



## Christmas 2013

**Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky  
Prime Bishop**

During the Shepherds' Mass, the first Mass of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we hear the words of the Prophet Isaiah that were proclaimed so many years before in anticipation of the coming Messiah. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as men make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!" (*Isaiah 9:1-6*)

These words were first announced as encouragement to the people of Israel when they were captive. They let the people know that God did not abandon them, but rather would send a Messiah to rescue them. We hear these words at Christmas today knowing that for us they have been fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ as our Savior and Redeemer. We hear them knowing that the infant Christ Child has now come to us. But we know that some things are still not quite right. We still know that there are those who still "walk in darkness" because of the lives of sin that

they are leading. There are those who live in the "land of gloom" whether by their own design or because others have cast them into this position within their lives. All we need to do is open the pages of our local newspaper, or turn on the television to see that there is still much darkness and inhumanity which plagues our world, it may cause us to ask, why does not the light of Christ shine there?

The answer of course is that the light of Christ has been given to us and it is therefore our responsibility to share it and spread it throughout the world. In this regard I have always been moved by the words of Holy Scripture that are read on Christmas concerning the shepherds. Luke's Gospel tells us "When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another: 'Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us.' They went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw, they understood what had been told them concerning this child. All who heard of it were astonished at the report given them by the shepherds. Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, in accord with what had been told them." (*Luke 2:15-20*)

We too have heard the message of the angels and we have gathered at Church to once again witness and see this event, not only the event of the birth of Jesus Christ, but also how this event comes down to us still each and every time we celebrate Holy Mass. Jesus Christ is present with us when we gather for Holy

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### *God's Field* — Rola Boza Publication Information

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### *God's Blessings on the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord.*

*Peace and Blessings in the New Year 2014.*



The Staff of God's Field

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Blessings and Best Wishes for a Joyous Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!

Supreme Council, Polish National Catholic Church



### Correction to Minutes of the Supreme Council Meeting

Published in November issue of *God's Field*, Volume 91, Issue No. 2, Page 7, the title **National Commission on Sacred Vocations** was omitted prior to the last paragraph in the left column:

The Prime Bishop reported the commission did not meet. He made numerous requests to them to meet. The Prime Bishop will reconstitute this commission.

### Identification Statement

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Mass as much as He was present in the stable in Bethlehem on that Christmas morning. But we must remember what the shepherds did next. Their lives were changed because they encountered the Lord who is now among us. They began to spread the news and share the story. Scripture tells us “all who heart of it were astonished.” We must be the ones who continue to tell the story that Jesus Christ has now been born into our world. We must be the ones who return to our daily lives “glorifying and praising God.”

The Savior of the world has now come to us and He comes as a little child. First and foremost we must have the only response that we can in this situation, not a discussion of theology, not even an understanding of all that the birth of Christ means for ourselves and our world, but rather we must love Him. It is that message that the newborn Christ Child brings, that God loved the world, and all of us, so much that He sent us His Son.

To all the bishops, priests, deacons and members of the Polish National Catholic Church I wish to extend my sincere blessings for a truly joyous Christmas and may the presence of Christ this year, help us to see that the first and the only response must be love. Wishing you all love, peace and the joy of Christmas and for the coming New Year.



## ***God's Field Distribution***

At this time we are not accepting any parish or individual annual subscriptions for *God's Field*. Until at least January 2015 we will continue to ship 4 hard copy issues per month to every P.N.C.C. parish at no cost to the parish. Additionally, anyone with access to a computer will be able to access the online issues of the October 2013 through December 2014 *God's Field* and print out copies for anyone who does not have access to a computer.

From now until approximately January 2015 a limited number of extra copies are being printed and are available at the National Church Center to be sent to individuals upon request at a cost of \$3.75 per magazine shipped. This amount includes printer costs (\$2.00) plus shipping (\$1.52) and shipping materials (\$0.23). Shipping and material cost will vary if more than one magazine is shipped to the same address.

Again, we will not be ready to send out ongoing annual online or hard copy subscriptions to parishes or individuals until at least January 2015 when we hope to have our new subscriber database in order. We are not billing any parish or individual for subscriptions until that time, nor have we invoiced or collected payments for subscriptions since at least late 2011.

We do not know the cost of the 2015 hard copy subscriptions at this time. Costs will depend on how the publication is shipped (First Class, Bulk, etc.), the cost of postage in 2015, and the cost of printing in 2015.

We will notify parishes when we are ready to accept parish group subscriptions and we will notify everyone online and in the *God's Field* when we are ready to accept individual subscription information for our database.

We thank you for your continued understanding and patience as we develop the new *God's Field* subscriber database.

The Staff and Management of *God's Field*

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## God's Christmas Gift

**Most Rev. John F. Swantek**  
**Prime Bishop Emeritus**

Millions of sermons, articles, books and songs have been written about what happened one night in the little town of Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. That event has been studied by the greatest of minds from all ages. Strangely, the Holy Scriptures devote not too many verses to that cosmic event which had happened there that evening in a stable which was the home for animals of that area.

God in His own way announced to both the Jews and the Gentiles that His Son, Jesus, God-Man, was to be born in Bethlehem. That Baby whose bed would be a manger was Eternal God clothed in a human body. This is the mystery of the Incarnation, which many have wrestled with for centuries. God chose to enter into this world in the same way that all of us have — by being born. God chose a young Jewish maiden named Mary to be the mother of His Son who was to be named Jesus. He had a human mother, but not a human Father. This act of creation would be caused by God the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. Therefore Jesus is both the Son of Mary and the Son of God. In the first chapter of his Gospel, St. John, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, wrote about Jesus the Word of God: “All things came into being through Him and without Him not one thing came into being.” (John 1:3)

The announcement of the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, was made to the Jews by an angel who appeared to some shepherds as they were watching their flocks one night, proclaiming: “Do not be afraid, for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10f) Then the angels praised God saying: “Glory to God on the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.” (Luke 2:14)

For some who have a strong faith the birth of Christ is very meaningful because we know it will affect every person whoever lived in this world. Unfortunately for others it may be dismissed as being insignificant.

To St. Augustine, one of the great Fathers of the Church, Christ meant little to him at first, for in his

younger years he lived a very licentious and sinful life and explored some unchristian beliefs. After his conversion to the Christian faith he wrote the following regarding the Christmas event:

Awake mankind! For your sake God has become man. Awake, you who sleep, rise up from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you. I tell you again: for your sake, God became man.

You would have suffered eternal death, had he not been born in time. Never would you have been freed from sinful flesh, had he not taken on himself the likeness of sinful flesh. You would have suffered everlasting unhappiness, had it not been for this mercy. You would never have returned to life, had he not shared your death. You would have been lost if he had not hastened to you. You would have perished, had he not come. (Sermon 185)

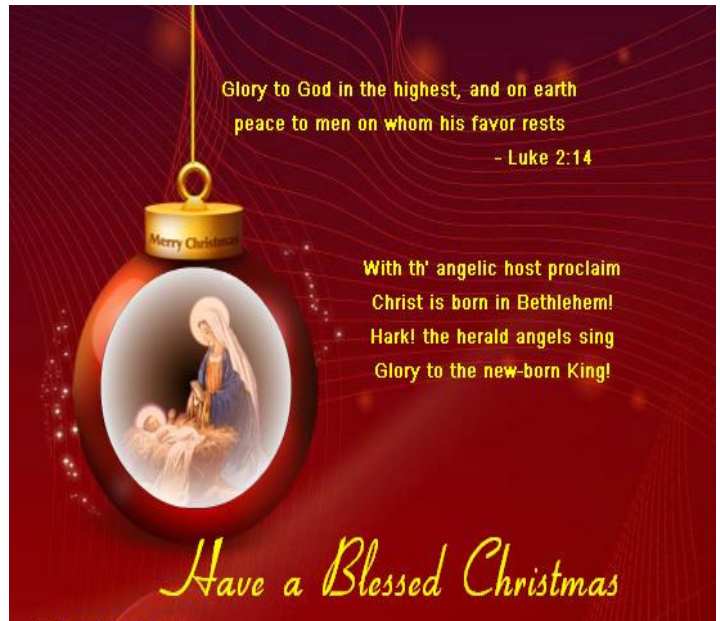
Augustine is teaching us about the effect that the birth of Jesus will have on each and every one of us. Some are aware of this and the way they live has been influenced by our Lord Jesus Christ and His teachings, while others unfortunately are ignorant of the importance of that holy birth.

