



Parish Tidings



**Polish National
Catholic Church**
"through the years..."

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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Road to the Priesthood

*But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you
are mine.
When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;*

Isaiah 43, 1-3



June 26th is the 15th Anniversary of my priesthood. It has been only 15 years, but this number pushed me toward reflecting on how it happened that I became a

priest. Already in the seminary, these words from the Book of Isaiah opened my heart for the mysterious presence of God in my life. I feel it talks to me.

When I read these words from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, I see in front of my eyes a history of my calling. I was born the youngest of eight. My parents kept a farm, so the life of the family was run by the nature of the season. The work and attendance in the church were the most important things in our family. From my childhood I could see the Lord's presence in my life. Once we had a fire at home, and I was only three months old. My older sister (she was four at that time) had the task to watch me when our parents and neighbors were busy with the construction of our new home. Nobody paid attention to what was going on in the old house, so the fire took over the whole house, and my sister ran away being so scared. Finally somebody spotted the fire and they ran to save me – some of the people had the opinion that it was already too late. Thanks to the heroic heart of my mother, she was able to save my life. Nobody knew it at that time, but she saved the future priest.

I was a very good student at school, and I was a normal boy in the village like others boys. For some reason the people in the village started to tell me, "You will be a priest". Looking back, I understand why. When I was only seven, I was the one who made the funerals for the chickens clothed as a priest. I was the one who gathered older ladies in the village to go and sing religious songs before the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in May. Coming back from the school, I always stopped in the house where somebody died to pray for this person. Soon the oldest brother went to the seminary, but after one year of study, he decided to withdrawal from it. The family experienced a lot of shame because of that. Mentality of people in Poland was so judgmental at that time about issues like that, and it is not changed until today.

When I was a teenager, I had some moments of having a big desire to be a priest, but being so busy with friends, sports, and knowing the experience of my brother, I was afraid to share with anyone my feelings. I struggled with myself until the last class in High School. I remember we had a retreat for my class, and during those days my desire came to life again and I decided to do something about it. Not talking to my relatives, I sent my application to the seminary and only after approval did I deliver this message to my family. I remember today, the tears of my mom, and the anger of my father. They were able finally to accept my decision.

The years were passing by, and I was ordained. I expressed my wish to the Bishop to serve in Russia. After three months of service in the Warsaw Parish, I found myself in Russia where I received two parishes to take care of.

Dealing with the reality of the Russian society, I realized that many rules of the Roman Catholic Church were hard to be implemented there, and they were difficult to be absorbed by the people. Weighing all the aspects of my ministry, I came to the point that I decided to switch to another church, the Polish National Catholic Church where I presently serve. This transformation took me a year because of the paper work, immigration procedures, and

phone calls from Bishop Grotnik and from my friends, the priests who helped me to make this transition.

Soon after leaving the Roman Catholic Church, I married my wife Anna, and the Lord gave us two beautiful children, twin girls, Barbara and Magda. We all were able to move to the United States where we found our new home, a new family in our new church. My heart proclaims thanks to the Lord for His Divine Providence by showing me another path to serve Him with a new heart. I experienced during this 15 years of my life God's assistance and His assurance that He watches over me. I experienced also that God never leaves us behind - we are not forgotten. God always has us, and our needs, in front of His eyes - continuing His plan which He already started.

I give thanks to the Lord again who chose me to be his servant, and I am so happy that He continues to whisper in my ear:

*"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you
are mine
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior"*

Rev. Bogdan Jurczyszyn

Father Bogdan's Anniversary



On Sunday, June 23, 2013 Father Bogdan celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for his 15th anniversary of his priesthood. Instead of a sermon, Father related his journey to the priesthood.

Parishioners had the opportunity to ask personal questions about why he became a priest and about his travels to Russia and then finally to the United States. At the coffee hour after mass a large cake commemorating the day was presented to Father by the Weller Family. Father shared pictures of his ordination when he was 25 years old. All parishioners congratulated him and wished him continued success in his chosen vocation of serving the Lord.

