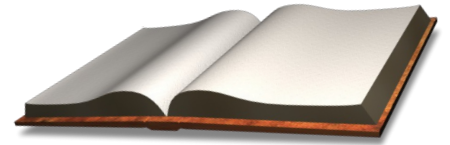


# THE WORD



WESTERN DIOCESE  
POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Volume 6, Issue 4

Winter 2014

## WESOŁYCH ŚWIĄT BOŻEGO NARODZENIA! HAPPINESS ON THE FEAST OF CHRIST'S BIRTH!



"In the fullness of time, God sent His son ... ". These words are found in Holy Scripture, announcing the change of earthly rule over to that of the Son of God. We shouldn't miss this too fine of a point – "fullness of time" – as an indication of God's plan unfolding for His creation.

Many arguments have arisen over the years – why then? Why in the latter years of a growing Roman Empire? Why at a time when social ills were in no way comparable to those we face today? Why not now?

Intriguing, no? If one would speculate on time itself, what would be a good time for God to appear on earth in human form? Would there be a better time in the future? If one could anticipate a better world, wouldn't one be able to have a bit more faith in humanity? Wouldn't there be time to correct some mistakes in preparation for a better time to come?

Do you see the beauty of the plan God devised and carried out in the manger in Bethlehem some two thousand+ years ago? You see, we have the possibility of a better future; we have the opportunity of correcting mistakes in anticipation of a better world. That's why the plan of God sent His Son to us at a time that would make our day today more hopeful, more blessed, more with the chance to live a life worthy of the Gift.

God knew what He was doing in this plan. Time was of the essence. One could argue that the miracle of Bethlehem set the world on a path that would lead to the more perfect world God had in mind on the days of creation. However, just as strong an argument could be made that all was just setting the stage for the world today!

Presumptuous? Perhaps, but what can one do with the reality of the presence of God on this world, in the form of a human baby, Who for us, in this present day, is the only source of true happiness, blessing, love and grace?

As we are united in prayer this Holy Season, may our families, our friends, celebrate our Messiah; His love shall remain forever. Believe that, and that will bring true "peace on earth"!

Bishop Stanley

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Christ's Birth continued	2
Calendar & Prayers	4
From the Office of the Bishop	5
A View from the Pews	6
Synod Reflection	11
Vocations are our Future	12
Tonsure	13
God's Field - Rola Boża	14
School Supply Drive	16
100th Anniversary	17
Installation of an Acolyte	18
Nat'l. Mission Comm.	19
75th Anniversary	20
Milwaukee Circle Choir	23
Chicago Circle Choir	24
Christmas Greetings	25
Polish National Union	26
Caribbean Cruise 2015	27
WD Parish Websites	28

*continued on pages 2 & 3*

Continued from page 1

## **Wesolych swiat, Bożego Narodzenia! Szczęście w święto Narodzenia Chrystusa!**

"Gdy nadeszła pełnia czasu, zesłał Bóg Syna swego ...". Te słowa znajdują się w Piśmie Świętym, zapowiadając zmiany ziemskiego panowania nad do Syna Bożego. Nie powinien przegapić tego zbyt dobrze z punktu - "pełnia czasu" - jako wskazanie planu Boga dla Jego stworzenia rozkładania.

Wiele argumentów powstały na przestrzeni lat - Dlaczego więc? Dlaczego w ostatnich latach coraz Cesarstwa Rzymskiego? Dlaczego w czasach, kiedy zło społeczne były w żaden sposób porównać do tych, które stoją? Dlaczego nie teraz?

Intrygujące, nie? Jeśli można by spekulować na temat samego czasu, co będziea dobry czas dla Boga, by pojawić się na ziemi w ludzkiej postaci? Czy istnieje lepszy czas w przyszłości? Jeżeli można przewidzieć, lepszy świat, nie można by mieć możliwości trochę więcej wiary w ludzkość? Nie będzie tam czas, aby skorygować pewne błędy w przygotowaniu do lepszego czasu przyjść?

Czy widzisz piękno Bożego planu opracowanego i prowadzonego w żłóbku w Betlejem + jakieś dwa tysiące lat temu? Widzisz, mamy możliwość lepszej przyszłości; mamy możliwość korygowania błędów w oczekiwaniu lepszego świata. Dlatego the plan Bóg posłał swego Syna, aby nas w czasie, że nasz dzień dziś więcej nadziei, więcej szczęścia, więcej z szansy, aby żyć w sposób godny daru.

Bóg wiedział, co robi w tym planie. Czas był w istocie. Można argumentować, że the cud z Betlejem ustawić świat na ścieżkę, która prowadzi do bardziej doskonałego świata, Bóg miał na myśli w dni stworzenia. Jednak tak, jak silnean może być argument, że wszystko było tylko na etapie ustalania świata już dziś!

Zarozumiały? Być może, ale co można zrobić z rzeczywistością obecności Boga na tym świecie, w postaci ludzkiej dzieckiem, kto dla nas, w tej obecnej, jest the jedynym źródłem prawdziwego szczęścia, błogosławieństwa, miłości i łaski?

Jak jesteśmy zjednoczeni w modlitwie tej Świętego Sezon, może nasze rodziny, nasi przyjaciele, świętować Mesjasza; Jego miłość pozostaje na zawsze. Wierzmy, że i że przyniesie prawdziwy "pokój na ziemi"!

Biskup Stanisław



*Wesolych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia*

Continued from page 2

## **Wesołych swiat, Bożego Narodzenia! Felicidad en la fiesta del nacimiento de Cristo!**

"En la plenitud del tiempo, Dios envió a su hijo ...". Estas palabras se encuentran en la Sagrada Escritura, que anuncia el cambio de gobierno terrenal a la del Hijo de Dios. No debemos perder esta demasiado bien de un punto - "plenitud de los tiempos" - como una indicación del plan de Dios para el despliegue de su creación.

Muchos argumentos han surgido en los últimos años - ¿Por qué entonces? ¿Por qué en los últimos años de una creciente Imperio Romano? ¿Por qué en un momento en que los males sociales eran de ninguna manera comparables a los que nos enfrentamos hoy en día? ¿Por qué no ahora?

Intrigante, ¿no? Si uno podría especular sobre el tiempo mismo, lo que sería un buen momento para que Dios aparece en la tierra en forma humana? ¿Habría un mejor momento en el futuro? Si uno podría anticipar un mundo mejor, no habría un solo ser capaz de tener un poco más de fe en la humanidad? ¿No habría tiempo para corregir algunos errores en la preparación para un mejor momento para venir?

¿Usted ve la belleza del plan de Dios ideó y llevó a cabo en el pesebre en Belén hace unos dos mil años +? Usted ve, tenemos la posibilidad de un futuro mejor; tenemos la oportunidad de corregir errores en previsión de un mundo mejor. Es por eso que el plan de Dios envió a su Hijo para que nosotros a la vez que haría que nuestro día de hoy más esperanzador, más bendecido, más con la oportunidad de vivir una vida digna de ese regalo.

Dios sabía lo que estaba haciendo en este plan. El tiempo era esencial. Se podría argumentar que el milagro de Belén establecer el mundo en un camino que conduzca a un mundo más perfecto que Dios tenía en mente en los días de la creación. Sin embargo, igual de fuerte argumento podría ser que todo se estaba poniendo el escenario para el mundo de hoy!

