



N^o
07

ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІГТРІЇ

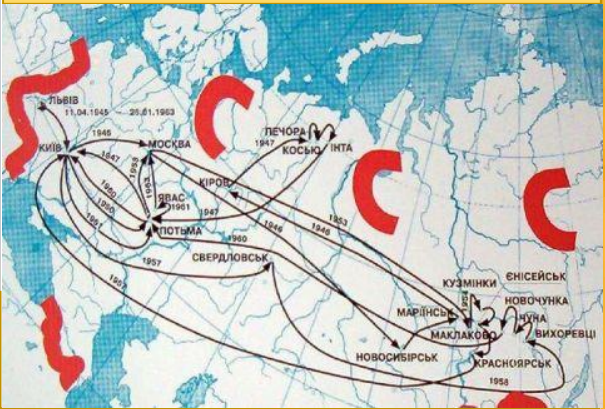
UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN
February 12 Лютого – 2017
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



After the Baptism of Lucy Valentina Petri. Mnohaya Lita!



Patriarch Josyf Slipyj, the martyr for the faith, born February 17, 1893. The prisons and exiles where Patriarch Josyf Slipyj was sent for long 18 years. Pray for His beatification → → →

Молитва за прославу Слуги Божого Патріярха Йосифа Сліпого

“Прийми Господи, молитви наші за Святої пам’яті Патріярха Йосифа, якого Ти нам у своїй доброті був післяв... Доніс він свій важкий хрест до Твого Пристолу, Господи, Хрест сострадання із народом своїм, хрест сострадання із церквою, яку без милосердя ділили і присудили на смерть. Помози нам, Господи, працювати для збереження нашої рідної церкви, для якої все життя невтомно трудився Патріярх Йосиф, та якої права так відважно і віддано обороняв.” Амінь.

№ 07
FEBRUARY
2017

*When I disobey in ignorance
thy fatherly glory,
I wasted in iniquities
the riches that thou gavest me.
Wherefore, I cry to thee with the
voice of the prodigal son,
saying,
I have sinned before thee,
O compassionate Father,
receive me repentant,
and make me as one
of thy hired servants.*

The icon of the Sunday of the Prodigal Son shows the prodigal being received by his father upon his return. We are presented with an image of a warm and loving embrace, the son showing his need for his father, an attitude that represents repentance, love, and hope for renewal and restoration. The father is shown full of compassion for his son, having born the burden of his sin and suffering, but now filled with joy that he has returned.



Ми згадуємо притчу про блудного сина напередодні Великого посту – особливого часу в житті кожної людини. Піст дається нам для того, щоб ми про все подумали, помолилися, оцінили своє життя, свої вчинки, свої думки, піддали їх неупередженому суду – внутрішньому суду голосу своєї совісті, і помолилися Господу про прощення своїх гріхів і про позбавлення від гріховного полону. І нехай для кожного з нас притча про блудного сина стане великим джерелом надії на те, що Бог простить нас, зцілить від гріхів – і теперішніх, і минулих, допоможе знайти мир і радість життя у спілкуванні з Ним в домі Отчому.

Прес-служба Михайлівського Золотоверхого монастиря

CHURCH BULLETIN

February 12 Лютого 2017
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



Saint Nicholas Church
Церква Св. Миколая
(Під Опікою П.Д.М.)

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

12 Лютого: Неділя Блудного Сина

Feb. 12: Sunday of Prodigal Son

10:00 AM +Іван і Марія Правак (Родина)

12:00 PM +Mary Beth Sukmann

15 Лютого: СТРИТЕННЯ

(Ann Marie & Dick Piech)

10:00 AM +John & Mary Colomon
(Allen & Nadine Burkholder)

3:30 PM Panachyda for +Mychajlo Belmega at
Pietszak Funeral Home on William St.

19 Лютого: Неділя М'ясопусна

Monday, February 13 Лютого, Понеділок

10:00 AM +Ольга Басараб (49 відділ СУА)

10:00 AM +Михайло Бельмега – Похорон

+Mychajlo "Michael" Belmega – Funeral

→ Благословення домів

Цього року було троха тяжко. Я ще все
відвідаю пару домів навіть після Стритення.

4:30 PM ++Олексій, Володимир, Агафія,
Василь (Антін і Марія)

→ Blessing of the houses

Was challenging this year. I will still visit a few,
God willing.