Christmas is the time to remember that God gave the greatest gift He had to the world — His Son Jesus. Regardless of what one thinks about Christmas, one cannot deny that the world would be a better place if the teachings of Jesus were followed and put into practice. Would the world be a better place in which to live if love respect, kindness and concern for others were expressed by all people to each other? Just imagine what the world would be like if hatred, animosity, prejudice and suspicion were stamped out and replaced by brother love! Just think how love could build bridges between separated relatives, people and nations, and all of us became concerned about the plight of others. Just think what this world would be like if altruism replaced egoism.

God entered into this world in the person of Jesus, the Christ Child, to change the world for the better; to change the lives of all; but in the first chapter of St.

John’s Gospel we read: “he came unto his own and they did not accept him.” Christmas is commemorated every year to remind us that things are not going well in this world. People have to change their ways and become better. God became a human being in Jesus; He became like us, but His goal is to make us like His Son. That should be the goal of all Christians. The sick world will not improve until Christ and His message changes me. This change can begin this Christmas by going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, receiving Christ in Holy Communion, rebuilding relationships that once existed and getting to know Jesus better by attending Mass regularly and reading the Holy Bible daily.

May you have a very merry and holy Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with the blessings of God!



The Polish National Catholic Church again will have full color 2014 home liturgical calendars for sale on a first-come, first-served basis. This calendar with original photographs for each month includes information concerning P.N.C.C. holy days. If you have not already ordered calendars for yourself or for your parish, we urge you to do so as soon as possible because our supply will be limited.

Prices have changed this year due to increased shipping costs. The chart below can be used for calculating your costs.

Quantity	Cost per Calendar	U.S. Shipping	U.S. Total	Canada Shipping (USD)	Canada Total (USD)
1	\$3.00	\$1.92	\$4.92	\$3.05	\$6.05
2	\$3.00	\$2.53	\$8.53	\$4.35	\$10.35
3	\$3.00	\$2.53	\$11.53	\$5.25	\$14.25
4	\$3.00	\$2.98	\$14.98	\$6.15	\$18.15
5	\$3.00	\$2.98	\$17.98	\$7.05	\$22.05
6	\$3.00	\$2.98	\$20.98	\$8.85	\$26.85
7	\$3.00	\$3.43	\$24.43	\$9.75	\$30.75
8	\$3.00	\$3.43	\$27.43	\$10.65	\$34.65
9	\$3.00	\$3.43	\$30.43	\$11.55	\$38.55
10	\$2.75	\$3.88	\$31.38	\$13.35	\$40.85
11+	\$2.75	Depends on package weight & recipient’s geographic location*		Depends on package weight & recipient’s geographic location*	

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

**PLEASE NOTE** that an additional \$25.00 per order (up to 10 calendars) and \$30.00 per order (10 or more calendars) is required for ad setup for a sponsor (quite often a funeral director) and specific parish information regarding Sunday services, telephone numbers, name of pastor, etc.

Place your order as soon as possible so that we can ship your calendars to you before the New Year.

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



## “Christmas is for Children”

“The calf and the young lion shall browse together,  
with a little child to lead them.” Isaiah 11:6

**Rt. Rev. John Mack**  
**Diocesan Bishop**

As we pause to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, we think about its impact on our lives and the ways that our perception of it have changed over our lifetime. How many times have we heard the phrase, “Christmas is for Children”? More often than not it comes from the lips of adults who have found that over the years they have lost their appreciation for the specialness of this great event. It seems that they have fallen into the rut of thinking of Christmas only in terms of what needs to be accomplished: the social commitments, the buying of gifts, the visiting of friends and relatives, the numerous “Christmas parties” that are actually in the Advent Season. All of these things conspire to rob us of the spiritual; they hamper our preparation and enjoyment of the main event, the Incarnation of Christ. But let us make an attempt, at least this Christmas to focus on children, especially little children. In Scripture, when the wise and learned wanted to understand what the Kingdom of God was about, Jesus placed a little child in their midst and said, “Unless you become like this little child, you shall not enter the Kingdom of God.”

One thing that we marvel about in children is their sense of wonder. Little kids at Christmas are wide-eyed. The world seems totally fresh and they are amazed and fascinated by it. They are very dependent on adults for so many things. They need us for their very survival and happiness. Yet, they give back to us their ability to participate in the world as if it were brand new. When they discover something they feel as if they are the first person in the world to ever experience such a thing! In their

freshness we ourselves find new life. We watch them open gifts, as we ourselves have done many times, and in watching their eyes go wide, we feel some of the freshness that they feel now.

As we return to that Bethlehem stable this Christmas, what will we expect to find? We already know the story by memory. It was read to us as a child by our parents or Sunday School teacher or our grandparents. The characters haven’t changed; the story remains the same. Perhaps another reading will however reveal a new insight, another facet of the jewel yet unnoticed by our eye or unheard by the ear. Look to a child to lead you. They bring to us in their innocence and in their complete trust in God a very precious gift: the return of wonder, of freshness, of enthusiasm. Their gift to us as adults is a new world, a world which for many adults has grown old and weary and boring. The story of the Baby Jesus is never “old” to a child and likewise should never grow old with us.

Look for opportunities to gaze upon a small child in their wonderment. As we soak in their wonder, the freshness and glee, we ourselves find renewed spirit and insight. Yes, Christmas is for children, children of all ages. The child in each of us who needs to seek out this tiny baby, the One who can bring us lasting peace and joy. May we find ourselves at the manger this Christmas experiencing that sense of wonder in being given God’s greatest gift to mankind. Let us look to the children for: ***“the hand of a child shall lead them, to the peaceable kingdom of God.”***

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## Words of Thanks

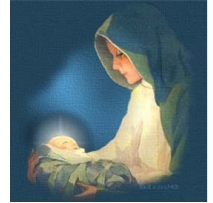
I take this opportunity to extend my most sincere thanks to all for the outpouring of cards, prayers and good wishes during my recent hospitalization and surgery. I received cards from parishes, individuals, SOCL classes, organizations and prayer shawl ministries. Through the healing mercy of Christ, the expertise of the medical staff, along with your prayers, everything was successful. I ask your con-

tinued prayers for my recovery and healing, so that I may resume my duties as a shepherd of our holy church. Your outpouring of love and concern was a balm to me in my time of distress and a source of strength and inspiration. I am humbled by your expressions of kindness and faith shown to me. May God Bless You All.

Bishop John E. Mack / Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

## Christmas Message

**Rt. Rev. Bernard J. Nowicki**  
**Diocesan Bishop**  
**of the Central Diocese P.N.C.C.**



No one could have been more baffled by the goings on around her than Mary, the Virgin Mother of Jesus, who, in the face of all that was happening and being said about her Child, only *".....treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart."* Luke 2:19, NRSV

I'd say Luke's nativity narrative is so beautiful and so appropriate for this time of year, when many of us are experiencing the warmth of the season - recalling the Christ child laid down in a manger; the shepherds coming to see him; gentle animals softly lowing and gazing at this New Thing that God had done; and Mary and Joseph looking down at their firstborn both in wonderment and adoration.

Yet, in Luke's story of the birth of Christ there is no mention, for instance, of the pain of the childbirth, the life-changing event that has just occurred for Mary: the exhaustion, anxiety, and cries of labor. Or of Joseph's worry over a myriad of issues as he registers his family, his concerns about what other people will say about this child born out of wedlock, what that might mean for the honor of his family; and, of course, the pressing questions of providing a safe place away from home for the birth to occur - their ending up in a stable amongst the dirt and smells of animals. All of these were included in the recent TV series, *The Bible*, with its realistic and plausible scenarios depicting the Holy Family in its most vulnerable moments.

Can you just imagine the incredible things Mary must have pondered in her heart as she rested from delivering Jesus and struggled to care for him, as every new mother does? What must it have been like for her to watch the world that had already been so radically changed for her become even stranger and more filled with mystery? Without a doubt, she had to have felt there was no end to the ways that God was turning her and Joseph's lives upside down.

