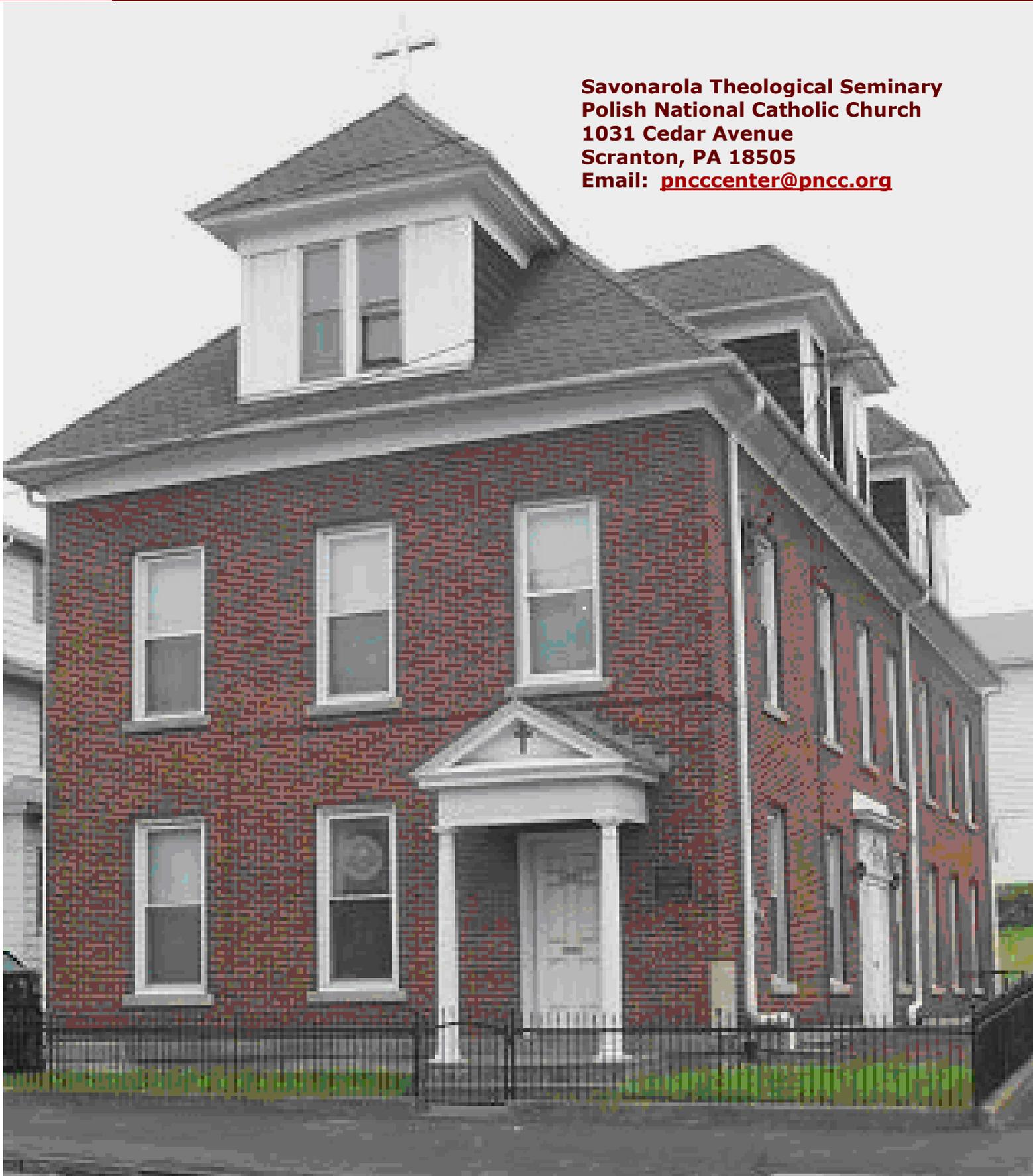
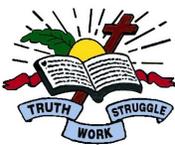


Savonarola Theological Seminary of the Polish National Catholic Church

**Savonarola Theological Seminary
Polish National Catholic Church
1031 Cedar Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505
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Savonarola Theological Seminary of the Polish National Catholic Church

About the Savonarola Theological Seminary Polish National Catholic Church

The Savonarola Theological Seminary is an institution of higher learning founded and sponsored by the Polish National Catholic Church of America and Canada. It offers men an opportunity to achieve a higher education in the liberal arts, philosophy, the Holy Scripture, theology and guidance in their vocation to become priests of the Polish National Catholic Church in service to God and His people.

Committed to a Catholic Christian vision of reality, it inculcates in the individual seminarian a deep appreciation of the Christian ideal and a true sense of recognition of the Christian heritage and its laws with a sensitive commitment to the needs and wants of self and others.

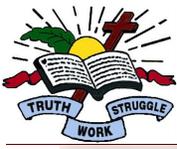
The divine and apostolic intent in the intellectual and spiritual formation of the priesthood at Savonarola Theological Seminary of the Polish National Catholic Church is clearly enunciated in the Confession of Faith of the Polish National Catholic Church.

