

May 2023 St. Stan's News



Howzher Substance Today: you 'bout form or you 'bout substance?

I wonder: have you noticed how great writers and gifted speakers have a knack for conveying deep, and lasting truths in just a few words. Here are a few examples:

1 "There are two ways of spreading light. Be the candle. or the mirror that re-

flects it" (Edith Wharton, early 20th American author); or

2 "The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision" (Helen Keller, 20th century American author, political activist for disability rights and lecturer); or

3 "It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see" (Henry David Thoreau, early 19th century American author and philosopher of the transcendentalist school).

This is the same kind of artistry and skill that we find in today's Gospel. I look at today's Gospel account and in Luke's telling the story of two people who meet the Lord on the road to Emmaus, what I see is the transforming power of the Mass! I look at Luke's words, but I see something else. *"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."*

Cleopas and another disciple were heading home sad because Jesus had been crucified. These last couple of days were a real downer for them. It seems they still held out some hope because Mary Magdalene had told them about an empty tomb, but her story just doesn't seem to have been enough for them.

We get a strong hint of that disappointment because, when Jesus met them on the road still concealing his identity, what they shared with him was their doubts.

In response, Jesus told them the story of God's salvation for us, and their hearts began to burn when he showed them how all the scriptures

pointed to Jesus of Nazareth as being the Messiah, the long expected One. Then at dinner, when Jesus blessed and broke the bread, "their eyes were finally opened and they recognized him," they saw him!

Before the bread is blessed and broken, they only look at him but don't see him. Then afterwards, with their faith now restored for having seen Jesus, the disciples hurried back to Jerusalem in order to tell the others what happened to them.

Fast forward to today, and we hear over and over again about people who have stopped going to Mass because they don't feel that they get anything out of it. I've heard that sentiment expressed here among us too many times.

This happens when the outer "form" of the Mass, like the kind and quality of the music, or the appearance of the church and the priest, becomes more fixated on *negatively* instead of seeing the inner "substance" of what is actually going on here. This happens when our parishioners only *look* at the things here but fail to *see* what really happens here.

The *form* of the Mass includes all of its outward appearances and actions and sounds. But the *substance* of the Mass is something much different.

Form is when we you say out loud, "I confess to almighty God "

Substance is your experience of God washing you clean.

Form is our lectors proclaiming out loud God's word in the readings for that Mass.

Substance is God's word coming alive in your hearts.



Form is your act of receiving Communion here at the rail.

Substance is your openness to God's filling your heart as a result of feeding on his Body and Most Precious Blood.

Please realize that it's the substance behind everything you hear and see here that moves you to change your lives and then empowers you to share Jesus with your family and neighbors in your attitudes and behaviors. Substance is the reason to be here.

In short, form focuses on what we *do here*, but substance focuses on who we are *meeting here*.

Prime Bishop Swantek, of beloved memory, used to greet us at the opening of the Masses he celebrated here with the reminder that we're gathered here at the Mass where we will meet with Jesus himself, right on this altar, right in this place, right in this Mass. You remember, don't you?

Then don't just *look* at the offertory altar and the chalice and the consecrated host. Instead, *see* Jesus here, just like the two disciples in today's Emmaus story.



~ a parishioner shares this perspective ~

Dear Bishop Bernard,

I wasn't able to speak with you after mass today but I wanted to thank you for such a beautiful sermon I often [engage in] conversations about why people leave the church or don't come regularly. I couldn't understand it because for me, I feel like I need church in order to be able to get through the week! As a friend of mine once said, "we need to go to church to fill up our cup because as the week goes on, it empties out!" Your sermon has helped to put things in perspective in that there are people who focus on "form" and those (like me) who focus on "substance." I feel like I have a better understanding of the "form" people and maybe can be more compassionate toward them instead of judgmental. Instead of judging them, I will pray for them and ask God to turn them into "substance" people. I wish more people were in church today to hear the message because it was so moving

Sincerely,

Mission Accomplished!!!! We did it!!

The Lenten specials, the delicious haluski and traditional cream of mushroom soup, were made.



am elated to say that all those who helped with the prep and cooking made it all possible. I would like to personally thank each of you who took time out of your daily schedules to make



this event possible. It was enjoyed by all with your added touches of love, compassion, and humor.