This story brings good news into our midst. This yearly narrative makes us wonder all over again about this strange thing that was planted in our midst - the birth of Jesus. This holy event is simultaneously

an occurrence buried deep in history and tradition as well as a new thing born into our hearts and especially our relationships year after year.

This is the mystery of what we Christians have called for centuries, "incarnation." This word means God being born into humanity. He is born into a place where the first witnesses to who He is - and who He is to become - are neither the highborn nor the mighty. These first witnesses to who He is - and who He is to become - are lowly folk residing at the fringes of society.

As far as I'm concerned, this story opens up a lot more questions for me than answers and maybe for you, too, as Christians with me on a long pilgrimage. For me, this yearly narrative shines light into all the dark and strange places of my life as well as my environs. It's as though, for me, Christ's coming breaks the world open in a new way, and actually shatters all the things we once thought to be true, and ushers in new and deeper truths. This is exactly what happened to me and Barb when a newborn child broke open our world and in a new way changed our lives forever, and changed our family and all the relationships around us. This new little stranger came into our midst and caused us to stop and consider ourselves and everything else anew. And that's what I feel Christ's coming into the world has done for all of us and all humanity.

So try to let the peace of Christmas come into the center of your busy and sometimes messy lives because, as the gospel reminds us, the peace of Christmas comes not only to bring us respite, but transformation. At this time of year, you and I are called to behold the mystery of a God born into our humanity in the most unexpected ways. And like Mary, you and I are called to be transformed, as we treasure all these words and ponder them in our hearts for this Season.

May our Lord and His Blessed and ever Virgin Mother, Mary, the Theotokos, bless you and all of those whom you hold dear, in this Christmas Season and forever.



## A Season of Colors

**Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski**  
**Diocesan Bishop**  
**of the Eastern Diocese P.N.C.C.**

We often associate December with a variety of colors, but the ones that come to mind are the electric ones that appear on a Christmas tree or a department store window, a miniature village built around a model train or the anything but subtle lighting of homes and public squares. Whatever can be artificially produced is what our eyes focus on.

But doing so does a great disservice to the great natural beauty of the colors God has produced; colors that help our hearts and souls focus on the preparation to which Advent calls us. Particularly in the northern parts of our country, these subtle ranges of color complement the minor mode of musical expression that we hear in the Advent hymns of the Church. The harmonization of color and music form a background through which the words of Scripture and the celebration of Eucharist draw us to a deeper examination of our lives and Jesus' place in them.

With a discerning eye we can see those colors that are evident in nature. Where some of our parishes are located the earth has already been covered by a blanket of white snow. But notice when the snow blows away, we can still see the browns and reds, yellows and oranges, and auburn tones of fallen leaves. We can still remember the vivid hues of green those leaves had earlier presented when they adorned the branches of trees in a grand bouquet of life. But the life-stream of photosynthesis which poured into their veins was cut off and buried in the bare brown and beige trunks and branches as the trees stored their sap to see them through the dead of winter. This bareness of seasonal trees stands in sharp contrast to the evergreens amongst which they are interspersed in the mountains and valleys of our countryside. Is God trying to remind us of the contrast between those who are alive in Christ and those who are asleep?

The colored candles used to light our churches and homes in December, dyes of blue and rose and red and green, were traditionally made from the ripe fruits and vegetables of a fall harvest. The bounty of harvest is transformed into shades of liturgical color.

As Christians we should look for these natural colors of God's created world. Through them our Lord reminds us of the natural and spiritual order of life: birth, youth, maturity, death and rebirth. We are shown in a subtle but real way that death gives way to life, and that the bareness of a December landscape also holds the hope of April's renewal of life.

Advent is a time of preparation. We liturgically prepare to celebrate that moment in time when God became man in the Incarnation of the Christ in a Bethlehem stable. We also, and more importantly, prepare for the Second Coming of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The sarum blue (also known as royal blue) or purple which appears in the vestments and the candles of the Advent wreath are a visual reminder of the coming Savior and the rose color of Gaudete Sunday (Advent 3) expresses the joy we all anticipate at His return. The greens and whites of evergreen boughs and the Christ candle speak to the freshness of life that accompanies the "Light of Life."

As we experience Advent this year, take the opportunity to notice those subtle aspects of the season that draw us to a deeper preparation for the Nativity and the Epiphany. May we not only prepare for the infant Christ that will be placed in the crèches of our churches on Christmas Eve, but let us also make room for the Savior of the World Who desires to find a place in our hearts as well.



## Christmas 2013

**Rt. Rev. Stanley M. Bilinski, Jr.**  
**Diocesan Bishop**  
**of the Western Diocese P.N.C.C.**

To my dear collared brothers and the faithful of our Polish National Catholic Church,

It is with deep thankfulness that I am able to greet all of you with God's choicest blessings during this holy time now and to be anticipated.

There has been much written over these past twenty centuries concerning the birth of our Lord. Countless tomes have been attempted to analyze, explain, celebrate the truth of God's coming to earth. Theologians call this event the Incarnation – God enveloping Himself in human flesh to walk among His people. What a profound truth!

Every time we gather to share Eucharist at Mass, we proclaim this fact in the Nicene Creed – “and became man.” The rubric indicates at this point for the assembly to genuflect. We do; and then fly right on to the next strophe of the Creed. If we're not giving our proclamation the witness it deserves, we miss the importance of this miraculous event in the life of humankind. The phrase “and became man” would cause us to fall on our knees even if a rubric wasn't there! To dwell on the truth of God wanting to come and be with His people, for love to be enveloped in the flesh of humans, for the Creator of “all that is seen and unseen” to be Virgin born in a humble

stable in a non-descript little town of Bethlehem – this causes one to pause to reflect on all God provides in His Incarnation. Perhaps the rubric should be expanded to include a “period to ponder,” a “moment of reflection,” a “chance to offer gratitude” before we move on to the remainder of our proclaiming the faith. Perhaps our entire observance of The Father's mercy in His becoming human should shape not only a quick moment in our shared liturgy, but in our shared life as well.

Our celebration of the Nativity of our Lord is deep in tradition, story, and the intermingling of God's people participating in the truth underlying this celebration. We greet each other during this time with the sincerest joy, the deepest love, the widest expanse of peace that our profound proclamation of faith allows us to have. May each time we share the greeting, “Merry Christmas,” package it with the true “reason for the season,” Jesus – God made man.

May I with the entire community of the Western Diocese share with our Prime Bishop, the Diocesan Bishops, clergy and faithful of the Polish National Catholic Church, and our ecclesial partners the greetings for a most Blessed Christmastide and for a most prosperous New Year.

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## 2014 Synod

The 24<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church will be hosted by the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese in 2014. The Synod will be convened at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, PA. The convention center is linked to the Sheraton Erie Bayfront, which is where the delegates will lodge. The dates of the Synod are September 29 –

October 3, 2014. These dates have been confirmed with the office of the Prime Bishop. Further updates and information will be passed along as they become available. We look forward to hosting the 24<sup>th</sup> General Synod in our diocese.

Bishop John E. Mack,  
 Bishop Ordinary, Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, P.N.C.C.



## Annual Christmas and New Year Greetings



Prime Bishop Emeritus Robert and Florence Nemkovich  
Cape Coral, Florida

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Robert Maseychik Insurance Agency Inc.  
Robert & Elaine Maseychik  
May God bless you with the magic of Christmas.

Merry Christmas!  
Michael R. & Mary A. Mietlicki

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Dr. Kenneth W. Savitski  
Optometrist — Peckville, PA 570-489-8989

CHANCERY OF THE WESTERN DIOCESE P.N.C.C.  
Right Reverend Stanley M. Bilinski, Jr., Bishop Ordinary  
Wishing Everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

All Saints, Sterling Heights, MI  
Rev. Raymond Drada, Pastor  
Wishing You Many Christmas Blessings!

