. Lewis), I heartily recommend a visit to St. Valentine's.

Recently a PNCC priest said of our parent denomination, *"The Polish National Catholic Church combines elements of Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism, and Protestantism."* I would quite heartily agree.

Maybe you are Catholic, perhaps Protestant, Orthodox, or even Anglican. Polish or not, there is a place at the Lord's table for you in St. Valentine's. You will always be welcomed here.

Soli

*Deo
gloria,*

**Perry
Fuller**



From our parishes...

St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA

Bachand Hall

St. Casimir's looks for new service projects each year. One that seems to be our favorite is our collection of toiletries for the girls of Bachand Hall.

Bachand Hall is a residence run by the Sisters of Ottawa for girls who have aged out of foster care. They are very carefully vetted by social agencies before being placed with the good sisters. They are provided with safe shelter and food in a home like setting. The sisters also provide transportation to school/work for the girls until they are able to live independently.

When a girl arrives at Bachand Hall, she is given a basket with sheets, pillowcases, blankets and toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, tissues. These items are also replaced as they are used up. To provide these things for a maximum of twelve girls is costly and that is where our project begins.

Our collection of toiletries spans about one month. This year, Sister Cecile, house mother of Bachand Hall, informed us that 479 items had been donated by our small group. Cash donations would be used for gifts during the holidays. She was grateful for the generosity of our parish.



Memorial Day 2018

Although we were rained out at our cemetery for the third year in a row, a beautiful Mass was celebrated in St. Casimir's Church on Memorial Day 2018.

Before Mass, Commander Robert Jaracz of the Polish American Veterans of Lowell led us in a service of remembrance.

Janice Klimczak sang the Polish and American anthems. The honor guard offered volley and taps were played by Joseph Grieve.

Veterans who were present were introduced by the commander: William Koczera (Army), Robert Ferus (Air Force), Thomas Stupackiewicz (Army), Al Janeczko (Navy), and Robert Jaracz (Air Force).

Father Andrzej Tenus, PAV Chaplain, then began the Mass. Readers were Irene Jaracz and JoAnn Menzia. Father Tenus preached a beautiful sermon. Appropriate songs were sung by the choir and by Joseph Grieve who sang "Where He Leads Me I Will Follow" and "Ballad of the Green Beret".

Following Mass all retired to the parish center for lunch provided by the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Society.

Although we had a dreary beginning, the day ended with good feelings and happiness.



Irene Jaracz, honor guard, stands at attention during volley and taps. Father Tenus, chaplain and Robert Jaracz, commander.



Commander Bob Jaracz, Irene Jaracz, Tom Stupakiewicz, Al Janeczko, Paula Stupakiewicz.

On Saturday, May 26, children and adults, under the direction of Polish American Veterans commander Bob Jaracz placed flags on the graves of veterans buried at St. Casimir's Cemetery, Pelham, NH



By Jance Klimczak

First Holy Communion at St. Casimir's

On Sunday June 3 Emma Ford-Hunt received Jesus into her heart for the first time. It was fitting that she made her First Holy Communion in the Octave of Corpus Christi.

Father Andrew Tenus celebrated Mass and preached a sermon about the Sacred Body and Blood of Jesus. The choir sang several beautiful songs. There was even a custom-tailored song, "Jesus loves Emma" sung to the tune "Jesus Loves Kristi". The whole congregation as a Emma's extended family raised their voices in song. Emma's brother, Ian and her grandmother, Phyllis were lectors during Mass.



Emma's parents are Johanna and Dan Ford-Hunt. Her brother Ian was in attendance along with Emma's proud grandparents, Robert and Phyllis Hunt. Both Emma's parents and grandparents are active members of St. Casimir's parish. Robert Hunt is Co-chairman. Also present was Emma's great-grandmother, Josie Wrobel and many happy relatives including Emma's little cousin, Heath who looks forward to making his First Communion in two years.



By JoAnn Menzia

Strawberry Pancake Breakfast

On Sunday June 10 a wonderful breakfast was held. A breakfast of pancakes, syrup, strawberry sauce, bacon, sausage muffins, scones, coffee and juice was served to benefit St. Casimir's Scholarship Fund. Attendees enjoyed the tasty breakfast, and the fellowship of parishioner and friends who attended. The kitchen crew was ably headed up by Pat Whiting as Linda Hedrick, Irene Jaracz, Jean Doda, Tom McNiff and Robert Hunt pitched in on the griddle.

A Raffle was held and some lovely plants, an herb garden and wine was raffled off. All monies raised benefited the Scholarship Fund. Last year four scholarships were given out to parish youth. Each was in the amount of \$2000. St. Casimir's believes the future of the PNCC is the youth and shows its commitment. It is hoped the spirit of giving will help and encourage our young people.



Some hard-working individuals lent a hand to ensure the success of the breakfast: Janice Klimczak, Phyllis Hunt, Dolly Notmand, Melinda Jopson, Deb Chartier and JoAnn Menzia.

By JoAnn Menzia



From Our Parishes...

Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT

Summer is finally arriving in southeastern Connecticut after what seemed to be a long delay and lots of rain.

We have had a few hot days close to 90 degrees, but for the most part it has been a cool and wet spring. We are hoping for some really good summer weather to arrive soon!

Divine Providence parish had a very solemn and prayerful Lenten season during February and March followed by very joyous Easter holidays at the beginning of April this year. Our pastor, Father Christopher Rogalski, led our congregation through the services and celebrations.



Making pierogi for Taste of Poland.



Ela Chmielewska and Nicholas Chmielewski



Jane McPhail



Peter Lehman and Jerry Donat



Ewa Klos, Fr. Chris, Sara & Hannah Stover

Easter Sunday



Our annual **Easter Dinner** which took place a week after Easter Sunday was lovingly prepared by our Culinary Society and was delicious as usual.





Choir members and parishioners

Veterans Day Mass On Divine Providence Cemetery



Pasta Dinner

Good Shepherd Sunday was celebrated on April 29.

Mothers, living and deceased, were honored during our annual **Mother's Day Service** on May 13 with special flowers placed in the church and a corsage given out to each mother.

