During autumn, in many ways we turn our attention to family. This is true during the secular holidays of Halloween and Thanksgiving, but it is especially true for us within the Church as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Christian Family in October. During this Solemnity we hear in the readings the importance of our treatment of each other as one great family of faith. During the entrance rite of the Mass we hear quotes from two sections of Scripture, both of which speak to our responsibility in the faith. “And whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Timothy 5:8) “So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.” (Galatians 6:10)

We see within this Scripture that our faith has responsibilities attached to it, and these responsibilities are especially to family members. We also see in these quotes an expansion of our love and concern beyond our immediate family to the family of faith. The Solemnity of the Christian Family encourages us to consider all members of our local parish community and then ultimately all members of the Christian Church as our true brothers and sisters. In fact, we should certainly give some thought to the fact that when we call each other brothers and sisters in Christ that these words really mean something. Are these just words that we say because they are expected of us, or do they really reflect our thinking about those who surround us each Sunday morning?

I hope that as we have now all celebrated the Solemnity of the Christian Family we can give this aspect of our Christian life some thought and concern in the weeks and months to come. It is something that we must make a conscious effort to hold onto. It is often so easy to hear a message on any given Sunday and then, once the middle of the next week comes, it will be gone from our thoughts; and by the next Sunday we go on to another subject forgetting about what came before.

This autumn season is an excellent opportunity to put together a number of the teachings of the Church during several Sundays and holidays, and realize that the Church encourages us to play an active role in the love and concern that we share with those members of our families and then actively work to spread this area of concern ever wider, ultimately to all of humanity.

An important part of this family view is also expressed during the Solemnity of All Saints that we celebrate on November 1st and the Commemoration (Continued on Page 2.)
(Our Family, The Saints - Continued from Page 1.)

of All Souls on November 2nd. While these celebrations are certainly opportunities to take example from the lives of the saints and to remember those souls who have traveled with us in our earthly pilgrimage, these days of prayer are also important expressions of family.

During All Souls we remember the members of our family who have died and are now in the hands of God, our Father. In this remembrance we can especially focus on the example of faith and loyalty that we have received from these people. I encourage people to not only pray for the members of our families who have passed, but also to share these memories of faith and love with each other. These members of our families can still have an effect on our lives today. Even though the young members may not remember them or if they had died before these young members were born, their faith and love still affect us today. We must make sure that these young people know of this faith and love.

Also in the both All Souls and All Saints we remind ourselves that our family of faith is in fact much larger than just the people who we see around us. We know that it extends to other congregations; but we must also realize that it extends through time because of all the saints. During the Mass of All Saints a Scripture reading from Hebrews is read that I have always found to be very moving. “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, Who for the sake of the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

This passage truly speaks to the way others have an effect within our lives. Those who are around us are just like a cloud; a cloud of witnesses to faith, love and Jesus Christ. If we find ourselves in a low cloud, like the fog, we really cannot see the cloud itself, especially when it is close to us, but yet as we go about our lives, we know that it is around us and it affects everything we see and do. This is exactly what the Christian family through time, the cloud of witnesses, is like.

During this autumn season, let us focus our attention on the family. The Christian Family, the family of saints that are around us. Let us know that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses to love, faith and Jesus Christ. But let us also remember that we are a part of that cloud for many, many others.
XXIV General Synod of the P.N.C.C.
Our Vision for the Future

Growth and Membership
Increase Spirituality Among Our People
Lifelong Learning in the Faith for All Ages
Sacred Vocations
Community Involvement and Presence

Delegates and guests to the XXIV General Synod spent significant time in determining these five key themes that will be the focus for the vision and future direction of the P.N.C.C. Hours were spent in small group sessions where everyone was asked to reflect on their entire experience with our Polish National Catholic Church, remembering a time when they felt most engaged and motivated; to reflect on what they valued most about the Church and what they considered the best features of our Church. Many found this to be a moving and emotional exercise, and this reflection then served as the basis for the groups to identify their “wishes for the future of the Church.”

