



Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Volume 98

November 2020

Issue #11

## Waiting for the Lord

**Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop**

At the end of this month of November we will once again find ourselves at the beginning of Advent, a new liturgical year. We all certainly know that this year has been a difficult one for many individuals. Many have lost loved ones to this terrible scourge that is upon our land, and for all of us we have had to drastically change our lives in order to help keep ourselves and others safe. So even with all this in mind, how then should we approach this new liturgical year which is coming upon us?

I have always considered the Season of Advent quite a special time of the year. While I certainly know that our faith is built around the joy that is celebrated at the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at Easter, and while there is an extreme joy to be celebrated at the Nativity as our Lord enters into our world as the infant child of Bethlehem, there is still something special about Advent.

Advent is the season of preparing to meet the Lord. If we take a moment to consider it, it is something which is a part of our daily lives right now. During the Sunday readings that we will encounter during the four weeks of Advent we will see various ways in which this is true. During the first Sunday as we read from Mark 13:33-37, we hear Jesus reminding His disciples, and us, to stay awake because we are not sure when the Lord is coming. He tells us to "Be on guard!" (Mark 13:37) And this action must permeate our entire lives. We are not "on guard" for the Lord only for our hour of worship on Sunday, or only for our moments of prayer, but our entire lives must be a preparation to encounter the Lord at each and every moment. The Advent season asks us to consider how this is true and how we can be better on guard to meet Jesus in every situation.

On the second Sunday of Advent we encounter the ministry of John the Baptist and his fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah which says: "I send my messenger before you to prepare your way: a herald's voice in the desert, crying, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, clear him a straight path.'" (Mark 1:2-3) We see here that our waiting for the Lord must be an active one. During the upcoming month of December, I am sure that all of us will be preparing for the Christmas holiday. There will be cleaning and cooking to be done, decorating and shopping that also must be accomplished. All of this preparation must be done so that we can appropriately celebrate the Christmas holiday. But in the same manner, we know that the spiritual aspects of this important day far outweigh the secular ones, so we ask, is this same amount of preparation going on in our spiritual lives. Are we "making ourselves ready" for the Lord? Are we "clearing Him a straight path" into our lives?

How often in our lives do we expect great things from God without our even doing the little steps of getting ourselves ready? Well, Advent is the season of getting ready. Are we spending that time and that effort to examine our own lives and seeing where there may be things that distract us from our true and fruitful relationship with the Lord? To "clear a path" for Jesus into our lives is something that takes work. During this past few weeks, I, as I am sure many of you did, spent time cleaning up the yard. The leaves had fallen and the bushes and plants needed to be taken care of. This work is time consuming and sometimes difficult. And it doesn't show immediate results. We do this work now so that, in the future, our plants will blossom and grow beautifully. The same

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### *God's Field* — Rola Boża 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 and to godsfeld@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 BOŻA**, is published monthly for the U.S. **\$48.00**; Canada **\$62.00**; Foreign **\$87.50 per subscription year** (February through March) 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  
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Scranton, PA 18505-4109**

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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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is true in our spiritual life as well; we must do the work of examining our lives and putting them in order, so that the fruits of the Spirit will be brought forth in time.

On the third Sunday of Advent the ministry of John the Baptist continues. Here he is confronted by the Pharisees who want to know who he is and what he's doing. This reminds us that in our pursuit of setting our lives in order there will certainly be those things and persons which will stand against us. First and foremost, the worst is our own inertia. We really don't like to change, even when we know that we should. It is always just easier to make up an excuse, or say that we will put it off until another time, probably knowing full well that we will never get around to it.

But Advent is a time for action. St. Paul says it in his First Letter to the Thessalonians that we read this Sunday, "Test everything, retain what is good. Avoid any semblance of evil. ... May you be preserved whole and entire, spirit, soul, body, irreproachable at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:21-23) This action must be done by us in preparation for the "coming of the Lord Jesus" Advent is certainly the time for this. It also must involve "spirit, soul and body," in other words, every aspect of our lives. We must examine where we are concerning everything about us. We are to "test" all of it and "retain only what is good." This reminds us that there is real work to be done in these four weeks of Advent in preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ.

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, in the final preparations for the coming of Christ, we read the annunciation passage of the Archangel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary from the Gospel of St. Luke. In contem-

plating this Gospel passage we focus on Mary's "yes" to God in her conceiving our Lord Jesus Christ in her womb. Within the passage Mary says to the Archangel, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) In seeking to prepare ourselves in this season of Advent we should seek to have both of these confessions become everyday parts of our lives. We should strive to confess and live out, "I am a servant of the Lord" and "Let God's Word be done in me."

So often selfishness and self-serving ways rule how we act and think in our daily lives. Advent calls us to put the Lord first in our thinking and in our actions, especially in regard to our dealings with other people. We must ask ourselves, whom do we serve? And oftentimes that answer is only ourselves. In the seeking to be a servant, we must always put the Lord first, others second and ourselves last. This is the servant mentality and it then allows us to move on to the second confession, to let God's Word and God's way be accomplished in us.

This must be the goal of our Advent preparation. We certainly look forward to celebrating a joyous Nativity of Jesus Christ at the beginning of the Christmas season. We know that at Christmas we will celebrate once again Jesus Christ being born into the world. But the reality of the situation is that if we do the work of the Advent season, making a path for Him into our lives, seeking to be His servant and allowing His word to be accomplished in us, then Jesus will continually be born into the world in every one of our words, thoughts and actions, as we unite ourselves to Him and await His final coming.

So my brothers and sisters, don't just let this Advent season be one where all of our preparations are for the secular. Let's do the spiritual work of preparing ourselves for the coming of the Lord.



## Living Big

**Rev. Jim Konicki, Chair, P.N.C.C. Vocations Commission**

November arrives and we once again pause to reflect on the lives of the saints, the great men and women who made a huge difference in the lives of the faithful. They had an impact, sometimes seemingly bigger than life. We also recall the lives of those among us, the quiet saints who worked day in and day out to build families, contributed to the community, and who most importantly brought us to Jesus. We know, love, and serve Jesus because they did. They did because their forefathers did as well. We have a saintly legacy of lived faith.

