



Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Volume 100

June 2022

Issue #6

Vocations

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

Almighty and eternal God, in Your plan for our salvation You provide priests as shepherds for Your people. Inspire men to answer Your call to become priests, because “the harvest is great but the laborers are few.” Grant Your Church an increase of priests and keep them faithful in their love and service to You and the people entrusted to their care. Through their faith and ministry may Your light shine in the world and Your kingdom be built among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our High Priest. Amen.

It is certainly my hope that this prayer, found within the P.N.C.C. Prayer Book, is a part of the daily prayer life of our parishes and especially for the individuals of our Holy Church. The Polish National Catholic Church has celebrated June as Sacred Vocations month for many years and it does so with several aspects in mind. June is the month of Father’s Day and while we seek to honor our own fathers and other father figures within our lives, we should also look to honor our spiritual fathers, the priests and bishops of our Holy Church. June is also the time when the young are finishing school and for those graduating from college, they are often considering what God is calling them to do as a vocation for their lives. The Church, today more than ever, is in need of priests to minister to the people of God within the Polish National Catholic Church. For this reason, I implore all within our parishes, during this month of Sacred Vocations and beyond, to daily pray this prayer. And of course, through praying it and meditating upon it, this will not only seek to ask God to inspire men to answer the call to ministry, but maybe more im-

portantly it will allow each of us to have a renewed attitude in regard to the clergy and their role within the Church.

In this personal renewal as we work through this prayer, we begin with the acknowledgment that the priesthood is vital to the work of the Church, both for us as individuals and more so as we gather together within our parishes. The ministry of priests is a part of God’s plan for our salvation and within that plan the priests serve as shepherds. In this we first reflect on the biblical role of shepherds. Jesus draws this distinction for us within the Gospel of John. Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me.” (John 10:11-14)

We see within this Gospel passage the characteristics that a priest of the Church must strive for and also the responsibilities of us all in encouraging and supporting these attitudes. A priest of Christ’s Holy Church is not just a hired hand. In following our Lord Jesus Christ, he takes full responsibility for the people entrusted to his care. They belong to Jesus, and since he serves as the representative of our Lord they are his responsibility as well. The parish priest will embrace each individual and the entire parish in work and in prayer, sharing fully in their joys and sorrow.

(Continued on Page 3.)

**Email Addresses
for the
P.N.C.C. Office**

The email addresses for the staff of the National Church Center and God's Field are:

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky
pbmikovsky@pncc.org

Secretary to Prime Bishop—Julie Orzell
secretarytopb@pncc.org

P.N.C.C. Treasurer—Joan Scheuneman
executive03@pnu.org

God's Field– Rola Boza Editor—Julie Orzell
secretarytopb@pncc.org

Questions or concerns? Call us at 570-346-9131 or 570-346-2125.

**God's Field — Rola Boza
Publication Information**

The deadline for article submissions is the 1st of the month; online publication date is mid-month. Submissions received after the 1st will be included in the following month's issue.

Email articles and photos to secretarytopb@PNCC.org. If your submission was successfully delivered via email, you will receive an acknowledgement email stating that your submission was received. To ensure clarity of graphics, please send JPEG or TIFF formatted pictures with a resolution of at least 300 pixels per inch. **Please identify individuals in photographs or caption photographs.**

Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:
God's Field
Polish National Catholic Church
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109

Identification Statement

The Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church, **GOD'S FIELD - ROLA BOZA**, is published monthly for the U.S. **\$48.00**; Canada **\$62.00**; Foreign **\$87.50 per subscription year** (March through February) by

**Polish National Catholic Church
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109**

Individual issues of *God's Field* are available for purchase from the National Church Center for \$2.00 each (pickup) or prepaid \$4.00 each (U.S.); \$5.25 each (Canada); \$7.30 (Foreign).

Send payments and address changes to:

**GOD'S FIELD
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109**

CONTROLLER:

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

Opinions expressed in various articles published in *God's Field* do not necessarily reflect the doctrine of the P.N.C.C.

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(Vocations - Continued from Page 1.)

