



Saint Casimir's Parish Polish National Catholic Church

268 Lakeview Avenue - Lowell, MA 01850

SUNDAY MASS: 10:00 A.M. -- DAILY 9:00 A.M.

Rev. Andrzej Tenus, Pastor



Telephone 978-453-0742 Electronic mail: andrzej.tenus@gmail.com

VOL 1, NO.5

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

A New Beginning...

Dear Friend,

My, how rapidly time passes!

In our last newsletter we were celebrating the solemn Resurrection and the beginning of the spring and summer season. Now here we are thinking about the Fall and the flurry of activities that are planned for the coming season which will carry us through to Christmas and all the joy that it brings.

In this newsletter we are featuring the Annual Prayer Service held at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH on July 10. This year's event was extra special in that it was dedicated to Bishop Gnat in honor of his 33 years service to the church and to wish him much happiness in his retirement. We have allocated a second page of this newsletter to the event, please be sure to read all about it.

On Father's Day, June 19th we had the great pleasure of bestowing the sacrament of First Holy Communion on three of the children in our parish family; their pictures are published in this newsletter.

Memorial Day services, the Spinner's baseball game, the strawberry pancake breakfast...lots going on and lots to tell you about. We hope you enjoy receiving this newsletter as much as we enjoy sharing our news with you. Please let us know.

God Bless You!

Rev. Andrzej Tenus



First Communion Class 2011

Three children of St. Casimir's Parish family received First Holy Communion on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19th.



Left to right: Molly Pratt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Pratt of Pelham, NH; McKayla Betancourt, daughter of Mrs. Jessica Betancourt also of Pelham; Jacoby Pratt, Molly's brother

Strawberry Pancake Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who supported the annual Strawberry Pancake Breakfast held on June 12 to benefit St. Casimir's Scholarship Fund. The meal was delicious thanks to our chefs: Robert Hunt, Robert Quirbach, Pat Whiting, Jim Martin and Jay Whiting.

Ticket and raffle sales were handled by Louise Regan, Linda Hedrick and Lindsay Hedrick. Publicity was arranged by Janice Klimczak and Jim Czerlonka. Servers were Phyllis Hunt, Shirley Garvey and Jo-Ann Menzia. Raffle winners were: Phyllis Hunt, Jean Doda, Carol Martin, Sophie Kosidlo, Joe Santos and Isabel Dziura.

Consecration of Bishop-Elect Paul Sobiechowski

Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River is sponsoring a bus to attend the consecration of Fr. Sr. Paul Sobiechowski - our next bishop of the Eastern Diocese. His consecration will take place on Tuesday, October 18th at 4:00 P.M. at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA. A reception will follow the consecration free of charge. The cost for the bus will be just \$32.00 per person if we get 40 from across our diocese to attend. (\$42.50 per person if we get 30 and only \$25.50 per person if we have 50 people). The bus will leave from Fall River and depending on who joins us - stops could possibly be made in Woonsocket, RI - Chicopee/Westfield, MA and Union City, CT. If there are enough people for a bus then reservations will be made at the Comfort Suites for one night where the rate is \$65.00 per room and a complementary continental breakfast. The bus will return to New England on Wednesday morning.

The deadline to reserve your seat is September 1st. For additional information or to sign up for the bus please email or call Fr. Robert Nemkovich - robnem21@aol.com or 508-672-4854.

A Call to Serve

Many men watch their priests and sometimes see themselves at God's altar, or proclaiming the Gospel, or sharing Christian love with the parish children, the elderly and the troubled. They may imagine themselves doing much of what a priest does, but not feel a calling to the priesthood.

Men can now do more than watch and wonder. Applications are now being received for the new Deacon Program in the Eastern Diocese. Men may now pursue that calling for assisting the priest in serving God and His people.

Contact Father Andrew for a copy of the deacon program handbook and an application with all of the requirements.

