



# Stronica Proboszcza



## The Pastor's Page

May 5<sup>th</sup>, MMXIX

Third Sunday of Easter

*Month of Our Lady*

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!  
Praised be Jesus Christ!

*Chwalcie łąki umajone, góry doliny zielone;  
Chwalcie cieniste gaiki, źródła i kręte strumyki!*

Do you recall this most popular of songs to the Blessed Mother, which is always heard in Polish parishes during the Month of May? It translates thus:

*Let the flowery meadows, the hills and green valleys praise Our Lady;  
Let shady groves, bubbling springs and winding streams praise her too!*

The beauty of springtime brings the joy of Mary's month of May. All of God's beautiful creation seems to join together in praising God's most beautiful creation – the Mother of His Son – Mary Most Holy!

May is an important time to consider Mary's vital role in salvation history, her example as the perfect apostle of Christ and her vocation to be the mother of all the faithful. May always falls during at least part of the Easter season. During this time the Church refers to Mary in her liturgy, prayers and hymnody as *Regina Caeli* – the Queen of Heaven.

There has developed a long-standing tradition in the church to make this queenship of Mary more visible in the lives of the faithful by annually crowning an image of the Blessed Mother during the month of May. This beautiful ceremony will take place in our church on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. The crowner will be, eight year old, first communicant, Sophia Belles, daughter of Matthew and Kristyn Belles.

The Statue that is to be crowned is an image of Mary seated with the child Jesus on her lap. This is the very statue carried in the May Procesion. At the moment Mary holds a white rose in her hand. Most likely at one time she held either a scepter, a rosary or a scapular in that hand, but the piece has long been lost. She will remain in our sanctuary during her month crowned in honor of the *Regina Caeli*, *Królowa Nieba*, the Queen of Heaven.

## First Holy Communion Day!

First Holy Communion frequently take place during the Easter Season. Springtime is a season of the renewal of life in nature. It is also a time of renewing our Holy Faith during the Paschal Season. Receiving the Holy Eucharist, whether for the first time or any time in one's life, is a moment of great growth and renewal of the soul.

This Sunday, at the noon liturgy, ten children of the parish will make their first Holy Communion at Mass in our parish. This is a wonderful occasion for all of us to pause and remember that great day in our lives. What a wonderful gift is the living presence of Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist. And what an even greater grace it is that Christ wants to come to us regularly in this great sacrament and change us for the better as human beings and children of God! The First Holy Communion is just the beginning of a continuous line of intimate meetings with the Eucharistic Lord throughout the entirety of our lives here on earth.

As we watch these young children, come up to the altar, with so much excitement and anticipation in their hearts, most likely this will stir up similar feelings in our own hearts. Hopefully we never take Holy Communion for granted and we always receive communion with the presence of mind to consider carefully just what we are doing. We cannot afford to be distracted at these vital moments of our lives! We need Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and He is there for us. He has promised us at the Last Supper that he would be present each time we do this in memory of Him. Dear Friends, the Mass and Holy Communion are truly a Sacred Banquet in which Christ is received; the memory of His Passion is renewed; the mind is filled with grace; and a pledge of future glory is given to us.

*This year it has been my pleasure and I will admit a bit of a challenge to teach the second grade catechism class and prepare them for their first Holy Communion. It is not the first time I have taught second graders but that was when I was an assistant and not the pastor of the parish. I am very pleased to say that all the children in our class did very well and I am convinced learned a great deal. I would also like to thank my aid in the classroom, Mrs. Donna Marzolf. And so congratulations on this happy day to: Adam and Blake Adamski, Sophia Belles, Liam Cumiskey, Dominic Dorton, and Ruby Sanches. May this first Holy Communion be the beginning of a life long relationship with Our Lord, Jesus Christ, present in the Most Holy Eucharist.*

## The Little White Guest

*A prayer of children after receiving Holy Communion*

You have come to my heart, dearest Jesus,  
I am holding You close to my breast;  
I am telling You over and over,  
You are welcome, O Little White Guest.  
I love You, I love You, my Jesus,  
O please do not think I am bold;  
Of course, You must know that I love You,  
But I'm sure that You like to be told.  
I'll whisper, "I love You, my Jesus,"

And ask that we never may part;  
I love You, O kind, Loving Jesus  
And press You still nearer my heart.  
And when I shall meet You in Heaven,  
My soul them will lean on your Breast.  
And you will recall our fond meetings,  
When You were my little White Guest.  
Amen.

## The Reception of Holy Communion

The reception of Holy Communion in the hand was one of the topics scrutinized by participants in the Synod of Bishops in October 2005. The question of reception of Holy Communion in the hand was addressed by Cardinal Francis Arinze, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, who explained the arguments for and against this practice. One argument against was that it allows a person to depart with the consecrated host without consuming it.