In this vocations prayer we pray that God, ‘will inspire men to answer the call to become priests.’ In praying this we acknowledge that God is always calling the men of the Church and the men of the world to serve within the Church as priests. If they are not answering this call, then something must be standing in their way. God is calling, but other things are blocking the path. So this prayer too is asking the Lord to remove whatever is blocking their path. And if we pray this prayer we also must take up our own work of removing any stumbling block that we know of within our lives or our parishes. In this spirit we can ask ourselves, are there things around us that might be blocking the men of the Church to answer the call to serve Him as a priest? This too is a call of our Lord in the Gospel of Matthew. “When [Jesus] saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’” (Matthew 9:36-38)

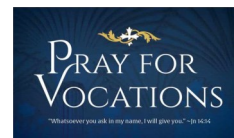
Lastly we pray that God’s light will shine in the world and that the kingdom of God will be built among us. In this we must realize that this work will not happen without our action and cooperation. If God’s light will shine in the world, it is not the work of our priests alone to accomplish this. Through the eucharistic ministry of priests, the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ will be found within our parish churches. Jesus will become known through the proclamation of His Word and through the expounding of that Word through the Sacrament of the Word of God in the homily. Jesus will be experienced through the Eucharist as we receive the Body of Blood of Christ and are strengthened to carry that presence into the world. This presence of Christ is a light that has been placed within our lives, but then action is required. Again, Jesus told us, “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heav-

en.” (Matthew 5:14-16) It is our parish priests who will accompany us in letting the light of Christ within us shine before others.

The ministry of the priests of our Church must also teach us and show us through their lives that the building up of the kingdom must be the first and foremost object of our lives. And of course, this is not in opposition to the rest of our daily living, but rather each and every aspect of our daily living must be transformed to be in accord with the work of God accomplished through the Church. Again Jesus tells us, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:31-33) Here again, our pastors will help the parish in fulfilling the needs of those around us and then through that ministry, lead others to a knowledge of God.

So my brothers and sisters, again I encourage you to continue to pray the Vocations Prayer. But more importantly let its spirit permeate your own life, your parish life and all that you do. So appreciate your parish priest and support him in his work of serving God and God’s people. Encourage the young men of your parish to consider if God is calling them to take up the call to serve the Lord as a priest or deacon within the Polish National Catholic Church. Let these young men also see you speak well and highly of your pastor and other priests who have given their lives to the service of God and His people. And also support your pastor and all the deacons, priests and bishops through your prayer and in concrete ways, such as supporting the Clergy Pension Fund.

Each of these things are individually so small, but when taken together they are a strong witness of our worship of Almighty God and our work to accomplish His plan for our salvation, that will be accomplished through the ministry of His priests.



June is Sacred Vocations Month

For many years now the Polish National Catholic Church has celebrated the month of June as Sacred Vocations Month. The need for priests to serve the Church is always a concern and it is up to all of us to encourage young men to consider a Sacred Vocation. As faithful members of God's Holy Church, we all depend on the ministries of our parish priests. It is therefore the responsibility of all to bring men to the altar. All Polish National Catholics are encouraged to pray daily for the increase of Vocations.

Almighty and Eternal God, in Your plan for our salvation You provide priests as shepherds for Your people. Inspire men to answer Your call to become priests, because "the harvest is great but the laborers are few." Grant Your Church an increase of priests and keep them faithful in their love and service to You and the people entrusted to their care. Through their faith and ministry may Your light shine in the world and Your kingdom be built among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our High Priest. Amen.



National Commission on Liturgy Meeting

Scranton, PA

The National Commission on Liturgy of the P.N.C.C. met at the National Church Center in Scranton, PA, Monday, May 23 - Wednesday, May 25, 2022.



First row: Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr.; Rt. Rev. Bernard J. Nowicki; Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky; Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski; Second row: Rev. Jason Soltysiak; Rev. Antulio A. Alvarado; Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr.; Rev. Carmen Bolock

Future Direction June Message

During June, we celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus Christi – the Body of Christ. We also celebrate Sacred Vocations Month across our Holy Church and June 4th and 5th was Clergy Appreciation Weekend!