The Cemetery Committee has begun mowing and trimming our cemetery grounds with the coming of spring. Because of the wet weather the grass is growing very fast. Memorial flags have been placed at all veterans' graves in time for Memorial Day. A special **Memorial Day Service** was celebrated for our deceased veterans.

Father Chris was honored on June 3 with our first **PNCC Clergy Appreciation Day** for his continuing service and guidance to our parish as our spiritual leader along with his wife, Ela, for her time and hard work in leading our Culinary Society and Polish Kitchen events.



National and Diocesan Events and Programs:

2018 Northeast Seniorate Retreats, Worship and Annual Meeting

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



Lenten Retreats were held on Saturday February 24 and March 3 at

Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, Rhode Island and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, NH. The retreats began with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich and Bishop Paul Sobiechowski was the homilist. Our first session was a presentation on *Through the eyes of Mary* by Kathy Nemkovich. Kathy reflected on our Blessed Mother from the Annunciation and birth of our Lord to His passion, death on the cross and His body being placed in her arms at the foot of the cross.

After some time in silent meditation in church with the Most Blessed Sacrament, Fr. Henryk Was gave a presentation on Lent through the eyes of the Church Fathers and their writing on Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. He used writings from the Apostolic, Greek, Cappadocian and Latin Fathers of the Church. Karen Sobiechowski lead singing of Lenten Hymns with reflections in between: *O Sacred Head, Above All, You Are My All in All* and I





Surrender All. Midday prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours was prayed prior to lunch. Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich gave a presentation on 40 days with Jesus using reflections from those who were with Jesus during these days from the Skit Guys and showed the video Remember Me with scenes from the Passion of the Christ. The Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was then read, and the retreat concluded with Fr. Andrzej Tenus leading the Stations of the Cross. Thanks to both Holy Cross Parish and Holy Trinity Cathedral Parish for their warm hospitality.



The Meal in the Upper Room was hosted at Blessed Trinity Parish on Passion Sunday – March 18th. A special meal of lamb was served recalling the Passover Meal our Lord shared with His Apostles. There were readings from Holy Scripture, hymns and a representation of Jesus' words and actions during the Last Supper - the institution the Holy Eucharist.



Bishop Paul Sobiechowski concluded this service by giving his Apostolic blessing. Special thanks were 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 a Corpus Christi celebration at Holy Trinity Parish in Webster, MA.

Fr. Sr. Rob celebrated Holy Mass with the priests of the seniorate, Fr. Was and Fr. Tenus, concelebrating. Bishop Paul Sobiechowski preached a beautiful sermon on the importance of Jesus in the Eucharist in our lives. Fr. Henryk Was 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 *Go To Meeting* on Thursday – May 3, 2018. The activities and events for the seniorate for the next year were planned. Our Candle-light Service will be held on December 16th at Holy Cross Parish



in Central Falls, RI. Next year our Lenten Retreats will be held on March 16, 2019 at Blessed Trinity in Fall River and March 23, 2019 at St. Casimir's in Lowell. The Meal in the Upper Room will be on April 6, 2019 at Blessed Trinity and our annual Seniorate meeting will be held on May 9, 2019 via *Go To Meeting*.

Submitted by, *Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich*

PNU District 3 Easter Raffle Drawing – March 18, 2018 at Holy Cross Parish (Central Falls, RI)

Dear members and friends of PNU District 3,

Thanks to all who supported our annual Easter Raffle. The report is listed below.

3 Winners

\$50 – Wanda Piotrowski –
Manchester, NH

\$25 – Jennifer Culhane – Central
Falls, RI

\$25 – Tracie Del Sesto – Central Falls,
RI

Parishes who sold tickets

Holy Trinity Cathedral – Manchester,
NH - \$125.00

Blessed Trinity – Fall River - \$95.00

Holy Cross – Central Falls - \$61.00

Our Saviour – Woonsocket - \$60.00

St. Joseph's – Stratford - \$20.00

Holy Name – S. Deerfield - \$20.00

St. Joseph's – Westfield - \$10.00

Total Profit for District 3 = \$416.00



Thanks to our prize donors:

Bishop Paul & Karen Sobiechowski - \$25.00

Phil Kaczorowski - \$25.00

Janice Dzialo - \$25.00

Michael & Maryann Zarek - \$25.00

Fr. Sr. Rob & Kathy Nemkovich - \$25.00

Fraternally in Christ,

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich

EASTERN DIOCESE CLERGY CONFERENCE

On April 11, 2018 the Clergy of the Eastern Diocese met at the Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA on the Annual Clergy Conference. There were 9 Clergy present: Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski– Diocesan Bishop, Fr. Senior Robert Nemkovich (the hosting Pastor), Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak, Fr. Henry Smolinski, Fr. Christopher Rogalski, Fr. Robert Koerber, Fr. Thomas Walsh, Fr. Henryk Wos, and Fr. Paul Lukaszewicz.



The Conference began at 10am with the Holy Mass presided by Bp. Paul Sobiechowski and concelebrated by the Clergy. The Conference was led by Fr. Henryk Wos-The Vice president of the Clergy Circle of the Eastern Diocese (Fr. Sr. Joseph Krusinski –The President of the Clergy Circle was absent due to his health problems).



Several pastoral issues, on the parochial, diocesan and national level, were addressed during the meeting. At noon time a delicious lunch (sponsored by Fr. Sr. Rob and Kathy) was served. The Conference finished at 3:30.

Thank you to the Parishioners of the Blessed Trinity Parish and Fr. Sr. Rob and Kathy for their hospitality.

By Fr. Henryk Wos

***Sacred Day of prayer, reflection and discernment
on the Diaconate for men of the Eastern Diocese***



Easter/Bright Saturday (April 7, 2018) in the Eastern Diocese was a day where men gathered around the table of the Lord to receive His presence in the Holy Eucharist and spent quality sacred time in prayer, reflection and discernment concerning a possible call to serve as a Deacon in the Church.



The Day began at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, Massachusetts with Holy Mass of the Day celebrated by Fr.



