

TIDINGS
Of HOLY NAME of JESUS NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARISH
A Monthly Newsletter of Information and Events

Vol. 23 – 2010

Month of July

No. 7

A FREE CHURCH

On May 27th a friend of mine and a dedicated historian of our church denomination passed away. His name was Walter Lasinski. He had visited our parish here in South Deerfield on several occasions over the years, always with his beloved wife Florence. His last visit was on May 31, 2008 when we hosted a talk by the local author Suzanne Stempek Shea. Mr. Lasinski would travel throughout our denomination to attend events that interested him about history, literature and music. When he was here, he took pictures of our church and cemetery for the extensive files that he maintained and constantly updated about all of our parishes. He even photographed the then-named St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church in South Deerfield since that was the parish from which we emerged in 1929. If Mr. Lasinski was anything, it was thorough.

He devoted much of his life to our church, and that only became more true after his retirement. Many of his vacations were planned around seminars and his historical inquiries. No one could make better use of a business card than he could. With his card as a church historian in hand, his extensive knowledge of our religious history, an amazing memory and gift for gab, doors opened.

He absolutely loved the original ideals of this church. He saw in them the emancipation of mind and soul, and an entire generation of immigrant believers. He always maintained a profound admiration for Bp. Hodur and a respect for those early generations who built this church with him. He wasn't a cheerleader for the church, shouting her praises no matter what. He respected what the church was, what it could be, and also took the time to compliment a parish or a person when they did something good for the church in the present.

He worshipped in many places, in many churches. He knew clergy of various denominations, and he knew just about all of the priests of our church. In our frequent phone conversations if I mentioned a priest or a parishioner from anywhere, I would invariably hear in reply, "Oh yes, so-and-so is a good friend

of mine." I would also wager that he had visited every parish of our church at one time or another.

I am certain that I am not alone in benefitting from Mr. Lasinski's voracious reading of newspapers, periodicals, church pamphlets, religious publications and most recently of the internet. If there was anything that he thought any of us should know, out came the scissors and tape to make articles fit neatly on a regular sheet of paper, and off they were mailed to us, always in a neat folder, always with his return mailing address attached so that we would remember from whence it came. I do not know how many such pertinent gems Mr. Lasinski mailed me over the years, but they were always appreciated.

One article that he did not need to mail me was written anonymously by him and printed in *God's Field* on September 4, 1993. There he writes: "In any research project in which you are reviewing page upon page of printed materials, looking for key events or facts in a person's life that would be worthy of historical interest today, certain words or phrases, at times extraneous to the topic at hand, keep coming to the fore through constant repetition. ... The word that appears constantly throughout the Polish texts in the pages of *Rola Boza* and *Straz is wolny* (free) and it always precedes the name of the church ... as though it is an integral, inseparable part of the name of the Polish National Catholic Church."

I share this selection of his with you during this month of Independence Day. I believe Mr. Lasinski was the first to point out to me that Fr. Hodur waited until the Fourth of July to bless the cornerstone of his church in Scranton. This reinforced the idea that by nature and design we are a "free" church.

Mr. Lasinski would work all day long at Scranton's archives and sleep at the Seminary to save himself and the church money, and there, back in the day, we would share a beer at the end of the day. I hope to raise another glass with him again some day, but until then, may he rest in peace, and may he always be remembered for his good work.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
MONTH OF JULY

- July 2, 2010 – Monthly visitations to the sick and the shut-in of the parish.
- July 3rd – Confession for the youth of the parish at 10:30am.
- July 4th – Early summer Mass recited at 7:45am.
Special Independence Day Mass at 9:00am.
- July 11th – Cathedral of the Pines diocesan prayer service in Rindge, NH at 3:00pm, followed by a catered meal at the nearby Hidden Hills Banquet Facility.
- July 12th – Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.
- July 13th – Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee at 7:00pm.
- July 17th – Requiem Mass for Bp. Leon Grochowski, second Prime Bishop of our church, at 8:00am.
- July 18th – Outdoor summer Mass at 9:00am, weather permitting.
- July 20th – Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.
- July 26th – Fr. Calvo and participants will be attending the national Youth Convocation in New Jersey from the 26th – 30th.
- July 31st – Confession for the youth of the parish at 10:30am for the month of August. Please note special week.
- *** ** * ** ***

“Freedom is what you do with what’s been done to you.” - Jean-Paul Sartre

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Independence Day falls on a Sunday this year. The early summer Mass will be recited at 7:45am. The 9:00am Mass will begin with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem. Special prayers will be offered during the Mass for our nation on the 234th anniversary of her Declaration of Independence. In these trying times for our country, I hope you will choose to join us at Mass as we pray for our nation and as we also celebrate all that is good and blessed in her.

CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES

The annual Eastern Diocese Prayer Service at the Cathedral of the Pines will take place on Sunday, July 11th, beginning at 3PM. The prayer service will be followed by a catered chicken barbecue at the Hidden Hills Banquet Facility. If you have

never been to this ecumenical worship site, it is well worth the one hour drive from South Deerfield. It is both beautiful and inspiring. Also, the Altar of the Nation is a national historic monument dedicated to all who have served in our nation’s Armed Forces. You may wish to check out the Cathedral of the Pines on-line at: www.cathedralofthepines.org.

Due to a severe storm that had come through that area a couple of winters ago, the pine glade in which the Cathedral is located has been destroyed. They have done a wonderful landscaping job in the sanctuary. However, where once we used to sit in the shade, we are now in the bright sunlight of summer. I would advise bringing an umbrella, hat or some sort of covering to protect from the sun. If you have any other questions, please contact the rectory.

All are welcome to attend the Prayer Service even if you decide that very day, but reservations must be made by Sunday, July 4th for the chicken barbecue dinner at the Hidden Hills Banquet Facility. The cost is \$16 for adults and \$7 for children 7 and under. Ticket orders and payments can be made through the rectory. Checks should be made payable to the *Eastern Diocese*.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

We continue to read from Matthew’s Gospel. When we complete this early Jewish-Christian text, we will move on to St. Paul’s Second Epistle to the Corinthians, which will offer us a marked contrast from Matthew’s church. In this way I hope we can come to appreciate the vitality and complexity of the earliest church, and its implications for churches today.

As we have moved into the summer months our schedules offer us more free time. I hope that some of you will take advantage of this summer-time opportunity and come to learn more about the Word of God. The text and our discussions may be able to open up a whole new way of thinking about our faith and that book that sits un-opened on too many of our shelves. Please think about coming out on the 12th and 20th for our meetings.

WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY RETREAT

Last month over twenty of our parishioners attended the Central Seniorate’s *Women in the Ministry Retreat*, which was held at the Genesis Retreat Center in Westfield. We began with prayer in their chapel and then moved to the

Carriage House for three hours of discussion on this controversial, complicated and unavoidable topic. Fr. Sens. Banas and Soltysiak and myself represented our local clergy, and there were also lay people from our sister parishes in Chicopee, Northampton, Ware and Westfield. We were also fortunate to have with us the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Crosson-Harrington, the pastor of the Whately Congregational Church, who spoke to us about her personal experience of the calling to ministry and of her role as a pastor.

It was decided at the end of our day together that we would approach the Central Seniorate Council at its annual meeting in October and ask that body to recommend that this subject be discussed at our next Eastern Diocese Synod in 2012. Sr. Elizabeth Oleksak of the Genesis Retreat Center staff welcomed us to the facility and commented that our gathering truly was a “Genesis moment,” a time of a new beginning, the start of a long and arduous journey in our discussions of the role of women in our church. But the discussion has begun, the journey has started.

DIOCESAN YOUTH RETREAT

The 2010 diocesan Youth Retreat will be held once again at 4-H Camp Howe in Goshen, MA. It will be held from August 15th – 19th. The theme of this year’s Retreat is *Living on a Prayer*. The cost is \$110 per person if your registration is postmarked **by July 1st**. After this date a \$25 late fee will be included. Camp Howe offers lake swimming, a rock wall for climbing, archery and crafts, not to mention glorious night skies and the freedom from computers, televisions and phones. We hold organized recreational activities and also give the afternoons over to free time for the participants. We will be traveling to play miniature golf in Hadley, or if it rains that day, bowling in Northampton. Then, lest we forget, it also gives us a chance to learn more about Christ and church, to worship and to pray together. The Retreat is open to all youth of the parish between the ages of 8 and 17. We also could use chaperones. Non-members may be eligible to attend, but the pastor must be notified beforehand or the application will not be accepted. Registration and health forms are available through the rectory.

PRE-SYNODAL COMMITTEE

I realize that we have recently elected our lay delegate to the General Synod at Niagara Falls, Canada (Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd), but we also need to start thinking about planning for our Diocesan Synod, which will be hosted by our Central Seniorate in 2012. Holy Name of Jesus has the privilege of responsibility. We have been selected to head the Pre-Synodal Committee, which at this point entails finding a suitable site to host our Synod. This will involve some travel in Western Massachusetts to visit possible hotels, etc. We will also need to eventually prepare to host delegates from throughout the diocese for two days in October 2012. I will not minimize the importance nor the commitment needed to accomplish all this successfully, but we are a democratic church, and if we take this seriously, then we have to work that much harder so that we function as a democratic church. If you can help by serving on our Pre-Synodal Committee, and if you will be available this summer to start visiting sites, please speak with Fr. Calvo, and “Thank You.”

