



№

26

ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІГТРИЇ

UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN

June 29 – 2014 – 29 Червня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



Глава УГКЦ розповів Святішому
Отцеві про «біль українського народу»

Блаженніший Святослав мав нагоду особисто поспілкуватися зі Святішим Отцем, він розповів йому про ситуацію в Україні, тисячі біженців та сотні поранених і вбитих. За його словами, Папа Франциск запевнив, що молитися за Україну і робить все можливе, щоб у нашій країні запанував мир і спокій. Святіший Отець також особисто привітав Главу УГКЦ із ювілеєм 20-річчя священничого служіння, який випадає в цей день.

Звертаючись до присутніх на аудієнції, Папа Франциск сказав про значення миру в побудові сучасного світу, наголосивши, що головним «будівничим миру є сам Христос». Святіший Отець привітав представників Східних Церков і подякував їм за їхній внесок у побудову миру та злагоди в тих країнах, які вони представляють. Він також закликав християн молитися, щоб його подорож на Святу Землю принесла «плоди єдності між християнами». «Вогонь П'ятдесятниці та сила Любові, - за словами Святішого Отця, - може зупинити вогонь зброї, ненависті та розбрату».

Додамо, що з 24-26 червня у Ватикані відбулися робочі засідання 87-ї пленарної асамблеї Конгрегації Східних Церков (РОАКО) - органу, котрий об'єднує різні добродійні організації, які підтримують душпастирську діяльність Східних Церков. Цьогоріч особливу увагу було приділено ситуації в Україні. (Департамент інформації УГКЦ)



Leo & Stephania Orynawka – Mnohaya Lita!



67th
Wedding
Anniv.
Happy
Many
Years!



На Многая і Благая Літа:
Лев і Стефанія Оринавка
(67-ліття Подружжя)
Дозь Пришляк - Уродини



Гратулюємо матурантам
Рідної Школи!

Congratulations to Ridna
Shkola graduates!



✠ № 26 ✠ JUNE 29 ✠ 2014 ✠

CHURCH BULLETIN

June 29 – 2014 – 29 Червня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

4:30 PM +Mychajlo Iwachiw (Georgina Oros)

Sts. Peter & Paul – Свв. Петра і Павла
June 29 3 Sunday aft. Pentecost - 3 Н. по 3.С.Д

12:00 PM. For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Monday, June 30 Червня, Понеділок

8:15 AM +Marusia Procyk (M/M H. Karney)

Tuesday, July 1 Липня, Вівторок

8:15 AM +Slawko Michaliw (Ursula Syhlowyj)

Wednesday, July 2 Липня, Середа

8:15 AM +Ярослава Борачок
(Богдан і Софія Дусанівські)

Thu., July 3 Липня, Четвер

10:30 AM За тих, що працюють при церкві –
For all volunteers

Friday, July 4 Липня, П'ятниця

9:00 AM INDEPENDENCE DAY
For all freedom fighters

Saturday, July 5 Липня, Субота

8:15 AM +Ольга Бейгер (О. Б.)
4:30 PM +Richard Chutko (Lesia Petriwskyj)

July 6 4 Sunday aft. Pentecost - 4 Н. по 3.С.Д

12:00 PM. For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Eternal Light burns for
Int. of Family Iwanyczko
Requ. by Eliana Iwanyczko

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М.
горить за МИР в Україні.
For Peace in Ukraine.



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

29 Червня: 3 Неділя по 3.С.Д.

10:00 р. +Ісрей Андрій і Емілія
(М. Л. Стасюк)

6 Липня: 4 Неділя по 3.С.Д.

10:00 р. +Данусія Марія Летвин
(Влодьо і Ненси)



**Господи,
Спаси Україну!**

We are not in the business of advertisement, but there is possibility.

