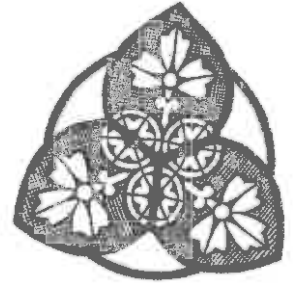


# Stronica Proboszcza



## The Pastor's Page

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

*Month of Our Lady of Sorrows*

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!  
Praised be Jesus Christ!

**Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – Feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus**  
*“the Little Flower”*

Marie Françoise Martin grew up in Lisieux in France. Her parents were wealthy and religious. Marie was their youngest of five daughters, so she received a lot of attention from her parents, sisters and the family servants. All five girls became nuns!

Marie was raised by her sister Pauline after their mother died. When Marie was nine Pauline entered the Carmelite convent nearby. Marie began to long for the life of poverty and prayer at Pauline's convent. She obtained permission to join at the unusually early age of fifteen.

Marie was given the name Therese. Many English speaking people use the form Theresa. Those in charge of the young nuns were especially strict with her. They wanted to make sure she didn't receive special treatment. In addition to her housekeeping tasks, she cared for the convent chapel and later took on much of the work of guiding the young nuns who had come into the convent after her.

Therese's life centered around the gospels. She believed that any life could be a holy one. "To pick up a pin for love can convert a soul," she said. So she did her drab everyday chores with joy and love.

Therese's patience was put to its greatest test when she developed tuberculosis, a deadly and painful lung disease. Just before she died in 1897, at the age of 24, she made a startling statement "I promise to spend my heaven doing good on earth."

Therese wrote down her story because the leader of the convent had instructed her to do so. It wasn't intended for outside publication, only for the enjoyment of the sisters at other Carmelite convents. But they found it so helpful that they passed it on to their friends, and soon it was being read in many countries of the world. Therese's story gave its readers hope that they too, could become saints, even if their lives were not spectacular in any way.

Therese of Lisieux is not only a great saint of France where she lived her entire life but also popular as the patron saint of foreign missions. St. Therese has risen to the ranks of Doctor in the Church for her spiritual approach to life in which everything one does and experiences, no matter how small, is offered to God. She also once remarked that from heaven she would let a shower of

roses fall upon the earth and so she is lovingly called the "*Little Flower.*"

The statue of St. Therese in our church currently stands in the south east front corner of the transept. It was a gift to the parish in 1930 from Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Doliasz, just five years after her canonization by Pope Pius XI in 1925.

## **Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Feast of the Guardian Angels**

I do hope you believe in angels! The bible makes it very clear that they do exist. It is also a teaching of our faith. We just don't have liturgical celebrations in honor of beings that are cute but don't really exist! By the way, no one has any idea of what an angel might look like so the wings, halos and harps are not for sure! Angels are spiritual living creations of God Almighty. The belief that they are charged with guarding us, is taken from scripture. The book of Exodus says: *See, I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way, Ex. 23:20-23.* Jesus said: *I assure you, their angels in heaven constantly behold my heavenly Father's face, Mt. 18:5.* "Angel" means messenger in Greek. They are mentioned often in scripture as not only messengers but also defenders, companions, guides and guardians. Guardian angels have a special task – to assist human beings in their journey to God. Devotion to the Holy Guardian Angels is a fine way to honor God's enduring love and providential care extended to each person day-in and day-out until life's end.

## **Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – Feast of St. Francis of Assisi**

This great saint of the 12th century was born rich into the Benardone family, the son of a wealthy cloth merchant in Italy, and died poor in the eyes of this world. When he was baptized in 1181 he was given the name John. Because his mother was French, he was given the then rare nickname of Francesco, which means "the little Frenchman." As a teenager, Francis sold cloth in his father's shop. He was very good at charming the customers. At night he went to parties with the young nobles of the town of Assisi. He loved fine clothes and everything else that went with being rich. He wasn't much of a student, but he loved the tales of King Arthur and his knights in armor.

Francis wanted to be a knight himself. When the town of Assisi went to war with Perugia, a neighboring town, Francis joined the campaign. A year as a prisoner of war changed his outlook. When he came home he was ill for months. He was confused because everything that had given him joy now seemed empty. Francis spent hours praying for guidance in San Damiano, an old run down chapel on the outskirts of town. One day in 1206 guidance was provided. "Repair my house," said the voice of Christ from the cross of the abandoned church, "which, as you see, is falling into ruin." He carried bricks on his back to the chapel and began to repair its stonework. Only much later did Francis realize that the house that God was talking about was not the small chapel but the entire Church. His family thought him to have gone insane and his father disinherited him. Francis renounced all his possessions including the very clothes on his back. He was 25 years of age.

The Church of Francis's day was wealthy and powerful, and most people did not have the courage to take the words of the gospels literally. But Francis followed Christ's example. He became the "Poverello" – the "little poor one." He owned only one tunic, a plain brown robe with a rope for a belt, which was the garment worn by peasants when they labored in the fields. This would become the well known Franciscan habit. He worked with lepers, the most despised people of society. He acted as a peacemaker between warring towns.

Soon others began to join Francis, earning their bread by working in the fields or by doing odd jobs. They preached not just to the rich but to the poor as well. In 1212 Francis helped his friend St. Clare begin an order of religious women. They were cloistered sisters in Assisi. And Francis invented something called the Third Order, a way for people to live the religious life while continuing their ordinary work.

Francis had an understanding of the unity of all creation that was way ahead of its time. He addressed every created thing as Brother or Sister and treated everything with reverence. He allowed the beauty of creation to fill him with joy. He found the meaning of life in the total imitation of Christ. His faithfulness in his attempt to imitate the Lord was rewarded by God in 1224 with the gift of the *stigmata* or wounds of Christ, which miraculously appeared on his body.

