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# **NEWSLETTER**

# **SEPTEMBER**

# **2016**



NOT NEGLECTING TO MEET TOGETHER, AS IS THE HABIT OF SOME, BUT ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER, AND ALL THE MORE AS YOU SEE THE DAY DRAWING NEAR.

Five years - I can hardly believe it! We have been hosting Back to Church Sunday each September since 2012 and this will be the fifth time. Will we see each other there? I certainly hope and pray I will see you.

Many of us have stopped assembling in the community of Church at one time or another in our lives. For me, that lasted ten years! I clearly remember how dark and apart that time felt, how disconnected I was. Yet I was fearful of going back. What would people think? Would they whisper? When I finally went back I was so overjoyed that no one's hypocrisy would have mattered. Thankfully I didn't find that among my fellow churchgoers - they were just as overjoyed to see me as the prodigal son's father was to see him.

The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews exhorts us to assemble together for public worship. The group that assembles for worship will be the very group that is

assembled on the last day. Meet together now so we may meet together at Jesus' return.

The apostle/writer goes on to briefly say that some have neglected this requirement. Their whys are not discussed, but consider that some may have been deterred by fear of persecution. That is a real fear these days. Some may have neglected because they were disinterested. Some may have doubted the necessity. Some, as today, may have been driven away based on a bad encounter with a pastor, some member or members of the church, or with some requirement of faith.

Whatever were the reasons, the apostle says that we must regard it as a sacred duty to meet together for the worship of God. No causes should deter us. From this sacred social duty grace is received, we are strengthened, our light is increased, and our heavenly inheritance is confirmed. See you September 18th at 9:30am or 11:30am.

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## Back to Church Sunday

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*So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. - Romans 12:5*



We will be participating in **Back to Church Sunday** once again on **Sunday, September 18th - our 5th time doing so**. This campaign is strategically designed to help us reach out and invite everyone to try church again. We empower you (part of our democratic tradition) to invite your neighbors, friends and loved ones to enjoy a special Sunday service designed just for them. Let us continue to work together to bring spiritual renewal to our families and community through Back to Church Sunday!

- Not been in a while - **here's an opportunity to come back.**
- Never been - **you're invited.**

- Looking to help - **here's a chance to join in doing good for each other and our community.**

We can and will do wonderful things together - at our little church.

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## *Kurs Report*

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Our youth, Victoria, Christina, Nick, Erickaa, and Traviss had a great time at Kurs Camp. The camp theme was Radical Irreverence and Fr. Jim was appointed by Prime Bishop as the Kurs Chaplain.

Take a moment to ask our young people about reverence and being radical in declaring the One to whom true reverence belongs. God is well worth the risk.

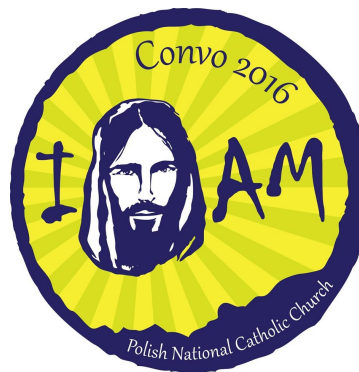
God bless our youth!!!!!! On to Kurs 2017!

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## **CONVO Report**

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Adam and Victoria along with 140 other young adults from across the country participated in CONVO 2016



at St. Anselm's college in Manchester, New Hampshire from July 25th through 29th.