When we look at the next generation, we hope and pray that they will do great things, that they will contribute mightily to the society and make a real difference. When we look back, we consider the huge impact the older generation had, the great things they did. Even if those impacts are not well known, they are at least known to us. The young – so much hope! The old – so much accomplished! Me, I don't know. What big thing have I done, what lofty thing have I accomplished?

We stand in the middle wondering: What have I done? Our natural humility lends itself perhaps to an inability to step back and see our own contributions. It was that way with many of the saints. Sometimes they felt they had not been impactful enough, or that they had more to give. So, they set out to live big, and somewhere along the road to bigness they encountered the Holy Spirit. God tapped them on the shoulder, or sometimes kicked them in the pants, and said – I know you want to live big, but not that way. Here, let Me show you how you will make the biggest difference. It was their transformative moment, a turning point.

Let's look at a few vignettes of priest saints:

St. John Baptist Mary Vianney (1786-1859). A man unable to learn in any traditional sense. Today he might be thought of as having a Learning Disability or Disorder. School wasn't for him. Yet, he learned real faith and dedication from the priests his family had in hiding on their farm during the Reign of Terror. He was so bad at learning languages; he could barely make it through seminary. He was ordained a priest in 1815 – and was only granted the ability to offer the Holy Mass. No preaching, no confessions, to teaching – he wasn't smart enough. He didn't let

that stop him. He spent almost 42 years of his life, devoting himself to prayer, sacrificial penance, and pastoral works. He was so successful in directing souls, bringing people to the knowledge of Jesus' love and forgiveness, people of every class throughout the world sought him out. His living big – loving Jesus and sharing the impact of that love, the insight it gave him, with those who needed it.

St. Francis Xavier (1506-1552) came from a noble Basque family. He studied at the University of Paris, where he taught philosophy. He had a pretty good life, a great university job, was from a rich family, but there was a call to something more – a call to make Jesus known. In 1540 he set out to evangelize India. He landed at Goa, on the west coast of India, and began vast evangelization lasting over 10 years. He instructed adults, gathered children and catechized them, visited hospitals and prisons. He made learning the faith easier by setting teachings to popular tunes. It is said that he baptized so many that at night he could not even lift his arms. He evangelized other parts of India and then went on to the Philippines and Malaysia, going from island to island, preaching, instructing, and baptizing. From there he set out for Japan, arriving at Kagoshima in 1549. He learned Japanese and preached and taught. He brought many to the knowledge of Jesus and left them with a passionate love for Jesus. His next goal was China, but he never made it, dying on the way. His living big – being one of the Church's most illustrious evangelizers and bringing knowledge of Jesus to people who had never heard of Him (like most who live around us today).

St. John Berchmans (1599-1621). A man who died far too young, at the age of 22. He grew up in Flanders in an atmosphere of political turmoil. He is not known for any great deed or heroic undertaking. His living big - a realistic appreciation for the value of ordinary things, and a lived kindness, courtesy, and fidelity. For him, the path to holiness was in the ordinary rather than the extraordinary and that is what he shared with the faithful he encountered as a priest.

St. Charles Borromeo (1538-1584). A Bishop who came from a wealthy, aristocratic, politically connected family. He truly thought he was living the big

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## Calling a Sinner

Rev. Jason Soltysiak

This past October, I was asked by Father Senior Rob Nemkovich to provide the November video message for the P.N.C.C. Future Directions program, which includes a theme, monthly prayer calendar, video message, scripture passages, reflection questions, and various updates. This Monthly update is part of a year-long plan (2020 is the Year of Discipleship, part 2) that is laid out at our P.N.C.C. General Synods, with a sub-committee filling out the details.

The video was on Matthew, and I pulled from nearly a years-worth of preaching on his Gospel as well as general knowledge I have of him. I recorded the video under a Thanksgiving banner in the nave (main part/large seating section) of the church and sent it in. And that was the end of the story!

Except...well, it wasn't. Something kept on gnawing at me that I didn't get to give Matthew his proper due in a three minute video - I wanted to research him more and tell you more about him.

Matthew's Feast Day is September 21 in the Catholic calendar. He was one of the original 12 Apostles and shares with John the special dual title "Apostle & Evangelist." Matthew means "gift of God"...which is a basic summary of how this gospel is written. Readers are to be disciples who have a desire to and will learn from this scripture.

There is a ton of discrepancy amongst scripture scholars of when this book was actually written, by who "actually" put pen to paper to record this, what it used as source material, whether it was an eyewitness account and so on. Since screenshots on phones weren't a thing yet back then, our faith has to play a role in how we encounter holy scripture. If we feel that it is the inspired word of God, and if we have the records of saints and church apologists trusting the Apostle Matthew as the Evangelist...well, then that should be enough - I know it is so for me.

As most saints, the evangelists are often pictured holding something or wearing something to differentiate them from others...since, once again, technology didn't reign supreme then. He is often pictured holding a book when pictured with other apostles.

When pictured with the other evangelists, he is depicted as an angel, while John is pictured as an eagle, Mark as a lion, and Luke as an ox. Matthew is pictured as an angel, or a "winged man", because of how his Gospel begins. The entire first chapter is about the genealogy and birth of Jesus Christ, His Divine Incarnation, the Word-made-flesh. An angel is often viewed as a "go-between" of sorts between heaven and earth - Matthew bridged that gap with his Gospel.

Two points of Matthew stuck out to me, which I touched on in the video I did: his life before Christ called him to be an apostle and how often we've heard from him in scripture in 2020.