After the five themes were identified, delegates and guests then spent more time brainstorming ways to achieve these goals and worked to create Action Plans for each one. On the final day of Synod, delegates overwhelmingly approved the following motion:

“The 24th General Synod charges the Supreme Council to establish an ad-hoc committee to:

- Review the action plan summaries developed at this Synod;
- Develop detailed implementation plans;
- Submit the plans to the Supreme Council for approval;
- Distribute the plan to all parishes by Dec. 31, 2014.”

Be sure to ask the delegates and guests you know who attended the XXIV General Synod in Erie, PA, to share with you the experience they had in helping to start the process of determining the future of our Church. You are encouraged to reflect as the delegates and guests did and commit to doing your part to make the Vision for the Future of the P.N.C.C. a reality.

Submitted by Katherine Nemkovich, Member, Supreme Council P.N.C.C.
Supreme Council Meets Following the 24th General Synod  
October 3, 2014

Following the adjournment of the 24th General Synod, the first meeting of the Supreme Council, P.N.C.C., took place to reconstitute itself for the 2014 to 2018 term.

ATTENDANCE  
The following members either elected at diocesan caucuses during the synod or appointed by the Prime Bishop or selected by the PNU and confirmed by the synod were administered the oath of office by Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, PhD, Prime Bishop, P.N.C.C.  
Rt. Rev. John Mack – Buffalo Pittsburgh Diocese  
Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski – Western Diocese  
Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki – Central Diocese  
Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski – Eastern Diocese  

Representing the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese  
Very Rev. John Rencewicz, II  
Beverly Basinski  
Vanessa Murawski

Representing the Canadian Diocese  
Rev. Zbigniew Kozar  
Jasmine D’Costa, PhD

Representing the Central Diocese  
Very Rev. Gregory Mludzik  
Ronald DeLuca  
Robert Sarnowski, MD

Representing the Eastern Diocese  
Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr.  
Raymond Pieczarka  
Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd, EdD

Representing the Western Diocese  
Very Rev. John Kraus  
Martin Wachna, Jr.  
Diane Hollinsworth

Representing the Polish National Union  
Irene Jugan (excused from the meeting)  
John Andrzejewski, III

Appointments of the Prime Bishop  
Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid – Vice Rector, Savonarola Theological Seminary  
Joan Scheuneman – Treasurer of the P.N.C.C.  
David Petrosky – Laity Appointment  
Kathryn Nemkovich – Laity Appointment  
Michael R. Mietlicki – Secretary of the Supreme Council.

During the meeting the following appointments or nominations were made.


John Andrzejewski, III was selected as the Supreme Council’s representative to the Supreme Tribunal. The Prime Bishop serves as chairman of this tribunal. Joan Scheuneman and David Petrosky were selected to join the Prime Bishop as Trustees of the Polish National Catholic Church.

Joan Scheuneman and John Andrzejewski, III were selected to join the Prime Bishop as Signatures of Authority for the financial and investment assets of the Church.

During the 24th General Synod, delegates spent considerable time in small groups discussing the future of the P.N.C.C. and defining programs to ensure its growth. During this Supreme Council meeting, the Prime Bishop appointed the following individuals to a Supreme Council Subcommittee chartered to define detailed implementation plans for the growth programs identified by the synod. Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr., Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd, EdD, Diane Hollinsworth, Michael R. Mietlicki, Kathryn Nemkovich and George Urciuoli. The Prime Bishop will also service on this subcommittee ex officio.

The next regular meeting of the Supreme Council is scheduled for April 28 and 29, 2015 in Scranton, PA.

Respectfully submitted by  
Michael R. Mietlicki, Secretary, Supreme Council, P.N.C.C.
Preserving the History of the P.N.C.C.

One way of preserving the history of your parish and the P.N.C.C. is by recording information from your parishioners and clergy of all ages. This can be done either with an audio or video recording (or both). It is an exciting way to preserve the history of your parish and of the P.N.C.C. This is a program which can be used in both long-established and newer parishes. These histories will augment printed books and diaries.

The United States Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA has had an oral history program for WWII veterans for many years. These supplement the written material contained in their archives. Rutgers University, in conjunction with the New Jersey National Guard, also has had an oral history program for all veterans. There is even a professional association for oral historians and others interested in oral history - Oral History Association (OHA). The P.N.C.C. Commission on History and Archives would like to have an active oral history program of recorded interviews with clergy and lay people of the P.N.C.C. so that the historical events of our parishes are not lost forever.