Tuesday, February 14 Лютого, Вівторок

9:00 AM +Katherine & Michael Chort (Mary Ann)

Wednesday, February 15 Лютого, Середа
See Julian

Thursday, February 16 Лютого, Четвер

8:00 AM +Александра Грега
(Слава Грега Лонг)

Friday, February 17 Лютого, П'ятниця

10:00 AM +Патр. Йосиф Сліпий
+Patriarch Josyf Slipuj – *1893

Saturday, February 18 Лютого, Субота

9:00 AM +Софія Дусанівська – 40 д. і пан.
(Родина)

4:30 PM +Zenon Bodnarskyj (Wife)

Feb. 19: Meat-Fare Sunday

12:00 PM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Eternal Light burns for
+John Iwanyczko (born Feb. 14)
Requ. by sisters
Luba Szyszkowski & Mary Muhs



2017 LUC dues of \$7.00
are now payable to
Ihor Pereyma.
Dues can be sent to
38 Lester St. Buffalo, NY 14210.

Наше Річне Засідання – 26 Лютого, 12 год.
Church Annual Meeting – Feb 26 at noon.
(No Noon Liturgy that day.)

Great Lent starts Monday, Feb. 27.
Великий Піст починається 27 Лютого.

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М.
горить за + Михайла Мохнача
(14 Лютого було би йому 100 років.)
Пожертва: Орися Дейл з родиною

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ПЕРСОНАЛЬНІ ТА БІЗНЕСОВІ ФІНАНСОВІ ПОСЛУГИ
ОЩАДНІ ТА ЧЕКОВІ РАХУНКИ | СЕРТИФІКАТИ | М.М. | ПЕНСІЙНІ РАХУНКИ | ПОЗИКИ | КРЕДИТИ НА НЕРУХОМІСТЬ | ПЛАТІЖНІ КАРТКИ VISA | MONEYGRAM | ГРОШОВІ ПЕРЕКАЗИ | ЕЛЕКТРОННІ ПОСЛУГИ | ПОСЛУГИ НОТАРІУСА | ПЕРЕКЛАДИ | СТИПЕНДІЇ

<p>Buffalo Branch Ukrainian Home Dnipro 562 Genesee Street Buffalo NY 14204 (716) 847-6655 www.rufcu.org</p>	<p>Amherst Branch Ellicott Creek Plaza 2882 Niagara Falls Blvd Amherst NY 14228 (716) 799-8385 www.rufcu.org</p>
<p>Business Hours Closed Wednesdays, Зачинені по середах Mon., Tuesday, Thursday 9:30 am - 5 pm Пон., вівторок, четвер Friday / П'ятниця 9:30 am - 7 pm Saturday / Субота 9 am - 1 pm </p>	<p>Business Hours Closed Mondays, Зачинені по понеділках Tuesday - Thursday 9:30 am - 5 pm 3 вівторка по четвер Friday / П'ятниця 9:30 am - 6 pm Saturday / Субота 9 am - 1 pm </p>

Membership subject to eligibility. Federally insured by NCUA.

Щоб довідатися більше інформації про це що діється в громаді, Просимо відвідати веб-сторінку.
<http://www.ukrainiansofbuffalo.com>
Is the the web-page to find More information and events In our Ukrainian Community.

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Are you listening to "Good Samaritan"
Ukr. Radio Program on WJL 1440 AM
Every Sunday at 2:00 PM?
Thank you for your donations!
We welcome your comments.

Чи ви слухаєте нашу радіо передачу
«Милосердний Самар'янин»
Неділя, 2 год. на WJL 1440 AM?
Сердечно дякуємо за пожертви!

Please include our Church
in your charitable donations!

Просимо підтримувати Рідну Церкву
талантами, часом і жертвами.

Cell Phones - Мобільні Телєфони:
Please turn off or silence your cell phone
before entering the church. Thank you!

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні
телєфони підчас Святої Літургії.

Happy Birthdays in February
МНОГАЯ ЛІТА!
Birthday wishes to the following
parishioners who were left off the list by
mistake and who celebrate a birthday in
February:
Gloria Grega Long – February 7th
Christina Dietz – February 14th
Natalie Wisniewski – February 18th
Olena Czmola May – February 22nd

Please forgive us:
We are still a work in progress!



Стипендійна акція 49го
Відділу СУА в Баффало повідомляє,
що з першого лютого 2017 р.
розпочинається збірка на
Стипендійний Фонд СУА,
для незаможної молоді в Україні...
Допомога є дуже потрібна.
Чеки просимо виписувати на
Ukrainian National Women's League.
Минулорічні звіти є у референток СУА
За інформаціями слід звертатися до:
Зоряна Бунч - 668-9504
Оксана Салдит - 832-9331
Стипендійна Акція
49го Відділу СУА

SITCH DINNER MEETING
Sunday March 19, 2017
At Joseph Hriczko Post
29 Clemo St., Buffalo, NY
After 12:00pm Liturgy
For the reposed and living members of our
organization at
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church
Fillmore & Oneida Sts., Buffalo, NY
COCKTAILS at 1:00PM
DINNER at 1:30PM includes refreshments
Meeting to be held after dinner.
Dinner cost is \$10.00 for members and
\$15.00 for guests
Membership dues of \$5.00 for the 2017 year must
be current and may be paid at the door.
For reservations call:
Maria Malaniak – 668-5105
Reservation deadline is March 12, 2017
Reservations are a must and liable. Thank you

Reminder:
This month's religious education class is next
Saturday, February 18, 2017 from 9:00 AM -
12:30PM in the Church Hall.