Matthew wasn't the first person who was ministered-to by Christ in the Gospel that wasn't a community pariah. The first people he called as disciples were fishermen: not pariahs, but certainly not pillars of the town. After he sat and taught the Beatitudes, he cleansed a leper, healed a Roman soldier's servant, healed those possessed by demons, and a paralytic. I remind you that people often associated paralysis with a curse from God. After calling Matthew (the hated and notorious tax collector), he healed the bleeding woman, 2 blind men, and one who was mute. If I didn't know better, I would say God-on-earth was making a very clear and distinct point to those who were trying to decipher the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.

The second part to touch on concerning Matthew is that we've heard from him often in 2020, this pandemic, often online year of attending Mass. It will be around 30 Sundays of Matthew's Gospel by the time we switch to the Advent season and give way to Mark's Gospel for most of the next months. We should have grown closer with how he portrayed Jesus, because, of course, his portrayal ultimately shapes ours.

Matthew is the patron saint of tax collectors, banker, bank tellers, and accountants. Prayers through his blessed name are often for financial advice or to remedy financial hard-ship.



## Fragile and Precious

**Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop**

During this time of the pandemic, I have been doing quite a bit of reading and I just finished a book entitled, “Deadliest Enemy” by Michael Osterholm, Ph.D. MPH and Mark Olshaker. I had seen a podcast with Dr. Osterholm in the earlier months of the pandemic when he spoke about his book and its description of emerging viruses and public health crises which he wrote in 2017. Of course I was intrigued and picked up the book. As usual though it went on my pile of books to be read and so it took a bit of time until I got around to finishing it.

I would certainly recommend this read to any who might be interested in all of the present dangers that humanity faces from viruses and pathogens which surround us and are often beyond our control. That being said it was certainly a bit of a frightening read, since you come away with the sense that there are very many things that can afflict us in serious ways, some of which are very dangerous and most of which we have done very little to combat.

As current and as important as this topic is, this is not really the issue that I want to address in this article. Rather, I think that it was meaningful that I read this book through the end of October and the beginning of November, just as the Church was focusing its attention on those who have gone before us in our journey of faith. On November 1 we celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints and on November 2 we commemorated All Souls, in each case remembering the dead. On All Saints those who have served as examples in our journey of faith and on All Souls praying for those that have journeyed with us and have entrusted themselves to us in prayer.

As I read this book, especially thinking about the celebration of All Saints and All Souls, a large takeaway is that human life is extremely fragile. Of course within the pages it was hidden under the staggering figures of the number of deaths from the many different diseases that it describes, but it's there. We are so easily afflicted and it is so difficult for many to have any defense.

On some consideration, we also see that there is certainly more to us than just being fragile. If it was only that then we would just be pitiable creatures, but there is something more. We are not only fragile, but

also precious and valuable. And the conclusion is that when something is fragile, precious and valuable it must be treated in a certain special way. And although this was not mentioned in the book, I certainly saw within its pages that we, fragile, precious and valuable human beings, need to spend a bit of time considering how we treat each other within our daily lives and our journey of faith.

The conclusions of the book were that we need to spend much more time, effort and expense in combating these terrible diseases that can afflict us from various causes. It lamented the fact that we often don't go far enough in our efforts, either in what we spend or what we do. It lamented the fact that we are distracted by other things that are not anywhere near as important. It lamented the fact that we discount the severity of things right under our noses while putting high value on other less important things.

And while this may certainly be true in our societies dealing with the various diseases that afflict us, I also know that it is certainly true in how we deal with each other as Christian people should. We do not go far enough in our efforts to support, help and love those around us. We do not do what we ought, but rather are distracted by other, less important things. We put high value on passing things and often little value on the daily lives and happiness of those who we interact with every day.

So we ask ourselves, what lessons must we learn and what then must be done? Maybe the answer is for us to do some soul searching in this upcoming time of Advent. As we are passing through the Solemnity of Christ the King and we read concerning the judgement that will occur at the end of time, we see that the basis for this judgement will be our actions towards other people. Jesus says to those on His right, “As often as you do it for one of My least brothers, you did it for Me.” And to those on His left, “As often as you neglected to do it to one of these least ones, you neglected to do it to Me.” How we treat each other, from those most significant in our lives to those least significant, will be a determining factor in that judgement. In other words, all life is precious, let's treat it that way.

(Continued on bottom of Page 18.)

## United Y.M.S. of R. Winter Clothing Drive

And the crowds asked Him, "What then should we do?" In reply, He said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

The United Y.M.S. of R. once again heard the call of the above scripture, the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 3, verses 10 & 11. Jesus teaches us selflessness in many ways, and this is one small way the Y.M.S. of R. has tried to guide its branches and parishes to do so.

In-step with the P.N.C.C. Future Directions "Year of Discipleship", an avenue is provided with the guidelines attached to serve as an extension of Jesus Christ in your local community. One of the calls of the 2018 General Synod was for parishes to "increase their community involvement and presence." By providing a bit of a financial carrot from the United Y.M.S. of R.'s committee, we hope that you would be creative in seeing past some of the Covid-19 restrictions in order to feed your community with whatever you may have extra.

The United Y.M.S. of R. Board is calling on all parishes and Y.M.S. of R. branches in the P.N.C.C. to be Christ to your community. The majority of the parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church belong to areas that are about to be met with its most

difficult weather. The Board thought a NATIONAL-church-wide drive could accomplish something that not only helps each local community, but also reflects the mission of Jesus Christ in our world today.

The winning Parish will receive a monetary gift sponsored by the United Y.M.S. of R. Board, in hopes of being used to promote a fellowship activity in your parish in the future. 1<sup>st</sup> place will receive \$200.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$100.00, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$50.00.

The drive started November 1, 2020 and will conclude December 31, 2020. Please post the flyer your parish received in the mail in areas of your church for collection. You will need to appoint a chairperson and gather volunteers to organize the drive. As you receive clothing items please donate them to local charitable agencies, be sure to tally what you collect and confirm your final tally with President Nick Kazinetz on or near January 10, 2021. We would love to have pictures to post on our UNITED Y.M.S. of R. Facebook page and in Rola Boża. For any further information, please contact the Y.M.S. of R. diocesan representatives or president Kazinetz at [Nkaz20@aol.com](mailto:Nkaz20@aol.com). May the items you collect reflect the love of Jesus and the call of His gospel to continue His holy mission.