Atrevidos? Tal vez, pero ¿qué se puede hacer con la realidad de la presencia de Dios en este mundo, en la forma de un bebé humano, que para nosotros, en el día de hoy, es la única fuente de la felicidad verdadera, bendición, amor y gracia?

Como estamos unidos en la oración esta Santa Temporada, pueden nuestras familias, nuestros amigos, celebrar nuestro Mesías; Su amor permanecerá para siempre. Creo que, y que traerá verdadera "paz en la tierra"!

Obispo Stanley



## WESTERN DIOCESE and PNCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*All times are Central Time except as noted.*

### CHANCERY OFFICE HOURS

#### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Chancery Office will be closed on the following days, due to religious or federal holiday observances:

November 27 & 28  
Thanksgiving

December 24 - 26  
Merry Christmas

December 31 - January 1  
Happy New Year

### CHANCERY OFFICE HOURS

The Chancery Office will be closed on the following days, due to staff attending National, Diocesan or other Church related events:

November 20 -23  
National Youth  
Workers Convention  
Atlanta, GA

<b>November 30</b>	Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood - Very Reverend Edward Meus
<b>November 30</b>	Advent 1 - Cycle "B" Begins
<b>December 1</b>	God's Field Christmas Ad Deadline
<b>December 8</b>	Solemnity - Conception of the BVM
<b>December 14</b>	Milwaukee Circle Christmas Concert 4 p.m. Sts. Peter & Paul Parish - South Milwaukee WI
<b>December 21</b>	Chicago Circle Choir Christmas Concert All Saints Cathedral - Chicago IL 4 p.m.
<b>December 24</b>	Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord
<b>December 25</b>	Solemnity - Nativity of our Lord
<b>December 26</b>	Feast - St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr
<b>December 27</b>	Feast - St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
<b>December 28</b>	Solemnity - Humble Shepherds
<b>January 1</b>	Solemnity - Circumcision of our Lord
<b>January 2</b>	Solemnity - Holy Name of Jesus
<b>January 4</b>	Solemnity - Holy Family
<b>January 6</b>	Solemnity - Epiphany of our Lord
<b>January 11</b>	Solemnity - Baptism of the Lord
<b>January 18-24</b>	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
<b>January 25</b>	Music Scholarship Sunday
<b>February 2</b>	Solemnity - Presentation of the Lord
<b>February 16</b>	Anniversary of the Death of Bishop Hodur
<b>February 18</b>	Ash Wednesday
<b>February 27-March 1</b>	National Mission & Evangelism Workshop St. Martin & St. Rose Parish - San Antonio TX
<b>March 8</b>	Institution of the PNCC Daylight Saving Time Begins
<b>March 25</b>	Solemnity - Annunciation of the BVM
<b>March 29</b>	Palm Sunday

## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

### 2014 Music Scholarship Recipients

**Rev. Greg Gronn:** St. Mary's P.N.C.C., Parma, OH  
George Balcar Award

**Michal Czaja:** Saints Peter & Paul P.N.C.C., South Milwaukee, WI  
Junior Incentive Award

Congratulations to our Diocesan 2014 Awardees! We are proud of your accomplishments and hope that you continue to serve in the music ministry of the P.N.C.C. at the parish/seniorate/diocesan/national level.

Information on the scholarship program can be obtained by visiting the National United Choirs Music Scholarship website: [nucmusicsscholarship.weebly.com](http://nucmusicsscholarship.weebly.com)

Application information and forms for the 2015 scholarships will be available on the website no later than January 1, 2015. Deadline for applying is May 15, 2015. This allows potential applicants over five months to fulfill the necessary obligations.

May we look forward in our diocesan family to celebrate your God-given gifts!

**Elevations to Holy Orders** – were conferred on Mr. Michael Szydowski at All Saints Cathedral - Chicago, Illinois - September 14, 2014.

**Parish Closing** - Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in St. Louis, Missouri celebrated their last Mass on Sunday, September 28, 2014.

Third Quarter Financial Obligations to the Diocese were due November 18, 2014. Fourth Quarter Financial Obligations are due to the Chancery no later than February 18, 2015. Please make sure all 2014 and prior year obligations are submitted in order to be included in the General Church and Diocesan Financial Reports.

It is that time of year when parishes traditionally begin to hold Election of Officers for the coming year. Please refer to the 2010 Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church (Article XVII section 4). Upon the conclusion of election of officers for the parish committee, please submit a letter requesting approval of the election (Article XVII Section 1), as well as supplying the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of those who were elected for the 2015 term of office.

During the Diocesan Council Meeting on May 31, 2014, Bishop Bilinski requested from all parishes within our Diocese that along with the submitted annual report of the parish, an inspection report of the physical property by the parish committee must be attached.

### WESTERN DIOCESAN FINANCIAL OBLIGATION DEADLINES

The schedule for parish financial obligations which are due to the Western Diocese on a quarterly basis, are as follows:

#### 2014 Obligations

##### **3rd Quarter Due**

November 18, 2014

##### **4th Quarter Due**

February 14, 2015

#### 2015 Obligations

##### **1st Quarter Due**

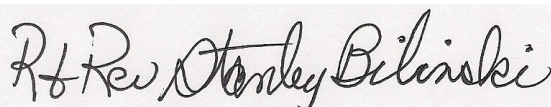
May 18, 2015

##### **2nd Quarter Due**

August 18, 2015

Quarterly Remittance Forms have been mailed to each parish in the Diocese. They are also available on the Western Diocese Website [westerndioocesepncc.org](http://westerndioocesepncc.org) and click on the Financial Page.

*By submitting parish obligations to the Western Diocese on/or before the above dates, this allows the Diocese ample time to submit the proper financial obligations to the General Church of the Polish National Catholic Church by the last day of each quarter.*





## **A VIEW FROM THE PEWS: 24th General Synod of the P.N.C.C.**

Submitted by Edmund Rumowicz - St. Joseph Parish - Davie, Florida

Father Chris and I had the privilege and pleasure to participate as delegates to the 24th General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church held in Erie, PA from September 29 to October 3, 2014.

What is a Synod? A Synod is an official church assembly of appointed and elected members called together by our Prime Bishop. The primary purpose of the Synod is to interpret and define the religious teaching of the Church. The Synod executes the supervision of all Church matters, both spiritual and material. The enactments of the General Synod bind our Church.

Bishops in the later half of the second century, began meeting in synods to present a common defense against the early heresies such as Gnosticism and Docetism. It was at these early Synods also called Councils that the role of the bishops was defined as the guarantors of the apostolic tradition. The first ecumenical council was held in Nicea in the fourth century (325).

The first Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church was held in Scranton, PA for three days, September 6-8, 1904. The first Synod had eleven Clergy and 93 lay delegates. My grandfather, Stanislaus Rumowicz was a delegate.

The 24th General Synod was attended by 48 members of the Clergy and 112 lay delegates. There were 64 female delegates and 48 male. Their ages ranged from four in their 20's to one 90 year old. The majority of lay delegates were between 60-69. Three of our Priests were in their seventies and the majority was between 50-59.

Prior to the Synod, written reports were sent to the delegates so that they would have the opportunity to preview the various topics that would be presented during the Synod.

The location of the Synod was at the Bayfront Convention Center, which adjoined the Sheraton Hotel. These facilities were located in a waterfront marina on Lake Erie. The venue was pleasant, but the activities of the Synod left little time for sight-seeing. However, a few delegates, after the evening meetings, were able to escape and try their luck at a Casino located on a nearby island.