Ad in the bulletin

If you want to advertise
Your business in the bulletin
Business card - \$100 for a year.
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(As always – donations for the printing of
the bulletin Gladly accepted)

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Бізнесова карточка
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jahawryluk@gmail.com

**Please Remember
Our Church in Your Will!**

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її майбутність у нашому Завіщанні!**

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Friday 9:30 am – 7 pm | Saturday 9:00 – 1 pm |

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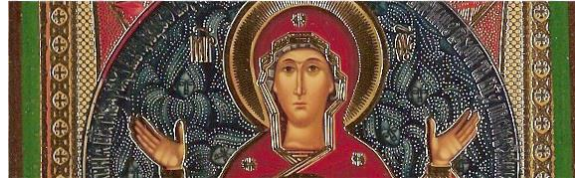
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**The 60th Dormition (Assumption)
Pilgrimage will be held on August 9-10,
2014 at the motherhouse of the Sisters
Servants of Mary Immaculate in
Sloatsburg, NY. This year's theme is:
The Holy Family is the Guide for the
Evangelization of our Families – “A Joy
Ever New, a Joy Which is Shared”
(Pope Francis) A special display and
presentation of “The Church of the
Catacombs in the 20th Century”,
conferences, activities for children, our
annual teen camp-out, the beautiful
services and an opportunity to receive
the Sacraments of Reconciliation and
Eucharist, are part of the schedule for
these two days of spiritual renewal for
all who attend. The schedule and
activities will be listed in the diocesan
newspapers, as well being on website:
www.ssmi-us.org**

**The Sisters Servants of Mary
Immaculate cordially invite you to
come to the 60th Dormition Pilgrimage
as a family, as a parish family, to come
together to show that we want to live
our faith more fully in Christ.
If you have any questions, please
contact Sr. Kathleen at 845-642-6143.**

**DONATIONS TO 2014
Stamford Bishop's Appeal**

Teodozij & Halyna Pryshlak - \$100.00
Elaine Nowadly - \$100.00
Catherine Kocaj - \$50.00
Roman & Lyubov Khoma - \$50.00
IMO J & K Nyznyk - \$50.00
Roman Nyznyk - \$25.00

**Total collected
as of June 26, 2014 - \$6400.00
2014 Goal
for St. Nicholas Parish - \$7,500.00
Amount Needed
to reach our goal - \$1,100.00
Thank You for your GENEROSITY**

**DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS
“Special Appeal”**

**IMO Joseph Procyk
Irene Tschip - \$20.00
Ann & Michael S. Holowaty - \$50.00
Teodozij & Halyna Pryshlak - \$25.00**

**IMO Angela Wujcik
Bill & Ann Serediuk - \$15.00
Joann Bader - \$20.00
Maria Bodnarskyj - \$20.00
Elaine Nowadly - \$20.00**

**In Honor of
Lidia Stasiuk's Birthday
Christina Stasiuk Farion - \$100.00**

**Sunday, August 3, 2014
Annual Parish Picnic**

On Sunday, August 3, 2014 our parish
will be holding its Annual Picnic on the
Church Grounds beginning at noon.
As always we are asking for your help
and support in make this year's picnic a
success.

Your help and support is needed in
many ways

- We need Theme Baskets – to donate
- place donation (checks made
payable to St. Nicholas Ukrainian
Catholic Church) in envelope
marked “Theme Basket” and put in
collection basket, or you can leave
your basket in the church hall, please
put your name on the basket.
- Items for Kitchen Jar Table such as:
paper towels, sugar, flour, kitchen
gadgets etc.
(Make sure items are new and
please watch the Expiration dates).
- Help is needed during the week
preceding the picnic preparing the
food. Please contact Anna Melnyk to
volunteer your services.
- Baked Goods are also needed, to sell
in the kitchen and the baked goods
table.

**Please remember
We DO NOT need items for Attic
Treasures, since we do not have this
booth at the Picnic. If you have any
ideas or can help in any way, please
contact Lesia Petriwsky at 826-7321.**

IMPORTANT!

