



Visiting Mr. Mychajlo Mochnacz – Відвідини у п. Михайла
Our Sunday collection counters – Рахують пожертви

+++ 1914 → 1919 – 2014 → 2019 +++
“Good Samaritan Radio Program” crew – Радіо передача



№ 39
S E P T E M B E R 2 8 2 0 1 4

SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



№ 39
ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІГТРИЇ
UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN
September 28 – 2014 – 28 Вересня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



Bishop Martyr Bl. Nykyta Budka
Єпископ-Мученик Бл. Микита

- 7.06.1877 р. народився в Добромірці Збарзького повіту на Тернопільщині. Закінчив Тернопільську гімназію.
- 1897 р. служба в австрійському війську. Згодом навчався на юридичному факультеті Львівського університету.
- 1902-1905 рр. вивчав богослов'я в м. Інсбруку (Австрія). 14.10.1905 р. рукоположений митрополитом Андреем (Шептицьким) у Львові.
- 1907-1909 рр. навчання у Відні (Австрія). Здобув ступінь доктора богослов'я. Повернувся до Львова і виконував уряд префекта Духовної Семінарії у Львові та референта справ еміграції.
- 13.10.1912 р. хіротонізований митрополитом Андреем (Шептицьким) і єпископами Григорієм (Хомишиним) та Константином (Чеховичем) у Львові на титулярного єпископа Патарського.
- 1912-1928 рр. єпископ для українських католиків у Канаді, жив у Вінніпезі 1929-1945 рр. єпископомічник Львівський (генеральний вікарій Львівської архієпархії).
- З 1935 р. крилошанин-достойник і президент Митрополічної Капітули.
- 14.04.1945 р. заарештований. Засуджений до 8 років ув'язнення.
- Помер 06.10.1949 р. в м. Караганда Казахської РСР. 2001 р. беатифікований як мученик.

CHURCH BULLETIN

Septem. 28 – **2014** – 28 Вересня
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

Septem. 28 16 S. aft. Pent. – 16 Н. по З.С.Д.

12:00 AM. +Oleksa Kurlak
(wife, children & grandchildren)

Monday, September 29 Вересня, Понеділок

8:15 AM +Katherine & Michael Chort
(Marianne)

Tuesday, September 30 Вересня, Вівторок

No Liturgy – Нема відправи

Wed., October 1 Protection of Theotokos

8:15 AM +Анрії Войчак (Христина Бравн)

Thu., October 2 Жовтня, Четвер

8:15 AM +Mychajlo Iwanuczko (M. G.)

Friday, October 3 Жовтня, П'ятниця

8:00 AM +Ivan Kulczyckij (Anna Burda)

Saturday October 4 Жовтня, Субота

4:30 PM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

October.5 17 S. aft. Pent. – 17 Н. по З.С.Д.

12:00 AM. **Respect Life Sunday**

For all unborn and born, FOR LIFE

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М.
горить за МИР в Україні.

Light in honor of Theotokos
burns fo Peace in Ukraine.

The Eternal Light burns
for the intention of
Iwanuczko Family (Eliane)

28 Вересня: Неділя по Воздвиженні

10:00 р. 3 нагоди 100-ліття Січі
For living and deceased member of SICH
– on the occasion of 100th Anniversary

5 Жовтня: 17 Н. по З.С.Д.

10:00 р. +Анна Яцишин (родина)

Гей там на горі січ іде!



Гратулюємо Товаристві
Українсько-Американська Січ
з нагоди

100-тої річниці існування!
На Многая і Благая Літа!

==== ** * * * * ==
The Ukrainian American SITCH
is celebrating its
100th Anniversary
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Happy Many Years!

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Please turn off or silence your cell phone before entering the church.

Thank you!

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Thank you for your donations!
We welcome your comments.

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Please Remember
Our Church in Your Will!

Пам'ятаймо про Рідну Церкву та про її
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Щоб довідатися більше інформацій
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.



76th Annual Convention
League of Ukrainian Catholics
"We are called to be living icons"
October 10, 11, 12 - 2014
Holiday Inn – Johnstown, PA
Sponsored by the
All Saints Chapter.

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

76 Конвенція Ліги Католиків
буде від 10 до 12 Жовтня ц. р.

LUC Sunday:

At St. John's in Kenmore. Oct. 26.

A meeting of the Niagara Frontier Council, League of Ukrainian Catholics will take place on Monday, September 29th at 6:30 in St. Nicholas Church Hall. All members are invited to attend.

Elaine Nowadly
President



EPARCHIAL MEN'S DAY
Soaring to New Heights!
October 4, 2014

ЕПАРХІАЛЬНИЙ ЧОЛОВІЧИЙ ДЕНЬ
Підніматися до нових
вершин!
4 жовтня 2014
Stanford, CT
St. Basil Seminary 195 Glenbrook Rd. Stamford, CT 06902
www.stamforddio.org

Soaring to New Heights!

Join other men at the Eparchial Men's Conference which will be held at St. Basil Seminary in Stamford, October 4, 2014, 8:30am to 4:30pm. Please call if you intend to go!

Запрошуємо усіх чоловіків на день віднови та духовних роздумів, який відбудеться 4 жовтня 2014! Реєструйтеся прямо зараз! Просимо зголошуватися за телефоном: (203) 324 4578

Presented by:
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY
Of Stamford

WOMAN'S DAY of PRAYER

for
A SPIRITUAL SPA

Saturday,
October 18, 2014
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
at
St Josaphat
Ukrainian Catholic Church
940 Ridge Road
East Rochester, NY 14621
Registration in Advance by
October 6, 2014
Call the rectory at 852-7566
Or talk to Elaine
Email: stnbuffalo@yahoo.com

18 Жовтня від 9 рано до 4 по обіді, в церкві Св. Йосафата в Рочестері буде програма для жінок «Жіночий День молитви». Ми завжди говоримо, що до Стамфорду далеко, щоб взяти участь у різних програмах. Тепер не далеко, і ми повинні постаратися скористати з цієї нагоди. Не пожалуємо. Просимо поговорити з Елейн або закликати на ч. т. 852-7566.

