As the Fall season approaches, especially in Northeast Pennsylvania, the days start to get a little cooler, the sun shines a bit less and as children return to school we again know that the Fall holidays are not far away. Those with young children, and many others as well, will be planning to celebrate the festivities of Halloween.

I found it interesting while traveling in Poland and throughout Europe this September, that the America-type celebration of Halloween is becoming more and more a part of their culture. Christians I spoke to there were worried that the younger generation were losing the importance of the religious celebrations of this season. We too must be concerned what our family traditions say about what we believe in our own families. I am not advocating that we must banish the fun Halloween traditions that have become a part of our society, but I do think that as children grow, and in fact to remind ourselves, that we must remember that all of these traditions come about because of the celebrations of the Solemnity of All Saints on November 1st and the Observance of All Souls on November 2nd.

These special holy days are focused on the remembrance and honoring of all those who have been members of the Church in ages past. In the Solemnity of All Saints we remember those who have in a special way been models worthy of imitation within the Christian community. Some of these people we know by name. We may often know the name of a saint connected with a parish, The Blessed Virgin Mary, who may be known to us in one of many ways, such as St. Mary, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Our Lady of Guadalupe or many others. We also may know many other saints, such as St. Stanislaus, St. Adalbert, St. Martin de Porres, or St. Valentine. Each of us also has our own patron, for instance my own patron saint is St. Anthony of Egypt whose day is celebrated on January 17.

Within our families this day can be a great opportunity for us to discuss what this day means. It might be a great time to talk about the saints that we know by name. The patron saints for whom our family members are named. Talk about what you know about them and especially with the internet it can be extremely easy to look up some information about these saints. It’s also a great chance to learn about the patron saint for whom our parish might be named. This exercise can be especially positive when children are approaching Confirmation age. Each will have to choose a Confirmation name and this should certainly be the name of some saint that they have grown to know well. But it is not for younger children alone, I too just read a recent book on the life of St. Anthony of Padua. Although he is not my particular patron, he chose the name Anthony in following St. Anthony of Egypt, so there is certainly a connection. It was an enlightening read and now I have another wonderful example to try and apply within my own daily life.

The Observance of All Souls on November 2nd is also an important part of our religious life within the (Continued on Page 2.)
Church. This holy day is set aside so that we can remember in prayer all of our family members and friends who have shared our Christian life with us. This day reminds us that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is Lord of both the living and the dead as Scripture tells us. As we remember those who have gone before us, it also serves as a reminder to each of us that we are not abandoned when our own death will come.

These important truths of the Catholic faith need to be made an important part of our yearly traditions. We can certainly have fun with the festivities of Halloween, but then let us all remember to turn to the important truths of All Saints and All Souls. It is these things that are the seeds that we must continue to plant within our lives that are God’s field. I’ve always thought the image that is found within the masthead of the God’s Field newspaper should speak to us very strongly. It shows our Lord Jesus scattering seed, not in the Holy Land, but rather among our factories, homes and churches. This still occurs today, but it is also up to us to nurture and tend these seeds of faith and love.

It is our hope for the future that God’s Field as a publication within the Polish National Catholic Church will continue to be place of encouragement and faith. We appreciate the patience that all of the members have shown in waiting for things to once again get going and we hope that in its new format God’s Field will find an even wider acceptance and readership throughout the Church. We encourage all members of the Church, bishops, priests, deacons and laity to share your life and work within God’s field with us, so that we can share them with the entire P.N.C.C.
Polish National Catholic Church

God’s Field Makes a Comeback

God’s Field, the official newspaper of the Polish National Catholic Church, has returned and will be published on a monthly basis.

During the first transitional year of publication we will mail several hard copies of the newspaper to all P.N.C.C. parishes. We also will publish on our Facebook page (PNCC1), on our web site (pncc.org) and in a global email to all P.N.C.C parishes the web address to access the online version of God’s Field.

Over the next year the God’s Field office will be requesting all parishes to update their subscription databases to include information for both hard copy and online subscriptions. Individuals or groups not included in parish databases who wish to subscribe to the newspaper must email their subscription preference (online or hard copy) and request to godsfield@pncc.org or via post to

God’s Field
Polish National Catholic Church
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109

By January 2015 our new subscription database should be in order and we will then announce our new annual subscription rates for online and hard copy issues.

We appreciate everyone’s patience during this past year and throughout the upcoming transitional period and we look forward to continuing to provide you with timely articles in the revised God’s Field.

If you have any questions, please email us at godsfield@pncc.org or call 570-346-9131.

Minutes of the Supreme Council Meeting

National Church Center, Scranton, PA
April 23 and 24, 2013

Supreme Council Meets to Review Church Programs

The Supreme Council met at the National Church Center in Scranton PA on April 23 and 24, 2013. The session was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Prime Bishop Mikovsky. Bishop Mack offered the opening prayer. Prime Bishop administered the oath of office to Michael R. Mietlicki, the newly appointed Secretary of the Supreme Council.

Members/Guests


Excused: Very Rev. John Kraus


Guests: Robert Maycan. Julie Orzell was a guest during the presentation of the Clergy Hospitalization Report.

Minutes from Previous Meetings

The minutes of three meetings of the Supreme Council were reviewed and accepted: The April 2012 Regular Meeting, the June 22, 2012 Special Meeting and the January 7, 2013 Special Meeting.

Action Items from Monday’s Bishops’ Meeting

Prime Bishop reviewed the work of the Bishops’ Meeting held on April 22, 2013. In an effort to unify the operations of the P.N.C.C., the bishops are planning the following:

The Prime Bishop’s Office will send out a clergy census and share the results with the diocesan bishops. The goal is to complete this by the end of the summer.

TRUTH STRUGGLE WORK
Standard forms and processes will be defined and implemented for the incardination of clergy for the entire church. Background checks on all priests coming into the P.N.C.C. will be performed through the Oxford Document Agency. This is near completion.

Standard operating procedures will be defined for national church and diocesan tasks. This is targeted for completion next year.

A continuing education program for clergy will be pursued with Nashotah House.

All dioceses will digitize the sacramental records of their parishes. No timeline for the completion of this activity has been set given its expansive scope.

All bishops will be sharing examples of best practice that will include sacramental record keeping. The members of the Supreme Council expressed appreciation to the bishops for taking these steps to strengthen collaboration among them.

Retired Prime and Diocesan Bishops Viewed as Walking Treasures

During discussion of action items from the previous Supreme Council meeting the knowledge and corporate experience represented by our retired prime and diocesan bishops were acknowledged. Discussion focused on how we take advantage of this wealth of experience. The Prime Bishop and Diocesan Bishops indicated our retired bishops are viewed as walking treasures and along with key lay members are consulted on various matters that face the church seeking their historical perspective. Our retired bishops are welcome to and do contribute to diocesan work to the extent they wish.