**PICNIC MAILING MEETING, MONDAY, July 7,
2014 AT 5:30 PM. HELP IS NEEDED IN
MAILING OUT THE RAFFLE BOOKS.
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**

**PLEASE SUPPORT US REMEMBERING
THAT THIS PICNIC IS ONE OF OUR MAJOR
FUNDRAISING EVENTS OF THE YEAR.**



76th Annual Convention League of Ukrainian
Catholics - October 10, 11, 12, 2014

Holiday Inn – Johnstown, PA
Sponsored by the All Saints Chapter.
Hope to see you this October!

76 Конвенція Ліги Католиків
буде від 11 до 13 Жовтня ц. р.
Просимо взяти участь!

<https://www.facebook.com/LUCofAmerica>

1914 SAVE THE DATE 2014

The Ukrainian American SITCH is celebrating its 100th Anniversary on Sunday, September 28, 2014 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens Restaurant corner of Genesee St. & Transit Rd.

Cash Bar 4PM – 5PM,
Dinner/Program 5PM.

The Program will be bilingual.

Included in the entertainment are:
Women's Choir MRIYA and award-winning bandurist from Toronto:
BORYS OSTAPIENKO.
EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Let's show our support for Ukraine with our presence.

Cost per person: \$40.00. Also please consider and "ad" in our program booklet. Full page \$100.00; 1/2 page \$50.00; 1/4 page \$25.00; patrons \$10.00 per line. **PHOTOS WILL BE**

RETURNED. Tickets are available from: Michael Liskiewicz, Maria Malaniak, Elaine Nowadly, Nadia Marc, Julia Blendonohy. For tickets and ads make checks payable to:
Ukrainian American Sitch

1914 УВАГА! УВАГА! 2014

Даємо до відома, що в неділю, 28-го Вересня, 2014. Товариство Українсько-Американська Січ відмічує 100-ту річницю свого існування!

Ювілей відбувається в ресторані Salvatore's Italian Gardens при роздоріжжю вул. Transit і Genesee.

Бара від 4-5 год.

Програма/обід від год. 5:00.

В програмі беруть участь Хор Мрія і молодий банурист з Торонта Борис Остап'єнко. Просимо усіх.

Вступ: \$40.00 дол. Віс особи.

Також продаємо оголошення/реклами до нашої одноднівки.

Повна сторінка: \$100; 1/2 сторінки: \$50; 1/4 сторінки: \$25; і за одну лініє друку \$10. Фота Вам повертаємо.

Квитки можна купити від:

Михайла Ліскевича,
Марії Маланяк,
Елейн Новадлей,
Надії Марк,
Наді Блендоногої.

Чеки вписувати на
Ukrainian American Sitch



Sunday Coffee Hours: If anyone would like to volunteer to host a Sunday, please contact Elaine, Emily, Mary (B) or Anna.

- KITCHEN is closed during the summer Thank you for your patronage.
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- Church Picnic – August 3, 2014.
- Bible Meeting – Summer Vacation.

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. Що б 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.

SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ
(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
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Parish E-Mail: stnbuffalo@yahoo.com

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308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

Rectory: (716) 852-7566

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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

Субота - Saturday

Ministry to the sick - Опіка над хворими

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священика

IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME

В разі потреби завжди можна закликати

Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean

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

**Просимо закликати якщо ви у ліжці
або приковані до ліжка!**

42nd Annual



August 14-17, 2014

Ukrainian Food

Varenyky (Pierogies), Holubtsi (Cabbage Rolls), Ukrainian Sausage, Borshch

Ukrainian Arts & Crafts

Embroidery, Ceramics, Amber, Easter Eggs, Paintings, Icons, Jewelry

Ukrainian Folk Dancing & Entertainment

Zolotyj Promin Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Hartford, Connecticut
UAFGR Dancers from Rochester, N. Y.