The Synod formally opened at 10:30 a.m. on Monday when the Prime Bishop concelebrated Holy Mass with the Bishops of our Church. Also attending the Mass was the Most Reverend Edward Grosz, Auxiliary Bishop of the Buffalo Diocese and Right Reverend Richard Lipka from the Anglican Church in North America. Bishop Lipka was an observer for most of the Synod.

After lunch, the various procedural elements of the Synod took place, including the swearing in of the delegates, and the rules under which the Synod would function.

The delegates to the Synod were serious and dedicated which contributed to the success of the Synod. After the opening Mass on day one, Mass was at seven in the morning. On subsequent days each Diocesan Bishop celebrated Mass. I had the honor and pleasure of being a Lector when our Bishop Stanley Bilinski celebrated Mass. Thus a typical day at the Synod started with Mass at seven in the morning and closed at nine in the evening, with breaks for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Not every facet of the data that we dealt with during the Synod was of great interest

and at times the discussion of these items was tedious. I am going to take the liberty of highlighting those discussions, which I thought, would be of prime interest to you, the reader. I have copies of all of the reports submitted to the Synod and I am willing to share them with you.

### **The Status of the National Church**

A serious question is: Just how many formal members does the PNCC have? Look about you on most Sundays and the total count for our three Masses will average about 84 people. But we have only 48 dues paying members in our parish. And that is the rub? The Parishes of the PNCC report only about 6,600 dues paying members. Yet, in some of our parishes for special services 300 will attend. A few of our parishes did not send delegates to the Synod, because they could not afford to do so. The consensus of the delegates was that paying dues could be a reason why parishes either deliberately under count the number of members, because they did not want the obligation to pay dues to the National Church. Also, the reality is that some parishes needed every cent that they collected and they did not have the luxury to send funds to the National Church. The question of the relevancy of the National Church was never an issue. We are a Catholic Church and as such our structure is hierarchical. The term hierarchy literally means ruled by Clergy. We have no intention of abandoning this structure and as a result we must fund the office of our Prime Bishop and Diocesan Bishops. It was pointed out that a member pays \$1.06 per week in dues in General Fund dues, which equates to the cost of a cup of coffee at McDonald's. In 2015, the proposed expense budget for the National Church for fiscal years 2014-2015 is \$1,469, 523. These funds will be used to support items like Clergy Hospitalization, Clergy Pension Fund and Administrative Expenses. Recognizing both the need and obligation to support the National Church, the Synod voted to raise the dues paid to the National Church from \$55 to \$100. Currently we pay \$100 in dues, which is allocated as follows: \$55 to the National Church, \$25 to the Western Diocese and we retain \$20 for the Parish. At our last Parish Committee meeting we voted to increase the dues to \$150, \$100 to the National Church \$25 to the Western Diocese and \$25 retained by the Parish.

### **The Church in Canada**

In order to discuss the current status of our Church in Canada, the Synod was called into Executive Session. The primary element of the Executive Session is that all guests are removed and only delegates are allowed to participate. I can only reveal the basic facts concerning the Canadian problem. The issues have been litigated in court and a ruling was made in our favor. As a result Bishop Sylvester Bigaj is no longer a Bishop in the PNCC. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky has assumed responsibility for the Church in Canada.

*continued page 8*

## A View from the Pews continued...

### **The Nordic Catholic Church**

Bishop Roald Flemestad of the Nordic Catholic Church joined the proceedings. The Nordic Catholic Church was established in Norway in 2000 under the auspices of the PNCC. They are an Old Catholic Church and since 2011 a Member Church of the Union of Scranton.

Bishop Flemestad spoke of the growth of the Church, which now has five parishes in Norway and a new Parish in Sweden. The Church is seeing growth in Germany, France and Hungary as well as strong interest by Anglo-Catholic groups in England.

### **The Church in Poland**

The Third General Synod (1914) of the PNCC resolved that a National Church should be established in Poland. This intrusion by the PNCC was not welcomed by the Roman Catholic Church or the Polish government, which stated that the PNCC was against the interests of the Polish State. The first PNCC was illegally established in 1923 in Krakow. The church grew and Parishes were established in Torun, Warsaw, Dobrow Gornicza and a Mission Diocese established in Krakow. The first Synod was held in Warsaw in 1928 and the church then had 22 parishes. The first Bishop of the Polish Church was W.W. Faron who was consecrated by Bishop Hodur in Scranton in 1930. Bishop Faron turned out to be a devious man and he almost destroyed the church in Poland. In 1931 he was stripped of his Episcopal duties. Bishop Faron was replaced by the Rev. Joseph Padewski who in 1935, was elected Bishop. Bishop Padewski was interned by the Germans in 1942. In 1944 the Swiss Red Cross released him and he returned to the States staying until 1946 when he returned to Poland. In 1951 the National Church of Poland proclaimed its independence from the PNCC and assumed the title The Polish Catholic Church (PKK). Bishop Joseph Padewski was arrested as an enemy of the State and died in 1951 in a Warsaw prison.

This brief history of the PKK was not presented at the Synod. I wrote it for you to better understand the trials and tribulations of the Church in Poland.

The Very Rev. Gregory Młudzik gave his comments on the current status of the PKK amplified by Prime Bishop Mikovsky and Bishop Sobiechowski who attended the recent Synod of the PKK in Poland.

The principal mission of the PKK Synod was to elect two new Bishops. The Synod failed to elect two new Bishops and as a result a Special Synod will be called to accomplish this task. The critical issue is under which authority will the new Bishops be consecrated, Utrecht or Scranton? The PNCC departed from Utrecht when it unilaterally began to ordain women to the Priesthood and bless same sex marriage, which we believe is in opposition to Holy Scripture and the Sacred Tradition of the Undivided Church. If Utrecht is selected by the PKK our relationship will be severely compromised.

### **Anglican Church in North America**

Since the last Synod, we have entered into dialogue with the ACNA. The major issue between a successful dialogue is the fact that approximately fifty percent of the ACNA



Bishops have ordained women priests and deacons. The Bishop's College of the ACNA has been studying this issue for the past year and is about to come to a conclusion. If the ACNA Bishop's College supports the ordination of women it will have a profound effect on our ability to continue the dialogue.

Since 2011, dialogue teams from the PNCC and ACNA have met on four occasions to discuss those areas of faith that we share together and the areas that separate us. This dialogue has not produced any conclusions, but has been very fruitful. It will also serve as a model for a possible future dialogue with the Orthodox Church.

### **Constitutional Issues**

One of the most important documents in our Church is the Constitution and Laws, which govern the PNCC. Prior to the Synod the Constitution Commission met and reviewed the submissions for change and voted to recommend the approval or denial of the changes. Those items were then presented to the Synod for consideration. The source for the suggested changes emanated from the Supreme Council and individual Church members. The changes proposed ranged from the removal of the School of Christian Living delegate, to the General Synod. The reason for this removal was that the School of Christian Living Commission is a national commission of the Church and no other national commission has a delegate at the Synod. The Supreme Council also recommended that language be added to the Constitution, which makes it clearer that the authority of the clergy is based on Sacred Scriptures and the Tradition of the Church. Another proposed change submitted by a lay member of the church concerned the perennial suggestion to change the name of the church. The proposed changes are not taken lightly and must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the delegates. Debate on these changes can be spirited and by no means are proposed changes a slam-dunk. An example was a motion to amend Article 11 Section 1b from "by the will of God" to "by the will of the Church." That motion failed.