All Saints Cathedral, Chicago, IL  
Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski, Pastor and Congregation  
May you have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA  
Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, Pastor  
Wishing you a Blessed Christmas

Greetings for a Blessed Christmas  
and a joyful New year!  
Church of Resurrection, Greenpoint, Brooklyn, NY

Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT  
Rev. C. Rogalski  
May the birth of Christ bring blessings to all!

May God bless you during this Christmas season and always.  
Guardian Angel Parish  
1118 N. Commonwealth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90029

Holy Cross Church, Syracuse, New York  
Rev. Marian Pocięcha, Pastor  
May the celebration of Jesus' birth bring joy & love to your lives.

Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI  
Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, Pastor  
Wishing you a Blessed Christmas

Holy Cross Parish, Ware, MA  
Pastor, Parish Committee, Societies and Youth  
Radosnych Świąt! A Blessed Christmas to all!

Holy Family Parish  
192 Eden Park Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132  
God's Blessing to all this Christmas season!

Holy Ghost Parish, Shenandoah, PA  
Rev. Robert Plichta, Administrator  
Blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas from Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Family  
Dupont, PA  
Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor & Parish Committee

Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral  
Rt. Rev. John E. Mack - Pastor  
Parish Committee, Organizations & Faithful

Holy Name of Jesus Parish  
South Deerfield, Massachusetts  
A Blessed Christmas to All!

A Blessed Christmas from Bp. Paul Sobiechowski  
and the Family of Holy Trinity Cathedral  
Manchester, NH

Merry Christmas to our P.N.C.C. Family.  
Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ  
Holy Trinity P.N.C.C.—Throop, PA

Holy Trinity Parish, McKees Rocks, PA  
Rev. Michael Selep, Pastor  
May the Wonder of His Lord Be With You All Year Long!

Holy Trinity, Washington, PA  
Fr. Mark Swoger  
Blessings to all in this Christmas season.

Our Savior Parish  
610 N. Beech Daly, Dearborn, Heights, MI  
Rev. John Cramer - Pastor

Our Saviour Parish, Lawrenceville, NJ  
Rev. Gregory Mikula and Our Saviour Parish, NJ  
Abundant Blessings, Joy and Peace in the New Year

Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI  
Father Henryk Wos, Pastor  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Resurrection Parish, Temperance, MI

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Canonsburg, PA  
Fr. Sr. Richard Seiler, Jr., Administrator  
Wishing you the love, peace & happiness that the meaning of Christmas brings.

St. Adalbert's P.N.C.C., Dickson City, PA  
Very Rev. William Chromey, Pastor  
May the blessings of Christmas be with you all.

St. Barbara Parish, Houtzdale, PA  
Rev. Scott J. Lill, Pastor  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

St. Casimir's Parish, 268 Lakeview Ave., Lowell, MA  
Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
Rev. Andrzej Tenus and Parish Committee



St. Francis of Assisi, Denver, Colorado  
Rev. John Kalabokes, Pastor  
Wishing you the blessing of Jesus and a prosperous New Year



St. Francis P.N.C. Church, East Meadow, NY  
Rev. Andrzej Koterba, Pastor  
Wishing Everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year



St. John the Baptist Parish, Hazleton, PA  
Rev. Boguslaw Janiec, Pastor  
May you find a Christmas miracle this blessed season!



St. John the Baptist Parish, Manchester, CT  
St. John's Parish Committee  
May the Birth of Christ bring blessing to us all.



Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!  
Rev. Zbigniew Kozar & Parish Council  
St. John's Parish of the P.N.C.C., Toronto, ON, Canada



St. Joseph's of Stratford  
Fr. Michal Gitner, Pastor  
Wishing All Special Joy During This Holy Season



St. Joseph's Parish—Middleport, PA  
Rev. Richard Wosiak Pastor  
May you have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.



St. Martin and St. Rose P.N.C.C.  
Parish Committee  
¡Feliz Navidad y mucha felicidad en el 2014!



St. Mary's Parish P.N.C.C., Winnipeg Canada  
Rev. Czelen Tadeusz, Pastor  
May the Christmas season bring you joy and peace.



St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN  
Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr. — Pastor  
May the Christ-Child born in Bethlehem bless you today & always.



Merry Christmas!  
From: St. Paul's of Belleview, FL



St. Stephen the Martyr Parish — Reading, PA  
Very Rev. Edward D. Ratajack, Pastor  
Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.



St. Valentine's Parish, Northampton, Massachusetts  
Rev. Adman Czarnecki, Pastor  
May the birth of Christ bring blessings to us all.



STS Cyril & Methodius Parish, Chicago, IL  
Rev. Z. Adam Wsul, Pastor  
Have a Blessed Christmas & A Happy New Year!



Very Rev. Stanley Skrzypek  
SS. Peter & Paul Church  
126 River Drive, Passaic, NJ



SS. Peter & Paul P.N.C.C., New London, CT  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Zbigniew S. Kaszubski  
Chairman: Richard Pinckney and Parish Committee



Transfiguration of Our Lord, Mt. Pleasant, PA  
Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski, Chaplain  
Best wishes for a Blessed Christmas & bright New Year.



Clergy Circle/Koło Kapłanów — Eastern Diocese  
Bp. Paul Sobiechowski, Fr. Sr. Joseph Krusienski, Fr. Stanley  
Kaszubski, Fr. Randolph Calvo, Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak



Marry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Central Diocese ANS  
Scranton, PA



Eastern Diocese United Women's Societies  
Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Diocesan Bishop  
Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Chaplain



The Adoration Society of St. John's Parish, Toronto, Canada  
Regina Lusky, President  
Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year



ANS Society of SS Peter & Paul PNCC, Passaic, NJ  
Mary Mierzejewski, President  
Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
God's Blessing.  
The United Young Men's Society of Resurrection



The P.N.U. Board of Directors, Executive Officers  
and Staff wish everyone a Blessed Christmas  
and a New Year filled with happiness!



P.N.U. Districts 1 - 9 NY - NJ  
Edmund J. Kotula, District Director  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Polish National Union District 8  
Ryta Kasprzak, Director  
May you have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Spojnia Br. 54, Hawthorne, NJ  
Alice Kreskewic, Financial Treasurer  
Blessed Christmas, Happy Healthy New Year!



Branch 155 P.N.U. of America  
Christmas Greetings!  
Edward J. Burczy, Branch Secretary



Polish National Union Branch #197 — Warren, OH  
Barbara Wisniewski, Branch Secretary  
A joyous Christmas season and God's Blessings to all.



A New Year Blessed with Love  
Rev. Fr. Scott Lill  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Lilly, PA



PNU District 6  
Cedar Lake, IN





December 2013

Dearest members of the Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.) and prior scholarship recipients:

For nearly five decades the National United Choirs (N.U.C.) has awarded music scholarships in every diocese and many parishes throughout the P.N.C.C. As you have interacted with fellow parishioners, you certainly have met someone who was the recipient of one of these awards which recognizes one's potential and commitment to music within the Church. To date, the N.U.C. has awarded over 1,000 scholarships, representing a monetary total of over \$250,000.00. The entire program continues because of the generous donations from so many and the dedication of our scholarship committee and reviewers.

Over the past 47 years, lessons and tuition have increased at exponential rates while our return on investments has not kept pace with these rising costs. The N.U.C. is asking you to prayerfully consider donating to the Music Scholarship Fund. These donations will be used to increase the monetary amounts of the scholarships to those seeking support in the mastery of their special gift.

As one former recipient shared: "The scholarship that I received from the N.U.C. of the P.N.C.C., provided not only tuition assistance while completing my bachelor's degree, but, I include the award on my resume to demonstrate being recognized as a scholar and the support of my church as I pursued my career." A dear friend stated, "I make sure to give back so that others can benefit like I did." There are hundreds of additional stories from this program that illustrate how the scholarships enabled many of our youth and young adults to pursue their dreams and careers.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and generous donation to the National United Choirs Music Scholarship Fund. You can send your donation to our treasurer, who is also a former music scholarship recipient.

Dr. Jim Ploskonka  
N.U.C. Treasurer  
349 Justo Lane  
Seven Hills, OH 44131

May God continue to bless His church and those who worship in song and praise.

Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year,

Lydia Hohn

President, National United Choirs



## Holy Synod of the Polish Catholic Church in Poland



Attendees of the Polish Catholic Church 2013 Synod

The Holy Synod of the Polish Catholic Church (Kościół Polskokatolicki) was convened on June 18, 2013 in Konstancin, near Warsaw, Poland. The Holy Synod is the highest legislative authority of the Church and is held every five years. Delegates to the Holy Synod (two priests and two lay people) are elected from all the deaneries in the dioceses of the Church. Outgoing members of the Synodal Council are also delegates.

The Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church in the United States and Canada attended the Holy Synod as a guest along with Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop Ordinary of the Eastern Diocese and the Very Rev. Gregory Młudzik.

Prime Bishop Mikovsky offered wishes for fruitful synodal discussions and reaffirmed the brotherly unity between the Polish National Catholic Church in the USA and Canada and the Polish Catholic Church in Poland. While each Church maintains independence of jurisdiction and a separate administration, there is full communion between the Churches and a common understanding of faith and morals in complete fraternity.

The Polish Catholic Church is the only Church in Poland recognized by and in union with the P.N.C.C. Prime Bishop Mikovsky and Most Rev. Wiktor Wysoczański, head of the Polish Catholic Church, emphasized this unity in their speeches before the Holy Synod. Submitted by Very Rev. Gregory Młudzik



Very Rev. Gregory Młudzik, Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski

## Kurs 2013 - Roots of Faith

Rev. Jason Soltysiak  
Kurs 203 Chaplain



In the spring this year, I caught word from the president of the United Y.M.S. of R. that the Prime Bishop might be giving me a call any day to ask an important question. The president also happens to be my brother-in-law as well as right fielder on our softball team. The Prime Bishop also happens to be my former boss, as I served him as his Assistant priest for four years. The call came - "Father, would you consider serving as chaplain at the Kurs this year?" And my answer, replete with two years of marital bliss was, "I'll check with my wife."

Though our theme for the week at Kurs this year was "Roots of Faith," "Ridiculous Weather" would have been apropos. Everything sweated; the kids, the counselors, the floors, and the walls. Hoping my drawers would reveal a clean and dry outfit every morning, I had no choice but dampness. Oh, the weather broke, all right. From mid-eighties and horribly humid to low-nineties and moderately humid.

Camp began on Saturday, June 29 with the usual welcome, rules, regulations, ice breakers, explanation of the theme, and that general feeling-out that takes place among 60 kids gathered in a spot, knowing they're together for a week. It was always a nervous and sweat-inducing time when I was a kid; as an adult, it was pure entertainment to watch.

We were treated with a variety of speakers and presenters over the course of the week. Our first

visitor was none other than Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, who celebrated a Sunday afternoon Mass for the kids and camp staff in the chapel at the former Manor at Waymart. Prime Bishop then spoke of the Creation Story, how God cared for us even before He created us. The kids loved it when he said that "Cats and dogs were considered 'cattle' in the Book of Genesis. He wrapped up his talk saying "Our Root of Faith is God has been trying to grow closer and closer to us in our personal relationships with Him."

Rev. Michal Gitner from St. Joseph's parish in Stratford, CT traveled to Waymart that Sunday. He spent the night with his lovely family and presented for the kids the next day in the Retreat Center. He spoke about communication, and the continuation of the Covenants with God. He spoke of instances in scripture of people, throughout history, disobeying God and the need for prophets to come forward and remind others of God.

Prime Bishop Emeritus John Swantek graced us with his presence during the week to speak to the children as well. He reiterated the Creation story, along with Noah's Ark and the Second Creation. He told the children that "God became One with us, through Jesus Christ, who, through miracles, showed God was with Him and with them."

Bishop Bernard Nowicki, the Bishop-Ordinary of the Central Diocese, was called upon to speak to the

children. He had an in-depth packet prepared for the children titled "What do I tell my friends about the kind of Church I belong to?" He was more than pleased when the kids bombarded him with questions, one after another, for a good 20 minutes after his presentation.

The traditional festivities of July 4th were enjoyed in style with Holy Mass celebrated by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky with Bishop Nowicki, Bishop Swantek, and various clergy from the local and surrounding areas in attendance. The chapel was filled to capacity, with a number of people left standing in prayer. The activities moved to the kitchen pavilion, where Polish and American foods were served to a hungry crowd. Many thanks to the Central Y.M.S. of R. committee for aiding in the preparation of this endeavor.

Time was also taken to dedicate a new prayer garden adjoined to the Retreat Center. The short service was conducted by Kurs Chaplain Rev. Jason Soltysiak as those who had toiled on and for this property were honored in prayer.

Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak from St. Joseph's parish in Westfield, MA of the Eastern Diocese was the next to travel to Waymart and spend a night. He found himself right at home after he arrived, as two of his sons were present on the camp staff. Also, he was more than excited with the annual fireworks show put on by the camp staff. This year's show was long, loud, colorful, entertaining, tense, and successful. After Fr. Sr. Joe's presentation to the campers there was a surprise appearance by none other than famous comedian Gallagher, who unveiled his brand-new "fruit-smashing mallet" for the campers. Needless to say, the kids (and camp staff!) were quite surprised at what they witnessed. It was only a few smiling kids from the Eastern Diocese who had witnessed this spectacle before.

Rev. Walter Placek, who has his PhD in Physics, stopped by at the end of the week to show a video about some hijinks in space. The kids enjoyed the lighter side of space travel and asked Fr. Walter a few questions. He then put his PhD to great, great use as he showed the kids how to set off water-bottle rockets, the old-fashioned way.

Some of the highlights of the week included the weather finally breaking, the skits, the point race for the groups, a perfect bonfire, flour tag, chicken tenders, shaving cream-flavored watermelon, DJ

Milk Money, an indoor prayer service by the pond, a truck that couldn't stay above sea-level, Coggins Corners, the themed dinners, Spojnia Awards and, of course, the pranks.

Our cooks for the week were the incomparable Rose "Mama Kaz" Kazinetz of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA. She was assisted by Bradley "Sasquatch" Jerome of Saint Adalbert's Parish in Dickson City, PA. Our counselors were Stacey Crispino of Saint Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA, Andrew Humphreys of Saint Adalbert's in Dickson City, John Mehoff Wall of Holy Mother of Sorrows in Dupont, Nicholas Soltysiak of Saint Joseph's in Westfield, MA, Kristen DiMartino of Holy Cross Parish in Plantsville, CT. Counselors-in-training included Amy Ruda of Holy Mother of Sorrows in Dupont and Jennessa Dalton of Our Savior Parish in Woonsocket, RI.

On Saturday, goodbyes were said by tearful kids and teenagers. In this age of information and technology, they were all speaking to each other by that evening via Facebook and cell phones.

Many thanks to the staff, the visiting clergy, the well-wishers and supporters, the parents of children sent to Waymart, and, especially, the kids. I pray that you all come back next year with a friend in tow. It was wonderful to see a bit of an uptick in attendance at this year's Kurs - may next year's crowd be even greater. With the grace of God, I hope to be included in that number.



Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Stacy Crispino, Nick Kazinetz, Rev. Jason Soltysiak at the Prayer Garden



## P.N.U. and P.N.C.C. Delegation's Trip to Poland

On September 18 - 24, 2013, the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky and the Very Rev. Gregory Młudzik led a faithful delegation from the Polish National Union to Poland in observance of the 50th Anniversary of the organizing of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Żarki, Poland.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help was established as a center of faith and also as a memorial of gratitude to the organizer of the Polish National Catholic Church, Most Rev. Francis Hodur. Żarki, Poland is the birthplace of Bishop Hodur.

The current church was built through the generosity of Polish National Catholics in the United States who channeled their support through the Polish National Union. The cornerstone for the church was blessed and laid by Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski in 1966 in the presence of the clergy and faithful from throughout Poland and the United States as well as representatives from the Polish National Union.



Blessing of the newly-named bishop Hodur Street (ul. Bpa. Hodura) in observance of the  
50th Anniversary of the organizing of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Żarki, PL

The delegation also presented a check for \$25,000 to support the work of Regional Hospital System in Będzin, Poland. Funds were raised through the work of the Medical Bridge to Poland program.