Live Music for Dancing

Thursday, "Melody Lane"
Friday & Saturday, "My Razom"

Interactive Rides by

"Adventures in Climbing"
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

St. Josaphat Church Tours

Saturday & Sunday @ 3:00pm

Free Parking/Admission/Entertainment

www.RochesterUkrainianFestival.com



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walking distance to St Nicholas

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See this link for more pics:

<http://buffaloah.com/a/metc/216/ext/index.html>

Letter from Fr. Ray June 29, 2014 A.D

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Dear (say your name right here for your very own personal letter),

Even though we've had some very heavy rains the past few days, it seems as if the creek didn't rise and God is willing, because here I am coming to chat with you again this week. You've been on my mind a lot this week, especially during the last few hours. We were just praying for you.

It is going for two o'clock on Thursday afternoon as I begin your letter. This morning we celebrated Liturgy at Holy Protection the intention being "For all on our Parish Prayer List and for all the Sick." One day each month, whenever we can get it on the schedule, we have this intention. Maybe you even felt the warmth of our prayer today as we lifted you and your needs up before the Heavenly Throne. Even as the Lord healed the Centurion's serving boy from a distance, may He touch you and heal you and grant you all your petitions that are unto your salvation.

The "parish prayer list" is quite common in most churches as we seek "to visit the sick". We use a small book in which the name of the person is written and sometimes the illness is also noted, or the reason for which the prayer is requested. When I visit the local hospitals I always stop in the chapel, if they have one. Invariably, if they do have a chapel, they also have a book containing prayer requests. I always try to make it a point to read some of them and pray for those, and all the intentions in the book, just as we do in our parish. It is absolutely incredible to read these sincere, heart-felt and heart-wrenching prayers of the people to our God. These books are filled with prayers asking relief from, or courage to endure, every kind of physical, mental and spiritual infirmity with which mankind is plagued. Our monthly Liturgy is always important and special

when we remember our prayer is offered for all the names in our book, and even goes throughout all the world wherever God chooses to apply it. We are never alone or forgotten. "Our prayer rises like incense" Our prayer joins those prayers of petition to aid all those patiently and courageously, or impatiently and fearfully, are carrying their particular cross of suffering.

When I was "home" we used to raise chickens. Every once in a while after doing one of the chores in or around the hen house, someone would forget to close the gate after finishing, and all of a sudden there would be a flock of chickens flapping their wings and celebrating their freedom outside of their fenced in area. Today in West Seneca it is the first day of freedom for the school kids. First full day of summer vacation, and they are like those chickens. They are everywhere, flapping their wings, not knowing where to go, or what to do, but certainly enjoying the new found freedom. Just like the chickens who didn't know where to go, or what to do, so too are our school kids. Watch out for them! The gate is open and they are out and free! They are running, riding bikes, skateboards etc., and are usually not paying attention to their surroundings, especially cars. Have a safe and happy summer, Everyone!

The air of summer celebration is upon us. This final full week of June brings "Community Days" to West Seneca. There is a carnival at the town hall and on Saturday the 28th we will have had our giant parade. This parade comes down Main Street and we have a reserved spot for our family right on the corner of Main and Iris. The family who lives there has always invited us to sit with them on their front lawn and view the parade. Our kids remember this great parade (and all the candy) and are eagerly awaiting the weekend, the parade and all the other fun stuff at the carnival. Oh, BTW, a lot of grownups are also anticipating these very same things!

With the parades will come the usual flock of politicians taking advantage of the captured crowd to introduce themselves and ask for a vote on Election Day in November. While we have now kicked off the summer season, so too will we begin this next important political cycle. Check out their stuff, if you want, and be sure to remember you have a Christian obligation to vote according to your faith! I haven't written much about all that lately, but I certainly want you to know that as far as politicians and voting goes nothing has changed with me. Our country is in a disastrous mess mainly because of who has been elected. Ours is mainly a God-less corrupt, lying government, and we are definitely in need of the Lord to come as He went into the temple and threw out all the money-changers. All I will say right now is "Without life nothing else matters!!!"