Sr. Rob Nemkovich, Eastern Diocesan Deacon Formation Program Chairman. Bishop Paul Sobiechowski gave the homily where he focused on the role of the deacon within the church from the Holy Scriptures and St. Ignatius.

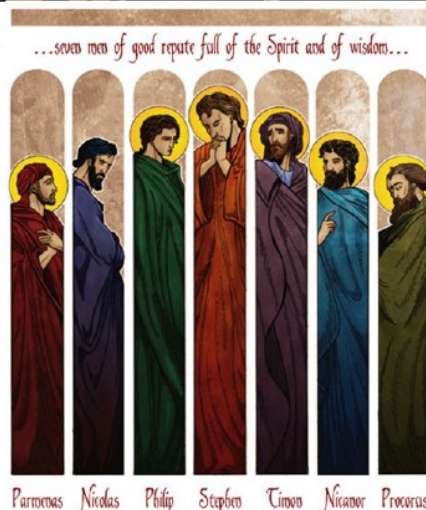
Fr. Henryk Wos gave a presentation on the History of the Diaconate in the Church. After some time in silent prayer and meditation Fr. Andrzej Tenus offered a reflection: The Deacon – Called to Serve to those gathered.



After lunch there was a time of meditation, discernment and reflection from Holy Scripture, the Church Fathers and theologians of the church led by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich. The formal portion of the program concluded with the Litany of the Saints and an Apostolic blessing from Bishop Paul Sobiechowski.

The Deacon Formation Program Board then conducted candidate interviews. We are pleased to announce that Robert Bradbury of Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA was accepted into the program. Bob joins Cleric Justin Davi-aault in our diocesan deacon program of studies. May God bless them in their studies towards ordination to the diaconate of the Church. Thanks to Kathy and Joanne for their warm and tremendous hospitality.

Respectfully submitted, *Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich*



Polish National Catholic Church
Eighteenth Annual Mission & Evangelism Workshop
“The UNWorkshop: You Will Find Me”

Hosted by All Saints Parish, Carnegie, Pennsylvania

April 27-29, 2018

Polish National Catholic clergy and faithful from four dioceses gathered recently in **Carnegie, Pennsylvania**, to participate in the PNCC's **Eighteenth Annual Mission Workshop**. All received a warm welcome from the host pastor, **Very Rev. Richard Seiler, Jr.** and the **parishioners of All Saints Parish**. The **Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski**, chair of the PNCC National Mission and Evangelism Commission, and the Prime Bishop, **Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky**, explained that this year's theme, **“The UNWorkshop: You Will Find Me,”** represents a different approach. Instead of relying on Commission members to develop a program, UNWorkshop participants set the agenda. The ideas generated will help to determine the direction and work of PNCC Mission and Evangelism for the next few years. In advance of the UNWorkshop, those who registered received a book entitled **I Am a Church Member**, by Thom Rainer. The ideas promoted in this short but inspiring book were meant to be food for thought in the discussions for this weekend.

Rt. Rev. John Mack engaged the participants in several icebreakers, which helped Workshop “veterans” and “newbies” to get better acquainted. After dinner, **Deacon David Gaydos** gave a power point presentation on **Sacred Vocations**, asking the question, “Why me, Lord?”. Deacon David explained the different responsibilities of and requirements for ordination to the diaconate and the priesthood.: **“Every bishop was a priest, every priest was a deacon, and every deacon was a man willing to answer the call of Christ.”** Doubts and concerns keep some men from doing so. Based on his conversations with clergy and their wives, Deacon David gave a realistic view of life in the ministry, its blessings and challenges, without “sugarcoating” it. He emphasized the desperate need for clergy and urged all to pray and encourage the young adults in our lives to consider sacred vocations.

Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski explained the rationale for choosing the UNWorkshop as this year's theme. Ideas presented in previous workshops were sometimes implemented but not on a large scale. By inviting input from participants, the Commission gains a better understanding of what is needed for Polish National Catholics to evangelize in their local areas. Bishop Stan explained that **Dr. Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd** was instrumental in developing the sessions for this UNWorkshop and was to be the key facilitator this weekend but was unable to attend for medical reasons. However, Dr. Mietlicki-Floyd will receive the materials generated from this body and will compile an executive summary of the ideas presented this weekend.

The day's activities closed with **Evening Prayer and Penitential Devotions** in the newly renovated sanctuary of All Saints PNCC, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year.

We reconvened on Saturday at 8:45 AM with **Morning Prayer**. In Session One, Bishop Stan gave instructions for the day's work, divided us into four groups and asked us to consider key questions and discuss our responses:

- #1 - What are the **joys** you experience as a member of your parish? Of the PNCC?
- #2 - At the same time, what are the things that **concern** you most about your parish? Our church?
- #3 - What do you see as (at least) two significant **challenges** facing our church now and in the future?

Each group recorded its responses on large Post-It notes. These were shared during Session Two with all of the participants, and we began to see some common themes emerge.

Next on the agenda, we heard from **Laura Vincenti**, Executive Director of **Family Promise** of Southwestern Pennsylvania, an organization which began as the “Interfaith Hospitality Network,” caring for homeless children and families for over 20 years. Laura shared some statistics which help explain the reasons for homelessness. Lack of affordable housing, a long wait for section 8 housing (three years in some cases), wages that are below the “housing wage” for a two-bedroom apartment (\$15.46/ hour), the low percentage (25%) of qualifying families who actually receive housing assistance, were just a few. Family Promise provides services 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Their guests receive evening meals and overnight accommodations from local churches and spend daytime hours in a center. **All Saints in Carnegie has served as a host parish** for Family Promise since 2014, welcoming overnight guests for a week at a time to their auditorium, approximately six times a year. **Karen Seiler** and a few other volunteers shared their experiences: the concerns they had at the beginning, the offers of help from unexpected sources in surprising ways, and the many blessings the volunteers receive by taking part in this ministry. Ms. Vincenti answered questions and informed us that Family Promise exists in a number of communities. She mentioned that there are many ways to be involved, not only by hosting guests but by providing other types of assistance. We had the opportunity to do so, and Bishop Paul on behalf of the Workshop participants presented Ms. Vincenti with a check for \$500 to help support the important work of this organization.

