



# Stronica Proboszcza



## The Pastor's Page

September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Twenty-Fifth 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!

**T**his Sunday at the noon Mass we will have the installation and blessing of this year's Parish Pastoral Council. On May 19<sup>th</sup> two new parishioners were selected to serve on the council. They join the existing group to complete an important leadership team in the parish. Let me remind everyone that a VERY important method of leading in a community is by setting a good example. Parish Pastoral Council members should set a good example by first and foremost practicing their Catholic Faith. This would include regular Mass attendance, receiving the sacrament of reconciliation on a regular basis and living a morally acceptable lifestyle. A Parish Pastoral Council member would not shy away from attending Mass and other liturgical and spiritual events in the parish. Also of equal importance, a council member, as a leader in the parish, should be involved in the life of the parish. A council member who is not an involved member of any of the many groups, clubs and organizations in our parish is not setting an example as a leader. It goes without saying that everyone in the parish needs to be committed and involved in the life of the parish, but we do look to our leaders to set the example.

### **This Year's Parish Pastoral Council Members**

The following are the names of the members of the Parish Pastoral Council for the 2018 – 2019 session. At the time of this printing the positions of chair person, vice-chair and secretary have not yet been determined. This will take place at the first meeting. There are six members at large whose terms are listed below. Four representatives of the parish's commissions and a representative from the finance committee and vicariate pastoral council. These people are the persons a parishioner can turn to with suggestion and concerns about the parish for discussion at meetings. Please pray for your council members.



# *Our Parish Pastoral Council*

Stewardship Commission Representative.....	<b>Mr. Tom Kleinow</b>
Worship Commission Representative.....	<b>Mr. Fred Snyder</b>
Education Commission Representative.....	<b>Mr. Trevor Cole</b>
Christian Service Commission Representative.....	<b>Mrs. Judy Kuncaitis</b>
Vicariate Pastoral Council Representative.....	<b>Mrs. Debbie Bloomfield</b>
Finance Committee Representative.....	<b>Mr. Stanley Kulaszewski</b>
Member at large.....	<b>Mrs. Veronica Berryman 2017-2020</b>
Member at large.....	<b>Mrs. Sharon Zerafa 2017-2020</b>
Member at large.....	<b>Mrs. Cheryl Jurczyk 2017-2020</b>
Member at large.....	<b>Mrs. Beverly Knetchel 2016-2019</b>
Member at large.....	<b>Ms. Meredith Fortener 2018-2021</b>
Member at large.....	<b>Mr. John Kruso 2018-2021</b>

## **Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Feast of St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina**

The man who would become Padre Pio was born on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1887 in Pietrelcina, a farming town in the southern Italian region of Campania. He was named Francesco and was the son of Grazio Mario and Maria Giuseppa Forgione. He had an older brother, Michele, and three younger sisters, Felicita, Pellegrina, and Grazia. Two other siblings died in infancy. He was named after one of these siblings.

At the age of five he decided to dedicate his life to God. He did not go to school until age ten as he worked on the family farm tending a small flock of sheep. His family was a deeply religious one and attended daily Mass and prayed the rosary together nightly. Although his parents were illiterate, they memorized the scriptures and narrated bible stories to their children.

In January of 1903 at the age of 15 he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin Friars at Morcone. When he received the habit he took the name Pio in honor of St. Pius V, the patron saint of his home town. He completed his priestly studies in Assisi and made his solemn profession in 1907. In 1910 he was ordained a priest. Because his health was precarious he was permitted to remain with his family until 1916, when he was assigned to the friary at San Giovanni Rotondo in the Gargano Mountains.

He served as a military chaplain for half a year in 1917 during the First World War. He then returned to his friary and was made a spiritual director. He remained at San Giovanni Rotondo for the rest of his life. In 1918 he received the stigmata like St. Francis of Assisi. Throughout his life he endured enormous physical and spiritual suffering. His physical suffering began in childhood and endured throughout the entirety of his life.

He is said to have had the gift of reading souls and is alleged to have been able to bilocate and to cause miracles. The faithful from all over the world flocked to him at San Giovanni Rotondo for confession and spiritual direction. He celebrated his last Mass on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1968 for a great multitude of pilgrims. Afterward he took sick and he died on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1968 at the age of 81. Over 100,000 people attended his funeral Mass. He was canonized on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2002 by Saint Pope John Paul II.