The following is from a reflection by Erin at her Diabetic Teen Blog (check it

out at <https://diabeticteensblog.com>)

*I was talking to my friend about this craving of having to see the world, and it's been this way for as long as I can remember...*

*Lately I have felt that I have been appreciating the world that God has created a lot more than I used to. It may be because I'm realizing that people truly do not live forever and that what we have is so important.*

*It's the little things in life that really make life so great. It's the pink and purple in the sunsets, or staying up late and seeing the stars. It's the beauty of the birds soaring above our heads and it's the sight of fireflies at night.*

*I think we tend to take nature for granted sometimes and we forget how truly beautiful it is to be alive and to be able to see such wonderful things. Life is funny in the sense that you truly don't know what you had till it's gone (like right now with rain). But even through a heat wave we have to realize how great it is that we can appreciate what God has done for the world.*

*This past week I went away to a youth Convocation at Saint Anselm's College in New Hampshire and this week I realized that it's the little things that make you smile. God has a funny way in telling stories and getting His point across but everything He does has a purpose in life. It's finding that purpose that makes life so fun.*

*During this week the thing that stuck with me that most is that we as a society do not truly think about I Am. We think about IAAM. I Am is God and Jesus and we as a whole take away from the attention that He needs to have. IAAM or "It's All About Me" is where we are as a society and that needs to change.*

*"Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I Am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:13-14*

*We need to remember that it is not all about us but it is all about Him.*

*There are so many things that God has helped to create and craft in this world that we look over because we're too busy not appreciating it. And not appreciating Him.*

*So go outside, experience life, get lost and wander. But also seek God.*

CONVO 2018 planning has already begun. If you want to be part of this effort, please let Fr. Jim know.

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## **Music Scholarship Winners**

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Congratulations to Victoria Konicki, Christina Supinski, and Derek Westcott who received National United Choirs (NUC) Music Scholarships this year. The awards were announced at CONVO 2016 held in Manchester, New Hampshire

in July.

Victoria received the Bishop Francis Bonczak Youth Award; Christina received the Bishop Eugeniusz Magyar Award; and Derek received the George Balcar Award



Twenty scholarships were awarded in 2016 to sixteen recipients. Since inception, 1,075 scholarships totaling \$305,885 have been awarded.

Information on the scholarship program can be obtained by visiting the NUC website:

[nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com](http://nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com).

Application information and forms for the 2017 scholarships will be available on the website no later than January 1, 2017. The deadline for applying is May 15, 2017.

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## CHRISTIAN FAMILY WEBINAR

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Just prior to the Solemnity of the Christian Family on Sunday, October 9th, Prime Bishop Anthony will host a webinar for our entire Church. The webinar will be held on Wednesday, October 5th.

Information regarding this webinar will be received through the Church's Future Directions emails. If you are not receiving them, please

send an email to [FutureDirection@pncc.org](mailto:FutureDirection@pncc.org) saying you would like to be added.

The intent of the webinar is to bring as many PNCC members and others together to hear Prime Bishop's spiritual address, to see videos prepared by our youth, and to prepare for the Solemnity through prayer, reflection, music, and meditation. This is very important for our life in Jesus and our Church. I ask all parishioners to take part in this faith filled and historic event.

We hope to once again join with our neighboring parish, Blessed Virgin Mary of Częstochowa, who has Internet connectivity. Check out the parish website, Facebook page, weekly bulletin, or October's newsletter for more details.

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## Healing Holy Masses Continue

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We hold a monthly healing Holy Mass. Check out our schedule in your weekly bulletin. The next is scheduled for Monday 9/19 at 6:15pm.

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## Milestones to Celebrate:

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### Birthdays

- 1 Paul Zawistowski, Joan Kaminski
- 3 Cindy Houser, Melissa Horton, Chris Zostant, Eric Esner
- 4 Alicja Chrobok
- 12 Robbie Heins
- 14 Callie Lennon
- 15 Beverly Limmer
- 16 JoAnne Houser
- 24 Lynn Maliszewski

26 Donna Panfil, Nicholas DeMidio,  
Chad Smith  
28 Angela Jorczak

Anniversaries

3 Robert & Stephanie Dominy  
4 Jason & Christine Lennon, Thomas  
& Kathleen Caulfield  
21 Timothy & Christine DeCocco

Wishing you all many years! Sto  
Lat!

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## **This Labor Day - Celebrate the Sacredness of Work**

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*"But let justice roll down like waters  
and righteousness like an  
everlasting stream." — Amos 5:24*

On Labor day weekend we are  
reminded of God's call to practice  
justice, mercy, and compassion  
toward all workers.

