

October 1, 2017

Dear Bishops, Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, Deacons and Faithful of our Holy Church,

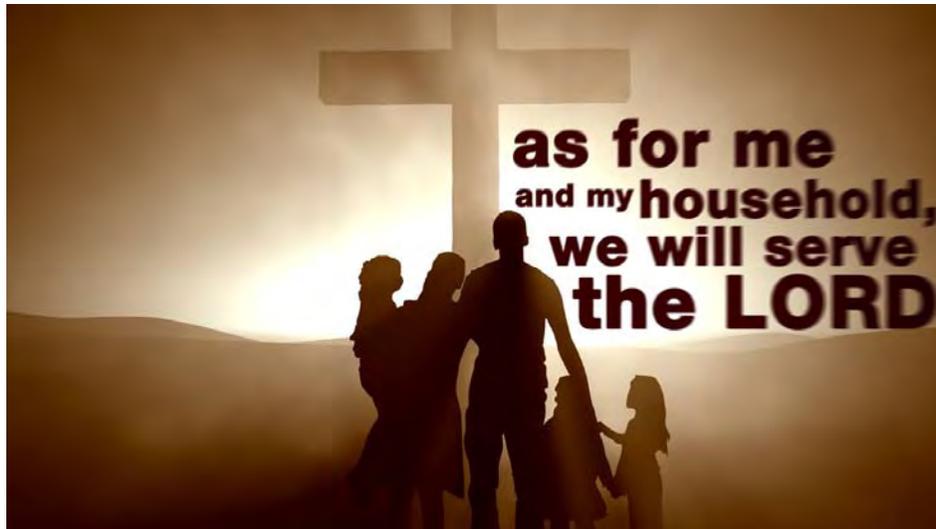
During the month of October across our Polish National Catholic Church we celebrate the Solemnity of the Christian Family. In our culture we see fewer and fewer examples of a Christian Family, praying together and following the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are reminded during this month to strengthen our commitment to our faith and our individual family as well as our parish family.

In the book of Genesis we read about God as the Creator of all things, including the institution of the family. The very basic concept of family defines it as a husband and wife with one or more children. However, we know that this is not always the case in every family situation. For example, some families do not have a mother or a father present; and some families have a husband and wife, but no children. Even in regard to Jesus we realize that Mary is His mother and Joseph is His guardian. The importance of the family in society should not be underestimated, for that is where we learn and develop our basic moral values.

At the Third General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church in 1914 the delegates instituted the Solemnity of the Christian Family and selected the second Sunday of October to celebrate it. The Solemnity of the Christian Family commemorates the values of the Holy Family and how we should apply these values to our own families. The responsibility of children to respect, honor and love their parents is found in the Bible. It is important for each of us to remember the Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and mother. Love and respect of parents toward their children is also taught many times in Holy Scripture. Parents not only have a responsibility to provide for the physical and material needs of their children, they are entrusted to provide for their spiritual needs as well. The parents are to bring up their children in the Christian faith and should set a good example for the children to follow. Parents are to teach, guide and discipline their children in the love of the Lord. This solemnity reminds us of the importance of mutual love and respect within each Christian family.

Just as an individual family is part of society, the Christian family is part of a parish family, which is part of a larger family called the Church. The individual Christian families and the Church share a common faith in Christ and worship Him. This solemnity also reminds us that the Christian family is built on the foundation of Christ Jesus, our Lord. We become a part of the Christian Family in the Sacrament of Baptism, through which we are united with Christ and become brothers and sisters in Him.

The Church is essential to the Christian family because the family members encounter Christ in the parish community by participating in worship at Holy Mass, receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, hearing the Word of God and receiving the other sacraments.



During the special Mass for the Solemnity of the Christian Family we will pray:

God, our Heavenly Father, You have blessed each of us with the gift of family that through our family life we may learn to love and care for others. Open our eyes to recognize in all people the bonds of kinship. May we unselfishly serve them who with us have been made co-heirs with Christ. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[For a blast from the past click here for "We Are Family" as presented by the youth, adults and clergy at Convo 2016](#)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiTDriNGkns>)

Here is the Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism monthly prayer calendar; for this month of October we are encouraged to show our commitment to faith and family is included here for your prayerful consideration.

