



Stronica Proboszcza



The Pastor's Page

October 7th, 2018

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Month of the Holy Rosary

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!

Praised be Jesus Christ!

ZAWITAJ KRÓLOWO RÓŻAŃCA ŚWIĘTEGO!

HAIL QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY!

*Zawitaj, Królowo Różańca świętego,
Jedyna nadziejo człowieka grzesnego!
Zawitaj, bez zmayı lilijo,
Matko Różańcowa, Maryjo!*

*Hail, Queen of the Holy Rosary,
Only hope of sinful humanity!
Hail, Lily without blemish,
O Mary, Mother of the Rosary!*

As the seasons turn and the golden days of Fall and "Indian Summer" approach, the Church turns her attention to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, once again. October is the month of the Rosary, a devotion near and dear to the hearts of the faithful throughout the centuries. It is a devotion well-loved and practiced in the Polish home and parish, where the rosary is often prayed by the faithful in evening church services. Large family rosaries can frequently be found hung on the walls of Polish homes, and many are the faithful who have prayed this devotion everyday of their lives. Prayers learned in Polish and English at a loving parent's knee are treasured through life and are the last prayers said by the family the night before the funeral of a loved one.

The Rosary is a very old devotion dating back to the 13th century. Tradition says it was given by the Blessed Mother to St. Dominic in answer to his prayers for help in fighting the Albigensian heresy in France. After the apparition in 1216 Dominic preached the rosary throughout Europe, returning 100,000 heretics to the bosom of Holy Mother Church. The Friar Preachers of St. Dominic spread the rosary devotion worldwide and were the first to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

In our church, in the mural above Our Lady's altar, the Blessed Mother and Child Jesus are depicted giving the rosary to St. Dominic as St. Catherine of Siena looks on. Inscribed above this scene are the words: *Bądź pozdrowiona łaski pełna*, which is translated: Hail! Full of grace. Just below these words are fifteen beads which almost look like tongues of fire symbolizing the fifteen mysteries of the rosary.

It was Pope Saint Pius V who instituted the Feast on October 7th. On this day in 1571, Christian forces were victorious over the Turks at Lepanto. The victory was the result of all of Christendom praying the rosary at the request of the Pope so as to protect Christian Europe from Mohammedanism. The battle was won by prayer rather than aggression and violence, Mary's method in battle and strife.

This string of beads is known as the rosary because every prayer is compared to a flower in the crown of Mary the Mystical Rose. The rose most appropriately symbolizes the life of Mary as meditated upon in the rosary. The green leaves symbolize the hope of the joyful mysteries. The thorns, more painful, remind us of the sorrowful mysteries, and the unfolding bloom of the rose calls to mind the glorious mysteries.

The rosary is a prayer suited to young and old alike, and has been recommended again and again by Mary herself at Lourdes and Fatima. No one knows better than the Mother of God, who lived the truths of the Gospel to perfection, that if the faithful meditate on these eternal truths frequently and prayerfully, more and more they will begin to live them as she did.

Monday, October 8th – Columbus Day

Celebrated on the second Monday in October, Columbus Day marks the day in 1492 when Christopher Columbus set foot in the New World. Today, parades and parties in many cities and towns commemorate the holiday across the United States as well as Latin America and Europe. Although it began as a celebration of the accomplishments of one man, Columbus Day has come to mean many things to many people. Italian Americans celebrate the history of their culture, Latin and Native Americans celebrate their ancestors, while most Americans unfortunately let the day pass with not much thought about it.

The roots of Columbus Day actually began on August 3rd, 1492. On this day, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain trying to find a new route to Asia and India. Backed by Queen Isabella of Spain, he sailed on a ship named the Santa Maria, accompanied by the Nina and the Pinta. Contrary to popular belief, most educated people at the time believed that the world was round, but Columbus and his crew greatly underestimated the size of the earth.

Ten weeks after they set sail, one of the sailors spotted land on October 12th, 1492. The next morning, Columbus and 90 of his crew landed on the Bahamian Island of Guanahani. Expecting to find that he was in India, he called the islanders “Indians” and christened the land San Salvador, claiming it for Spain. Because he believed that the globe was much smaller than it actually was, when he next landed in Cuba, he believed he was in Japan. Despite his miscalculations, his impact on the culture was so great that the period before 1492 is described as pre-Columbian.

