

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

A PARISH OF THE WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

June 2019

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2nd Annual YMSofR Men's Retreat

Men of the Polish National Catholic Church were called to retreat this past May 16-18 at Spojnia Farm in Waymart, PA for the YMSofR Bp. Bilinski Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat. The theme was *Defeating Evil in Your Life* and our scripture focus was Romans 12:21- "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Though this was our second retreat, it was the first under our beloved bishop's name. Bishop Stanley Bilinski was aggressive in pushing the men of the church towards a greater spiritual life, echoing the sentiment of the YMSofR's organizer, Bishop Francis Hodur. Bishop Bilinski was "one of seven" that attended full-time at last year's retreat.

This year, by the grace of God, we were able to host 17 men on retreat as well as another 5 who were speakers or visitors. This served as quite a boost for the event's coordinators, as it showed efforts were indeed made for the betterment of God's Kingdom on earth. Attendees were from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey, representing (by total numbers) the Central, Buffalo-Pittsburgh, and Western Dioceses.

The retreat began awkwardly...which is to say, appropriately. The men trickled in throughout the day, most familiar with the grounds; some visiting for the first time. The first event was dinner, where an unofficial welcome was provided and the men sat down to a feast of homemade baked ziti by the renowned Mama Kaz, as well as salad and garlic bread. Many thanks to the kitchen help for the weekend- Nick Kazinetz, An-



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NHL team. After the hoopla of victory and the sharing of provolone, soprasatta, cheddar and olives, the group went to bed.

Morning began with coffee. Did you know that less than two dozen men can drink more than 72 cups of coffee by 9am on a brisk spring morning? We were honored by Bishop Bernard Nowicki, Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese, taking time to visit us and offer Holy Mass at 8am. Holy Mass was a requiem Mass for sp. Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski. Fr. Jason again offered a sermon, this time on discerning the varied calls God has for men of the church. The morning retreat session was offered by Fr. Walter Placek, Pastor of Providence of God Lithuanian NCC in Scranton, PA. He provided a talk that detailed the relationship of the Church and science through the millennia, the ebbing-and-flowing of information and where it all stands today. There were plenty of comments offered, and the session went a bit over time- al-

draw Humphreys, J. Mehoff Wall and Kevin McConlogue.

Officially, we began with prayer, and Fr. Jason Soltysiak began with prayer and an explanation of the retreat, the grounds, light rules, etc. Introductions went around the table, allowing everyone to associate a name and a face. We were thrilled to have the Diocesan Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese with us, the Rt. Rev. John Mack. After everyone chimed in a little extra about themselves, we retired to our Eucharistic Chapel, where Fr. Carmen Bolock, Pastor of St. Mary's in Duryea, PA, offered the Liturgy of the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Fr. Jason, Pastor of St. Mary's in Parma, OH, then offered a short sermon on the mysteries contained within the Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Social time followed, with everyone cheering wildly for the Bruins to close out their series with some random other



Fr. Jason's Article (continued)

ways a sign of healthy discussion.

After a short break, an hour of silent meditation was on tap. Participants were directed to spend time in silence, prayer, and scripture before the Blessed Sacrament, before the set up church, in their rooms, or even outside. Halfway through our quiet time, the skies opened, setting up the kitchen help to bring our lunch of deli meats, chips, and picnic salads to the Retreat Center. As luck would have it, as we bowed our heads for grace, the skies dried up.

With eyes on the radar, the schedule was adjusted so that we could take a prayer walk after lunch. This was prepared and guided by Fr. Jason. The walk detailed the ways man is wont to offend God, covering in detail each of the 7 Deadly Sins as well as their opposite virtues. In all, there were twelve different stops, each with highlighted scripture verse, a prayer, a reflection for those gathered, and then a scripture look-up that encapsulated that stop/station. As the grounds were wet, our walk was a bit abbreviated, but still took an enjoyable and informative two hours.

As the day thus far had been quite intense, two hours of "free time" were offered. Some played beanbag toss, some recharged batteries performing the Litany to Saint Mattress, some remained in contemplation, and some sat and enjoyed the beautiful Spojnia Farm view.

A tremendous dinner was offered of home-made wing bites (hot and bbq) as well as an array of pizzas. We ate and ate...took a break and ate! After a wonderful meal, we were esteemed by a visit from the Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky. Prime Bishop then spoke to us for nearly 90 minutes about the origins and balances of evil and sin, and how the nature of it is difficult to define. Perhaps it was the energizing time spent outside earlier, but the group was incredibly engaged as questions were posed and positions of the Church were requested of our prelate.

