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# NEWSLETTER

## JULY/AUGUST

# 2015



DON'T BE AFRAID, FOR I AM WITH YOU. DON'T BE DISCOURAGED, FOR I AM YOUR GOD. I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU AND HELP YOU.

These words from the prophet Isaiah are a great comfort for us. God speaks with tenderness: Do not fear because I am right there with You. I am not just on-call, or next door, but present with you. Are you weak? I will strengthen you. Are you friendless? I will help you in times of need. Are you ready to fall? I will hold you up with My right hand that is gentle and caring. Every part of God's word is calculated to strengthen and care for those who place their trust and faith in Him.

God's care finds its fulfillment in Jesus. God's care finds its home with all faithful followers of Jesus (regardless of where they worship). Jesus clearly echoes the words first proclaimed by Isaiah: *"And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* St. Paul later goes on to tell us that we should have no fear: *"What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?"* This reassuring message is repeated over and over.

We began this year focusing on God's abundant care. With the summer months here, it is good to take a moment and refresh ourselves by recollecting the great gift of abundant care that God offers us.

The amazing thing about God's offer of care and abundance is its generosity. We do not need to do anything in particular to receive His care and comfort. As we sit back in our chaise, on our deck, by the beach, or in the backyard the one thing we can offer God is our thanks. We can remember that even though its summer, God is still right there - with You. Not just on-call, but present with you. He doesn't take a summer vacation from you. Thanks is best expressed by worship - so don't take a vacation from Him. Stop by church and give Him the praise He is due.

We wish all a safe summer and extend congratulations to our young people who are moving onto the next stage of their school careers.

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## Suddenly my life changed...

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Several months ago an individual came to our church. The person had gotten divorced and felt that the church they regularly attended would no longer welcome them.

I could understand how they felt: uncomfortable, as if all eyes were on them. Are they whispering about me?

I want to offer words of comfort and care for all those who have faced these situations in the past or may be facing them in the future. I want you to know that our community will never shut its door to you.

We are sorry a marriage ended or is ending. I want to reassure you that we will not be all preachy about the vows you took and about staying married. We're simply going to say that we're sorry you are in this position.

As a lawyer I once knew used to say, "You know who really hates divorce? Divorced people." He was right. No one pictures this as the end game when they went on their first date, stood on the altar, or bought their first little one home together. Nobody wants it to go down like this.

Our commitment is to treat all of God's people with proper support as they endure situations they never imagined they'd be in.

Some Churches will confront this distress with a big-book-of-rules. Others will simply ignore the situation, hoping it will smooth over. Some might even wish that those affected would quietly go away.

The individual who came to our parish was one of those confronted with the big-book-of-rules. Of course no one really explained the rules. I did. They felt relieved. I prayed with them. I never saw that individual again. I am hopeful that reinforced with the full story their church never gave them they felt ok going back.

We are committed to being loving, merciful, and welcoming despite individual circumstances - because that's what Jesus did. He wants you in His community. We will respond by:

1. Providing you counsel and by being fully invested in helping troubled marriages thrive.
2. Loving and accepting you during the difficult time of an irreconcilable breakdown. We will provide outlets for spiritual development and healing.
3. Providing you opportunities to discover what went wrong and what could go right the next time.
4. Constantly pursuing Jesus in all things and at all times.

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## **Congratulations Graduates and Students**

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We offer our congratulations to Victoria Konicki on her graduation from Voorheesville Middle School and Loryn DonVito on her graduation

from Colonie Central Middle School. We wish them every success as they enter high school. We also congratulate all of our young people for their achievements this past school year – Adam, Christina, Nick, Skyler, Alicja, Gabby, Traviss, and Erikaa, as well as all the youth of our neighborhood. Let us pray that our Lord watch over and protect our young people and children this summer.

