Psssst! Over here! Take a look at this – come see what I tell the confirmands in the Diocese before each confirmation Mass I celebrate with them. I tell them about the kind of world they’re living in as Christians. And I tell them how I expect them to live in this world as Christ’s disciples because now they’re being strengthened by the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Basically, I tell them they will experience exactly what Jesus once told all of us to expect as his faithful disciples because he says, “Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, [not peace] but rather division” (Luke 12:51). So naturally, I begin by telling them about the hippies of the ‘60’s! First I explain the nature of hippie-hood, and how they were the counter-cultural element in our country from those years.

Then I explain the term counter-culture that it’s comprised of those people who oppose and reject the dominant values and behavior of society. For example, the philosophy of the hippies was simply: “If-it-feels-good-do-it,” especially with sex and pot and hallucinogens – which flew in the face of the established morality, and the sense of stability in society based on self-restraint. But I tell them the tables are turned today, such that those of us who seek to remain faithful to our religious beliefs as Christians are in the minority. There are less of us now than there were in the 60s who support morality, along with the appreciation of self-restraint for a sense of stability in our society. Today, we people of faith, we Christians, are turning out to be the counter-cultural component of our society. Today, I tell them, we’re just as much the oddballs in the eyes of the world as the hippies were 50 years ago.

So how did this happen?

Well, the original hippies have become today’s grandparents and teachers, and college professors, and movie and television producers and directors and writers and politicians who, with their children - the 50-something’s, who with their kids, the 20-somethings - now saturate our culture with that same “if-it-feels-good-do-it” philosophy of self-centered abandon that they were preaching way back in the ‘60’s.

And what a mess it is.

That mess is the division which Jesus speaks of between those people who desire to connect with God through his Son, Jesus Christ, and those who run away from that connection with God proclaiming it to be outdated, meaningless and foolish.

I tell those who are to be confirmed that they now live in an age of secularism which rejects all forms of religious faith and worship, and which develops the political and social philosophies that are intentionally taught in our schools in order to advance that godless secular outlook.

Those newly confirmed young people and the rest of us people of faith live in a heavily secular environment. That means we are finding ourselves divided from the larger culture of human-centered people who exclude God from their lives.

And most sadly, that division is also taking place within families where some members choose to be faithful and religiously observant and other family members abandon the practices of their faith, and maybe abandon their faith altogether. And that creates that divide Jesus describes with “…. Father …. against …. son, …. mother against …. daughter, …. mother-in-law against …. daughter-in-law …. "

Now right about here I tell the confirmands to stand strong in the face of society’s rejection and maybe even some of their own family members’ rejection of their religious life and Godly principles. So I tell them of 22 Syrian Christian
pilgrims who, a couple years ago, were on their way to worship at a shrine in Syria. Their excursion bus was stopped on its way by ISIS terrorists who insisted they convert right then and there to Islam or be killed. None of the 22 pilgrims that day worshipped at the shrine.

Now I grant you, this kind of ordeal may not turn out to be the confirmands’ reality, but since our culture is marginalizing us as believers and sidelining our holy faith, we more than ever to be strong in our faith and to witness to it in the face of ridicule and offensive remarks, and maybe even being snubbed by some friends and family members. It’s they who are dividing themselves from God, from his Son – and from us. “Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, [not peace] but rather division.”

So I remind those I’ll be confirming in a few minutes (I’m avoiding the word ‘kids’ here since I’m confirming more and more adults in parishes throughout the Diocese!) - I remind them that this experience of being ignored or excluded or ridiculed can be worse than death for them.

But it is to that very sacrifice that we are called as disciples following in our Master’s footsteps. We stand with our Lord and Savior, I tell them, to suffer with him by experiencing friends and family members ignoring and abandoning what we hold sacred – and maybe abandoning us altogether.

It’s so ironic then, isn’t it – that while coming to establish a rule of peace – Jesus also brings a division, even to the most intimate and honored of relationships, e.g., the family?

That division can be very painful. Yet as Jesus’ faithful disciples, it is a reality we not only must endure, but it’s a reality we can and need to counter with a strong Christian witness - by upholding our faith with our lives and examples.

