



NEW ENGLAND PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION

Provincial's Newsletter

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FROM THE PROVINCIAL

In his March letter, the Superior General reminded all confreres that the General Council had prepared a three-year program focused on spiritual preparation and celebration of the coming 4th centenary of the Foundation of the Congregation of the Mission of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Opening Ceremony was held on April 17, 2023, at the Collegio Leoniano in Rome. We were invited to organize a similar ceremony in your own Houses. We missed the date, and so we should do it soon.

Fr. Mavric writes to all of us also: "Dear confreres, let these first three years leading us to the 400th Anniversary of our "Little Company" be for each one of us a time of conversion, of renewal, of returning with utmost fire to our "First Love – Jesus," so that, following the inspirations of Saint Vincent de Paul, we may all become "Mystics of Charity" in the 21st century and beyond".

On this occasion, let us remind ourselves also that "The purpose of the Congregation of the Mission is to follow Christ evangelizing the poor. It is achieved when, individually and collectively, the confreres:

- Make every effort to acquire holiness appropriate to their vocation.
- Work at evangelizing the poor, especially the most abandoned.
- Help the clergy and laity in their formation and lead them to fuller participation in evangelizing the poor".



BEATIFICATION OF THE ULMA FAMILY

On December 17, 2022, Pope Francis approved a decree on the martyrdom of the Ulma family of Markowa, Poland. The official website of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints explains the heroic martyrdom of this Polish family: "Venerable Servants of God Jozef and Wiktoria Ulma and their seven children (†March 24, 1944)". A married lay couple with seven children, murdered out of hatred of their faith on March 24, 1944, who, although aware of the risks and financial difficulties, **hid a Jewish family in their house for a year and a half.** When discovered, they were all murdered, including the child in Victoria's womb.

The entire Ulma family, including the unborn child, will be beatified on September 10, 2023, in Markowa, Poland, Diocese of Przemyśl.

This will be a rare occasion when **an entire family is beatified** at the same time. It has happened that a married couple or several martyrs are beatified on a single day, but rarely parents and children together.

Our confrere, **Rev. Jan Szylar CM** will attend the Beatification Mass. He is related to the family and comes from Markowa town himself.



MASS IN HONOR OF ST. ANN

On Wednesday, July 26, 2023, Fr. Provincial was invited to celebrate the Mass in honor of St. Ann at the Basilica Shrine of St. Ann in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

St. Ann's Novena began in November 1924 with just a handful of people requesting the rector of St. Ann's Monastery to have a weekly novena honoring St. Ann. This led to the Solemn Novena from July 17-26. St. Ann's Church was built by famed Boston architects Maginnis & Walsh and dedicated in 1929. St. Ann's Shrine Basilica, the weekly Monday novena, and the annual Solemn Novena from July 17-26 is sacred ground. It is an important place of healing, history, and culture for all Scranton and Northeast Pennsylvania people and those who now connect via social media.

Every year hundreds of Catholic people come to celebrate Novena. On the Feats of St. Ann, masses were celebrated in many languages for ethnic groups. Besides English and Spanish this year, the only native language was the Polish Mass celebration. Over hundred fifty people of Polish origin (including many older American born) attended the Mass.

It happened that on First Friday, when Fr. Marek was doing sick calls, parishioners of St Michael's church in Derby, hearing about his celebration of the Mass at the Basilica, recalled their memory from their childhood. While fathers were working hard in the local coal mines, mothers took children to the Novena, day after day, for nine days, and the Feast. Sometimes they could use buses; sometimes they had to walk 10 miles!!! For them, it was not just a tradition but an honor to be able to go to the Shrine dedicated in Honor of the Grandmother of Jesus! They were thrilled to do it and to pray through the intercession of St. Ann for protection for the families and the safety of miners.



MASS ON TELEVISION

Rev. Sobczak, Provincial, was celebrating Mass for the faithful of the Hartford Diocese on July 31, 2023. The live broadcast by ORTV was available on WCCT-TV in Connecticut. The celebration took place in the studio chapel in Prospect, CT. Two parishioners accompany Fr. Marek in the studio.

CONFRATRES

Fr. Jan Urbaniak, while on vacation in Poland, was admitted to the hospital at the end of July with difficulty breathing. On August 8, when I called him, he was back at his sister's house and was doing better. However, he complains about dizziness and spells. Fr. Urbaniak is getting weaker and wants to stay in Poland longer than planned to relax and to get more strength.

Fr. Wacław Hlond was taken to the Griffin Hospital in the middle of August with the chest pains. After some cardiological tests, he was diagnosed with bronchitis and was sent home the same night.

Some confreres enjoy the final weeks of vacation, and some already prepare for the new school season. We ask all the confreres to pray for those who will be busy with the parochial work. And we thank those who willingly worked shorthanded while others were on vacation.

HOUSE IN FLORIDA

I want to thank Father Mitch Wanat CM for his excellent care of the house in Navarre, Fl. As he spent his vacation in our house there, he dedicated much of his free time to cutting holly bushes and palm tree branches, cleaning the property, and inside of the house. He ensured that everything worked properly, and equipment was in good order. Thank you, Fr. Mitch. The house is ready for guests.