God bless not only our members of the ANS, Sally Blackledge, Shirley Golembeski, Barbara Jean Kalteski,

Barbara Ann

Nowicki, but also Florence Sadauskas and our 1st honorary male member of the sodality, Lorne Notari (Mr. Food) for his awesome help, hard work and expertise in the mix of it all.

The compliments are flying throughout those who supported our efforts for these

delicious Polish homemade dishes. We are truly grateful for all your endeavors and generosity in the support of our event!!!!

Also, special deliveries were donated to our homebound Parish Member's as a Lenten



Sacrifice in Honor of our Dear Lord & Savior Jesus Christ, as Lent is not only about fasting, but extremely also important is almsgiving. So, my personal



& grateful thanks once again to our gal's & gent for their help.

Stay tuned for our next upcoming surprise event. We will look forward to spending more quality time with our Dearest Parish Family of the PNCC!!!!

Dziekuje,

Kathy Michalina, President of the ANS Society



Holy Tuesday

Bishop Bernard, Prime Bishop Anthony, and clergy from the Central Diocese participated in the Mass of Holy Chrism held here at St. Stanislaus on April 4th after the Diocesan Clergy Conference.



The Chrism Mass gathers the diocese around the bishop before the beginning of the Triduum, so that priests may take home the holy oils and sacred chrism needed for various sacraments throughout the coming year. The liturgy of the Mass reminds us of our oneness in Christ through baptism and its holy anointings, which are only made possible by the ministry of the bishop and his priests at this Mass.

Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday

Holy Thursday evening, the Mass of the Institu-



tion of the Holy Eucharist celebrating the Last Supper was held. During the Mass, the Holy Oils that were blessed are presented and placed in the cabinet near the altar. After Mass is over, the Mon-



strance containing the Consecrated Host is placed on the Altar of Repose and the altars are stripped.

During Holy Hour on Good Friday, between the hours of 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m., the Litany of the Passion, and the Mass of the Pre-Sanctified are celebrated with the



opening of the tomb at 3:00 p.m. The statue of the crucified Christ is carried into the Cathedral and placed in the "tomb."



In the evening, the traditional Tenebrae service was held. This service has its origins in the 2nd century, but the form today comes from the Middle Ages. Celebrated in darkness as candles are extinguished all but one. The single candle represents Christ, and the extinguished candles represents his followers dropping off as



Continued Page 4

He nears death. The single candle then disappears. Thunder and lightning commence as it represents Christ being tortured. The service is filled with a chanting style of readings from the Old and New Testaments.

eggs

On Holy Saturday,

the Polish tradition of the blessing of the Easter baskets was held. The aroma of ham, kielbasa, easter



and horseradish permeated the church.

At 4:00 p.m. the Vigil of the Risen One was celebrated with the blessing of the new fire and holy water.



Easter Sunday

Although it was a cool morning for Easter Sunday, it was a beautiful day. Prime Bishop Anthony celebrated Resurrection Mass which began at the empty tomb with procession, encircling the Cathe-



dral, with the symbols of the resurrection and the monstrance while *Come, Rejoice, our Lord is*



Risen was sung with Rebecca Elfman at the organ and Jack Partyka on the trumpet. The

Mass was full of inspiring words, readings, psalms, songs, and alleluias to the Risen Lord.

Holy Communion was once again given at the communion railing. Mass ended with the triumphant song *Christ is Risen.*





Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed!

"The Story" Continues We have resumed reading "The Story" by Randy Frazee: the story of the Bible written in the form of a novel. We be-



gan once again and will continue to meet every Wednesday at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall. The Story sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation. Newcomers are welcome! Join us!

Visitors at the Cathedral

On Tuesday, April 25th, a diverse group of leaders and professionals who participated in Leadership Lackawanna "Welcome Scranton" program, toured St. Stanislaus. They were introduced



to our church and history of the formation of the Polish National Catholic Church in Scranton, with an introduction to our unique stained-glass win-



dows and paintings including our Lincoln window. Leadership Lackawanna is an affiliate of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce.

Tonsure and Minor Orders

Tonsure and Minor Orders of Porter, Blesser, Lector, and Acolyte were bestowed upon Sean Dodd on Saturday, April 15th at 10;00 a.m. in the Cathedral. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky was the main celebrant with the assistance of Father Senior Dawid and Father James Konicki.

