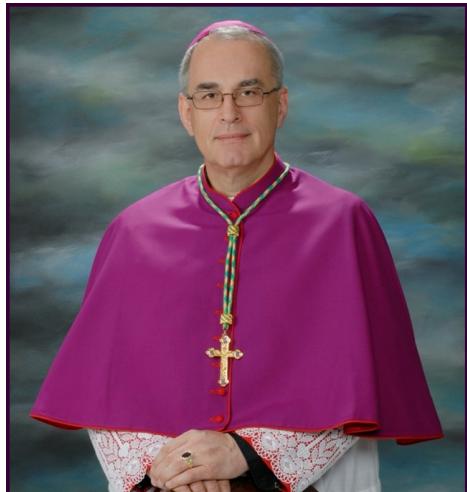


THE MESSENGER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Eastern Diocese
of the Polish National Catholic Church



A Season of Colors

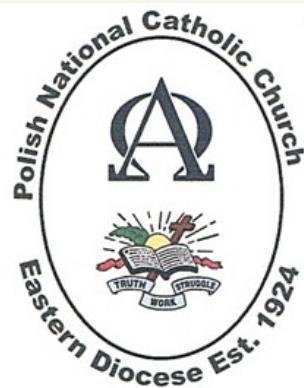
We often associate the month of December with a variety of colors, but the ones that come to mind are the electric ones that appear on a Christmas tree or a department store window, a miniature village built around a model train or the anything

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.

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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 the Nativity and the Epiphany. May we not only prepare for the infant Christ that will be placed in the creches of our churches on Christmas Eve, but let us also make room for Savior of the World Who desires to find a place in our hearts as well.

I extend my prayers and best wishes to all the clergy, parishes and faithful of our Eastern Diocese. May we truly have a blessed and spirit-filled Advent this year.

Bishop Paul

From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH

Holy Trinity Cathedral and the Community: Welcoming In, Reaching Out, Celebrating Together

There has been plenty of activity at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, NH, for the last several months. Preparations for the November 9 Holiday Fair started in midsummer but were in full swing when

autumn arrived. Hundreds of people (including the current and former mayors and several aldermen) came to feast on homemade Polish food, and thousands of frozen pierogi and gołąbki quickly sold out, less than an hour after we opened our doors. Parish members and friends of all ages had a hand in making the event a great success: cheerful greeters welcoming the early-birds in from the cold; efficient salespeople filling orders for home-



made goods and kielbasa ("imported" from RI); friendly servers working non-stop to satisfy Polish-food aficionados, enthusiastic seniors inviting guests to buy tickets to win prizes or to purchase "white elephant" treasures; parish bakers providing delectable desserts and homemade babka; SOCL students serving refreshing root beer or orange floats; talented parishioners offering homemade craft items for sale; kitchen workers cooking and cleaning up all the while; and "behind-the-scenes" workers attending to all of the details which keep a holiday fair running smoothly.

In addition to activities which contribute to the material support of the church, HTC is also reaching out to the community. Our SOCL students once again invited parishioners to participate in Operation Christmas Child. Enough items were contributed to fill 31 shoe boxes to be distributed to needy children around the world at Christmastime, more than double the number filled last year.

During the coffee hour after church, one can find parishioners signing Christmas cards which will be distributed through Pitney Bowes and the American Red Cross to military service personnel around the world.



Some of these contain handwritten personal messages. Many cards will be received by hospitalized servicemen and women, and the words of encouragement mean a great deal to them in the long period of recovery. Another outreach activity which will benefit our military is the collection for "Moore Mart" - a New Hampshire-based charity which collects needed supplies as well as some "comfort items" and treats

for those who are serving our country far away from home. This winter we will also be collecting warm clothing for the poor in our community who need hats, coats and mittens.

There is a time for work and almsgiving and a time for celebrating, too. We observed the Solemnity of Brotherly Love with a barbecue and the Solemnity of the Christian Family with a special brunch, each hosted by individual families in the parish.



Recently, Bishop Paul preached at the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the local clergy association, held this year at Manchester's historic First Congregational Church. Five Frederick Chopin Choir members added their voices to a combined choir representing diverse houses of worship, praising God for all of His blessings.

Very soon the youth of our church will gather to decorate the church grounds, share some pizza, and attend a performance of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" at the Capital Center for the Arts in Concord. Working, praying, serving, and playing together is drawing us closer to one another and to Jesus!

Submitted by Karen Sobiechowski

From the teaching of our Church

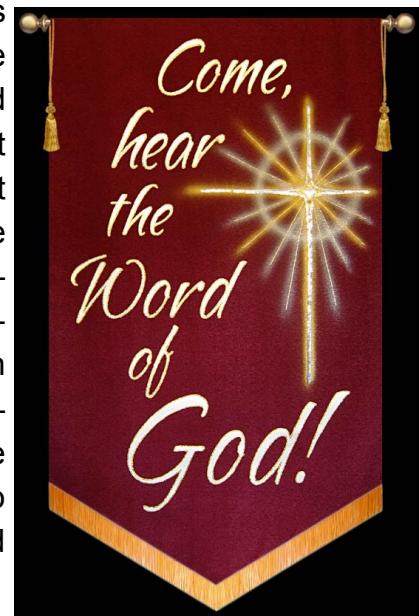
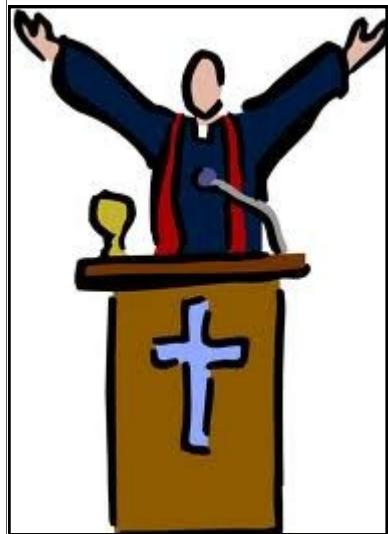
On the Sacrament of the Word of God Heard and Preached

In 1909 our 12 year old church denomination named a brand new sacrament for us. That took a heck of a lot of moxie. The sacraments are the greatest gifts that the church has received and the greatest gifts that the church can share. You don't treat them lightly. You deal with them with all the respect you can muster. This is why children go to catechism for a school year before receiving the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist, why teenagers spend two school years before Confirmation, why engaged couples have to meet with their pastor before they can be married, and why priests have to spend three years in the seminary before they can become ministers of these sacraments. All of this is a sign of the great importance we attach to the church's sacraments. They are never supposed to be regarded casually.

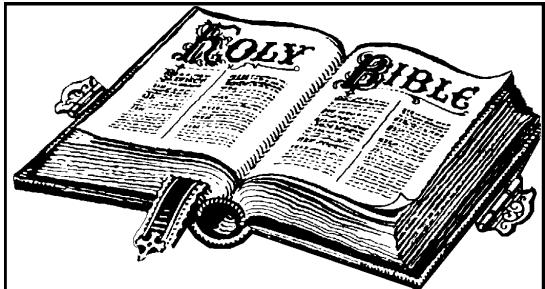
So when our church met for the Second General Synod it was huge that those lay and clergy delegates voted to declare the Word of God Heard and Preached a new sacrament of our church. It was only two years earlier that we had entered into intercommunion with the Old Catholics of Europe when they consecrated Fr. Hodur as our first bishop. This group did not understand, appreciate nor accept what we had done, but we did it anyway because we felt so strongly that Jesus Christ is Himself present in the proclaimed and received Word of God.