Our evening wound down with prayer in the Eucharistic Chapel. Fr. Carmen Bolock led our time of prayer, which concluded with a number of songs sung before the presence of Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Afterward, we bid the Prime Bishop adieu, as he was to return for Mass the next morning. A bonfire was then lighted, as the group split up between enjoying mother nature around a warm fire and those enjoying the warm glow of more (inferior to the Bruins) playoff hockey.

An active night, full of rusty locks, broken keys and daring window entrances brought us to our last morning together. A light breakfast was available by 8am, featuring delicious Cwikla's baked goods. Mr. Mehoff was readily available to explain each delicacy to the attendees. After breakfast, Sub-Deacon Jim Ploskonka, serving at St. Mary's in Parma, OH, led a bible study. He had pre-selected portions of scripture surrounding our theme, as well as providing short explanations for each. He then broke the group down into three equal parts and asked us to rank them. As simple as it sounded, it brought on an hour of intense discussion, explanation, and even some debate.

Prime Bishop Mikovsky returned to celebrate our closing Mass, a votive Mass to St. Joseph. Sub-Deacon Ploskonka offered the sermon, providing all an analogy of warm fuzzies versus cold pricklies – and how we want to deal with people going forward. Mass concluded, and the end was near.



MEN'S RETREAT

Group pictures were taken, and all were called to the Eucharistic Chapel for the reposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Fr. Bolock again offered the prayer service. Fr. Jason provided a synopsis of the retreat for all, thanking everyone for attending and for all who served on the sub-committee to plan the retreat. Bishop John Mack then offered our final prayer and gave an Episcopal Blessing to all.

A lunch, featuring tremendous leftovers, was then offered, and all dined bitter-sweetly. The day was beautiful, but our time together in retreat had closed. Cars were packed, good-byes were said, and plans began for the 2020 retreat.

Many thanks to the president of the United YMSofR Nick Kazinetz (Holy Mother of Sorrows, Dupont, PA) and his assistants Kevin McConlogue (Tripp Park Chapel, Scranton) and Andrew Humphries (St. Adalbert's, Dickson City, PA) for all the preparatory and physical planning that took place before anyone got there, including menu-planning and kitchen-coordinating. Thanks as well to the entire Spiritual Retreat Sub-Committee: our lead, Fr. Jason Soltysiak; Fr. Carmen Bolock, Chaplain of the National YMSofR; Sub-Deacon Jim Ploskonka and Andrew Humphreys.

For 2020, we plan on staying at the now wonderfully temperature-controlled Spojnia Farm once again. We are also looking for a better date to allow other portions of the church to attend, as this lament was heard repeatedly. We hope all men of the church, YMSofR members or not, would consider attending this joyful, spiritual, and friendly annual retreat our Church is now providing for us.



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Sacrament of Confirmation & Mother's Day Brunch

The Sacrament of Confirmation was bestowed upon two young ladies of our parish on Sunday, May 12, the Fourth Sunday of the Easter Season and also Mother's Day.

Kyrsten CATHERINE and Marzena JOSEPHINE had studied with Fr. Jason for about 18 months, learning the answers to the 400+ question Catechism of the PNCC, studying scripture, and learning of the history of religion, Christianity,

and of our denomination.

Very Rev. Jerry Rafalko served as the minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation this day. Upon the death of our diocesan bishop, schedules needed to be rearranged, so Father Senior, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Kewanee, IL, came to represent the diocese.

After the Confirmation Mass, a brunch was held in the Fellowship Hall. The YMSofR prepared a brunch for the Mother's in attendance, and the PTO prepared a cake and more for the Confirmands.

We pray for God's choicest blessings upon all mothers and especially for the enhanced faith journeys of Kyrsten and Marzena.



**BE
FILLED
WITH THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

Spring Polka

St. Mary's played host to a Spring Polka dance on Sunday, May 19.

This was our second polka-exclusive event over the last 6 months, and momentum continues to be built towards hosting even more.



"Those Guys" were our entertainment for the afternoon, and they rocked the basement hall from 2-6pm, much to the delight of our parishioners and visitors.

Besides our upcoming PolishFest, we are currently negotiating having more single-events like this in the future. Keep your ears and eyes peeled!