Короткий Історичний Календар
ЛЮТИЙ

12. 1924. Замучили Ольгу Басараб.
17. 1893. Народився Йосиф Сліпий
Коберницький Дичковський, Батько і
Глава нашої церкви. Помер 1984.
25. 1871. Народилася Поетеса Леся
Українка (Ляриса Косач) 1871-1913.

Our **Easter Dinner** - week after Easter,
April 23, 2017. Baked Goods, as usual,
would be greatly appreciated.

CELEBRATE THE NATIONAL DAY OF MARRIAGE ON FEBRUARY 12, 2017

3 НАГОДИ СВІТОВОГО ДНЯ ПОДРУЖЖЯ (12 ЛЮТОГО 2017)

**PRAYER
FOR MARRIED COUPLES**

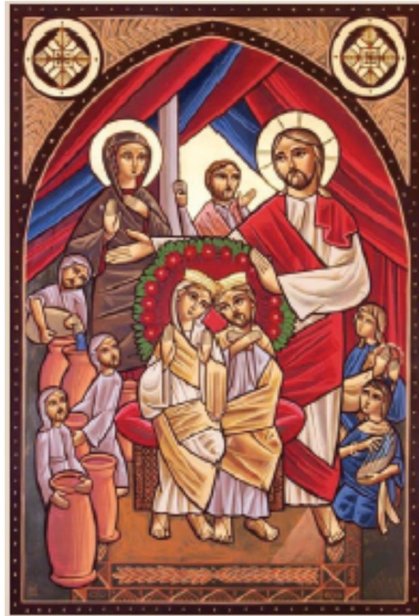
Almighty and eternal God, You blessed the union of husband and

wife so that we might reflect the union of Christ with his Church: look with kindness on us. Renew our marriage covenant. Increase your love in us, and strengthen our bond of peace so that, [with our children], we may always rejoice in the gift of your

blessing. For are a merciful and loving God and we give glory to You, Father Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Bless the Lord, all the marriage and grant them peaceful life, integrity, mutual love in the bond of peace, long life and unfading crown of glory.

May the Blessing of the Lord be upon You!

+Paul



**МОЛИТВА
ЗА ПОДРУЖЖЯ**

Всемогутній і вічний Боже, Ти поблагословив союз чоловіка і

жінки, щоб ми стали образом єдності Христа з Його Церквою. Поглянь на нас ласкаво, віднови наш шлюб. Обдаруй нас своєю любов'ю та зміцни наш союз в мирі, щоб ми [з нашими дітьми], завжди втішалися даром твого благословення. Бо ти

Тобі славу віддаємо, Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові, нині і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.

Благослови, Господи, усі подружжя і подай їм мирне життя, доброчесність, любов взаємну в союзі миру, рід довговічний та нев'янучий вінець слави.

Благословення Господнє на Вас!

+ Павло



Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory for ever!
Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава на Віки!

- KITCHEN is now open. Thank you!
- Thank you for your patronage. Thanks are extended to all volunteers!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall, so please join us downstairs. Thank you!

Until we meet next Sunday...

TOP'S GIFT CARDS:

Please help us raise money for our Church by purchasing Top's Gift Cards from us. If you buy in Tops anyway, why not help. You do not lose or gain anything by doing this, but our Church will benefit greatly. We receive back 5% of your spending. To take advantage of this program, see Mary Bodnar or call 655-3810, or call the rectory. Thank you and God Bless!



Please note: You can purchase gasoline with this card at Tops Gasoline Station.

У нас успішно продаються Карточки з крамниці "Топс". Купуючи їх ви помагаєте церкві. Для Вас не робить різниці чи ви платили грішми чи карточкою, але церква дістане від „Топс” 5%. На \$1,000 церква одержить \$50. Щоб закупити слід звертатися до п. Марії Боднар, або до канцелярії. Дякуємо!

CHURCH BULLETIN is published weekly. Deadline for information is Friday Evening. ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК видається тижнево. Інформації подавати до П'ятниці вечора.

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Dioc. Web: <http://www.stamforddio.org>

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

Rectory: (716) 852-7566

Fax: 855-1319 ~ Kitchen: 852-1908

Confession: Before Liturgies

Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями

Baptism: By appointment

Хрещення: За домовленням

Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance

Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

Religion classes – Релігійна Програма
Saturday - Субота

Ministry to the sick – Опіка над хворима

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священика

IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME

В разі потреби завжди можна закликати

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor

Rev. Robert Moreno, visiting priest

Please call if you are hospitalized, homebound and need a priest.

Просимо закликати якщо ви у лічниці або приковані до ліжка!