Treasurer’s Report

Joan Scheuneman, National Church Treasurer, provided a description and explanation of each section of her prepared report. The report included: the balance sheets of 2-29-12 and 2-28-13 listing both current and fixed assets along with liabilities and equity, the investment schedule, summaries of income and expenses for Administrative, Mission, 6% and Youth Funds with comparisons to the prior fiscal year. Also presented was the status of parish loans, investment summary, fund summaries, the Seminary Fund and the schedule of parish receipts. As a result of the Frank Bednash Estate bequest that included land, the church is receiving natural gas drilling royalties. Twenty percent of these royalties are being applied to the National Church Center (NCC) mortgage debt. A property at 1020 Kirst Court in Scranton was purchased and demolished for possible future parking for the NCC. The Outreach to Poland Fund provided monies to the Zarki Parish in Poland as they plan to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Discussion focused on those parishes that do not contribute their fair share to general church funds. It was noted membership dues are historically lower in non-synodal years and parish audits have motivated parishes to contribute realistic amounts in the past. Investment accounts have done very well last year. Diocesan bishops will begin including diocesan treasurer reports with their regular report to the Prime Bishop and the Supreme Council.

The Audit Report

The 2013 financial records were audited. The financial records for 2012 will be audited prior to the upcoming synod.

Budget & Finance Committee Report

Martin Wachna introduced the budget prepared by the committee and reviewed the narrative. The budget also included the recommended apportionment of General Fund Dues. He noted this year’s budget is not balanced and reflects realistic income and expense projections. Each line item was reviewed noting expected increases and decreases. The proposed budget includes improvements to the Prime Bishop’s residence as well as monies to support the position of a part time editor of God’s Field. The Council was updated on the current status of the sale of Spojnia District 6 property and the district’s pledge of up to one million dollars or 50% of the sale of that property to the National Church Center. The following general fund dues allocations were approved.

General Fund Dues Allocations:

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<tr>
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**Investment Committee**

The Prime Bishop and John Andrzejewski reported they met with our BPU Investment Management advisor, Rick Pierchalski. The Mason Estate is the primary account tracked and it showed an approximate 7% market value gain during the year. John recommended defining a strategy for our other investments that have been transferred to BPU in recent years, primarily from Smith Barney. Since BPU decided to change its investment product focus, Rick Pierchalski left BPU and started Medallion Wealth Management. Others who manage the church’s funds also left BPU and joined Medallion. Consequently, the investment committee recommended and the Supreme Council approved a transfer of the management of our funds to Medallion Wealth Management. It was noted that funds are actually held by Fidelity and Penn Security Bank. It is the management of these funds that was transferred to Medallion. In the same manner, since the mortgage on the National Church Center comes due in 2019 with a $1.2 million dollar balloon payment, monies were moved from savings to an investment account with Medallion to prepare to meet this payment.

**Clergy Hospitalization**

The Prime Bishop outlined the activities of Julie Orzell, the Plan Administrator. These include managing the local Blue Cross Blue Shield account, reimbursements to parishes, Medicare reimbursements and the AARP supplemental insurance for retired clergy. As a result of discussions focused on improving benefits for retirees, and as it is the Supreme Council’s intent to expand the current retiree reimbursement, the Clergy Salary Benefits Commission was requested to recommend a formal policy to the Supreme Council regarding insurance reimbursement for retirees and their surviving spouses.

**Clergy Pension Fund**

Robert Maycan was a guest at the meeting and presented the report. He highlighted the fund balances, investments, income, plan payments, individual and parish contributions. During the last fiscal year, the fund experienced a total annual rate of return of 4.93%. Like other pension funds, the Clergy Pension Fund is not fully funded. The fund operates on a direct reimbursement basis. Currently, 59 clergy and spouses receive benefits from the plan. 99 clergy are enrolled in the plan compared to 95 in 2011, 94 in 2010 and 83 in 2009. While we increased the pension paid to priests by 100%, parish donations to the fund have not increased. This is eroding the principle. The fund depends on the General Church Fund allocation and investments to meet the current distribution costs of the plan. It was noted many parishes do not contribute to the plan. Discussions focused on ways of strengthening relationships with these parishes to encourage their support of this vital clergy benefit.

**God’s Field**

A written financial report for the calendar year was submitted by Joan Scheuneman, P.N.C.C. Treasurer. The Prime Bishop expressed his frustration to find an editor for *God’s Field*. He published two issues last year completing all publishing tasks himself. However, his responsibilities as Prime Bishop do not allow him to also be editor of *God’s Field*. The Supreme Council concurred. Recognizing the importance of *God’s Field*, the Supreme Council took the following actions:

- Allocated funds in the budget to properly support a part-time editor position.
- Appointed a sub-committee to develop a job description for the editor role.
- Agreed this is an opportunity to set a higher expectation of the types of articles we desire in the publication.
- Agreed *God’s Field* would become a digital publication following The Straz model.
- Recognized a possible need for printed copies as an exception. Cost of this exception to be determined.
- Recognized that while the current subscription rate of $14 annually will need to be reviewed since it is based on hard copy printing and mailing costs, the expenses associated with an editor need to be considered.

Further discussion regarding *God’s Field* occurred during the *Discussions for the Good of the Church* agenda item of the meeting and can be found in that section.

**Savonarola Theological Seminary**

Father Zbigniew Dawid, Vice Rector, presented his report that included statistics of recent clergy incardinations into the church and internal vocations. It was noted that other than incardinations there has not been a student in the seminary in four years. Father
Pastors are asked to support the PNU by placing short articles about PNU products in parish bulletins and newsletters. Parish members are asked to support the PNU by purchasing an annuity or other financial products from the PNU to celebrate special family occasions such as weddings, graduations and births. A brochure describing the financial products offered by the PNU will be produced in Spanish. During discussion it was noted past experience has demonstrated the benefit of the pastor working closely with PNU branch secretaries to secure new policies. The need to establish and maintain branch secretaries at the parish level was noted.

**Spojnia, Inc.**

During his review of the submitted report, Prime Bishop noted the successes and problems of Spojnia Inc. The farm has been a success and is profitable. Forty to fifty percent savings on the electric bill are expected at the Bishop Hodur Retreat Center due to actions recently taken. This will result in large savings since the center is entirely electric and could bring the center to a place where it is self-supporting. The maintenance man has been doing a great job. The manor building is the problem in that it requires a new roof estimated at $250K and windows. Options to rent the building are being explored. Financially, the income received from an endowment fund and the Plezia Fund is offset by loan debt. If the monthly loan payments were eliminated the endowment income would cover the current shortfalls. This year the endowment fund was removed as collateral for the National Church Center mortgage.