Why it was never named a sacrament before 1909 surprises me. The only connection between Jesus and the sacrament of marriage is that He was at one in Cana of Galilee. The only Gospel to mention Jesus baptizing anyone is John's, but just as quickly it corrects itself and says it wasn't Jesus but His disciples who baptized. He never ordained a priest. But Jesus preached. Everyone of us knows that Jesus preached. We all must remember at least one parable even if it's the one we may hear at church on many a Sunday. And while Jesus did tell His disciples "Do this in remembrance of me" at the Last Supper, and while the resurrected Jesus commanded them to "Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit," what primarily defined the earliest church was the Word of God.

Pentecost explodes upon the church, and the first sign of the church's new life in the Spirit is preaching. Then even before we meet Paul, who was all about the Word of God, we find Peter and John preaching in the Temple. They're arrested by the religious authorities and they are charged "not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus." (Acts 4:18) But they're like the honey badger, they don't care. Instead, they pray to Jesus that they may be able "to speak your Word with all boldness." (4:29) Then, says the Bible, everyone there was filled with the Spirit, and evidence of this was that they all "spoke the Word of God with boldness." (4:31) Jesus preached God's Word. The church preached God's Word. The Word defined Jesus' ministry and it defined His continuing presence in the earliest church. Why it was never named a sacrament until 1909 eludes me for it epitomizes the power and presence of Christ.



I'm afraid that why it took so long for the Word of God to be honoured as a sacrament is that it cannot be corralled. It can't be safely fenced in. You don't know what to expect from it. The Word is by nature spontaneous and uncontrolled, and that is unlike any other sacrament. Remember what I said earlier about all of the preparation needed to receive First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage and Ordination. It's not like that with the Word of God. When Moses was commanded to be God's mouthpiece before Pharaoh, he didn't even know the name of the God who was sending him. When Paul was knocked off his donkey on the road to Damascus, he didn't have a clue that it was Jesus speaking to him from heaven. The Word of God is played in God's court on God's terms. It's the only sacrament that can be received without being a Christian. And even for Christians, no one can be sure how the Word of God will be understood. This is why the sacrament says clearly "Heard and Preached." The sacrament is just as authentic when preached by a priest or bishop as it is when it is heard and processed by anyone open to the gospel, Christian or not. You receive Communion from your pastor, but we share together in the Word of God. The power of the sacrament doesn't come only through the clergyman. It comes through us. This vitality and independence is what can scare the institution, but it's also what can give it life.



First Thessalonians tells us that the Word of God is not only words. I think a literal reading of the Bible forgets this. Fundamentalists lock into just the words. And then they're stuck with having to defend all

sorts of outdated, unneeded and often times silly verbiage and legends. And worst of all fundamentalism assumes that God only spoke in the past. The Sacrament of the Word of God Heard and Preached is based on our belief that God is still speaking. The Word, says St. Paul to us in First Thessalonians, is full of power and of the Holy Spirit. It is at work in us today just as it was on the people of that first Pentecost and that first century of the church. For Paul, the Word he preached was inspired by Christ and then that Word took on new life in everyone who heard it. This is how God continues to speak with us and us with Him.



The Word of God is what challenges the church to change and grow. And that the Word of God is active and working in all believers is what authenticates our Catholic democracy. For there is another phrase associated with the Word of God in the Bible and that is "you yourselves have been taught by God." (1 Thess. 4:9) There is a fundamental equality in the church that is based on baptism and that is then enriched by the Word of God. It is this collective inspiration and wisdom of the church's people that is our authority. It is the judgment of the majority that guides the church and it is the voice of the minority that can challenge and change the church, and both are necessary for Christ to keep speaking to us.

Let us appreciate afresh the gift and power of our unique sacrament, and let us trust that God is still speaking to us and through us as we continue to do the work of Christ.

Submitted by Fr. Randolph Calvo

From our parishes...

Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River Confirmation at Blessed Trinity

- Sunday, October 20, 2013 was a special day at Blessed Trinity Parish where three young men professed their faith in Christ as they received the sacrament of Confirmation and one young lady received First Holy Communion.



- Prime Bishop Emeritus Robert Nemkovich celebrated Holy Mass and conferred the sacrament of Confirmation upon Konrad Bradbury, Cliff and Eric Nemkovich. During this Mass Konrad's little sister Victoria received her First Holy Communion.
- The Mass concelebrated by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Fr. SR. Rob Nemkovich, Fr. Jan Wilczek, Fr. Henryk Wos, Fr. Michal Gitner and Fr. Robert Fredrickson. Laurie Dionisio was the cantor and soloist and the confirmands served as the lectors for the Mass.
- Following the Mass the Confirmation Class presented the Cross of San Damiano from Florence Italy to both Prime Bishop Emeritus Nemkovich and Joanne Oliveira for their efforts in this beautiful day and Bishop Paul Sobiechowski was presented with a pair of Bishops Socks from Gamaliel's in Rome.
- An exceptional meal was then served in the parish hall. We pray this confirmation class will live the faith in Christ they professed throughout their lives.



Blessed Trinity Parish Polish Food Fest

- October 25 & 26, 2014 saw Blessed Trinity Parish's annual Polish Food Fest. Again this year more than a thousand folks visited us and by Saturday we were sold out of most of our Polish food and baked goods. This year WSAR in Fall River had a live broadcast during our Polish Fest on Friday evening.
- The station not only welcomed folks for some great food and fellowship but also spoke to the community about the various ministries and outreach efforts of the parish. In addition to Tom Cory, Fr. Sr. Rob and the Nemkovich boys, the radio hosts spoke to the neighborhood watch president, Polish Vets commander and folks from the community that use Blessed Trinity to help to make a difference in the greater Fall River area.
- One specific future event that continues to broadcast on our local radio station is the Free Fall River Community Thanksgiving Day Turkey Dinner that will be prepared and served by parishioners and friends of Blessed Trinity Parish. "Come Worship With Us" pamphlets were given in all take out orders and many inquired about the work and worship of the parish.
- Our parish youth gathered and sent off of 50 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. May the children who receive them find hope, comfort, the love our God our Father and the peace of Jesus Christ in their difficult and challenging lives. They will be remembered in our prayers in Christmas and beyond.
- Thanks to all for their efforts in this important undertaking for our parish that benefits us in so many ways.



By Fr. SR. Robert Nemkovich

From our parishes...

Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI Annual Bazaar 2013

Our Saviour's Parish held our annual 'Jarmark' bazaar on Saturday, November 16th.

Preparations began at the end of the summer, stuffing straws, preparing raffle tickets, and of course, making pierogi. There was only a little rest from the prior year before we had to get planning again, and it is no easy task. Although our spirits began high, it was hard not to get discouraged when volunteers dwindled. Our prayers were answered though, and we had a couple new volunteers, hard-working ones, who joined us towards the end.

On the day of the bazaar, it seemed as if the whole City of Woonsocket was there! The hall was packed



and the line for food was crazy! By the time my mom and I ate, there was only cabbage soup and kielbasa sandwiches left. Good thing I tried golabki a couple days before...you need taste testers right? Folks came from all over, including other Polish churches from across the state (It only takes one hour to drive the entire length of RI but it means a lot to us!)