The regional hospital system offers preventative, diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitative services through 2 hospitals with 20 departments and 2 specialty clinics with 35 specialists in occupational and primary health care.

Submitted by Very Rev. Gregory Młudzik



Delegation tour of Regional Hospital System, Będzin, PL

## Z USA do Będzina. Profesjonalny sprzęt dotarł do szpitala

Funkcjonuje od miesiąca, jednak jego oficjalne przekazanie nastąpiło w poniedziałek. Do będzińskiego szpitala przybyli goście z USA, którzy przyczynili się do zakupu nowoczesnego sprzętu do badań serca.



Przekazanie sprzętu do badań serca w szpitalu – fot. ŁD

Nowoczesna aparatura w będzińskiej placówce jest wykorzystywana już od kilku tygodni. – *Mieliśmy okazję spotkać się z darczyńcami, pokazać im w jaki sposób funkcjonuje ten sprzęt i ile znaczy dla mieszkańców powiatu będzińskiego, bowiem faktycznie podnosi on jakość świadczonych usług medycznych przez nasz szpital* – powiedział Rafał Adamczyk, wicestarosta będziński. – *To działanie wpisuje się w naprawę programu ekonomicznego tej placówki* – dodał Rafał Adamczyk.

Wartość całej aparatury wynosi 130 tys. zł, z czego kwotę w wysokości 52 tys. zł. pokrył sam szpital. – *Pozostałe 78 tys. zł. przekazał nam Polski Narodowy Katolicki Kościół w Stanach Zjednoczonych, a konkretnie jeden z dekanatów, którego dziekanem jest ksiądz Grzegorz Młudzik, pochodzący z naszego terenu. To on zaproponował, aby przekazać te pieniądze na aparaturę do badań chorób serca* - mówił Jacek Kołacz, dyrektor będzińskiego szpitala.

Niewykluczone, że nie była to ostatnia pomoc finansowa dla szpitala zza oceanu. – *Bardzo się cieszymy, że z roku na rok w naszym szpitalu pojawiają się coraz bardziej specjalistyczne, profesjonalne urządzenia. Wszystko ma na celu to, aby mieszkańcy, którzy niestety korzystają ze służby zdrowia mogli być leczeni w jak najlepszych warunkach* – podkreślił Łukasz Komoniewski, prezydent Będzina. Very Rev. Gregory Młudzik

## Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

### Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish Mt. Pleasant, PA

The Sacrament of Matrimony was administered to two young couples recently in Transfiguration of our Lord Parish in Mt. Pleasant, PA. Samantha Yanuck and Chad Contreill were united in marriage on August 17th by Fr. Michael Selep. On September 14th Jessica Cheeks and Jeffrey Love II were united in marriage by Fr. Bruce Sleczkowski. Pictured are the happy couples.

Submitted by Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski



Rev. Michael Selep with Samantha & Chad Contreill



Jessica and Jeffrey Love

### 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](mailto:secretarytopb@pncc.org), online at [pncc.org](http://pncc.org), by calling (570) 346-9131 or by writing to:

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

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.

## Three Parish Picnic McKeesport, PA

On the second Sunday in September the parishes of Holy Family, the Magyar Hungarian Reform and St. John the Baptist Churches joined together and hosted a Parish Family Picnic. Incidentally, the second Sunday of September is the Solemnity of Brotherly Love in the P.N.C.C.

The three parishes split the costs of the main entrees and beverages and the parishioners from each parish provided a variety of delicious side dishes and desserts to enhance the picnic tables. During the picnic there were games for adults and children to enjoy. There was also a large TV set for the Steeler Fans in attendance to watch the game and the popular Cash Bingo. Special Door prizes provided by each parish were raffled and gifts were provided for all the children attending.

It was an afternoon of ecumenical community spirit which translated into other joint endeavors to support each parish's programs throughout the year.

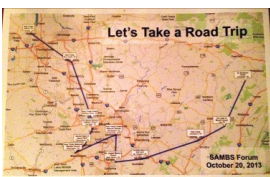
Submitted by Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski



Brother Ambrose, Brother Thomas, Fr. Bruce Sleczkowski, Rev. Daniel Borsay, Brother Tom and Fr. Greg Medaya.



Holy Family parishioners the Newcamps, Contrellas Davelli, Stahurski and Korenoski Families enjoying the afternoon



## Society of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Religious Forum Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese Central and Southern Deaneries

On October 20, 2013, the Holy Family Parish Society of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament (SAMBS) of McKeesport, PA, hosted the annual SAMBS Religious Forum of the Central and Southern Deaneries of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese.

The forum opened with an afternoon liturgical service during which Katie Rencewicz, president of the Sub-Central SAMBS, assisted by vice president Lydia Hohn, paid tribute to the deceased members by lighting a candle in their memory.

Those remembered were Barbara Niedwicki - All Saints, Carnegie; Estelle Musico - All Saints,

Carnegie; Helen Gimbinski- Holy Cross Johnstown; Mildred Voelker - Holy Family, McKeesport; Jennie Sarnicke - Holy Trinity, Washington; and Jackie Jarosz - Holy Trinity, Washington.

At the conclusion of the service the women and clergy recessed to the parish hall for a delicious homemade lasagna dinner prepared by the Bongioni Family of Holy Family Parish.

The hall was decorated with road signs illustrating the locations of the parishes in the deaneries and the mileage that each participant drove to McKeesport. Each table setting contained a  
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similar placemat and each participant was given a Car Rosary, compliments of the women from McKeesport.



Katie Rencewicz and Lydia Hohn

Mrs. Cathy Trumpe, President of the McKeesport SAMBS welcomed the participants to the Forum. Fr. Scott Lill then offered Invocation and Grace. A lasagna dinner, prepared by the Bongiorno Family of Holy Family Parish, was then served to all the participants. Following the delicious homemade food, Katie Rencewicz greeted the women and clergy and spoke about the upcoming programs being planned for the Sub-Central organization for 2014.

The women of McKeesport then presented a skit entitled, "Are We There Yet?" - A Road Trip directed by Marian Sleczkowski.

The skit, featuring Marian Sleczkowski, Cathy Trumpe, Helen Mulac and Steffi Coddington, is an ensemble piece about four church women driving to a religious retreat, and the conversation that ensues during their journey. During the trip the women recognize how God intervenes in their daily lives. (The yellow Mustang car the ladies used on their trip was created by Fred Angel, Sr. and Fred Angel, Jr.)



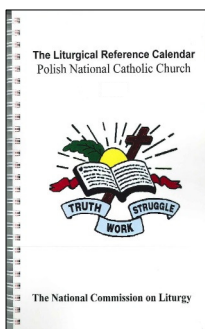
"Are We There Yet?"

At the conclusion of the skit, McKeesport SAMBS members Jan Gibala, Henrietta Albeck, Marcie Angel, Jane Contrella, Deedee Egan, Josephine Rencewicz and Jean Crouch presented short anecdotes on what we should take on a road trip — both physically and spiritually. The session concluded with the question, "Are we there yet?" on our spiritual road trip during our life.

Fr. Sr. John Rencewicz, Jr. spoke about the history and importance of the SAMBS Organization in our Church. After a short Church Trivia Game to auction off the floral centerpieces, Fr. Mark Swoger offered the Benediction to close the annual forum.

Submitted by Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski

## The 2014 Liturgical Reference Calendar



The 2014 Liturgical Reference Calendar – Ordo is now available for purchase. The cost of the Liturgical Calendar is \$12.00 per book for pickup-up orders or \$14.50 per book for mail orders to U.S.; \$16.50 per book for mail orders to Canada. To order, please make check or money order payable to *The Polish National Catholic Church – LRC* and send to:

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

***Attn: Secretary to Prime Bishop***

***1006 Pittston Avenue***

***Scranton, PA 18505-4109***

## Central Diocese

### Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Celebrates 90th Anniversary

#### McAdoo, PA

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church in McAdoo, PA celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday November 10, 2013.

The Right Reverend Bernard J. Nowicki, Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese, celebrated the Anniversary Mass, assisted by pastor Boguslaw

Janiec and clergy from the surrounding P.N.C.C. parishes.

Included in this celebration was the blessing and re-dedication of the newly renovated chandelier.