This weekend is interesting for us liturgically. Once again our communities will be split in our prayer life according to the "new" and "old" calendars. We have been together since we began the preparation of the Great Fast in February. However, this Sunday the "new calendar people" will be completing the "Apostles' Fast and will celebrate the great Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. The old calendar folks will not end their fast until July 12, the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul according to the Julian calendar. The Sundays will "sort of" remain the same, but once again we are on the two different calendars. It was very good to celebrate the time of the Great Fast, Pascha and Pentecost together. Keep up your fast guys. I'll be having my KFC for Monday's supper! ☺☺

We've noticed a lot more Canadian cars passing by our church on Ferry Ave than there usually are. (And that's saying a lot). It took us a minute to figure out many of our 'across the river' friends are on holiday for their special summer event of Canada Day on July 1. So it's Happy Birthday, O Canada! Welcome to our visitors,

especially this weekend, and all the best to everyone over there. You are our best friends!

Friday will be the Fourth of July, our special, important and great summer holiday when we will be celebrate the 238th birthday of our beloved USA. Before we do the picnics, the playing and the parties, I hope we all will stop, pray, and reflect on the beautiful country we have been given. Thanks to God for all the great blessings we have received, and continue to receive! So much of it has been taken for granted and squandered, but hopefully we will realize, as we celebrate our courageous and blessed Founding Fathers, what a treasure we have been given, and in how many ways we all have been blessed by God. Not too many people try to get out of this country, but it seems as if an awful lot will do almost anything to get here! All the things we hold sacred and dear have been under attack, especially in the last several years. I pray it is not all lost, but that we can and will recover the goodness of our founding fathers, firstly by bringing God back into our homes, our schools and our market places. Oh yeah, and in our churches, too! God bless our great country!

"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "Return to Me with all your heart and with fasting, weeping and mourning;...Now return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in Loving-kindness." (Joel 2: 12-13)

Have a blessed week! Again and again we say, "Happy Summer! Happy Fourth of July! Happy Birthday, America! God bless you! Mary, Theotokos, keep you! Holy Saints Peter and Paul, pray unto God for us!

In His Love,
Fr. Ray



67th Wedding Anniversary of Leo & Stephania Orynawka

Leo G. Orynawka, who has served as cantor at the Protection of the Mother of God Church in Niagara Falls, NY since 1951 and as director of the Liturgical Choir of the Buffalo Deanery since 2001, is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, where he studied the viola and music education, and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1950.

Before his enrollment at Juilliard (1946), Leo spent almost five years in the Army Air Force (11/1940-09/1945) as an airplane mechanic. During WWII he saw combat duty in the Southwest Pacific at Papua, New Guinea. As a military veteran, Leo was able to go to Juilliard at the expense of the GI Bill.

After graduation from Juilliard (1950, Leo worked as a teacher of music in the Niagara Falls public school system, retiring from this position in 1980 after thirty years of service. During that time, Leo was busily engaged in all manner of musical activities: he gave private music lessons, played the viola in symphony orchestras as well as in pit orchestras for musicals at ArtPark, conducted orchestras for pop-concerts, operated a violin rental and repair shop, and, of course, used his musical abilities in the service of his church.

One fine day in 1946, when Leo accompanied his mother on a trip to Toronto to visit relatives, Leo met the love of his life, Stephania Kokosky. They were married on June 28, 1947, at the St. Josephat Cathedral on Franklin Street by the



Rev. A. Roberecki. They had to live in New York City until Leo completed his studies at Juilliard (1950). During that time, Stephania worked as a seamstress, doing fittings and alterations at dress stores and bridal shops in Manhattan. Eventually, the happy couple established their permanent home on Grand Island, NY.

In the course of time, Leo and Stephania had 4 children, all born in the '50's: Leo Alex, '51; Catherine Ann, '53; Mary Elyn, '55; and Taras Stanley, '58. After that came 9 grandchildren, followed by 8 great grandchildren. Needless to say, by the grace of God, the marriage of Leo and Stephania was a fruitful one.