Неділя про блудного сина в УГКЦ - день особливої уваги до в'язничного служіння

Синод Української Греко-Католицької Церкви проголосив Неділю про блудного сина, що за літургійним календарем 2017 року припадає на 12 лютого, днем особливої уваги УГКЦ до в'язничного служіння, яке є пастирською турботою і молитвою за в'язнів, за всіх жертв злочину та за працівників пенітенціарної системи України.

Перед Великим постом єпархії УГКЦ покликані подбати про проведення збірок на потреби пенітенціарного душпастирства, оскільки це важливе служіння потребує належної підтримки. Минулий Рік Божого милосердя став особливою нагодою для оживлення місії Церкви для ув'язнених.

За останніми оприлюдненими даними від 1 вересня 2016 року, в Україні понад 60 тис. в'язнів. Число в'язнів на окупованих територіях оцінюється понад 15 тис., і їх доля особливо невтішна, адже вони не користуються захистом закону України.

Найбільше осіб засуджено за корисливі злочини проти приватної власності — крадіжки, грабїж, розбій, вимагання; на другому місці - «за наркотики»; на третьому — засуджені за умисне вбивство. Велике число наших співгромадян мали досвід перебування «за ґратами».

Проблему злочинності неможливо розв'язати лише силовими методами без плекання суспільної солідарності та співвідповідальності. Тому жодні зусилля не є надмірними, аби знайти та втілювати всі можливі альтернативи покаранню особи в неволі.

Сучасна місія УГКЦ у тюрмах проходить в атмосфері братнього співслужіння з представниками інших християнських Церков і деномінацій. Вона здійснюється на підставі соціального партнерства у співпраці з Державною пенітенціарною службою України. Визнаючи глибоку пошану до праці пенітенціаріїв, які у важких умовах виконують відповідальну суспільну місію, Церква висловлює підтримку всім зусиллям, що сприяють соціальній інтеграції.

Пенітенціарне душпастирство УГКЦ

BELIEVE for Life

A faith publication of the Ukrainian
Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.

Saint Augustine

He who believes is the recipient of the Beatitude that runs through the Gospel, and that resonates throughout history, on Elizabeth's lips: "happy are you for you believed," or addressed by Jesus himself to Thomas: "Happy are those who believe without seeing!"

Pope Francis

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

C.S. Lewis

A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.

Theodore Roosevelt

You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests.

St. John Chrysostom

To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.

Saint Thomas Aquinas

Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.

Saint Francis of Assisi

In Memoriam – Вічна Пам'ять!

Упокоївся в Господі Св. Пам.
+Михайло Белмеґа

(1 Грудня, 1924 - 8 Лютого, 2017)

Родині складаємо співчуття
а йому хай буде Вічна Пам'ять!



Fell asleep in the Lord

+ Mychajlo "Michael" Belmega
(Dec 1, 1932 – Feb. 8, 2017)

Beloved husband of late Olga (nee Matijkowicz) Belmega; devoted father of Akacia, Orest, Kalyna (Bruce Filipiak and late Carl) Sofia, Luba (Tim) Kubala, Andrij (Sharon) and Marko Belmega; loving grandfather of Daniel and Thomas Belmega, Andrea and Michael Sofia; fond great-grandfather of Lily, Zahara, Maya and Emily. Family will be present Sunday 2-4 and 6-8 PM at the PIETZAK FUNERAL HOME, 2400 William St. (near Harlem). Panachyda Service will be held Sunday at 3:30 PM and Monday at 9:15 AM followed by a Funeral Liturgy at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church at 10 AM. Online condolences: www.Pietszak.com.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends.
May he rest in peace!

Eternal Memory! Vichnaya Pamiat'!

In Memory: Mychajlo Belmega

Our father, Mychajlo Belmega, was born on December 01, 1924, in Usteriky, Ukraine. Usteriky is a small village located in the beautiful region of Hutsulszczyna. Hutsulszczyna is known mainly for its breath-taking Carpathian Mountains (Karpathy) and it's domestic handicrafts, especially woodworking, rug weaving, embroidery and pottery making; the people living there are simply called "Hutsuls"!

Tato, as we have always called our beloved father, was born to two devoted and hard working parents, our grandparents, Mychajlo and Anna (Nedochodiuk) Belmega. He was the oldest child in his family and had two younger sisters Hannia and Marijka and a younger brother named Petro. Petro had passed away many years ago, but our aunts both live in the Ukraine today. Hannia, unfortunately, lives in the Luhansk region, where the fighting between the Ukrainian Army and Russian forces has escalated and destroyed many innocent civilians and families. Marijka still resides in the beautiful Usteriky with her husband Dmytro and their children nearby. Tato's father, also named Mychajlo, was a talented businessman and lumberjack who supervised a fleet of loggers in cutting, cleaning and transporting logs and wood via the rivers and streams; and later onto ships for redistribution and sales to larger cities. Tato enjoyed learning about this trade and had spent many hours "in the forest" with his dad; he was very knowledgeable in the special gear and equipment used by the loggers. Tato's mother Anna was a devoted mother who enjoyed cooking, baking and embroidery. My sisters and I still possess many of her beautifully embroidered Ukrainian shirts, pillows and tablecloths. The design of these intricate items

is representative of Hutsul Motif and deeply cherished and displayed in our homes.