Go the [PNCC Future Direction YouTube Channel](#) to watch a video message by Rev. Mark Swoger.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Honor Your Father on Father's Day

Clergy Pension Fund

Polish National Catholic Church



As we all remember all of the important father figures within our lives, we pray especially for those listed below. Thanks are also extended to all those who contributed to the Clergy Pension Fund's "Honor Your Father on Father's Day" program, as it continues to support those members of the clergy who have retired after many years of faithful service to God's Holy Church.

In honor of husband, Fr. Bruce Sleczkowski, by Marian Sleczkowski.

In remembrance of father, Max T. Sleczkowski, by Marian Sleczkowski.

In remembrance of father, Rev. Mr. Raymond Lagesse, by Marian Sleczkowski.

In remembrance of father, Emil Mizdol, by Kathy Skorupka.

In remembrance of pastor, Rev. Edward Sobolewski, by Stephanie Marsh.

In remembrance of pastor, Very Rev. Michael Zawadzki, by Stephanie Marsh.

In remembrance of father, Joachim Jedynak by Stephanie Marsh.

In remembrance of brother, John Jedynak by Stephanie Marsh.

In honor of pastor, Very Rev. Jarosław Nowak, by Kathy Chockley.

In remembrance of father, Larry Marsh, by Kathy Chockley.

In remembrance of uncle, Al Lane, by Kathy Chockley.

In remembrance of cousin, Philip Lane, by Kathy Chockley.

In remembrance of father, Stanley Kiska, Sr., by Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski.

In remembrance of father, Walter Sobiechowski, by Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski.

In remembrance of father, William Nichols, by Deacon David and Roseanne Nichols.

In remembrance of father, Paul Koceski, by Deacon David and Roseanne Nichols.

In honor of father, Most Rev. Robert M. Nemkoich, by Fr. Sr. Rob and Kathy Nemkovich.

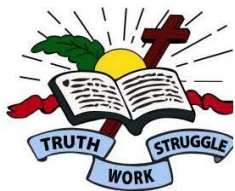
In remembrance of father, Leon Gorgol, by Fr. Sr. Rob and Kathy Nemkovich.

In remembrance of, Bishop Stanley Bilinski, by Fr. Sr. Rob and Kathy Nemkovich.
 In remembrance of father, John Mietlicki, Sr., by Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd.
 In remembrance of uncle, Michael Mietlicki, Sr., by Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd.
 In remembrance of father, Francis J. Golembeski, Sr., by Prime Bp. Anthony & Carol Mikovsky.
 In remembrance of father, Anthony J. Mikovsky, by Prime Bishop Anthony & Carol Mikovsky.
 In remembrance of brother, Robert A. Golembeski, by Prime Bp. Anthony & Carol Mikovsky.
 In honor of husband, Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, by Carol Mikovsky.
 In honor of brother, Francis J. Golembeski, Jr., by Carol Mikovsky.
 In remembrance of father, William Krajewski, by Paul & Rose Kazinetz and family.
 In remembrance of father, Paul Kazinetz, Sr. by Paul & Rose Kazinetz and family.
 In honor of son-in-law, Rev. Jason Soltysiak, by Paul & Rose Kazinetz and family.
 In honor of pastor, Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, by Paul & Rose & Kazinetz and family.
 In honor of pastor, Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, by Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish.
 In honor of son-in-law, Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, by Mary Ann Kiska.
 In memory of father, John Mulka, by Donna Schouten and Diane Williams.
 In memory of husband, Prime Bishop John Swantek, by Arlene Swantek.
 In memory of father and grandfather, Prime Bishop John Swantek, by Kevin & Lynn Pfohl and family.
 In honor of pastor, Rev. Michael Selep, by Robert & Janice Amend.
 In memory of father, Clyde L. Sharik, Sr., by Debbie & Joe Parknavy.
 In memory of father, Joseph R. Parknavy, by Debbie & Joe Parknavy.
 In honor of father, Joseph J. Parknavy, by Joey, Jonathan & Joel Parknavy.
 In honor of pastor, Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski, by Debbie & Joe Parknavy.
 In memory of grandfather, Clyde L. Sharik, Sr., by Joey, Jonathan & Joel Parknavy.
 In memory of grandfather, Joseph R. Parknavy, by Joey, Jonathan & Joel Parknavy.
 In honor of godfather, Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, by Jacob Stankowski.
 In memory of father, Casey E. Putynski, by Carole D'Arcy.
 In memory of father, Leo Sarnowski, by Dr. Robert & June Sarnowski.
 In memory of father, Stanley Franus, by Dr. Robert & June Sarnowski.
 In memory of father, Leonard Cegelka, by Richard & Mary Segiel.