A Spanish reporter of the Synod of Bishops, told journalists of a case where someone kept a host consecrated by Pope John Paul II and offered to sell it through the internet. On occasion, hosts have also been used in Satanic rites. Therefore, Cardinal Arinze asked priests to be attentive when administering Holy Communion in the hand.

My own experiences and observations prompt me to take this opportunity to point out that Holy Communion should always be received with reverence, and if taken in the hand consumed immediately in front of the priest. Also, the very gesture of hands stretched out to receive the Host is meaningful: they should form a kind of “throne” prepared to receive the Body of Our Lord present in the Eucharistic Bread. **Please hold your hands up high enough to safely receive the host and please do not try to take the host from the priest but allow him to lay it on your hand.** Try to be mindful of what a sacred moment this is in your spiritual life and respond clearly and audibly with the word “Amen” only.

Those who receive on the tongue should remember to open their mouths wide enough to receive the host and extend their tongue far enough that there will be an adequate space to place the host in their mouth.

Of course, it goes without saying, that whether we receive Holy Communion in the hand or on the tongue, we must: believe in the true presence of Christ in the consecrated species; we must be free from serious sin; and we should fast one hour before receiving the Eucharist.

*Jesus, Jesus, come to me. All my longing is for Thee.  
Of all friends, the best Thou art.  
Make of me Thy counterpart!*

### CSA

This weekend the annual Catholic Services Campaign begins in every parish throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit. This annual collection provides the funds necessary to run this large archdiocese that we are a part of. Every parish in the archdiocese takes part in this collection and they are all assessed the same percentage of their annual collection. This year our assessment is \$77,584.00. This number reflects the accurate number of households which make up our parish – 768. Unfortunately we did not reach last year’s goal and we were forced to pay it off by more than \$23,00.00 from our offertory collection. Only 346 households participated in last year’s campaign, that is not even half of the parish. This week letters were sent out to every registered household announcing the 2019 campaign. These letters include information for the 2019 campaign and also the form for pledged payments if so desired. If every household would give \$100 for the 2019 campaign we will reach our goal for the first time in a long time. That is our goal. Please help us in reaching it.

## Saturday, Mary's Day

Did you know that in Catholic Tradition each month of the year and every day of the week is dedicated to either a saint or a holy event in salvation history or a theological concept? The months are dedicated as follows: January, to the Holy Name of Jesus, February to the Passion of Our Lord, March to St. Joseph, April to the Holy Eucharist, May to Our Lady, June to the Sacred Heart, July to the Most Precious Blood, August to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, September to Our Lady of Sorrows, October to the Most Holy Rosary, November to the Holy Souls and December to the Divine Infancy. The days of the week are dedicated thus: Sunday to the Holy Trinity, Monday to the Holy Angels, Tuesday to the Apostles, Wednesday to St. Joseph, Thursday to the Holy Eucharist, Friday to the Passion and Saturday to Our Lady.

Saturday has traditionally belonged to the Blessed Mother since the very first days of the existence of the Catholic Church. St. Thomas Aquinas arrived at the conclusion that its roots harken back to the first Holy Saturday, when, grief stricken and disheartened after the events of Good Friday, the Apostles and followers of Christ returned to Mary to seek comfort for themselves and to console her in her sorrow and travail. As soon as Christ was no longer available to them, the Apostles turned and clung to His mother with their entire hearts. Artists in the first centuries of Christianity also contributed to the tradition of Saturday belonging to the Blessed Virgin Mary. They often painted the Mother of God at the entrance of the tomb where her Son lay buried. Similar paintings became deeply etched in the consciousness of believers and followers of Mary. Saturday became a day of special veneration of Our Lady in order to commemorate her extreme desolation on the day following her Son's burial.

### To Our Lady

Lovely Lady dressed in blue –  
Teach me how to pray!  
God was just your little Boy  
Tell me what to say!  
Did you lift Him up sometimes,  
Gently, on your knee?  
Did you sing to Him the way  
Mother does to me?  
Did you hold His hand at night?  
Did you ever try,  
Telling stories of the world  
O' and did He cry?

Do you really think He cares  
If I tell Him things –  
Little things that happen,  
And do the Angel's wings  
Make a noise? And can He hear  
Me if I speak low?  
Does He understand me now?  
Tell me – for you know.  
Lovely Lady dressed in blue,  
Teach me how to pray!  
God was just your little Boy  
And you know the way.

*If someone says something unkind about me,  
I must live so that no one will believe it.*