Leo was born in New York City on August 27, 1917. His parents were Ukrainian immigrants who met and married in New York before WWI. His father, Stanley, was a window cleaner, and his mother, Katherine, worked at cleaning rooms in office buildings. In about 1925 the family moved to Niagara Falls, where Leo and his younger brother and sister (both now deceased) grew up.

Stephania was born on May 1, 1927 in the parish of Bohdanivka located somewhere near the city of Ternopil. With her mother and older sister she left the old country in 1937 and came to Canada, where her father was already living and where her younger sister was born. Before her marriage to Leo, Stephania worked in a dressmaking shop in Toronto.

Happy Many Years to Leo & Stephania!

На Многая і Благая Літа!

Ми ніколи не можемо достатньо пережити у своєму житті те, про що говорить у сьогоднішньому Євангелії Ісус. Послухаймо Його слова, бо в них Він відкриває нам, чим є наше щоденне життя, кожен його день: наше життя – це зв'язок із Богом, такий простий і такий прекрасний.

Найперше Ісус відкриває нам, ким є ми: ми прекрасніші за Соломона і за польові лілеї, ми є образом Його слави! Та чомусь нас не раз гризе тривога. Якими не були б її причини і походження, кого з нас вона раптом не охоплює час до часу? І ми не просто тривожимося, – зрештою, відчувати тривогу – це нормально, – але ми триваємо в ній. Ми схильні перейматися. А це вже гірше!

Що це означає? Що Ісус відкриває нам про нас самих? Найперше те, що коли ми переймаємося, то все ще перебуваємо в смерті, в небутті, ми втягнені в той нігілізм, який простирається цілим світом. Чому? Бо поводитимось так, неначе походимо самі від себе: я намагаюся робити те, чого хочу, та позаяк зустрічаю на своєму шляху повно перешкод, поринаю в тривогу.

Иноді ми виринаємо з того стану смерті: це саме те, що Ісус називає «маловірством», ми – «міні-віруючі». Поводимось так, неначе ми – творці самих себе, а потім, коли щось не вдається, кличемо Бога на допомогу: з нашого серця починає виринати трішки віри. Це не найкраще характеризує нас: ми не знаємо самих себе, а звідси – не знаємо нашого Отця. Лише Ісус, улюблений Син, Який узяв на себе нашу смерть і воскрес у своїй, тобто в нашій людській природі, таким чином виявляє нам Отця.

Наш Отець! Як казали пророки, ми прийшли на світ із Його скелі (див. Іс. 51, 1). Від

Нього ми народжуємося щомиті. Наше вічне і неповторне єство, до якого, звичайно, спричинилися наші батьки і наші предки, наша вільна, неповторна, вічна істота народжується від Отця кожної миті. Він дає себе нам, і ми існуємо завдяки тому, що Він безкорисливо нам себе дарує.

Наша біда, від якої походять наші тривоги, в тому, що часто забуваємо Його і діємо так, наче постали самі зі себе. Але нам так просто, так легко повернути своє обличчя до Нього, адже ми постали від Нього і надалі безперервно постаємо. Достатньо бути біля джерела нашої істоти, там, де Він є з нами, на глибині нашого серця.

Насправді ми боїмося переміни свого серця. Бо це вимагатиме від нас входити до нього частіше, не боятися тиші серця, в якій до нас промовляє Отець, кличе нас через своє Слово – Ісуса. Воскреслий Христос є доказом того, що Отець любить нас, адже Він став одним із нас і ніколи не перестає бути з нами. Кожен з нас переживає у своєму людському житті свої тривоги, страждання, надії, мрії та багато всього. Але все це воскреслий Ісус бере на себе, переживає з нами.

Наша віра починається саме з того: ми віримо у воскреслого Христа, а не в якогось невизначеного «бога», що перебуває завжди назовні нас. Наш Отець, живий Бог, дає себе нам в дар. І власне через те, що Він дає себе нам, дарує себе безкорисливо, і через те, що ми є Його образом, наші стосунки вільні, не нав'язані. Бог не є засобом, який можна спробувати, коли все решта не принесло результатів. Мусимо відповідати, як Він, свобідно, і цією свободою є хтось, хто живе в нас – Святий Дух. (радіо «М.С.»)