With the bestowing of tonsure, Bishop cuts some hair from the candidate in five places in the form of a cross as a sign of religious devotion entering into the clerical estates.

At the beginning of the mass, the minor orders of Por-

ter whose duty is to ring the bell, to open the



church and hold open the book for those reading the Word of God, Reader who is to read for the preacher of the Word of God, Blesser who has the right to bless bread, food and all those things which the faithful

will ask to bless, and

Acolyte whose duty is to light the candles and lights in the church and to prepare the wine and water for Holy Mass, were bestowed upon Cleric Dodd.

Mass continued with Cleric Sean reading the lessons and assisting with the wine and water. After Mass







a cross bracelet was blessed by

both Cleric Sean and Prime Bishop Anthony and was presented to Susan Dodd, Cleric Sean's

mother, from the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society by President Kathy Michalina and Vice-President Tera Notari.

Following the ceremony, a luncheon was held in the Parish Hall.

Congratulations and God Bless Cleric Sean Dodd on his road to becoming a Priest in the Polish National Catholic church, and to his mother, Susan.





The following is a note that was given to Susan with the bracelet:

Dearest Susan, Mother of Sean,

As Mary the Mother of Jesus shared her Only Begotten Son with all his beloved people on this Earthly planet, may this bracelet cross, blessed on April 16,2023 by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky and Sean, serve as a remembrance of your son offering up his life to Our Dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and The Polish National Catholic Church. We are truly blessed to have him in The Lord's Service and Thank "YOU" for sharing your son with "US".

Blessings be upon you in The Name of The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. AMEN



Park Pavilion Roof

Finally, the roof on the YMS of R pa-

vilion has been completed. There was talk last year about the need to fix the roof, but overhanging trees behind the pavilion had to be dealt with first. The trees were removed and in the middle of March the roof project was completed. Just in time to start the use of the YMS of R park for the summer. The YMS of R will start their park clean-up and opening soon and we will be ready to go for the season!

Calling All Graduates

We will be honoring all high school and college graduates from 2023 this year on Sunday, June 25th during the 9:30 Mass. Please contact the parish office GRADUATE (570-961-9231) or by email



(office@saintstanislauspncc.org) with the students' name, name of the high school or name of the college and degree, and their future plans. You could also write the information on paper and place it in the collection basket.

Please let us know as soon as possible so we can make preparations for the day.

One Hot Meal

In April. members of District 1 of the Polish National Union of America enjoyed



helping at St. Stanislaus' PNCC One Hot Meal. One Hot Meal is held on the first Saturday of every month. Volunteers come together to prepare and package meals for groups and individuals in the community. The Scranton Community Intervention Center and St. Joseph's Mother Infant Program are two of the organizations that food is delivered to.

Take outs are also packaged and given to various people as they come during a one hour designated time to pick up their own individual

meals. As volunteers, members of District 1 enjoyed meeting new people as they worked with the "regulars" to help package the food and then clean up. We truly enjoyed helping and left with a good feeling inside, knowing that in some small way we made a difference in someone's life.

Julie Andrzejewski PNU District 1 Director

District 1 Helping with Food Drive

District 1 of the Polish National Union of America will be helping Meals on Wheels of Greater Pittston with the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger [®] Food Drive on Saturday May 13, 2023 from noon -2pm. We will be helping unpack, sort, and date items brought in from the collection. They are located at 59 S. Main St, Pittston, PA. Please contact Julie Andrzejewski at district1director@pnu.org with any guestions. All members of District 1 are welcome to participate in this fraternal activity.

District 1 Family Day

District 1 of the Polish National Union of America will hold Family Day on Saturday May 20,2023, at the Electric City



Trolley Station and Museum located at 300 Cliff St., Scranton, PA 18503. We will meet at 1:00pm and take a trolley ride together at 1:30 pm. Then you can explore the museum at your own pace until 4 pm. For PNU members through age 16 it is free and PNU members 17 and older cost \$10. For nonmembers, the cost for age through 16 is \$10 and for age 17 and older the cost is \$12. Advance payment and reservations are required. RSVP to Julie at 570-493-6830 by May 10.

Confirmation



Confirmation be held on Sunday, May 28th during the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Nine young people have completed their catechetical instructions and will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. They

are Ava and Brooke Kalteski, Krystian, Patrick and David Mays, Braelyn Reed, and Austin, Ethan, and Lucas Stankowski.

