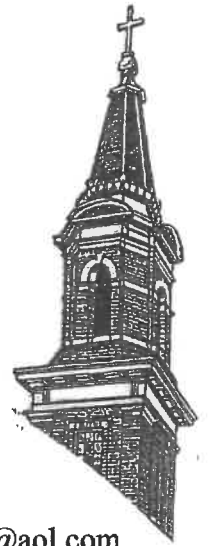




Stronica Proboszcza



The Pastor's Page

August 25th, MMXIX

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

FmarkB@aol.com

Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
Praised be Jesus Christ!

D happy day! It's FESTIVAL time again! Time for all of us here in the parish of Our Lady of the Scapular to graciously welcome the many guests present for this wonderful event. We all want to extend the greatest hospitality possible, in old Polish tradition, to all who have been kind enough to make the journey from East, West, North and South to our grand old church, so as to celebrate our annual Polish Festival. The annual festival is also a time for us to show off the old place at its very best and we have all been working very hard so that is just what you will see and experience!

We are all so very proud of our 103 year old church building and our 120 year old, but also brand new parish of Our Lady of the Scapular! In 2016 our church building turned 100! The cornerstone was laid on May 9th, 1915 and the church was dedicated on June 4th, 1916. Both of these important historic events were conducted by Bishop Edward D. Kelly, an auxiliary bishop of the diocese of Detroit.

Since last year's festival improvements continue to be made to the church. The most striking would be the cleaning and regilding of the murals above the side altars, followed by the marbleizing of the columns along the walls of the church. Just recently the front doors have been refinished. Our adoration chapel, located in the vestibule of the church, has been up and opened now for over a year, and many visitors frequent this shrine to adore the Holy Eucharist. It is open every day from 7:00 AM until 9:00 PM. Improvements have also been made to our sound system. And additional historic lighting continues to be restored. Next on the docket is planned the restoration of the side altars of the church and continued refinishing of woodwork in the church. Also attention will have to be given to the stained glass windows in the not too distant future. Our church is not only an historic landmark in the city of Wyandotte, but also a place of great inspirational beauty and a testament to the strong faith of those who built it and continue to care for it. Anyone wishing to donate to these worthy and historic projects, can do so by using the green colored church restoration envelopes found at the entrances of the church.

We hope your visit here will be an inspirational one and that you will return many times over!

Thanks so much for spending the day with us!

Monday, August 26th

Feast of Our Lady of Częstochowa, the Black Madonna

*Jak szczęśliwa Polska cała,
w niej Maryi kwitnie chwała.
Od Bałtyku po gór szczyty
kraj nasz płaszczem Jej okryty.*

*W Częstochowie tron swój wzniosła,
piękna, można i wyniosła,
lecz najczulsza z matek ziemi
cierpi razem z dziećmi swymi.*

*Do Twych stóp się Polska ściele
w Jasnogórskim Twym kościele,
stąd opieka na kraj płynie
z Tobą Polska nie zaginie.*

*Matko Boska,
Królowo Polska,
o Pani nasza
Częstochowska!*

*How happy is all of Poland,
in Mary's blossoming glory.
From the Baltic Sea to the mountain peaks,
her mantle covers our country.*

*She has set up her throne in Częstochowa,
she is beautiful, sublime, powerful and exalted,
but the most tender of mothers on earth
who suffers with her children.*

*Poland bows at your feet
in your church on Jasna Góra,
the bright mountain,
From whence flows your protection
on our country so that with you
Poland will never be lost.*

*O Mother of God,
O Queen of Poland,
Our Lady of Częstochowa!*

In Polish communities throughout the world like ours, this is a very important feast of the church year. For centuries Polish people have looked to the ancient icon of Our Lady enshrined in the Pauline Monastery at the top of the *Jasna Góra* (Bright Mountain) in the city of *Częstochowa* in southern Poland as their personal intercessor in heaven and even Queen of their nation. The image is also known as the Black or *Czarna Madonna* because of the dark complexion of Our Lady. The history of the icon is a fascinating one which every person who calls him or herself Polish should be aware of.

