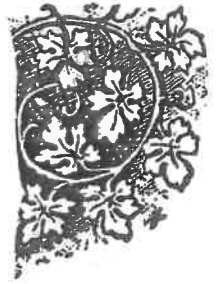


# Stronica Proboszcza



## The Pastor's Page

September 1<sup>st</sup>, MMXIX

Twenty-second 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!

**B**ogu niech będą dzięki! To God be the thanks! For He has just granted us all the strength necessary, to very successfully, get through another festival. God granted us the best of weather and sent more people to our festival than we could ever imagine, who were ready to stand in line to eat our delicious dinners and good Polish food. God sent many new first-timers to us who promised they would be back next year and that they would bring others with them. The wonderful Polish music is such a great part of the festival keeping everyone's spirits high even when it got hot and very busy. The Polka Mass by the Carousels definitely was a high point of the weekend! It really is a fine festival we put on, and people told me just that. They said it was old-fashioned affordable family fun and remarked about the pride the parishioners here take in their annual Polish Festival. So many said they had been coming to the festival every year since its inception. And so once again I say to God be the thanks, for all He has done for our parish. And as your pastor I must say thank you, thank you, thank you! To every last person who worked on our festival this year. Your generosity will be rewarded! You showed yourself as good and faithful parishioners devoted to Our Lady of the Scapular. I want to express special thanks to those who worked "behind the scenes," those who were not seen by the many visitors at our festival, but without whose work the festival would come to a grinding halt! Also special thanks should go to the entire festival committee who did such a good job organizing, advertising and running the festival this year, especially, Mr. Steve Sajewicz the festival co-chairman, and Mr. Al Adamski, former chairman and together with Mr. Steven Kędziński head of grounds set up. Of course thanks go also to the leaders who managed every booth or handled the details of every aspect of the festival. So much hard work goes into putting on a festival like ours. I am very proud of the spirit of co-operation and dedication that was exhibited during the festival by our workers. I cannot express how happy I am to be your pastor and to be able to work with you on such a noble project as the building up of our parish! The success we have experienced once again with our parish festival makes me confident that we are all up to the many challenges that lie before us.

*Dziękuję bardzo i Bóg Zapłać!*

**H**appy Labor Day Weekend! If you are reading this bulletin on Saturday evening or Sunday morning, **before or after Mass**, it probably means you are not going away for the last long holiday weekend of the summer. Labor Day marks the time when working people around the country come to the end of the summer vacation season and students return to school. We set aside this day to reflect on the work we do. Over the course of our lives, we spend more time working than we do at any other activity.

The whole point of the day is to rest from our labor and to give thanks for the employment we have that allows us to make a living. When people work to support themselves, it gives them a special dignity and the experiences we all have in the work place really do enrich our lives.

The first official Labor Day was celebrated in New York City in 1882. Peter J. McGuire, founder of the carpenters' union, suggested Labor Day at a union meeting. In its early years, it was a day when workers called attention to their grievances. Eventually this day became a national holiday.

In some way or another we all must work. It is part of the human condition and has been so since the day God threw Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Paradise. On that day God said, "From this day forward, by the sweat of your brow shall you bring forth your bread!" I am thankful for my work and my vocation. I hope you feel the same way.

## **Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup> – Feast of Blessed Bronisława**

Blessed Bronisława, a relative of Saint Hyacinth and Blessed Czesław, was born at Kamień in Śląsk around the year 1200 and was a member of the noble Odrowąż family. At the age of sixteen she entered the Norbertine cloister at Zwierzyniec near Kraków. The Norbertine or Praemonstatensian Order is the oldest religious order of women in Poland dating back to 1126. Blessed Bronisława is very often depicted in art with the soul of St. Hyacinth in heaven hovering over her, because according to legend, when he died, she was the first to know of it through a "heavenly communication." She was a religious filled with great zeal and very quickly became the superior of the convent she lived in. During the plague she would serve the poor and distribute medicine among them. Very often she would withdraw from the convent and go to a deserted place called Sikornik hill. There in silence she would contemplate and express her love for God. Eventually she became a hermit. She died on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1259. Her relics rest in the church of the Norbertine Sisters in Kraków. Although she is a relatively obscure saint, someone in this parish must have had a devotion to her as she enjoys a prominent place in the painting on the ceiling of the church over main aisle. St. Bronisława is in the medallion closest to the Superior Street side of the church. Other obscure saints up there are: St. Ladislaus, St. Hedwig and St. Andrew Bobola.

## **Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup> – Feast of St. Anna the Prophetess**

St. Anna the Prophetess was the daughter of a man named Phanuel who was of the tribe of Asher, one of the 12 Tribes of Israel. She was one of the very few faithful Jewish girls who believed with all her heart in the revelations of God in the Old Testament, and who awaited their fulfillment in the New Testament. Tradition says that Anna was married when she was 14 years old. She became a widow at 21. Further legend has it that she was the one given charge of the Blessed Virgin Mary from the time Mary was presented in the Temple until she was betrothed at around the age of

14 to St. Joseph. St. Anna was already elderly when she first met Our Lady. She was even older when Mary presented Jesus in the Temple. All other Jewish women in the Temple at that time were indifferent to the Holy Family. Only Anna greeted them. All the Jewish priests ignored the infant Jesus. Only Simeon greeted Him and held Him in his arms, and declared while Anna was listening, "Now Thou dost dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word in peace." Anna was the name of Mary's mother. Anna was the name of Mary's teacher in the Temple. The name Anna means *grace*. Mary was not only full of grace, but was companioned by grace during her childhood.