**Our Friends from The Holy Family Parish
with their Pastor Rev. Edward St. Godard**

I always like to share ideas with other parishes and see what works for them. For example, about five years ago, Tom Cory was visiting us one Sunday for mass, and he brought us a pierogi maker they use in Fall River to try out at our next workshop. Shortly after, one of our head kitchen folks, Ed Surowiec, bought one for our parish. A year later, a memorial donation was made in honor of a man who loved work-

This was to help us roll the dough to an exact thickness every time, instead of relying on muscles and rolling pins. Ed called up Tom and said 'Hey, come check out our new dough sheeter.' Shortly after, Fall River purchased one. We look back now and wonder how we used to hand pinch all day and never have a uniform product. It is amazing that just by sharing ideas to see just how far our processes have come. We are always in search of continuous improvement and new ideas.

Last year I mentioned we started a Pierogi Hotline, where we send out a blast e-mail to folks about pierogi sales and events, as well as special



The Kitchen Team



Our children and youth helping to manage the plays

services. It is a simple way to reach out to people at no cost. Some of these people have even begun to join us at other events and even Sunday mass, the ultimate goal.

The bazaar was tough this year. Trying to get people to join to pave the road for the future generations of our church can be frustrating, but never give up. Set the example yourselves, and pray that others will join you with open hearts and minds. Support each other, and maybe just maybe, they will follow you in serving the Lord on more than just the day of the bazaar. We are truly thankful for the opportunities and blessings that He gives us to share with everyone that day and always.

By Sally Watson



Our Saviour's Bazaar Workers 2013

From our parishes...

Holy Cross Parish, Enfield, CT

Holy Cross Church in Enfield held a tag sale on Saturday, August 31st. Even though the weather was so-so we had a fairly good turnout con-

sidering it was misting on and off and it was Labor Day Weekend. Our showcased Vera Bradley bags and wallets flew off the tables as did the hand made linens, Revere Ware pots and pans and vintage jewelry sets. Among our bargain shoppers were Fr. Henry Smolinski and some of the parishioners of St. John's PNCC in Manchester, CT. Fr. Robert Fredrickson so kindly donated a bunch of items from the Webster sale that were leftover there, but new to us. It was wonderful of Fr. Robert and his parish to show their support! I would like to thank Holy Cross Board members Brian and Karen Peirce, Brian Peirce Jr., and Gayle Petruziak for all of their help and/or item donations. Also a big thank you to some special friends of Holy Cross for their item donations and help namely, Rose T., Dorothy C., Selene D., Karen C., Margie J., Julie F. and Dan L.



At an event such as this one can meet many interesting people from the community such as the woman who was on a mission to find some World's Fair Memorabilia and we had some! There were many children shopping with parents who all left happy and smiling with fun and affordable items such as princess castles, movies, books and dolls. One young guy who came in was a local migrant farm worker. He was buying up all the women's sandals and some dress shoes and then proceeded to ask about the children's bikes. He thought he would be able to only purchase one, however, in the spirit of giving, our vendor made his day and threw in several more. It turns out in talking with this farm worker our vendor discovered he was sending all his newly purchased items back to Africa. He left with his arms loaded down, 4 bicycles and an ear-to-ear grin!

Our next event will be on Saturday, December 7th - A Christmas Fest. We are having Do It Yourself Pictures with Santa, a Bake and tag sale and much, much more. We hope to see you all there! If you'd like any further information please contact me, Nancy Lee, at 860-749-7858.

Happy Autumn!

By Nancy Lee

From our parishes...

St Joseph's Parish, Westfield, MA

News from St. Joseph's Church Westfield:

At the end of September, members of St. Joseph's marched in the Big E parade in West Springfield. In October, the St. Joseph's Dozynki dancers marched in the Northampton Pulaski Day Parade with St. Valentine's Church. The Men's Club held a scrumptious pulled pork dinner.

The month of November was a busy one for the members of St. Joseph's. The month began with a Golabki soup sale held by the Outreach group. On Sunday the 10th, a Children's Mass was held with readings done by



Altar servers and Fr. Joe



St. Joseph's Church marching in the Big E parade

Melanie Burek and Peyton Bucko. Good job girls.

- On Word of God Sunday, the Altar servers were recognized. Michael Sittard and Kate Shaughnessy earned their 10 year crosses and special recognition was given to altar server Melanie Burek(3yrs) who was presented a special wooden cross by Fr. Joe.
 - Other active members of the guild: Nicholas Soltysiak (17yrs), Ryan Bucko(11yrs), Nicole Ruszala(9yrs), Ryan Desrosiers(8yrs), David Sittard(7yrs), Cathy Iglesias(6yrs), Scott Malecki(4yrs), Colin Malecki(4yrs), Peyton Bucko(3yrs) and Mary Steach(3yrs).
 - The Altar servers and Youth group held a turkey dinner on the 17th with proceeds donated to the people of St. Cyril and Methodius Parish in NJ.
 - The month ended with a Pie and Crisp sale by the SOCL with help from ladies of the Parish Committee.



People enjoying the turkey dinner at St. Joseph's

A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH!

By Kelly Burek

From our parishes...

St. Valentine's Parish in Northampton, MA

Harvest Dinner

On Sunday, October 27, 2013 at noon, St. Valentine's Parish, Northampton, Massachusetts held its Annual Harvest Dinner in the parish hall. Prior to the dinner, Holy Mass was held at 11 a.m. celebrated by the Pastor, Rev. Adam Czarnecki.

The buffet menu consisted of roast pork, turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, applesauce, cabbage, mixed vegetables, rolls, dessert and coffee. There were over 150 people in attendance – church members and members of the community at large. We were blessed to be visited by many of the surrounding clergy members and pa-



rishioners including Very Rev. Fryderyk Banas, Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak and Rev. Randy Calvo.

A general raffle was held with many items, a fifty/fifty and money tree raffles. The event was a great success. Of course this would not have been possible without all the support and helping hands of all members of the Parish Committee and many of the parish members. Especially important was that our parish hall was filled with so many people who enjoyed an afternoon of great fellowship.

Christmas Bazaar

The Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society of St. Valentine's Church held its Christmas Bazaar, Saturday, November 23, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parish hall. The bazaar featured a pie-

rogi and bake sale, Christmas arrangements, Christmas wafers (oplatki), handcrafted knitted and crocheted items as well as rummage sale items. The bazaar was very well attended by individuals from Northampton as well as the surrounding communities. Thank you to all who donated items for the tag sale, made



items for the bake sale and craft corner and provided support to make the bazaar a successful event. It was a very enjoyable day and the society is already planning its next bazaar.

By Krysia Newman

From our parishes...

Holy Cross Parish in Ware, MA

The "Second Greet and Meet" visit of our Diocesan bishop, the Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, took place on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 6:30pm in the church hall. There were 13 present, including Bishop, Pastor and photographer. Bishop Sobiechowski stressed growth and membership, building community and growth of parish with more activities and also re-envigorating different organizations and programs.

He stressed the need to involve youth in each parish; the need of stronger connection with other parishes to learn how other parishes conduct different programs; that parishes should communicate with each other on topics such as membership, finances, maintenance, interaction,



etc.

