

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

August 2015

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month, we open our doors to the community for a few hours, offering not only a hot meal, but time to relax in a temperature-controlled environment. To date, 3768 meals have been served,



with 575 coming in 2015. We also have a Lenten and Advent food collection, all of which is donated to the Parma Hunger Center located at Parma Lutheran Church.

In addition to all of this, we have found an avenue to give "leftovers" to. When we have an event, cooking too much food can be a stress...but the parish has been giving our leftovers (and also food intentionally cooked for the occasion!) to St. Augustine Church & Hunger Center in Cleveland, doors down from the former Sacred Heart of Jesus PNCC.

Clothe: This may be the one we can improve on the most. We have provided socks to give away at our monthly meals dur-

er to further the will of God on earth.

The Church (PNCC) has been making sure to provide direction how to attempt to accomplish it. The ideas, like any, work some places and don't in others.

The idea of "Feed, Clothe, Comfort" is great. Shouldn't a church work beyond the 4 walls of Sunday worship to provide ministry to the community? Shouldn't we strive to be more Christ-like in all that we do? If he just spoke to his buddies and family members...well, none of us would want to be part of that!

The question that has popped up multiple times in the last month or so is "How is St. Mary's supporting the 'Year of Regeneration' within the PNCC?" I believe it is time to take a tally, to address our parish-wide care and ministries.

Feed: In 2013, St. Mary's began a monthly Food Ministry. For a portion of time, it was weekly, and a Thanksgiving Day meal is served. On the first Wednesday of every

Feed-Clothe-Comfort

August 6th is the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, the day we note that, with Peter, James, & John in tow, he ascended the mountain and "transfigured" before them, becoming something..."more" and conversing with Moses and Elijah.

During Mass, the Prayer over the Gifts states "Give us the grace (Help from God) to see the splendor of the precious and majestic things Christ has done for us, changing us into His image."

As a resolution of the 2015 General Synod, a program was launched to have the church use 2015 as a "Year of Regeneration." There were some goals mapped out for each individual parish of the PNCC and monthly emails featuring monthly Youtube messages from the Diocesan Bishops.

It is all a design to give the church a refresher, to get back to what "church" is— people working togeth-

Fr. Jason's Article (continued)

ing the colder months. We have had parishioners provide coats and some clothing for those in need...but we can do better.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Hey, nothing like a self-appraisal to see where we are lacking, right?

Comfort: Every church should be able to say they have done well in this regard—isn't comforting the soul what we are about? In 2015, we have enjoyed an active Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Our biggest ministry this past year was a project to provide hygiene kits for the needy. The Mission Team of our parish put

together 175 hygiene kits that were donated to the Malachi Center, a family resource center that provides a shower program to people and families in need of that care.

With all that said...we still need to continue work to "change us into His image." Trying to be Christ-like is really, really tough. And the call of the church to "Feed, Clothe, and Comfort" is nothing new at all.

In fact, the first thing the earliest of the Christian Church did was this: "Now, the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything



they owned was held in common. There was not a needy person among them, for as many owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need" Acts 4:32,34-35 (NRSV).

There is the example. We are doing fine...but until we are like that early church, we have work to do.

Fr. Jason

Fr. Jason is Chaplain at Annual Kurs Encampment

For a third time, Fr. Jason had the opportunity to be the Chaplain and Spiritual Advisor at the Annual Kurs Encampment.

This camp is a National PNCC event, boasting attendees from many of the Northeastern states. It is held every year at Spojnia Farm in Waymart, PA, a piece of property owned by the Polish National Catholic Church.

The theme this year was "Take a Chance on God." The clergy who served as speakers included Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Bishop Stanley Bilinski, Father Senior Gregory Mludzik, Father Michal Gitner, Father James Konicki, and Father Jason Soltysiak. Just short of 50 kids attended

this year, led by a staff of former campers and members of the PNCC. The cook was Rose Kazinetz, who will also be cooking for the post-golf tournament dinner hosted by our Parish in a few weeks.

The Kurs is open to all children age 7-18. We look very much forward to increasing our numbers for 2016.

Please see the next God's Field/Rola Boza for a more detailed look at Kurs 2015.



St. Mary's PolishFest

Wow! What a turnaround from last year's Carnival/FunFest. Was it the name? The advertising? The familiarity? Our experience? Whatever it was, there was no sophomore slump to be found here.

The event took place from Thursday July 9 through Sunday July 12 in the afternoon and evening hours.

Though the work was difficult, the hours were long and the

people were numerous...we financially stand to do very well with our fundraiser. That, of course, goes along with the fun we had as parishioners in friends in running this successful event. Even more importantly, it added greater visibility to our parish as we offered church tours, time of prayer, and a Mission table solely focused on providing awareness on the PNCC and our

parish.

Early projections have the parish having a *net* of well over \$10,000. Yes, that is with all costs considered. A further update will be provided when it becomes clearer. Thank you to everyone who patronized or worked this event. Enjoy the pictures!