The interview process begins with a request to interview a person. Explain that the purpose of the interview is to obtain their impressions as a member of the P.N.C.C. and that these interviews are being done throughout the P.N.C.C. Before the interview, explain how the interview will be done and give the interviewee a copy of sample questions. Ask the interviewee for a specific date, start time and duration and keep to the agreement.

The conduction of the interview should be with questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer. Don’t ask more than one question at a time. Don’t ask long questions. Do not interrupt a good story because you have thought of a question, or because your narrator is straying from the planned outline. Try to establish at important points in the interview where the narrator was or what his or her role was in the event. Don’t be judgmental or dispute what you are being told. Start with noncontroversial questions; save the delicate ones, if there are any, until later in the interview. Don’t let the interviewee tire; keep interviews between 45 minutes and two hours. Keep the interview informal, non-judgmental and non-confrontational. After a specific response, ask other leading questions. All questions should be open-ended (not able to be answered with a simple yes or no). You should be a facilitator. Don’t interrupt the interviewee. Don’t worry about chronological order or sequencing of topics.

What is needed to participate is an interviewer, an interviewee, an audio recording device (digital or cassette) with fresh batteries or an extension cord, as needed, a notepad and pen/pencil for taking notes during the interview, a question set to begin the discussion and a release signed by the interviewee permitting the P.N.C.C. Commission on History and Archives to use the recordings.

If you have and can use a separate microphone with an on/off switch with your recording device, you will have a better, noise-free pickup and easier control of the start and stop of recording. It is a good idea to rest the microphone on a cloth to reduce background noises.

Digital recording devices allow you to download files onto your computer, a CD or a USB flash drive. If you use a cassette tape recorder, use C-60 cassettes because the tape is thick and less likely to stretch. Make sure you have extra cassettes on hand.

Before beginning the interview, check your location to reduce possible background noise sources (squeaking chairs, rustling paper, radios and televisions, etc.). Check the quality of pickup before starting the interview. Locate the recording device in an unobtrusive place, out of sight during the interview, if possible. Also, make sure any cords used do not obstruct walking paths.

The interviewer should state at the beginning of the recording: his or her name, date of interview, name of interviewee and location of interview. If more than one tape or file is used, provide the tape/file number. Prior to the interview ask the interviewee to provide a brief biographical description (for the first tape/file only). Start the interview by asking a few general questions about the person’s life history and background.

At the end of the tape/file the interviewer should state, “This is the end of the interview with (name of interviewee and interviewer).” Thank the interviewee for providing the interview.

Continued on page 6.
Once the interview is over, complete a data sheet [Name of the interviewee, street address, city, state, zip code, date of birth, place of birth (city, state, country, postal code), date of interview, place of interview (city, state), number of tapes or digital files, interview status (complete or in progress)] and attach the release forms and store the documents with the completed tape (or CD or USB drive).

Review all recordings to see if follow-up questions can be formulated for the next interview. If possible, you should prepare notes (after the interview) describing what went on during the interview: your perception of the interviewee, your relationship to the interviewee (with comment as the effect your perception of and relationship to the interviewee could have affected the interview), a description of the physical location and circumstances of the interview, and your thoughts on additional topics or questions to explore in the next interview.

The included question set, below, has been prepared as a guide to help begin the thought process of the participants. This is by no means an exhaustive list. The intent of the questions is to obtain the impressions of events and activities in which the participant in the oral history witnessed or took part.