Please come and share this sacred moment with these young people and their families as a united parish family.



Retire with Dignity Honor Your Father

We pray for all fathers both lay and clergy, past and present, to express our gratitude, remembrance, and love for all they have done for our families and for our Church.

For continued support of our Clergy Pension Fund and to acknowledge ALL FATHERS, we will publish in the June issue of God's Field — Rola Boża your name and the name of the father you wish to acknowledge or remember.

For each acknowledgement or remembrance, we are requesting a minimum donation of \$25.00, payable to the Clergy Pension Fund P.N.C.C.

We feel that this will have a two-fold affect, by acknowledging or remembering OUR FA-THERS, LAY OR CLERGY, for all they have done for us and also to bolster our Clergy Pension Fund in order to show our continued support for our Clergy/our Church Fathers who make so many sacrifices each day in service to our Church.

All donations received go toward the Clergy Pension Fund of the Polish National Catholic Church. Please complete the form on the last page and submit it prior to June 1, 2021, along with your minimum donation of \$25.00 per name to: Clergy Pension Fund

Clergy Pension Fund 1006 Pittston Avenue

Scranton, PA 18505

Please make checks payable to the "Clergy Pension Fund P.N.C.C."



May is a Busy Month in the Cathedral

May Devotions began on Wednesday, May 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. and will continue every Wednesday with the last of the Marion Devo-

tions on Wednesday, May 31st.

Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated on Monday, May 29th at 10:00 a.m. at our cemetery – rain or shine. The rainy-day venue will be in the park pavilion.



Join us this solemn day of remembrance at Holy Mass and honor those who died serving in the United States Armed Forces. 6th Annual National YMSofR Bishop Stanley Bilinski Memorial Spiritual Retreat



We are quickly approaching the warmer summer months, and that means our Men's Spiritual Retreat is just around the corner. The

retreat this year will be held from June 14th-17th, at the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center in Waymart, PA. Go to the United YMS of R Facebook page and use the link there to access the retreat website, where you will find all the information needed including registration forms, what to bring, and a tentative retreat schedule.

In-Person attendance is \$125 (3 nights) or \$100 (2 nights). This fee includes:

+ 4 Day, 3 Night stay at the retreat center.

+ All meals, beverages, and snacks.

+ Retreat materials and printouts. Retreat gift bag.

Paper registration form (linked above) and check made out to the "United YMS of R" for \$125 or \$100, can be mailed to: Andrew Humphreys -1054 Hamlin Highway, Lake Ariel, PA 18436

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you in June!



The dates for Kurs 2023 are July 1st through 8th. Kurs 2023 Registration is now open. You may register your children starting now and until June 25th. The Registration form and instructions are online at kurscamp.org

The cost for campers whose families are members of the Polish National Catholic Church is \$350. The cost for campers who are members of other churches, or no church, is \$450. A \$25 fee/child is due with your registration. The balance can be paid along with completed registration forms or on the day camp begins.

We look forward to seeing you.



EASTER FLOWERS 2023



Saint Stanislaus Cathedral

IN HONOR OF THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND TO THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD, FLOWER OFFERINGS HAVE BEEN MADE BY:

Prime Bishop Anthony & Carol Mikovsky

Rt. Rev. Bernard & Barbara Nowicki

Rev. Janusz & Kim. Lucarz

FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR AND IN THE SANCTUARY ARE OFFERED TO THE BLESSED MEMORY OF:

Rt. Rev. John Swantek by wife Arlene

Bishop Casmir Grotnik by wife Krystina

All deceased members of the Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

In Memory of the early parishioners & Organizers of the PNCC, by an anonymous donor

John & Eileen Boczar, Grace & Joseph Matza by Kate, Mike, & Julianne Matza

Leonard & Jean Cegelka by Richard & Mary Ann Segiel

John Andrzejewski Jr by wife Dorothy & Children,

Stella Godek, Mary, Frances & Blanche Bestrycki by Raymond & Deborah Godek

Franklyn & Jeanne Kowalski, Anna & Michael Drapek, Stanley Drapek by Daughters, Sandra, Jill & Jeanne Lynn