For us who are members of that culture which is counter to our current secularist culture, this sad and painful reality of a religious divide between us and some of our friends and family members is our own baptism of fire after the example of Jesus and the martyrs and the saints. They stood firm for God’s kingdom in their world, and gave their all for it. Let’s do the same, shall we? Today, you and I can do no less.

Bishop Bernard

Special Synod Update

The Nominations Commission of the PNCC met in early August to interview and vet the nominations submitted for bishops.

The Commission determined that Very Rev. Jaroslaw (Jerry) Rafalko, serving the Holy Trinity Parish in Kewanee, IL, has been found fit as a candidate for election and his name will be presented to the 2019 Special Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church as a candidate for the office of bishop.

The delegates will vote at the upcoming Special Synod on Friday, October 25th. Please keep everyone in your prayers.

Prayer for the Clergy and Laity of the Church

Let us pray for Prime Bishop Mikovsky;
For our Diocesan Bishops: Bishop Mack, Bishop Nowicki and Bishop Sobiechowski;
For our Pastors;
For all bishops, priests and deacons;
For all who have a special ministry in the Church;
For the people of God.

Almighty and Eternal God, Your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops — successors to Your Apostles — priests and deacons, as well as all other leaders of the Church. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church, and help each of us to faithfully do the work to which You have called us.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.
Another Baby is Splashed!

Eva Amelia Meehan was welcomed into the Christian faith on Sunday, Aug. 4th.

Eva is the daughter of Patrick and Corissa Meehan and the sister to Angus and Bodhi. Godparents were Aaron Feranti and Leslie Jones.

Father Janusz performed the baptism and the baby was presented with a prayer blanket from the Prayer Shawl Ministry so she may always be surrounded by God’s Love. The family also received the initial Splash Program from the School of Christian Living to help Eva grow in faith.

Congratulations and may God bless little Eva Amelia and her family.

The Bells Are Back in Town!!

The St. Stanislaus Hand Bell Choir would like to take this opportunity to “Thank” all those generous people who graciously contributed to help defray the cost of our hand bell refurbishment. The expenditure of this totaled $1,500.00 but with the generosity of our parish community ($1,073.00 – donations received) our parish will only need to disburse the difference. Thank you once again, it really means a lot to have our parish’s support in keeping the upkeep of these hand bells so we can continue our music ministry and showcase our children’s talent. My hope is to continue to raise funds and someday purchase a set of choir chimes, since a lot of our musical selections include these as well. The hand bell choir will begin again in the fall and I hope we will have some new faces join us as we prepare for the upcoming holidays and Sunday services. Thank you and God bless you!

Mary Ann Stankowski, Hand Bell Director

Blessing of the Flowers

On Thursday, August 15th, the Dormition/Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated in the Cathedral with Holy Mass at Noon.

Before Mass, Father Janusz blessed the flowers and herbs that were brought to church by the faithful. This is a special Polish Tradition in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Holy Mass was then celebrated by Bishop Nowicki.

We even had a few guest from some neighboring parishes who enjoy this service with the blessing their flowers.
Smell Those Chickens

We had another successful chicken BBQ in August with the added help of the Boy Scouts Troop 42 and their families. Thanks again to all who supported us.

Our 4th and last Chicken BBQ of the season will be held on Saturday, September 14th beginning at noon until sold out. Menu includes; 1/2 chicken, baked potato, vegetables, roll/butter, dessert and bottled water. Cost $10. A pre-order signup sheet is available in the lower church hall. Thanks for your continuing support of this great fundraiser and outreach program. Hope to see you one last time On the Corner!

Cathedral Chorale News

Friday evening, August 9th, the Cathedral Chorale had a pot luck cook out for some fun and fellowship. Everyone brought refreshments from salads and desserts to drinks and good conversation. It was a beautiful evening to have a cook out with Bishop Nowicki manning the grill.

We also had a discussion on some upcoming events to include a spaghetti dinner and a possible talent show.

Choir rehearsal has begun on Thursday nights starting at 6:30 p.m. Come join a fun and hard working group of people who enjoy praising God with our voices. We would love to have new members, so don’t be shy! You do not have to be a “great” singer to join a choir. Singers of all abilities can learn to blend and support each other. Do not MISS OUT on the blessing of singing in the choir. Speak to Beth if interested.

It’s Time for School Again!!!!!