### United Y.M.S. of R. Winter Clothing Drive

The United Y.M.S. of R. Board is calling on all Y.M.S. of R. Branches and Polish National Catholic Churches to be Christ to your community!

**Needed:** Articles of clothing to help dull the winter chill.

**Your Reward:** A good deed that reflects the love of Jesus.

**Church Reward:** Monetary Check to host a social gathering at your parish to spread fellowship.

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$200.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$100.00, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$50.00

The drive begins November 1, 2020 and will conclude December 31, 2020.



Be Christ in your Local Community!

**Winter Clothing Drive**

In need of: Coats, hats, gloves, pants, sweatshirts, socks, t-shirts, underwear, & undershirts.

**The Scorecard**

Coats:	25 points
Sweatshirts:	15 points
Pants:	10 points
T-shirts:	5 points
Winter hat:	5 points
Gloves:	5 points
Underwear:	1 point
Undershirt:	1 point
Socks:	1 point per pair

**Monetary donation:**  
\$1 = 1 POINT  
Ex. \$200 = 200 points

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**UNITED Y.M.S. OF R.**  
For more information, contact your diocesan rep:

**Buffalo-Pitt:** Bob Giczowski & Dave Pecynski  
**Central:** Andrew Humphreys and Rev. Carmen Bolock  
**Eastern:** Fr. Tom Walsh  
**Western:** Rev. Jason Soltysiak & David P. Micka



## How to Research Your Parish History

This article stems from an inquiry from Holy Cross parish in Central Falls, Rhode Island. I thought that other parishes might also be interested in obtaining ideas on how to research the history of their parishes.

The place to start would be at the parish level, perusing parish committee and parish meeting minutes. Some parishes have both annual and semi-annual meetings. Parish newsletters and bulletins would be another avenue of search. Reports to the parish committee and parish may also be a source of information. Parish Anniversary Books may have short parish histories.

Another source would be one of the official Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.) newspapers; *Straż* [The Guard], *Rola Boża* [God's Field] and *Trybuna* [Tribune] and one Western Diocesan newspaper, *Przybodzenia* [Awakening]. Of these, *Rola Boża* [God's Field], and *Straż* [The Guard] have been indexed by the Very Rev. Casimir J. Grotnik. The Indices for *Rola Boża* [God's Field] contain integrated lists of all authors and articles from 1923 - 1970. The Indices for *Rola Boża* [God's Field] are in two volumes: Volume I: 1923 - 1953, Volume II: 1954 - 1970. Indices for *Straż* are also in two volumes and are similar in content to those for *Rola Boża* [God's Field]. The other two newspapers *Trybuna* and *Przybodzenia* are not indexed, so would have to be read page by page. *Przybodzenia* was a newspaper for the Western Diocese; after Prime Bishop Grochowski moved to Scranton, *Przybodzenia* was merged with *Rola Boża*.

Local newspapers often have articles about parish activities. Identifying the daily and weekly newspapers that could have covered events at your parish would be a good task. Many newspapers have been in existence for many years. Sometimes they are absorbed by another paper, and former names are often included in the masthead of the newspaper. They are generally proud of their purchase or absorption and want to show the public that they have been covering events of their community for a long time. In addition, state archives and libraries have often microfilmed old newspapers and have copies of the microfilms available for use either at their facility or sometimes they can be obtained by interlibrary loan to be viewed at your local library. My main County Library has a half dozen microfilm readers and several

printers and I have had microfilms from the New Jersey Archives sent there for my use.

The National Archives also has many newspapers throughout the country on their website, the Scranton Times being one of these. Occasionally, newspapers divest themselves of their printed copies by giving them to a local Historical Society or even individuals. The latter is what the Trenton Times did. The recipient stored them in his garage for some time and then donated them to his local library.

New Jersey is fortunate in that one scholar wrote a book identifying the newspapers of New Jersey, their dates of publication and in which libraries copies or microfilms of them may be found. This book covers all newspapers published in New Jersey. Your state may have a similar book. Once you know which newspapers may have articles about your parish, you have to plan a way to gather that information. One way is to read your parish committee's meeting minutes to find the dates of special events and activities. These could include: visitations of diocesan bishops for confirmations, building erections and renovations, ground breaking and dedications, changes in pastors, plans for fund raising activities prior to construction or renovation of the church, rectory or parish hall, purchase of some major item for the church, such as organs, pews, altars, or furniture. Or they could identify disasters such as fire, flood, theft or vandalism. During construction of the new church in Bayonne, the parish was plagued by theft and vandalism, much of which was written about in newspapers. Other parishes have experienced destructive fires and floods. If you want to find out about activities which are not mentioned in the parish documents,, you may have to read all of the papers or do a search of back issues. This will give you a start. Many documents and newspapers have indices which can be searched electronically. You might also want to check newspapers outside of your location. An article about the assault on a priest as happened in my parish was in the New York Times.

Another possible source of information about your parish could be in publications of local Historical Societies, municipal, county and state. The P.N.C.C. Archives has had several inquiries about P.N.C.C. parishes so that they could be included in books about either a state or a municipality by local Historical Societies.



Don't rule out the Archives of the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) Diocese where your parish is located. With the ongoing dialogue between the P.N.C.C. and the RCC, access might be easier than in the past.

The P.N.C.C. has published three Church Anniversary Books, *Po Drodze Życia*, one for the 25th published in 1922 *Księga Pamiątkowa "33"* for the 33rd published in 1930, and one for the 60th published in 1957. Articles describing the content of these three Anniversary books were published in *God's Field*.