While participants had lunch, the responses from each group were summarized and major themes were identified. For Session Three, we formed new groups to explore these themes: **Discipleship, Stewardship, Vocations, and Identity**. Through brainstorming we generated ideas, reviewed and refined our lists, and determined which idea was most important/doable/realistic to implement. Group members decided what to do, how to do it, and what resources would be needed. We established a timeline and set criteria to determine achievement of the goal and a plan for communicating our results. This session was lengthy and completed in two parts, with a mid-afternoon break for a session on **Social Media and Digital Marketing**.

Hannah Bilinski shared the do’s and don’ts of developing our church’s digital presence. “We shouldn’t be marketing chaos; we need a streamlined plan” if we expect to successfully promote the PNCC “brand”. She displayed some examples of websites from several PNC parishes and commented on them. One thing lacking in many cases was a recognizable “brand.” Something as simple as including the symbol of the PNCC would be a way of clearly showing who we are. Hannah talked about the importance of teamwork, clearly defined goals, frequency of communication, understanding various social media platforms and using them correctly, the 40/60 rule (brand and other content), engagement, and analytics required for successful marketing. Hannah patiently answered our questions and gave practical suggestions to help us become more engaged in the digital world.

After completing their work, the four groups shared their action plans and gave reasons why their particular emphasis was most important. We began to see the interconnectedness of the themes, and how the work of one would support the others. Two of the groups included the proposal to study Thom Rainer’s book on a larger scale. (Since the Workshop, a number of PNC parishes and groups have taken up this challenge.)

We took a break for dinner and reconvened for the final session to prioritize the themes for the Commission to address.

To conclude the day, participants gathered in the sanctuary for an **Evening Prayer and Commissioning Service**, led by Prime Bishop Mikovsky, assisted by Bishop Sobiechowski and Father Senior Seiler. All participants received a candle, commemorative pin and certificate for the work completed during the weekend.

On Sunday morning, participants joined with All Saints Parishioners for **Morning Prayer**, led by Father Senior Seiler, and **Holy Mass**, concelebrated by the bishops. Prime Bishop Anthony was the homilist, and the Word of God had much to teach us on the Fifth Sunday of Easter. In John's Gospel, we hear that God the Father is the Vinegrower, Jesus is the Vine, and we are the branches. A healthy vine needs to be pruned regularly in order to produce the best fruit. An untended vine produces fruit which is diminished in size and quality. Likewise, we must allow the Father to "prune" us, removing that which is harmful from our lives as we regularly confess our sins to Him. As branches draw life from the vine, so we draw our sustenance from Jesus, in His Word and in the Sacraments. We learn from John's First Letter that "[God's] commandment is this: we should **believe** in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ..." The word "believe" means much more than "mental assent". When this particular Greek word is used, it indicates a life which demonstrates total loyalty and dedication to Jesus Christ. In Prime Bishop's words, "This is what God requires of us: a faith in Jesus Christ, crucified but living again, in heaven and in us. If He abides in us, we will produce much good fruit, in loving deeds of service to others." At the conclusion of Mass, Bishop Paul presented a gift for the parish to Father Senior Seiler, with gratitude for their gracious hospitality to the Workshop participants.

At brunch following the Mass, parishioners and guests enjoyed a time of fellowship, and Prime Bishop Anthony gave his closing remarks. Bishop Paul invited everyone to come to the Eastern Diocese in 2019 for the next Workshop (location to be determined), and Bishop Bernard Nowicki gave the benediction to dismiss us. For this writer, a "veteran" of many workshops, I found the UNWorkshop to be particularly meaningful. The number of first-time attendees was encouraging, the faith and enthusiasm of the participants was refreshing, and the plans of action which resulted from our discussions gave me hope that, "with God, all things are possible." May we continue to draw life and find joy in being part of the Body of Christ, and may we rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we face present and future challenges. May God be glorified in us, His Church.

Karen Sobiechowski,

Chair, Eastern Diocese Mission/Evangelism

Editor's Note: After this article was written, the Diocesan Council met and determined that Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, CT, will host the 2019 PNCC National Mission Workshop.

**Eastern Diocese United Women's Societies for the
Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament
67th Convention
Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT
May 19, 2018**

The 67th Annual Convention of the United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament was held on Saturday, May 19, 2018, hosted by the sisters of Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT. Holy Mass, celebrating the Year of the Family, using the Traditional Rite, was 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); the Rev. Robert Koerber (Holy Name of Jesus, S. Deerfield, MA), the Rev. Thomas Walsh (St. Joseph's, Stratford, CT), the Rev. Henry Smolinski (St. John the Baptist, Manchester, CT), the Rev. Pawel Lukaszewicz (Holy Mother of the Rosary, Chicopee, MA) and Cleric Justin Daviault (Holy Trinity, Plantsville, CT). The sermon was preached by Bishop Sobiechowski.

The reader was Anne Barnet. The Gospel was pronounced by Father Smolinski.

After his sermon, Bishop Sobiechowski blessed a prayer blanket which had been prepared for Father Senior Soltysiak, absent because he was hospitalized. As we approached the altar for communion later in the Mass, all participants said a prayer and laid hands on the blanket.

Organist, Karen Sobiechowski, led diocesan choir members in appropriate hymns.

Father Senior Krusienski, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, 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 opened the meeting and introduced the theme of our convention which was chosen to coordinate with the program instituted by the 2014 General Synod entitled "Year of the Family".

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am by President Menzia who asked Father Andrzej Tenus to give the invocation.

President Menzia then welcomed Bishop Sobiechowski, clergy, delegates and guests.

The mandate committee was approved on a motion by Jean Macionus, seconded by Brenda Richard and passed

Sally Watson gave the Mandate report. Present were 1 bishop, 7 priests, 12 executive board members, 14 delegates and 6 guests, for a total of 40 people representing 10 parishes.

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

Minutes of the 66th Annual Convention, held in Manchester, NH May 20, 2017 had been sent out with the mandates and were accepted on a motion by Marilyn Folcik seconded by Sue Pretola and passed.

The treasurer's financial report was prepared by Sally Watson.