Sunday School that is! The School of Christian Living will begin on Sunday, September 22nd following the 9:30 a.m Mass.

We will again have classes from Pre-K to High School, the Adult Forum, plus Special Needs. Registrations for the students’ classes is starting now. For more information or to register call Lu Ann at 570-961-9231 or stop by the parish office during the week. You may also pick up a registration form on the table in the parish hall on Sunday.

We hope you, your children and your grandchildren will choose to attend the SOCL and Adult Forum this year. This experience will provide tools necessary for living a strong, God-centered life.
The Exterminators Came, They Saw and They Conquered!!!

The sidewalk in front of the Youth Center was jammed Friday, August 23rd, before 9:00 a.m. “The Flea Market exterminators,” wanting to seek out their individual treasures at the Giant Flea Market, were anxious to have the doors open. Besides wanting to get a good bargain, Polish food was also high on the patrons’ list. There were some who were asking for pierogi and potato pancakes at 9:00 in the morning.

Father Janusz began the “festivities”, before the doors opened, with a prayer for all the workers.

Thankfully there were plenty of parishioners and friends who were there to assist the many people. The piggies and haluski were sold out on Saturday and the pieorgi and potato pancakes early Sunday.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, can’t be said enough. All the new faces and returning Helpers made this year FUN to work and the Best Flea Market in the history of flea markets! Our Ladies did an amazing job in the kitchen, selling out of their wonderful Polish food in record time. The Potato pancake “new employees” learned a new talent and also sold out with the guidance of our long time Fryers. The security was tight; the floor help sold 95% of everything. Front door cashiers, kitchen, jewelry, boutique, cake table, and raffle all set new record sales. Clean up crew worked hard and the Youth Center was ready Monday evening for the next great event.

As we finish up the paperwork and get our expenses and profit finished the Flea Market Committee will let you know the final total. (We grossed a bit over $23,000!) Once again, Thank You, Thank You. It was a pleasure working with ALL of You.

Enjoy the collage of pictures and hope to see you there next year!

Sincerely, Lorne Notari

Continued on page 6
It’s never too early to think of Christmas presents for Operation Christmas Child! Because it’s the perfect time of year to get some nice back-to-school bargains, St. Stanislaus UYA decided to gear up early with this annual project and to also work in conjunction with the PNCC’s Future Direction Committee’s 2019 Year of Discipleship with August’s focus on CHILDREN.

If you would like to make a difference in the life of a needy child, please participate with us! We will have some shoe boxes (and a sample of a completed box) available every week after mass. Feel free to use your own shoe boxes, too: just make sure to wrap the lid and box separately. There are the easy-to-follow guidelines at www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child. If you cannot fill a shoe box but would like to help, you can make a $9 contribution just for the shipping of a shoe box.

We were blessed to be introduced many years ago to this awesome program by our late youth chaplain Bp. Stanley Bilinski. We started because he saw value in it; we have continued annually because we see value in it. Please consider joining forces with us to make this a record breaking year for our Operation Christmas Child project by helping us reach our goal of 25+ boxes! All filled boxes will be collected in the church hall now through November 17th.

Thank you for your continued support of our outreach efforts.

The St. Stanislaus UYA
First Communion and Confirmation Classes
Catechism classes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation will begin on Saturday, October 9th.

Children for Communion Class must be 8 years old or in 2nd grade. Confirmation students should be at least 15 years old when they will receive the Sacrament in May.

For further information speak with Father Janusz or call the Parish Office. You may also email the office at office@saintstanislauspncc.org

Just a reminder that those who are enrolled in Catechism classes must also register for School of Christian Living.

Life Line Screening
Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at St Stanislaus Polish National Catholic Cathedral on September 20th. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from $149 ($139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

In order to register for this event and to receive discount off the original price, please call 1-888-229-0469 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979

Our Cemetery’s Arboreal Splendor
Eight beautiful trees have been set between the pavilion and the mausoleum to replace the previous bower at that location stricken with various infestations.

On reaching the peak of their maturity in the coming years, these new Skyline Locust trees will provide welcome shade and the comfortable coolness which accompanies that protection from the sun’s rays. Our trees will also serve as stately memorials for beloved family members and friends. With a donation of eight hundred dollars to cover the purchase cost of each tree, a suitable bronze memorial plaque will be placed at the tree’s base and mounted on a metal stand. To date Helen Lukasiewicz is memorializing her grandson in this manner. And Ed Borek is memorializing the Borek family with a generous donation exceeding the cost of a single tree. Please consider being a part of the effort to beautify our cemetery by “adopting” a Skyline Locust as a memorial.