Sylvia, AJ, Augustine & Sophia Kowalski, Joseph & Mary Ostroski, Robert & Florence Ostroski, Brian, Don & Cindy, John & Mary Kaub, Stanley & Peter Kucab, Steve & Betty Kucab, Marina Krenitsky by Paul Kowalski

- Bob & V. Jule Aksomitus (godmother), Theodore (godfather) & Olga Rysz by Janet (Kwiatkowski) & Kelvin Swanger
- Joseph & Josephine (Rysz) Kwiatkowski (parents) Joseph & Amiela (Szmyd) Rysz (grandparents), Helen & Tellie (Borek)Kwiatkowski (grandparents), Joseph H.M. Kwiatkowski (Brother) & Rt. Rev. Anthony M. Rysz (uncle) by Janet & Kelvin Swanger
- In memory of Rev. Leszek Lazarski by Mage
- John & Mary Liberosky, Bernard & Celia Nowicki by Rt. Rev. Bernard & Barbara Nowicki
- In memory of Walter Loss, John & Anna Loss, By Frances Loss
- Stephen & Florence Matylewicz, John & Margaret Matylewicz, John & Johanna Krystyniak, John Krystyniak Jr, Helen Matiskella, Edmund Krist, Gertrude Krystyniak, Stephanie & John Guerin, Frank Krystyniak by the Valvano & Kaszuba families
- Parents Edward & Stella Michalina, Grandparents, Michael & Rose Michalina, Ludwick & Antonina Trygar, God Parents, John Mrofcza & Helen Douaighy and Frank Avvisato by Kathy Michalina

John, Margaret & Johnny Mulka, Wendall Williams & David Nicodem by Diane Williams

Parents Walter & Stella Sadauskas, brother Edward by Florence & Walter Sadauskas

- Parents Leo & Jean Sarnowski, Stanley & Kathryn Franus by Dr. Robert & June Sarnowski & family
- Leon & Charlotte Stankowski, Stella & Stanley Kowalski from Children and Grandchildren
- John, Jennie, Dorothy, John Jr., Robert, Leon & Charlotte Stankowski & Martha Pron by the Stankowski Family.
- In memory of the Kowalski Family, Anna & Frank Janowski & Dorothy Matylewicz from the Stankowski Family
- Robert & Connie Stankowski Sr., Robert Stankowski Jr., Baby Stankowski, Joseph &
- Josephine Zell from Lori Davis, Barbara Stankowski & families
- Jack Tellep by wife Connie
- Telleysh family from Lori Davis, Barbara Stankowski & families
- In memory of Walter Pron, Ann Pron Kazmierczak by Sally & Don Blackledge
- In memory of Carol Merkel by James & Wendy Merkel
- In memory of Leona & Frank Owcarz by daughter Frances
- Joseph & Nellie (Cwynar) Zike by Harry & Chrstine Zike
- In memory of Thomas Schouten, Emily Siwak & Joseph Hartridge by Donna Schouten
- In memory of Robert & Sharon Matylewicz, Ann & Michael Drapek, Chester & Susan Matylewicz, by Germaine Matylewicz & Family

George & Mary Horvath by children, Nancy and Jack

FLOWER OFFERINGS TO OUR SAVIOR'S CHAPEL AT TRIPP PARK ARE GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

- All deceased members of Our Savior Chapel
- Parents Bernard & Helen Bogdanski & sister, Bernice, Robert B. & Joan D. Bogdanski by Joan Bogdanski,
- Parents Robert B, & Joan D. Bogdanski, Grandparents Bernard & Helen Bogdanski, Aunt Bernice by Atty. Jennifer Bogdanski

Thomas, Irene & David Harrison, Halko, Pohoda, & Sikorski Families by Karen Harrison

- Edward Halko, Edward & Emily Jones, Eileen & Karl Polt, Barbra Jones, Margaret & Harold Davis, Troy Ribaudo by Susan Halko
- Mother, Viola Hudock by Barbara Jordan

Frank Farrence, Parents, James & Ceil Phelps by Dolores Farrence

Gertrude "Tessie" & Walter "Buddy" Rychleski by David Rychleski

- Emery & Carmella Tompkins, Helene & Art Annacarto by Kathy & Joseph Annacarto
- Harrison, Halko & Sikorski Families by Karen Harrison
- Steven & Amilia Liska, Ann Marie Liska, Anthony & Henrietta Kalteski, John Mychaylo Jr. by Bernard & Barb Kalteski