Everybody's Favorites

Pierogi - \$11.00 Dozen Golabki - \$18.00 Dozen

Kapusta - \$6.00 Quart

Available at the Parish Center

Every Sunday from 11:00 a.m. until Noon

Please pray for members of our Armed Forces, for World Peace, especially for:

Commander David Bogdan, CDR Andrew Gorzela, Col. Roy Bousquet, Lance Cpl. David Miller, Sgt. Keith Dobson, PFC Brian Dobson, 2nd Lt. John Parlee, M/Sgt. Gerald Davis, Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Courtemanche, E-5 James Ferguson (US Navy), Edward Sawtelle Jr., PFC Gabriel Rivera (Marine Corps), Christopher Lagos, Todd Anderson, AC3 Stephanie P. Breault; PO-2 James F. Razza (US Navy), Lance Cpl Austin Palmeri.

Who Is Serving Our Country?

If you would like us to publish a name, or picture of your loved one serving in the military, send a photo along with a name, rank and service. Include a few additional details if you wish. Also include a name and address so we can return it. Or, if you prefer, email an attachment to us at:

St.Casimir@stcasimirspncc.com

Parish Activities

The following schedule covers activities from September to Christmas and the Installation of Officers on January 8, 2012. Please note those dates of interest to you and make your plans to attend.

September 10 - Chicken Barbecue

September 25 - Choir Food/Bake Sale

October - ANS/TOP collection for Food Pantry

October 8 - Polish Food Fest/Craft Fair

October 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day

October 16 - Seniorate meeting at St. Casimir's

October 23 - Youth Group Dinner and Talent Show

October 30 - All Souls Service, 1 pm, Parish cemetery

November - ANS Christmas bags for shut ins

November 7 - Final day for *Operation Christmas Child* donations

November 20 - Cookie Bake Sale

December - Giving Tree sponsored by ANS

December 3 - Homecoming Dinner

December 4 - Parish elections

December 24/25 - Christmas

January 8, 2012 - Installation of officers - Brunch

Annual Prayer Service A Very Special Event

This feature is adapted from July 2011 Diocesan Newsletter and published with permission

On Sunday, July 10th, parishioners of the Eastern Diocese of the PNCC gathered together for its annual Prayer Service at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, New Hampshire. The Cathedral is an ecumenical worship site, the focal point of which is the Altar of the Nation. Members of the Eastern Diocese have been gathering at this inspiring site for half a century, but this year's Service was bitter-sweet. Diocesan Bishop Thomas Gnat will retire on November 30th, the 33rd anniversary of his Consecration. In recognition of his more than three decades as our diocesan shepherd, this year's Prayer Service was dedicated to his honour.



Bishop Gnat

The Service began with a procession to the sanctuary led by the cross bearer, Nicholas Soltysiak, assisted by Kate Shaughnessey and Eric Nemkovich. Michael Zarek carried the

American flag followed by Walter Piekarski and the Polish flag. At the Sanctuary, the celebrant of the Prayer Service, Fr. Sen. Joseph Krusienski, led the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the American and Polish National Anthems.



A 25 member diocesan choir was convened under the direction of Tom Grzywacz, the Manchester, NH Cathedral organist and also the organist at the Prayer Service. They met once in Webster, Massachusetts to rehearse and then sang beautifully for all of us gathered at the Cathedral of the Pines.

Fr. Sen. Fryderyk Banas and Raymond Pieczarka, Cathedral Parish Committee Chairman, read the first prayer about Tradition. The Diocesan Choir and the congregation sang "Dzieki Ci Przedwiecny" in Polish and in English. Wanda Mercier then read verses from the Old Testament 1 Samuel.

Dorothy Stahelski, a long time member of the National United Choirs, read a prayer about Bishop Gnat's love of sacred music and commented that he participated in the first Music Workshop in 1963 and supported the group's efforts continually ever since, even serving as its National Chaplain for many years. She concluded by inviting the congregation to sing "Let There Be Peace on Earth," one of the bishop's favorite hymns.