Beginning balance January 1	\$ 1,694.69
Income	1,490.00
Expenditures	<u>1,075.81</u>
Balance December 31, 2017	\$ 2,108.88

The report of the financial secretary was prepared by Susan Locks.

Income from Dues	\$ 555.00
Donations	<u>150.00</u>
Total	\$ 705.00

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 Emilia Devore, seconded by Arlene Strazzulla and passed.

Election of officers for 2018-2020 were conducted by Vice-president Marilyn Folcik:

As elections began Father Senior Krusienski questioned the number of terms officers have held office. Marilyn explained that according to Roberts Rules of Order, an office holder must hold office until another person assumes that office. Parliamentarian Emilia Devore agreed with her answer.

Election of officers for 2018-2020 were conducted by Vice-president Marilyn Folcik:

Two positions were vacant: Organizer for the central seniorate and marshal. A motion was made by Janice Klimczak, seconded by Sue Pretola to nominate MaryAnn Curylo as central seniorate organizer and Arlene Strazzulla as marshal. Motion Passed.

The following were elected: JoAnn Menzia, president (4th term); Marilyn Folcik, vice-president (4th term); Janice Klimczak, recording secretary (6th term); Sally Watson, treasurer (5th term); Susan Locks, financial secretary (6th term); Diane Hodgkins (4th term), Anne Barnet (4th term), Sue Pretola (4th term), auditors; Kristin Toth (SW 2nd term), Cindy Hebert (NE, 2nd term), MaryAnn/Bunny Curylo (C, 1st term), organizers; Linda Gonyea (4th term), Phyllis Hunt (4th term), Kathleen Sherman (5th term), Janice Soltysiak (2nd term), Arlene Strazzulla (1st term), Marshals.

A motion to elect the slate as presented was made by Brenda Roberts, seconded by Emilia DeVore and passed.

Vice-president Marilyn Folcik informed the assembly that ANS medals are available for purchase at a cost of \$10 each.

President JoAnn used an Acrostic to speak on SERVICE and maintaining proper attitudes in serving.

Those in attendance proceeded back to church where Bishop Sobiechowski explained the importance of the Blessed Sacrament to us as it is the name of our sodality. He distributed papers on the history of the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, its contemporary usage and a directive he sent to all clergy in this regard in 2013. He explained how, when and why the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is conducted after which Father Senior Krusienski celebrated the Exposition.

Sue Locks introduced the guest speaker, Victoria Triano, pastor of Christ Community Church, East Haddam, CT, director of pastoral care, Southington Care Center, and minority member of Southington Town Council whose inspiring talk focused on the Year of the Family. Using selected Bible passages, her sense of humor and energetic personality, she told the ANS sisters and guests that anyone can spread the Gospel and that we, as women, are divinely placed. People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care, that it is necessary to love God and our brother(s) and sisters and all are called to that love.

JoAnn Menzia followed with a skit about giving up grievances and lightening our load of cares, having those present repeat "forgive—forget--let it go".

Our group returned to the church auditorium for lunch at 1:45 pm.

After grace was offered by Cleric Justin Daviault, a delicious meal was served by the ladies of the parish.

The meeting resumed at 2:30 pm at which time the President 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 as well as for our chaplain Father Senior Soltysiak.

It was announced that the 2019 Convention will be hosted by St. Joseph's Parish, Westfield, MA on May 18, 2019. The 2020 Convention will be held at Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI on May 16, 2020.

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

We were also reminded that CONVO 2018 will be held in Scranton this year and that each parish has been sent 25 raffle tickets to help defray costs.

The basket raffle brought in \$480 As has been the custom, half the proceeds were given to the Plantsville ANS to donate to a charity of their choice.

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

Bishop Sobiechowski made closing remarks and Father Koerber spoke of the Camporee involving Boy/Girl Scouts. Bishop also expressed his thanks to everyone for such a beautiful and inspiring convention.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm with a prayer by Father Lukaszewicz and benediction pronounced by Bishop Sobiechowski.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Klimczak

ED-ANS Recording Secretary



Group photo Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT



Entering the church for Mass.



Praying over prayer blanket for Father Senior Joseph Soltysiak, our chaplain who was hospitalized.



Bishop Sobiechowski explaining the importance of the Blessed Sacrament.



JoAnn Menzia, president, speaking on SERVICE to others and throwing away her "cares".



Sue Locks introducing Victoria Triano our guest speaker. Victoria Triano delivered talk on the Year of the Family.



Theme baskets raffled off at the end of the convention brought in \$480, half of which goes to a local charity and half of which goes to the ED-ANS treasury.

DIOCESAN CHRISM MASS

On Holy Tuesday March 27, 2018 Our Saviour's Parish in Woonsocket, RI hosted the Diocesan Chrism Mass. The Holy Mass was presided by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski and concelebrated by the Diocesan Clergy. The Mass of Holy Oils (Chrism Mass) has its tradition rooted in the early Church and manifests the unity of the priests with their bishop. During the Mass the clergy reaffirm their ordination



vows. The Holy Oils, used by the Church in the Sacramental Rites, are blessed by the Diocesan Bishop: the Oil of Catechumens - used in Baptism; the Holy Chrism - used in Confirmation, Baptism, in the Ordination of Priests, the consecration of Bishops, and in the consecration of Altars, Chalices and Church buildings, and bells; The Oil of the Sick - used in the anointing of the sick. These Holy Oils blessed by the Bishop during the Chrism Mass, are symbols of

spiritual nourishment and the light of grace, and are presented to and received by the parish communities on Holy Thursday during the Mass of the Institution of the Holy Eucharist (The Lord's Supper).

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

Following the Chrism Mass the clergy and the faithful gathered for a delicious meal prepared by the Parishioners. Thank you to the Parishioners of Our Saviour's Parish for their hospitality.

By Fr. Henryk Wos

Upcoming Events:

MY FAMILY TREE



5TH ANNUAL CAMPOREE

OF THE EASTERN DIOCESE
OF THE PNCC

JULY 6-7-8TH 2018

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

15 THAYER ST, SO DEERFIELD, MA

COST:

\$15.00 PER PARTICIPANT

DEADLINE:

JUNE 30, 2018

CONTACT:

MR. MICHAEL KUCHAR (401) 473-4121

FR. ADAM CZARNECKI (413) 584-0133

FR. ROBERT KOERBER (413) 665-2129

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

Cathedral of the Pines

The annual worship service at Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH will take place on Sunday, July 8, 2018 at 3:30 PM.