### **A Plan for the Future of the PNCC**

The Plan for the Future of the PNCC was a radical departure from past Synods, but it has the potential for being the most important exercise that a Synodal body has ever undertaken. We are all well aware that in our secular society the Church is not flourishing and if we do not take positive action we are in danger of falling into the dust-bin of history.

Doctor Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd, a member of our Church and a Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, School of Public Health, is responsible for the implementation and development of the process designed to bring forth a plan from the body of the Synod.

The methodology of the program was to break the delegates into 14 smaller groups of 10 -15 people who were a cross section of clergy and laity from different diocese. A discussion leader facilitated each of these groups. The discussion groups were asked to...

*continued page 10*

## A View from the Pews...

put aside any differences or grievances and to be open and respectful of each other's opinions. Above all, we were challenged to exercise the four I's...Initiate, Inquire, Imagine and Innovate. In my group we did just that and we were able to articulate our hopes for the future of the Church. The result was a cornucopia of thoughts and ideas, which we then distilled down to actual goals. Those goals were presented in an action plan, which identified the resources to successfully execute the plan.

The five major themes which emerged from the various groups were:

1. Growth and Membership
  - a. Preserve our heritage, culture and beliefs, but also be open and welcoming to diverse populations.
  - b. Retention of our youth.
  - c. Growth and retention of our own people.
  - d. Build and develop a brand and then market it.
2. Increase spirituality among our people.
  - a. More Christ centered.
  - b. Spiritual renewal and spiritual development programs.
  - c. Internal evangelism by getting our own house in order.
3. Lifelong learning in the faith for all ages.
  - a. More education of our people; internal/external
  - b. More education on the importance of stewardship and giving of our time, talent and treasury.
4. Sacred Vocations
  - a. Pastoral enrichment and continuing education.
  - b. More respect for the clergy.
  - c. Improved benefits for the clergy.
5. Community involvement and Presence

An Ad Hoc Committee of the Supreme Council has been formed to develop and implement the action plan. the Committee will disseminate these plans at the parish level in 2014. In 2015, the action plan for the five themes selected by the Synod will be implemented.

The 24th Synod came to an end at noon on Friday, October 3, 2014. I am confident that this Synod will rank among the most significant of our Church.

## SYNOD REFLECTION

Submitted by Hannah Bilinski - National UYA Representative / Western Diocese UYA President

I have only known the Polish National Catholic Church. I was born into it, and it was a part of me before I even knew who I was. Because of that I have gained much passion and love for our church. I didn't choose to go to this church, but I chose to stay a part of it, I chose to belong. A few weeks ago, I attended the 24th General Synod where I was the representative for the National United Youth Association. I thank my wonderful board wholeheartedly because it was one of the most emotional, knowledgeable, and spiritual experiences that I have been a part of. I encourage all of the NUYA members, as well as all the other youth of our church, to go to a synod when they have the opportunity to do so.

A significant feeling I had at the Synod was that it mattered that I was there. My voice, presence, and participation were equal to everyone else. I think my favorite part of the Synod, besides seeing the beautiful people of the PNCC and rooming with the best Aunt ever, was surprisingly the time spent on amending the constitution. No one could fathom how honored I was to be a part of that. Our constitution is a living document in which the members of our church, regardless of age, have the opportunity to change it if need be. How amazing it was that we were able to implement that. As a whole, we're not standing around allowing life to control the future of our church. We are taking action to save our church and help it thrive.

How the Synod was carried out this year could be an example of a way the Church is already adapting. A new addition to the format of the Synod was time set aside to work in small groups. I think it was really affective because there was a lot of variety in terms of people in the group, which allowed for many perspectives. In the group that I was a part of, I only knew three people and that was including my group leader. It was nice meeting other people and working with them, they are all very lovely. Being in a small group and talking about the really meaningful memories from our church experiences became empowering for me. Those shared stories are something that we realized we wanted future generations to have also. From our experiences we were able to imagine what we wanted for the future of the PNCC. I really hope the rest of the Church likes the results from the small groups.

I understood everyone's perspective that week, especially the brave souls who spoke against the approved amendments. I wish for you to understand my perspective. When discussing the decisions made by the 24th General Synod, please do not belittle. They were not easily made, but were necessary for the betterment of our church. My father taught me that when you become a member of the church you should give either ten percent of your time, money, or talent. If you honestly love our church, then you know it must adapt and change to new conditions. I missed a week of classes and returned to a week of midterms, but I love our church and I knew I needed to be at the Synod. I made the necessary arrangements because that's how important the Synod was to me, and I really wanted to see my Grandparents.

In ten years I want our church to still exist, I want my children to grow up and be passionate Polish National Catholics too. I'm happy with the results of the Synod because I think if they are upheld well, our Church will bloom.

## **VOCATIONS ARE OUR FUTURE, OUR FUTURE IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY** - Submitted by Rev. John Cramer, Vocations Chair of the Western Diocese

Just over a week ago, I celebrated my 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood. On occasions such as this, I become reflective and am prompted to share my thoughts with you, the people of the Western Diocese, because our Church's future rests on the vocations of young men to the Priesthood.

One of the things that was most profound for not only me, but many of my brothers with whom I shared a Seminary experience with, was that we grew up in parishes with a culture of vocations. You may be thinking, "What is a 'Culture of Vocations?'" This is a general, overriding element in a parish, from the Pastor to the man or woman in the pew, that Sacred Vocations are important and should be encouraged. As an altar server growing up, I cannot count the number of times that I was asked if I considered becoming a priest. Not only from the Pastor, whom I remember to this day as one of the most sainted priests I have ever had the privilege to know, but from parish members and teachers as well. This culture does not begin overnight. In each parish, it needs to begin with the Pastor and members of the Parish committee encouraging potential candidates from an early age to consider ministry as a career. I first considered it in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, so one is never too young to be encouraged. Also included in this culture of vocations is the respect the congregation shows to the Pastor. Let's face it, if a child sees their Pastor not treated well, why in the world would they consider giving their life in Priestly service?

This encouragement also extends to the family. I hear more and more parents actually discouraging their sons from a desire to become a priest. Part of it is the above lack of respect, but also there is a growing sense that someone cannot be successful unless they are making a ton of money. While money is important to the extent that it can be traded for necessary goods and services, there is a tremendous amount to be said for giving one's life in sacrifice for God's people and the Kingdom of Heaven. As a priest I know says when he is asked about the monetary aspect of ministry, "The pay isn't so great, but the benefits are out of this world!"

As a person who loves the Polish National Catholic Church (come on, if you didn't you wouldn't be reading this newsletter!) it is up to each and every single one of us to encourage vocations in our parishes. If you see a young person, ask them if they have ever thought of becoming a priest... not just once, but multiple times over time. If you are a parent with sons, help make sure that ministry is one of many options open to them for a happy and successful life. Also, always make sure to treat your pastor and every priest with respect. Finally, pray. Pray not only that God will continue to call priests to His Church, but also that good men will listen to that call. If we do these things together, we soon will see a new spring of vocations in the Western Diocese.

