

2019 Lenten Retreat of the Northeast Seniorate of the Western Diocese of the PNCC

Sacrifice And the Mass

The Lenten Retreat of the Northeast Seniorate of the Western Diocese began at 10am at Resurrection Parish in Temperance, MI. There were just about fifty people in attendance, including our Administrative Senior, the Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak; Rev. John Cramer; Rev. Jason Soltysiak; and Rev. Greg Gronn.



As has been custom for the last many number of years, we meet in Temperance, just outside of Toledo, as it is the closest thing to a center-point of our Seniorate, about 2 hours from Cleveland and less than an hour from the Detroit-area parishes. The parish in Temperance, though still relatively new to the PNCC, is well-known for its culinary prowess. As everyone began arriving before the 10:30am start time, the breakfast options included donuts, pastries, bagels, fresh fruit, parish-made coffee cake (a favorite of this author), coffee, orange juice, etc.



The theme for this year's retreat was Sacrifice and the Mass. This was a theme that was discussed and agreed-upon by the priests of the Seniorate with the concurrence of sp. Bishop Stanley Bilinski at the 2018 General Synod.

The structure of the retreat would simply be Mass: celebrated by the priests, with explanations, historical background, and evolutions of nearly every point in Mass. Before, during, and after each presentation, the congregants could "interrupt" Mass with any questions they had.

These ranged from in-the-moment head-scratchers to those gnawing thoughts that have been in the back of minds since the Carter Administration.





Though the concept was simply-stated, it took a tremendous amount of research and re-opening books from Seminary and beyond from our clergy. Between the explanations and the interruptions, Mass for 2nd Saturday of the Lenten season, without a Gloria, Creed, or Homily took...three hours and forty-five minutes!



After an introduction by Father Jason that included how things were going to play out, the fact that we'd only get one break, that we'd uphold the sanctity of Mass, and that lunch would follow Mass, the clergy vested and solemnly processed in to begin Mass, which was a spoken Mass, unaccompanied by music in order to save time (ha!). We were to use the Contemporary Rite of the Mass, with insight in how and why certain things changed from many of our experiences in growing



up with the Traditional Rite to today.

Father Jason Soltysiak was our "retreat master" this year and served as the main celebrant. What made the Mass worthwhile was not just the questions asked, but the ability of the attending clergy to add insight to almost every other topic. The topics we spoke on and who spoke on what is as follows:

1. Explanation on processions – Fr. Sr. Nowak
2. Why we stand at Mass – Fr. Soltysiak
3. Litany options – why and what - Fr. Cramer
4. Penitential Rite & PNCC Sacrament of Penance – Fr. Soltysiak
5. Brief talk on the Gloria (not recited today) - Fr. Soltysiak

6. Few words on Opening Prayer/
Structure of 3 Mass prayers/Call to
prayer – Fr. Soltysiak

7. Explanation on why we Sit at
Mass – Fr. Soltysiak

8. Short explanation on Read-
ings, etc. & PNCC Sacrament of
Word of God – Fr. Soltysiak

9. Why Intercessions? – Fr.
Soltysiak

10. A few words on the Creed – Fr.
Soltysiak & Fr. Cramer

11. Remarks on the Offertory – Fr.
Soltysiak

12. The point of the Preface and
Sanctus – Fr. Soltysiak

13. Overview of Eucharistic Prayer
2 – St. Hippolytus

14. ***Canon Con-celebrated with
no interruptions***

15. Pater Noster/Our Father & Em-
bolism – Fr. Cramer

16. PNCC unique prayer – Fr.
Soltysiak

17. Sign of Peace – Fr. Soltysiak

18. Agnus Dei/Lamb of God – Fr.
Cramer

19. Communion of Celebrant &
Faithful explanation – Fr. Gronn



20. Blessing, Dismissal, Recessional –
Fr. Sr. Nowak

Mass concluded, and everyone was invited to the parish hall for a bite to eat, prepared by the chefs of Resurrection Parish. We were served some good ol' southern cooking, as pulled pork sandwiches were accompanied by coleslaw, cucumber & onion salad, traditional salad, and more.

We were blessed to go off-script and do a Lenten Retreat that really was out-of-the-ordinary. Our decision was strengthened

by the positive words of enjoyment given by many of the attendees. We'll work to give another successful Lenten Retreat next year!



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
Administrator—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

Sub-Deacon James Ploskonka
Assigned to St. Mary's