Participating in programs and activities of other parishes and not being isolated parishes.

Bishop accented strongly the need to make the church known to others by publicizing the services and activities in the parish using the local newspaper for such as well as local Public Television.

Bishop believes that there are hundreds of people in our communities and nearby towns who would affiliate themselves with us if invited and encouraged. Some questions were posed by those in attendance. All in all, it was a very informative evening and many were inspired to go out and do what had been discussed.

The evening ended with prayer by Father Senior Banas and all attendees were treated to coffee, tea and several kinds of cookies and pastry.



The Annual Holiday Bazaar and Raffola

The Annual Holiday Bazaar and Raffola took place on Sunday, November 10, 2013 from noon to 5:00pm in the church hall. Polish fare was available all afternoon along with several booths and games. According to our meal menus there were 400 people in attendance. At 4:00pm the gigantic Raffola with 119 cash prizes took place. Holy Cross Parish is in a very fortunate position to serve good, tasty food throughout the years that draw so many people. During the course of the year, pierogi are made and sold without any hesitation. As soon as they are made, they are sold.

Our pierogi makers numbering 20, both men and women, deserve praise and commendation for their devoted labor of love for their parish. Heading this project for many years are: Evelyn Mongeau and Stephen Socha assisted by many parish volunteers.



- The Annual Valentine Penny Social will take place either on February 9th or 16th, 2014.. Date is to be established.. This undertaking is also a tremendous success in our parish. Along with other games and tables with gifts, the kitchen functions all afternoon serving Polish food: cabbage pierogi, golabki, kapusta, barszcz, etc.

By Father Senior Fryderyk Banas

Just a note of interest and recognition: Father Senior Fryderyk Banas observed his 49th anniversary as "Senior Priest" on August 4, 2013. He was elevated to this position by the late Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski. He also completed 63 continuous years of service as priest in the church. He was ordained on October 19, 1950 by the late Bishop John A. Misiaszek. A special blessing was bestowed upon him and the other five neo-presbyters by our beloved organizer, the late Prime Bishop Franciszek Hodur. He is serving the faithful of the Holy Cross Parish for the last 24 years. **Congratulations Fr. Senior!!!**

From our parishes...

St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA

Annual Youth Group Harvest Dinner and Show

On Sunday, November 3, St. Casimir's Youth Group took over the parish center stage and presented its 9th Annual Dinner and Show.

Guests in attendance enjoyed a complete meatloaf dinner which was followed by words of welcome from Rachel

Quirbach, the group's president, who then introduced the group known as "The Root" with Bradley Garcia on sax; Caleb Dyer on guitar; Devin Carroll, drums; and Matt Oakes, bass who performed several musical selections.

Additional entertainment included a vocal solo performed by Karina Tenus; duet vocal performances by Riley Mason with Rachel Quirbach; and two cleverly performed skits. The finale was a rendition of "Jesus Is Your Ticket to Heaven" performed by the Youth Group.

Other performers included James and Justin Bigelow; Joseph Quirbach; Aaron and Ryan Robinson; and Jonasz Tenus.

This event which is produced annually by the young people of St. Casimir's parish is used to provide funds to support the group's charitable projects.

This year's project "Operation Christmas Child" involved filling a shoebox with a variety of small items such as coloring utensils, small stuffed animals, toothbrushes and toothpaste, coloring books, notepads, pencils and pens, and anything else a child would enjoy that is nonperishable and fits in a shoebox; and giving it to a needy child. Our children and youth gathered and sent off 14 boxes.



"The Root"



Rachel Quirbach, Riley Mason



Youth Group members singing
"Jesus Is Your Ticket to Heaven"

St. Casimir's Food Fest and Craft Fair

St. Casimir's Parish Center was bustling with activity on Saturday, October 26 as hundreds of friends, neighbors and parishioners came to stock up on their favorite Polish foods and to look for possible Christmas gifts and decorations among the craft items on display.

On entering, many headed for the food tables to make their selection of pierogi, golabki, kapusta and other Polish dishes and treats that were being offered.

With food selections safely in hand, it was time to examine the craft items displayed on tables throughout the hall. Among the items were an assortment of colorful hats, gloves, scarves, afghans, aprons and other items; including an assortment of attractive wreaths to add to the spirit of the upcoming holiday season.

To provide a respite, the kitchen staff prepared a menu of several snack and luncheon items which the shoppers enjoyed while they sat and discussed their purchases with each other or with members of the staff who were available to answer questions.

A copy of the parish newsletter was presented to each patron as they entered the hall and some chose to be added to the mailing list in order to keep informed of parish activities.

As the event drew to a close, the parishioners and friends who organized, contributed, or otherwise participated, unanimously agreed it was a great success and... We need to replenish our supply of pierogi, golabki, and kapusta!!! Thank you to one and all.

Diocesan Events and Programs:

.... ***"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Me , even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die" (John 11:17-27).***

On Tuesday, October 22, 2013. at the age of 88, the Rev. Mr. Joseph Chester Stafford Jr., passed away. For many years, he was the Deacon at Divine Providence Church in Norwich, CT.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on October 29, 2013 at Divine Providence Church by the Bishop of the Eastern Diocese the Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, and was concelebrated by several priests of the Eastern Diocese, including Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Rev. Zbigniew Kaszubski, Rev. Henry Smolinski, Rev. Randolph Calvo, Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Rev. Andrzej Tenus, and Rev. Henryk Wos. During the homily, Bp. Paul spoke about the vocation of the deacon as the service for others. He said that Deacon "Chet" performed his service with commitment and dedication, and he was a model and inspiration for others in the parish.

Rev. Christopher Rogalski, the Pastor of Divine Providence Parish in Norwich, summarized the years of Deacon "Chet's" service to the parish in such heartfelt words:

"In August of 1999, when I became the Pastor of Divine Providence Parish in Norwich, what stood out to me first were the beautiful voices in the choir. Listening to their angelic voices was a moving experience that touched my heart. Chet was not only a choir member, but he was also the director at the time. As I got to know Chet and the other parish folks, I found out that he was involved in many activities, not only in our parish but also in the community. He volunteered from sports to soup kitchens, and he even was a hospice volunteer for many years. During the cold winters, he would go out on the streets and into the woods looking for homeless people to show them where to find shelter and food. He was very dedicated to the community as much as he was dedicated to his church. When the deacon program began in our Diocese, Chet was one of the first to take the opportunity. He studied hard to qualify for the position, and he passed all of the tests with top grades. He was always present not only on Sundays or Holidays, but also at Daily Masses. He was always early so that he could pray and set up for the Mass. He took an active part in planning new events with excitement and creativity. His personality captivated many of our parish members, for he was not judgmental and was always helpful. His positive attitude infected those who were around him, always taking care of the less fortunate with a humbled heart. His passing is a great loss not only to our Parish, but also to our community. While we miss him very much, we find contentment knowing that he is still helping us now in spirit, for he is serving God with the angels and saints up above. Always Thinking and Praying for You- Father Chris."

Thanking God for the gift we received from him in the person of the Deacon Joseph Chester Stafford, let us pray that God, for his faithful service, rewarded him eternal life.