A. For all members of the Polish National Catholic Church.

- What were your thoughts before, during and after hearing Bp. Hodur speak for the first time?
- How did your parish get started?
- What were the reasons that caused your parish to become a parish within the P.N.C.C.?
- Who were the people who started your parish?
- How has the Polish National Catholic Church changed over the years?
- What controversial topics or ideas strengthened the Church?
- What controversial topics or ideas weakened the Church?
- What controversial topics or ideas strengthened your parish?
- What controversial topics or ideas weakened your parish?
- What do you remember about each of the General Synods in which you participated?
- What do you remember about each of the Diocesan Synods in which you participated?
- What difficulties did your parish have to overcome through the years?
- What did your relatives think about your parish?
- What did your friends think about your parish?
- What did your relatives think about the P.N.C.C.?
- What did your friends think about the P.N.C.C.?
- What priest or bishop had an impact in your life?
- What person in the P.N.C.C. made a change in your life?
- What do you remember about your parish in your early years?
- What were your first impressions of the clergy you met?
- What do you remember about special events in your parish (For example: ground breaking, picnics, bazaars, new priests, a new building, First Holy Communion and Confirmation)?
- When did you join the parish?
- How many members were there when you joined your parish?
- Were you a member of the Parish Committee? If so, what offices did you hold?
- Were you a member of one or more of the societies of the church: SAMBS, Y.M.S. of R, Maria Konopnicka Society, or Children of Mary, etc.
- Were you an acolyte?
- Were you a member of the choir?
- Were you a reader (lector), a greeter or an usher in church?
- Where will you be buried?
- Did you work around the church, (maintenance, cleaning, cooking, or landscaping)?
- Did you serve in the Armed Forces? If so, what branch, when and in what capacity?
- When and where were you baptized, receive your First Holy Communion, and Confirmation?

(Continued on Page 9.)
From the National Youth Chaplain

We begin a new public school year, as well as a new year for our Sunday Schools of Christian Living. And, I pray, a new look at our program of youth ministry in our parishes. Remember the words of Jesus – “wherever two or three are gathered in My Name” – even with two, ministry must be offered.

Of all the aspects of ministering to youth that I have come to learn over the years, there are some commonalities that seem to surface consistently in one form or another with our youth. And, remember, the kids we see on Sunday, we might be surprised to see during the week at school or out and about, as they attempt to navigate through middle-escense (my term) and adolescence. Whatever strata existed a few years ago are still evident; however, studies have shown that the age associated with these strata is trending younger and younger.

Of all the articles that I receive, the one cited below caught my eye. I hope it continues to shed some light on the development of our kids, those precious kids we have in our parishes. The article was written by Martha Irvine, an AP National Writer.

Zach Plante is close with his parents - he plays baseball with them and, on weekends, helps with work in the small vineyard they keep at their northern California home. Lately, though his parents have begun to notice subtle changes in their son. Among other things, he's announced that he wants to grow his hair longer – and sometimes greets his father with “Yo, Dad!” Little comments will come out of his mouth that have a bit of that teen swagger," says Tom Plante, Zach's dad.

Thing is, Zach isn't a teen. He's 10 years old - one part, a fun-loving fifth grader who likes to watch the Animal Planet network and play with his dog and pet gecko, the other a soon-to-be middle schooler.

In some ways, it's simply part of a kid's natural journey toward independence. But child development experts say that physical and behavioral changes that would have been typical of teenagers decades ago are now common among "tweens" - kids ages 8 to 12.

Some of them are going on "dates" and talking on their own cell phones. They listen to sexually charged pop music, play mature-rated video games and spend time gossiping on “Facebook.” And more girls are wearing makeup and clothing that some consider beyond their years. Zach is starting to notice it in his friends, too, especially the way they treat their parents. "A lot of kids can sometimes be annoyed by their parents," he says. "If I'm playing with them at one of their houses, then they kind of ignore their parents. If their parents do them a favor they might just say, 'OK,' but not notice that much."

The shift that's turning tweens into the new teens is complex, and worrisome, to parents and some professionals who deal with children. They wonder if kids are equipped to handle the thorny issues that come with the adolescent world.

"I'm sure this isn't the first time in history people have been talking about it. But I definitely feel like these kids are growing up faster - and I'm not sure it's always a good thing," says Dr. Roz Alderman, an adolescent medicine specialist at Montefiore Medical Center in New York City. She's been in practice for 16 years and has noticed a gradual but undeniable change in attitude in that time.

She and others who study and treat children say the reasons it's happening are both physical and social. Several published studies have found, for instance, that some tweens' bodies are developing faster, with more girls starting menstruation in elementary school - a result doctors often attribute to improved nutrition and, in some cases, obesity. While boys are still being studied, the findings about girls have caused some endocrinologists to lower the limits of early breast development to first or second grade.