The painting was first brought to *Jasna Góra* in 1382 by Prince *Władysław Opolczyk*. A very old legend says that it was painted by the Evangelist St. Luke during Our Lady's lifetime. The image was said to have been painted on a wooden panel taken from a table used by the Holy Family of Nazareth. It was said that many early Christians wanted some sort of remembrance of Mary and prevailed on the evangelist, who was an artist in addition to being a physician, to execute a portrait of the Mother of Jesus for future generations.

When the Jews revolted against Roman rule in 66 A.D., the Christians, on fleeing Jerusalem, allegedly took this unique painting with them. The legend continues by relating that St. Helena (the mother of the Emperor Constantine the great who in 313 A.D., with the Edict of Milan, gave the official recognition of the Roman State to Christianity) in her search for the True Cross of Christ, came upon this painting. She learned that it was held in great veneration by the early Christians. Around the ninth century, the picture traveled northward, reaching Polish soil and finally resting in a castle at Belz, northeast of the City of *Lwów*, in what was called Ruthenia, i.e. part of the Western Ukraine.

In 1382, because of the invasions of that area by Tartar tribes, Prince *Władysław Opolczyk* (of *Opole* in *Silesia*), formerly a ruler in *Ruthenia*, intended to protect the picture by transferring it from *Belz* to *Opole*. Tradition relates that at one time the Tartars did, in fact, besiege the *Belz* castle, and that the picture was pierced by an arrow which left a scar on the neck of the Virgin. On his way to *Silesia*, *Władysław* stopped near *Częstochowa* near the small church on *Jasna Góra*. Here he discerned that Our Lady wished to have the picture on this spot. This reportedly happened on the 26th of August 1382. This is how it was that the great masterpiece of art, found its way to *Częstochowa's Jasna Góra!* Prince *Władysław* established the monastery on *Jasna Góra* in 1382 and invited the Pauline Fathers from *Hungary* to take charge of the shrine in which

this holy icon of the Virgin Mary was to be venerated.

In 1430 the icon was permanently damaged with scars on the face by vandals attempting to steal it. It was robbed of its jewel decorations but later officially crowned by Pope Clement XI in 1717 and by Saint Pius X in 1910. In 1656 the King of Poland Jan Kazimierz laid his crown before the image of Our Lady and proclaimed her Queen of Poland. This title has remained with the Black Madonna to this very day. When the final partition of Poland was drawn in 1792 and the Polish nation was erased from the map of Europe, Mary's role as queen of the Polish nation was intensified.

In our church a large icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa takes pride of place just to the left of the high altar. It is a fine copy of the icon as found in the monastery at Jasna Góra but without any of the ornamental jewels that adorn the "dresses" that cover the original. This piece came from the church of St. Stanislaus Kostka and we are proud and delighted to have it in our sanctuary!

Maryjo Królowo Polski! Jestem przy Tobie, pamiętam! Czuwam!

Tuesday, August 27th – Feast of St. Monica

St. Monica was born at Tagaste in northern Africa, in 332, in what is now the country of Algeria. Her parents were Christian, and she took her faith seriously. But she had one grave problem growing up. In the world where Monica lived, pagans and Christians lived side by side. Her parents arranged for her to marry a pagan man named Patricius. He had a hot temper and his idea of marriage didn't include being faithful to his wife. After many years of patience and love on Monica's part, Patricius became a Christian and was baptized in 372 on his deathbed.

St. Monica had much less success with her son Augustine. Though brought up as a Christian, he stole, cut classes, lied, and engaged in casual sex. Monica tried to interest her son in a Christian way of life. But with her attempts to control him, she probably drove him even further from a peaceful and holy life. She asked a wise bishop to convince Augustine that his ways were wrong, but the bishop replied that only prayer could help. Monica prayed, and in time she was able to give Augustine's future completely over to God.

At the age of 28, Augustine was baptized, after having been greatly influenced by the preaching of the Bishop of Milan, St. Ambrose. He would go on to become a great voice within the church. Mother and son began a joyful spiritual friendship. But only a few years later, St. Monica became ill unexpectedly and died far from home at Ostia, outside of Rome in 387. Augustine, who was traveling with her at the time, was struck by the trust in God she had gained through her struggles. He later said that she had shown no fear of dying in a strange place. St. Monica was sure that God, who is always near, would know where to find her body on judgment day. Her last request of her son was, "One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be."