Stefan Swiadas then proclaimed the New Testament Lesson from the Book of Revelation. Stefan had been a long-serving acolyte of Bishop Gnat at the Cathedral, and remains very active in his parish. He was followed by young Joey Grieve of the Lowell parish who sang a solo rendition of "Sing to the Mountains" chosen in tribute to the panoramic view of Monadnock Mountain Range visible behind the Altar of the Nation. Continuing with this youth theme, the next



The Altar of the Nation was built in 1946 and recognized by Congress in 1957 as a National Memorial to American men and women who lost their lives in war.

prayer about youth was offered by two teenagers of the diocese, Anna O'Connell and Kristin Calvo. They spoke about Bishop Gnat's faithful participation in the Youth Retreats of the diocese, missing only one in more than 30 years.

Fr. Andrzej Tenus, pastor of St. Casimir's in Lowell, proclaimed the Gospel from the main pulpit followed by Janice Klimczak, wife of the late Fr. Joseph Klimczak, who read a prayer asking that God be with both Bishop Gnat and his wife Katherine as they enter into retirement concluding with an invitation to the congregation to stand and recite the traditional Jewish blessing:



Fr Andrzej Tenus

"May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace." (Numbers 6:22-26)

Following a fine rendition of the "Hymn to the Holy Spirit", Fr. Sen. Joseph Soltysiak offered a moving sermon in tribute to Bishop Gnat's service as priest and bishop for more than 50 years in the Sacred Vocations.



Bishop Gnat

Bishop Gnat then used the podium to express his thanks to those gathered at this event and through them to all who helped him in his ministry. He stated that the actual work of shepherding would be done by the shepherd's assistants. He challenged everyone to continue working for the good of our parishes, diocese and church. He expressed how much he enjoyed his years of service, and then offered the final blessing upon the congregation.

The congregation sang the "Hymn of the Church" and the Prayer Service ended with a recessional to the music of "The Hymn of Resolve."

Following the Prayer Service, about 150 of those in attendance traveled to the Hidden Hills Banquet Facility for a chicken barbecue dinner. It was a wonderful day of fellowship and a fitting tribute to our Bishop Thomas Gnat one last time as our diocesan bishop.



During the service, a collection was accepted while the congregation sang "America the Beautiful". When added to donations received throughout the diocese in the weeks leading up to the Prayer Service, over \$3,700 was collected for the Clergy Pension Fund and will be donated in Bishop Gnat's name in recognition of his devotion to the traditions of our church and our founding bishop, Bishop Francis Hodur. The check is being displayed during the recessional by Fr. Sen. Joseph Soltysiak, pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Westfield, MA.



The clergy of the Eastern Diocese were well represented at the Prayer Service. Left to right: Front row: Fr. Sen. Fryderyk Banas (Ware, MA), Fr. Sen. Joseph Krusienski (Planville, CT), Bishop Gnat, Fr. Sen. Joseph Soltysiak (Westfield, MA), Fr. Dr. Stanley Kaszubski (Webster, MA-retired). Back row: Fr. Andrew Tenus, Fr. Michael Gitner (Stratford, CT), Fr. Jacek Orzechowski (Chicago, IL), Fr. Henryk Wos (Woonsocket, RI), Fr. Robert Nemkovich Jr (Fall River, MA)



Bishop Gnat shares a moment with Eric Nemkovich of Fall River, MA and Kate Shaughnessy of Westfield, MA who assisted Nicholas Soltysiak of Westfield, MA, who was the cross bearer in the procession at the beginning of the Annual Prayer Service.

Acknowledgement

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Fr. Randy Calvo and Christine Newman, publishers of the Diocesan Newsletter, and to the many who provided photos for this newsletter. Thank You.



Fr. Sen. Joseph Soltysiak, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Westfield, MA assists Bishop Gnat in displaying an afghan gift handmade by a member in the Central Seniorate.



Bishop Gnat poses with Joey Grieve of the Lowell parish who sang a solo titled "Sing to the Mountains".

St. Casimir's at the Prayer Service



Left: Agnieszka Tenus, holding Amelia Rose, and Lucy Pietrus. Right: Karina, Christopher and Jonah Tenus.



Left photo, clockwise from top: JoAnn Menzia, Josephine Wrobel, Phyllis Hunt. Right photo left to right: Arlene Strazzulla, Janice Klimczak, Marilyn Folcik.



Walter Sott, Wanda Hamel and Paula Jones



Cheryl Grieve, Alice Rosmus, Joey and James Grieve.