**National Church Center**

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**Polish National Union**

Irene Jugan and John Andrzewski reviewed the current financial status of the PNU along with its reserve activity. The PNU adheres to a Risk Based Capital (RBC) percentage of 3%. Since investments and loans are part of the calculation of this percentage every loan made to an individual or church entity impacts this ratio. As the sister organization of the church, the PNU along with the Credit Union tries to support all requests for loans and other church based programs. The support they provide for these activities comes solely from the sale of insurance policies. Pastors are asked to support the PNU by placing short articles about PNU products in parish bulletins and newsletters. Parish members are asked to support the PNU by purchasing an annuity or other financial products from the PNU to celebrate special family occasions such as weddings, graduations and births. A brochure describing the financial products offered by the PNU will be produced in Spanish. During discussion it was noted past experience has demonstrated the benefit of the pastor working closely with
met their financial obligations to the diocese and National Church. Letters were sent to all P.N.C.C. parishes regarding the situation in Canada. The P.N.C.C. and the Prime Bishop have been named in a lawsuit. The lawsuit claims the actions taken against Sylvester Bigaj were contrary to the P.N.C.C. Constitution and seeks 2 million dollars for unspecified damages. A Canadian lawyer has been engaged. A motion to dismiss the lawsuit is being pursued. If the case goes forward, one of the strongest elements in our favor is the outcome of the 2005 lawsuit where the Canadian Diocese was recognized as part of the P.N.C.C. and not a separate entity and where they agreed to follow the P.N.C.C. Constitution. Many outstanding questions regarding the Canadian Diocese have arisen during the past few months that require additional investigation.

**Poland Topics**

**The Trademark**

Prime Bishop Mikovsky presented the issue around the trademark lawsuit. The Supreme Council decided to continue the lawsuit during the January 7, 2013 meeting. The trademark includes the P.N.C.C. symbol and the motto. While the original lawsuit was initiated by Sylvester Bigaj and Tony Jasinski, currently only the P.N.C.C. and the P.K.K. are involved. The P.N.C.C. has applied for the trademark in Poland and the P.K.K. is contesting it based on their use of the trademark since 1921 when we were one church and then since 1951 when they became a separate entity. To resolve this issue and end the legal action, Bishop Wysockanski, Presiding Bishop of the P.K.K., proposed we jointly hold the trademark in Poland and expressed interests for closer collaboration between the P.N.C.C. and P.K.K. Coming to an agreement with the P.K.K. would prevent rogue churches from using the trademark. The Supreme Council agreed to settle the court case allowing the P.K.K. to use our symbol jointly with us. The Prime Bishop will travel to Poland to discuss and resolve this matter with Bishop Wysockanski. Once we have an agreement on symbol ownership we will register that agreement with the Patent Office in Poland. It was also noted the P.N.C.C. trademark in the US is not registered and that trademarks are country specific. The P.N.C.C. will take the necessary steps protect our trademark in the US.

**The So-Called Missionary Seniorate**

The Prime Bishop reported this so-called seniorate continues to maintain a web site (containing P.N.C.C. intellectual property) and a Facebook presence with a link to its web site from the Canadian Diocesan web site. The legal recognition of this so-called missionary seniorate in Poland has not yet been approved by the Polish government. In close collaboration with Bishop Wysockanski, the Prime Bishop will send a letter to the government agency in Poland that approves new religious groups, protesting its formal recognition of this so-called seniorate in Poland. Once the trademark issue is resolved the P.N.C.C. will take steps to stop this group from using our trademark and other intellectual property.

**Synod in Poland**

The Prime Bishop is looking forward to participating in the upcoming P.K.K. Synod in 2013 and all the bishops are looking forward to closer collaboration with the P.K.K. He noted 1999 was the last time there was P.K.K. representation at a P.N.C.C. event. This was a consecration of bishops.

**Church Website**

Fred Aebli, Chairman of the Web Site Committee, provided a written report that reflected visitor, search, and social media statistics. The report concluded with recommendations on initiating a blog focused on religious articles, uploading more event photos to Facebook to make it more personal and inspirational, beginning a YouTube Video Channel for the P.N.C.C. and creating a position / process to capture photos of key events that can be placed on the site to market the P.N.C.C. There are ongoing discussions to improve the site. These include but are not limited to improving the image of the church that is portrayed through the site, adding detailed documentation regarding our beliefs for those who desire it, pushing timely religious, historical and national event messages from the site, adding liturgical resources to the site and improving the parish location search function.

**The Prime Bishop’s Residence**

David Petrosky invited the council members to review his written report that included maintenance tasks performed last year and those projected for the upcoming year. Major improvements recommended for this year include the addition of a deck and replacing the furnace switching from oil to natural gas. This transition from oil to natural gas is expected to save heating costs. In addition, the Supreme Council placed money in the budget for a security system and the installation of central air conditioning.
The Report of the Prime Bishop

During his presentation, the Prime Bishop outlined the major sections of his submitted report, namely his travels, the special synod, seminary activities, his participation in youth activities both Convo and Kurs, NCC activities, PNU board work, participation in commission work, the Union of Scranton, ecumenical activities and his attendance at all the diocesan synods except the Canadian Diocesan Synod which was scheduled at the same time as the synod of the Eastern Diocese. The Prime Bishop reported Bishop Flemestad participates in the bishops meeting via conference call to keep the bishops updated on activities in mestead participates in the bishops meeting via conference call to keep the bishops updated on activities in Norway, Sweden, Germany and France. He also announced he recently met with Bishop John Fenwick from the Free Church of England to exchange church information. The Free Church of England dates back to the 1700’s.

THE REPORTS OF THE DIOCESAN BISHOPS

Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese – Rt. Rev. John Mack

Bishop John Mack highlighted the components of his submitted report, namely diocesan statistics, the diocesan structure and organizations and his diocesan and ecumenical activities since becoming diocesan bishop. He highlighted the merger of Holy Cross Parish in Warren Ohio with Holy Trinity Parish in New Castle, PA as well as the efforts of Holy Cross Parish in Johnstown, PA to relocate to the suburbs. It was noted the Brant and North Java parishes are doing well. Bishop indicated he has received a number of inquiries from priests wanting to become part of the P.N.C.C. Bishop Mack concluded his report by expressing his appreciation to Bishop Peplowski for his years of work for the diocese and his continued counsel.

Canadian Diocese – Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky

The status of the Canadian Diocese was reviewed during a separate agenda item focused on the diocese. There are 8 parishes and 4 pastors in the Canadian Diocese.