... Eternal Rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

By Fr. Henryk Wos



The Annual Central Seniorate Meeting

The annual Central Seniorate meeting took place at Holy Cross Parish, Ware, on Saturday, October 5, 2013. A meal was served and prepared by Evelyn Mongeau, Phyllis Laska and Lisa Koss consisting of: cabbage soup, finger rolls, coffee, tea, spring water, apple pie and cookies.

The official meeting was called to order at 1:18pm by Father Senior Joseph Soltysiak who also offered invocation. Father Senior Fryderyk Banas, host pastor, greeted all in attendance and hoped for fruitful deliberations for the good of the Seniorate parishes.

Six priests were in attendance, 7 delegates and 3 guests for a total of 16 participants. Minutes were read; financial report was presented; parish reports were given. The Meal in the Upper Room was hosted by St. Valentine's Parish, Northampton on March 17, 2013; The Cathedral of the Pines Service was held on July 7th; The Seniorate Evangelism Worship was held on March 9th in Northampton; the Diocesan Newsletter "The Mesenger" is being published regularly.

Under new business: A revised Four-Year Schedule was discussed outlining the combined services to be held in Seniorate parishes in the years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. Matters pertaining to our Seminary in Scranton, PA., our Diocesan Permanent Diaconate were discussed. The body stated

that those seeking ordination to our priesthood should be trained in our own Seminary. It was stressed that our young men be encouraged to enter our Seminary and serve the Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm with Fr. Sr. Banas offering benediction after which a group photo was taken on the church steps.



Front row from left to right: Fr. Paul Lukaszewicz, Fr. Randolph Calvo, Fr. Sr. Fryderyk Banas, Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak, Fr. Adam Czarnecki and Fr. Henry Smolinski. Second row from left to right: Frank Moryl Jr., Dorothy Stahelski, Lisa Koss, Evelyn Mongeau, Christine Newman, Daisy Benjamin and Alice Maiewski. Third row from left to right: Jane Grybko and Phyllis Laska.

Diocesan Clergy Retreat and Conference

The clergy of the Eastern Diocese gathered at Mercy Retreat Center in Madison, CT for a two day retreat on November 5th and 6th. The Mercy Retreat Center was originally the "summer cottage" of W. T. Grant of the old Grants

Department Stores. He then donated the property to the Roman Catholic Church and it is now run as an ecumenical retreat center by the Sisters of Mercy. One of the most inspiring and beautiful facets of Mercy Center is its proximity to Long Island Sound. Mercy Center allows retreatants the solitude of early morning walks along the beach and an afternoon to refresh the body and soul by the sun's warmth, the tides soothing rhythm and the grandeur of a distant horizon that touches the sky.

Our retreat sessions were held in a room that highlighted a wall of windows looking out upon the Sound. Here we listened to our retreat master, Bp. Stanley Bilinski, speak to us about our calling to sacred vocations, the sacred opportunities we have to encounter God in the church, and the equally sacred opportunities to meet Him in the ordinary. We were asked to appreciate again the power of prayer. With this in mind, as a

group we were directed to make our way individually to sixteen stations. At each station we were to pray for the designated purpose. We hope that the power of our combined prayers will work for the good of the church and of God's people. We were then given an entire afternoon to spend in private prayer any way we chose. The only requirement was that we would dedicate at least an hour to complete silence.

We co-celebrated morning Mass and recited the evening Vespers in the Mercy Center Chapel. One of the most inspiring aspects of this place of God was a floor to ceiling painting of a white rose with very pronounced thorns.



In the background was the subtle imagery of the cross. It was refreshing to see the crucifixion presented as a beautiful sign of God's love for us as His children rather than as the horrid sacrifice of Jesus for us as sinners.

With the completion of our retreat, the clergy then convened the Fall Clergy Conference on November 7th. Fr. Sen. Krusienski is the Conference chairman. The Conference dealt with the usual reports. It will reconvene at the Mercy Center for a one day conference on April 22, 2014, which will then be followed by a whole day refresher course on how to maintain parish records.

The clergy of the diocese thank their respective parishes for financially supporting this needed time away in retreat so that we could recharge our own spiritual batteries so that we can then better serve our parishes and parishioners.

**Submitted by,
Fr. Randolph Calvo, Conference Recording Secretary**

EASTERN DIOCESE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN LIVING SEMINAR 2013

The Eastern Diocese School of Christian Living Seminar was held on Saturday, September 21, 2013 at Holy Name of Jesus Church in South Deerfield, Massachusetts. The theme of this year's Seminar was *Engaging Our Youth through Faith*. Our day together began with a Prayer Service led by Bp. Paul Sobiechowski at 10:00am. Fr. Sen. Joseph Krusinski, SOCL chaplain, offered the homily. A continental breakfast followed and then Christine Piekarski, SOCL Board Chairperson, formally opened the Seminar. After receiving reports from the current officers, we then elected officers for the up-coming two-year term. The current Synod mandate is to work at every level in our diocese to increase youth involvement. Our SOCL programs are a bedrock of youth formation. We all realize how essential a productive and engaging Christian education program is for our youth, and this is what motivates the work of the SOCL Board and drives our annual Seminars.

Mrs. Marty Barrett offered our keynote address. Mrs. Barrett has worked as an elementary school principal in the town of Sunderland, Massachusetts. From there she moved on to become the principal of the Frontier Regional School, which is a Middle and High School for the communities of Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland and Whately, Massachusetts. In September 2013, Mrs. Barrett moved on to a new position in the field of education when she assumed of the position of Superintendent of Schools for Union 38, which encompasses the towns served by the Frontier Regional School. Mrs. Barrett will be addressing the near universal problem of how to keep adolescents interested and involved in education. Her lessons shared from a lifetime in the education profession are easily transferable to our situations in the SOCL classroom.

After lunch prepared and served by the Parish YMSofR Men's Group, the first of our afternoon sessions was offered by Gabriel Harrington. She is a technology teacher who spoke to us about how to use the internet as a teaching tool. She shared several sites with those of us gathered at the Seminar which provide a way for our various parish SOCL programs to work together. This technique involves the students in learning through a medium that they are probably more comfortable with than books and white boards. The internet is an avenue we have to go down to better engage our SOCL students, and Gabriel provided a perfect place for us to begin that journey.

Our second afternoon session was offered by Dr. Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd, who is a member of the National SOCL Commission. They have recently published a small book on the historical highlights of our church denomination. Another of the Synod's mandated priorities is to help our members become more aware of our history. Ours is an inspirational story of a progressive, Catholic church. We need to get our story out of the shadows and into the light. The work that Shirley will be sharing with us is a great opportunity to do just this. The books are inexpensive and easily available. We just need to be aware that they are out there and how best to use them.

The third and final afternoon session was presented by Barbara Stahelski. Barbara is an energetic SOCL teacher who has shared her work at several other SOCL gatherings. Her work with the *Children's Bible* is even being considered for use by the national church. She showed us a PowerPoint game she developed that would help students learn PNC facts. We all know that after an hour in church SOCL classes can be a bit long for our young people. Activities like the one Barbara designed help lengthen their Sunday morning attention span.

The SOCL Board thanks all of the presenters for their work, and we thank those parishes that made the time to participate in 2013's Seminar. The next meeting of the SOCL Board will take place in May of 2014.