## **PRAYER INTENTIONS**

Please keep the Clergy of the Western Diocese as well as their families in your prayers on a continual basis. Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski, Very Rev. Joseph Kobylarz, Very Rev. John Kraus, Very Rev. Edward Meus, Very Rev. Edmund Mlynarczyk, Rev. Thomas Sheha, and Rev. John Sielchan.



# TONSURE & ELEVATION TO PORTER & READER: Michael Szydowski

Sunday, September 14, 2014 - Solemnity of Brotherly Love - All Saints Cathedral - Chicago, Illinois



*Entering the Church:  
Acolyte Martin Wachna, Jr.,  
Candidate Michael Szydowski,  
Deacon David Rowinski and  
Bishop Stanley Bilinski*



*Candidate Szydowski is presented  
to Bishop Bilinski.*



*Bishop Bilinski cuts  
Candidate Szydowski's hair  
in five places to symbolize the  
Crown of thorns.*



*Candidate Szydowski receives his  
surplice and cassock.  
He is now a Cleric in the Church.*



*Bishop Bilinski gives the final  
blessing over the new Cleric.*



*Bishop Bilinski resumes Holy Mass  
with the new Cleric.*





### **Subscription Information**

We are not accepting individual or parish *God's Field – Rola Boza* annual subscriptions at this time. Parishes and individuals are not being invoiced for *God's Field – Rola Boza* subscriptions, and have not been invoiced for this publication since 2011.

Free online subscriptions are available to everyone who has access to the Internet.

A limited number of free hard copy subscriptions are sent to every P.N.C.C. parish. Please contact your parish office if you wish to read one of the hard copy issues.

If you wish to purchase an individual issue, please send a check or money order, payable to God's Field, in the amount of \$3.85, along with the issue number you want to receive to:

**GOD'S FIELD**  
**Polish National Catholic Church**  
**1006 Pittston Avenue**  
**Scranton, PA 18505**

In 2015 we will announce our plans for new annual subscription rates for individual hard copy issues. If you have any questions, please email us at [godsfld@pncc.org](mailto:godsfld@pncc.org) or call 570-346-9131.

We appreciate everyone's patience during this past year and we look forward to continuing to provide you with timely articles in the *God's Field – Rola Boza*.

### **Submitting Articles and Photos**

- The article submission deadline is the 1st of each month.
- All articles arriving at the *God's Field* office after the 1st of the month will be published in the following month's issue.

Please submit articles and photos via email to [godsfld@pncc.org](mailto:godsfld@pncc.org)

- or -

via post to:

**GOD'S FIELD Polish National Catholic Church  
1006 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505**

**Emailed photos** must be in **JPEG** or **TIFF** format with a resolution of **300 pixels per inch** (or as high as possible). All photos **must be captioned** or contain the names of all individuals in the photo. **Uncaptioned/unnamed photos will not be published.**

**GREETINGS for CHRISTMAS (December 2014) and EASTER (March 2015 issue (Easter is April 5, 2015))**

The cost for publishing 2014 Christmas and 2015 Easter greetings for individuals, parishes and organizations in the God's Field is \$20.00 and \$25.00, respectively.

Due to space constraints in the 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  
Wesołego Alleluja!

ALL GREETINGS, ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENTS, MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 1, 2014 (Christmas) AND MARCH 1, 2015 (Easter) IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CHRISTMAS AND EASTER ISSUES.

Thank you.

The Staff and Management of God's Field—Rola Boża

*God's Field -  
Rola Boża  
Christmas  
Greetings*

Send \$20 and  
three lines of text  
by  
December 1, 2014

## ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE Submitted by Kathy Chockley

Holy Cross Parish PTO, Hamtramck, Michigan held their annual school supply drive this summer. Kosciuszko Middle School in the Hamtramck Public School District was the recipient of this year's collection drive. Kosciuszko School has 350 students in grades 7 and 8. Most students come from economically challenged homes. Parishioners were given the school wish list and generously bought supplies or donated money for supplies to be purchased. Every Sunday in July and August donations were dropped off in the big red collection box in our fellowship hall. We also invited our Hamtramck community to get involved. Patrons of our summer spaghetti dinners and members of the Hamtramck United Social Services kindly contributed. Members of Resurrection Parish in Temperance also donated many supplies.

On Wednesday, August 27, Holy Cross Pastor, the Very Rev. Jarosław Nowak and parish volunteers delivered the school supplies. Principal Nou Ivezaj and school staff greeted us and helped to unload our trucks full of needed pens, pencils, paper, folders, notebooks, back packs and more. They were very appreciative of all the supplies. We also collected winter coats, hats, mittens, and scarves for the students. We pray our donations will help the students get a good start to the school year. Thank you for your generosity.





## 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - STS. PETER & PAUL PARISH SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN Submitted by Elizabeth Kaniewski



Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday, September 20, 2014. Holy Mass was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. by the Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church with homily delivered by the Right Reverend Stanley Bilinski, Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese. Also in attendance at the altar were Very Rev. John Kraus, Rev. John Kowalczyk,

Rev. Raymond Drada, Rev. Charles Zawistowski, Rev. Francis Rowinski, Rev. Bogumil Czaja, Deacon Jonathan Meus and Deacon Thomas Opala. Participating Altar servers were Allen Zwoniarkiewicz and Adam Kaniewski.

Holy Mass began with a ceremonial ringing of the steeple bells. Currently, a carillon system is used to ring the hour and play hymns.



However, on this special occasion, Bruce Kaniewski and Justin Stefanski pulled the ropes and rang the actual bells 100 times. Chairperson, Justin Stefanski and his wife, Lauren welcomed both Bishops to Ss. Peter and Paul with the traditional greeting of bread and salt. The St. Cecelia Choir of Ss. Peter and Paul sang



traditional hymns of the Polish National Catholic Church during Mass.

Following Mass, a banquet was held at the Knights of Columbus Grand Hall. During the banquet, attendees were entertained by accordionist Ron Rutkowski dressed in a Krakowiak costume. After dinner, the Bishops were greeted with presentation bouquets by Michal Czaja and Addison Van Scoy. Prime Bishop Mikovsky and Bishop Bilinski both delivered inspiring and thoughtful remarks.

Ss. Peter and Paul would like to thank all those individuals and parishes who placed ads in their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative booklet, and to all those who traveled to attend the celebration.



Row 1, left to right: Altar Servers  
*Allen Zwoniarkiewicz and Adam Kaniewski*

Row 2, left to right:  
*Rev. John Kowalczyk, Bishop Stanley Bilinski,  
Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Rev. Bogumil Czaja,  
Deacon Thomas Opala*

Row 3, left to right:  
*Rev. Raymond Drada, Deacon Jonathan Meus,  
Rev. Charles Zawistowski, Rev. Francis Rowinski,  
Very Rev. John Kraus*

## INSTALLATION OF AN ACOLYTE ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH - CEDAR LAKE, INDIANA

On the Solemnity of the Christian Family, October 12, 2014, the Parish Family of Saint Michael the Archangel welcomed Joseph Randall Bartholomew Kowalczyk to the rank of Acolyte during the Holy Mass. Joseph has been serving and assisting at the Altar of our Lord since he was seven years of age. Over the past ten years, Joseph has advanced through the various ranks of Altar Servers at the Parish to achieve the highest rank among those who assist the celebrant during the celebration of Holy Mass or other Services and Devotions throughout the liturgical season. He was presented with a plain cross after serving for three months, a crucifix when he served for three years, an altar server cross for five years and finally an acolyte cross for serving for ten years.