There are separate proceedings for Synods 12 through 22, covering the period from 1967 to 2006. The minutes of earlier Synods are in two books prepared by Very Rev. Casimir J. Grotnik, which cover the 1st through the 11th. One is in Polish, *Synody Polskiego Narodowego Katolickiego Kościoła* and another is in English, *Minutes of the First Eleven General Synods of the P.N.C.C. 1904-1963*. The minutes of these early Synods were often derived from articles in Polish newspapers.

The reports of the diocesan bishops to P.N.C.C. Synods could be another source of information as could

the reports presented at the meetings of seniorates. Other possible sources are Diocesan newsletters, minutes of Supreme Councils. There are two books published of the minutes of Supreme Councils, one in English and one in Polish. The contents of these are not identical.

Polish language newspapers are another source; these include *Ameryka Echo* published in Toledo, OH, *Kuryer Polski* published in Milwaukee, WI, *Dziennik Dla Wszystkich* published in Buffalo, NY and *Przewodnik Katolicki* published in Poznan, Poland. Many issues of these are on microfilm and are available for reading at the Central Diocesan Archives.

For those parishes in the Western Diocese in the Chicago area, the book, *The P.N.C.C. in the Greater Chicago Area in Relation to Selected Contemporary Theological Ecumenical and Social Issues*, written by † śp. Rev. Zbigniew Kaszubski could be a source.

Most of these books are available either from the P.N.C.C. bookstore or the Central Diocese bookstore.

P.N.C.C. Joseph Francis Seliga,  
Chair, P.N.C.C. Commission on History and Archives

(Living Big - Continued from Page 4.)

life, born in a castle, living lavishly, entertaining sumptuously. He personally enjoyed athletics, music, art, and fine dining. It was the lifestyles of the rich and famous for him. God wouldn't leave him there. Charles was forced to face one tragedy and hardship after another. The famine of 1570 required him to bring in food to feed 3,000 people a day for 3 months. Six years later a two-year plague swept through the region. He mobilized priests, religious, and lay volunteers to feed and care for the 60- to 70-thousand people living in his district. He personally cared for many himself. He sold his household furniture, even his bed, to care for them, and he slept upon bare boards. He visited plague victims, consoled them, and gave the sacraments. In the process, he ran up huge debts, depleting his resources in order to feed, clothe, administer medical care, and build shelters for plague-stricken people. Beyond that work, he was also considered a reformer, calling the Church to live up to Jesus' call and to set aside the corruption within it. He died, dressed in sackcloth and ashes, holding a picture of Jesus Crucified in his hands. His

living big – throwing it all in for Jesus, doing everything required and more and not counting the cost.

Our own Bl. Jan Hus (1372–1415) and Bl. Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498) – Their living big – telling the truth, calling people with closed ears and vested interests to the Gospel life. They advocated for reform in the Church and stood by the truth even though it cost their lives. No price was too high!

As we step back this month, thinking of the saints and considering our accomplishments, let us question our living big, and the Holy Spirit's call. God is constantly offering us the opportunity to make the biggest difference. This is God's call to enter into a transformative moment and to accept this as our turning point. As we can see from the lives of these priest saints, what we have or do not have does not matter. What matters is what God will do with us. Take the step today toward living big as a priest or deacon by calling or texting me at 518-522-0944 or by E-mailing me at [frjim@holynamencc.org](mailto:frjim@holynamencc.org).



## 2021 Home Liturgical Wall Calendar Orders Now Being Accepted

The Polish National Catholic Church has full color 2021 home liturgical calendars for sale on a first-come, first-served basis. This calendar with original photographs for each month includes information concerning P.N.C.C. holy days. We urge you to order calendars for your parishioners as soon as possible because our supply will be very limited.

Calendar prices have increased slightly due to an increase in paper and printing costs. Shipping costs have also changed. The chart below can be used for calculating your costs.

Quantity	<u>Cost per Calendar</u>	<u>Calendar Cost Sub-total</u>	<u>U.S. Shipping</u>	<u>U.S. Total</u>	<u>Canada Shipping (USD)</u>	<u>Canada Total (USD)</u>
1	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.00	\$6.75	\$3.75	\$7.50
2	\$3.75	\$7.50	\$3.00	\$10.50	\$5.05	\$12.55
3	\$3.75	\$11.25	\$3.00	\$14.25	\$6.15	\$17.40
4	\$3.75	\$15.00	\$3.50	\$18.50	\$12.25	\$27.25
5	\$3.75	\$18.75	\$3.50	\$22.25	\$20.75	\$39.50
6	\$3.75	\$22.50	\$3.50	\$26.00	\$20.75	\$43.25
7	\$3.75	\$26.25	\$3.90	\$30.15	\$32.00	\$58.25
8	\$3.75	\$30.00	\$3.90	\$33.90	\$32.00	\$62.00
9	\$3.75	\$33.75	\$3.90	\$37.65	\$32.00	\$65.75
10	\$3.60	\$36.00	\$4.50	\$40.50	\$50.25	\$86.25
11+	\$3.60	\$39.60+	*Depends on package weight & recipient's geographic location*		*Depends on package weight & recipient's geographic location*	

\*An invoice for shipping costs will be included in your shipment.

**PLEASE NOTE that an additional \$30.00 is required for ad setup** for a sponsor (quite often a funeral director) and specific parish information regarding Sunday services, telephone numbers, name of pastor, etc.

Please place your order and send in your payment as soon as possible so that we can ship your calendars to you before the New Year. We have already begun shipping out paid orders. Hurry and get your order and payment in because this year's stock is limited, and once we have run out of stock, no more will be printed! You must pay for your calendars in full prior to us shipping them to you.

Thank you for your continued support of this Church-wide endeavor. If you pick up your order at the National Church Center, there will be no shipping charge.

(Detach here, complete and send in order slip with your payment. Only paid calendar orders will be shipped.