## **Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Feast of St. Gregory the Great**

St. Gregory described himself humbly as "the servant of the servants of God," but in the centuries since he has come to be known another way – St. Gregory the Great. Pope Gregory earned that praise by a lifetime spent shepherding his flock. Gregory was born in Rome in 540 and was the son of a Roman senator and administrator of one of the seven regions of Rome. His family had already produced two popes. He studied law, and by age thirty he became prefect or mayor of Rome. But after only a year in his post, and the death of his father, he divided his fortune in half. He gave one part of the money to the poor and used the rest to begin monasteries on his Sicilian estate. He turned the family home in Rome into a monastery and there he hoped to live the simple life of a Benedictine monk.

However, Gregory's hope didn't last long. Soon he was named one of the seven deacons of Rome and was then in 579 sent to represent Pope Pelagius II in the court of the emperor in Constantinople. After seven years there, during which he managed to live the monastic life, he moved back to Rome to become the pope's secretary and the abbot of the monastery of St. Andrew. When the pope died in 590, Gregory at age 50 was elected to take his place. He was the first monk to become a pope. Pope Gregory served the people in many ways in his fourteen years as pope. He worked to improve the church's worship. Gregorian chant is named in his honor. Gregory taught a great deal through his writings and preaching. He tended lovingly to the poor and had ruined churches rebuilt. He sent forty Benedictine missionaries to England and he was a peacemaker between nations.

One of Gregory's last acts was to send a warm winter cloak to a bishop who needed one. He called the care of others "the art of arts." He died in Rome on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 604, afflicted not only with physical suffering but dismayed at witnessing the desolation and ruin inflicted on the city by the barbarian invaders. His feast is celebrated on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the date of his Episcopal ordination in 590, to avoid having the feast fall during the Lenten season. The title "the Great" was bestowed on him by Pope Boniface VIII. He is also one of the four Fathers and Doctors of the Western Church, together with St. Ambrose, St. Augustine and St. Jerome.

## **Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> – Feast of St. Rosalia of Palermo**

Rosalia was born in 1130 in Sicily. She was the daughter of Sinibald, Lord of Roses and Quisquina, a descendant of Charlemagne. When she was young, she left home to live in a cave near Bivona so as to sacrifice her life to God. She later moved to a cave on Mount Pellegrino near Palermo. On the walls of the cave were found these words, "I, Rosalia, daughter of Sinibald, Lord of Roses and Quisquina, have taken the resolution to live in this cave for the love of my Lord, Jesus Christ." She died in that cave in 1166.

A legend is told that in 1624, a terrible plague broke out in Palermo. St. Rosalia appeared to a very sick woman and then to a hunter. She told the hunter to go to the cave and bring her bones to

Palermo and have them carried in a procession through the streets. The hunter climbed to the cave and found the remains just as St. Rosalia had revealed to her. He arranged a procession to carry her relics through the city and three days later, the plague ceased. A sanctuary was built in the cave where the hunter found her remains and every year on July 15<sup>th</sup> a celebration is held in Palermo called the festino. On her feast day, September 4<sup>th</sup>, the tradition of walking barefoot from Palermo up to Mount Pellegrino honors St. Rosalia.

Rosalia is sometimes referred to as "The Little Saint" and is pictured as a young woman wearing a crown of roses and holding flowers or a book or a cross. Her statue can be found in our church on the side wall by the Blessed Virgin's Altar. She came to our church by way of the Downriver Santa Rosalia Club. Throughout the year this group organizes Italian Masses in our Church. Saint Rosalia is known as the patron of Palermo, Sicily and El Hatillo, Venezuela. A Mass honoring St. Rosalia will be offered in the Italian language in our church on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. A procession with her statue will precede the Mass at 3:00 PM.

### **Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> – St. Moses**

Moses was the great patriarch and lawgiver of the Old Testament who wrote the first five books of the Bible. He is not called Saint Moses when referred to scripturally, but *only* on September 4<sup>th</sup>, his feast day. The life of Moses was divided into three periods of forty years. He was forty years in Egypt, a little child picked up near a river bank and educated and trained in the court of Pharaoh. He was then forty years in the Madianite country, south of the Holy Land. And then he was forty years with the Hebrews, in the desert on their way to the Promised Land. Moses died before the Israelites reached the Promised Land. He died on Mount Nebo at the age of one hundred and twenty. His sister Miriam is a great and noble woman of the Old Testament. His brother Aaron, whose feast day is July 1<sup>st</sup>, was the first high priest of the Jews.

### **Friday September 6<sup>th</sup> – First Friday of the Month**

Once again we come to the First Friday of the month, which is dedicated in a special way to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Savior. Please keep in mind the blessings that come to those who devoutly receive Holy Communion on First Fridays. This month there will be prayer service with the distribution of Holy Communion on First Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 AM and 8:00 AM, and Mass in English at 7:00 PM. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in the church from 8:30 AM until 10 AM, and from 5PM until 6:30 PM, when Benediction is offered. Please consider putting some of your precious time aside to adore Christ, Our Eucharistic King. The Most Blessed Sacrament is the Church's most precious treasure and God's greatest gift to His people.

# Live a Good Life

And in the end, its not the years in a life, it's the life in the years.

*Abraham Lincoln*