*Almighty and Eternal God, Father most kind, Who in Thy plan of Salvation of mankind did resolve, that one generation shall follow another in fulfilling the tasks of temporal life, and prepares wisely and good everything in the universe; keep in Thy tender care the youth of our Church, individually and collectively, that our youth may always understand those things which are in harmony with Thy holy Will and bring true happiness; - and that service to Thee in our youth is the only assurance of tranquility in the sunset of life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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## **Holy Mass for Healing**

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Our next monthly Holy Masses for healing accompanied by anointing will be held Monday, July 13th and Monday, August 10th at 6:15pm. Join us and invite others.

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## **PARISH AND COMMUNITY PICNIC**

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We are holding a parish and community picnic on the church grounds Sunday, August 16th. Please invite friends and family and join in this great time of fellowship and reminiscing.

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## **Summer Coffee BREAK**

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We are taking a break from our weekly coffee hours for the summer months. Coffee hours resume September 13th. Thank you to all who provided for coffee hours throughout the year — God bless you for your sponsorship of this ministry of hospitality. It provides a time to gather after services every week. You truly help to build the family of God as we gather for physical substance on Sunday morning.

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## **Milestones to Celebrate:**

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### July Birthdays

2 Gayle Clas  
3 Genevieve Binkowski, Jaime Bylina, John Clas, Kimberly Maliszewski, Richard Okonsky Jr.  
4 Ken Brown  
5 Wayne Wienclawski  
7 Eva Kubinska  
8 Michael Ruchalski  
9 Tammy Dominy  
12 Stanley Podkulski  
16 Lawrence Panfil Jr.  
19 Jason Lennon  
22 Matthew Zebrowski  
26 Alexander Oravsky  
27 Sebesany Rios, Kathleen Maliszewski  
29 Ronald O'Connor

### July Anniversaries

7 John White IV & Kathy Dominy-White  
14 Chad & Amber Smith  
20 Edward & Claudia Bertasso  
27 Zachary Prusky & Kristen Smith

### August Birthdays

1 Wendy Williams  
5 Christine D'Amico  
6 Emjai Dominy  
7 Karen Cimmino  
8 Taylor Garrison  
10 Matthew Hines, Renee Konicki  
12 Ginny Dinsmore  
14 Stephanie Konicki-Ferguson  
15 Roger Jarosz  
18 Carson Hobson  
19 Joanne Hernick  
20 George Houser  
21 Ruth Collins  
27 Derek Westcott  
29 Megan DonVito, Tyme LaPorte

Smith, John Kaminski  
30 Gabriella Martineau  
31 Teresa Mazzone

### August Anniversaries

7 Jack & Joan Kaminski

Wishing you all many years! Sto Lat!

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## **With Thanks**

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To all who continue to pray, sacrifice, and serve in Christian love and charity on behalf of our parish.

To the members of our Parish Committee for their hard work and sacrifice.

To our wonderful altar servers, our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia, and to all who assist in our ministry of hospitality.

To every parishioner, visitor, and member -- you are a blessing and a treasure.

God bless you and reward you! Bóg zapłać! Thank you!!!

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## **July 4th Celebration Parish Youth To Attend Kurs Planning for CONVO 2016**

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Five parish youth will attend the annual Kurs encampment at the Bishop Hodur Retreat & Recreation

Center in Waymart, PA. starting July 4th.



This year's Independence Day celebration in Waymart and the opening of Kurs marks the 25th

Anniversary of the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center. At this year's Independence Day celebration the Church will be honoring all past Kurs chaplains and counselors with a presentation of acknowledgement at the 4th of July Holy Mass Celebration beginning at 11 a.m. in the Chapel at Spójnia Manor.

We thank Adam, Victoria, and Christina, Nick, and Erikaa for participating in this event which will include great faith formation, fun, a few pranks, good food, and lots of new friendships.

