



NEW ENGLAND PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION

Provincial's Newsletter

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FROM THE PROVINCIAL

In order to become soundly virtuous, it is advisable to make good practical resolutions concerning particular acts of the virtues and to be faithful in carrying the out afterwards. Without doing that, one is often virtuous only in one's imagination.

— Vincent de Paul

Dear Confreres,

May this Lent and Easter inspire you to live a virtuous life, to desire a great holiness and perfection in your priestly ministry. Virtuous priests are needed to spread the Easter message of Christ who Resurrected to proclaim the Victory over sin and death. May the Resurrected Lord be your strength to be virtuous.

Marek Sobczak CM

REV. JOSEPH SZPILSKI celebrates 90th BIRTHDAY!



On March 12th, 2023 during 1 PM mass packed with people, Fr. Szpilski celebrated Mass in Thanksgiving to God for his wonderful and long life and active ministry.

After the Mass Fr. Joe received congratulatory words from parish and social societies, and then met with parishioners over the coffee and cake at the school hall. Hot food was served to all. Earlier that day Fr. Joe celebrated mass for Academy children and met with them and Academy staff.

It must be recognized that Fr. Szpilski, who is 90, is still very active in parish ministry. We thank you Fr. Joseph and commend you for your great dedication to the parish and the Little Company of St. Vincent!

OUR CONFRERES

REV. MITCHEL WANAT

Fr. Mitch has a successful right knee replacement done on October 26th, 2022. A day after the total replacement of his knee, Fr. Mitch was celebrating Mass in the church and he visited sick parishioners!!!! Incredible!

Also, it has to be noted that Fr. Mitch takes wonderful care of Fr. Waclaw Hlond. He visits him in the Apple Hewitt at least twice a week, takes him for doctors' appointments, rides, food escapades and to the Rectory in Ansonia. Fr. Mitch – we commend you for showing truly fraternal love for our confrere! And we are grateful for your dedication to your Vincentian apostolic activity.

REV. STANISŁAW “STANLEY” MIEKINA

Fr. Stanley is the “Father figure” in the Manchester House. Being 92, he still cooks every day for confreres, checks on them, makes sure that the house is safe and locked for the night. He is ready to help other confreres always. He goes shopping for them, cooks, and serves them in all possible ways. Thank you, Fr. Stasiu!

OTHER CONFRERES

During the Superiors and Pastors' meeting, we learned that all the confreres are doing well. **Fr. Hlond**, who is in the *Apple Hewitt Home*, is visited often by confreres and people. Fathers **Szpilski** and **Wisniewski** offer everything they have to serve the parishes to the best of their ability, even both of them should enjoy retirement moments. We are grateful for their effort.

Fathers **Markulak** and **Szucki** are the busiest priests among us. We recognize their effort to serve such a complex parish with occasional help from Fathers **Szylar** and **Kotlinski**, who also offer their best to serve their parishioners and faithful. Thanks to God, they are in good health and condition.

Fathers **Sadowski**, **Maciejewski**, and **Sobczak** are doing well, taking care of the parishes and the parochial school. They serve the Province as well as the Manchester House when the needs arise.

Three confreres – Fathers **Mrowka**, **Miekina**, and **Urbaniak**, residents of the Manchester House, try to help each other and manage somehow on their own. They are fully aware that, at the moment, they have to be self-sufficient.

40 HOUR DEVOTION

On February 2, 2023, St. Cyril and Methodius parish celebrated the closing of the 40 Hour Eucharistic. Fr. Sobczak was the main celebrant and Fr. Joseph Wisniewski was the homilist. Frs. Kotlinski and Szylar prepared delicious food for all priests.

REV. JACEK KUZIEL CM from the Province of Poland preaches **Lenten Retreats** in parishes in Derby Ansonia, Bristol and Brooklyn. May your work, Fr. Jacek, bring the good fruit of your work.

MASS ON TELEVISION

Rev. Sobczak was celebrating Mass for the faithful of the Hartford Diocese on February 27th, 2023. The daily live broadcast is available on WCCT-TV in Connecticut. The celebration took place in the studio chapel in Prospect, CT.

KOLEDA

Confreres of Brooklyn Houses continue the Christmas tradition of blessing parishioners' homes during Christmas. During "koleda" they met with families, prayed, sang carols, and talked about important issues. People always accept our priests with joy and gratitude. It is an exhausting part of priestly ministry that brings a lot of satisfaction. Parishes in Derby and Ansonia keep koleda traditions but in limited ways.

FR. TONY KUZIA

will finish his Apostolate in Main as of July 1, 2023, and will become the **Superior and Procurator of the Manchester House** starting September 1, 2023. He accepted the positions.

I wrote to the Bishop of Portland, Maine, that Fr. Kuzia will be called back to the Provincial apostolate by June 30, 2023. Bishop Deeley expressed his great gratitude for Fr. Anthony's services in the Portland diocese. He wrote that having such a wonderful priest was a blessing for the people of Maine.

MANCHESTER HOUSE: A new refrigerator was bought for the kitchen in February 2023.

In January 2023, 2 business phone lines - 860-533-9460 and 860-533-9462 (fax) were **disconnected**.

PASTORS AND SUPERIORS MEETING was held on February 16, 2023 in Manchester.

Pastors were reminded that *Parish Pastoral Councils and Finance Councils are required to meet frequently for the sake of the parish to organize and discuss spiritual aspects as well as material care, renovations, expenses, employment, etc. The Parish Council must consult the Finance Council when it comes to expenses.*

Pastors were reminded to *employees and volunteers must follow the "Code of Conduct". The "Background Check" must be repeated every three years. The parishes must also present the "Child Lures Program" - required for school children and children attending CCD - yearly.*

We also have discussed without any resolve:

- The Provincial proposed that confreres from parishes will take turns staying for a week in Manchester for the sake of local confreres. Most Pastors said it is impossible, although Fr Szylar and Fr. Kotlinski were there February 17-28.
- We should try to gather the dates of death of the parents of our confreres to remember them in our Masses and while praying the breviary or the Rosary. The Superiors may prepare a list from confreres with these dates.
- We should make a list of employees of our parishes and houses - to remember their birthdays and anniversaries.
- We should try to build a group of people related to the NEPCM as part of organizing the broadly understood Vincentian Family. E.g. Fr. Eugeniusz works with young professional men in Greenpoint, who meet monthly and help the parish with minor improvements.

Financial matters for the support of the Province were discussed:

Should we ask parishes to make charitable contributions toward the Provincial House Maintenance Fund or the NEPCM Assistance Fund? Should we mail individual requests to parishioners whom we serve and used to serve for support for years of the Vincentian work among them?

We should write in the parish bulletins asking people to put our Province in the Last Wills or Living Wills as a recognition of our apostolate among them? Should we look into hiring people who would research the availability of financial support for the Congregation and write for grants?

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

The meeting took place on March 7th, 2023. * The Council decided to sell the Florida vacation house. * The Provincial Treasurer informed the Provincial Council that last year the ordinary expenses of the Province exceeded regular income by 200k. * The Council should be involved in preparing the Provincial budget * We all should look for ways of saving money in the future.

Rev. Kuzia **was accepted** as the Superior of the Manchester House starting September 1st, 2023.

Other matters were discussed and tabled.