Central Diocese – Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki

Bishop Bernard Nowicki submitted a written report describing his activities since becoming the diocesan ordinary. During his presentation he noted his ongoing efforts to raise awareness of the present state of the episcopal ministry within the P.N.C.C. that combines the parochial ministry with the episcopal ministry. The episcopacy in the P.N.C.C. has matured to a level of sophistication that requires time for study, meetings with peers across denominations, strategic planning \ macro thinking, and problem solving at the seniorate \ parish level unencumbered by parochial responsibility. This will require the church to define steps to split off the parochial ministry from the episcopal ministry to enable the diocesan bishop to focus on building stronger relationships with his priests and stronger relationships with his parishes. It was noted, the combination of parochial and episcopal responsibilities is not part of the history of our church under the leadership of Bishop Hodur. Shared parochial / episcopal responsibility is not what we designed but what we have become. Maximizing current clergy utilization would free up senior priests for cathedral assignment and offer a possible solution. Dioceses would need to fund the episcopal family. On a parochial level, Bishop Nowicki presented a letter from the organist of St. Stanislaus Cathedral requesting the Supreme Council join with the Cathedral to sponsor a campaign to create an endowment fund to repair and sustain the Cathedral’s historic Austin pipe organ. The appeal was made to the Supreme Council since St. Stanislaus Cathedral is the setting for national church liturgies including consecrations, ordinations and The Union of Scranton events. The organ enhances these liturgies. The pros and cons of endorsing such a campaign were debated given the current status of other national church fund raising campaigns and concern of setting a precedent. The Supreme Council agreed to endorse the campaign, acknowledging the importance of the project and encouraging church members to participate but not sponsoring the campaign or actively raising funds for it. Regarding the setting of a precedent for any future endorsements, the setting has to have the same P.N.C.C. historic significance as St. Stanislaus Cathedral.

Eastern Diocese – Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski

Bishop Paul Sobiechowski submitted a report that described the state of the diocese and detailed his activities since becoming diocesan bishop including the Fourteenth Diocesan Synod, the diocesan website, newsletter, youth events and activities to gather parish historical records. During his presentation Bishop noted the April 20th conditional ordination of Father Robert Fredrickson at the Webster MA parish. Father Fredrickson will continue his P.N.C.C. orientation at the New Hampshire Cathedral during May and June and then will be assigned as administrator of the Webster parish. During the discussion Prime Bishop Mikovsky and Bishop Sobiechowski explained conditional ordination.
Western Diocese – Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski

Bishop Stanley Bilinski submitted a report that described the state of the diocese and listed his activities since becoming the diocesan ordinary including XVI Diocese Synod and his travel and event schedule. During his presentation he noted the smooth transition of the diocese occurred because of the efforts of the Prime Bishop, Father Senior Kraus, Diocesan Co-administrator, Christine Wachna, Diocesan Executive Assistant, and Martin Wachna, Diocesan CFO. Appreciation was expressed to the Supreme Council and church members for the support offered to Sacred Heart Parish that suffered extreme damage due to a fire. It was noted donations from members throughout the P.N.C.C. totaled approximately $34,000. The parish is in the process of settling insurance claims and planning a rebuilding program. The parish in St. Petersburg, FL was recently sold with efforts underway to attempt to replant the parish within the St. Petersburg area. St. John’s Parish in Chicago has successfully transitioned to a totally reconstituted Hispanic parish. This parish recently confirmed a class of 75 individuals. There are other efforts underway to reach out to the Hispanic community in Chicago including incardinating two former Roman Catholic priests from Mexico to assist in this work. Bishop reported he has met with priests of other jurisdictions who have expressed an interest in joining the P.N.C.C.

COMMISSION REPORTS

History & Archives Commission

A written report was submitted by Mr. Joseph Seliga, Commission Chairman, listing the activities of the commission, facility changes, document acquisitions information requests and future equipment purchase plans. The commission has recently benefited from local Scranton volunteers who are assisting with the categorization of materials. They are currently digitizing past Supreme Council minutes and synod proceedings turning them into searchable documents. Their future plans to digitize meeting minutes, documents and publications not only supports the sharing of information among dioceses but begins the process of storing copies of the information offsite in case a catastrophe were to occur at the NCC. Commission and church committee secretaries are requested to forward copies of their meeting minutes to the History and Archives Commission care of the National Church Center.

National Commission on Liturgy

Very Rev. J. Kraus, Chairman, submitted a written report that listed the activities of the commission and its major projects. In Father Senior Kraus’ absence, Father Senior Nemkovich, Commission Secretary, presented the highlights of the report. The commission’s ongoing projects include publishing of the ordo and home calendar. The commission is currently focused on producing an updated ritual in book format. The last time the ritual was published was in 1958 and it is currently out of print.

Mission & Evangelism Commission

A written report was submitted by Rev. Raymond Drada, Commission Chairman, listing the activities and projects of the commission, changes to commission membership and the Mission and Evangelism (M/E) workshops. Prime Bishop highlighted the work of the commission and both the Prime Bishop and Bishop Nowicki reported on its major activity, the M/E Workshop, this year hosted by the Scranton Cathedral. The workshop was very inspiring and was attended by 60 participants from across the US. Ronald DeLuca, Commission Vice Chairman, noted the much needed class room setting video presentation titled Welcome to the P.N.C.C. compiled by the Davie Parish is on hold. He suggested that in addition to this video, a video be created to market our church, illustrate our history and our special Catholic nature. During discussion, it was noted stewardship, internal mission and the re-focusing of our membership be topics for future workshops.

Church Doctrine Commission

Father Senior Nemkovich, a commission member reported the commission met once last year. Their major projects include: creating statements for the church on bio-ethical issues, clergy in the Early Church, and a paper To Live in the Spirit of God, mandated from the last synod. Anglican Orders is a commission discussion point and the commission is looking to revise the confirmation catechism.

To be continued in the next issue
Senior Year —
A Daunting Time

Finally, it is that time of year again when fall graces us with its presence. The weather is chilly, the leaves are falling, and people are returning to their daily routines. As a result, by this time children and teens are back in school furthering their knowledge and development. But unlike previous years, this “back to school” time is especially important for one faction - high school seniors.

It may not be the most difficult year academically for most seniors; however, it is the significant period when they must free themselves from dependence and maintain satisfactory grades while they continue to look at colleges, decide on a major, obtain community service hours, keep involved in sports and clubs, find their identities as individuals in life - you get the picture.

As a senior, I am in this position right now and I am a little daunted by the future. But I know that I am prepared for whatever life may throw my way because of the great parents, teachers, role models and friends I have had. Therefore, I will make the most of my senior year and enjoy it while it lasts.

I want to keep the great bonds I have made with friends and make more memories that are noteworthy. I want to be the best I can be and try my hardest with grades and sports. I want my parents to see that they did a good job in raising me and allowing me to continue to make my own decisions and develop into a person of deference. And even though there will be some moments that I wish it would just end, I will never get back this year of pure gratification.

Sure, I am excited for college in a year, but it is such a tremendous transition and I have to start getting ready for it. I will have to start over as a small fish in a big sea. That is why senior year is such a crucial time in life; you pave the way for your own future. So let it begin; the wild ride of senior year!

