

2020 Lenten Retreat of the Northeast Seniorate of the Western Diocese of the PNCC

Discipleship

The annual Lenten Retreat of the Northaest Seniorate of the Western Diocese took place on Saturday, March 7, from 10am-2pm. The event began with a delicious breakfast served by the host, Resurrection Parish in Temperance, MI. An array of fruits, bagels, coffees, and juices were complimented by the famous



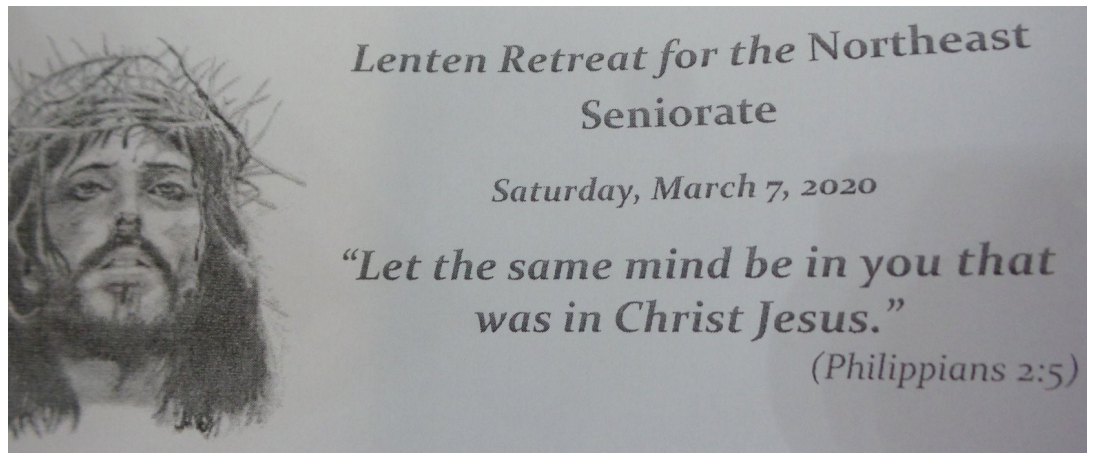
Resurrection Parish Polish Coffee Cake.

As our attendees chowed down and renewed acquaintances, the

clergy met for a short meeting to reconcile schedules before the event began. As the bell rang to call us to meet, the Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Administrative Senior of our Seniorate began with an introduction to the retreat, explaining the theme, and setting the course for the day.

Rev. Jason Soltysiak, pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Parma, OH, then led the opening prayer before beginning the first session. His presentation was on "Discipleship", based on the scripture of Matthew 19:21- "Jesus said to him, 'If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'"

Fr. Jason's lecture focused on the various calls of discipleship in scripture, as well as the specificity of Jesus' call to be "perfect". Perfection was looked at through the lens of each attendees personal experience, in nature, in science, and finally, in how certain people are innately hard-wired to be merciful to a particular group of people: infants, children, the elderly, the sick, or even animals – where some shine, others shy away.



The group took a break and then was called to our second session, led by Fr. Sr. Nowak. His was entitled "Discipleship as a Journey", and was based on the scripture of Jeremiah 29:11- "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."



Father Senior's Powerpoint presentation was a blend of his personal journey as well as to the individual journeys of discipleship we are called to. It included his story of coming to his first parish with just a couple of suitcases...and going to his second parish with a full U-haul, a wife and some kids. He spoke also of the danger of holding on to those things that are not necessary, that they wear us down in life and in our journeys of discipleship.



After a short break and a well-executed group picture, Rev. John Cramer, pastor of Our Savior Parish in Dearborn Hts., MI, presented our third session. It was entitled "The Cost Of Full Discipleship", and was based on Mark 1:16-18- "As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into

the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

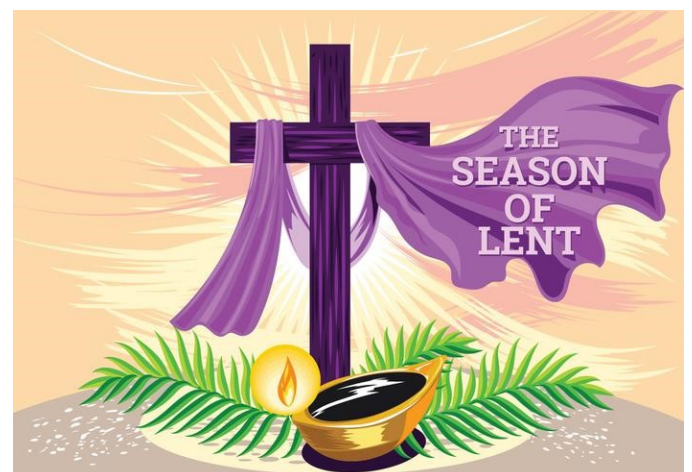
Father John began with a memorable account comparing our freedom as Americans to the freedom in following Christ. In enjoying our liberties, he noted that there are costs...one that included jury duty. Late winter 2020 must have been the turn of PNCC members to be called into Jury Duty, as many attendees gave sullen nods of acknowledgment with the freshness of their served duty close in mind. He also mentioned that the cost in-



cludes a little bit of work – that there is a difference between the graces offered by the full reception of the Sacraments and...cheap grace. Fr. John also gave us a handout to reflect upon.

One short break later, we were ready for our recep-

tion of the Sacrament of Penance. Father Senior had prepared a Lenten-Themed penance service and then offered us a penance and absolution. After the service, we were called to return to the parish in a few weeks for the National Mis-



sion & Evangelism Workshop. Deacon Richard Kasprszak offered grace before lunch.

Lunch was a delicious pulled chicken, served with the appropriate trimmings; buns, a vinegar-based coleslaw, chips, salads, and desserts.

Upon filling up our energy tanks, we all ventured off for our homes and parishes, ready to relay the messages of discipleship absorbed during our annual retreat.

Special thanks to our presenting clergy, our cooks and servers, our organist,

Cathy Bilinski, our photographer, Kathy Chockley, the host Parish of Resurrection, and all who continue to attend this wonderful annual event in our Seniorate of the Western Diocese.



Lenten
Retreat



Parishes of the Northeast Seniorate of the PNCC Western Diocese

Holy Cross Parish
Hamtramck, MI

Pastor— Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Administrative Senior

Resurrection of our Lord Parish
Temperance, MI

Administrator— Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak

All Saints Parish
Sterling Heights, MI
Pastor— Rev. Michael Gitner

Our Savior Parish
Dearborn Heights, MI
Pastor— Rev. John Cramer

St. Mary's Parish
Parma, OH
Pastor— Rev. Jason Soltysiak

Seniorate Clergy-

Rev. Gregory Gronn, Retired
North Olmsted, OH

Deacon Richard Kasprzak
Assigned to Our Savior Parish

Deacon James Ploskonka
Assigned to St. Mary's