A worship service of Vespers will be held followed by a repast at Hidden Hills banquet facility in Rindge. All parishes of the Eastern Diocese are encouraged to participate in this service where our diocese has held for more than 55 years.

At the Cathedral of the Pines, there is a museum of military memorabilia mostly from World War II, a gift shop and some walking trails on which you will find many historic items from



across the world. A beautiful view of Mount



Monadnock along with other scenic vistas which surround the Cathedral. The Cathedral of the Pines is truly a place of prayer and meditation.

Cathedral of the Pines is located in Rindge, NH near the merge of U.S. Rte. 202 and 119. It is easily accessible from most of New England. Follow the signs upon entering Rindge.

Finally, the cost per person at Hidden Hills is \$20.25 for the Chicken Barbecue which is absolutely delicious. Please email participants names to Father Sr. Joseph Soltysiak at Soltysiak@comcast.net. by Sunday, July 1, 2018. You may pay at Hidden Hills.

2018 EASTERN DIOCESE ACOLYTE RETREAT

TUESDAY – JUNE 26, 2018

OUR SAVIOUR'S PARISH – WOONSOCKET, RI

“TO SERVE FOLLOWING THE HOLY FAMILY”

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

SESSIONS ON OUR BLESSED MOTHER, ST. JOSEPH AND SERVING CHRIST AT HIS ALTAR



Time in prayer, learning, fellowship and fun with your fellow

Altar servers - Plus a trip to Lincoln Woods Park

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

Deadline to register is June 21st



To register or for additional information contact:

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

Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat 2018

Faith and Family



Come and Worship



Learn



At Camp Howe in Goshen, MA

From August 19-23, 2018

Registration and Health Forms are available from your pastor or email: RobNem21@aol.com
and the cost is only \$150.00 per person - Follow us on Facebook: Eastern Diocese Youth

Come and end your summer with friends in Christ



Have great Fun!





FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

Assignments:

- Father Michal Gitner was released from the pastorate of St. Joseph's of Stratford, CT., Parish as well as from the diocese on April 8th to be placed under the direction of the Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church.
- On April 8th Father Thomas Walsh was appointed administrator of St. Joseph's of Stratford Parish, Stratford, CT.
- On April 7th Mr. Robert Bradbury was admitted into the diocesan program preparing candidates for the holy order of deacon.
- On April 26th Father Thomas Walsh was appointed as diocesan chaplain for the Young Men's Societies of the Resurrection.

Bishop's Visits to Parishes:

- None scheduled

Diocesan and National Meetings: (all times are Eastern)

- Monday, June 11 National School of Christian Living Teleconference - 8:00 PM
- Thursday, June 14- National P.N.C.C. Constitution Commission Teleconference - 7:00 PM
- Monday, June 18 -Eastern Diocese Council Strategic Planning Sub-Committee Teleconference - 7:00 PM
- Saturday, September 15 - Eastern Diocese Pre-Synodal Meeting for Delegates - Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI. - 11:00 AM
- Monday, October 1 - Wednesday October 3 - General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church - Our Lady of the Snows Retreat and Conference Center, Belleville, IL.

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

- Sunday, June 17 - Sacrament of Confirmation to be conferred at Holy Saviour Parish, Union City CT. - 4:00 PM
- Sunday, July 8 - Cathedral of the Pines Celebration of Evening Prayer and Dinner following - 3:30 PM

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

- Tuesday, June 26 - Eastern Diocese Acolyte Retreat - Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI - 9:00 AM Start
- Friday, July 6 - Sunday July 8 - Eastern Diocese Scouting Camporee - Holy Name of Jesus Parish, South Deerfield, MA.
- Monday July 23 - Friday, July 27 - National Youth Convocation - University of Scranton, PA.
- Sunday August 19 - Thursday, August 23 - Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat - Camp Howe - Goshen, MA.



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

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

**Leszek
Szaruga**



Leszek Szaruga, właściwie Aleksander Wirpsza (ur. 28 lutego 1946 w Krakowie) – polski poeta, prozaik, tłumacz niemieckiej i rosyjskiej poezji, wykładowca uniwersytecki – historyk literatury, krytyk literacki.

Jest synem Witolda Wirpszy i Marii Kureckiej. W latach 70. i 80. był redaktorem pism drugiego obiegu, takich jak „Puls”, „Wezwanie”. W latach 1979-1989 współpracował z sekcją polską Radia Wolna Europa (pod pseudonimami: Jan Krajnik, Krzysztof Powoski). Od 1979 r. współpracował z „Kulturą”, Pod koniec istnienia pisma był w nim szefem działu poezji. W latach 1987-1990 mieszkał w Berlinie Zachodnim, gdzie współpracował z sekcjami polskimi BBC oraz Deutsche Welle oraz czasopismami emigracyjnymi. Od przyjazdu na stałe do kraju w roku 2003 wykładowca Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego, Częstochowskiej WSP, Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego. Redaktor pism „Nowa Polska” oraz „Przegląd Polityczny”. Laureat Nagrody Kościelskich (1986), nagrody literackiej „Kultura” (1999) i Srebrnego Medalu „Zasłużony Kulturze - Gloria Artis” (2009). Członek Stowarzyszenia Pracowników, Współpracowników i Przyjaciół Rozgłośni Polskiej Radia Wolna Europa Imienia Jana Nowaka-Jeziorańskiego.

Leszek Szaruga, actually Alexander Wirpsza (born February 28, 1946 in Krakow) - Polish poet, prose writer,

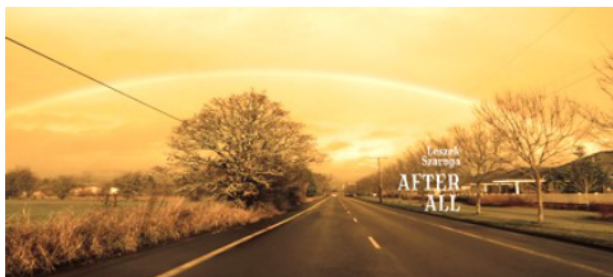
translator of German and Russian poetry, university lecturer - literary historian, literary critic.