Tato completed his basic and middle school years in Usteriky, surrounded by nature, beautiful farms and pastures, remarkable Hutsul architecture and caring teachers. He was very interested in geography and history, but had a strong passion to learn poetry and literature. As he grew older his desire was to be a soldier, with rank, in the Ukrainian Army. With the outbreak of World War II; he joined the Ukrainian Army with friends and later became part of his ultimate coveted dream: The Ukrainian "Diviziya", which he has shared many memories over the year with his colleagues and children. During the war, Tato was transferred to Germany and settled in Westphalia Germany. In Westphalia, he was reunited with many Army buddies and fellow Hutsuls. Tato worked at various jobs in order to survive, built new friendships and reunited with other Ukrainians in Bilefeld. During one of the cultural nights, Tato was introduced to the Matijkowycz family; my mother's parents, by chance and later, he met my mother; she was a young tween or teenager with long braids! What a lucky day this was for him!

My father emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1950. He settled down in Providence, Rhode Island where my mother's family, the Matijkowycz's were already living. Serendipity was on my dad's side. My mother and father were married on May 17, 1952 in Providence, Rhode Island. The lack of employment encouraged our parents to move to Buffalo, New York, where they resettled; reunited with friends from Germany and decided to stay put. Tato found better employment at Chevrolet and he and my mother became the proud parents of six children: Akacia, Orest, Kalyna, Luba, Andrij and Marko; all born in Buffalo over the years. He was a devoted husband to my

mom, Olha and a very dedicated father to his six children; who were all christened at Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church. Tato became very active in the Ukrainian World Consolidation of Hutsuls, the Ukrainian American Youth Association, "Dnipro", the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian Nationalist Organization and served other Ukrainian Cultural, political and social organizations. He loved being with people, both young and old and having discussion on Ukraine brightened up his days.

As I reflect on the memories I have of my father, the one that is most outstanding to me is my father's generous heart He was kind and generous to his family, friends and Ukraine! He was one of the most charitable people and he would give you the shirt off his back !! Secondly, he taught me to look immediately for the good in people; look at a person's good intentions, motives and virtues. Thirdly, he was a faithful husband, who stayed and looked after my mom until she passed away.

Mychajlo Belmega was my teacher, my "best friend" and confidant! His dreams, ideas and kind words will always live in my heart! I shall miss you, Tato, more than words can express. (Akacia T. Belmega)

Banns of Matrimony (2)

Gregory Richmond McQuiggen, son of
Kevin S. and Nadia R. Hreshchyshyn &
Ashley Lorraine Coomber, daughter of
William and Karen Pickel

Наміряють вступити в стан супружій

Грегорій Річмонд МакКвігґен, син
Кевина і Наді Грецишин і
Ашлей Лоррейн Кумбер, донька
Василя і Карен Пікел

Це друга Оповідь.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav: "The Ukrainian power hasn't fully estimated the importance of relations with Vatican for national interests yet"

"Unfortunately, I don't see today a clear strategy for development of relations between Ukraine and Vatican. The state policy is beyond the competence and influence of the Church, although it doesn't mean that we cannot have our own civil position in this matter. And we speak out on it. Someone might even think that we do it too often and too courageously. If we don't have our own policy, then we will be imposed a foreign one!"

This was declared by the Head and Father of the UGCC His Beatitude Sviatoslav in the interview for the Religious-Informational Service of Ukraine, analyzing the Havana declaration in it. Let us remind you that the meeting of Pope Francis and Patriarch Kiril and their signing a joint declaration stirred up the Ukrainian society.

The Primate of the Church observed that the Ukrainian power has not realized the importance of relations with Vatican for the national interests fully enough: "We are becoming witnesses of how actively our northern neighbor imposes itself on the Holy See and tries to use it as a tool for its own advantage." In his opinion, "Those who are trying to oppose Ukraine to the Holy See or make an impression in the society that Vatican 'makes friends with Moscow' against Ukraine, is the force working against our national interests."

In his interview the Head of the Church explains that unity of the UGCC with the Holy Father is not based only on political or diplomatic reasons. But it is an object of our faith and an integral part of identity of our Church. "I remember how in the Soviet times, when communistic propaganda was convincing our people that Vatican and the Pope are enemies of the Ukrainian nation, one elderly woman said very simply: "Let them speak whatever they like, but we have always been and will always be with the Pope." I understand only now that it was an authentic people's manifestation of Christian faith," he went on. "We all need to remember this testimony especially today."