St. Mary's PolishFest Continued



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Bishop Bilinski Celebrates Mass

On Sunday, July 26, we were surprised in the early morning with the arrival of our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski.

He was traveling back to Chicago from Dupont, PA and the National United Choirs Convention.

Though his stay was short, we

thank him, as always, for his ministry and look forward to seeing him for Holy Mass again at St. Mary's.



Diocesan Youth Gathering

The Western Diocesan Youth Gathering took place July 27-30 at Michindoh Conference Center on Bacon Rd. in Hillsdale, MI.

Fr. Jason attended with two parish youths, Ethan and Sara. On the way there, Ethan stayed awake while Sara slept, and vice-versa for the way home. Fr. Jason stayed awake the entire

drive, which worked out for us.

The theme was "Get Caught", and we heard how from Bishop Stanley Bilinski, Father Senior Jarek Nowak, Father Charles Zawistowski, Father Raymond Drada, Father Jason Soltysiak, and Father John Kowalczyk.

The facilities were nice— air con-

ditioned during a hot week. The spirit was strong, and although the numbers were lower, a great time was had by all.



Various Announcements

6th Annual Dinner & a Car Show

The Car Show has concluded!!! Please keep an eye on next month's Newsletter to see some pictures, the winners, and a write-up of the fun and success that was had.

100th Anniversary Planning

The Centennial Mass will be celebrated on October 10th at 3pm with the banquet to follow at Pokrova Hall. Sunday morning the 11th, there will be only one Mass at 10am with a breakfast to follow.

Fr. Jason is Locked-In

On Wednesday, July 15, I had to send out the message—I was under arrest.

Fortunately, it was for a good cause, unlike my litany of prior teenage arrests back in New England (kidding!). It was for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) as they strove to sponsor children with muscular disease to attend a camp suited to their needs. What a wonderful cause to be a

More info will arrive shortly regarding our celebrations

Polish Language Class

An opportunity has arisen for the parish to host a "Conversational Polish Language Class." The Parish Board has discussed it and decided to see how appealing this would be to all parishioners. Please speak to Steve Fesz if interested.

Golf Tournament

The 1st Annual National YMSofR

Golf Tournament has been announced for August 22nd. Please contact David Micka, Fr. Jason, or Bruce Bogzevitz for more information or please email unitedymsofr@gmail.com. An Italian-style dinner will be served, which is open to all. However, a reservation must be made. Please call the church or see one of the aforementioned names to RSVP.

part of.

I was able to do this fundraiser on behalf of St. Mary's. It was a pretty neat thing to be able to speak to so many people who had seen our church (location, location, location!) but knew nothing about it. Having a gigantic carnival days before helped as well.

Many thanks again to all who supported this endeavor via paying to try to bail me out!



YMSofR Branch #29 Meets & Elects Officers

Branch #29 of the YMSofR has had periods of great activity...and some periods of needing a bit of a boost.

With a summer chock-full of events here at St. Mary's, Branch #29 met on Sunday, July 19 to discuss a course of action for the summer, including the upcoming National Golf Tournament hosted by our parish and the Branch. New Officers were elected for the group. They included: David Micka, President; Dr. Jim Plos-

konka, Vice President; Chuck Repede, Recording Secretary; & Jack Spilka, Treasurer.

Thanks to all the men who attended...especially those who attended for the first time!



Just a few thoughts from your parish chair

I need your help!

Time is flying by faster than most of us would like it to for a countless number of reasons. Our PolishFest is over; our Dinner & A Car Show is over {both of which were very successful I may add}; kids are heading back to school {probably too soon for kids and not soon enough for parents}; and summer vacations are drawing to a close but we have one more event coming up that I hope you are as excited about it as I am! Yes, I'm sure you've guessed where I'm going with this..... October 10th, the official celebration of our 100th Anniversary!

As you were recently reminded our Restoration Drive is still underway and we are grateful for the generous donations given to date as we have been able to put plans into action to repair and spruce up our property. Please continue to support the Restoration Drive to the best of your ability as there are many items that need to be addressed and it would be great to reach the \$100,000.00 goal. We are currently about one quarter of the way there.

In regards to the October 10th celebration, behind the scene plans are taking place, you'll soon be receiving your invitation, and information on advertisement opportunities in the program book will be distributed soon.

This is where I need your help! An idea came to me that it would be nice for both parishioners and friends to be able to share their memories, photos, stories, and thoughts about the past 100 years of this wonderful parish. I'm hoping enough people participate in making my idea reality so that everything can be compiled in a scrapbook style manner to be displayed at the reception on October 10th and then kept as a part of history when the next 100 years are celebrated!

The requirements are simple:

1) Have something to share.

- * You may not be an active member now but maybe you were in years gone by with your family or as an individual member. Were you a member of one of our organizations (youth, choir, men's group, ladies sodality, altar boy, etc.)? Did your parents or grandparents share stories about the building of St. Mary's or its early years?
- * Maybe you're an active member and you have some of the same memories or information.
- * Maybe you're a newer member that can share more recent memories or even what brought you to St. Mary's.
- * Everyone is welcome to participate!