Submitted by,

Fr. Randolph Calvo, host pastor

Candlelight Service

For the Parishes of the Northeast Seniorate

Sunday, December 15th at 6:00 pm

Holy Cross Parish

320 High Street, Central Falls, RI

A fellowship hour with a Birthday Party for Jesus will follow!!
You could even bring a gift
(New child's hat, gloves and/or jacket)

Please join us

Please RSVP by Dec. 10th to RobNem21@aol.com

2013 Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Gathering

When: Monday – December 30, 2013 , **Where:** Holy Trinity Parish in Webster, MA.
Schedule: 10:30 A.M. – Holy Mass, 11:30 A.M. – Interactive Presentation on St. John,
12:15 – Pizza and Soda, 1:00 PM – 3:00 P.M. Bowling.

To register please contact either: Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich 508-672-4854 , rob-nem21@aol.com; or Fr. Randy Calvo 413-665-2129, frrandy@holynamedeerfield.org

*Come see your friends in Christ
over the Christmas Vacation*

EASTERN DIOCESE DEACON PROGRAM

Have you felt a tugging at your heart to do more for the Lord? Maybe it happens while you attend Holy Mass, or while you listen to a sermon, or when you see there is more to do in His name than you are able to do right now. If you feel such a tugging, but are quite sure it isn't for the priesthood, then maybe you should consider becoming a deacon in our church.



If you are a male and at least 21 years old and a member of the Polish National Catholic Church for at least five years, you may apply for enrollment in the Deacon Program of the Eastern Diocese. Of course, there are other qualifications. Ask the pastor for a list of the qualifications and a handbook about the Deacon Program.

Many men watch their priests and sometimes see themselves at God's altar, or proclaiming the Gospel, or sharing Christian love with the parish children, the elderly and the troubled. They may imagine themselves doing much of what a priest does, but not feel a calling to the priesthood.



Men can now do more than watch and wonder. Applications are now being received for the new Deacon Program in the Eastern Diocese. Men may now pursue that calling for assisting the priest in serving God and His people. Ask the pastor for a copy of the deacon program handbook and an application with all of the requirements.

The telephone doesn't suddenly ring and a voice isn't heard, but the calling of the Lord for men to serve Him and His people is real. It happens in different ways with different men: A tugging at one's heart or mind, the mental picture of seeing oneself doing some of the things a priest does, the heartfelt compliments received for one's participation in the worship or religious work of the parish, one's frequent hearing of encouragement to join the ranks of the clergy, the awareness of a deep internal joy or a strong sense of inner peace whenever one does what Jesus would do for others.

If you are such a man and have been in the PNCC for five years or more, who is between the ages of 21 and never too old to learn and work, then the time may have finally come for you to consider becoming a deacon in the church. Talk to the pastor and ask him for a handbook on the Deacon Program in our Church. Also him ask for an application with all of the requirements and qualifications for the Deacon Program.

As a boy, have you ever thought about becoming a priest? As you think back to that time, do you now wish there was a way to serve the Lord and His people in a similar way, but not as a priest? Then the Deacon Program of our PNCC may be where the Lord is leading you.

To become a priest, a man must take time off from his job or take time away from his family or his home for three years to go to the seminary. To become a deacon, he can still work at his job, live with his family, continue to stay in his own home. To help you find out where the Lord is leading you, ask your pastor for the Deacon Program handbook, application and qualifications. It could be that the Lord is leading you into the diaconate.

Do you feel that the Lord is reaching out to you to do something more in His name for the other parishioners? Maybe you should consider becoming a deacon. Ask the pastor about the Deacon Program. The Lord uses deacons as well as priests to minister to people.

Talk to your Pastor for more information or e-mail:

RobNem21@aol.com



FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

Assignments:

- As of December 1, 2013 Father Henry Smolinski is relieved of his responsibilities as Administrator of Holy Cross Parish, Enfield, CT.
- As of December 1, 2013 Father Senior Joseph Soltysiak assumes the Administration of Holy Cross Parish, Enfield, CT.
- As of December 1, 2013 Father Robert Max Koerber is received into the Eastern Diocese and is designated as a supply priest. When not otherwise directed he will be attending Holy Cross Parish, Ware, MA., and will be available to assist Father Senior Fryderyk S. Banas, Pastor. As a supply priest, Father Koerber's position is non-stipendary.
- Mr. Thomas Walsh, candidate for priesthood, has successfully completed instruction on "The Fathers of the Church" under Father Henry Smolinski. He now is studying "Church History" under the direction of Father Andrew Tenus.

Bishop's Visits to Parishes:

- December 13- Our Savior Parish, Woonsocket, RI.

Meetings:

- November 30 - 11:00 AM Holy Trinity Parish - Webster, MA.- Eastern Diocese United Choir- Organizational Meeting.
- December 9 & 10 Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA. - National School of Christian Living Commission Meeting.
- January 9 (16 snow day) - Eastern Diocese Council - Investigative Sub-Committee Meeting - Diocesan Chancery.

Liturgies:

- December 15- Holy Cross Parish - Central Falls, RI. - Candlelight Service and Jesus' birthday party for the children.

Events:

- December 2 - P.N.U.A. District 3 Teleconference - 7:30 PM.
- December 30 - Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA. - Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Gathering.



Poetry comes nearer to vital truth than history. " - Plato

Juliusz Słowacki



Ojciec współczesnego polskiego dramatu.

Słowacki urodził się w Krzemieńcu. Jego ojciec był nauczycielem literatury w miejscowym gimnazjum oraz, od 1811 r. do śmierci w 1814 r., wykładowcą retoryki i poezji na Uniwersytecie Wileńskim. W 1818 r. matka Słowackiego, Salomea wyszła za mąż za Augusta Bécu, uniwersyteckiego profesora medycyny, który zginął w 1824 r. trafiony błyskawicą. W latach 1825-1828 Słowacki studiował prawo, a w 1829 r. przeniósł się do Warszawy, gdzie rozpoczął karierę administracyjną i gdzie napisał wiersze patriotyczne. W 1831 r. został wysłany z misją dyplomatyczną do Londynu, po czym osiadł w Paryżu. W latach 1832-1836 przebywał w Genewie, później podróżował po Włoszech, Grecji, Egipcie i Palestynie. W 1838 r. powrócił do Paryża, w którym przebywał do 1849 r. i w którym zmarł na gruźlicę. Został pochowany na cmentarzu Montmartre. W 1927 r. jego prochy przewieziono do Krakowa i złożono obok Mickiewicza w krypcie Katedry Wawelskiej.

HYMN

Smutno mi, Boże! - Dla mnie na zachodzie
Rozlałeś tęczę blasków promienistą;
Przede mną gasisz w lazurowej wodzie
Gwiazdę ognistą...
Choć mi tak niebo ty złocisz i morze,
Smutno mi, Boże!

Jak puste kłosy, z podniesioną głową
Stoję rokoszy próżen i dosytu...
Dla obcych ludzi mam twarz jednakową,
Ciszę błękitu.
Ale przed tobą głęb serca otworzę,
Smutno mi, Boże!

Jako na matki odejście się żali
Mała dzieciątka, tak ja płacu bliski,
Patrząc na słońce, co mi rzuca z fali
Ostatnie błyski...
Choć wiem, że jutro błyśnie nowe zorze,
Smutno mi, Boże!