If you have a sponsor paying for your calendars, please inform them that they must pay for the cost of the calendars prior to them being shipped out. We will send invoices only for extra cost of shipping)

**(You will be invoiced for shipping costs if they must be calculated at the time of packing.)**

### 2020 P.N.C.C. Calendar Order Form

<u>Shipping Information</u>	<u># of Calendars</u>	<u>Cost of Calendars</u>	<u>Ad Fee (if applicable)</u>	<u>Shipping Cost (if calculable)*</u>	<u>Total Enclosed</u>
Name					
Address					
City, State Zip Code					

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** We cannot predetermine the cost of shipping on orders of 11 or more calendars because this cost is calculated by weight and geographic location of recipient. You will be invoiced for this cost in your shipment.

## 2021 Liturgical Reference Calendar - Ordo Orders Now Being Accepted

The 2021 Liturgical Reference Calendar – Ordo is available for ordering at this time. The cost of the Liturgical Calendar is \$12.75 per book for pick-up orders or \$15.75 per book for mail orders to U.S.; \$25.00 per book for mail orders to Canada. (Please note that additional shipping costs may accrue for large volume orders depending on weight and distance shipped. Additional shipping costs will be invoiced accordingly.)

To order your 2021 Ordo, please fill out the order form, below, and mail it with your payment. Your Ordo(s) will be shipped to you as soon as they return from the printer.

PARISHES/CLERGY NO LONGER AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE A COPY OF THE ORDO PRIOR TO PAYMENT. No phone orders or email orders will be shipped until full payment has been received.

We appreciate your support for this very important P.N.C.C. liturgical reference calendar.

Detach invoice, below, complete and send with payment to

**The Polish National Catholic Church – L R C**

**Attn: Secretary to Prime Bishop**

**1006 Pittston Avenue**

**Scranton, PA 18505-4109**

Your order will be shipped as soon as the Ordo becomes available.



**Please detach, complete and return this bottom portion only with your remittance.**

2021 ORDO Order Form			
Clergy/Parish Name and Shipping Address:			
Description of Item	# of copies	Cost per Item	Subtotal
2021 Liturgical Reference Calendar (Ordo); Includes shipping cost: \$15.75 U.S.; \$25.00 Canada			
2021 ORDO			Total Remitted
TOTAL DUE			
Please make check payable to: Polish National Catholic Church – LRC			
			Thank you for your payment.

## God's Field Appeal for Christmas Greetings

Don't forget to publish your Christmas greetings in next month's issue of *God's Field*!

In past years your responses to our appeals have been very enthusiastic and we sincerely hope your generosity and support will continue this year.

The cost for publishing Christmas greetings for individuals, parishes and organizations is \$20.00. Due to space constraints in the page setup of the *God's Field*, greetings are limited to up to three (3) lines of text.

An online form can be found on the pncc.org website on the God's Field page ([http://www.pncc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/online\\_greeting\\_form\\_2020.pdf](http://www.pncc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/online_greeting_form_2020.pdf)).

ALL GREETINGS, ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENTS, MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 30, 2020 IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE.

Please send 3-line greetings, along with payments in the form of check or money order payable to God's Field, to:

*God's Field - Christmas Greetings*

*National Church Center*

*1006 Pittston Avenue*

*Scranton, PA 18505*

Thank you for your continued support.

## Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

### A giving heart: Church's spaghetti dinner expands to support residents in need

#### EXPANDED MISSION: Church's spaghetti dinner serves Wyoming County residents in need

By MALLORY DIEFENBACH [mdiefenbach@batavianews.com](mailto:mdiefenbach@batavianews.com)



Preparing Meals

NORTH JAVA — For the past 10 years, Holy Family Parish has been hosting its annual Spaghetti Dinner in North Java.

This year, however, the annual fundraiser took an expanded significance — as popular as the dinner is during a typical year, an anonymous donor ordered an additional 125 dinners to be donated to the poorer families across Wyoming County.

The church then contacted Angel Action, which were in contact with the Wyoming County Office of the Aging, to come up with who might need a hot meal.

“It’s a good feeling, I mean to be able to help out the neighbors,” said Sandy Janes, treasurer for Holy Family Parish. “You know, give them a hot meal. Some of the elderly get a hot meal.”

The annual fundraiser, the largest one for the church, was takeout only this year due to COVID-19 concerns and the accompanying basket raffle part was cancelled. Community members were also asked to make advanced reservations in order to allow the volunteers to know how much food to prepare in advance.

Over 1,400 invitations were sent to homes, and on Saturday (October 17) they were preparing for 250 dinners with a max of 280.

Each spaghetti dinner came with meatballs, a salad and dressing, a breadstick, a drink, and cookies.

Volunteers worked throughout Sunday afternoon (October 18) to serve the community and church members, along with the needy who arrived. In the end, a total of 325 dinners were prepared with 125 distributed to those in need.

“Twenty volunteers worked like a football team, said Fr. Matt Kawiak, the church’s pastor, noting they started at noon and finished 90 minutes later. “I am blessed with such kind and generous community.”



Drive Through



Meals to the Community



## Central Diocese

### Blessing of Pets at Holy Cross Parish

#### Woodland Park, NJ

On Sunday October 4, 2020 on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi the annual blessing of pets took place at the beginning of the 11 am Mass. The Holy Mass was celebrated in the parish hall with good attendance. Here are the names of pets that were part of our celebration: We thank everyone who attended the Holy Mass and for bringing well-behaved pets for this special day. St. Francis of Assisi showed his remarkable love for all the creatures. He called them brothers and sisters and wrote a Canticum of the Creatures, giving glory to God for all living things He created.

#### Blessing of Pets - prayer

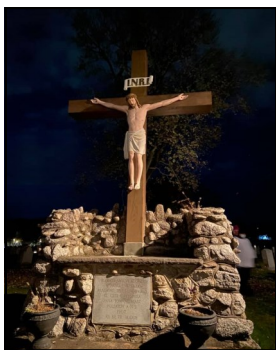
“Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless these pets. By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.