2) Write it - type it, your choice. If your handwriting may not be as legible as you'd like or you don't want to type it, share your memory with someone who can do that part for you.

3) If it's pictures you have, give an explanation of them and name as many people as you can in them. Pictures can be copied and originals returned to you if so desired.

4) Provide it to me by September 20th.

Please contact me with any questions you may have. Find me at church, at 216-524-6730 (home), at 216-536-3496 (cell), or at elaineploskonka@gmail.com.

I truly appreciate and thank all of you that are willing to participate in this project and make the idea a reality!

Thanks for reading!

elaine

August Days of Note



- 2nd – Kyrsten LeMessina
- 4th – Blake Colwell
- 5th – Bob Samelson
- 6th – John Spilka
- 11th – Eileen Podkova
- 13th – Chester Budney
- 14th – Sarah Dicken
- 15th – Tom Petrie
- 16th – Bruno Tracy
- 18th – Steve Fesz
- 19th – Len Pryer
- 20th – Claudia Toburen
- 24th – Matt Spilka
- 28th – Cherie Kugler



- 1st – Chuck & Elaine Repede
- 5th – George & Roseanne Ziefle
- 14th – Chester & Helen Budney
- 17th – Bruce & Claudia Toburen
- 24th – Doug & Stephanie Waugh



God's Field/Rola Boza is mainly available online now. Subscriptions are available by contacting the offices of the Polish National Catholic Church at 570-346-9131. Rola Boza can be accessed by visiting www.pncc.org, clicking on the "God's Field" tab at the top, and clicking on "current issue" or any of the past issues listed. You must have a pdf reader to download.

Straz/The Guard, the official publication of the Polish National Union, is available by visiting www.strazprinters.com. Members should receive a copy in the mail every other month.

A SOMETHING in a summer's day,
As slow her flambeaux burn away,
Which solemnizes me.

A something in a summer's noon,—
An azure depth, a wordless tune,
Transcending ecstasy.

And still within a summer's night
A something so transporting bright,
I clap my hands to see;

Then veil my too inspecting face,
Lest such a subtle, shimmering grace
Flutter too far for me.

The wizard-fingers never rest,
The purple brook within the breast
Still chafes its narrow bed;

Still rears the East her amber flag,
Guides still the sun along the crag
His caravan of red,

Like flowers that heard the tale of dews,
But never deemed the dripping prize
Awaited their low brows;

Or bees, that thought the summer's name
Some rumor of delirium
No summer could for them;

Or Arctic creature, dimly stirred
By tropic hint,—some travelled bird
Imported to the wood;

Or wind's bright signal to the ear,
Making that homely and severe,
Contented, known, before

The heaven unexpected came,
To lives that thought their worshipping
A too presumptuous psalm.

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)
"Something in a Summer's Day"
Published first in 1890

Our Prayer List

Prayer List

Please pray for these St. Mary's parishioners:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Marlane Oleniacz | Barbara Baranowski |
| Bill & Joan Kastak | Anna Dawidziuk |
| Craig & Judy Atherton | John Spilka |
| Louise Cygan | Alison Jambor |
| Mary Ann Loschelder | June Zaun |
| Marty Bengala | Amy Dreger |

Please pray for our family and friends:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Wanda Clark | Beth Chihill |
| Michael Cosevin | Helen Cummings |
| Laina Dachtal | Colby Howard |
| Jay Grabowsky | Pam Chesar |
| Cecelia Hall | Caroline Kunes |
| Oliver Kuta | Thomas Lill |
| John & Anne Nemetz | Bea Miskow |
| Rose Neyman | Carol & Chuck Boesch |
| Joanie True | Daniel Rinella |
| Joanel Rollen | Veronica Babic |
| Fr. Tom Sheha | Fr. Sr. Gus Sicard |
| Gracie Pijor | Ben Soltesy |
| Don and Pam Tropiano | Linda Vect |
| Dennis and Sue Vect | Jack Amburgey, Jr. |
| Bryson Dzuroff | Kristen McKenna |
| Cherise Pacanovsky | Jane Hunter |
| Dennis Thome | The Finnie Family |
| Carlene Fliss | Jim Fliss Jr. |
| Duda Family | Fr. Sr. John Kraus |
| Nan Cramer | Bp. Stanley Bilinski |
| Bp. John Mack | David Vaden |
| Bp. John Swantek | Jeannie Bartko Muran |
| Chuck Zaranski | Madilyn Perry |
| Elsa Vogl de Gomez | Wanda Heffner |
| Kim Blaha | John Clark Sr. |
| Tom Bowen | Greg Soucie |
| Robert Winlock | Veronica Babic |
| Jason Dreger | Caroline O'Connor |

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Shirley Paulus | Tony Mudrak |
| Gene Mora | Ted Jurczyk |
| | Polly Gajda |

WE ALSO REMEMBER

ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN
Bless them, O Lord.