Please remember the Fathers' Day collection taken on June 19, 2022 in the parishes of our Polish National Catholic Church to benefit the Clergy Pension Fund.

Donations may also be sent to: **Clergy Pension Fund**
Office of the Prime Bishop
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and support of the clergy of the P.N.C.C.



INFORMATION SHEET

The XXVI General Synod
of the
Polish National Catholic Church
October 19 - 21, 2022

125th Anniversary Celebration Events
October 22, 2022

Hilton Hotel & Conference Center
100 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503
Phone# 570-343-3000

VENUE

The XXVI General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church will be held from Wednesday, October 19th through Friday, October 21st 2022 at the Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, 100 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503. **Accommodations for all delegates and guests as well as all synod sessions will be held at this site.** A Synod Mass will be celebrated at Saint Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Cathedral, 529 East Locust Street, Scranton, PA 18505. (see information below)

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

All delegates must make their own room reservations and arrange payment directly with the hotel.

- Call **570-343-3000** and use group code **SYNCC**
- Room rates \$129.00 + 7% occupancy tax per night for a Double Queen or Deluxe King
- Rooms are available at this rate from Tuesday, October 18th through Saturday, October 22nd, 2022
- Reservations must be made no later than **September 20, 2022**

PARKING

Garage parking: \$5.00 short stay parking – not a 24 hour period
\$12.00 per day, hotel stay

TRANSPORTATION

Hotel Shuttle Service is available from the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport several times daily. If you are traveling by air please contact the hotel, with your flight information, for shuttle service 1 to 2 weeks prior to your arrival.

SYNOD SCHEDULE

- Synod registration will be held on the second floor of the hotel and conference center from 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm on Tuesday evening and from 7:00 am – 8:00 am on Wednesday morning.
- The Synod will begin on Wednesday, October 19th with breakfast at 7:00 am. The Synod will convene promptly at 8:00 am.

- The Synod Mass will be held at 4:30 pm on Wednesday at St. Stanislaus Cathedral. You will be given instructions on the logistics for this in your bag upon registration. (Bus transportation will be provided.)
- Dinner and the evening session will follow at the hotel and conference center.

REGISTRATION FORMS

- A registration form must be filled out by each individual delegate and/or guest and sent along with the \$550 registration fee **NO LATER THAN 9/20/2022**.
- Please make checks payable to: **26th General Synod**
- Mail Check and Registration Form to:
**Central Diocesan Chancery
Synod Registration
515 East Locust Street
Scranton, PA 18505**

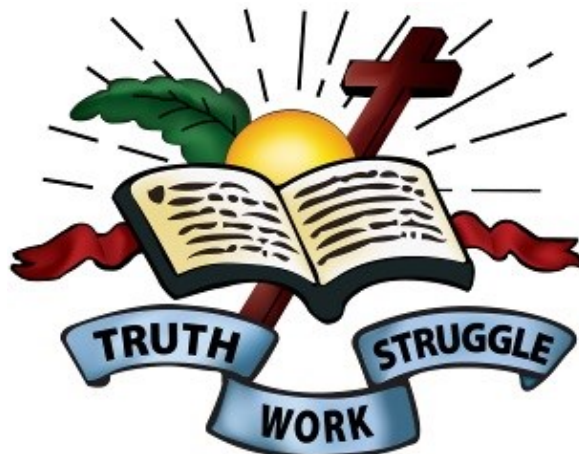
QUESTIONS

If you have any further questions regarding the synod please contact:

- John Andrzejewski, Chairman
executive02@pnu.org
570-344-1513
or
- Janet Kelly, Synod Coordinator
centdiocsecy1@gmail.com
570-341-5150

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENTS

- On Saturday, October 22, 2022, Holy Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 am at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Polish National Catholic Church. A celebratory banquet will follow at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center in Scranton.
- Tickets for the banquet are \$60 per person.
- A cultural event is planned for Saturday evening at St. Stanislaus Cathedral.
- More detailed information on this celebration will sent to all parishes and will also be available on social media and the PNCC website in the coming weeks.



REGISTRATION FORM**The XXVI General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church****October 19 - 21, 2022****Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Scranton, Pa****Phone# 570-343-3000****(see Information Sheet for hotel information)**

NOTE: ONE FORM PER DELEGATE/GUEST - Please make as many copies of this form as necessary.

Registration Form & Fee of \$550.00 U.S., Per delegate & per guest, must be received no later than 9/20/2022. No forms will be accepted after this date. Those received after 9/20/2022 will be returned along with the checks...

No Exceptions! Please Be Advised!

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **26th General Synod**

MAIL CHECKS AND REGISTRATION FORM TO: **Central Diocesan Chancery**
Synod Registration
515 East Locust Street
Scranton, PA 18505

Check One: **Delegate** _____ **Guest** _____Name _____
(Please Print All Information Clearly)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Parish Name _____ City/State _____

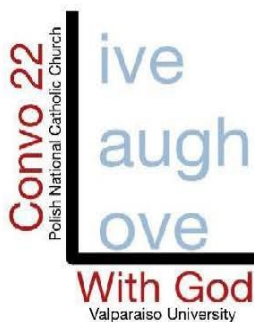
Diocese _____ Pastor _____

Is this your first Synod? Yes No If no, how many have you attended? _____How will you be traveling: Alone? Group? Traveling by: Car Bus Van Air

If you are traveling by air please contact the hotel, with your flight information, for shuttle service 1 to 2 weeks prior to your arrival.

Please specify any special dietary needs _____

Emergency Contact name/phone# _____ Relationship _____



Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr. - Youth Chaplain
 2022 National Youth Convocation
 Polish National Catholic Church
 6629 W. 133rd Avenue - Cedar Lake, IN 46303-7503
 (219) 374-7621 wdpncccconvo2022@gmail.com

May 12, 2022

Dear Clergy and Faithful of the Polish National Catholic Church,

As an outreach program and service project of the 2022 National Youth Convocation, we are seeking your financial support for the purchase of socks and personal hygiene products for several homeless shelters located in Northwest Indiana. The National Youth Convocation will be held in Valparaiso, Indiana. The most requested item of clothing at shelters are socks followed by personal hygiene products. It is the goal of the Convo 2022 Committee to help meet these vital needs to the people in NW Indiana, the location of the Convo. 100% of your donation will go toward this outreach and service project.

Here are some ideas from the 2022 Convo Committee on how to cover the cost of our service project. Each Parish can sponsor at least one event and send the proceeds to the Convo 2022 Committee. This can be achieved through fund raising activities - such as a dinner or car wash - to simply seeking donations at your coffee and cake fellowships after Mass. Perhaps one or more "special collections" could be taken after Mass and as always, the respective individuals, societies and parishes are able to donate.

Please total your collections and donations and write a check payable to: Western Diocese PNCC. In the memo please write: Convo 22 Service Project.

You are kindly asked to send your donation no later than June 30, 2022 to:
 Convo 22 Service Project
 6629 W. 133rd Avenue - Cedar Lake, IN 46303-7503

If you have any questions about this outreach program and service project, do not hesitate to contact me at the above address, phone or e-mail.

May God bless us for all we do to help those in need not only in our local communities but throughout the world.