## St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish All Souls Service

### Scranton, PA

On Monday evening, November 2nd, St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish conducted the annual All Souls Service at the Cathedral Parish Cemetery in Scranton, PA. Though it was a blustery, cold November evening, several families braved the chill and attended the longstanding traditional service.



The All Souls Service begins with prayers and hymns at the Grotto of Christ Crucified that is located in the oldest part of the Cathedral's Cemetery.

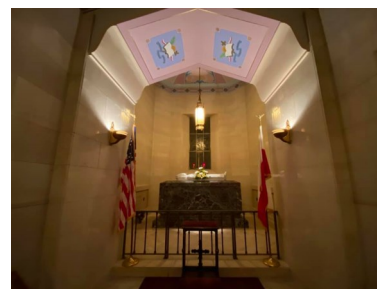
The clergy, the SAMBS women holding candles, and the Cathedral Chorale then process along the roadway during the service, singing hymns. The clergy bless the grounds as they walk among the graves of the deceased faithful.



The service ends with final prayers and hymns at the Statue of Christ (the former Grotto of Christ Benign)



and inside the Monument of Gratitude (the final resting place of Bishop Hodur).



## Mass for Those Deceased in 2020

### Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA

A Mass for all Holy Mother of Sorrows parishioners who died in 2020 was offered by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid on Sunday, November 8 at 8 AM in Dupont, PA.

Since spring there have been many regulations and hardships in place, and many parishioners were not able to attend the burial services of departed fellow parishioners and friends.

This special Mass was celebrated in remembrance of those who died in 2020: Delphine George; Paul Kazinetz Sr.; John Wassil; Rosemary Petrosky; Raymond Jopling; Laura Kotula; Jean Kopcza; Bertha Kubik; David P. Fritz; David Urbanski.

Family members of those departed lit candles during the liturgy to honor the memories of their loved ones. Three Flower arrangements for the Mass were donated by Laura Kotula's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in memory of Laura Kotula and all parishioners who died during this trying time.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid

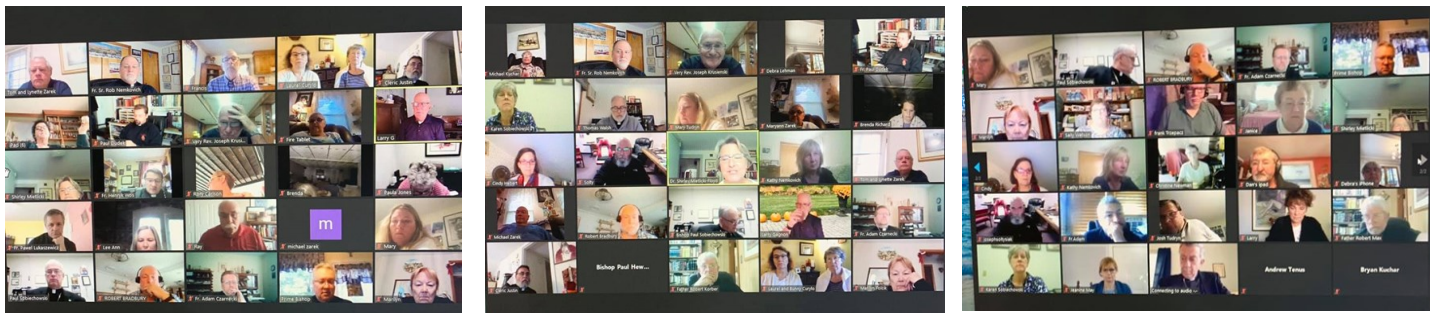




## Eastern Diocese

### Eastern Diocese Synod

On Saturday, October 10th, the 2020 Eastern Diocesan Virtual Synod was conducted using Zoom. It was a blessed time together as the delegates adopted a strategic plan for the future of the Eastern Diocese in conjunction with the work of the diocesan planning committee of the past four years and the P.N.C.C. Future Direction program.



### Blessed Trinity Parish October Activities

#### Fall River, MA

The Blessing of Animals took place on Saturday morning, October 3rd, as we celebrated the Feast of St. Francis. Let us love and cherish all of God's marvelous creations.



On Sunday, October 4th, six youth in the parish's First Holy Communion class made their first Confession — a sacred day as they received the Sacrament of Penance for the first time.



Prior to Holy Mass on Sunday, October 18th, Enrik was installed as an Altar Server at the parish.



(Continued on Page 16.)



(Blessed Trinity Parish October Activities - Continued from Page 15.)

Blessed Trinity Parish again held its annual Polish Food Fest on October 23-24, 2020. It took weeks of preparation for this event and, for the first time in over 50 years, the fest was a complete sell out! More food than ever was made this year, and it all went. In fact, a record-setting amount of food was sold (takeout only) on the first day of the event!

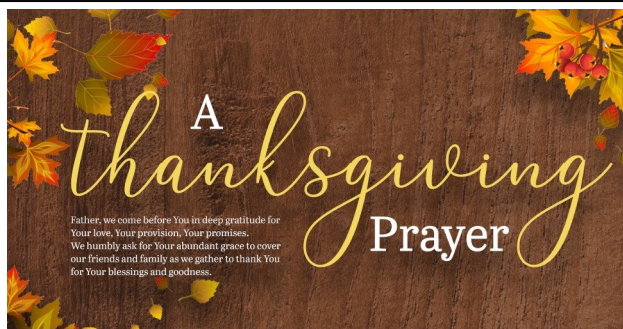
Thanks to the great volunteers (pictured, below) and to all who supported this Food Fest that allowed Blessed Trinity Parish to open their doors to make the community a better place.



On Saturday, October 24th, Blessed Trinity Parish hosted National DEA's Prescription Medication Take Back Day for individuals to come and dispose of unused, unwanted, and expired prescription medication. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this program to keep the community safe.



The parish All Hallows' Eve Youth Group gathering was held on October 31st. Thanks to Nancy, Carrie and the girls and Kathy for their amazing efforts. Thanks also to all who packed individual bags of treats for the procession for sweets. An early snowy day did not stop a wonderful time together enjoyed with masks and keeping social distance..