Wednesday, August 28th – Feast of St. Augustine

St. Augustine was also born in the town of Tagaste in North Africa like his mother St. Monica. He was born in 354. His Christian mother gave her son a basic Christian upbringing, but from childhood he seemed to take after his father, a selfish man who had nothing to do with the church. Augustine stole, lied and cheated.

But he was also brilliant, and in time he became a teacher. He had decided that Christianity was not for him. He believed in a pagan philosophy that allowed him to do whatever he wanted in his personal life without guilt. When his mother tried to convince him to return to Christianity, he only became more determined to avoid the religion of his childhood.

Things began to change for Augustine when he moved to a new teaching position in Milan in Italy. St. Ambrose, who was the bishop of the city, helped Augustine by his preaching to think in new ways. After a long inner struggle, Augustine decided to be baptized. By this time he had a fifteen year old son,

Adeodatus, who was baptized with him. They were baptized by Bishop Ambrose at Easter in 387 when Augustine was 32 years old.

For the next several years Augustine lived with friends, doing works of charity and studying the scriptures. At age 36 he was ordained a priest. Then in 395 at age 41 he was called to be the bishop of the town of Hippo not far from Tagaste. As bishop, Augustine insisted that the priests of the diocese live simply. He himself lived in community and served the poor with kindness. He preached powerfully every day in the cathedral for 35 years. He found time to write many books. One famous book that is still read is his *Confessions*, which is the story of his life.

St. Augustine is honored as a doctor (a teacher) of the Church. Here is a quote from one of his works: "What does love look like? Love has hands to help others. It has feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others. That's what love looks like." St. Augustine died at the age of 76 on August 28th, 430, when the Vandals were at the gates of the city of Hippo. St. Bede states that St. Augustine's body was transferred to Sardinia to protect it from the Vandals. From there it was moved to Pavia in Italy where it is venerated today.

Thursday, August 29th – The Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Herod Antipas was a weak and immoral king, who had married Herodias, the wife of his own brother. John the Baptist was a prophet and a person of integrity, so he spoke out against this wrong. Herod was awed and puzzled by John, but Herodias was furious. John was a threat. At Herod's birthday celebration Herodias saw her chance to get John out of the way for good. Her young daughter Salome danced at the party, and Herod was so delighted that he foolishly promised her anything she wished as a reward, even half his kingdom. The daughter consulted her mother – and then she asked for the head of John the Baptist on a platter! Herod had been outsmarted. He was afraid to kill John but saw no way out. So, for the sake of a dance at a birthday party, the great prophet John was murdered. Legend says that after the head was given to Salome it was served on a dish to Herodias and her guests at table. Herodias is said to have picked up a sharp spike and stabbed again and again the tongue that had rebuked her for her viciousness and impurity. This was the same tongue that had greeted Our Lord with the salutation, "Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world." Some of John's disciples buried his body at Sebaste, a town some miles from Jerusalem. Tradition says that John the Baptist was six months older than his cousin Jesus, and that he died one year before Jesus.

Friday, August 30th – Feast of St. Fiacre

This rather unknown saint was born in Ireland in the the sixth century. He grew up in County Kilkenny and his name, Fiacre, is from the pre-Christian era in Ireand, and means the battle king. Eventually he left Ireland and travelled to France. There he requested of the Bishop of Meaux, St. Faro, permission to begin a monastery and a parcel of land. This he was granted in Breuil which is in Brie, France. There he built an oratory in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a hospice for travelers. For himself, the only resident of this monastery, he built a cell. Brother Fiacre practiced great personal mortification and spent his days doing manual labor in the large monastery garden. He was extremely skilled in growing vegetables and herbs, many of which were used medicinally. Eventually he became famous for his remedies made from the variety of plants in his monastery garden. He died in August of 670. He has become the patron saint of gardeners and is usually portrayed with a shovel in his hands.

**KTO RANO WSTAJE, TEMU PAN BÓG DAJE!
GOD GRANTS BLESSINGS TO THE ONE WHO RISES EARLY!**