Labor Day comes out of a long  
history of workers organizing to  
secure their rights, safety, and  
dignity. Our Holy Church stood  
strong with workers. We did so with  
the coal miners and steel workers of  
Pennsylvania, the grain millers and  
meat packers of Buffalo, and the  
auto workers of Detroit.

In our community and throughout  
our nation and world, workers  
continue to struggle for fair pay,  
time off, safety on the job, access to  
healthcare and education, and the  
right to organize. As workers and  
worker advocates, people of faith  
have been and continue to be an  
important part of the movement for  
worker justice.

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## **HELP AND GOODS NEEDED CRAFT FAIR RUMMAGE SALE**

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We need folks to step up for some  
of our Fall events.

Our Craft Fair will be held at Blessed  
Virgin Mary Parish Hall, 250 Old  
Maxwell Rd., Latham, NY on  
Saturday, October 1st. If you can,  
breads and cakes are needed for the

Please I need help!  
Really  
**HELP!**

bake sale.

The bread  
and cakes  
should be  
delivered to  
Blessed

Virgin Mary  
parish the

morning of the event. Volunteers  
are needed to assist with food  
preparation, to man the bake sale,  
and assist at tables. Please call  
Stephanie at 518-369-1346 or sign  
up at the parish.

Our Rummage/Bake Sale will be  
held Saturday, October 15th. You  
can bring goods you wish to donate  
now and leave them in the parish  
hall. Help is needed for set-up the  
week before, the day of the sale,  
and for the bake sale (your yummy  
homemade baked goods are much  
appreciated). Please sign up at the  
parish.

Help is always needed in instructing  
and encouraging our youth. Please  
see Fr. Jim.

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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 all parents and those who contributed via our annual Valentine's raffle for your support of our children and youth as they attended Kurs and CONVO.

To our wonderful altar servers, our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia.

To Pete for all he has done to improve the look at our parish cemetery.

To all who did so much to make our Parish and Community picnic a great success.

To all who donated food during our summer food collection.

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

God bless you and reward you!!!

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### Coffee Hour Returns

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Our weekly coffee resume September 11th. Thank you to all who contribute to continuing this ministry of hospitality. If you can, please pitch in to host one. This gives us the time to gather after services every week.

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### SOCL News

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SOCL classes for all parish youth begin on Sunday, September 25th at 10:30am.

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### Other Great Summer Memories

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Members of the parish took part in March Schenectady for Jesus. A great day of witness in our city.

Throughout July we took up a food collection for those in need locally. 229 pounds of food was donated to Schenectady Inner City Ministries (an increase of 87 pounds). God bless your generosity!

Our Parish and Community Picnic on August 21st was such a great success. We had excellent food, a huge attendance, and lots of love and witness. We made our neighbors feel welcome. We showed forth love of God and neighbor. Thank you to Bob, Stephanie, and Pete for setting up and cooking and to all who brought and shared their food and friendship.

On Saturday, August 27th our Holy Church welcome its newest priest with the ordination of Donald Wunderlich. Fr. Don was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki. Fr. Don served as Bishop's altar boy almost fifty years ago. God bless you Fr. Don.

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### Special Upcoming Events

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**September 11th Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30 along with Prayers of Remembrance on the 15th Anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy.**

**Back to Church Sunday – September 18th.**

**Craft Fair – October 1st.**

**National Webinar on the Christian Family – October 5th.**

**Rummage Sale – October 15th.**

**Seniorate Thanksgiving Holy Mass and Dinner – November 19th.**

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#### **Planning For:**

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- September 4: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am
- September 5: Labor Day
- September 8: Nativity of the BVM
- September 10: PolkaFest 2016 sponsored by Holy Spirit Parish, East Herkimer Fish & Game Club
- September 11: **Solemnity of Brotherly Love**. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am with 9/11 15th Anniversary Memorial Prayers. Coffee Hour resumes.
- September 14: Solemnity – Exaltation of the Holy Cross,
- September 15: Solemnity – Holy Mother of Sorrows
- September 18: 25th Sunday in