Memorial Day Services

Memorial Day services were held at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery on W. 54th Street on Monday, May 27 at 10am under a clear, beautiful late-spring sky.

Fr. Jason led the services, accompanied by Sub-Deacon Jim and our acolyte, Chuck. Parishioners, guests, and those who have loved ones in the cemetery gathered to commemorate this sacred U.S. Holiday.

PLAV Post #58 out of Tremont provided the second portion of the service, as a note was read and the 21-gun salute took place. All who attended were invited back to Professor Ave. in Cleveland for a bite to eat.



Polish Constitution Day Parade

On Sunday, May 5, St. Mary's once again participated in the City of Parma Polish Constitution Day Parade.

As has been our custom for a number of years now, a portion of our congregation and families met at "The Circle" and marched together, handing out candy, holding signs, being led by dogs, or riding in vehicles.

Thanks to all who participated and to parishioner Jack Amburgey, who had a portion of his "parade fleet" available to highlight our parade march.



Various Announcements

CORPUS CHRISTI—Sunday, June 23 is the Sunday within the Octave of Corpus Christi. The Church calls us to have a Eucharistic Procession, and, since we have the ability, we tentatively plan on having it outdoors like we did last year. The entire congregation will be asked to process to the four corners of the church, gathering in prayer at each.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING—A semi-annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 23rd after 9am Mass. There is no second Mass this day, but a light luncheon will precede the meeting. The purpose is to review issues half-way through the year, rather than to do everything at once at the Annual Meeting. Reports from parish organizations are not required.

JUNE is Sacred Vocations month in the Polish National Catholic Church. We pray for more vocations within not only the PNCC, but for all Christian denominations. *Almighty God, look mercifully upon Your Holy Church and incline the hearts of many of her sons to offer themselves for the*

work of Sacred Vocations, so that by their labors Your light may shine in the darkness of the world and the coming of Your kingdom may be hastened by the perfecting of Your people. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

NURSERY HELP—As the calendar is changing towards summer, we are looking for input on how to staff the nursery room during Sunday 9am Mass. We are asking for adult volunteers to help out the mothers on a weekly basis—see Fr. Jason.

10th ANNUAL DINNER AND A CAR SHOW—The BIG ONE- #10! is scheduled for Saturday, August 4th on the parish grounds. Please note that there will also be a Saturday afternoon Mass that day. If you have any questions about the event, please see Steve Fesz.

FLOWERS—If your garden is producing and you would like to bring in flowers to put on the main altar for a Sunday, please arrange with Fr. Jason

so he can make sure it is acknowledged.

TEXAS ROADHOUSE—Our next restaurant fundraiser takes place here on July 16 from 4-8pm! We are permitted to have a bake sale & a basket raffle; please bring items to fill baskets to the board room.

YOUTH GATHERING 2019—The Youth Gathering of the Western Diocese takes place July 22-25 at Pine Trail Camp in Saugatuck, MI and is open to all Youth Ages 8-20. Information is posted on the bulletin board—please see Fr. Jason if interested.

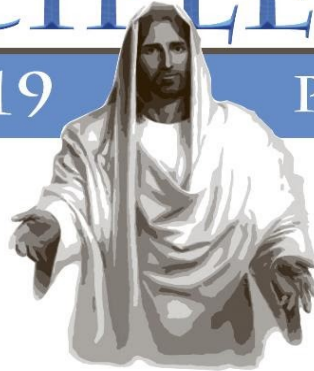
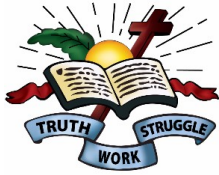
WEEKDAY MASS CHANGE—Beginning in July, the noon Thursday Mass will be moved to Wednesday at noon—please check the weekly listing in the bulletin to confirm.

HONOR A FATHER—Acknowledge or remember our Fathers, lay or clergy, for their dedication to us and at the same time provide some much needed support to the PNCC Clergy Pension Fund. Send a minimum donation of \$25 to the Clergy Pension Fund Committee, c/o Western Diocese Chancery, 920 N. Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge, IL 60068, and include your name and the name of the Father you wish to honor.

PNCC Future Directions Update

DISCIPLESHIP

2019 PNCC



June 1, 2019

Dear Bishops, Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, Deacons and Faithful of our Holy Church,

As we begin Sacred Vocations Month across our Holy Church this first weekend in June is Clergy Appreciation Weekend. Make sure to show appreciation to your pastor and allow that to serve as an example for those men discerning God's call to the ordained ministry. This month our Future Direction message Sacred Vocations: A Fruit of Family Discipleship was prepared by Fr. Scott and Shelley Lill.