In Christ's Service,

Very Reverend John P. Kowalczyk, Jr.
 Youth Chaplain of the 2022 National Youth Convocation

Memorial Day Celebrations Across the P.N.C.C.

**Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral Parish,
Lancaster, NY**



St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish, Scranton, PA



Parish of Our Lady, Brant, NY



Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA



Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Schenectady, NY



Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH



Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI



Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA



St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN



Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI



St. Mary's Parish, Parma, OH



Central Diocese

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Activities Dupont, PA

The ANS of Holy Mother of Sorrows held a stuffed chicken breast dinner on May 1, 2022. The event was a huge success and sold out in the first hour.



Wanda Stash, Rose Kazinetz, Stephanie Shumlas, Eleanor Bruno, Chris Wasko, Donna Micka, Lois McHugh, Debbie Keener, Ruthie O'Dell, Carol Bondurich, Mary Jo Searfoss, Mary Marsh, Joyce Jopling.

First Holy Communion was administered to Myles Nash on Sunday, May 1, 2022. Special thanks to Debbie Bilinski, who was his teacher.



Debbie Bilinski, Myles Nash and Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid

The YMS of R men's organization treated all mothers and parishioners to a free of charge breakfast on Mother's Day.

We express our thanks to the following members for their work and dedication: Jeff Baldan, Anthony Shumlas, Paul Kazinetz Jr., Al Micka, Gene Wasko, Angelo Conforti Sr., Nick Kazinetz, Paul Kaspriskie Jr., Paul Kazinetz III, David M Petrosky.



Everyone enjoyed the delicious Mother's Day breakfast.

Holy Mother of Sorrows observed Memorial Day by having a service on Sunday, May 29, 2022 by the Veterans' Monument outside of the church. Fellowship in the parish hall followed. On Monday, parishioners participated in the Dupont Memorial Day Parade. After the parade and the conclusion of the Memorial Service at the VFW in Dupont, Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid had the benediction to close the ceremonies.



Sunday Service at the Veterans' Monument

St. Stephen's Parish Rededicates the Refurbished Outdoor Altar at Parish Cemetery

Reading, PA

On Sunday, May 22, St. Stephen's Parish rededicated the outdoor altar at St. Stephen the Martyr Memorial cemetery in Kenhorst.

This past spring parishioner Kevin Grossman, along with his brother, Kyle, spent a good deal of time restoring the altar, which has stood in the cemetery since the late 1920s.

Very Rev. Donald Wunderlich, pastor of St. Stephen's Parish, celebrated Mass and blessed the restored altar. The Earl Eshelman Memorial VFW Post 9045 from Mohnton, PA provided the honor guard unit. Two veterans from the St. Stephen's Parish congregation lay the Memorial Wreath at the altar.

Refreshments and a fellowship hour took place at the Parish Hall following the Mass and rededication ceremony.



Eastern Diocese

Blessed Trinity Parish Activities

Fall River, MA

On Sunday May 1st, Blessed Trinity Parish hosted the beginning of an Interfaith Solidarity Walk for Ukraine. Over 200 folks gathered to show their support and pray for the people of Ukraine. Powerful testimonials of Polish relief efforts were given, songs were sung and the Fall City Mayor, Paul Coogan, offered a Proclamation of support for the Ukraine. The walkers went past St. Stanislaus Parish and ended at St. John's Ukrainian Church.

At St. John's powerful testimony was given by some Ukrainian people, and prayers were said.

May we continue to offer prayerful support to the people of Ukraine in this their time of need. May God bless them all and bring peace to Ukraine and our world.

On Thursday, May 19th, Blessed Trinity Parish provided lunch to Fall River Police Department during National Police Week. This was a small gesture to the FRPD to tell them that their service to the Fall River community is greatly appreciated.



On Ascension Day, May 26th, an SUV full of new baby supplies and clothing (collected by our parishioners during a "baby shower" on Sunday, May 22nd) were delivered to the People Incorporated Children's Center in Fall River to help those families in need with young children in the local community.