Ordinary Time. **Back to Church Sunday**. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Welcome Back Brunch

- September 19: Healing Holy Mass at 6:15pm. Parish Committee Meeting.
- September 21: Feast - St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
- September 25: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Spójnia Sunday. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. **SOCL Classes Resume**
- September 29: Feast - St. Michael the Archangel
- October 1: Craft Fair at BVMC Parish Hall.
- October 2: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Blessing of Pets at all Holy Masses.

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#### **Future Direction Subcommittee of the Supreme Council - Update**

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

August 15th marked the Solemnity of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As we continue to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary may we follow her example in our lives and say "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). We also ask her intercession on behalf of this important work of our Holy Church.

As we draw to a close this summer during our Year of Reverence we are reminded that we should not take a

vacation from living the Gospel and living a reverent life. As we travel for vacation, or to visit family and friends this coming Fall we need to keep Christ, His Gospel and our prayer life alive and active. Don't forget to take your prayer book when you pack for your Fall trips.

Our Church continues to be on a spiritual high from the recent National Youth Convocation. "I AM" was the theme of Convo 2016 and a faith and spirit filled week continues to be embraced across our Church as many have undertaken a 30 day challenge - something that will be recommended to all of us as we celebrate the Christian Family in just a few weeks.

Reverence includes community service. At Convo our Bishops and all participants prayed over fifteen prayer blankets (made by the Convo participants), more than 50 boxes and bags of requested toiletry items and numerous gift cards that were given to Liberty House - an inspiring place that helps homeless veterans and others in great need.

Our diocesan synods have begun. The Future Direction committee has prepared a PowerPoint presentation of their work to date and a brief survey to solicit the input of all diocesan synod delegates and guests as we continue to implement the five themes selected by the delegates of the 2014 Synod.

In our life of reverence let us continue to increase our prayer lives. This month, pray for our

Church:

*Almighty and eternal God, You have called us to serve You through the Polish National Catholic Church. Hear our prayer for the bishops, priests, deacons and faithful of our Holy Church. May Your gifts and blessings strengthen our resolve to serve You and by example bring others into the Mystical Body of Christ. May all that we do be for the glory of Your Name and the salvation of Your people. By our faithful witness and service may we eventually be received into Your eternal kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (Prayer for the Church - PNCC 2010 Prayer Book)*

Also as we plan for October - please remember October is Clergy Appreciation Month. The best way to encourage our men of all ages to pursue the priesthood and diaconate if God is calling them is by showing how important our clergy are to us all.

If you know of parishioners or friends who are not a part of our monthly email 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.

May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

PNCC Supreme Council Future  
Direction Committee



# September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
September 6: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am Lector: Marilyn Hietala/Claudia Bertasso	Labor Day			Solemnity – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary		PolkaFest 2016 sponsored by Holy Spirit Parish, East Herkimer Fish & Game Club
Solemnity of Brotherly Love. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am with prayers on the 15th Anniversary of 9/11/2001. Coffee hour resumes. Lector: Derek Westcott/Claudia Bertasso			Solemnity – Exaltation of the Holy Cross.	Solemnity – Holy Mother of Sorrows		
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. <b>Back to Church Sunday.</b> Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Welcome Back Brunch Lector: Larry Panfil/Claudia Bertasso	Healing Holy Mass at 6:15pm. Parish Committee Meeting		Feast - St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist			
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Spójnia Sunday Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lector: Marilyn Hietala/Claudia Bertasso <b>SOCL Begins</b>				Feast - St. Michael the Archangel		

## EVENTS

### October Upcoming

- 1st – Craft Fair

- 2nd - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Blessing of Pets
- 3rd – Guardian Angels
- 5th – National Webinar on the Christian Family