The Eastern Diocese is in the midst of planning for CONVO 2016. This event brings together youth from across the United States for a week focused on growth in faith and commitment to Jesus and His Holy Church. It will be held from July 25-29, 2016 at St. Anselm's College in Manchester, New Hampshire. The whole Church is holding a special raffle over the next several months to help underwrite the cost of CONVO and keep costs to parishes low. First prize will be a new iPad and Second prize will be a Bose Bluetooth Soundlink Speaker. Details will be forthcoming.

We thank our parents for allowing their children's participation, and for encouraging their growth in faith.

We thank those who who donated through our Outrageous Valentine's Raffle that provides the support necessary for our youth to attend these events.

The friendships that begin at these events last forever because abundance of good in Christ is forever.

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### **A Prayer for our country**

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In honor of the 239th birthday of our country:

*We thank Thee, Lord, for America, our home. We bless Thee for the liberty, the opportunity, and the abundance*

*we share. But above all we praise Thee for the traditions which have made our country great, and for patriots who have laid the foundations through faith, courage, and self-sacrifice. Teach us in our own day the meaning of citizenship, and help us to be faithful stewards of the responsibility which Thou entrusted to us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

A Prayer for our Country from A Book of Devotions and Prayers According to the Use of the Polish National Catholic Church.

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## **SOCL News and First Communion Class**

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We have a wonderful group of students who continue their preparations for First Communion. Class remains open to others who have not yet made their First Communion or Confirmation.

We will have class time available for younger students again during the next school year.

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### **Planning For:**

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- July 2: Solemnity – Visitation of the B.V.M.
- July 4: Independence Day - Holy Mass and Celebration at Spójnia Farm in Waymart, PA 11am to 8pm.
- July 4-11: KURS Encampment, Waymart, PA
- July 5: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- July 6: Commemoration of John Hus, Priest and Martyr
- July 12: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- July 13: Healing Holy Mass at 6:15pm. Parish Committee Meeting at 7pm.
- July 19: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Free Lunch on Sunday
- July 21 - 24: National United Choirs Convention and Music Workshop, Dupont, PA
- July 25: Feast of St. James the Greater, Apostle
- July 26: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. **Holy Mass at 11:30am only.** Commemoration of Ss. Joachim & Ann, Parents of the B.V.M.
- August 2: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- August 3: Feast – Finding of the Body of St. Stephen
- August 6: Solemnity – Transfiguration of the Lord
- August 9: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- August 10: Healing Holy Mass at 6:15pm.
- August 15: Solemnity - Dormition of the B.V.M.
- August 16: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. **Picnic**
- August 23: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am
- August 24: Feast - St. Bartholomew, Apostle.
- August 26: Solemnity - Our Lady of Częstochowa
- August 29: Solemnity - Beheading of St. John the Baptist
- August 30: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Youth Sunday. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am

- September 7: Labor Day
- September 9: National PNCC Webinar on Brotherly Love
- September 13: Solemnity of Brotherly Love
- September 20: National Back to Church Sunday

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## **Parish Organizations and Ministries**

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Did you know that our Parish has many organizations that need you? God calls us to work together for the good of our community, in support of each other, and for the needs of the Church. Want to help or join in? Please see Fr. Jim.

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## **Remember in your prayers**

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Those on our parish prayer list, our neighborhood, our city, our servicemen and women, the congregations of Mont Pleasant.

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## **Year of Regeneration Update**

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"A Year of Regeneration" continues across our Holy Church.

The Future Direction subcommittee of our Polish National Catholic Church has sent this monthly update to keep us on track with the implementation of the 2015 Action Plan. The subcommittee welcomes those who have requested to be a part of this important work for the building of God's Kingdom.

The Solemnity of Brotherly Love – September 13, 2015 is our next undertaking as we are planning for a church wide celebration. Just prior to this commemoration Prime Bishop Mikovsky will have a webinar for our entire Church on Wednesday, September 9th at 7 pm (EST). The intent of the webinar is to bring as many PNCC members and others together to prepare for the Solemnity through prayer, music, and meditation. While many will view the webinar on their home computers, we encourage parishes and groups to start making arrangements to "host" and broadcast the webinar so that those who may not have access to a computer can still participate in this event. More information about how to register for this webinar will be coming soon.

