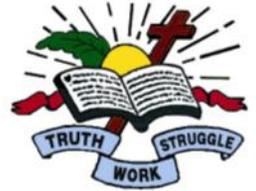




St. Stanislaus B&M Cathedral

St. Stan's Monthly



Saint Stanislaus Cathedral—Polish National Catholic Church

Volume III Issue VIII

Rt. Rev. John Mack-Pastor

Rev. Jason Soltysiak— Assistant Pastor

Ms. Mari Jane Stankowski-Parish Chairperson

were there super goodie-two-shoes? Of course.

Dates of Interest

- Aug 4: One Hot Meal
- Aug 6: Transfiguration of Our Lord
- Aug 15: Solemnity of the Dormition/Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Aug 21-23: Central Diocesan Clergy Retreat
- Aug 21: Orientation at St. Stanislaus Elementary
- Aug 24-25: Block Party
- Aug 29: 1st Day of School

The Assistant's Assistance



August 2012

A random teenager asked me last month why I became a priest. I suppose this

question is asked of any priest often, but this time my answer was tied into where we were and why we were there.

"Because I get to come to Convo every two years even though I'm an adult. And it doesn't count as vacation!"

"Wow!" He said. He said it honestly! Of course, that wasn't the reason I became a priest; it is simply one of the "job perks" I feel not enough of "my guys" take advantage of.

Convo has changed quite a bit through the years for me. That was part of my message in the homily I was asked to deliver at the first Mass at Convo this year. Yes, somehow I was called upon to have this high honor, joining two other bishops as the preachers for the week.

Without rehashing the entire sermon, I spoke of how excited I was the first time I had the privilege of preaching at Convo: It was 2008 and I was walking to breakfast and I heard one of the neatest, most inspirational conversations of my entire priesthood.

Two kids were walking in front of me, oblivious that I was just a few steps behind. They were

talking about the upcoming day's schedule with boredom in their voice – lecture, lecture, activity – when the kid happily exclaimed "Hey cool, Fr. Stan (Bilinski) is having Mass today and Fr. Jason is preaching – its gonna be awesome!" I kept on waiting for that kid to turn around and give me the stink eye or some sort of petulant laugh...but it never came.

For me, that was at or near the top of my "priestly" mountain. Kids, excited for Mass. Excited for the celebrant, excited for the preacher. Excited to pray! What a boost!

As a teenager and young adult, truly the closest I ever felt to my God, my church, and my Lord and Savior was at the Youth Convos.

At home, you can get caught in the doldrums of what Jesus warns us about: repetitive prayer, "practicing" your faith. It was at these Convos where I felt I could *live* my faith.

Every person is self-conscious to a certain degree, and I never wanted anyone to think I was the super-religious guy simply because of my father, the priest. I never liked to miss church (ask my parents!) because of that respect.

But at Convo...well, I realized that everyone is there for the same reason. They love their church, aren't afraid to be Christian, don't mind praying in front of others. Were there bad apples? Of course. And

I loved that mix. I loved how "regular" people shared this thing in common, got together on a college campus and celebrated our common faith.

Every two years, I still find that boost. My days of being self-conscious about my faith are long-gone, though we are always looking for inspiration.

My boost this year? Fr. Sr. John Rencewicz, a priest who I barely know, was able to attend his first Convo in almost two decades due to a debilitating automobile accident. I suppose no one there was more thankful to be present at Convo than him.

He led us in evening prayer with a booming voice, preceding with his story of personal difficulties leading to his being at Convo.

At the close of evening prayer that night, we sang one of my favorites "They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love."

Now, we all know how kids can be. We also know our church "traditions", you know, what we do and *what we don't do*.

Displaying the words of that song, "We will walk, hand in hand," everyone...I mean, everyone, joined hands in song and prayer. Handholding in the PNCC...Prideful kids, embarrassed kids, brave kids, scared kids. Oblivious that they wouldn't do this with their "school friends." Showing the world what it means to be a Christian.

Yup. That was my boost this year. *Fr. Jason*

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Below: Our bus—it arrived a bit too early on Monday, right on time to take us home on Friday.



Above: A father's worst nightmare: Scranton boys on the



Above: Bishop John, at work. Below: If someone asks you to take his wheel, well, you do it!



Convo 2012: Confirmed to Walk on Water

of our lectures were held. Literally, it was a large meeting room that was situated in the middle(!) of the third-largest power plant in the country.

The first session was done by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop Ordinary of the Eastern Diocese. He spoke about water. He admitted it wasn't the most exciting topic, but that it was a set-up for the week to come.

The next session was done by our Pastor, Bishop John. He, as evidenced in the picture, dressed the part and taught of some instances involving water throughout the scriptures, especially Noah's Ark.

The following session was led by our parishioner Philip Mack, who delved into some of his own issues he had a short time ago when he was an irresponsible teen, how he looks back disdainfully on some decisions he made. He advised the kids, just a few years "after the fact" how to cope with some real-life situations that may arise.

The next session was led by Amanda Blando, who touched on some emotionally-charged issues including teen-suicide. It was a bit much to take it, but very well-thought out and professional.