Dine to Donate
Polish National Union of America District 1 is holding a Dine to Donate fundraiser at the Texas Roadhouse in Dickson City on Thursday, September 19 from 3pm-10pm. Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of your total food bill to District 1 when you give them the invitation which can be found in the church hall. You could also show them the invitation on your phone. The invitation can be found on the Polish National Union of America Facebook page. Thank you for your support. See you then!
Mark Your Calendars!

Here are some of the upcoming events, so mark your calendars to keep them in mind.

**September 7th** - One Hot Meal 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Youth Center
Come enjoy a meal or be a volunteer

**September 8th** – Solemnity of Brotherly Love

**September 10th** – 4th Chicken Barbeque on the corner of Pittston Ave. and Elm St.
Noon until sold out.
2nd Anniversary Swingin’ In NEPA Swing dancing 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in the Youth Center
Contact Tera Pagotto 579-335-2445 for details

**September 29th** – Scranton Knight Rhythms Purse Bingo 1:00 a.m. in the Youth Center

**October 5th** - One Hot Meal 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Youth Center
Come enjoy a meal or be a volunteer
Central ANS One Day Women’s Retreat in the parish hall 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**October 13th** – Solemnity of Christian Family

**October 18th-20th** – YMS of R Convention, Schenectady, NY

**October 25th** – Special Synod of the PNCC to be held at our parish to elect candidates for bishops.

**November 1st** – All Saints Day
Holy Mass at Noon and 7:00 p.m.

**November 2nd** – All Souls Day
Services at the Cemetery 7:00 p.m.
One Hot Meal 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Youth Center
Come enjoy a meal or be a volunteer

**November 9th** – Cathedral Chorale Spaghetti Dinner

**November 28th** – Thanksgiving Day

**December 1st** – First Sunday in Advent

**December 7th** - One Hot Meal 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Youth Center
Come enjoy a meal or be a volunteer

**December 8th** – Breakfast with Santa after the 9:30 a.m. Mass in the Youth Center

**December 24th** – Christmas Eve
3:00 pm – Christmas Eve Vigil Mass:
Living Nativity
10:30 pm – Christmas Eve Vigil Mass:
Mass of the Shepherds: Pasterka

**December 25th** – Christmas Day

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**September Anniversaries**

- Sept 2 – Joseph & Christine Ross
- Sept 7 – W. Michael & Linda Umerich
- Sept 8 – Stephen & Brenda Karsnak
- Sept 15 – Kelvin & Janet Swanger
- Sept 19 – Michael & Kathy Matza
- Sept 23 – Arthur & Ellen Golembeski
- Sept 25 – Thomas & Lynn Oliver
- Sept 28 – Jerry Pritchett & Josephine Kwiatkowski

**September Birthdays**

- Sept 1 – Joshua Notari
  Alfred Ankerway
- Sept 2 – Janet Meleski
- Sept 4 – Samuel Raub
- Sept 5 – Jennifer Gerardi
  LuAnn Lednovich
- Sept 6 – Christine Ross
- Sept 7 – Deborah Godek
  Amy Reap
- Sept 9 – Stanley Zigmont
- Sept 10 – Edward Borek
- Sept 12 – Zachary Stankowski

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- Sept 13 – Andrew Doyle
  Adam Weaver
  Albert McConnell
- Sept 15 – Felicia Petrillo
  Nathan Kalteski
- Sept 18 – Marie Gorgol
- Sept 19 – Cheryl Lukasiewicz
- Sept 20 – Elizabeth Zygmunt
- Sept 21 – Marlene Hill
  Frank Farrence
- Sept 23 – Mari Jane Stankowski
  Jarid Matylewicz
- Sept 24 – Walter Gantz
- Sept 26 – Chet Nezelkewicz
  Raymond Godek
  Luke Golembeski
- Sept 27 – Joseph E. Ross
- Sept 28 – Carl Kaszuba
- Sept 30 – Robert Matylewicz
  Francis Lyckowski