Submitted by Joshua Stankowski, N.U.Y.A. Board Member

Editors Note: Joshua, an Honors Student at Scranton High School, is an active member of St. Stanislaus Cathedral parish and many of the parish organizations. He plays the viola and has received several N.U.C. Music Scholarship awards for his musical abilities; he was most recently awarded the 2013 Bishop Francis Bonczak Award. He is the son of Jake and Mary Stankowski, Scranton, PA.
Cecilia Shumlas Award
Lauren Lednovich, St. Stanislaus PNC Cathedral, Scranton, PA

Junior Incentive Award
Kyrsten LeMassena, St. Mary P.N.C.C., Parma, OH
Christina Supinski, Holy Name of Jesus P.N.C.C., Schenectady, NY
John “Bobby” Zahorsky, Holy Trinity P.N.C.C., Throop, PA

Bishop Walter Slowakiewicz Award
Rachel Quirbach, St. Casimir P.N.C.C., Lowell, MA

Polish National Union Award
Madison Zahorsky, Holy Trinity P.N.C.C., Throop, PA

To be eligible for a National United Choirs scholarship you must be a member of a P.N.C.C. parish and taking paid music lessons or attending conferences/camps which are enhancing your music education. You must also be participating in the Music Ministry of your parish in some capacity.

Marcia Bielat Memorial Music Scholarship
The Saint Cecilia Choir of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN, has a goal of raising a minimum of $5,000.00 to initiate, with the National United Choirs of the P.N.C.C., the Marcia Bielat Memorial Music Scholarship. Our sister in Christ entered into her eternal reward in early 2013. Marcia sang soprano and alto, served as an officer of the Saint Cecilia Circle Choirs and was an officer for the N.U.C. Having a scholarship dedicated to this singer’s memory will help future singers and musicians of the P.N.C.C.

The St. Cecilia Choir is appealing to Marcia’s Church family throughout the Western Diocese as well as in the entire Polish National Catholic Church to assist with the choir’s endeavor.

If you would like to assist in making this dream a reality, donations are gladly accepted. Please make check or money order payable to St. Michael the Archangel Parish (please write “Bielat Scholarship” in the memo line) and send donations to the parish at:

6629 W. 133rd Avenue
Cedar Lake, IN 46303

P.N.C.C. Hymnal Order Form

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Please include $3.00 Shipping & Handling for each hymnal: ________________

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Make check payable to National United Choirs

Send order form and payment to:
P. Kazinetz
736 Beechwood Drive
Olyphant, PA 18447
The 85th Annual Y.M.S. of R. Track and Field Meet was held on Saturday, August 31, 2013 in Scranton, PA. The Lighting of The Torch Ceremony at St. Stanislaus Cathedral opened the day’s festivities.

Marathon runners lined up on the street in front of the Cathedral and made their way up Pittston Avenue to the Y.M.S. of R. Park in the Minooka section of Scranton — a total of 5 kilometers; uphill most of the way.

At the end of the run the marathoners were congratulated by the Prime Bishop, Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, and the President of the National Y.M.S. of R., Nick Kazinetz.

A few of the day’s events took place until the 11:00 a.m. Mass at the Grotto of Christ Benign. Food was served following Mass and throughout the day. Track and Field events continued until late afternoon, followed by the distribution of awards and medals for all track and field meet participants.

Although it was a very hot and muggy day out on the field, everyone enjoyed the fellowship and catching up with old friends. We look forward to the 86th Annual Meet next year.

**2013 Marathon Highlights**
For 53 consecutive years, Holy Family Parish has participated in the annual McKeesport International Village held in Renzie Park during the third week of August. International Village is the oldest ethnic fair in Western Pennsylvania.

The Holy Family Y.M.S. of R. has been involved in many community and church programs, such as feeding the homeless with the Salvation Army, the Relay for Life Program, the Parish Usher Ministry, Mothers’ Day Breakfasts and underwriting financial assistance to many national and international disaster programs through the Brother to Brother Organization of Pittsburgh.

Through the annual Steeler Football Raffle, the men also subsidize parish youth participation in the Diocesan Youth Retreat and National Youth Convos and provide monetary assistance to any of the parish necessities.

On July 22, 2013 the Holy Family Parish Y.M.S. of R. sponsored a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the American Cancer Society's McKeesport Relay for Life. All proceeds from the dinner were donated to the Relay for Life program.
Holy Family Parish operates the Polish booth which serves popular Polish cuisine. The parish also sponsors the Lajkoniki Dance Troupe which provides Polish Folk Dances during the three-day event.

Since 1947, the Lajkoniki Polish Folk Dance Troupe has represented the McKeesport Holy Family Parish, dancing from the State Capitol in Harrisburg to local festivals in Western PA.

Recently they were the guest performers for the Kosciusko Polonia of the Year Banquet held in Pittsburgh, PA; they performed at the annual Polish Day at Kennywood Amusement Park and at the McKeesport International Village.

The dance troupe is scheduled to perform during the Pittsburgh Columbus Day Parade in October, at the annual Pittsburgh Polishfest in November and several ethnic parish festivals throughout the area thereafter.

Past directors of the Lajkoniki Dancers were the late Eva Wisniewski and Dr. Donald Mushalko. The present director is Frank Pociask.

New performers are always welcome. To schedule dance performances, contact Frank Pociask at 724.861.0759.

Transfiguration of our Lord Parish
P.N.C.C. Symposium
Mt. Pleasant, PA

Following a Noon Fellowship Hour of coffee and pastries on Sunday, July 29, 2013, the Parish of the Transfiguration of our Lord held a symposium on the Polish National Catholic Church. The purpose of the symposium was to inform the surrounding communities about the P.N.C.C. and to dispel any misinformation people may have about the Polish National Catholic denomination.

In their effort for mission and evangelization, the parish members wanted to reach out to disappointed Christians who are experiencing parish closures in the Westmorland County, PA area — a situation similar to what the people of Transfiguration of our Lord Parish experienced back in 2003 when their parish was suddenly closed without prior notification and their church building was torn down within a week of closure.

The congregation of the Transfiguration of our Lord P.N.C.C. Parish shared their experiences with those who are losing their parishes in hopes that they would take a look at the Polish National Catholic Church.

Rev. Bruce Sleczykowski, Administrator of the parish, spoke to the attendees about the History of the Polish National Catholic Church. A question-and-answer session followed the speech.

Assisting in the Symposium was one of the priests who formerly served Transfiguration Parish, Rev. Mark Swoger, current pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Washington, PA. Also answering questions and giving testimonies on how they came to the P.N.C.C. were Miriam Swoger and Marian Sleczykowski.

A follow-up symposium was scheduled for October 6, 2013.

Submitted by Rev. Bruce Sleczykowski
Vini, Vidi, Vinci … Came, Saw, Conquered
St. Martin & St. Rose Parish, San Antonio, TX

Those are the words that best describe the Texas Seniorate visit of Prime Bishop Anthony and Mrs. Carol Mikovsky, and Bishop John and Mrs. Sherry Mack.