He is the son of Witold Wirpsza and Maria Kurecka. In the 1970s and 1980s he was the editor of the underground newspapers (anticommunist), such as "Puls", "Wezwanie". In the years 1979-1989 he cooperated with the Polish section of Radio Free Europe (under the pseudonyms: Jan Krajnik, Krzysztof Powoski). From 1979 he cooperated with Kultura. At the end of the magazine's existence he was the head of the poetry department. In the years 1987-1990 he lived in West Berlin, where he cooperated with the Polish sections of the BBC and Deutsche Welle as well as with emigration periodicals. After return to the country in 2003, a lecturer at the University of Szczecin, Częstochowa WSP, and the University of Warsaw. Editor of the "Nowa Polska" and "Przegląd Polityczny" magazines. Laureate of the Kościelski Prize (1986), the literary prize of Kultura (1999) and Silver Medal "Merited to Culture - Gloria Artis" (2009). Member of the Association of Workers, Co-workers and Friends of the Polish Radio Free Europe Named after Jan Nowak-Jeziorański.

Po wszystkim

Dziś, gdy już jest po wszystkim,
Zaczynamy normalne życie.
Zabitych policzą historycy.

W przybliżeniu fakty będą się zgadzać
Z rzeczywistością.



After All

Now, after all is over,
We begin a normal life.
Historians will count the dead.

Facts will be more or less true
To life.

Czuwanie

Panu Zbigniewowi Herbertowi

Fortynbras i Hamlet jednak się spotkali
w białej przestrzeni trenu na ubitej ziemi
kryjącej skarb pokoleń czaszkę biednego Yoricka
i chyba właśnie wtedy zatrzymał się czas
ocean słów zatopił nas w bursztynie nocy
sny nasze kamienieją i znikają we mgle
to nie żadna tragedia zabija nas nuda
a mrówki faraona wyjadają nam oczy

śpi Hamlet śpi Fortynbras pustoszeje ziemia
dysk bazaltu rzucony w zapadły kąt wszechświata
zetlały święte karty księgi praw i prawd
książęta i królowie przeszli do legendy
umierają zwierzęta zdycha ranny łось
poeta jeszcze czuwa na brzegu nicości
mówi wszystkimi głosami i nie ma wyboru
lepi z piasku historii gadające głowy

The Watch

To Zbigniew Herbert

Yet Fortinbras and Hamlet have finally met
On the white plain of an elegy, the dueling ground
That hides the treasure of generations; poor Yorrick's skull.
It was probably then that time stopped,
And the ocean of words sealed us in the amber of night.
Our dreams petrify and disappear in the fog.
Not tragedy but boredom kills us,
and pharaoh's ants feast on our eyes.

Hamlet sleeps, Fortinbras sleeps, the earth lays waste,
A basalt disc thrown to the forsaken corner of the universe.
The holy books of laws and truths have decayed,
Princes and kings have moved to legend,
Animals are dying, the stricken deer is dying,
A poet still keeps watch at the edge of nothingness.
He speaks all voices and has no choice.
He molds talking heads from the sand of history.

Nie mówcie Europa

nie mówcie Europa mówią mówcie Śmierć
 filmy nieruchomieją biblioteki płoną
 to nie cykady to bomby głosują wśród traw
 szemrzą ich zegary w arteriach ulic
 a ona nic nie mówi bierze wodę w usta
 szuka ratunku wczepiona w ciało Rosji
 biada nad losem swej siostry Atlantydy
 rozszczepia widmo płomieni palących Jana Palacha
 studenta filozofii ucznia Empedoklesa
 zaś jeśli już coś powie to szyfrem
 w którym słowa nic nie znaczą
 i tylko na darmo strzepli język
 w białe bezsenne noce mruży stare zaklęcia
 powtarza definicje i paradoksy
 uśmiecha się do siebie nic nie rozumie
 nie czuje własnego ciała
 stygnie stygnie
 nie ma nadziei mówią nie ma ocalenia
 tonie Wenecja kruszeje Notre Dame
 Konstandinos Kawafis już dawno nie żyje
 jacyś obcy nadchodzą mówią dziwnym narzeczem
 śpiewają tęskne pieśni
 i nic się nie dzieje jakoś z tym żyjemy
 słuchamy ich mowy nie rozumiemy słów
 mówimy to nieważne to nie ma znaczenia
 grzebiemy palcami w popiołach starych ksiąg

Okres przejściowy

Żyjemy w okresie przejściowym, który nasze wnuki
 Może nazwą epoką. Nic o sobie nie wiemy, gdy oni
 Sklasyfikują nas jak motyle w gablotach
 Historii. Będziemy spoglądać zza szyb martwymi
 Oczyma, a dzieci naszych dzieci, zdobywcy
 Gwiazd, będą przeglądali rodzinne albumy. Ten
 Staroświecki starszy pan to ja, fotografia
 Już zbladła. Stoję nieruchomo, wpatrzony
 W zachodzące słońce. W lewym górnym rogu
 Widać świecący punkt. I właśnie dlatego
 Ta stara fotografia ma wielkie znaczenie. To był
 Pierwszy znak. Potem przyszły następne.

Druka strona

Panu Adamowi Ważykowski

Tam po drugiej stronie, gdzie
 umierają zegary i gasną tęczę,
 gdzie magiczne znaki stają się
 czytelne dla niewtajemniczonych,
 tam, pośród głosów nienarodzonych
 jeszcze poetów, tam, właśnie tam
 odezwą się pełnym głosem — raz
 jeszcze — wszystkie wiersze: te
 dawne i te późniejsze. Zmieszają
 się ich głosy.

Starzy poeci spokojnie oczekują
 śmierci. Znają ją od dzieciństwa.