Wedding Bells



On Saturday afternoon, May 25, 2013 parishioner Evan Weller was united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony to his fiancée, Ashley Tait. The event took place at Morgan Hill Golf and Country Club in Easton, on a windy, but otherwise beautiful spring day. Friends and relatives looked on as the couple exchanged their vows. Several of Ashley's high school students sang a cappella during the ceremony which greatly enhanced the rite officiated by Father Bogdan. As is typical of Father - he made

the couple feel at ease and the congregation feel warm and welcomed on the joyous occasion. The family received lots of glowing comments about the service and Father Bogdan – a wonderful reflection of our church.

Immediately following the ceremony, a cocktail hour was enjoyed by guests while the wedding party posed for pictures. The reception was held in a huge tent on the Morgan Hill property. Father gave the dinner blessing.

In lieu of wedding favors, the couple made a monetary contribution to St. Jude's Hospital for Children in hopes of helping to fund a cure for cancer. The couple will honeymoon in the Florida Keys this summer.

The new Mrs. Weller is a drama, theatre, and dance teacher at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts. She also directs their yearly spring musical. The groom is a high school English teacher and soccer coach at Phillipsburg High School, as well as a coach for several Vision Training Soccer Academy teams. The couple will reside in Whitehall.

Congratulations and best wishes, Ashley and Evan!
Sto Lat!

Ladies Night Out



On Tuesday June 18 the Society of Friends and the ANS hosted a fun night out to conclude their meetings and commitments until September. For the second year, it was held at Frank's

Italian Restaurant in Bethlehem on a stormy night. In addition to a delicious meal the ladies and Father Bogdan reviewed interesting facts about religion through playing games and winning prizes. Lynn Wunderler and Jennifer Anderson proved to be the most knowledgeable about famous Biblical Scriptures. A framed group picture was presented to each member of the ANS that has served 50 or more years in the society. It was a remembrance of the special Anniversary Day, thanks to Andrea Gritman who provided them.

July at a Glance

Sunday Mass at 9 AM

Coffee Social after Mass

Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM

July 16 – Committee meeting

July 26 & 27 – Tentative pierogie making

If you have something to share, a story, anecdote, recipe, or up-coming event in your life, please submit it to Jo Ann Schaffer, Lynn Wunderler or Andrea Gritman.

Sunday School



The children of the School of Christian Living completed another successful and busy year. After they received their certificates of accomplishment, they celebrated the last day of classes on June 2, 2013 with a party. Cake, ice cream, and other traditional party treats were provided by their teachers,

Tara Broczkowski and Jennifer Anderson.

A Dollar for Sunday School



A little boy came home eating a big candy bar. Seeing the candy bar, his mother remembered he had already spent all his allowance money. Surprised, she asked him where he got it. "I bought it at the store with the dollar you gave me," he said. But that dollar was for Sunday School, his mother replied. Smiling, the boy said, "I know, Mom, but the Pastor met me at the door and got me in for free!"

A Bundle of Joy



Karen Amate is happy to announce the arrival of her second grandchild, Benjamin Patrick Amate, on May 16, 2013, weighing 6 lbs 10 oz. and measuring 19.5 inches long. The proud parents are Kate and Daniel Amate. Congratulations to all.

Father's Day Breakfast



How do you like your waffles? Some like them with maple syrup and sausages. Some like them with strawberries and whipped cream. Fathers and their

families at the traditional Father's Day Breakfast were treated to both. Everyone seemed to enjoy the new menu. We thank the Society of Friends and the ANS for planning and sponsoring the tasty event.

Hot Crab Dip

1 6 oz. can lump crab meat, drained
8 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 cup mayonnaise
1/2 to 1 cup chopped onion
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese



Combine all ingredients and sprinkle with paprika

Bake at 350 degrees 25 minutes or until bubbly in 9 in. pie plate or 2 cup casserole

Serve with crackers

A delicious appetizer for your summer get-togethers