Three parishes were blessed by their visit to Texas: Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Dallas, TX; Annunciation of the B.V.M. Parish in San Antonio, TX; and St. Martin & St. Rose Parish, San Antonio, TX.

During the celebration of the Eucharist at St. Martin & St. Rose, Fr. Peter Barlow was incardinated as a priest of the Polish National Catholic Church.

Following the celebration of Mass the parishioners of St. Martin & St. Rose were excited to have the opportunity to commemorate Cinco de Mayo with the Bishops and their wives – a special holiday observed as a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride.

Many traditional Mexican and Tex Mex dishes were prepared with love for everyone to include menudo, pozole, brisket, sausage, rice, beans, tortillas, guacamole, pico de gallo along with some amazing desserts of flan, pan de dulce, and more!

It was a meaningful ceremony and we thank the Lord for Fr. Peter’s call to the priesthood, now expressed through the P.N.C.C.

In addition to enjoying the homemade food, many people took turns dancing to the vibrant music of Mariachis!

After a wonderful afternoon, the bishops and their wives accompanied Father Peter to the River Walk to get a taste of Old San Antonio.

Thank you Prime Bishop Anthony, Bishop John, and both your wives for coming to Texas, seeing what our parishes and heritage had to offer, and conquering our hearts! VINI, VIDI, VINCI!
Central Diocese

Bishop Bernard Nowicki Celebrates Deacon David Gaydos’ 25th Jubilee Mass

Rev. Joseph Cyman
Pastor, Holy Cross Church, Woodland Park, NJ

Woodland Park, NJ – On Sunday September 8, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Church in Woodland Park, NJ, His Excellency, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church, celebrated a special Mass on the occasion of the 25th Jubilee of Deacon David Gaydos.

Also present in the sanctuary were Very Rev. Gregory Mludzik, visiting priest Rev. Adam Ogorzaly, Deacon William Gaydos and several altar servers. Organist Jessica Muccilli beautified the liturgy with well-selected songs.

The Holy Scripture readings emphasized God’s calling of prophets and Jesus’ selection of Apostles who also needed to choose deacons to assist them in the ministry for the Church.

Bishop Nowicki spoke about the Church’s need of men who accept God's calling to serve as deacons and priests. In his talk, the bishop stated that there are parishes in which deacons or priests from neighboring parishes must fill in to provide services for the faithful because those parishes do not have fulltime pastors.

Father Joseph R. Cyman, who has served as Pastor of Holy Cross Church for the past 10 years, thanked the Jubilant for his many years of support and for the spiritual benefit the deacon has brought to the parish. Deacon David often helps at the parish throughout the year by reading the Gospel, distributing Holy Communion, and occasionally preaching sermons. Fr. Cyman noted that Deacon Gaydos is especially helpful when he conducts the Liturgy of the Word of God with Distribution of Holy Communion when Father is away on vacation or Church business.

It was 25 years ago when David Gaydos was ordained as a deacon to serve the parish in Woodland Park and to provide assistance in other parishes within the Central Diocese. He has travelled throughout the diocese to assist priests, and has even travelled as far as Los Angeles, CA to assist at Guardian Angel Parish.

Most people in the Central Diocese’s New York/New Jersey Seniorate (and other seniorates) are aware of Deacon David’s culinary talents. Many people have been privileged to take part in a parish dinner prepared by Deacon Gaydos. In this capacity he has fulfilled the service of the first deacons of the early Church who served meals to widows.

In his remarks, Deacon David humbly shared, “I don’t know why I was chosen to be a deacon. I think
it happened because once Jesus said in the Gospel, ‘You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit...’ (John 15:16).”

Deacon David was thanked for his 25 years of service; his wife Laurie, sons Scott and Mark, and daughter, Emily were also thanked for their many years of support to Deacon David and the Church. Expressions of thanks were expressed also to Deacon David’s brother, Deacon William Gaydos, who serves as a deacon at Holy Cross Church by reading the Gospel, helping in the liturgy for special occasions, serving as a Lector and preparing altar servers.

After Mass, the parish hosted a dinner in the parish hall as a token of appreciation for Deacon David’s service. Dozens of guests stayed to celebrate the deacon’s jubilee, and everyone enjoyed the meal and fellowship.

Confirmation at St. Mary’s Parish
Duryea, PA

On a beautiful Tuesday evening Rt. Rev. Bernard J. Nowicki, Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese, conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary’s Parish, Duryea, PA. This marked Bishop Bernie’s first Episcopal visit to St. Mary’s.

The newly-confirmed were Anthony Nicholas ARTHUR De Mark, son of Mr. & Mrs. Peter De Mark; also Malcolm John JOSEPH Sciandro. His Grace, Prime Bishop Anthony A. Mikovsky, was Celebrant of the Mass. The clergy present were

Administrative Senior of the Scranton Seniorate and pastor of St. Adalbert’s P.N.C.C. Parish, Dickson City, PA, Very Rev. William Chromey; pastor of All Saints P.N.C.C. Parish, Johnson City, NY, Rev. Dennis Ruda; pastor of Providence of God L.N.C.C. Parish, Scranton, PA, Rev. Walter Placek; Pastor of Nativity of Our Lord R.C. Parish, Duryea, PA, Rev. Andrew Sinnott; and Pastor of St. Mary’s P.N.C.C. Parish, Duryea, PA, Rev. Carmen G. Bolock. A reception was held in the Parish Hall following the Confirmation.
Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish
Dupont, PA

Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor

First Holy Communion, May 5, 2013
Front Row: Gianna Conforti, Angelina Slezak, Brady Musloski, Cody Lee, Timothy Slezak
Back Row: Rev. Zbigniew Dawid

Y.M.R. of R. Branch #2 50th Open Pit Chicken BBQ, July 13, 2013
John and Carol Bondurich 50th Wedding Anniversary, August 31, 2013.

Confirmation, April 14, 2013
Alex Ambruso, Joseph Honis, Patrick Dawid, Dylan Forsythe, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Morgan Baclasky, Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Gabrielle Markowski, Michael Lee

**Holy Mother of Sorrows Advent Dinner**

Advent Potato Pancake & Clam Chowder Dinner will be held on Friday, December 6, 2013 at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Hall, 212 Wyoming Ave., Dupont, Pa. Serving times are 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Takeouts will be available from 1:00 p.m. Donation is $8.00. Dinner includes pancakes, soup, dessert & beverage.
Los Angeles, CA – The year 2013 is special to this parish in many ways. We are thankful to God for all His blessings and graces we have experienced every day in the life of our parish. We also are grateful to our parishioners and friends who pray, support and work in our church. The involvement and cooperation of many people give us the conviction that we are a stable, self-sufficient congregation determined to exist, and that we see a bright future for our parish.