Bishop Elect Stanley Bilinski led the next ses-

sion, incorporating lively technology as always.

We then had the blessing of new fire and water service that is normally held on Holy Saturday to show people how that "new" water is made.

Wednesday we took a trip to Niagara Falls, a blast for us all. The day also featured a presentation by Fr. Mark Swoger (yours truly was not able to attend) followed by some light-hearted attempts at presenting otherwise very serious issues in a teenager's life.

Thursday we boarded a bus for Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, where we had mass and a "Taste of Buffalo" which included buffalo wings and salted rolls with roast beef. We also did our prayer blankets.

That evening was more relaxed, featuring the NUYA meetings and a casual dance.

Friday morning was the last day of Convo. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky had the last presentation and he closed the Convo by celebrating Mass and we were off.

Many details, stories, and events were skimmed: please let the pictures do some of the talking.



At 4am on Monday, July 23 the phone rang inside St. Stanislaus Cathedral Rectory—it was the bus driver wondering where everyone was for the trip to Niagara Falls.

Oops - turns out our bus driver showed up an hour early. At 5am, we were all aboard and ready to make the trip to Niagara University in Niagara Falls, NY.

"Led" by Fr. Jason and a crew of devoted parents and chaperones, we arrived at the college just before noon.

Convo began with the opening session, led by Bishop Thaddeus Peplowski, Bishop Ordinary of the hosting Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese. It was held in the Niagara Power Plant, where many

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Convo 2012 Continued



Featured in these pictures: Some of the highlights of the Convo trip.



Left: The group shot. Above: Prayer blanket guided by former assistant Rev. Raymond Drada. Below Left: Eyes struggle to stay open on the way home. Below Right: St. Stan's leadership, circa 2007



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Below: A portion of the joyous choir



Annual Second Sunday of July Picnic and YMSofR Chicken BBQ

The Annual Second Sunday of July Picnic/YMSofR Chicken BBQ took place Sunday, July 8 at YM-SofR Park in Minooka, PA. How can it be the "Annual Picnic" if we changed it?! Well, things were changed with the well-being of our parishioners in mind, as the parish decided to make the 2nd Sunday a more laid-back, "picnic-type" atmosphere

while making the other two big summer events (Flea Market & Block Party) more devoted to fundraising.

The picnic this year was a mix of great success and chances missed. While fine-tuning this new format after decades of the former, a wonderful thing happened in that there was a complete sell-out of

the BBQ! Unfortunately, that sell-out came about 3 hours early.

We were treated by God with a beautiful summer day, a chance to relax under the shade of the trees and to munch on some food that was very fairly priced as well as cooked by someone else!

The consensus is that we will continue this format next year...with the proper modifications.



Above: A stoic YMSofR Member and some cheerful helpers at the picnic
Below: Prime Bishop Mikovsky asks the world, "Am I picking your name?"



Above: Part of the crowd from Our Savior Chapel in Tripp Park, whose normal 11am Mass was cancelled because of the 11am picnic Mass. Below Left: Fr. Jason assisting Prime Bishop Mikovsky at Mass. Below: Girls just having fun at the 2nd Sunday Picnic.



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Below and Right: A few classic pictures of the happenings at the Saint Stanislaus Giant Flea Market.



Flea Market a Rousing Success!

The Annual St. Stanislaus Giant Flea Market went through with its first change since...the stone age? Yes, after a prayerful assessment, it was decided that the Flea Market would be moved to the month of July in order to give the workers a much-needed break in preparation for the Block Party. Whatever the case, this year's Flea Market was the most profitable yet, earning a net profit for the parish of over \$15,000! Think about that: \$15,000 reselling used furniture, clothing, electron-

ics, books, toys...and suppose some Polish Food as well. The clergy and the parish committee give great thanks to Mr. Bernie Kalteski, who worked tirelessly in the promotion and execution of this wonderful event. Many have been working this fundraiser for decades, and were able to continue this through the guidance (and fur-

ther recruitment abilities) of Mr. Kalteski. To everyone else who donated hours upon hours of his or her time towards this important and popular venture of our parish: Thank You and Bog Zaplac!



Block Party Planning—Mark Your Calendar

Planning for the Block Party is underway. Our Parish-wide affair

takes place on Friday August 25 and Saturday August 26 on the

corner lot of East Elm and Pittston Avenue. Entertainment on a portable bandstand will take place during the Block Party's hours, 5pm-10pm both nights. A problem in the past, food will be ready at the 5 o'clock hours.

The menu features homemade pierogi and golabki, hot dogs, hamburgers, beef and chicken cheese steaks, our "growing in fame" St. Stanislaus homemade pizza, potato pancakes, pizza frittatas, sausage and peppers, and more. Hungry yet? Our menu caters perfectly to those looking for traditional church picnic food or to get his or her "ethnic food fix" that some felt was missing from our 2nd Sunday Picnic. See you there!



Like "Saint Stanislaus Cathedral on Facebook to receive news, pictures, videos and updates.