Dzisiaj, na wielkim morzu obłąkany,
Sto mil od brzegu i sto mil przed brzegiem,
Widziałem lotne w powietrzu bociany
Długim szeregiem.
Zem je znał kiedyś na polskim ugorze,
Smutno mi, Boże!

Father of modern Polish drama.

Słowacki was born in Krzemieniec. His father taught literature in the local lyceum and, from 1811 until his death in 1814, rhetoric and poetry at the University of Wilno. In 1818, Slowacki's mother Salomea married August Bécu, professor of medicine at the University, who died struck by lightning in 1824. From 1825 to 1828 Slowacki studied law and in 1829 went to Warsaw, where he embarked on an administrative career and wrote patriotic poems. In 1831 he was sent on a diplomatic mission to London and then he settled in Paris. From 1832 to 1836 Slowacki lived in Geneva, later travelled in Italy, Greece, Egypt, and Palestine. In 1838 he returned to Paris, where he stayed until 1849, when he succumbed to tuberculosis. He was buried at Montmartre cemetery, but in 1927 his ashes were brought to Cracow and laid to rest next to Mickiewicz in the crypt at Wawel Cathedral.

HYMN

I am sad, Savior! For me in western skies
You poured out a radiant rainbow array ;
In azure waters you quench before my eyes
The fiery star of day...
Though You gild the sky and sea for me yonder,
I am sad, Savior!

Like empty ears of corn, their heads erect,
I stand bereft of surfeit and of pleasure...
To strangers my face has the same aspect,
The silence of azure :
But to You my heart's core I'll uncover,
I am sad, Savior!

Like an infant who cries for his mother
When left alone, so am I close to tears,
Looking at the sun that throws from the water
Its last flashing spears...
Though I know tomorrow new dawn with glitter,
I am sad, Savior!

Today when lost in the wide sweep of the sea,
One hundred miles away from either shore,
The flying storks above me I could see
In a stretched out skein soar.
That once I knew them on a Polish pasture,
I am sad, Savior!

Żem często dumał nad mogiłą ludzi,
Żem prawie nie znał rodzinnego domu,
Żem był jak pielgrzym, co się w drodze trudzi
Przy błaskach gromu,
Że nie wiem, gdzie się w mogiłe położę,
Smutno mi, Boże!

Ty będziesz widział moje białe kości
W straż nie oddane kolumnowym czołom;
Alem jest jako człowiek, co zazdrości
Mogil popiołom...
Więc że mieć będę niespokojne łóże,
Smutno mi, Boże!

Kazano w kraju niewinnej dzieciętinie
Modlić się za mnie co dzień... a ja przecie
Wiem, że mój okręt nie do kraju płynie,
Płyńąc po świecie...
Więc, że modlitwa dziecka nic nie może,
Smutno mi, Boże!

Na tęczę błasków, którą tak ogromnie
Anieli twoi w siebie rozpostarli,
Nowi gdzieś ludzie w sto lat będą po mnie
Patrzący - marli.
Nim się przed moją nicością ukorzę,
Smutno mi, Boże!

Napisane o zachodzie słońca na morzu aleksandryjskim

TESTAMENT MÓJ

Żyłem z wami, cierpiłem i płakałem z wami,
Nigdy mi, kto szlachetny, nie był obojętny,
Dzis was rzucam i dalej idę w cień - z duchami -
A jak gdyby tu szczęście było - idę smętny.

Nie zostawiłem tutaj żadnego dziedzica
Ani dla mojej lutni, ani dla imienia; -
Imię moje tak przeszło jako błyskawica
I będzie jak dźwięk pustego trwać przez pokolenia.

Lecz wy, coście mnie znali, w podaniach przekażcie,
Żem dla ojczyzny sterał moje lata młode;
A póki okręt walczył - siedziałem na maszcie,
A gdy tonął - z okrętem poszedłem pod wodę...

Ale kiedyś - o smętnych losach zadumany
Mojej biednej ojczyzny- przyzna, kto szlachetny,
Ze płaszcz na moim duchu był nie wybranej,
Lecz świętosciami dawnych moich przodków świętyn.

Niech przyjaciele moi w nocy się zgromadzą
I biedne serce moje spał w aloesie,
I tej, która mi dała to serce, oddadzą -
Tak się matkom wypłaca świat, gdy proch odniesie...

Niech przyjaciele moi siądą przy pucharze
I zapiąjają moj pogrzeb - oraz własną bidę:
Jeżeli będę duchem, to się im pokażę,
Jeśli Bóg uwolni od męki - nie przyjdę...

Lecz zaklinam - niech żywi nie traca nadziei
I przed narodem niosą oświaty kaganiec;
A kiedy trzeba, na śmierć idą po kolei,
Jak kamienie przez Boga rzucone na szaniec!...

Co do mnie - ja zostawiam maleńką tu drużbę
Tych, co mogli pokochać serce moje dumne;
Znać, że srogą spełniłem, twardą bożą służbę
I zgodziłem się tu mieć - niepłakaną trumnę.

Kto drugi tak bez świata oklasków się zgodzić
Iść... taką obojętność, jak ja, mieć dla świata?
Być sternikiem duchami napełnionej łodzi,
I tak cicho odlecieć, jak duch, gdy odlata?

Jednak zostanie po mnie ta siła fatalna,
Co mi żywemu na nic... tylko czoło zdobi;
Lecz po śmierci was będzie gniotła niewidzialna,
Aż was, zjadacze chleba - w aniołów przerobi.

That I've often brooded over catacombs,
That I have barely known my native home,
That I was like a weary pilgrim who roams
When lightning sears the sky's dome,
That I don't know in what grave I'll linger,
I am sad, Savior!

You will behold my whitened skeleton,
No brow of a column stands guard over it;
Yet I'm like a man who enviously looks on
The ashes in their pit...
And that my bed will be restless forever,
I am sad, Savior!

They told an innocent child in my land
To say a prayer for me each day... and yet
I know my ship doesn't sail to my home strand,
When it sails straight ahead...
And that the child's prayer will not help ever,
I am sad, Savior!

The rainbow of lights which in sky's canopy
Your angels have spread in an enormous string,
Some other people hundred years after me
Will look upon - dying.
Ere to my nothingness I humbly surrender,
I am sad, Savior!

Written at sunset, at sea off Alexandria.

MY TESTAMENT

I have lived with you, suffered and shed tears with you.
No noble person have I ever passed aside.
Today I leave you, ghosts in shadows to pursue,
And if happiness were here – in sorrow I stride.

I have not left behind me a single offspring
Either to play my lute or to carry my name ;
My name has passed away like a flash of lightning,
And will last for generations like an empty strain.

But you that have known me, pass to all in legend
That I wore out my youth for the land of my fathers ;
When the ship struggled – I stood at the mast to the end,
And when she was sinking – I too drowned in deep waters...

Yet some day, pondering about the destined lot
Of my poor homeland, any noble man will consent
That my spirit's cloak was not by begging begot,
But as my ancestors' glories shines resplendent.

Let my faithful friends at night gather together
And burn up my poor heart in die leaves of aloe,
Return it to die one who gave it to me later :
So the world pays mothers – giving them ashes to stow...

Let my friends sit down, each one holding a goblet,
And drown in wine my burial – and their own despair...
If I am a spirit, I'll appear to them yet,
If God frees me from torment, I will not come there...