The most important moment in the life of our parish this year was Bishop Bernard Nowicki’s visit with us. As a congregation we thank Bishop Bernard for his dedication, prayers and Sacraments; especially the Sacrament of Confirmation for our 18 students.

Our congregation is international in that we use four languages in the liturgy, and Bishop Bernard welcomed the use of those languages during the celebration. Not only did he welcome our diversity, he also prepared to celebrate the Rite of the Sacrament of Confirmation and a portion of the Holy Mass in Spanish.

The bishop’s sermon at the Holy Mass and his speech at the reception in our parish hall uplifted our hearts and inspired our minds to work even harder for the benefit of our parish and the Church.

Bishop Nowicki, planning in advance for his visit to Guardian Angel Parish, asked the parish Administrator, Fr. Andrew Machowski, about the life of the parish; Bishop also requested that the parish chair, Ms. Esperanza, assist him with translating part of the Mass and the Sacrament of Confirmation into Spanish.

We felt very special because of the bishop’s visit, and we pray that the Pastor of our Central Diocese, Bishop Bernard, will have enough time to use his talent, enthusiasm and pastoral spark for the benefits of all the parishes in our Diocese.

Confirmation at Guardian Angel Parish
Los Angeles, CA

Over 100 youth, adults and clergy from 11 parishes across the Eastern Diocese gathered on August 18 to 22, 2013 at Camp Howe in Goshen, MA for the 40th Annual Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat. This year’s retreat theme was “Through the Years,” which highlighted our P.N.C.C. history as well as 40 Eastern Diocesan youth retreats.

Thirty Alumni from past youth retreats held during the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and 2000s were welcomed to the opening evening’s Camp Reunion Night. Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr. prepared and presented a slideshow highlighting memorable moments from past Eastern Diocesan Youth Retreats.


Each cabin gave a presentation on the retreat theme to all of the campers. These presentations illustrated, through skits, the great understanding of what everyone learned during the week about being a part of the P.N.C.C.

Intermingled throughout the session days were many activities, including prayer services, wall climbing, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, archery, arts and crafts, football and much more.

On the last evening everyone had a chance to reminisce about the week’s activities around the bonfire, eating S’mores and singing camp songs.

Holy Mass on the last day of the retreat was celebrated by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski. “Morning Star” a youth band from Divine Providence parish in Norwich, CT played for this Holy Mass.

Thanks are given to Bishop Paul; the session presenters; activity coordinators Joanne Oliveira and Maryann Zarek; country store manager – Mike Zarek; Janice Dzialo for a great job on the backdrop; Donna Sittard as camp nurse (who did perform a few minor operations); and to all the chaperones who gave of their time to make Youth Retreat 2013 an outstanding success!

As a reminder to Eastern Diocese Youth - the Winter Youth Gathering is tentatively scheduled for December 30, 2013. Please look for future information about the retreat on the diocesan website at easterndiocesepncc.org and through your parish pastor.

Youth Retreat 2014 will be held at Camp Howe in Goshen, MA in August 2014.

(For more details on the 40th Annual Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat, go to easterndiocesepncc.org/News___Events.html.)
The 2013 Camp Spirit Award, in memory of Jason Fairclough, was awarded to Ian Gonyea from Our Savior Parish in Woonsocket, RI. Ian’s name will be added to the plaque and remembered at future youth retreats.

Mike and Maryann Zarek were presented a plaque signed by all the youth to thank them for their years of love and service to the youth retreat program.

“Morning Star,” a youth band from Divine Providence Parish in Norwich, CT, gave praise to God through their music and voices.

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich was presented with a crystal recognition award for his dedicated attendance at all 40 diocesan youth retreats, and for leading the last 17 retreats as the Eastern Diocesan youth chaplain.

**Upcoming Events in the Eastern Diocese**

**Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH:** November 9 - Holiday Fair - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; November 10 - Parish MooreMart “Care Packages for the Military” collection and “Holiday Mail for Heroes” Christmas Card Programs begin; December 14 - 10:00 A.M - Advent Outdoor Cathedral Decorating by SOCL; pizza party follows at 12:30 p.m.; December 22 - Parish collection of mittens, gloves, scarves and coats for needy school children in the Manchester Public Schools

**Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI:** November 16 - Annual Parish Bazaar (with the famous Grand Prize Raffle). For more information about raffle tickets contact Ed Surowiec at 401-765-0975

**St. Valentine’s Parish, Northampton, MA:** November 23 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Christmas Bazaar; December 5 - 7:00 p.m. - 2nd Annual Christmas Concert

**Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA:** Thursday, November 29 - Noon - Thanksgiving Day Dinner - A free dinner with all the fixings will be served to the first 100 people.
Western Diocese

A Look Back at Youth Gathering 2013

“Living on a Prayer”

When most people hear the phrase, “Living on a Prayer,” the common thought is about the famous band, Bon Jovi; but to those who attended the July 15 – 18, 2013 Western Diocese Youth Gathering at Heidelberg University, it symbolizes a week of camaraderie and 90-degree weather. This inspiring week brought together new and old friends through creative sessions, cooperative activities, and team survival in Tiffin, Ohio’s hot summer.

Throughout the week the group learned about praying from different outlooks. Some sessions included learning about different religions and those religion’s procedures to pray, a guide book for praying, and praying through song.

The youth also participated in the Something-A-Thon, which acted as the service project. This entailed various activities to raise money for the participants’ home parishes. It was quite successful and allowed everyone to conquer as a collective unit.

A Convo planning meeting was convened, during which it was decided that Heidelberg University is to be the host college for Convo 2014. The campus is nice and small, handicap accessible, air conditioned, and has many other wonderful accommodations.

During the Convo planning meeting the youth also decided on a theme for Convo 2014; the title is still a work in progress, but is roughly based on “In the beginning …”

The next Convo meeting has been scheduled for October 5, 2013 at Divine Providence Parish, Merrillville, IN. On the agenda for this meeting is logo development and planning for sessions and activities.

The 2013 Western Diocese Youth Gathering really helped people realize that praying does not need to be thought of as tedious, but as a gift. It was all thanks to the wonderful presenters who filled a week in July with special moments to last in everyone’s minds as great memories.

Let us make Convo 2014 fantastic!
Hannah Bilinski
President, W.D. United Youth Association

Participants at the 2013 Western Diocese Youth Gathering at Heidelberg University, Tiffin, OH
Build a new beginning memorial "Tree of Life"

St. Michael the Archangel National Catholic Church, Cedar Lake, IN, wants to grow into a mighty tree to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. A "Tree of Life" will be placed in our church complex. You can become a part of this tree by purchasing a leaf engraved with your name and/or in memory of a loved one. Each leaf is $150.

Please fill out the form below, enclose your check made payable to St. Michael the Archangel National Catholic Church, and mail to: St. Michael the Archangel, Tree of Life c/o Diane Anton, 7603 Tapper Ave., Hammond, IN 46324.