By Fr. Adam Czarnecki

Don't say Europe

Don't say Europe they say, say Death.
 Movies stop, libraries burn.
 These are not crickets but bombs voting in the grass,
 Their clocks murmur in the arteries of the streets.
 But Europe says nothing, she takes water in her mouth.
 Seeks rescue while holding to the body of Russia,
 Laments the fate of her sister Atlantis,
 Splits the spectrum of the fire that burned Jan Palach,
 Student of philosophy, disciple of Empedocles.
 Even if she says something, she does it in a code
 That uses meaningless words,
 So her tongue works in vain.
 During white sleepless nights she mumbles old spells,
 Repeats definitions and paradoxes,
 Smiles to herself, understands nothing,
 Can't feel her own body,
 Becomes colder and colder.
 There's no hope they say, no rescue.
 Venice sinks, Notre Dame crumbles,
 Constantine Cavafy is long dead.
 Strangers are coming, they speak in a weird dialect
 And sing nostalgic songs.
 And nothing happens, somehow we live with it.
 We listen to their speech, don't understand their words.
 We say, it's not important, it doesn't matter.
 We stir the ashes of old books with our fingers.

Transitory Period

We live in a transitory period which our grandchildren
 May call an epoch. We know nothing about ourselves, yet
 They will classify us like butterflies in a display case
 Of history. We will stare from the glass with our dead
 Eyes, and our childrens' children, the conquerors
 Of stars, will peruse family pictures. This
 Old-fashioned gentlemen, that's me. The picture
 Has already faded. I stand still, looking
 At the sunset. In the upper left hand corner
 There is a shining point. That's why
 This old picture is so important. This was
 The first sign. Then the other came.

The Other Side

to Adam Ważyk

There, on the other side where
 Clocks die and rainbows fade,
 Magic signs are clear
 To the uninitiated;
 There, amongst the voices of yet unborn
 Poets, there, yes, there,
 Once again all the poems
 will sound in full voice: those
 Of old, and the later ones. Their
 Voices will mix up.
 The old poets calmly await
 Death. They have known it since childhood.

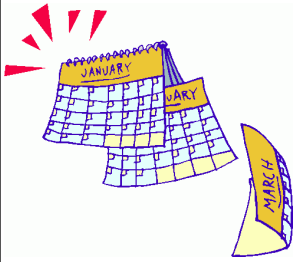
All translations by Frank L. Vigoda

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. Thomas Walsh, Administrator (203)923-2424
Holy Trinity Parish 68 Lake St., Webster, MA 01570-2160 Rev. Henryk Wos, Administrator (508)-943-0608 / (401)-762-3072	

Diocesan Chaplains

Diocesan Newsletter Editor Rev. Henryk Wos	Scouting Commission Rev. Adam Czarnecki
Ladies Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak	United Choirs Rev. Krzysztof Rogalski
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 Rev. Thomas Walsh	Lay Ministries Rev. Adam Czarnecki



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS:

***If you are in the neighborhood we welcome you to join us
for upcoming event***

Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT

- **Sunday Morning Services (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.
- **June Devotions with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** Wednesdays at 7:00pm.
- **Litany to 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):** After Sunday 9:00am Mass at 10:00am 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 17 at 9:00am honoring fathers with flowers.
- **Parish Picnic:** Sunday, June 24 from 10:00am to 2:00pm in the church yard.
- **Fourth of July:** Get ready for the fireworks!***!
- **Spirit of Greenville Day:** Saturday, July 21, still being planned.
- **Brotherly Love Sunday Annual Food Drive:** Sunday, September 9, through Sunday, September 10.
- **Annual Polish Brunch:** Sunday, September, (Date to be determined), after the 9:00am after mass.
- **Semi-Annual Parish Meeting:** Sunday, September 23, 2018 after the 9:00am mass and Coffee hour in our Social Hall.
- **Taste of Poland / BINGO Nights:** every second Friday of the month, 5:00pm to 7:00pm, Bingo at 7:00pm in the Social Hall.

St Valentine Parish, Northampton, MA

- **BIBLE STUDY** at St. Valentine's Parish — **Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm** — Parish Hall. Discussion Leader: Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
- **POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES** at St. Valentine's Church — **Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm (from September 11)** — Parish Hall. Instructor: Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
- **CHURCH OPEN HOUSE** - Sunday, September 16, 2018, 1:00—3:00 pm
- **POLISH AMERICAN CONCERT OF ENGLISH AND POLISH HYMNS FOLK AND PATRIOTIC SONGS** - Sunday, September 23, 2018 (in collaboration with the Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton)
- **PULASKI DAY PARADE** - Monday, October 8, 2018 (Columbus Day) (Holy Mass at 10:00 am in Elizabeth Ann Seton Church; parade steps off at 11:15 am)
- **HARVEST DINNER** - Sunday, October 21, 2018 at 12 noon
- **POLSKIE KOLEDY (Polish Christmas Carols) SING ALONG** - Sunday, January 6, 2018 at 2:00 pm

Prayer At The Start Of A Vacation

Thank You Lord that there is nowhere that I can be where I am not able to pour out my heart to You and know that You are there to help and to sustain me – to lead and to guide. But Lord, I particularly ask that You would be with me as I start my vacation. I pray that I would use this time wisely so that I at the end of my break I will be refreshed and rejuvenated and knowing more and more of You.

Lord I pray that I would take time to fix the eyes of my heart and the ears of my mind onto Jesus, Whom to know is life eternal - and to take time to read Your word and to allow it to wash over me and to renew my tired spirit and my weary soul.

Help me to wait upon You as I start my vacation for Lord I know that Your Word is life and health for those that wait on You. Lord help me to spend quality time alone with You knowing that all who wait upon the Lord are assured that they will rise up with wings as eagles – they will run and not be weary- they will walk and not faint.

From: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Prayers-for-Vacations>

THE MESSENGER-Quarterly Newsletter
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Editor: Rev. Henryk Wos, PhD

Corrections: Mrs. Karen Sobiechowski

Controller: Rt. Rev. Bp. Paul Sobiechowski

- 2018 THE MESSENGER deadline for articles:

Fall issue: September 10

Winter issue: November 23

The e-mail address to send articles is:

woshenryk@gmail.com

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!