During the Installation Rite prepared by the National Commission on Liturgy the following question and response was given:

Pastor: Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of this Ministry to the honor of God and to the benefit of the members of our Holy Church, and in particular to this congregation?

Joseph: I will.

Over the past ten years Joseph has demonstrated numerous times that he has been a faithful assistant at the Divine Worship of our Holy Church. He has demonstrated a knowledge and understanding that goes beyond that of an ordinary Altar Server. The custom at Saint Michael the Archangel Parish is to vest the Acolytes in a different manner than the other Altar Servers. An acolyte will wear a white alb and an acolyte cross to assist at the Altar. The acolyte is given greater responsibilities during the various Liturgies and has made a promise to assist any priest at anytime, even if he is no longer active on a weekly basis because of school or his chosen vocation in life.

His Parish Family and especially his dad and mom are very proud of Joseph and the young man he has become.



*Joseph Kowalczyk vesting in an alb, assisted by his mother, Cathy*



*Blessing of the new Acolyte*



*Receiving the Acolyte Cross from his Pastor and dad, Fr. John*



## NATIONAL MISSION AND EVANGELISM COMMISSION MEETING ST. MARY PARISH - PARMA, OHIO

St. Mary Parish in Parma, Ohio hosted the National Mission and Evangelism Commission meeting October 15-16, 2014. Those present at the meeting included Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Father Raymond Drada-Chairman, Barbara Bogzevitz-Recording Secretary, Bishop Stanley Bilinski, Bishop John Mack, Bishop Bernard Nowicki, Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Jeff Hohn, Phillip Mack, Sherry Mack, Katie Rencewicz, Karen Sobiechowski and Sally Watson.

Barbara Bogzevitz was appointed at the 24th General Synod by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky to serve on this National Board. It was her work that brought the meeting to Parma.

Holy Mass was held both days with the Opening Mass celebrated on Wednesday by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky. Former pastor and current Diocesan Bishop, the Right Reverend Stanley Bilinski, celebrated Holy Mass on Thursday. Barbara served as a lector for the Mass as did Chuck Repede, who also served at the altar.

Lunch for both days were provided by parishioners. A chicken, pasta and fresh bread meal was prepared for Wednesday while a homemade soup and salad meal was prepared for Thursday. Many thanks to the Ploskonka and Soltysiak families for providing these meals.

Topics of discussion included reviewing the 14th Mission Workshop held at Our Savior Parish in Woonsocket, Rhode Island in 2014; Planning of the 15th Mission Workshop to be held at St. Martin & St. Rose Parish in San Antonio, Texas February 27-March 1, 2015; Welcome to the PNCC Class; Pamphlets; National Secret Prayer Pal Ministry, National Clergy Appreciation Month and the location of the 16th National Mission Workshop. The next meeting will be held April 6-8, 2015 at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster, New York.



*The National Mission & Evangelism Commission engaged in discussion regarding future plans.*



*Prime Bishop Mikovsky, assisted by Father Jason Soltysiak during Holy Mass. Left sanctuary: Chuck Repede and Right Sanctuary Bishop Stanley Bilinski.*

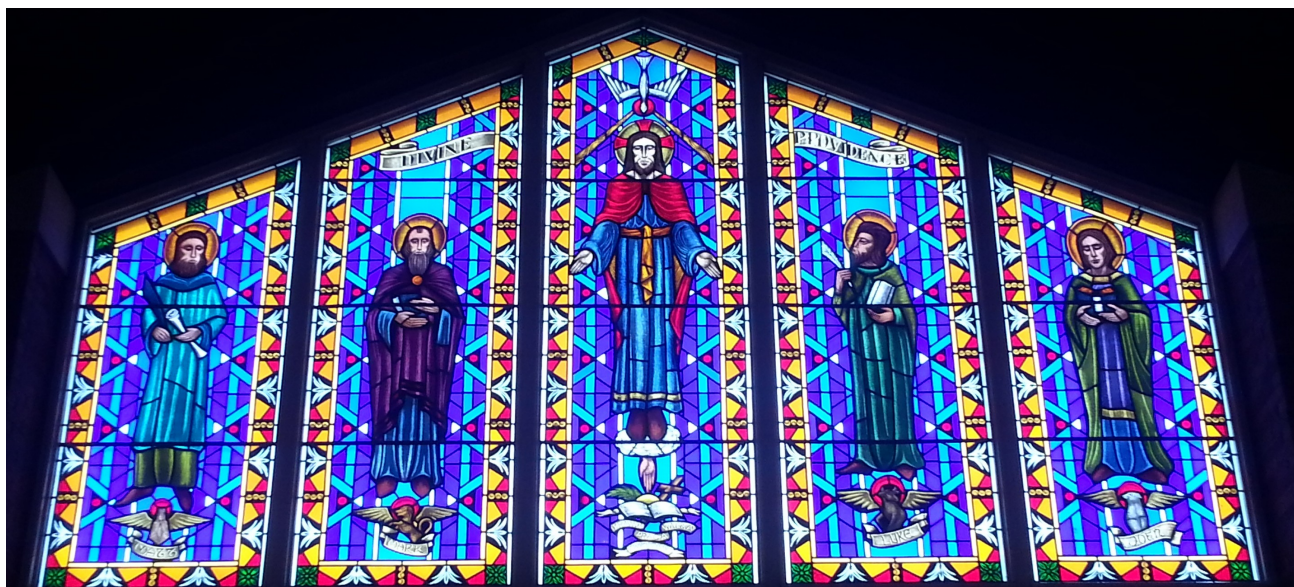
## 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - DIVINE PROVIDENCE PARISH MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA



Divine Providence Parish located in Merrillville, Indiana celebrated its 75th Anniversary on Sunday, November 9, 2014. The day began with the Concelebration of Holy Mass by Right Reverend Stanley Bilinski, Ordinary of the Western Diocese, assisted by Reverend John P. Kowalczyk, Jr., Administrator - Divine Providence Parish and Pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Cedar Lake, Indiana; Very Reverend Edward Meus, Pastor - Our Savior Parish in New Chicago, Indiana and the Reverend Charles Zawistowski, Pastor - St. Mary Parish in South Bend, Indiana. Mrs. Linda Ciastko who is the Organist of the Bishop Francis Hodur Choir, also directed the choir for the Mass. The lector for the Mass was Mr. Daniel Rybinski, Chairman of the Parish Committee.

Following Mass, a celebratory dinner was held in the parish hall. Thanks to Mrs. Donna Pavlik and Mrs. Jill Martisaukas for organizing the reception. Mr. Steve Tokarski was the Master of Ceremonies for the Diamond Jubilee Program. Those who gave greetings were Mr. Daniel Rybinski, Chairman, Divine Providence Parish Committee; Reverend John Kowalczyk, Administrator of Divine Providence Parish and Pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish; Very Reverend Edward Meus, Former Pastor of Divine Providence Parish and Pastor of Our Savior Parish; Mrs. Donna Pavlik, President of the Parish PTO and the Right Reverend Stanley Bilinski, Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese.

Thank you to everyone who celebrated with us on this day and a special thanks to those who helped in any way to make this day possible.