Want to discuss something with our Parish Chairperson? Have something you want to run by her before bringing it in front of the Parish? Or simply want to touch base with Ms. Stankowski about life in the hot seat? Email her at:

Chair Chatter

Mari-Jane Stankowski, Parish Chair

Let me start off by saying I'm proud to be a Polish National Catholic! Our church offers so many wonderful experiences for the youth and it is exciting to hear their enthusiasm for the PNCC.

This summer we had children attend the Acolyte Retreat, Kurs and Convo. These are opportunities

for our kids to meet youth and clergy from other parishes within our diocese, as well as the entire church.

It was truly inspiring to talk to the participants of this year's Convo, especially hearing of their trip to Niagara Falls and the Cathedral in Lancaster. The Sunday following the Convo, as we gathered for coffee hour, you could see all the

children huddled together remembering all the good times and anticipating seeing their new friends at this year's track meet. Oh to be a kid again!

It is these types of activities that make the PNCC special to our children. I invite you to join us for Sunday coffee hour to check out the photos of their Convo experience. You won't be disappointed.



Saint Stanislaus Cathedral: Come, Stay, and Pray

Saint Stanislaus Cathedral is the First Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church and the See of the Central Diocese of the PNCC. We are a Catholic Church that is sacramentally focused on Christ, democratically governed, youth-oriented and community-minded. We are Apostolic and Biblical in our faith tradition, but not papal. We are building on over 100 years of faith in Jesus Christ with worship, fellowship and democracy. Come visit us in Scranton or online at www.SaintStanislausPNCC.org.

Saint Stanislaus Cathedral

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Next Month

Block Party

Goodbye Mack Family

Diocesan Clergy Retreat

Witty Comments

Great Pictures

And much, much more!

Below: Prime Bishop Mikovsky celebrating July 4th Mass in the Bp. Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center



300 Club Results (March 18-May 20)

Albeit quite late, listed below are the results for all winners of the 300 Club from March 18-May 20. The next 300 Club raffle kicks off in August—hope you have all the tickets you need!

Week 1: 3/18/12- \$100: A. Ankerway. \$50: C. Zimmerman, W. Sadauskas. \$25: S. Fox, B. Jerome, A. Nasser, B. Blackledge.

Week 2: 3/25/12- \$100: K,P, & D Mays. \$50: W. Sadauskas, C. Blackledge. \$25: D. Wall, J&K Kotula, C & N Nez, J. Scheuneman.

Week 3: 4/1/12- \$100: V.J. Ak-

somitus. \$50: K. Reuther, L. Stankowski. \$25: Notari family, J. DeMarco, L. Pusateri, A. Grado.

Week 4: 4/8/12- \$100: L. Lednovich. \$50: R. Nycz, D. Tomasko. \$25: E. Conrad, M. Dailey, J. Snyder, A. Mullen.

Week 5: 4/15/12- \$100: J&K Kotula. \$50: C. Reuther Jr, L. Mikovsky. \$25: J. Scheuneman, J.M. Scheuneman, D. Petrosky, S. Raub.

Week 6: 4/22/12- \$100: C&C Swantek. \$50: D. Kolwicz, VJ & EFO. \$25: N. Stoner, A. Zahorsky, F. Ballino, E. Conrad

Week 7: 4/29/12- \$100: M. Lowens. \$50: F. Owcarz, L. Nasser. \$25: J. Ross, F. Sadauskas, M. Kolwicz, J. Andrzejewski

Week 8: 5/6/12- \$100: L. Golembeski. \$50: E. Gull, C. Ross. \$25: R. Cegelka, A Conforti, G. Weaver, R. Seliga.

Week 9: 5/13/12- \$100: B & J Jurnock. \$50: D. Adams, M. Adams. \$25: P. Blackledge, J. Fallon, J. Dailey, K&L Kokoskie

Week 10: 5/20/12 \$100: C. Nezelkewicz. \$50: H. Pron, A & C. Mikovsky. \$25: G. Bonk, Z. Stankowski, S. Fox, L. Nasser.

July 4th Pilgrimage to Waymart

Once again, a portion of the church made the “Annual Pilgrimage to Waymart” on the July 4th Independence Day Holiday.

Holy Mass was celebrated at 11am by Prime Bishop Mikovsky, with Fr. Jason reading the lessons and proclaiming the Gospel.

Afterward, a picnic luncheon was served by Kurs camp chef Rose Kazinetz, Central YMSofR President Nick Kazinetz, Head Counselor of Kurs Stacey Crispino and others.

We thank them for preparing our food and the picnic event. Hope everyone enjoyed!

Study the Bible with us



Bible Study Continues

After rotating from Thursdays to Wednesdays and back again, the St. Stanislaus Bible Study led by Father Jason has settled on Monday evenings at 6:30pm.

Since mid-June, we have taken the task to study the Acts of the

Apostles in its entirety. Through Divine Providence (or maybe sly planning by Fr. Jason), we heard the story of Pentecost shortly after our children were confirmed in church and we heard of the election of the deacons right around the time we, as a church,

elect candidates for the office of bishop.

Its never to late to join the study group. If you'd rather join as we begin a new book of the bible, keep your eyes open in the near future after we conclude our study of Acts.