

2017 Lenten Retreat of the Northeast Seniorate of the Western Diocese of the PNCC

One Family United in God

Saturday, February 24, 2018

Resurrection Parish in Temperance, Michigan was the site for the Annual Lenten Retreat of the Northeast Seniorate of the Western Diocese of the PNCC.



The event has become the highlight of what is done in the Northeast Seniorate. It is one of the rare times that representatives of all parishes of the Seniorate come together for prayer, worship, food, and fellowship.



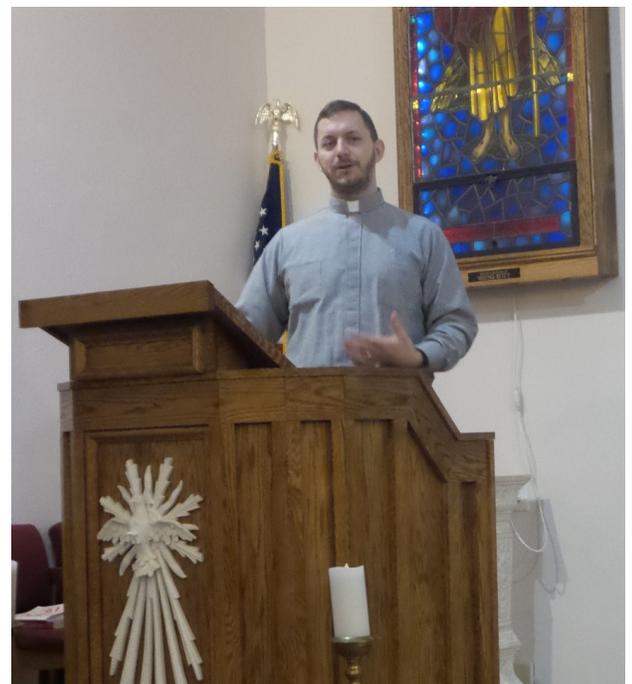
Renowned in the PNCC for its fine cuisine and its central location within the Seniorate, Resurrection Parish has been a consistent host of the Lenten Retreat for a number of years now. The parish does a wonderful job hosting, led by the dashing Father Senior Jaroslaw Nowak, the tireless leader of our Seniorate. It was a trying 12+ months in the Seniorate, as both he and Fr. John Cramer covered the parish of All Saints in Sterling Heights in their loss of their pastor, +Fr. Raymond Drada and in their search for a new one.



A hearty breakfast of donuts, bagels, fruit salad, coffee, tee, water, juice, and delicious parish-made coffee cake awaited the attendees of the Lenten Retreat. For about a half-hour, people spilled in and enjoyed renewing acquaintances with one another over the gourmet offerings.

Suddenly, a bell rang, and the booming, commanding voice of Father Senior demanded our presence into the church proper. We ushered in silently, the walls still reverberating from his beck and call. The welcome he gave was heart-felt, as he noted the parishes represented as well as the pastors that serve them. He then called the first speaker up.

Fr. Jason Soltysiak from St. Mary's in Parma batted lead-off. His topic was "God our Father and We His Children." He spoke of the origin of God's first created family, asking everyone to re-





call the last time they felt like children. As he often does, he incorporated his family into his message, this time with his son Brady and mother/mother-in-law taking the charge. He then showed how God will always regard us as children, be we great sinners or faithful stewards, as evidenced in scripture numerous times.

After a break, Father Senior Nowak spoke about a subject near and dear to his heart, the Holy Family. Along with his accompanying handout, he detailed for those gathered the plight of the Holy Family, from the struggles we hear about in scripture of the Advent Season to the glory of Christmas to the time of purification in the temple and finally,

as we honor every Solemnity of the Christian Family, the Boy Jesus in the Temple.

While Father Senior spoke, children from the Seniorate were gathered in an SOCL media room, busily preparing sandwiches for the local volunteer fire department as a service project.

The firemen were most appreciative of the kid's effort and very much looked forward to chowing down.

While the Lenten Retreat continued, the kids also had sessions with some of the clergy. Father Jason spent





time with them going over details of the Creation story, concluding with a couple mazes and word searches concerning the story. Father Senior Nowak and Bishop Bilinski would also spend time with the children as well.

As the Lenten Retreat continued after a short break, our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski, was charged with the next session, titled “The Church and Parish as God’s One Family.” One of the main points Bishop drove home was the fact that human history and church history remained intertwined for centuries: where there was progress, the Church progressed. Where there was any movement of civilization, the Church was part of it. He had to mention that there was an unfortunate connection between the breakdown of society and the erosion of the church, but he did share positive news with us, as he shared a

bit of information about a non-papal Catholic summit in Ireland in the next few weeks...how exciting for the PNCC!

After the next break, Father John Cramer had the fourth session, titled “The family as a place for the beginning and formation of Christian life.” Fr. John was able to cull bits and pieces of the previous talks (at least where others didn’t already step on his toes and steal his material!).

In his session he was able to relay the different ways that the word “family” is defined, from a religious to personal and throughout (recent) history. After showing us some rather shocking statistics, he spoke about how having the Church and the love of Christ in a family’s life has so many extended benefits. He concluded by offering answers and direction to those (as numerous as they are) who may be not getting the familial experience in life that they hoped for.

Finally, after a final short break, Bishop

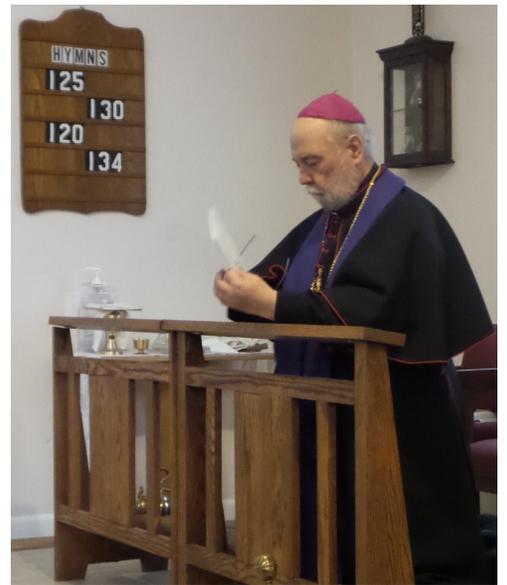


✚ OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

*“A clean heart create
for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit
renew within me.”*

Bilinski offered for all the Sacrament of Penance. After a thorough examination of conscience, the absolution requested was to take *something* from each of the talks, each of the topics, and apply it to our personal Lenten journeys.

After this time of introspection and reflection, it was time to eat! The food was amazing, a feast of delicious Polish foods. All said their “goodbyes” and our Lenten journeys continued with us as we headed out in all different directions.



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. Robert Frederickson

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

Rev. Mr. Richard Kasprzak, Deacon
Assigned to Our Savior Parish

