

Letter from the Pastor

150th Jubilee Mass – St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to live in the temple of the Great God, where everything is found. In this sanctuary, I find all that I love most rapturously, all that I thought most truly, all of those most beautiful things I wished to accomplish.

These are the words of Bogdan Janski who founded the *Congregation of the Resurrection* and whose progeny, the Resurrectionists priests and brothers, have served those who have stepped through these doors into the sacred space of St. Stanislaus Kostka for the last 150 years. His words poignantly confirm the mission entrusted to the parish by the Blessed Virgin Mary to the people of our time.

Open the doors to sanctuary that the cacophony of the world not shout into silence the voice of the Living God.

Our celebration on this Octave of Easter - the Divine Mercy Sunday, is felt ever so deeply and with great joy and immense generosity as St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish observes its 150th Jubilee Year. One hundred and fifty years seems rather miniscule considering the Church has been laboring and rejoicing under the banner of the Risen Christ already 2000 years, but in the year of our Lord 1867 those 2000 years flowed succinctly into the life of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish just as the parish was so beautifully woven into the Church's sacred story. By the grace of God and the faithful response of a believing people, 150 years later, the story continues to unfold in concert with the Church and under the same banner of Easter victory.

St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish is a witness to the enduring grace of the Risen Lord who, 2000 years ago, sent his small band of disciples to go forth to all nations with the proclamation that God lives forever more. The seed of faith in the Risen Lord bears fruit and gives life unto his second coming when the kingdom will be fully realized.

At the turn of the 19th Century into the 20th, the parish of St. Stanislaus Kostka was hailed as one of the largest in the world with a membership of 40,000. It had an appearance similar to that of the multitude who witnessed the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

2000 years ago in the Holy City of Jerusalem. By contrast, today the parish may be likened to the small band of disciples who were greeted by the Risen Lord in the Cenacle that first Easter Sunday.

But be not discouraged, the same Risen Lord comes today as he did 2000 years ago with the same summons, “Do not be afraid.” Jesus has conquered the Evil One and though the devil’s machinations continue to deceive, seduce, and terrorize, we need not be slaves to him nor to sin and death any more. This is the time for witness as we journey onward between the first and second coming of Christ.

Confronted with challenges unheard of in the time of our Lord’s first appearance 2000 years ago, the odds today do not seemingly favor us, but on the eve of his suffering death Jesus reminded us the path we are called to follow is not easy. Our consolation is the knowledge that we have been chosen by God who continues to reveal himself to us who eat and drink with him. His favor is in us and ours is in him.

This is the great mystery of our faith. The Risen Jesus is recognized in the *breaking of the bread*, not by all, but to us who have been called by God to go forth and bear witness. This is a new day and a new time for sure, but the Risen Lord is the same now as he was 2000 years ago. He is the same today as he was 150 years ago when those first Polish families, placing themselves under the patronage of St. Stanislaus Kostka received permission to form a parish and build a *sanctuary* on this very ground. The Risen Christ is with us still.

St. Stanislaus Kostka is a parish that literally moved an expressway and now under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the parish turns east to the *pilgrims* making their journey up and down the Kennedy Expressway. Echoing anew the words of Bogdan Janski may her children find here in *sanctuary, the Great God rapturously loved, and all that is true and good so that beautiful things be accomplished.*

For this the Blessed Virgin Mary calls for the opening of these doors. To this end we’ve opened the doors 24/7 and strive to be faithful in hope and prayer that today and well into the future, in this historic parish – in this beautiful sanctuary - a searching people find support in the merciful God and that his grace complete in them the work of salvation.

Sincerely in the Risen Lord,

Fr. Anthony Bus C.R., Pastor