## 75th Anniversary continued...

### **Short History of Divine Providence Church**

Inspired by the popular Polish Religious Radio Program, hosted by Bishop Leon Grochowski, the first organizational meeting was held at the home of Joseph Siwinski on December 18, 1939. The following formed the nucleus of Divine Providence Church during those early years: Very Rev. Stanley Cybulski, Felix Biernat, John Krystelli, Joseph Gutowski, Stanley Kesel, John Pikula, Joseph Siwinski, John Lisek, Joseph Cieslak, and Ignacy Fudaley.

On January 7, 1940, Father Senior Cybulski celebrated the first Holy Mass in a small store and a year later on March 20, 1941, ground was broken for the construction of a church on the corner of 15th and Delaware Street in Gary, Indiana. The blessing of the corner stone took place on May 25, 1941 and the first solemn High Mass was offered on October 12, 1941 in the newly constructed edifice. This church and its facilities served the faithful very well until the late 60's.

The ground breaking ceremonies for a new church located at 269 West 57th Avenue in Merrillville, Indiana took place on November 10, 1968 under the leadership of the Bishop-Elect Joseph Jaworski. The newly constructed Divine Providence Church was dedicated on Sunday, September 13, 1970. The Right Reverend Francis Rowinski, Bishop of the Western Diocese, officiated at these services. A gala banquet and ball concluded the festivities at the Polish American Center in Gary, Indiana.

Clergy who served Divine Providence Parish were the following:

- Very Reverend Stanislaw Cybulski (1939-1940)
- Reverend Ludwik Nalewaj (1941-1944)
- Reverend Karol Rekas (1945-1947)
- Reverend Joseph Jaworski (1947-1951)
- Reverend Walter Slowakiewicz (1952-1953)
- Reverend Walter Proniewicz (1953-1955)
- Reverend Daniel Cyganowski (1955-1960)
- Reverend Leon Dobrzanski (1960-1962)
- Reverend Martin Wachna (1962-1963)
- Reverend Edmund Chrzanowski (1964-1967)
- Reverend Alojzy W. Kargol (1967-1969)
- Bishop-Elect Joseph Jaworski (1969-1972)
- Very Reverend Edward G. Meus (1972-2013)
- Reverend John P. Kowalczyk, Jr., Administrator (2014)

The Right Reverend Walter Slowakiewicz, Bishop Ordinary of the Eastern Diocese and the Right Reverend Daniel Cyganowski, Bishop Ordinary of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese were two former pastors at Divine Providence Parish. Also, Bishop-Elect Joseph Jaworski was elected, but not consecrated as a Bishop of our Church. Quite an accomplishment for a small church in Northwest Indiana.



## 75th Anniversary continued...

Active church organizations have been the Ladies Society for the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization), the Men's Club, the School of Christian Living, and the Bishop Francis Hodur Choir.

During the past 75 years, not one, but two churches were built by the parishioners of Divine Providence and solemnly dedicated to the greater honor and glory of God. On this, the 75 Diamond Jubilee, with TRUTH, WORK, and STRUGGLE, we give thanks to God and the parishioners for their faith, vision, and dedication which made Divine Providence possible.



*Parish Committee Chairman, Daniel Rybinski presenting the traditional gifts of bread and salt to the Right Reverend Stanley M. Bilinski, Jr.*



*The Celebrant and Con-celebrants at Holy Mass. Rev. John Kowalczyk, Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski, Very Rev. Edward Meus and Rev. Charles Zawistowski*



*Joseph Kowalczyk, Very Rev. Edward Meus, Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski, Rev. John Kowalczyk, Rev. Charles Zawistowski and Mason Martisaukas*



*Linda Ciastko leading all in the singing the National Anthem.*

WESTERN DIOCESE UNITED CIRCLE CHOIR NEWS



*The Milwaukee Circle Choir  
of the  
Western Diocese  
Polish National Catholic Church*



*Annual Christmas Concert*

*Featuring the Cantata  
“Love Came Down at Christmas”  
and  
Traditional English & Polish Carols*

*Sunday, December 14, 2014 ~ 4:00 p.m.*

*Sts. Peter and Paul Parish  
1308 15th Avenue (Corner of 15th and Cedar Avenue)  
South Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

*Fellowship following the concert in the parish hall.*

*For additional information, contact Liz Kaniewski 414-529-1388*

*Merry  
Christmas*





# WESTERN DIOCESE UNITED CIRCLE CHOIR NEWS



The Chicago Circle Choir  
of the United Circle Choirs  
Western Diocese Polish National Catholic Church  
Presents...

“LOVING CHRISTMAS”  
A Sing-a-long Christmas Concert  
Featuring ...  
Instrumental and Vocal Solos from our Youth and Choir Members  
Refreshments to follow

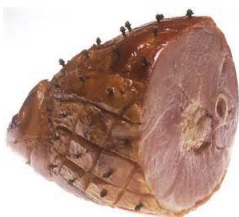
Sunday, December 21, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.  
All Saints Cathedral Parish  
9201 W. Higgins Road in Chicago, Illinois



## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

\$10.00 per pound

Orders must be placed by December 14 and picked up on December 21.  
To place an order, contact Dian Maycan at 847-318-7975.



## ANNUAL HOLIDAY HAM RAFFLE

\$5.00 per chance / 3 for \$10.00

Drawing will be held on December 21 following the Concert.

Winner need not be present.

To purchase raffle tickets, contact Robert Maycan 847-318-7975.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



### *Western Diocese Polish National Catholic Church*

*extends to all our faithful and friends a very  
Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.  
May Jesus Christ Who was born in a stable in  
Bethlehem bless all who do His work here on  
earth, today and for ever.*

*~ The Word Newsletter Staff*

### *Office of the Bishop of the Western Diocese*

*Right Reverend Stanley M. Bilinski, Jr., Bishop Ordinary*

*Martin H. Wachna, Jr., Chief Financial Officer*

*Very Reverend John Z. Kraus, Vicar General*

*Christine A. Wachna, Executive Assistant*

### *Clergy of the Western Diocese*

*Right Reverend Stanley Bilinski, Very Reverends John Kraus, Edward Meus and Jaroslaw Nowak  
Reverends Michael Augustyn, Andrzej Bako, Thomas Basta, John Berry, John Cramer, Bogumil Czaja,  
Raymond Drada, Henry Galas, Greg Gronn, John P. Kowalczyk, Jr., John Kutek, Krzysztof Mendelewski,  
Mark Niznik, Jaroslaw Rafalko, Jose Rojas, Francis Rowinski, Thomas Sheha, Jason Soltysiak,  
Jacek Soroka, Zbigniew Talaga, Zbigniew (Adam) Wsul and Charles Zawistowski  
Deacons Jonathan Meus, Thomas Opala, Angelo Pierro and David Rowinski  
Clerics Richard Kasprzak, Gail Lazenby and Michael Szydowski*

### *2012-2016 Diocesan Council of the Western Diocese*

*Chairman - Right Reverend Stanley Bilinski*

*Recording Secretary - Christine Wachna*

*Auditors - James Szalony, Dr. Henry Alba & Tina Dayne*

*Vice Chairman - Very Reverend John Kraus*

*CFO/Treasurer - Martin Wachna*

*Very Rev. Edward Meus, Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Rev. John Cramer, Rev. Bogumil Czaja, Rev. Raymond Drada,  
Rev. John Kowalczyk, Rev. Mark Niznik, Rev. Francis Rowinski, Rev. Charles Zawistowski, Robert Bilinski,  
Christina Danielkiewicz, Agnes Cramer, Tina Dayne, Diane Hollinsworth, Bruce Hoffman, Catherine Kowalczyk,  
Conrad Kulatz, Robert Maycan, Liz Kaniewski, James Ploskonka, Edmund Rumowicz, James Szalony and June Wyant*

### *2014 - 2018 Supreme Council Western Diocese Representatives*

*Very Reverend Z. John Kraus, Diane Hollinsworth & Martin H. Wachna, Jr.*

## POLISH NATIONAL UNION OF AMERICA



Polish National Union of America  
*Leading families in the right direction*

### Home Office Contact Information

1002 Pittston Avenue

Scranton PA 18505

1-800-724-6352

[www.pnu.org](http://www.pnu.org)

[www.spojniacreditunion.org](http://www.spojniacreditunion.org)

What is the PNU all about? We offer whole life insurance, 20 year endowments and annuities as part of our product line.