Christopher Columbus didn’t actually reach the mainland of North America until his third voyage in 1498, and he was not the first European to visit the continent. Records show that Vikings and other explorers had made contact as early as 500 years before Columbus’ voyage. In fact, America was ultimately named for another Italian explorer, Amerigo Vespucci who explored South America a few years later.

So why do we celebrate Columbus Day and not Vespucci Day? Although he was not the first to explore North America, it was his voyage that made most Europeans aware of the continent. This led to trade and ultimately European settlement in the New World. The publicity that surrounded him after the trip of 1492 was so great that he was named the Admiral of the Ocean Sea and became famous throughout Europe.

The first recorded celebration of Columbus Day in the United States was on October 12th, 1792 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the voyage. This celebration was started by a Colombian Order known as the Society of St. Tammany. Soon after this celebration, the city of Washington was renamed the District of Columbia and became the capital of the United States.

For the 400th anniversary the World’s Columbian Exposition opened in Chicago in 1893. This event started as a celebration of the voyage of Christopher Columbus, but became a celebration of American culture. For the next few years the Knights of Columbus, an international Catholic organization, worked with state legislatures to recognize October 12th as a state holiday. Colorado was the first state to officially recognize Columbus Day in 1905, and New York followed in 1909. On October 12th, 1909, New York Governor Charles Evans Hughes led a parade that included the Knights of Columbus, the crews of two Italian ships and several Italian-American societies. Because Christopher Columbus is generally believed to have been born in Genoa, Italy, this celebration became very important to the Italian community in New York.

President Roosevelt declared October 12th as Columbus Day, but it wasn't made a federal holiday until 1971. President Nixon declared that the second Monday in October was Columbus Day, paving the way for the traditional three-day Columbus weekend.

Today, Columbus Day celebrations are held all over the world. In the United States, mainly in cities with large Italian-American populations, celebrations are held that focus on the contributions of Italians throughout history. The largest Columbus Day parade is still held in New York City down Fifth Avenue. San Francisco's Italian-American population celebrates Columbus Day with an Italian Heritage Parade. These parades are usually held on the Sunday before the actual holiday, with the rest of the weekend spent relaxing with friends.

When Christopher Columbus sailed out of the harbor back in 1492 he was simply trying to win the race to discover new trade routes for Spain. While he made some major miscalculations in his voyage, the publicity generated by his contact with the New World started a long history of Europeans in North America. Although many people now view this as the start of the domination of native peoples, the Columbus Day holiday has come to be a celebration of the many cultures that contributed to the formation of north and South America.

Thursday, October 11th – Feast of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This feast is found only on the old Tridentine calendar. It was placed on that calendar in 1931 by Pope Pius XI. However, the idea that Mary's maternity was a holy thing, even a divine thing, goes back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. That Council made it very clear, even a dogma of the Church, that the Divine Son of God the Father, is also the Human Son of the Virgin Mary. Mary IS without a doubt, the Mother of God. This is confirmed in Sacred Scripture. Elizabeth greeted Mary at the Visitation with these words. "And how is it that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?" And St. Paul says, "God sent His Son born of a woman." In this great event God gives Himself in fullness to a creature in relationship and in love. The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity calls God His Father and Mary His Mother. In a certain way, as her Son, God the Son must obey Mary His Mother. The Council of Ephesus gave us the end of the Hail Mary prayer: Holy Mary, **Mother of God**, pray for us sinners...."

A Sung Tridentine Mass will be offered on this feast day, Thursday, October 11th, at 7 PM

Thursday, October 11th – Feast of Pope Saint John XXIII

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli (1881-1963) was the oldest son of fourteen children, born to a poor sharecropper farming family in Sotto il Monte near Bergamo in northern Italy. When he was 12 he went to the seminary first in Bergamo and then Rome, where he was ordained in 1904. After receiving a degree in Canon Law, he returned to Bergamo, where he served as both secretary to the Bishop and professor of theology and spiritual direction at the seminary. During World War I he acted as a military chaplain and hospital orderly. In 1953, after a long series of Vatican appointments Roncalli was named a Cardinal and made patriarch of Venice.