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| <h1>October 2017</h1> <p>Eastern Diocese PNCC Mission / Evangelism Prayer</p>                       |   |  |  |  | Future Direction asks us this month to renew our commitment to faith and family...              | ...and to show appreciation to our clergy. Our prayer support is needed and welcomed!                    |
| 1 Have I followed through on my promise to serve God in the Body of Christ?                         | 2 God has given His angels charge over us to guard us in all our ways! Thank Him for this gift. | 3 May our clergy "be sympathetic and merciful to everyone" ~ St. Polycarp, B & M             | 4 <b>Francis of Assisi</b> May our homes & parishes be havens of blessing and places of peace. | 5 "Be steadfast... and follow the Lord's example, strong and unshaken in faith..."   | 6 "...loving the community as you love one another." ~ St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr          | 7 Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.                 |
| 8 <b>Christian Family</b> "...as members of one body, you are called to live in peace." (Col. 3:15) | 9 May prayer and not anger be our "default" response when someone offends us.                   | 10 "...the badge of membership in this body [of Christ] is love for each other." St. Ambrose | 11 Think of one thing you appreciate about your pastor, and let him know.                      | 12 Anyone who does not provide for his own family has denied the faith. (See 1 Tim.5)  | 13 May our clergy and faithful be of one mind & heart, focused on the Lord Jesus Christ.        | 14 Lord, "forgive our failings, keep us in Your peace, and lead us in the way of salvation" (Hours).     |
| 15 "Many people are good at talking and bad at understanding" ~ St. Teresa of Ávila                 | 16 "True perfection consists in the love of God and our neighbor, and the better we keep..."    | 17 "...both these commandments, the more perfect we shall be." ~ St. Teresa of Ávila         | 18 <b>Feast of St. Luke</b> May our Lord send out laborers into His harvest. (Luke 10:1-9)     | 19 May our clergy study God's Word and preach the truth, and may we have ears to hear.   | 20 May our love for God express itself in our eagerness to do good for others.                  | 21 May God turn the hearts of fathers to their children & the hearts of children to their fathers ~Mal.3 |
| 22 Thank God for the people who have helped you grow in your faith. Thank them, too.                | 23 Gal.6:10 ~ Do good to everyone, especially to those in the family of faith.                  | 24 Pray for your pastor and his family. Offer your support and encouragement.                | 25 1 Peter 2:17 ~ Respect everyone, and love the family of believers.                          | 26 "Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning... they are children of God." | 27...because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning... they are children of God." | 28 Only when we know the depth of our sin do we know the depth of God's mercy. (Sacred Space)            |
| 29 (Sacred Space) "We are not as good as we thought..."   | 30 "...but we are much more loved than we ever imagined." ~Gerald M. Fagin                      | 31 You have a treasure in your heart, God's limitless love for you. Share it today!          | "Be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another..."                              | ...just as God through Christ has forgiven you." ~ Ephesians 4:32  |   |  |

October is also Clergy Appreciation Month. What have you done to show your appreciation to your Pastor? Do you pray for him and work with him for the proclamation of the Gospel?



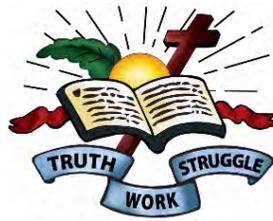
Future Direction Subcommittee of the Supreme Council  
Polish National Catholic Church

If you know of parishioners or friends who are not a part of our monthly email updates – please have them email us at [FutureDirection@pncc.org](mailto:FutureDirection@pncc.org) to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

Please keep this church-wide undertaking in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church. Also please keep in prayer our clergy of our church as they prepare for the National Clergy Conference in November.

May we show our commitment to our faith and family not just in our words, but more importantly buy our actions. May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee  
Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop  
Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., Chairman



We continue to implement the five themes the Synod determined for our future direction:

- Growth and Membership
- Increase Spirituality
- Lifelong Learning
- Sacred Vocations
- Community Involvement and Presence

Action Plan for 2017- a Year of Commitment

1. Greater Understanding of Church Solemnities: Institution of PNCC
2. Two Days of Retreat: Lent and Advent
3. Complete at least four community service projects
4. Implementing the Commitment Component
5. Stewardship component
6. Implement Lay Ministry Program in PNCC
7. Continuing Adult Education
8. Utilize Social Media & PNCC Future Direction You Tube Channel

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