The idea for the nativity scenes we enjoy at Christmas was his. As a deacon he organized the first living nativity in 1223. The order of religious he founded was also responsible for the creation of the Stations of the Cross devotion we practice during Lent. Francis became ill and died on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1226, when he was only about 45 years old. On his deathbed he composed the Canticum of the Sun, a hymn of praise still sung to this day. Then he asked to be laid on Brother Earth naked so that he could welcome Sister Death as simply as possible. The pope who canonized him just two years later described him as “the most perfect image of Christ.” His body rests in the basilica that was built at Assisi after his death. St. Francis of Assisi is a patron saint of Italy.

Hopefully you have noticed that our statue of St. Francis has recently been moved to the back wall of the church. He is portrayed gazing upon the cross. The skull at his feet represents “Sister Death” that he spoke about at the end of his life. Skulls in church art also represent the idea that when one becomes a religious one dies to his or her old self and becomes a new person. The St. Rosalia statue in the front of the church has the same skull. St. Francis is also seen on the mural in the sanctuary next to the Sacred Heart altar. A skull is also seen at his feet there.

## **First Friday of the Month of October!**

So quickly another month has passed and we come to the First Friday of the month of the Holy Rosary – October. Please keep in mind that in the Catholic tradition every Friday of every week is a day of remembrance of the death of Our Lord on the cross. We are expected to remember this saving action of Christ by doing some kind of penance every Friday of our life. In days gone by the expected penance of all Catholics was to not eat meat on Friday. Times changed as did people’s life styles and eating habits, and it was possible to observe the letter of this law while ignoring the spirit of it as lobster, crab legs, shrimp and scallops became very much available to the casual diner – not very penitential, do you think? Now the Church expects every good Catholic to tailor the penance to their personal lifestyle.

Penitential actions are quite different from person to person. A mature Catholic prayerfully decides how he or she will commemorate the Lord’s death in their life. Going to Mass on Friday is a wonderful way to do this! I hope you don’t find attending Mass to be penitential in a sense that it is a painful experience. Still every Mass we attend is a spiritual way of being present with our Lord and our Lady on Calvary. The First Friday of the month is even more special. On this day in addition to the passion and death of our Lord, we call to mind His Sacred Heart. This heart that was pierced on Calvary is a heart full of love and mercy for us. We receive that mercy and love in Holy Communion and so Catholics are strongly encouraged to go to Mass on First Friday and receive communion. In our parish Mass is offered every First Friday at 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM and at 7:00 PM. The Most Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the Altar after the 8:00 AM Mass until 10:00 AM and again from 5:00 PM until 6:30 when the Litany to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is prayed and Benediction takes place. Please consider integrating these important spiritual “exercises” in your busy life. Jesus promises you will benefit greatly from it!

## Festival results

Many people have been wondering how well this year's Polish Festival in August did. Over a month has now passed and it safe to say that all the outstanding bills associated with the festival have now been paid. If you attended last Sunday's Festival Workers Appreciation Party you have already seen this year's figures. The report looks like this: total sales on the grounds of the festival - \$195,364.23, which is a decrease from last year by \$1950.78, main raffle ticket sales - \$47,856.00, which is a decrease by \$2044.00, donations received - \$11,696.00, which is a decrease by \$2607.00, gross total - \$254,916.23, a decrease by \$6601.78, total expenses - \$147,642.53, an increase by \$13,961.91 and finally the net profit - \$107,273.70 a decrease by \$20,563.69.

The decreased profit of this year's festival is the result of noticeably less attendance on Sunday afternoon and increased expenses. Nevertheless we can all take pride in this respectable amount of money earned as it is a testimony to the hard work and devotion of the parishioners of our church. It is also a reminder of the divine providence and goodness of God who rewards those who willingly work together for such a noble cause, even when times are challenging. May God repay each one who donated to the parish festival in any way and may Our Blessed Lady of the Scapular who revealed herself as a loving mother long ago on Mount Carmel always watch over each one of you!

## The New Boilers

By the end of the last winter season it was clear that the heating system in our church was on its last legs. Over the last months we have begun gathering estimates for replacing the boiler. We have already had the brick walls to the semi-underground room for the boiler repaired and very soon the roof on the room will be replaced. The terrible disrepair of these things definitely has contributed to the demise of the old boiler over the years. These preparations have already cost \$12,000. The first estimate for boiler repair that we have obtained is for \$118,353.00. I would suspect that the other two we are waiting for will be of a similar amount. We must have heat in our church in winter. That is a fact. This boiler also provides heat for the high school building. We do have some money saved for this project but not much. And so I am appealing once again to the generous parishioners who already have made it possible to restore the façade of the church for a similar price. Please make your donations for the new boiler, to the restoration fund. Those green envelopes are found at the vestibule entrances. It is difficult to think about heat in the church now when the weather is so warm, but I assure you soon enough we will all be in the cold again. We need to be ready for that.

## CSA Update

As of today we have collected **\$44,006.30** toward our goal of \$76,765.00. That means we still need **\$32,758.29**. As of today 323 households have participated in this year's campaign. 544 households have not yet made an offering. If each of those households would give just **\$60** we would reach our goal for the first time in many years. Thank you very much to those who have already been so generous!

**JEST TO CNOTA NAD CNOTAMI, TRZYMAĆ JĘZYK ZA ZEBAMI!**

**IT IS A VIRTUE ABOVE ALL VIRTUES, TO KEEP ONE'S TONGUE BEHIND ONE'S TEETH!**