- Has there been a birth in your family? Did you know that it is cheaper to purchase a policy the younger the person?
- Have you realized you may not have enough Whole Life Insurance coverage?
- Would you like to start a 20 year endowment to benefit a child in your family and help them start their savings for college?
- Need information on our annuity rates?
- Has your address changed or do you need to update your beneficiary information?
- Would you like to know what else the PNU has offer?

Please contact the District Director in your area for more information.

### **PNU Districts within the Western Diocese**

#### ***District 6: Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri & Wisconsin***

Christine Wachna, District Director

421 South Church Road - Bensenville IL 60106

630-350-1787 [pnuofadist6@att.net](mailto:pnuofadist6@att.net)

***Annual Dinner & 1st Quarterly Meeting - Saturday, January 24, 2015***

***Annual Family Night - Saturday, February 21, 2015***

#### ***District 7: Michigan***

Stephanie Marsh, District Director

2582 Belle View-Shelby Township MI 48316

586-731-6937

***Annual***

***Children's Christmas Bowling Party***

***Sunday, December 7, 2014***

#### ***District 5: Ohio & Pennsylvania***

Ted Gibala, District Director

1921 Eden Park Blvd-McKeesport PA 15132

412-678-7347

***Contact Ted Gibala for  
the 2015 meeting schedule  
and events***



# 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.

### Price Listings

(Prices Per Person Double Occupancy)

Interior \$525  
 Ocean View \$655  
 Balcony \$795  
 Junior Suite \$1,065

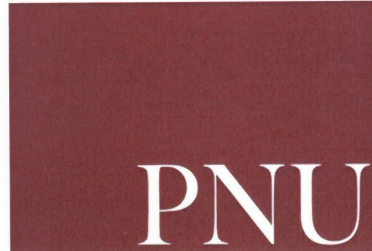
Limited availability within room block contracted for.



Interior Stateroom



Balcony Stateroom



### 5 Day Itinerary

Day	Port	Arrive	Depart
Saturday	Ft.Lauderdale		4:30 PM
Sunday	At Sea		
Monday	Belize City, Belize	9:00 AM	6:00 PM
Tuesday	Cozumel, Mexico	8:00 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	At Sea		
Thursday	Ft. Lauderdale	7:00 AM	

### All Prices Include\*

- Cabin Accommodation
- Most Meals and snacks\*\*
- Private Concierge Service
- Government Taxes and Fees
- All Port Charges
- Onboard Gratuities
- Private Cocktail Party
- Onboard Entertainment

\* Air transportation and shuttle transportation to/from the ship will be arranged for all participants at an additional cost.

\*\* Specialty dining, soda and all alcoholic beverages are excluded.

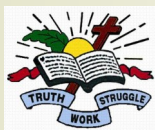
Contact "The Cruise People" at 1-800-642-2469 to make your reservations and convenient group travel arrangements from your area today.

The Cruise People Inc. are licensed and insured Florida sellers of travel - #22317

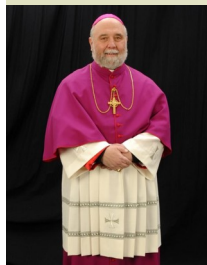
All major credit cards accepted.

Ships Registry: Bahamas

# WESTERN DIOCESE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH



We're on the Web!  
[www.westerndiocesepncc.org](http://www.westerndiocesepncc.org)  
[www.pncc.org](http://www.pncc.org)



Right Reverend  
Stanley M. Bilinski, Jr.  
Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese  
Polish National Catholic Church

Chancery Office:  
920 N. Northwest Highway  
Park Ridge, IL 60068-2358

Phone: 847-698-0578  
Fax: 847-698-1144  
Email: [wdpncc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wdpncc@sbcglobal.net)



Follow us on  
Facebook!

[westerndiocesepncc.org](http://westerndiocesepncc.org)

## The Word Newsletter Staff:

Right Reverend Stanley M. Bilinski, Jr., Controller  
Very Reverend John Z. Kraus, Editor  
Reverend John P. Kowalczyk, Jr., Editor  
Christine A. Wachna, Executive Editor

*The Word, a publication of the Western Diocese Polish National Catholic Church is not responsible for content or performance of any web site that The Word may be linked to or from which this web site maybe accessed. The opinions are those of the author and may not reflect the official teachings of the Polish National Catholic Church. It is not implied that the Controller agrees with the contents, opinions or statements expressed.*

## WESTERN DIOCESE PARISH WEBSITES

**Western Diocese PNCC [www.westerndiocesepncc.org](http://www.westerndiocesepncc.org)**

**All Saints Cathedral - Chicago, Illinois**  
**All Saints - Sterling Heights, Michigan**  
**Holy Cross - Hamtramck, Michigan**  
**Holy Trinity - Kewanee, Illinois**  
**Our Savior - Dearborn Heights, Michigan**  
**Resurrection of Our Lord - Temperance, Michigan**  
**Sacred Heart of Jesus - Ellisville, Missouri**  
**San Juan Bautista - Chicago, IL**  
**St. Joseph - Davie, Florida**  
**St. Mary - Parma, Ohio**  
**St. Mary - South Bend, Indiana**  
**St. Michael the Archangel - Cedar Lake, Indiana**  
**St. Paul - Belleview, Florida**  
**Sts. Cyril & Methodius - Chicago, Illinois**  
**Sts. Peter & Paul - South Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

[www.ascncc.org](http://www.ascncc.org)  
[www.allsaintspncc.org](http://www.allsaintspncc.org)  
[www.holycrosspncc.com](http://www.holycrosspncc.com)  
[www.kewaneepncc.com](http://www.kewaneepncc.com)  
[www.oursaviorpncc.com](http://www.oursaviorpncc.com)  
[www.resurrectionpncc.org](http://www.resurrectionpncc.org)  
[www.stlpncc.org](http://www.stlpncc.org)  
[www.sanjuanbautistapncc.webs.com](http://www.sanjuanbautistapncc.webs.com)  
[www.stjosephpncc.org](http://www.stjosephpncc.org)  
[www.stmaryspncc.com](http://www.stmaryspncc.com)  
[www.stmarypncc.org](http://www.stmarypncc.org)  
[www.stmichaelpncc.org](http://www.stmichaelpncc.org)  
[www.stpaulfl.com](http://www.stpaulfl.com)  
[www.cmpncc.org](http://www.cmpncc.org)  
[www.stspeterandpaulpncc.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulpncc.org)