History

Savonarola Theological Seminary was founded, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, to properly train candidates for the priesthood of the newly-organized Polish National Catholic Church. In 1904 Bishop Hodur, with a modest faculty, conducted theological studies in the rectory and parish hall of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, Cathedral in Scranton.

In 1914 the Seminary was moved to a building generously donated by the Good Shepherd Parish in Plymouth, Pennsylvania. Then, in 1917 the Seminary was transferred to the building housing the Polish National Union of America (*Spójnia*) and the *Polish Weekly Straż*, to bring it closer to the Cathedral Parish and See of the Polish National Catholic Church. The location would provide the seminarians with a basic theological education and the advantage of a quality and thoroughness enhanced under the personal supervision of Bishop Hodur. The building's third floor provided living quarters, study and lecture halls, and direct access to the library of the Polish National Union.

Due to the continued growth of the Church, and an increase in applications, the Seminary Administration saw the need for more spacious quarters. The current building, located at the corner of Cedar and Elm Streets in South Scranton was purchased in 1926. After extensive remodeling it was dedicated as the resident Seminary of the Church. The seminary underwent major construction that doubled its size in the late 1940s and the late Bishop John Misiaszek dedicated the new structure on November 23, 1950.



Savonarola Theological Seminary of the Polish National Catholic Church

Girolamo Savonarola - Priest and Martyr

September 21, 1452 – May 23, 1498

by Rt. Rev. Anthony Mikovsky

Jerome Savonarola was born in Ferra, Italy on September 21, 1452. He came from an influential family of doctors in Padua. As a young man he was very well educated and had a special love for Scripture, philosophy and St. Thomas Aquinas. At the age of 22, he was moved to religious life by the sermon of an Augustinian friar and, because of his love for Aquinas, joined the Dominican Order.

The date of his ordination and first sermon are unknown, but from the beginning of his ministry his preaching focused on the need for reform within the Church. He spent much time in the study of Scripture about which he wrote considerably.

In 1491 he became the Prior of his monastery of St. Mark's in Florence. He preached there strongly against tyranny and oppression. Savonarola's view was that God is essentially free, and the just man is free after the likeness of God. In 1493, Savonarola received full ordinary power over the Dominican Province of Tuscany and, because of this, his influence and prestige increased. It was at this point that Pope Alexander VI began to take notice of him and eventually worked to destroy him.

Savonarola was first excommunicated nine days after delivering his famous Ascension Day sermon in 1497. He was charged with disobedience but not heresy. Savonarola refused to accept the excommunication, saying that it was invalid because it was politically motivated. He continued to celebrate Mass and preach, calling for reform and condemning Pope Alexander VI even more strongly.

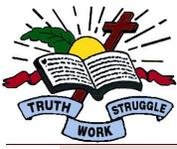
On February 26, 1498 the Pope threatened an interdict against the city of Florence, if Savonarola was not silenced. Fearing this financial hardship, the political machine of the city had Savonarola convicted at a religious court and, on April 7, 1498, he was challenged to an ordeal by fire. The ordeal did not take place, but Savonarola and two of his supporters, Fr. Dominic and Fr. Sylvester, were arrested a short time later while celebrating Vespers on Palm Sunday.

Savonarola underwent torture from the 9th of April until the 14th, but would still not confess to heresy. His accusers found ostensible witnesses who would testify against him. The torture of all three priests continued until April 26th, when Fr. Sylvester finally could tolerate no more and confessed.

From that day until May 19th, Savonarola was kept in solitary confinement while papal commissioners were summoned. He was again tortured in their presence from May 20-22nd, but despite threats and promises he would not break.

On the 22nd of May the verdict was finally announced. They would be hanged and their bodies burned. On the following day, May 23, 1498, the three priests were stripped of their ecclesiastical habits by the bishop and led away to execution. The two priests, and lastly Jerome Savonarola were hung, the bodies burned and the ashes cast into the River Arno, so that no relics would remain.

The Seminary of the Polish National Catholic Church is named in honor of this courageous reformer.



Savonarola Theological Seminary of the Polish National Catholic Church

Prayer of Jerome Savonarola

*while holding the Body of our Lord after Mass
on the day of his execution.*

Lord, I know that You are the true God, Creator of the world and of humanity. I know that You are the perfect Trinity, indivisible and inseparable, distinct in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I know that You are the everlasting Word, that came down to earth in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and was crucified to shed Your precious blood for us miserable sinners.

I beseech You, Lord, I beseech You, my Savior, I beseech You, my Comforter, that the Precious Blood shall not have been shed in vain for me, but will be for the remission of all my sins, for which I ask Your forgiveness, from the day on which I received holy baptism until the present time; and I confess my sinfulness to You, Lord. And, therefore, I ask Your forgiveness for anything in which I have offended this city and this people, in spiritual and temporal matters, and for everything in which I may have erred without knowing it.

And I humbly beg forgiveness of all these people here present, and ask that they may pray to God for me, that He may give me strength at my last end, and the enemy may have no power over me. Amen.