Our Bishops have spoken about the importance and significance of Brotherly Love in our Church and in our daily lives. Click this link (<https://youtu.be/QsDuCIVf8PA>) to see the video of Bishop Paul Sobiechowski of the Eastern Diocese. May we take his message to heart.

In our parish we put Brotherly Love into action through our food ministry to those in need.

As we complete Sacred Vocations months across our Holy Church please continue to pray for Sacred Vocations to the Diaconate and Priesthood that men may hear that call and serve our Lord in the ordained ministry.

If you know of parishioners or friends who are not a part of the subcommittee's monthly E-mail updates please have them email us at [FutureDirection@pncc.org](mailto:FutureDirection@pncc.org) to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

Please keep this church wide undertaking in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Holy Church. Wishing you a blessed beginning to summer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

PNCC Supreme Council Future  
Direction Subcommittee

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky  
Right Rev. Stanley M. Bilinski Jr.  
Right Rev. John E. Mack  
Right Rev. Bernard J. Nowicki  
Right Rev. Paul Sobiechowski  
Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr.,  
Chairman  
Diane Hollinsworth  
Dr. Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd  
Michael Mietlicki  
Kathryn Nemkovich  
George Urciuoli

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## Oh No! A Convert

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From Afonso I of Kongo to Mieszko I, from St. Augustine to John Wayne, there are those in various Churches who came to Christianity at different times of their lives.

One typical mark of a convert is a deep passion for the faith. You can see that to this day in our Church and right here in our parish. I am

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"Check out Mr. Holier-than-thou!"

one of those people. I truly love our Holy Church and our parish. I find it a true home and the place I encounter Jesus best in Holy Mass, the sacraments, and the people who are part of our family in the faith.

We have all heard the expression "more Catholic than the Pope," or in our case, "more PNCC than the Prime Bishop." That phrase can typically can be used to describe a convert. Converts can be annoying...

Being annoying starts innocently enough. At a basic level it comes from being overwhelmed with love. Part is from the convert's euphoria based in the spiritual fire he or she finds in meeting the Lord in a loving community, being filled with the Holy Spirit in this Church (I heard of Him, but first found Him in the PNCC). Part comes from the convert's finding the unique and beautiful aspects of our Holy Church. I personally appreciated the fact that our Church thought I was intelligent enough and had sufficient maturity to be personally responsible and accountable to God.



Filled with love and all the greatness they have found, the convert wants to share it - even annoyingly enough with those who grew up in the Church. How can you be so relaxed about our Church - it is

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BEEN THERE.**

soooooo great. Converts may go overboard and get prideful, lecturing life-long members on what they

should or shouldn't do, or why they are so particularly special and privileged.

There are two things that both converts and life-long members can learn from each other. There is one thing they can do together.

The convert can learn that true understanding of both the faith and the life of the Church is a life-long process. They should learn humility. Early on a couple of life-long Church members told me where I was wrong. I knew at that moment I really didn't understand everything. Opening my mouth just made me seem uninformed. There was more to learn, more questions to ask, more things that were not so black-and-white.

Life-long members can catch a bit of the fire that fills a convert's heart and spirit. They can reconnect with some of the basics that draw people

to their Church, re-educate themselves on what is both eternal and unique in their Church. They can use that renewed fire to deepen their faith and invite others to experience that faith fire.

What both converts and life-long members can do together is to be one in Jesus Christ, build up the family of God and His kingdom, and mutually cherish what our Holy Church is.

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## Get God's Field

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God's Field also known as Rola Boža is the official newsmagazine of our Holy Church. It has an updated format and provides great information on the workings of our Church. In years past, parishes would subscribe on behalf of all members who wished to receive a copy. That method of subscribing is no longer allowed. You can get a free copy of God's Field online at [www.pncc.org](http://www.pncc.org). If you wish to receive a mailed copy of God's Field the annual subscription rate is \$48.00 per year for 12 issues. Send a check or money order in USD, payable to God's Field, along with their current name and full mailing address and zip+4 code.