Following the Mass a dinner reception was held in the parish hall to celebrate the occasion.



Rt. Rev. Nowicki celebrates the Anniversary Mass.



Sts. Peter and Paul parishioners with Bp. Nowicki and clergy

## Leaving Scranton

### Rev. Jason Soltysiak

It could have been my naivety, but for a while there, I thought the toughest "goodbye" I would have to say in 2013 was to Walter White and Breaking Bad.

Okay, get the cringes out of the way - there really is no room for mentions of an over-the-top violent drama in these restored pages of *God's Field*. But there is room for an article I felt needed to be written by me, one that I will simply call "Leaving Scranton."

The popular TV show "The Office," took place "in" Scranton throughout almost my entire tenure in the city. I beat its start by seven months, showing up at Savonarola Theological Seminary in August 2004. It ended this past May, giving me a 6-month win there as well. However, the only things we really had in common were a couple of the main characters (John Krasinski - The Office; Soltysiak - Me) had Polish last names.

I wrote enough through the years about my arrival and early times here. I wanted to pour my words here about my end-time. It wasn't easy, as for a while, I truly thought I'd never be reassigned to my own parish. I did the things they said you had to do to punch your ticket out of Scranton: I got a few pets, I got injured a few times, I had a newer car than the bishop ... nothing. I even got married!

Things do have a way of taking care of themselves. My tenure at Saint Stanislaus was wrought with changeover. The first big one didn't even take place until halfway through year 3, when Bishop Mikovsky was elected Prime Bishop. After a few months, Bishop John Mack moved in ... and after a few months, Bishop John Mack moved out, reassigned to the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese. A few months of quiet followed, as I was elevated to Associate Pastor, and then Bishop Bernard Nowicki moved in.

(Continued on Page 22.)

(Continued from Page 21.)

On paper, it doesn't look so bad. But it was tough - different personalities, different leadership styles, different pastoral skills. It was my job to be adaptable, to bridge the gap, to hold the fort, to reaffirm any other clichéd phrase.

It was a challenge ... but I liked it. I liked having that responsibility, being the guy that knew all of the ins and outs. It was a lot of work ... a lot of work. There would be weeks where I'd look at my wife and wonder how many days it had been since we had a meal together. There would be 10-day stretches of long nights of meetings, services, or simple "work."

With all that said, I'll miss it. The "goodbye" was long and very, very meaningful. It started three weeks before I left, when the Prayer Shawl Ministry presented me with a Prayer Blanket, blessed by Bishop John Swantek. It had the Boston Red Sox on one side, the New England Patriots on the other. I joked that I hoped it would be lucky; both teams ended up having amazing last-second comebacks that same day. I got to see both games with my family, all of us jumping and screaming in the Scranton night.



At the end of the week the last One Hot Meal of my tenure was served; a wonderful ministry to the needy of the world. I prepared not only a prayer service, but a prayer handout for each take-home order. It was so fulfilling to get a call that afternoon about how good the food was, and how much that simple prayer enhanced someone's day.

The next week was my final Mass at Our Savior Chapel in Tripp Park. This one was the toughest for me, emotionally. One thing happened that caught me off-guard that I'm sure will never happen again; at the conclusion of my final homily there, I got a round of applause from the congregation.

That Monday was my last Bible Study, a ministry that was less than two years old, but increasing every month. We started with 10 or 11 and ended with 2 dozen! The sense of togetherness and friendship in that setting was wonderful; my wife and I often spoke about the friendships that have bloomed because of those Monday night meetings. Other organizations of the parish also took time to say goodbyes of their own accord.

Finally, it was time for my final Sunday Mass, taking place at 9:30 a.m. on the 3rd of November. Not since I was a brand-new priest did I have the butterflies before Mass like I did that day. I had to mention how I once heard a priest should celebrate each Holy Mass as if it were his first ... and it was so apt for this day. It was interesting though, that right after Mass began, the butterflies left. I preached, distributed Communion and met parishioners in the back of the church.

Later that day the UYA and parents had a Craft Fair, followed by "the final" going-away party. Everyone was amazing. They made the meal, gave gifts, and even let me play a final basketball game with them. As it was with most of my previous hundreds of games with them, Fr. Jason and "the girls" defeated "the boys" with a last second 3-pointer by Fr. Jason!

When I was first assigned to Saint Stanislaus Cathedral, I was told by so many that I would receive good training. Good training I got, and the training was for this, my new assignment as Pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Parma, OH. I joked about it, but it was true; anything that could have happened during my tenure in Scranton did happen, from the retirement or death or departure of a bishop, funerals, weddings, baptisms, installations, ordinations, elevations, attempted break-ins, miracle recoveries and heartbreaking losses. Sacraments taught and imparted, friendships developed and made.

I can't help but look fondly at my time in Scranton. I'm an easy-going guy, maybe to a fault at times. Maybe that's the secret for survival; maybe it's different strokes for different folks. All I can say is it hurts to leave, I'm excited to go, and I'm sure I'll see you all again.

**† Rev. E. Louis Czechowski**  
**Bethlehem, PA**

Rev. E. Louis Czechowski, Sr., 80, of Bethlehem, PA, died Monday, December 2, 2013 in Alexandria Manor, Nazareth, PA.

Born November 11, 1933 in Reading, PA, he was the son of the late Louis Chester and Anna A. (Thader) Czechowski. He was a school teacher in the Saucon Valley School District and was a former pastor of Our Lords Ascension P.N.C.C., Bethlehem.

Rev. Czechowski is survived by: Two sons, E. Lou Czechowski and his wife, Mary Ann of Macungie and Eric Czechowski of Kernersville, NC; his friend, Alan Beasley; and numerous family members in the Reading area.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated on Friday December 6, in St. Stephens P.N.C.C., Reading. At the request of the family contributions are to be sent to St. Stephens Polish National Catholic Church.

**Western Diocese**

**Youth Group Service Project**  
**All Saints Cathedral Parish, Chicago, IL**

For the third consecutive year the All Saints Cathedral Youth Group participated in a service project collecting shoes for Soles4Souls. This year the youth group collected 343 pairs, 3 single shoes and monetary donations to help cover the costs of shipping the items to Village Northwest Unlimited (VNU) in Sheldon, Iowa.

VNU is proud to offer Soles4Souls a place to ship and store their donations in the upper Midwest while providing disabled individuals the opportunity to participate in the impact Soles4Souls is having around the world.

VNU offers a wide array of services and training to more than 180 individuals aged 17 to 18 with disabilities such as intellectual disabilities, brain injuries, cerebral palsy, autism, Down Syndrome and epilepsy.

VNU clientele receive the donated footwear, sort it into specific categories, and make it ready for shipment to the main Soles4Souls outreach distribution center in Alabama. This step helps to make the Alabama facility much more efficient in responding to needs in the U.S. and overseas. In return, Soles4Souls pays VNU a certain amount per pair of shoes processed.

The Youth Group members believe this is a worthwhile cause they should continue because, simply put, everyone needs shoes - no matter what their situation may be.

Youth Group president Grace Urban, along with Youth Group advisor Christine Wachna, Michael, James and Kara Lindenmuth, Mary Jane, Joey and Nicholas Scott, youth group parents and adult parishioners packed up the shoes for shipping.

Submitted by Lorraine Kay



Front: Grace Urban, Kara Lindenmuth, Nicholas Scott;  
Back: Mary Jane Scott, Joey Scott, Mike and James Lindenmuth



Mike Szydlowski and Nicholas & Mary Jane Scott packing shoes

## All Souls Day Cemetery Service All Saints Cathedral Parish, Chicago, IL



On Sunday, November 3, All Saints Cathedral Parish parishioners, adults and youth participated in an All Souls Day Cemetery service in the Parish cemetery adjacent to the Cathedral.

Bishop Stanley Bilinski, assisted by Father Frank Rowinski, led the parishioners in prayers for all the faithful departed. Everyone processed around the cemetery, stopping at the four corners of the cemetery, with a final stop at the mausoleum and the graves of the Bishops buried at All Saints Cemetery.