He also recalled the role of the Roman Hierarchs regarding the contemporary Ukrainian history: "Pope

Pius XII sharply decried Soviet atheistic propaganda and destroying the UGCC, saving tens of thousands of Ukrainian emigrants from 'repatriation' to the Siberia. Then in a short period of time Rome created eparchies and exarchates for Ukrainians on various continents, which became crucial for saving Ukrainians in the world. After World War II Vatican and Roman Catholics supported not only church structures and charity work but also became the advanced patrons of the Ukrainian culture in Europe..." Thus, Pope Saint John XXIII took efforts to release Patriarch Josyph Slipy and Pope Saint John Paul II, as the most venerable world leader, was systematically speaking Ukrainian for 27 years. Pope Benedict XVI continued this tradition, clearly speaking regarding totalitarianism and historic truth about the events in Ukraine. This line is also kept by Pope Francis.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav is convinced that at this difficult for Ukraine time we need to take every effort to develop the relations between our state and the Holy See "Strategically our biggest desire is to move towards concluding a concordat – comprehensive inter-state agreement – between Ukraine and Vatican"

Analyzing points of Havana declaration, signed by Pope Francis and Patriarch Kiril, the Head of the UGCC noted: "The Pope confirmed that its text isn't unmistakable, it's not 'a page from the Gospel'. It cannot be diminished but we shouldn't overestimate it either. We can and should criticize it. What matters here is not abstract agreements or schemes but the fate of Church and my personal responsibility before the faithful and society."

"When a year ago I was speaking about the pain, I was not speaking on my own behalf but became the voice of the Ukrainian society, whose wounds were touched upon by the declaration or its interpretation," he added. The Head of the Church also said that after the declaration was signed, he spoke to Cardinal Kurt Koch, the head of the Pontifical Council on Promoting Christian Unity: "I hope that our ecumenical position will be taken into account by their experts in the future, and studying the ecumenical context of Ukraine will be seriously considered."

The UGCC Department of Information



З радія "Милосердний Самаритин"

Свята Церква, готуючи нас до Великого посту, вказала на перший крок до навернення у притчі про митаря і фарисея — це покора. А цієї неділі вона, наводячи притчу про блудного сина, вчить, як виглядає повернення до Бога в практиці. А де покора і скруха серця, там відкрита дорога до Божого милосердя.

Знавці Святого Письма називають притчу про блудного сина перлиною серед усіх притч. Вона має глибокоморальний зміст, а її драматична історія вічно повторюється в серцях мільйонів душ у цілому світі. Блудний син — це символ кожної грішної душі. За допомогою цієї притчі переконуємося, що ніщо земне не може заспокоїти наше бажання щастя. Правдиве щастя і спокій тільки там, де Господь Бог, наш люблячий Батько. Деякі учителі духовного життя називають цю оповідь притчею про Божу любов.

Кожний, хто через гріх залишає Бога й шукає щастя поза Ним, рано чи пізно буде змушений сказати собі разом із блудним сином: "Встану та й піду до батька мого" (Лк. 15, 18), — та промовляти разом зі святим Августином, що довгі літа був блудним сином: "Неспокійне наше серце, Боже, доки не спочине в Тобі".

За приклад до цієї притчі Ісус Христос бере життя багатії родини. Молодший син прагне повної свободи, щоб жити за бажаннями свого серця. Тож вирішує покинути батьківський дім і забрати свою частку майна.

За жидівським законом найстаршому синові при поділі майна належало дві третини маєтку, а одну третину ділили поміж іншими синами. У родині було тільки двоє синів, тож молодшому припала третина.

Перші дні й місяці вільного життя поза родинним домом були для нього такі радісні, милі, щасливі. Необмежена свобода, повна калитка, багато приятелів, — а вони зараз знайдуться там, де гроші — вічні забави робили блудного сина наче п'яним від задоволення і щастя. Та він ще добре не нажився, коли, наче весняний сніг, стопився його маєток, щезли приятелі, померкли бенкети й забави, а він залишився без засобів до життя. А до того ще в тій країні, де перебував, настав великий голод. І так багацька дитина хоч-не-хоч стає пастухом свиней. Жиди вважали свиней за нечистих тварин, тож бути їхнім пастухом уважалося за найбільше приниження.

Серед біди й голоду приходить правильне рішення. Блудний син вирішує повернутися до батьківського дому. Він готовий навіть бути за слугу в домі свого батька. Та добрий батько перший бере його у свої

обійми і повертає гідність сина, даючи йому святочний одяг, перстень і сандали. На Сході дати комусь святочний одяг було ознакою особливого відзначення. Перстень з печаткою був символом влади. Його носили королі й високі достойники. У Біблії читаємо, що коли фараон зробив Йосифа своїм намісником над Єгиптом, то "зняв з руки своєї перстень з печаткою, настромив його Йосифові на руку, одягнув його в шати вісонові, вклав золотий ланцюг на його шию" (Бут. 41, 42). Сандали свідчили про заможність, бо бідні ходили босоніж.