**Western Diocese****Bishop Rafalko Installed as Western Diocesan Bishop  
Chicago, IL**

On Saturday, October 3, 2020, at All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL, Bishop Jarosław (Jerry) Rafalko was formally installed as the Ninth Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church by the Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church.

A celebratory dinner was held afterward for those in attendance. The event was broadcast live on All Saints Cathedral's Facebook page and is still there for viewership today. Congratulations to Bishop Jerry as he gets settled into his new role of leading the faithful of the Western Diocese.



**Very Rev. Jarosław Nowak, Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky,  
Rt. Rev. Jarosław Rafalko, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski**

## Blessing of Animals at St. Mary's Parish

### Parma, OH



The Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4, fell on a Sunday this year. While a “minor feast” such as this doesn’t overtake the scheduled Sunday (which was the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time), it did mean that it would be appropriate to have the Blessing of Animals on this day.

St. Mary’s Parish always strives to have the Animal Blessing on October 4th. As there was outdoor Mass at 9am on October 4, we invited all animals to that Mass, with our first blessing to follow. It was wonderful to hear a few “arfs” and “woofs” at our outdoor call for a “sign of peace,” which usually includes the honking of car horns. The animal blessing was well-attended by the toddlers of the parish, keeping the attending pets on edge.

The second Blessing of Animals took place at Noon after the first Sunday Polish Mass. At Noon, many from the surrounding community came to have their animals blessed. We were especially treated to a certain local greyhound, who made sure to...clean out... the Holy Water bucket. It brought a lot of chuckles and, since animals are sinless, this only made him (her?) more holy and pleasing in the sight of God!

Thanks to all who brought their feathered and furry friends for a blessing. Special thanks as well to our parish chair, Elaine Ploskonka, who made sure every kitty and doggie went home with a snack.




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(Fragile and Precious - Continued from Page 6.)

My brothers and sisters, as we will soon begin a new liturgical year with its opportunity to once again get ourselves ready to receive the Lord Who will be born again in our midst at the Nativity, let’s take to heart the full meaning of the Lord becoming a human. Let’s make Advent a time to reflect on this truth and get ourselves ready to live it fully. In the Incarnation Jesus did not spurn anything that we are as human beings. He took upon Himself all that we are in our fragile and weak human nature. But because He took it on, it has now become not only fragile, but precious and valuable.

Maybe that’s just what we need to say to ourselves each and every time we encounter someone else. We can say, “Jesus became just like him, or just like her.” And then maybe this will allow us to begin to honor and love one another as we ought. We can see that through this love, because Jesus became human, that for each good thing we do for another, we then are truly doing that for Christ.

Yes, life is certainly fragile. This book on viruses and many other examples show that to us clearly. But it is also something much more. Yes, it is fragile, but because of the Lord Jesus, it is also precious and valuable.



## Confirmation and Investiture

### St. Mary' Parish, South Bend, IN

On Sunday afternoon, October 11, 2020, Bishop Jarosław Rafalko made a pastoral visit to St. Mary Parish in South Bend, Indiana to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to 3 candidates, and to install Father Charles Zawistowski as a senior priest and Chancellor of the diocese.

The event began with Bishop Rafalko, Father Charles, Confirmation candidates and sponsors entering the church in procession. Bishop Jarosław was then greeted by Parish Committee Chair, Kathy Martinczak, with the traditional bread and salt.

Bishop Jarosław then began the ritual to invest Father Charles as a senior priest, offering prayers and blessing the cassock and cross. After vesting in the cassock, Father Senior Charles knelt before the Altar and Bishop Jarosław, and offered prayers seeking God's guidance in his new responsibilities, followed by additional prayers offered by Bishop Jarosław.

congregation, the hymn of the P.N.C.C. was sung, and then all processed out of the church.



**Confirmands and Sponsors**  
(Face coverings removed for the picture.)

A reception was held in the parish Hall to welcome Bishop Jerry and his wife, Leslie, and to host the new Confirmands, family, friends, and congregants.

We thank all parishioners who prepared and brought entrees and side items. Cupcakes were displayed in the shape of a cross, in place of a sheet cake, so that all in attendance could have their own individual dessert due to corona. All activities were conducted following health guidelines.



**Individual cupcakes were served.**



**Bishop Jarosław installing Fr. Sr. Charles**

This was followed by Evening Prayer and presentation of Candidates for Confirmation, Cecil Brummett, Lindsay Paturalski, and Isaiah Hoppers. Bishop Jarosław then conducted the sacrament of Confirmation, anointing and bestowing the gifts of the Holy Spirit upon the candidates. After the declaration of the newly confirmed, Bishop Jarosław blessed the

Very Rev. Charles' cross, which was blessed by Bishop Jarosław, was first given to Father Senior Charles' grandfather, the late Very Rev. Joseph L. Zawistowski, 85 years ago by Prime Bishop Francis  
(Continued on Page 20.)



(Confirmation and Investiture - Continued from Page 19.)

Hodur, blessed organizer of the P.N.C.C. Fr. Sr. Joseph Zawistowski was among the first senior priests of the P.N.C.C. This cross was passed on from his grandfather to his father, the late Bishop Joseph C. Zawistowski, who was a senior priest before becoming a Bishop in 1979. This cross was then given to



Fr. Sr. Charles' Cross

Father Charles shortly after his ordination in 1989 by his father, to be kept in the event of an occasion such as this day. The cross is quite ornate, and even has the symbol of the P.N.C.C. engraved on it. It was available to be seen up close in the Hall following the service. Submitted by Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski



Bishop Jaroslaw with Fr. Sr. Zawistowski and his family  
Front, from left: Joseph (brother), Son Andrew (son), Rachel (niece). Rear, from left: Fr. Sr. Charles, Bishop Jaroslaw, Susan (wife), Matthew (son) (Face coverings removed for the picture.)