Also on May 1st, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich offered the Invocation and Benediction at a Ceremony honoring Thaddeus Kosciuszko at Kosciuszko Square in Fall River, MA.

On Sunday, May 29th, Memorial Day Prayers and a Wreath Laying Ceremony was held in front of Blessed Trinity Parish. In attendance were many Veterans groups, local and state politicians and so many from the parish and community. Holy Mass and a breakfast followed at the parish.



Fort Devens Memorial Day ceremony honors those who paid ‘ultimate price’

By **SHANE RHODES** | srhodes@lowellsun.com | Lowell Sun
 PUBLISHED: May 29, 2022 at 5:05 p.m. | UPDATED: June 1, 2022 at 4:44 p.m.

DEVENS — Established in 1868, Memorial Day has become a fixture of the American calendar.

Meant to honor and remember military personnel that lost their lives in service to the United States of America, the day has evolved in the 154 years since its inception. Many people celebrate the occasion at a parade or a barbecue with family and friends.

But, at Fort Devens’ annual Memorial Day service, those in attendance were reminded of what the holiday is truly about.

As sunshine and clear skies graced the Fort Devens Post Cemetery on the morning of Thursday, May 26, the Fort Devens Command Team, former members of the Devens garrison and other distinguished guests honored and remembered those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of freedom.

After the national anthem, Army Chaplain Rev. Andrzej Tenus opened the event with an invocation prayer. Later, Devens Commander Lt. Col. Trent Colestock spoke before retired Chief Warrant Officer Walter “Chip” Mann gave the keynote address.

“We’re here to remember the nearly one and a half million men and women who have been killed in conflict since the Revolutionary War,” Mann said. “They were defending our way of life, giving us the freedom to stand here today.”

A wreath-laying ceremony followed, led by Colestock and Command Sgt. Maj. Jamie Rogers. The memorial wreath was placed before a half-staff American flag and flags for each of the armed services.

Throughout the ceremony, the importance of Memorial Day — and the weight of the sacrifice given by those lost, whether during peacetime or in war — was made abundantly clear.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to participate in any ceremony recognizing our fallen comrades,” Rogers said.

“It’s hard not to get caught up in my thoughts and the emotion of it all.”

“We should live a life worth their sacrifice — and I think about that every day. They never got the opportunity to do this or that and, even if you’re having a bad day, you just need to get out there and enjoy life for them,” she said.

Similar to Rogers, Mann stressed that Memorial Day was more than a “three-day weekend party” as he asked those in attendance to honor those who paid “the ultimate price.”

“Taking advantage of these freedoms is how we can honor them ... of course, we should enjoy (Memorial Day celebrations), that’s what they sacrificed for. But I ask everyone here to take a pause this weekend, raise a glass and toast those we are here honoring today.”

Colestock said he was “grateful” to be a part of the ceremony and with those in attendance and called it “our responsibility as citizens to remember the nation’s fallen, men and women.”

“We shall never forget the men and women who know, all too much, the cost of our freedom,” Colestock said. He also called their service to the United States “the greatest gift of all.”

Colestock called Memorial Day a “special day for many” and said, “the least we can do is remember their bravery and sacrifice while we enjoy our freedoms.”

As the ceremony drew to a close, Tenus’ benediction followed the playing of taps — the iconic bugle call played during military ceremonies and funerals — and a moment of silence.

Joseph Cunningham, who served as narrator, then ended the ceremony and thanked those in attendance for their “attendance, participation and patriotism.”

Saluting during the ceremony is Army Chaplain Rev. Andrzej Tenus with the Polish National Catholic Church.



Standing in front of Fr. Tenus is Fitchburg City Council member Sam Squailia. (John Love/Sentinel & Enterprise)

71st Convention of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society - Eastern Diocese St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA



The 71st Annual Convention of the United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eastern Diocese was held on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA.