Дорогі в Христі! Притча про блудного сина має для нас глибоко символічне значення. Осмислюючи її, ми спонтанно відчуваємо, що блудний син — це будь-хто з нас, кожна людина, яка через свої гріхи покидає Господа Бога. Тому ця притча для кожного така близька, бо є наче частиною інтимної історії нашого життя. Вона — це вічний символ нашої невірності щодо Господа Бога, але й символ безграничного Божого милосердя. Сьогоднішній світ роїться від блудних синів і доньок. Тож і сьогодні драма цієї притчі часто-густо повторюється у глибині сердець мільйонів душ. Кожна людина є або тим старшим сином, що завжди вірний своєму батькові, або молодшим сином, який щойно через тяжкий і дуже болісний досвід життя переконується, що поза батьківським домом ніде нема щастя.

Притча про блудного сина вчить нас, що Господь прощає і приймає навіть найбільшого грішника, коли той кається у своїх гріхах. Історія людського роду — це історія Божого милосердя. "Милосердя Господнє, — каже псалмопівець, — від віку й до віку, над тими, що бояться Його" (Пс. 103, 17).

Уся богослужба цієї неділі поетично на прикладі марнотратного сина змальовує і тугу за Богом грішної душі, і її нужду, і плач над упадком, жаль і щире каяття, і любов та милосердя небесного Вітця. Навіть напиви цього дня нагадують покайно-молитовний плач душі...

"Пізнаймо, браття, таїнства силу, бо блудного сина, що від гріха прибіг до батьківського дому, предобрий батько побачивши цілує, і знову дарує йому розуміння своєї слави та справляє бенкет, незрозумілий для жителів неба, заколюючи годоване теля, щоб і ми разом перебували з чоловіколюбним Отцем, що заколов, і зі славною жертвою, Спасителем душ наших".

(О. Юліян Катрїй, Пізнай Свій Обряд)

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr. (S.A.S.)

The Church gives us another example today, about repentance in order to help prepare us for Great Lent. The Parable of the Prodigal Son in today's Gospel reading according to St. Luke is most beautiful. Jesus tells us this parable to remind us of God the Father, to entreat us to believe that regardless of our circumstances, despite our sinfulness, there is someone who loves us, someone who will gladly embrace us, someone who desires to bring us home - and that someone is our Heavenly Father. Jesus tells us this parable of a young, rebellious man who demands his inheritance money from his father. A father who is old - and an egocentric son who it seems cannot wait for him to die. But soon afterwards, we are told how this young man wasted his inheritance on a foolish lifestyle; how his bad choices catch up with him and he then finds himself desperately hungry, and forced to eat scraps which even the swine have left behind. Humbled and ashamed, he practices his apologies and tries to think of the best way to go home and face his father. The father in today's Gospel did not go in search of the younger son. The son had to make the decision himself to come back, "I will arise and go to my father" (Luke 15:18). That is a decision we all must make at one time or another, to eventually leave behind our sinful desires and return to God, our Father. We can all remember times when we made poor choices and needed to figure out how to make things right again. But the greeting this young man was expecting was nothing like the one he received. "While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him" (Luke 15:20).

Of all the scenarios, this man had played out in his head, this was the most unlikely one he expected, and yet it is the one that God is willing to give to each of us, in spite of our mistakes. I remember a time when I was just a youngster and broke my grandmother's favorite vase, a beautiful hand-crafted vase that has been passed down through the family for years. It was priceless and I was utterly foolish. While playing with my favorite red bouncing ball in my grandparents' house, something that I was told not to do, I accidentally ricocheted the ball off my foot and struck the table, which knocked over the vase before I could catch it. I immediately felt sick to my stomach; I had done something that I could not take back and I wondered how I would tell my grandmother. When she walked in the door from the garden, I even hid under their bed, trying to think of what to say. I finally came out

from under the bedspread sobbing, grandma saw what I had done, I can still see the broken vase in her hands, and then she did the most unexpected thing - she opened her arms and hugged me tight as she wiped away my tears. Between sobs I told her how sorry I was and I even offered to give her my favorite red bouncing ball in exchange, but then she simply held me tighter, and told me it would be our little secret when grandpa came home. Despite my poor choice, my careless actions, I knew my grandmother always loved me, and she taught me a great deal about love and forgiveness that day - a lesson I shall never forget but surely hope I keep extending to others throughout my life. The parable of the Prodigal Son is a beautiful story of what Jesus depicts the love of our Heavenly Father to be - such unconditional love and understanding, such generosity and concern, such complete and unceasing forgiveness, and so much more. This parable strikes deep within our hearts, because we all have the same need as the Prodigal Son, we all have this overwhelming desire, this heartfelt longing to be loved - and ultimately to receive our Heavenly Father's Love.