## **Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Feast of the Conception of St. John the Baptist**

The Eastern Church celebrates a most joyful event today: the conception of St. John the Baptist. He was a prophet and a martyr, and he prepared the way for the Lord Jesus.

The wonderful story of the conception of John is told in the first chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke. Zechariah and Elizabeth, an elderly couple, had yearned for a child for many years. The angel Gabriel, who “stands in the presence of God,” came to bring amazing news: Zechariah and Elizabeth were going to have a son. His name was to be John. He would be great in the eyes of God. It would be his solemn task to prepare

the people for the Lord. Elizabeth did conceive a child. She was filled with wonder and joy that such a blessing could come her way. When John was born, Zechariah sang praises to God. The people of the countryside all around were amazed. They wondered, "What then will this child become?" It was clear that God's power had been at work.

Every morning of the year the Church sings Zechariah's song once again. It is called the Benedictus, which means "blessed" in Latin. The first words are "Blessed be the God of Israel."

In the calendar of the Church year, the autumn equinox is linked to the conception of St. John the Baptist. His birth will be celebrated nine months from now on June 24<sup>th</sup>, near another change of season, the summer solstice, which is June 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup> - Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham**

Though little known today, the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham was once among the holiest places in the world, ranking as one of the four great shrines along with Rome, Jerusalem and Santiago de Compostela. It is the only one of the four dedicated to Our Lady.

Walsingham is a village in Norfolk, England, about one hundred miles northeast of London, and in 1061 a devout widow of the village, the noblewoman Richeldis de Faverches, prayed to discern how she might honor the Blessed Mother. One night, in a dream or vision or actual spiritual transportation, our Lady brought Richeldis to the Holy Land, to the house of the Annunciation. Providing the exact dimensions, Mary asked Richeldis to build a replica of this house in Walsingham. Richeldis experienced this apparition three times, thrice hearing Mary encourage, "Let all who are in any way distressed or in need seek me there in that small house that you maintain for me at Walsingham. To all that seek me there shall be given succor. The small house at Walsingham shall be a remembrance of the great joy of my Salvation, when Saint Gabriel the Archangel announced that I should become the Mother of God's Son through humility and obedience to his will."

Richeldis was unclear about where the carpenters should put the building. One night a heavy frost completely covered the ground except for two dry spots, which were both the exact dimensions of the house. The carpenters chose one spot but could not get the house to lie square on the foundation. Richeldis spent a night in prayer. The next morning, the carpenters found the house had been moved to the alternate site, two hundred feet away. Moreover, it was completed with a skill surpassing theirs. They believed that angels had finished the work.

Pilgrims came from all over Christendom to honor the Blessed Mother at Walsingham. Pynson memorialized the shrine, and it was said that even the Milky Way pointed to the house. Many miracles were reported, and the nearby spring was said to be curative.

For protection, a chapel was constructed above the house. A statue of our Lady eventually became part of the shrine. A mile away the Slipper Chapel was built for pilgrims who left their shoes to travel barefoot to the Holy House. Henry VIII himself made this barefoot journey, but probably in 1537 the king had the Holy House razed, the miraculous well filled with trash, and the Walsingham martyrs executed. In 1538 the statue of Mary was burned. Devotions to Our Lady of Walsingham were outlawed.

In 1896 Charlotte Boyd, an Anglican who converted to Roman Catholicism, purchased and restored the Slipper Chapel, then donated it to the Roman Catholic Church. Simultaneously, Father George Wrigglesworth, a local priest built a shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham in the new Roman Catholic Church of the Annunciation at King's Lynn, and in 1897 he organized the first Marian pilgrimage to the Slipper Chapel since the Reformation. The devotion was slow to catch on, and the Slipper Chapel became the National Roman Catholic Shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham in 1934.

In 1921, however, Alfred Hope-Patten had become Anglican vicar at Walsingham. He researched the village's history, had the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham reproduced and commissioned the reconstruction of the Holy House. During the reconstruction workers uncovered the foundations of the original shrine, along with the filled-in well. In 1938 the church in Walsingham was enlarged and proclaimed the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Although English Roman Catholics had been allowed to practice their religion since 1829, relations between the Roman Catholic and Anglican shrines remained somewhat strained until the 1980's when Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass at Walsingham.

