



Stronica Proboszcza



The Pastor's Page

November 3rd, MMXIX

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Month of the Holy Souls

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
Praised be Jesus Christ!

The Polish All Souls/Dzień Zaduszny Procession (part I)

During the month of November, our Holy Mother the Church, encourages all her children to make special intercession for our brothers and sisters who have been called from this life and now stand before God in great need of His mercy. Certainly we do this on the second day of the month of November, when many Masses are offered for the dead. Every priest has a special permission to say three Masses this day. The norm for a priest is at most two Masses a day.

In our Polish tradition we have the custom of the *wypominki* before the Masses. This is the reading aloud of the names submitted by the parishioners before offering the sacrifice of the Mass. Hearing their names spoken aloud again in the church can be very comforting to us no matter how long ago they departed this world! The human memory is a powerful thing!

Another beautiful Polish custom that is not frequently practiced here in the United States is the All Souls Day Procession. This procession usually goes from the church, where candles and fire to light the candles are blessed, to the parish cemetery. Church cemeteries, at least in small towns and villages are usually within walking distance of the church. These lit candles will be placed on the graves of loved ones.

Upon arriving in the cemetery the priest conducts a ceremony there that in some ways is similar to the outdoor Corpus Christi Procession in springtime. Four stations are set up in the cemetery and the procession moves from station to station while hymns are sung and prayers offered.

The first station is set up in that part of the cemetery where priests are buried. Here are some of the prayers that are offered at that station:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we stand at the graves of priests. From more than one of them we have received our baptism and other sacraments. These priests proclaimed to us the Word of God and not only once counseled us and even admonished us, in an attempt to direct us to our salvation. Let us now bring our fervent prayer for them to Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest, who called them to their sacred vows, to proclaim the Gospel, to guide God's people and to the administration of the sacraments.

Those gathered are asked to pray for deceased popes, bishops, priests and deacons especially those that worked in their diocese and for seminarians, and religious sisters and brothers who have died. Deceased priests who served in the parish church are especially remembered.

“O God, eternal Shepherd and Ruler of the whole world, hear the prayers of your people and bring to eternal glory all, who have taken part in the holy ministry of the priesthood of your Son. Who with you lives and reigns for ever and ever.”

During this month of the holy souls, please pray for the dead clergy.
Next week the second station will be presented.

Niech odpoczywają w pokoju. Amen. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Good Advice for the Busy People of Today!

In the film “Beyond the Clouds,” a story is told of an archaeologist who once hired some Inca tribesmen to lead him to an archaeological site deep in the mountains. After they had been walking for some time, the tribesmen stopped and insisted they would go no further. The archaeologist grew impatient and then angry. But no matter how much he cajoled the tribesmen they would not go any further.

Then all of a sudden the tribesmen changed their attitude. They picked up the gear and set off once more. When the bewildered archaeologist asked why they had stopped and refused to move for so long, the tribesmen answered, “We had been moving too fast and had to wait for our souls to catch up.”

Saturday, November 9th –

Feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome

This day we observe the feast of *the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome*. A basilica is a special kind of church built in an ancient long rectangular style. The term basilica applies to churches of particular religious and historical significance. Literally the word basilica means a building fit for a king. There are four major basilicas in the world, all in Rome and the Lateran is one. Actually it is called St. John the Lateran Basilica and is under the patronage of St. John the Baptist. Lateran refers to the name of the hill on which it is built. It is also the name of the wealthy Roman family who once owned the land where the basilica is built. There are by the way, seven hills in the city of Rome.

The three other major basilicas are St. Peter, St. Mary Major and St. Paul. St. John Lateran is the Cathedral of the diocese of Rome. The Pope is the Bishop of Rome. A cathedral is the church in a diocese where the bishop has his official chair or throne, called a *cathedra* in Latin.

Most Blessed Sacrament is the cathedral of the Archdiocese of Detroit. Archbishop Vigneron’s throne is located there, but our cathedral is also not a basilica since it is built in a different architectural style (gothic), and is not famous enough.

This feast celebrates that day, November 9th, 324 AD when this important church was dedicated by Pope St. Sylvester I. It must be remembered that in the early days of the Church, Christianity was an outlawed religion. There were no churches as we know them but rather

believers worshipped in chapels located in the catacombs underground. Finally with the Edict of Milan in 321 AD, the Roman Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity and made it the official religion of the Roman Empire. He gave the "royal" building or basilica located on the Lateran Hill to the Church to be used as a house of worship, Rome's first and the first and still official home of the pope! On the façade of the basilica of St. John the words "*omnium ecclesiarum Urbis et Orbis mater et caput,*" are inscribed, which is translated, "mother and head of all churches of Rome and the world." The present basilica was built in the year 1646 on the site of previous structures. It is said that under the high altar of the church rests the remains of a small wooden table on which, according to tradition, St. Peter celebrated Mass.

When we celebrate the feast of the dedication of this important church we reaffirm our connection to the universal Church whose Head on earth is in Rome. We as Catholics cannot exist separately from the Church in Rome and our sister churches throughout the world. Since the anniversary of the dedication of this church is so special and worthy of remembrance we also should take time to recall that our own church was once solemnly dedicated, on June 4th, 1916, by Bishop Edward Kelly, auxiliary bishop of the diocese of Detroit. The important thing is to remember that our beautiful church like the Lateran Basilica was dedicated to the Lord's service and for that reason alone we take good and loving care of it. We pray that our church will serve the Lord for many more years and we reflect on how many people have been brought to the Lord through our church over the last 101 years of its existence!

Do not resent growing old. Many are denied the privilege.

Thank You CSA Donors!

The following is a list of all good and faithful parishioners who have made a donation to this year's CSA collection. The current state of affairs concerning this collection is as follows. Our goal for this year is \$77,584.00. Yes, it is a great deal of money. It is a little less than 10% of our annual income. This is the percentage that every parish in the archdiocese must pay. From what I have heard from other pastors, it is almost always a heavy burden, and yet none of us has any choice in the matter. In fact many parishes manage somehow to reach their goal. That has not been the case in our parish for many years unfortunately.

At present we have 766 registered households in our parish. Dividing the goal up among all households would be about \$101 each. So far 202 out of 766 households have donated to this collection in the amount of \$27,927.00. That is an average of \$138 per household. Thank you so much for your generosity and for going over and beyond your share.

Now there are 564 households who have not yet made a donation. We must still collect \$49,657.00. If each one of those households who have not yet given would give \$88 we would reach our goal. If not, the amount that is not collected will be added to our debt which is still great. Eventually we will be forced to pay this amount from our Sunday collection money. This situation does much to hold the parish back in maintaining itself and developing and causes an unnecessary financial burden. To those who have not yet given, once again I ask you to join this list with your fellow parishioners and do your part to help prevent the parish from falling deeper and deeper into debt.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE 2019 CSA!

Alexandra Alicki
Raymond Allain
Mary Amore
John Armstrong
Sam Badalamenti
Mary Baker
James & Patricia
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