Along with that, even young children have to deal with peer pressure and other societal influences. Beyond the drugs, sex and rock'n'roll their boomer and Gen X parents navigated, technology and consumerism have accelerated the pace of life, giving kids easy access to influences that may or may not be parent-approved. Sex, violence and foul language that used to be relegated to late-night viewing and R-rated movies are expected fixtures in everyday TV.

And many tweens model what they see, including common plot lines "where the kids are really running the house, not the dysfunctional parents," says Plante, who in addition to being Zach's dad is a psychology (Continued on Page 8.)
professor at Santa Clara University in California's Silicon Valley.

He sees the results of all these factors in his private practice frequently.

Kids look and dress older. They struggle to process the images of sex, violence and adult humor, even when their parents try to shield them. And sometimes, he says, parents end up encouraging the behavior by failing to set limits – in essence, handing over power to their kids.

"You get this kind of perfect storm of variables that would suggest that, yes, kids are becoming teens at an earlier age," Plante says.

Natalie Wickstrom, a 10-year-old in suburban Atlanta, says girls her age sometimes wear clothes that are "a little inappropriate." She describes how one friend tied her shirt to show her stomach and "liked to dance, like in rap videos."

Girls in her class also talk about not only liking but "having relationships" with boys. "There's no rules, no limitations to what they can do," says Natalie, who's also in fifth grade. Her mom, Billie Wickstrom, says the teen-like behavior of her daughter's peers influences her daughter - as does parents' willingness to allow it.

"Some parents make it hard on those of us who are trying to hold our kids back a bit," she says.

So far, she and her husband have resisted letting Natalie get her ears pierced, something many of her friends have already done. Now Natalie is lobbying hard for a cell phone.

"Sometimes I just think that maybe, if I got one of these things, I could talk about what they talk about," Natalie says of the kids she deems the "popular ones."

It's an age-old issue. Kids want to fit in - and younger kids want to be like older kids.

But as the limits have been pushed, experts say the stakes also have gotten higher with parents and tweens having to deal with very grown-up issues such as pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Earlier this year, that point hit home when federal officials recommended a vaccine for HPV – a common STD that can lead to cervical cancer – for girls as young as age 9.

"Physically, they're adults, but cognitively, they're children," says Alderman, the physician in New York. She's found that cultural influences have affected her own children, too.

She observes that parents sometimes gravitate to one of two ill-advised extremes - they're either horrified by such questions from their kids, or they "revel" in the teen-like behavior. As an example of the latter reaction, she notes how some parents think it's cute when their daughters wear pants or shorts with words such as "hottie" on the back.

"Believe me, I'm a very open-minded person. But it promotes a certain way of thinking about girls and their back sides," Alderman says. "A 12-year-old isn't sexy."

With grown-up influences coming from so many different angles - from peers to the Internet and TV - some parents say the trend is difficult to combat.

Part of it, experts say, is marketing - and tweens are much-sought-after consumers.

Advertisers have found that, increasingly, children and teens are influencing the buying decisions in their households - from cars to computers and family vacations. Tweens represent $51 billion worth of annual spending power on their own from gifts and allowances, and also have a great deal of say about the additional $170 billion spent directly on them each year.

Diane Levin, a professor of human development and early childhood at Wheelock College in Boston, is among those who've taken aim at toys deemed too violent or sexual.

"We've crossed a line. We can no longer avoid it - it's just so in our face," says Levin, author of the book "So Sexy So Soon: The Sexualization of Childhood."

In the end, many parents find it tricky to strike a balance between setting limits and allowing their kids to be more independent.

Plante, in California, discovered that a few weeks ago when he and Zach rode bikes to school, as the two of them have done since the first day of kindergarten.

"You know, dad, you don't have to bike to school with me anymore," Zach said. Plante was taken aback.
God’s Field
Appeal for Christmas Greetings

It is the time of year for us to appeal to you — our readers — to publish your Christmas greetings in the December 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 new page setup of the God’s Field, greetings are limited to up to three (3) lines of text.