From “Good Samaritan” Radio Program

The Gospel for this third Sunday after Pentecost puts us on guard against anxiety and needless worry (Matthew 6:22-33). Jesus tells us that we must trust in the Lord: “*Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what you will eat, or what you will drink, or for your body, what you shall wear. Is not life more important than food and the body more important than clothing?*” (Matthew 6:25) These words of Scripture leave us with comforting thoughts. If the Heavenly Father feeds the birds of the air, if He clothes the lilies of the field with colors more glorious than those of Solomon himself, then imagine how much more He will see our needs and fulfill them. “*Your Heavenly Father knows you are in need of all these things... But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*” Jesus is also teaching us that experiencing anxiety over material needs is unspiritual. There are two main aspects to our faith: first of all, the search for the Kingdom of God, and secondly, trusting in our Heavenly Father’s goodness for life’s necessities. It is not our lack of material possessions, but rather our lack of confidence in the Lord that remains the greatest obstacle to our faith.

Worry, feeling uneasy or troubled, seems to plague multitudes of people in our world today. It is human nature to be concerned about the bad situations in our world and in our personal lives, but if we are not careful, life will cause us to worry beyond what is reasonable. Worry is like a rocking chair, it is always in motion but it never gets us anywhere. So why do we struggle with it? And what good does it do? Worry is the opposite of faith, and it steals from us our peace, it can physically wear us out, and even make us sick. When we worry, we torment ourselves and our lives become filled with unnecessary hardship. Worry is caused by not trusting God to take care

of the various situations in our lives. Too often we trust our own abilities, believing that we can figure out how to take care of our own problems. Yet sometimes, after all our worry and effort to go it alone, we come up short, unable to bring about suitable solutions. Too often our experiences in the world teach us to rely on ourselves, and it takes a long time to overcome that type of thinking. It is difficult to learn how to trust God, but we eventually must learn that trying to take care of everything ourselves is too big a task. When we trust in the Lord we soon learn that every day is a new beginning, free of worry and filled with peace when we allow God to help us. We do not have to explain all of our problems, our worries or cares to God; He knows them all... but when we trust in the Lord we can just give up our worries to Him and be at peace.

The only way to have victory in our lives is to play by God's rules, and He says we must quit worrying if we want to have peace. So when things come our way that cause us to be concerned, we need God's help. So how do we get it? By learning how to lean on God and ask for His help! But as long as we try to do everything ourselves, God will let us. He will not take care of our problems and worries - our cares - until we turn them loose and give them over to Him. Now, casting our cares does not mean that we can be irresponsible. God will not do for us what we can do ourselves. We must do what we can do, and then trust God to do what we cannot. When we humble ourselves and ask for His help, then the good Lord is able to release His power in our situations. It is only then that we can really enjoy life. The cure for worry is humbling ourselves before God, casting our cares on Him, and trusting Him. Instead of making ourselves miserable trying to figure everything out on our own, God wants us to place our trust in Him and totally abandon ourselves to His care, much like a child relies on its parents for everything that

it needs, or like the flowers rely on the rain and sunshine to help them grow. I know that when we are able to believe and say: "God, I trust You," it literally changes our lives for the better. God did not create us to worry about helping ourselves all the time. He wants us to sow good seeds by reaching out to help others. When we simply trust God and get busy doing the good things we know how to do, then He will bring a harvest of blessings into our lives and meet our needs.