BP. GROCHOWSKI REQUIEM

The second Prime Bishop of our church, Bp. Leon Grochowski, served from the time Bp. Hodur died in 1953 until he himself died on July 17, 1969. For sixteen years Bp. Grochowski led our church during those important and difficult years of transition following the death of our honoured organizer, Bp. Francis Hodur. A Requiem Mass will be offered in Bp. Grochowski’s memory on the anniversary of his death at 8:00am.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

The following donations have been received recently: Mary Randal & Anna Brookins, \$30, in memory of the Palembang family; Mike & Pauline Polczwartek, \$100, in memory of Peter Backiel; Daisy Benjamin, \$100, in memory of Edward Benjamin; Joe & Peg Kostiuk, \$30, in memory of Peter Backiel; Pam Bessette, \$20, in memory of Ernestine Laczynski; Fr. Randy & Sharon Calvo, \$50, in memory of Walter Lasinski; and Alice Maiewski, \$25, in memory of Joseph Supczak. Thank you all for your donations that help us maintain and improve our parish facilities.

P.S. Just to let you know, we are closing in on our 1,000th donation to the Capital Improvement Fund!

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

OF THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

15 Thayer Street · South Deerfield, MA 01373 · 413-665-2129

www.holynamedeerfield.org · Rev. Randolph Calvo, Pastor

Dear PARISHIONER,

We are writing to you in regard to our Annual Chicken BBQ. This great event, fundraiser and time of fellowship has been part of our parish for over 50 years now.

This year the BBQ will be held on **Sunday, August 15, 2010** at the Hatfield Lions Pavilion in Hatfield, MA. If you attended last year you know what a great success it was! We are happy to announce that again this year we will have music and dancing from Dennis Polisky & The Maestro's Men. Beer and wine will also be offered again, and our popular raffle will offer a variety of prizes.

The success of our BBQ last year included serving our delicious chicken BBQ dinners to about 375 people, and attracting over 400 people to the event. This year we hope to do even better!

This event is a crucial fundraiser for Holy Name of Jesus Church. Being a non-profit organization, our fundraisers are necessary to support our parish. We are asking our parishioners for their support of this important event. Please consider becoming one of our Parishioner Sponsors in any of the following levels. (You may do so in your name or also in honor of passed loved ones):

Platinum PARISHIONER Sponsor - \$500 donation

Prominent placement of name on-site the day of the event under 'Platinum Parishioner Sponsor'

Four BBQ dinner tickets for the day of the event (\$60 value)

Four raffle ticket books for the day of the event (24 tickets, \$20 value)

Gold PARISHIONER Sponsor - \$250 donation

Placement of name on-site the day of the event under 'Gold Parishioner Sponsor'

Two BBQ dinner tickets for the day of the event (\$30 value)

Two raffle ticket books for the day of the event (12 tickets, \$10 value)

Silver PARISHIONER Sponsor - \$100 donation

Placement of business name on-site the day of the event under 'Silver Parishioner Sponsor'

Bronze PARISHIONER Sponsor - \$50 donation

Placement of name on-site the day of the event under 'Bronze Parishioner Sponsor'

Ribbon PARISHIONER Sponsor - \$25 donation

Placement of name on-site the day of the event under 'Ribbon Parishioner Sponsor'

All sponsors will also be listed on our website after the BBQ, for the remainder of 2010. In order for us to be able to properly recognize all sponsors it is requested that any donation be made no later than **July 15, 2010**. Please complete the donor form enclosed.

All of us at Holy Name of Jesus sincerely thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Don Skroski
Parish Committee Chairperson

Fr. Randy Calvo
Pastor

Holy Name of Jesus Parish · South Deerfield, MA

Annual Chicken BBQ PARISHIONER Sponsor Form

Please fill out and mail to **Holy Name of Jesus Church, 15 Thayer St., So. Deerfield, MA 01373** or drop off this form to the rectory, along with your check made payable to *Holy Name of Jesus Church* no later than **July 15, 2010**.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Sponsorship Level (*choose one*):

❁ **Platinum Parishioner Sponsor** - \$500 donation

❁ **Gold Parishioner Sponsor** - \$250 donation

❁ **Silver Parishioner Sponsor** - \$100 donation

❁ **Bronze Parishioner Sponsor** - \$50 donation

❁ **Ribbon Parishioner Sponsor** - \$25 donation

Sponsor's Name

Sponsors will be acknowledged, if they wish, on a display on the day of the BBQ and on our website.

Please choose how you would like to be acknowledged:

❁ My Name (your or your family's name, print below how you would like it displayed):

❁ In Honor Of (for deceased loved ones, print below how you would like it displayed):

❁ Anonymous Donation (your name will not be printed)

All of us at Holy Name of Jesus sincerely thank you for your support.