Example greetings:

The Adoration Society of St. John’s Parish, Everytown, USA
Eve Adams, President
May you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.
St. John’s Parish, Everytown, USA
Rev. Adam Adams, Pastor
May the birth of Christ bring blessings to us all.

ALL GREETINGS, ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENTS, MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 1, 2013 IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE.

Please send 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

If I’ve helped any parents of our Church with offspring in this age group, then I am blessed. If I’ve helped any of our SOCL teachers, catechists, youth group leaders, pastors with a bit more insight on the kids they minister to, I am again blessed.

My bottom line – to help accept our precious youth in what, who, where they are so that our Church does not lose them and so that we keep them close to Jesus, always.

With you on the journey, Bishop Stan Bilinski.
Support the Education of Our Youth

The Education and Youth Commission of the Polish National Union is currently conducting its annual Stipend Program Campaign, a major fund drive that subsidizes the monies given to members of the PNU who are pursuing an undergraduate degree. Now, more than ever, as educational funding is decreasing and higher education costs are rising, students need our support. Every year the need increases, but the donations, unfortunately, do not keep pace. Over $12,000 in stipends were awarded for the 2013-2014 school year. It’s your donations that will allow the stipend program to continue in the future.

Please consider offering financial support to the education of our youth.

Your donations to the Stipend Program Campaign may be sent and checks made payable to:

The Education and Youth Commission
c/o The Polish National Union of America
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505
THANK YOU!

National S.O.C.L. Commission’s “The Creeds” Has Been Distributed

The National School of Christian Living Commission is pleased to have sent to all P.N.C.C. parishes in the United States the newest curriculum materials it has prepared, entitled “THE CREEDS.” These curriculum materials have been designed for youth, ages 11-14, but may also be used for adults. The three Creeds presented in the curriculum are the most prominent Creeds used within the P.N.C.C.: Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed and Confession of Faith of the P.N.C.C. Each lesson discusses why and when the Creed was developed, cites the scripture reference for the Creed and then further explores the meaning of each of the Creeds.

We ask that each parish, its School of Christian Living or its Parent-Teacher Organization contribute $15 per binder to the Polish National Catholic Church for this material. This amount is the actual cost of publishing the materials and mailing them to the parish. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Additional copies of this and all other N.S.O.C.L. materials can be purchased from the P.N.C.C. Book Department:

1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505
Phone: 570-346-9131
Email: secretarytopb@pncc.org
On September 13, 2014 the United Y.M.S. of R., with the help of local Y.M.S. of R. branches, took on a challenge to paint the 32 bedrooms inside the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center for the upcoming celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the retreat center in the summer of 2015. This is the second year in a row the United Y.M.S. of R. has donated a weekend of service to Spojnia Farm. Last year the men remodeled the outdoor pavilion serving/picnic area with new paint and a new roof. This year members from St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton Branch 1; Holy Mother of Sorrows, Dupont Branch 2; and St. Adalbert’s, Dickson City Branch 3 all came together as a United Y.M.S. of R. to work on this project. Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish donated the materials of paint and floor finish to give the rooms a new, fresh, clean look for the upcoming year.

It is our hope that this new face lift to the building will bring great joy to the guests staying there, and that the United Y.M.S. of R can continue to take on a new task every year to give back to the church community. The United Y.M.S. of R. and Spojnia, Inc. would like to thank the people who donated their time to make this happen.

Those who helped were Nick Kazinetz, Paul Kazinetz Jr., Andrew Humphreys, Jack Wall Jr., Jesse Lick, Andrew Shumlas, Anthony Shumlas, Amy Ruda, Art Golembeski, Jr., Michael Matza and his daughter Julianne Matza, Lauren Lednovich, Angelo Conforti and his daughter Gianna Conforti, and Robert Hilborn. Al Micka and Rose Kazinetz prepared meals for the painters who greatly appreciated it after a long day of painting.

Submitted by Nick Kazinetz
**New Member at Holy Cross Parish**

**Woodland Park, NJ**

On September 7, 2014 we welcomed Ryan Richard Petruzelli, son of Adam Petruzelli and Carolyn Petruzelli (nee Hrinuk) as new member of our parish through the Sacrament of Baptism. Proud Godparents are Mark Petruzelli and Amanda Marotta.