If purchasing more than one leaf, please feel free to make copies of this form. St. Michael the Archangel Parish reserves the right to edit the text if necessary.

Fill in the above text grid with your engraving. Note there are a possible 3 lines with 24 boxes for characters, spaces, and punctuation in each line.

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**Error About P.N.C.C. Corrected in Archdiocese of Detroit Newspaper**

Thanks to the effort of one of the Parishioners at Our Savior P.N.C.C. in Dearborn Heights, MI, Jean Januszczyk, an error in the July 26, 2013 edition of the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Detroit, *The Michigan Catholic*, was retracted in the next edition.

The error occurred in an article entitled *Looking for a new parish? Make sure it’s Catholic* written by Mike Stechschulte. It stated incorrectly, “Several other churches in the area belong to the Polish National Catholic Church, which sprouted from the schismatic ‘Old Catholic Church’ in the early 1900s. It differs from the Catholic Church in many doctrinal areas, including beliefs about original sin and the form of many sacraments. Like the Society of St. Pius X, the clergy of these churches do not have the authority to administer the sacraments to Catholic laity.” It went on to say, “…if a Catholic has unwittingly received the sacraments at these churches, he should seek guidance from a Catholic priest.”

The P.N.C.C., like the Orthodox, are recognized as churches with valid Sacraments under Roman Canon Law, Canon 844. Under an agreement reached at an official Dialogue meeting at Our Savior in Dearborn Heights, MI in 1993, the P.N.C.C. falls under this canon. Also in error was the statement that the P.N.C.C. sprouted from the Old Catholic Church. We did not; we joined the Union of Utrecht, but as an independent, Autocephalous entity, and we formed in 1897.

This information was brought to the attention of Fr. John Cramer, who immediately brought it to the attention of the Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese, Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski, who then immediately forwarded it to member of the P.N.C. - R.C. Dialogue Committee, the Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski. Within 3 days, this matter was addressed with the dialogue committee on both the Polish National Catholic and Roman Catholic sides, contact made with the Archdiocese of Detroit, and a retraction printed in the August 2, 2013 edition.

We should be proud of the efforts of the Bishop of the Western Diocese and the Dialogue Committee in this matter, as they acted quickly and in the best interests of the people and parishes of the Metro Detroit area, the Western Diocese and the General Church.

Submitted by Rev. John A. Cramer, Pastor, Our Savior P.N.C.C. Dearborn Heights, MI

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**Constitutions Available**

“The Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church,” as revised at the XXIII General Synod in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, are available from the P.N.C.C. Book Department.

Orders may be submitted via email to secretarytopb@pncc.org, online at pncc.org, by calling (570) 346-9131 or by writing to:

Book Department  
P.N.C.C.  
1006 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505

“The Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church” should be in the hands of all members of the P.N.C.C. but above all by those who serve on the Parish Committees and other organizations.

The cost is $3.00 per copy plus $1.75 postage and handling. For multiple copies, please contact the P.N.C.C. Book Department for pricing.
On Monday, August 26, 2013, Holy Cross Parish PTO delivered two truck loads of school supplies to Holbrook Elementary School in the Hamtramck Public School District.

This was the seventh year that Holy Cross Parish has helped one of the local public schools. The planning and collecting of school supplies started in July when parishioners were asked to take the school wish list and shop to support this school.

The school has 270 children enrolled in grades K-8, with 98% of students receiving free and reduced lunch and 72% studying English as a second language.

Donated items included 3463 pencils, 2345 pens, 793 folders, 573 notebooks, 236 boxes of crayons, plus thousands of other school supplies and many winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves.


Greeting us at the school was the new Principal, Ms. Murphy, Superintendent Mr. Niczay, along with many staff to help unload the trucks.

The school staff was very appreciative to receive so many needed supplies. We pray that they have a very successful school year.

On Labor Day, Monday September 2, 2013, a Holy Cross Parish delegation walked in the annual Polish Day Parade down Jos. Campau, the main street in Hamtramck, MI.

The group started the day with lunch in the parish hall with our invited friends from the American Polish Assistance Association.

Following lunch the delegation lined up on Jos. Campau and walked the 1.5 mile parade route. It was hot and sunny; a perfect day to walk and wave to all the people on the sidewalk.

Parishioner Annie Gadzinski tossed candy to the kids in the crowd along the way.

After the parade the group went back to Holy Cross and enjoyed the food provided by parishioner Stephanie Marsh.

On Sunday, September 15, 2013, following Holy Mass, Pastor Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak and the Holy Cross Mission Committee asked volunteers to put together packages of baby diapers and baby wipes for families attending an October community baby shower sponsored by the local Friendship House.
Parishioner Kathy Chockley volunteered at the check-in table where our team, One More Mile, came to register and commence riding the bike route around the small towns in the area.

On the following Tuesday volunteers delivered the bundles along with 50 baby outfits, 106 chocolate covered pretzel favors, 5 diaper bags, 2 soft infant carriers and a baby bouncer to the delighted Friendship House office staff in Hamtramck.

Friendship House provides support to low income families in Hamtramck, and the community baby shower is just one of their programs.

Thank you to all volunteers who helped put the packages together, the Marsh family for donating a box of diapers, and the Hogness family for donating many baby outfits.

On Saturday, September 28, 2013, Jakub Nowak, Pastor Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak and parishioner and team captain Larry Chockley participated in the Bavarian Breakaway Bike MS fundraiser ride in Frankenmuth, MI.

For more information or to donate to the MS Society, please go to www.nationalmssociety.org/mig.

Submitted by Kathy Chockley
All Saints Cathedral School of Christian Living and Confirmation Class Begins
Chicago, IL

On Sunday, September 8, 2013, All Saints Cathedral, Chicago, IL opened the 2013-14 School of Christian Living and Confirmation Class year with the Blessing of Children and Commissioning of Teachers at the 11:00 a.m. Mass, celebrated by Rev. Frank Rowinski and Deacon David Rowinski.

During the blessing and commissioning ceremony the teachers, students, and congregation together pledged their commitment and support to the School of Christian Living Program and the Christian education of the parish children.

Following Mass, the All Saints Mission & Evangelism Committee sponsored and served a spaghetti dinner to 45 adults and children. The delicious meal was prepared by parishioner Daniel Kneeland and included salad, garlic bread, spaghetti with meat or marinara sauce, and a variety of delicious home baked desserts. After dinner, attendees participated in an enjoyable afternoon of fun and fellowship playing Bingo and winning many prizes.

This school year’s School of Christian Living teaching staff includes Superintendent Margaret Rowinski along with instructors Diane Hughes, Grace Urban, Katy Scott, Elaine Rowinski, Michael Szydlowski, Confirmation Class instructor Douglas Scott, and substitutes Loretta Esula and Lori Scott.

School of Christian Living classroom instruction commenced on Sunday, September 15.