But I beg you – let the living not lose hope ever
And bear the torch of learning before their compatriots ;
And when called, go to their death one after another,
Like the stones tossed by die Lord onto the ramparts...

As for me – I am leaving a small group of friends,
Those who were able to love my haughty spirit ;
One can see I have fulfilled God's hard assignments
And assented to have here – an unwept casket...
Who else would go on without the world's accolades,
Such indifference to the world as I display ?
To be the helmsman of a boat that's filled with shades,
And fly off as quietly as the shade flies away ?

And yet I leave behind me this fateful power,
Useless while I live... it just graces my temples ;
But when I die, it will, unseen, press you ever,
Till it remakes you, bread eaters – into angels.

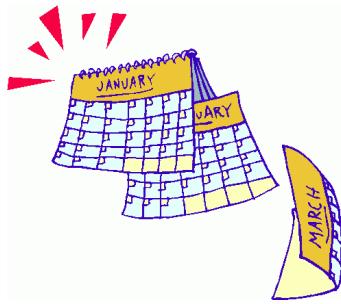
Poetry translated by Michael Mikos

Parishes of the Eastern Diocese

Holy Trinity Cathedral 166 Pearl St., Manchester, NH Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Pastor (603)622-4524	St. Joseph's Parish 73 Maon St., Westfield, MA Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Pastor (413)562-4403
Blessed Trinity Parish 37 Winthrop St., Fall River, MA Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Pastor (508)672-4854	St. Valentine's Parish 127 King St., Northampton, MA Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor (413)584-0133
St. Casimir's Parish 268 Lakeview Avenue, Lowell, MA Rev. Andrzej Tenus, Pastor (978)453-0742	Church of the Transfiguration 8 Concord St., New Britain, CT Rev. Paul Dudek, Administrator (860)229-2693
Holy Cross Parish 320 High St, Central Falls, RI Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Administrator (401)722-5130	Divine Providence Parish 11 Silver St., Norwich, CT Rev. Christopher Rogalski, Pastor (860)887-2812
Our Saviour's Parish 500 Smithfield Rd., Woonsocket, RI Rev. Henryk Wos, Pastor (401)762-3072	Holy Savior Parish 118 Prospect St., Union City, CT Rev. Paul Dudek, pastor (203)729-4035
Holy Cross Parish 723 Enfield St., Enfield, CT Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, , Administrator (860)745-5066	Holy Trinity Parish 200 Summer St., Plantsville, CT Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Pastor (860)628-0736
Holy Cross Parish 61 Maple St., Ware, MA Very Rev. Fryderyk Banas, Pastor (413)967-5233	St. Casimir Parish 240 Quinnipiac St., Wallingford, CT Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Administrator (203)294-8888
Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish 26 Bell St., Chicopee, MA Rev. Pawel Lukaszewicz, Pastor (413)592-2032	St. John the Baptist Parish 23 Golway St., Manchester, CT Rev. Henry Smolinski, Pastor (860)643-5906
Holy Name of Jesus Parish 15 Thaver St., South Deerfield, MA Rev. Randolph Calvo, Pastor (413)665-2129	St. Joseph's Parish 1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford, CT Rev. Michal Gitner, Pastor (203)923-2424
Holy Trinity Parish 68 Lake St., Webster, MA Rev. Robert Fredrickson, Administrator (860)833-6296	SS. Peter & Paul Parish 730 State Pier Rd., New London, CT Rev. Zbigniew Kaszubski, Pastor (860)326-5025

Diocesan Chaplains

Diocesan Newsletter Editor Father Henryk Wos	Scouting Commission Father Adam Czarnecki
Ladies Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Father Senior Joseph Soltysiak	United Choirs Father Krzysztof Rogalski
Polish National Union of America (Spojnia) District 3 Father Senior Robert Nemkovich	Youth Father Senior Robert Nemkovich
School of Christian Living Father Senior Joseph Krusienski	Deacon Program Father Senior Robert Nemkovich



Calendar of Upcoming Events

If you are in the neighborhood we welcome you to join us for upcoming events:

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH

- Saturday, December 14th - 10 am -Advent Outdoor Cathedral Decorating by SOCL, pizza party follows at 12:30. 2PM SOCL Outing to Capital Arts Theater in Concord to see "The Twelve Days of Christmas" (open to all - reservations by October 15th).
- Sunday, December 22nd- Parish collection of mittens, gloves, scarves, and coats for needy school children in the Manchester Public Schools.

St. Joseph's Parish, Westfield, MA

- Sunday, December 15th - Altar server/Youth Group Cookie Walk
- Sunday, December 15th - Candlelight Mass at 4pm followed by a reception at the social center and a visit from Santa
- Tuesday, December 24th - Family Christmas Eve Mass 4pm, Shepherd's Mass at 11pm
- Wednesday, December 25th - Christmas Mass
- Tuesday, December 31st - New Year's Eve Mass 7pm

Our Savior Parish, Woonsocket, RI

- Sunday, January 12th-11am –Oplatek Dinner and Christmas Pageant
- Friday, January 31st-at 6pm-Meat Raffle
- Friday, February 28th-Pizza Movie Night
- Sunday, March 2nd-1pm-Social Party and Penny Social (Bingo)

Holy Cross Parish in Enfield, CT

- Saturday, December 7th - A Christmas Fest.

Holy Cross Parish in Ware, MA

- Sunday, February 9th or 16th, 2014 - The Annual Valentine Penny Social along with other games and tables with gifts, the kitchen functions all afternoon serving Polish food: cabbage pierogi, go-labki, kapusta, barszcz, etc.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

St. Valentine's Parish, Northampton, MA

- Thursday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m. - 2nd Annual Christmas Concert. Featuring Lisa Woods, Jerry Noble, Terri LaFleur
- Saturday, January 5th — 2:00 p.m.—2nd Annual Polskie Koledy (Polish Christmas Carol) Sing sponsored by the Polish Heritage Committee
- Tuesday, March 4th—Zapusty Celebration
- March—Spaghetti Dinner
- Sunday, April 13th, —Spring Concert
- May - Polish Dinner
- August, 2014—Summer Concert
- October —Harvest Dinner

Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA

- Sunday, December 1st - Advent Food Drive Begins
- Saturday, December 7th - 5:30 am Youth Group Spaghetti Supper and 6:45 pm Advent Penitential Service
- Sunday, December 15th - Living Nativity – following Sunday Mass
- Sunday, December 22nd - Birthday Party for Jesus - gift of a canned good is appreciated
- Sunday, January 5th - 12:00 noon - Annual Traditional Polish Christmas Dinner
- Thursday, January 23rd - 2-7 pm - American Red Cross Blood Drive
- Sunday, January 26th - Pancake Breakfast
- Sunday, February 23rd - PTA Cookie Walk

St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA

- Saturday, December 7th - St. Casimir's Annual Homecoming Dinner. The program includes musical entertainment by the parish youth group and a Christmas carol sing along in English and in Polish, a holiday meal and a few traditional customs, like sharing oplatki, with friends, both old and new. Tickets for the event are \$8.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children under 12, and there is no charge for children under two.

THE MESSENGER-Quarterly Newsletter

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The quality and style of this newsletter depends upon your cooperation. It is also a great way to let others know about our church, parishes and people. We look forward to your contributions!