Holy Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak (St. Joseph's Parish, Westfield, MA), ED-SAMBS Chaplain. He was assisted by the Rev. Andrzej Tenus (St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA) and Sub-deacon Justin Daviault (Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT). Seated in the sanctuary were the Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, (Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH), Diocesan Bishop; the Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski (Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT); and the Rev. Robert Koerber (Holy Name of Jesus Parish, South Deerfield, MA). The sermon was preached by Father Senior Soltysiak. The readers were Phyllis Hunt and Beverly Runowicz. The Gospel was proclaimed by Father Senior Krusienski. Karen Sobiechowski, diocesan organist, led diocesan choir members in appropriate hymns dedicated to the Holy Eucharist.

Following Mass, Fr. Tenus, pastor of St. Casimir's Parish, extended greetings on behalf of his parish and the local ANS Society. He invited all to the sanctuary to have a group picture taken, followed by light refreshments in the Parish Center.

Election of officers for 2022-2024 was conducted by Vice-president Marilyn Folcik. The following were elected: President JoAnn Menzia; Vice-President Marilyn Folcik; Recording Secretary Janice Klimczak; Financial Secretary Susan Locks; Treasurer Sally Watson; Auditors: Sue Pretola, Diane Hodgkins, Anne Barnet, Nancy Reilly; Organizers: Cynthia Hebert, Northeast Seniorate; Mary Ann Curylo, Central Seniorate; Open position, Southwest Seniorate; Marshals: Karen Sobiechowski, Deb Charette, Janice Soltysiak, Phyllis Hunt, Arlene Strazulla.

The theme of the convention was "Becoming Eucharistic People" emphasizing our devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

Our guest speaker was Rev. Robert Koerber, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, South Deerfield, MA. His presentation was entitled: "The Eucharist - The Center of Our Worship and an Historical Perspective". Fr. Koerber emphasized that the Holy Eucharist is the real presence of Jesus Christ in the form of bread and wine. In our Church, as in the Orthodox faith, the Eucharist is considered a "mystery".

Father Koerber also explained that the Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament is important because we bear witness to the devotion and adoration of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The Society's responsibilities also include demonstrating love of God and loyalty to the Polish National Catholic Church. The organization promotes spiritual development, care for the church sanctuary including flowers, linens and cleanliness, attending and assisting at worship services, remembering the ill with visitations, cards and calls and paying final tribute to deceased sisters at their wakes and funerals.

Following Father Koerber's discourse, Bishop Sobiechowski gave the closing prayer and his blessing.

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

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

Submitted by Janice Klimczak

Western Diocese

Confirmation Celebrated at Holy Cross Parish Hamtramck, MI

On Sunday, May 1st, Holy Cross Parish, Hamtramck, MI celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation, administered by the Western Diocese Bishop, Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko. Pastor, Very Rev. Jarosław Nowak, and the parish Sunday School teachers prepared the confirmands for this journey to serve God and our Holy Church.

Congratulations to all of these young people, their sponsors and their families.



St. Michael the Archangel Parish Prayer Craft Ministry Cedar Lake, IN

On Sunday, May 22nd, Very Rev. John Kowalczyk blessed 20 blankets/shawls for the parish Prayer Craft Ministry. These items are given to anyone in need of a little comfort during times of duress or illness. They mean so much to the recipients and the work of these dedicated crafters is very much appreciated.



Celebrate
 the upcoming
Fourth of July
 and welcome the
Kurs Campers
on Saturday, July 2, 2022
 at
Spójnia Farm
611 Honesdale Road
Waymart, PA



Holy Mass —11:00
 followed by
Picnic
Plenty of Food
 &
Plenty of Family Fun



**“Cast a Net”
 Contest**



**Help your Parish by
 Becoming fishers of members**

Here's the bait:

5 members & \$25,000 or more of insurance earns \$500
 10 members & \$50,000 or more of insurance earns \$1000
 15 members & \$75,000 or more of insurance earns \$1500
 20 members & \$100,000 or more of insurance earns \$2,022

Contest runs from January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022

A Whale of a Bonus:

20 Year Endowment policies over \$15,000 earn double member count
 Annuity Policies over \$25,000 earn triple member count

Contact your Branch Secretary, District Director or
 The Home Office of the PNU at (1-800-724-6352)

For more details