Baptism is the sacrament of initiation into the life of the children of God; It configures the person to Christ and obliges the Christian to share in the Church’s apostolic and missionary activity.

We congratulate Ryan’s parents, Godparents, family members and friends on this special event.

Submitted by Rev. Joseph Cyman
A Blessing for Furry Friends
By Geri Gibbons Sunday Dispatch Correspondent
Pittston Sunday Dispatch, Pittston, PA

Fr. Carmen Bolock gets a blessing of his own, as his wife Pat holds their family pet, Nala, for a blessing of pets and animals

St. Mary’s Polish National Catholic Church, Duryea, opened its doors on Saturday, not simply to its two-legged members, but to its four-legged friends. The church’s annual “Blessing of the Animals” event is held in honor of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi.

The Catholic tradition goes back to the Middle Ages when St. Francis encouraged Catholics to respect all living creatures.

“Many people are unaware that St. Francis was actually able to communicate with animals,” said Fr. Carmen Bolock. “We love to open our doors once a year and remind our members what a blessing having a pet is.”

Pat Bolock, and her Jack Russell, Nala, agree with him. It was Nala’s first year joining in the annual celebration, and he seemed to enjoy every moment of it. Even when sprinkled with holy water as Fr. Bolock asked that “God’s mercy would be upon him, as part of creation,” Nala simply snuggled in his owner’s arms and wagged his tail.

Pets occupy a special place in Fr. Bolock’s heart. When first ordained, he said he felt quite lonely and adopted a German-terrier mix. The dog served as a wonderful companion, but seemed to be a bit jealous when Fr. Bolock began dating.

“Even after I got married the dog wasn’t thrilled at the idea of sharing me with a human,” said Fr. Bolock. “But after we had our son, he became protective of our whole family.”

Fr. Bolock has been overseeing the event for his entire ministry, over 25 years. Pastor at Saint Mary’s for the last four years, he said it is one of his favorite and “most fun” blessings of the year. He said, throughout the years, children seem to be especially excited to bring their pets to church with them.

Although many of the pets that participate in the celebration are dogs and cats, Fr. Bolock said he has opportunity to bless not only furry, but feathered friends as well.

“I especially remember one young person bringing a parakeet,” he said.

Pat Bolock also presented her guinea pig, Joe Penny, for a blessing.

“He’s been sick this year and has not completely bounced back,” said Pat Bolock. “We’re hoping he puts on some weight.”

So, in a spirit of gratitude for the pets that keep them company, and prayer that the Lord will keep those beloved pets healthy throughout the upcoming year, Fr. Bolock carried out the annual tradition once again.

Fr. Bolock said he anticipates the privilege of blessing his furry friends for many years to come.
On Saturday September 6, 2014 during a long day of pierogi making, Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA, was recognized by the Mayor’s Office and the Father Kelly Neighborhood Association for its involvement and support of the local Fall River community. The aid to Mayor Flanagan and the President of the local neighborhood watch group surprised the 30 volunteers making pierogi with 2 citations recognizing Blessed Trinity’s past and continued commitment to the greater Fall River Community.

Blessed Trinity Parish hosts quarterly Blood Drives, monthly Neighborhood Watch meetings, monthly meetings of the Polish American War Veterans, monthly meeting of the Kosciusko club, gun buy-back programs and expired prescription returns, annual NA days of reflection and support, quarterly food drives, provides a Thanksgiving Day dinner and hosts two voting precincts.

Blessed Trinity Parish strives to continue to open our doors and works to make our community a better place by bringing the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to all - especially those in need.

Submitted by Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich
Caribbean Cruise

November 7th-November 12th 2015

Join the members of the PNU as we travel with Royal Caribbean on a sea voyage to the Caribbean as part of our 30th Convention in 2015.

We will be traveling on an exciting five day adventure aboard our cruise ship the Independence of the Seas.

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(Prices Per Person Double Occupancy)

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Limited availability within room block contracted for.

5 Day Itinerary

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Port</th>
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<th>Depart</th>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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God’s Field — Rola Boža
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Email articles and photos to godsfield@pncc.org. 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:

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