As we now approach the end of a quickly passing Easter Season and rush headlong into the summer months, it seems that we cannot help but pause from time to time to contemplate the beauty of God's creation now sprung fully into life. It is right and good to do so, lifting up hearts that are grateful to God for all that he is doing right before our eyes. This is also a most appropriate moment to glance inwardly and honestly evaluate whether the seeds of this year's discipleship renewal have also come to life and are beginning to bear greater fruit for the Lord through his holy Church. While we must do this as individuals, we can and should also do this together as parishes, Church organizations and most especially within our own families, because there is definitely such a thing as *family discipleship*.

What sort of things make up family discipleship? Well...everything! Yes, everything and anything that the family does is an expression of their discipleship. Of course, this presumes that Jesus is recognized as *the most important* member of every Christian family and is invited to participate in each aspect of the family's common life. A few simple ways to extend the invitation to Jesus include praying together before meals--whether at home or in a restaurant; displaying images of the Lord, his Mother (his greatest disciple) and the Saints (our discipleship role models) in our homes and paying them special respect; praying the Rosary together each evening; and most especially attending and participating at Holy Mass together each weekend and on Holy Days. Then, rooted in these sources of spiritual strength, the family members together express their collective discipleship through service to others in different ways such as volunteering at a soup kitchen, collecting items for food banks throughout the year and helping out in charitable outreach projects within their own parish. While it is definitely important for all of us to engage in such endeavors individually, it is a particularly beautiful and powerful witness to Jesus when families embrace their discipleship like this together.



PNCC Future Directions Update



Another important way by which family discipleship takes shape is through encouraging vocations to the ordained ministry. While this is naturally done when families make their relationship with Jesus of the greatest importance, families can also *actively* work to help create a culture of respect for the clergy. Parents can role model the reverence that all of us should have for our clergy and the important work that they do for our Church, by speaking well of their bishops, priests and deacons and by extending simple gestures of appreciation to them and their own families—we can't forget them!—from time to time. Such family to family gestures can have a lasting impact.

Of course, prayer plays an important part in this aspect of family discipleship, as members together ask the Lord to strengthen their clergy as they serve God by ministering in the Church. Perhaps each morning, parents can offer "A Parents' Prayer for their Children's Vocations" and help their children recite "A Prayer for Discerning my Personal Vocation." Maybe after family dinner each day, they can all pray the "A Polish National Catholic Prayer for Vocations," asking the Lord to provide more clergy for the Church.

Finally, parents can teach their children, from their earliest years, to ask God daily what He wants them to be when they grow up and help them start to imagine the ways they can live out their discipleship with Jesus every day. Of course, every family should encourage their men - of all ages - to discern whether the Holy Spirit might be calling *them* to serve as a priest or deacon in the Church, help them to recognize a call to the ordained ministry as a gift from God and an admirable and worthwhile pathway to walk in this life, and offer the loving support they need to be able to respond to the Lord's call, telling them just how proud they would be to have a priest or deacon come from their family!

Clearly, affirmative responses to a call to a Sacred Vocation will mostly come from families who are consistently striving together to be authentic followers of the Lord Jesus. Children learn to love, value and respect what their parents love, value and respect, heeding their words but, even more, following their good example. During this year when we Polish National Catholics are pursuing a renewal of our discipleship and especially during this month of June when we pay special attention to Sacred Vocations, may each individual family of the Church - parents and children - find one new way by which they can more fully commit themselves to Jesus and one new way to engage their family's unique role in promoting vocations to the ordained ministry.