After the death of Pope Pius XII in 1958, Roncalli was elected Pope on October 29th, 1958 after 11 ballots – a compromise candidate acceptable to all parties only because of his advanced years. But Pope John surprised everybody by convening Vatican Council II to "bring the church up to date" (aggiornamento) and to work for its spiritual regeneration. Pope John's cheerful bearing and loving kindness (not to mention his diplomatic skills) provided several opportunities for reconciliation not only with estranged Protestant and Orthodox Christian traditions but also with Muslim and other non Christian traditions. He also helped to diffuse volatile Cold War political situations like the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. His encyclical *Peace on Earth*, which was addressed not just to Catholics but to all humanity, advocated peace for all the world.

Affectionately known as “Good Pope John,” he died on June 3rd, 1963 and was beatified in 2000. After the 50th Anniversary of his death in 2013 Pope Francis approved Pope John for canonization without the traditional “second miracle.” Pope Francis based this decision on Pope John’s efforts for Vatican Council II. He was canonized on Sunday, April 27th, 2014 along with Pope John Paul II. The date assigned for the liturgical celebration of Saint John XXIII is October 11th, the anniversary of his opening of the Second Vatican Council.

October is Polish American Heritage Month! Be Proud to be Polish!

Panna Maria, Texas claims distinction as the oldest permanent Polish settlement in America and as the home of the nation’s oldest Polish church and school. In 1852 a young Franciscan missionary, Father Leopold Moczygemba, arrived in Texas to minister to German parishes in New Braunfels and Castroville. Soon he was writing his fellow Poles urging them to leave the harsh economic conditions and Prussian domination of Upper Silesia and join him in thriving Texas.

In September 1854 the first group of immigrants, which included four of Moczygemba’s brothers, traveled by train to Bremen, by ship to Galveston, and by foot and rented Mexican oxcart to San Antonio, to the waiting Father Moczygemba, who escorted them to the site he had chosen for their colony. Contemporary estimates of the number of these original settlers vary from 150 to 800. A few had died at sea, more on the landward trek, and some had dropped out as they passed through Texas communities along the way; one group chose to settle at Bandera. Three months after beginning their journey, the much-reduced party of settlers arrived at what was soon to be called Panna Maria, meaning “Virgin Mary,”

It was Christmastime, and Father Moczygemba and the settlers celebrated a Christmas Mass of thanksgiving in their new home of tall grass, love oaks, mesquite, and rattlesnakes (The first Mass in Panna Maria was held on December 24th, 1854 under the Grand Oak tree which still stands beside the Church). The land belonged to an Irishman, John Twohig, who sold it at an inflated price to the newcomers. With Church funds Moczygemba purchased 238 acres, set aside twenty-five acres for a church, and parceled out the remainder to those who could not afford to buy farms.

The settlers built a church and consecrated it on September 29th 1856. They began to replace their thatched-roof huts with stone houses, welcomed three more Polish immigrants groups, began St. Joseph’s School in a barn, and established a post office. Snakes, malaria, grasshoppers, droughts, floods, and marauders plagued them. In discouragement and anger they turned against Father Moczygemba, who left Texas and spent most of the remainder of his life in the northern United States. He died in Michigan and was buried in Detroit. In 1974 Panna Marians had him re-interred under the same live oak tree where he had said Christmas Mass in 1854; there they erected a monument honoring him as honoring him as the “Patriarch of American Polonia.”

After the Civil War four factors tended to isolate the community and encourage it to retain its Polish language and strong Polish identification: the railroad bypassed Panna Maria; lawless Southerners terrorized the Poles for their Union sympathies; Polish Resurrectionist priests arrived from Europe to assure the continuation of Polish Church traditions; and a sisterhood of Polish teaching nuns was established to serve St. Joseph’s School. The community’s population dwindled from a reported 120 families in 1858 to eighty families by 1909. The town declined further in the twentieth century, and by 1988 was down to about ninety-six residents, four of whom carried the surname Moczygemba. That year Panna Maria supported two grocery stores and a feed mill. Its school, in a new location near the older structure, belonged to the Karnes City School district, but nuns continued to serve as teachers. A historical museum, located in the Old St. Joseph’s School building was the civic focus.

As the mother colony for the Poles in America, Panna Maria has occasionally attracted visitors numbering in the thousands to its celebrations, most notably in 1966 during the millennium of Polish Christianity and nationhood, when 10,000 people convened there for a Mass and a barbeque; President Lyndon B. Johnson’s gift on the occasion was Polish artist Jan E. Krantz’s 12,000-piece mosaic of the Virgin of Czestochowa, which was put on permanent display in the church.