The reconstructed statues of Our Lady of Walsingham depict our Lady enthroned and crowned, with a lily scepter. The child Jesus is seated on her knee, and he is holding the Book of the Gospels. His right hand is stretched out in a gesture of blessing. The statue embodies the message of Walsingham, for as promised to Richeldis, our Lady and her son will bless all who seek her in the house of the Incarnation.

## **Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>** **– Feast of St. Ladislaus/Władysław of Gielniów**

Blessed Ladislaus was born in Gielniów, Poland near Opoczno, in the diocese of Gniezno, in the year 1440. As a student of the Academy of Kraków he was a friend of St. John Cantius and Blessed Simon of Lipnica. Under the influence of St. John Capistrano he entered the Bernardine Order and was a novice in Warsaw in 1464 where he became the doorkeeper. After his ordination to the priesthood he asked to be sent to Russia as a missionary and evangelist. Though granted permission, his stay in Russia was not long, nor successful. After returning to Poland, he became famous as an outstanding preacher and creator of religious folk songs. He served as provincial of his order for fifteen years, twice making a pilgrimage to Rome as a mendicant beggar.

In 1498, 70,000 Tartars, the allies of the Turks began an invasion of Poland. Blessed Ladislaus began a prayer campaign to defeat the invaders. The raging winter storm that stopped them is attributed to Blessed Ladislaus and his “prayer warriors.” In his older years he was made Guardian of the Warsaw Convent. During a sermon he preached on Good Friday of 1505 he began to levitate in ecstasy, hanging in the air as if he were crucified. He later died on May 4<sup>th</sup>. He is the patron of the city of Warsaw and of Lithuania. On February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1750 he was declared blessed by Pope Benedict XIV.

Blessed Władysław should not be confused with St. Ladislaus, who was King of Hungary. In our church an image of St. Ladislaus can be seen in a painting on the ceiling of the church. Ladislaus is portrayed as a medieval knight/king in a medallion above the center of the transept on the side closest to the altar. St. Ladislaus was born in 1040 in Poland and lived there until he was eight years old. His father Bela I was King of Hungary and his mother Adelaide was Polish and in fact the daughter of the King of Poland, Mieszko II. St. Ladislaus died in 1095 and was canonized in 1192. His feastday is June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Blessed Władysław is also the patron saint of our dear Fr. Walter Ptak! On Thursnesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> Father Wally turned 57! Certainly we all wish him a happy birthday but in the true Polish tradition, where one’s name’s day is the occasion for the real celebration, we wish him a hearty “Sto Lat!”

## **Thursday, Sepember 27<sup>th</sup> – Feast of St. Vincent de Paul**

The parents of Vincent de Paul were peasant farmers in the village of Pouy, in France. They worked very hard to keep their six children fed. Because they knew Vincent was bright, they made sacrifices so that he could be educated.

Vincent was determined to use his intelligence and charm to earn a good living for himself. He became court chaplain to Queen Margaret of Valois and used his connections to make other important friends. But then Vincent found a fine spiritual director who opened his heart to a concern for others. He began to develop a spirit of compassion. At that time, ordinary people lived in misery, disease and violence. Rich people were completely unaware of the suffering that surrounded them.

Vincent began to work in a small country church where he organized members of the parish to provide food and clothing for the poor. It was the first of many such organizations, which today are called St. Vincent de Paul societies. Vincent came to realize that country people also needed spiritual care. He organized an order of priests that would be trained to go out to the villages and work with the peasants. The order came to be called the Vincentians, and it was soon at work all over France. Many of the priests who volunteered gave up promising careers for this humble work. Vincent established homes for orphans, for reformed prostitutes, for physically handicapped persons, and for the elderly. He believed that the rich and noble had a need to share their wealth and to give service, and he boldly reminded them to do so.

At that time women religious were cloistered. They spent their lives in their convents. Vincent became a great friend of Jane Frances de Chantal and Francis de Sales. From them he got the idea for a new kind of religious order “whose convent is the sick room, whose chapel is the parish church, whose cloister is