Submitted by Lorraine Kay

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## Trip to the Big Top All Saints Cathedral Parish, Chicago, IL

On Saturday, November 9, approximately 30 people attended a performance of the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont, IL. The children of the All Saints Cathedral Parish School of Christian Living, each accompanied by a parent or grandparent, were guests of the Parent Teacher Organization. Everyone was entertained for over 2 hours by extraordinary animal performances, captivating clown escapades and daring high-wire acts with contemporary surprises and thrills to make the circus-going experience memorably unique. “Kids of all ages” enjoyed their evening under the “big top.”

Submitted by Lorraine Kay



## Our Savior Hosts Annual Christmas Fair Dearborn Heights, MI

On the weekend of November 9 - 10, 2013, Our Savior Parish hosted its annual Christmas Fair. This annual event featured seven outside crafters, some of whom participated in the celebration of Holy Mass with us on Sunday, November 10.

Also included in the fair was our Bake Sale, which featured almost 600 lbs. of Chruschiki made by parishioners and friends of the parish during the preceding week-and-a-half before the event — and all was sold out! There were also various breads and sweet treats available for sale.

On Saturday there was available a full Polish *a la carte* kitchen where people could purchase kielbasa, kapusta, homemade potato and kraut pierogi, our own Golumbki, vegetable soup and assorted desserts.

After Sunday Mass a full Polish dinner, attended by 150 people, was served. A 'wheel of meat' was featured, where guests could purchase a chance to

win either a ham, turkey, 2 lbs. of kielbasa, or a prize of their choice. There was also a tin can raffle with items donated by both the community and parishioners.

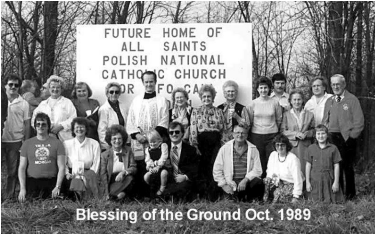
This event could not have been a success without the help of so many talented and generous people, including Parish Committee Chairperson and fair coordinator Suzanne Sniezek, the entire Parish\ Committee, and the Sunday dinner ticket coordinator, Leona Nowakowski.

Every year the Christmas Fair grows and we are thankful to all who help us prepare, organize, and of course participate, in one of our largest fundraisers of the year.

As the event was wrapping up, everyone indicated they had an enjoyable time, and our crafters are looking forward to returning next year.

Submitted by Rev. John Cramer





## 23 Years of Truth, Struggle and Work ... All Saints Parish, Sterling Heights, MI

After securing several mortgages, we broke ground on our church complex in 1990. For many years we made double mortgage payments and finally, this November, we made the last payment on the remaining mortgage! So on Saturday, November 16, 2013, the congregation of All Saints Parish in Sterling Heights, MI celebrated the Consecration of the Church Building and the Altar of Sacrifice.

The Rt. Reverend Stanley M. Bilinski, Jr., Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church, consecrated the Church Building and the Altar of Sacrifice.

Also, present and assisting the Bishop with the Liturgy of Consecration were the Clergy of the Northeast Seniorate: The Very Reverend Jaroslaw Nowak, Administrative Senior and Pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Hamtramck, MI; The Reverend John Cramer, Pastor of Our Savoir Parish in Dearborn Heights, MI; and The Reverend Jason Soltysiak, Pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Parma, OH, who served as Sub-Deacon of the Mass. The Reverend Raymond Drada, Pastor of All Saints, served as Master of Ceremonies and Deacon of the Mass. Altar servers were Jake Bilinski, Gary

Radisavljevich, and Joseph Susalla. Lectors were Michael Szydowski, Gary Radisavljevich and Pennie Drada. Sharon Stachurski, parish committee Vice Chairman, did a fantastic job as photographer!

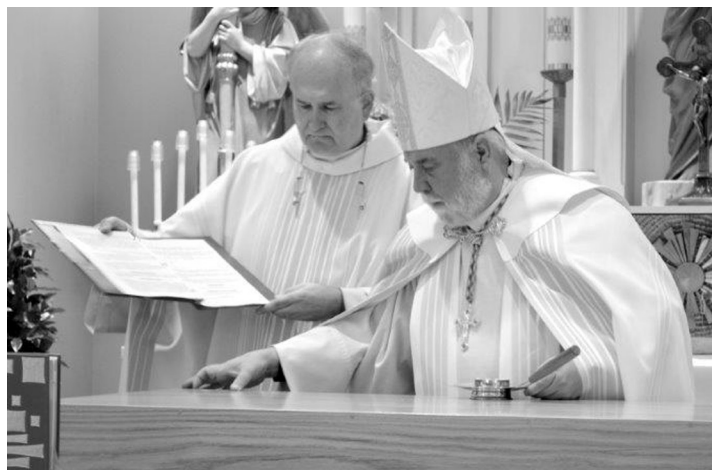
Since we first gathered outside for the beginning of the Liturgy, we were blessed to have no rain and little wind – not our usual Michigan November weather! Once inside, the Consecration Liturgy was completed and after the Consecration of the Altar of Sacrifice, ANS members Pat Kotelnicki and Pennie Drada prepared the altar for Mass. Sophie Szydowski, President of the A.N.S. and Dwight Berend, President of the Y.M.S. of R., then presented the traditional bread and salt to Bishop Stan.

During the homily, Bishop Stan explained the purpose of the Consecration to the congregation stating how we technically owned the building for only a couple of weeks since we had now given the building to God.

Choir selections, under the direction of Cathy Bilinski, were “We Praise You” by David Haas, “Lord Send Thy Holy Spirit” by Gordon Young, “Life-Giving Bread, Saving Cup” by James Chepponis, “A Communion Meditation” by Don



Bp. Bilinski consecrates the church.



Bp. Bilinski consecrates the Altar of Sacrifice.

Besig and Nancy Price, “Remember and Give Thanks” by Allen Pote, “Lift High The Cross” by Sydney Hugo Nicholson, along with the “Hymn of Faith” and the “Hymn of the PNCC.”

Past Music Scholarship winners also participated. Emily Cooper provided a flute descant on “Life-Giving Bread, Saving Cup” and Lauren Bilinski played viola on “Lift High the Cross”. Both offered their talents on an instrumental rendition of “Sacred Silence” by Tom Booth. We were additionally blessed to have an extra beautiful soprano voice join us for the day – Deborah Bilinski – a.k.a., Mrs. Bishop!

After Mass, we went to the parish hall where Father

Ray offered the blessing for the food. Roses were presented to Bishop Stan by two of our youth – Bella Marsh and Olivia Kotelnicki. This was followed by the Burning of the Mortgage, carried out by Carol Szydowski, parish treasurer, and Dwight Berend, who was president at the time of the ground breaking.

Champagne was served and Sophie Szydowski then gave a toast reminding us that with God, all things are possible. An hors d’oeuvres reception followed, giving all of us present time to relax in fellowship.

Onward - God is good!

Submitted by Cathy Bilinski, Parish Chair  
Photos by Sharon Stachurski



Fr. Ray hangs gold crosses in the four consecrated church corners.



Carol Szydowski and Dwight Berend burn the mortgage.



Dwight Berend and Sophie Szydowski present Bp. Bilinski with traditional bread and salt.



Emily Cooper and Lauren Bilinski perform “Sacred Silence” by Tom Booth.

## Holy Cross Parish Toy Drive Hamtramck, MI

Holy Cross P.N.C.C. Parish in Hamtramck held a toy drive this winter. Over three weeks, our pastor, Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, asked parishioners to buy a new unwrapped toy and put it in the drop box in the parish hall.

We collected 150 toys and delivered them to Friendship House in Hamtramck on December 10, 2013. Friendship House is a non-profit organization that helps low income families with food, clothes, community baby showers and much more. They rely

on donations from the community and other organizations. Friendship House client families will be able to pick out a toy for their children from the parish donations for Christmas.

Holy Cross Parish has been helping Friendship House for many years. We thank all our parishioners and those who donated money for our parish shoppers to buy toys. May you have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Submitted by Kathy Chockley



Pastor Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak with parishioners and toys to be donated to Friendship House



Parishioners count and organize toys for delivery.



Kathy Chockley (far right) with Friendship House staff