There is no doubt in my mind that this prodigal son felt loved and treasured once again in his father's embrace, just as my grandmother made me feel loved. I am also convinced that we can all think of many such persons in life who have given us this same unconditional love which comes from God the Father: our parents, grandparents, children, spouses, and friends. And now picture in your mind how you felt when after you failed at something, when after you were selfish or thoughtless, one of your loved ones was there to embrace you and love you - just like this prodigal son. Love is a choice, and when we choose to allow God's love to work through us, we no longer feel unclean and we are no longer unworthy, because God has made us complete and perfect in His image and love. And that my friends - is the greatest comfort in our hour of need. No one knows us better than God does, the One who made us! Psalm 139 says it best: "Lord, You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it all". And yet God, who knows our sinful and selfish nature, loves us at a depth we cannot even begin to fathom. Our Father is out there searching for you and for me, reaching out to us with grace and understanding, because like the father in today's Gospel reading, He is waiting to welcome us

home, patiently waiting for us to take His hand and be embraced for all Eternity. How much more then should we – as imperfect people – reach out to those who need our love, accepting them for who they are with steadfast reassurance and understanding?

Shelly was a waitress at a home-style restaurant on the weekends. It was a small community, but everyone knew each other. One day, as she was finishing her shift, she saw a young man sitting in her section with a cup of coffee, in front of him, and he had no menu. He looked to be about nineteen or twenty. He looked very exhausted and weathered by many hardships that Shelly knew nothing about. He was not from around her town, and Shelly had no idea of the drugs, sex, and frivolity that had run his life rampant and into the ground, she only knew he was a young man who seemed to be in need. He was dressed in tattered clothes with several obvious body piercings. When Shelly asked him if he wanted anything, other than the coffee she had poured him, he told her that he just came in to get out of the cold. He said he did not have the money to pay for the coffee so he had not touched it. Shelly told him to enjoy his coffee, as she would buy it for him. She then made a statement, out loud, more to herself, that she should hope if ever she did not have the money for a cup of coffee, someone would see fit to buy her a cup as well. Others had overheard their conversation and a little later, when Shelly came back to check on the young man, she saw that he was crying. She went over to him and asked if he was all right? He said that the people, who had been sitting at the next table, bought him a meal on their way out. Then another couple came over to him and asked him if he had a place to stay, and even gave him their address. He continued and said that a gentleman, a couple of booths over, offered him a job washing cars at a garage. He said when he woke up this morning; he had decided that this was to be his last day on earth. He was going to end it all. He had squandered all the money he ever had, he had betrayed everyone who loved him; committing awful offenses for which he was not proud of and could not take back. He went on to say that recently times had become very hard. He said he had nowhere to turn. But now - he had a job, a place to stay, and a warm meal in his stomach. All this unfolded because he took a chance to come in, out of the cold, and was brave enough to admit that he had no money, and admit that he made mistakes. Shelly had no idea that the young man was so down on his luck, but days later he returned to the restaurant to thank Shelly, smiling because he had taken that job, relieved because he had a safe place to stay, and grateful for the second chance he was given in life.

This is the spirit of Lent. The whole journey toward Easter can become our own if we can stand in examination of our

lives, see how far we have brought ourselves from the life God intends for us, and then long, truly long to return to our true home. The Father gives His inheritance to His son; He stands watch for the return of His lost child; His forgiveness is so swift and so great that the wayward son cannot even finish his pleas for mercy before the Father has embraced his return. He rejoices, above due measure, when the lost is once again found. The Father's love is active, attentive, and unconditional. Yet the parable teaches us also of ourselves. We know from the moment today's Gospel begins, that the Prodigal Son represents all of humanity, and that Jesus tells the story of our own sinfulness and error. Eventually, we must all come to that sobering place, where we realize, much like the Prodigal Son, that "All to no purpose have I left my true home". The Church tells us what God will do. He shows us, as a loving Father, He will take us in His arms, and will put the ring upon our finger. That is the image of God, which is within man. My brothers and sisters, God our heavenly Father is outside the door waiting for us to come home. As we return, He runs to us, embraces us in His arms and invites us into His kingdom saying, "All that I have is yours." During every liturgy, we receive the same invitation from Jesus, "This is my Body which is broken for you... this is the cup of my Blood, which is shed for you." Like the prodigal son, let us go into our Father's house and rejoice in God saying - "All that is mine is yours." The Prodigal Son was given another chance, in these days before our Great Fast, we too need to be reminded of the chance that God has given to us - the chance to be saved through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus - the constant opportunity to love and be loved.

From Last Bulletin: (Photo No. 3)



Graduation 1961. ...?

No4: Ukrainian Catholic Youth 19?? Recognize anyone? From the archives. 3 apxibib.