# July 2015

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
|   |   |  | 1  | 2<br>Solemnity – Visitation of the B.V.M.                              | 3  | 4<br>Independence Day Holy Mass, Picnic, and KURS, Waymart, PA |
| 5<br>14th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30am and 11:30am. Lectors: Marilyn Hietala/Claudia Bertasso. KURS, Waymart, PA                                      | 6<br>Commemoration of John Hus, Priest and Martyr KURS, Waymart, PA | 7<br>KURS, Waymart, PA   | 8<br>KURS, Waymart, PA   | 9<br>KURS, Waymart, PA   | 10<br>KURS, Waymart, PA  | 11<br>KURS Ends Waymart, PA                                    |
| 12<br>15th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30am and 11:30am. Lectors: Derek Westcott/Claudia Bertasso.  | 13<br>Healing Holy Mass at 6:15pm. Parish Committee Meeting at 7pm. | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17   | 18   |
| 19<br>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30am and 11:30am. Lectors: Larry Panfil/Claudia Bertasso. Free lunch on Sunday.                                    | 20  | 21<br>National United Choirs Convention and Music Workshop, Dupont, PA | 22<br>National United Choirs Convention and Music Workshop, Dupont, PA | 23<br>National United Choirs Convention and Music Workshop, Dupont, PA | 24<br>National United Choirs Convention and Music Workshop, Dupont, PA | 25<br>Feast of St. James the Greater, Apostle                  |
| 26<br>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. <b>Holy Mass at 11:30am.</b> Lectors: Marilyn Hietala/Claudia Bertasso. Commemoration of Ss. Joachim & Ann, Parents of the B.V.M. | 27  | 28   | 29   | 30   | 31   |  |
|   |   |  |  |  |  |  |

## EVENTS

### August Upcoming

- August 3: Feast – Finding of the Body of St. Stephen
- August 6: Solemnity – Transfiguration of the Lord
- August 10: Healing Holy Mass
- August 15: Solemnity - Dormition of the B.V.M.
- August 16: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Parish & Community Picnic

# August 2015

| Sunday   | Monday                                      | Tuesday | Wednesday                               | Thursday                                       | Friday | Saturday  |
|--|---|---------|---|--|--------|---|
|  |   |         |   |  |        | 1   |
| 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30am and 11:30am. Lectors: Derek Westcott/Claudia Bertasso. 2   | Feast, Finding of the Body of St. Stephen 3 | 4       | 5                                       | Solemnity of the Transfiguration of the Lord 6 | 7      | 8   |
| 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30am and 11:30am. Lectors: Larry Panfil/Claudia Bertasso. 9   | Healing Holy Mass at 6:15pm. 10             | 11      | 12                                      | 13   | 14     | Solemnity of the Dormition/Assumption of the BVM 15 |
| 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30am and 11:30am. Lectors: Marilyn Hietala/Claudia Bertasso. <b>Parish &amp; Community Picnic.</b> 16 | 17  | 18      | 19                                      | 20   | 21     | 22  |
| 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30am and 11:30am. Lectors: Derek Westcott/Claudia Bertasso. 23  | Feast – St. Bartholomew, Apostle 24         | 25      | Solemnity of Our Lady of Częstochowa 26 | 27   | 28     | Solemnity- Beheading of St. John the Baptist 29     |
| 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Youth Sunday. Holy Mass at 9:30am and 11:30am. Lectors: Larry Panfil/Claudia Bertasso. 30                            | 31  |         |   |  |        |   |

## EVENTS

### September Upcoming

- 7th – Labor Day
- 9th – National PNCC Webinar on Brotherly Love

- 13th – Solemnity of Brotherly Love
- 20th – Back to Church Sunday