I have learned that attitude has a lot to do with living a worry-free life. There will always be situations that cause us concern, but with God's help, we can live above all of it and enjoy life to the fullest. When we give our problems to God, we must also decide to be satisfied with His answers. We can trust God to do what is best for us, so we do not have to worry about it. When we have a positive attitude and keep our faith in God, we cannot be defeated. We must stop trying to make things happen the way we want them to and get to the place where we desire to please God more than ourselves. The presence of Christ within us has to supersede what we want. Faith and the Word of God will help us overcome worry. Faith has a positive attitude that can overcome our past and lead us into a greater future. Faith is a powerful force that cannot be conquered. Another powerful force is prayer. When you feel under pressure, it is always best to pray about it. Prayer is the blueprint for a successful life. During His time here on earth, Jesus prayed. He entrusted everything to God... even His



reputation and life. We can do the same. We do not have to explain all of our problems to God; we can just give them to Him and ask Him to take care of everything. We just need to have confidence in simple, believing prayer. Allowing the good Lord to get involved in every area of our life will keep us from being overwhelmed or discouraged. Remember, God is good even when our circumstances are not! God does not always give us our heart's desire right away. He wants us to develop a deep, personal relationship with Him and an outrageous love for Him, so much so that we cannot live without it. This kind of relationship and love brings the attitude that God wants us to have and it frees us from worry over our personal cares.

I hired a carpenter to help me restore an old farmhouse. He had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric saw quit, and now his ancient pickup truck refused to start. While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree as if to pray, touching the tips of the branches with both hands. When opening the door to his home, he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face was wreathed in smiles, and he hugged his two small boys and gave his daughter a kiss. I watched as he listened to his children, and gladly obliged when he invited me to join them for dinner. While he went into the kitchen, his 5 years old daughter

gave me a gentle tug on my sweater, and graciously made me an offer to snuggle her big old teddy bear, which I gladly obliged. I glanced at pictures on the table and family portraits on the walls, and I half expected his sons to jump in my lap, when I sat down in the family rocker, and they asked me to read to them. The carpenter came back into the living room, after cooking in the kitchen for some time, and smiled as he peeked in and said, "Dinner's ready, anybody hungry"? As his children ran in and nestled around the table, he asked them, "So who is going to be the first one to say Grace?" As we prayed together, I could not help but feel their thankfulness to God. Afterwards, I thanked his children for a most enjoyable evening, and he walked me to the car. I could still hear their laughter trail us in the background. And as we passed the tree he paused at earlier, my curiosity got the better of me, and I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier. And how I witnessed his worries and anxieties from the day just wash away. "Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied. "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing for sure, every night before I walk in the door, I pray to God that my troubles never enter my home. So I just hang them up on that tree every night, and trust that God will provide what is needed. Then in the morning, I pray to God for strength, as I go to pick up my troubles and take them away. But the funny thing is," he smiled, "When I come out in the morning to pick them up - there aren't nearly as many worries and troubles, as I remember hanging up there the night before!"



How did Jesus find His way beyond what concerned Him at any moment? The answer is simple. He sought and desired His Heavenly Father above all things! Jesus prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). If we truly desire to find our way beyond our worries and wants, we must seek our Lord first and last, and continuously. When we fail to do this, when we lose confidence in God, when we desire more the pleasures of this world, then we lose sight of our relationship with God. Consider how much we spend on bread for our bodies, and how little we spend on the Bread of Life. Think of how much we are willing to spend on clothing, and how little we are willing to clothe the world. Consider how much we spend on sheltering ourselves from the storms of this world, and how little we place on sheltering the cares and needs of others. Our Lord told His Disciples, "Do not fret, asking - What are we to eat? What are we to drink? You have a Father in Heaven who knows that you need them all" (Matthew 6:31-32). We must sow good seeds by reaching out to others, get busy doing the good things we know how to do... and trust in the Lord to provide for all that we need. When arks are built, lives are saved. When staffs are raised, seas still open. When a lunch is shared, thousands are fed. And when a garment is touched, whether by the hand of an anemic woman in Galilee, or by the prayers of a beggar in Bangladesh - Jesus stops and takes care of our needs. He responds to all those who believe in Him. I have discovered that while little faith will bring our souls to Heaven, great faith will indeed bring Heaven to our souls.