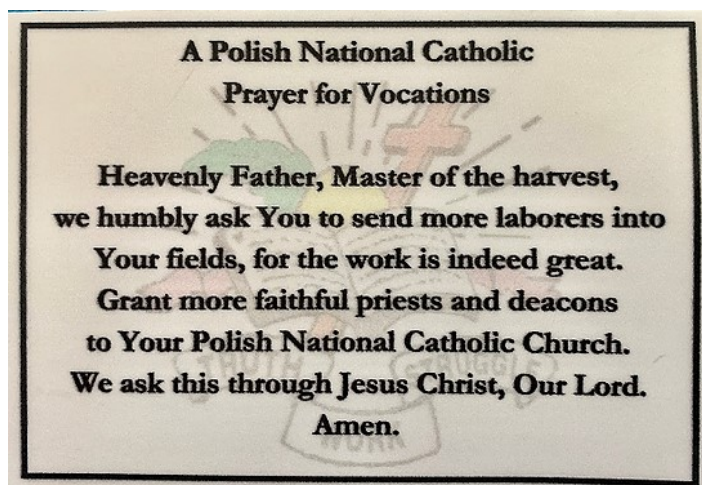
Jesus taught that "every good tree bears good fruit" (Matthew 7:17). May the families of our Polish National Catholic Church become more like such good trees, deeply rooted in the Holy Spirit, drawing their collective life from Jesus so that each branch will steadily grow in the ways of true discipleship and bear much fruit for God, some of the sweetest of which are vocations to the priesthood and diaconate.

During this Sacred Vocations month may our example of discipleship inspire the men of our Holy Church to consider God's call to the ordained ministry. Let us pray that the Lord of the Harvest may send more laborers into His vineyard for the sake of His Holy Church.

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, *Prime Bishop*

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., *Chairman*



June Days of Note



June Birthdays

- 2nd – Jordan Michalczyk
- 2nd – Nicole Michalczyk
- 6th – Bridgette Dotson
- 10th – Megan Knapp
- 12th – Madi Ference
- 26th – Mary Ann Kasperczyk
- 27th – June Zaun
- 27th – Jeanette Ols



- 7th — John & Eileen Kasperczyk
- 12th — Bill & Pat Glatzer
- 18th — Mitch and Sarah Ploskonka
- 25th — Fr. Jason & Natalie Soltysiak
- 27th — Bruce & Barbara Bogzevitz

Prayer to Know My Vocation

I glorify You, God, in all that I do.
In mind, body, and spirit
I give my best to You.

Help me to follow your will
no matter the call:
sister, brother, or priest,
I promise my all.

If you call me to marriage,
I promise to love,
and to teach my own children
to seek grace from above.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Jesus, I trust in you!

We'll Get Through This

Lord, our troubles
Are so great,
We don't know what to do;
The price for our
Iniquity
Is finally coming due.

The world is crumbling
All about;
No safe place can be found.
Right is wrong,
Wrong is right;
The change is quite profound.

Lord, we need
Your guiding light
To lead us out of here;
We'll focus on
Your Word, and prayer,
To take away our fear.

Temptations of
This dying world
We'll rule out and let go;
Give our burdens
All to you,
Shed all worldly woe.

That's how we'll
Get through this, Lord,
Fixed on heaven above,
Assured of your
protection, help,
And everlasting love.

By Joanna Fuchs



Our Prayer List

Please pray for these St. Mary's parishioners:

Bill & Pat Glatzer	Barbara Baranowski
Bill & Joan Kastak	Anna Dawidziuk
Craig Atherton	John Spilka
Johanna Markiewicz	Mary Ann Loschelder
Ralph & June Zaun	Len Pryer
Marty Bengela	Tom Putynski
Polly Gajda	Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Louise Cygan
Helen Budney	Bruno Tracy
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie
Amy Dreger	Patti Dotson
Elizabeth Starnawski	Jack Spilka
Elaine Repede	Marlane Oleniacz

Please pray for our family and friends:

Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Sharon Seitz
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Mark & Kim Andreas	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Rhonda Smith
Rose Neyman	Carol Boesch
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Fr. Tom Sheha	Tom Slomka
Geri S.	Ben Soltesy
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzurowf	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Cherise Pacanovsky	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Michalczyk	Bill Hinton
Nan Cramer	Rose Petrosky
Bp. John Mack	David Vaden
Bp. John Swantek	Mary Cawley
Richard & Edna Samelson	Jim Giles
Wanda Heffner	Loretta Baldwin
Donna Kidd	Paulette Lilli
Muffie B.	Nancy Jablonowski
Marilyn Girard	Courtney Austin
Stephanie Milla	Rich Dombrowski
Shannon Alberino	Jayden Pieciak
Jeremy Steinbrick	Katie Stallbaum
Marcia Klein	Julia Badarzynski
George & Linda Makovicka	Julie L.
Kelly B	Barbara B.
Michael McGivern	Sylvia Kowalski
Daniel Morgan	Emma Freshwater

WE ALSO REMEMBER

ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Bless them, O Lord.

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