The St. Nicholas Religious Education Program will begin on Saturday, October 25, 2014 with registration at 9:00 AM. in the Church Hall. Classes will take place, in the hall, 9:00- 12:30 PM on the following Saturdays:



October 25, 2014
November 22
January 17, 2015
February 21
March 28,
April 25
May 16



Children who are in 2nd Grade and are eligible to receive their First Penance & Solemn Communion will be **required** to attend the classes listed above as well as the additional classes on the following Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30PM



March 12
March 19
March 26
April 16
April 23
April 30
May 7
May 14



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Elaine at the rectory on Monday or Thursday morning between 9:00 -1200 at 852-7566 or any other time at 867-0981



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!
- Ukrainian Day – August 24, 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 Карточка 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
УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ
(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ)

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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

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

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean

Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

Please call if you are hospitalized, homebound and need a priest.
Просимо закликати якщо ви у ліжці або приковані до ліжка!

Bishop and martyr Nykyta Budka

Bishop and martyr Nykyta Budka was born on June 7, 1877, in the village of Dobomirka, Zbarazh District. In 1905 after finishing theological studies in Vienna and Innsbruck he was ordained to the priesthood by Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky. From the very beginning he gave great attention to the ministry for Ukrainian emigrants. The Holy See appointed him first bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada in July 1912, and he was ordained bishop on October 14, 1912. In 1928 he returned to Lviv and became vicar general of the Metropolitan Curia in Lviv.

Blessed Nykyta Budka was arrested in Lviv by the Soviets on 11 April 1945 and transported to Kyiv the following day.

For the next twelve months he was interrogated and tried for 'crimes' against the Soviet Union and the Communist Party. A military tribunal sentenced him to five-years imprisonment on 29 May 1946. After that he vanished and, for over ten years, no one knew his whereabouts or even if he was alive. It was rumoured that Budka was being held in Siberia. Instead, he was among the many innocent people who had been sent to prison camps near Karaganda, Kazakhstan. After Stalin's death, Soviet authorities began to release the survivors. These men and women were finally able to tell the stories about those who had lived and died in the gulag. Among the survivors from Kazakhstan were Blessed Bishops Ivan Liatyshevsky and



Aleksander Khira, and future-archbishop, Volodymyr Sterniuk. In 1958 Soviet authorities finally confirmed that Nykyta Budka had died close to 1 October 1949, but more precise dates and details are still lacking to this day.

Budka and other Ukrainian Catholics who had been criminalized by a criminal regime were politically rehabilitated in September 1991. This occurred less than a month after Ukrainian independence, with the Soviet 'Union' still officially in existence and the Communist Party having been declared illegal. Yet no official follow-up to the case has ever occurred, even though Canadian Ukrainians had asked their government for a redress to the Budka case in 1989.

Kazahstani authorities have only recently confirmed that Budka served out his sentence at the Karadzhar prison camp near Karaganda, where he died of heart disease on 28 September 1949. Additional documentation, obtained unofficially in 1995, further specifies that Budka arrived at the camp on 5 July 1946 and was admitted to a nearby hospital on 14 October 1947, the feast-day of his patron, the Protection of the Mother of God according to the Julian calendar. That day was also the forty-second anniversary of his priestly ordination and the thirty-fifth of his episcopal ordination. Even the date of his death occurred on the forty-second anniversary of his ordination to the diaconate.

Blessed Martyr Nykyta, pray for us!

Letter from Fr. Ray Septem. 28, '14 A.D

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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

Happy Autumn Time! As old Mr. Rogers used to say, "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood." And it is! I'm writing to you on Tuesday September 23 (Feast of Conception of St. John and 9 months to his birthday, and 9 months to first day of summer! It is now early afternoon, actually about 1p.m. Presbyter Joanne and I came back from the church a bit ago, grabbed some lunch and now it's time for me to take these few minutes as I check in with you. All is good and happy here on the "Western Front" called West Seneca, NY. School is in session so there is no kid noise at all on the street. It is a lovely, peaceful and quiet day, except for those welcoming sounds of the birds, the chirping of the late summer insects and the rustling tree leaves. Obviously, I'm outside as I write to you and am thoroughly enjoying this gorgeous day.

Today is one of those picture-perfect days, made to order for pictures in the sales brochure. We're experiencing a bit of a warm up after several days of fall-like temperatures. Right now it is a pleasant, but slightly cool 71 degrees F. Speaking of Fahrenheit, did you hear the one about the lady who wanted to buy a new thermometer? She went through several on the display at the store, and finally said to the clerk, "I'll take that Fahrenheit one. I know that's a good brand." ☺ ☺ Aneeeaway.....

Even though it is so peaceful and beautiful, the signs of the coming change to fall are all around us, and are becoming more and more evident with each passing day. Some nearby towns have already received that first visit from Jack Frost, but we were spared. That means the flowers are still putting on their spectacular show and giving us great pleasure just to be around them. Some of the lucky neighbors have sunflowers doing their daily dance with the sun. I didn't get even one in our yard, even though I planted many seeds....lost the battle to Fred, the

squirrel, Peter Rabbit and Bambi the deer! Maybe next year.....

Those 'wascally' animals did "allow" me to have two cherry tomato plants and they are still producing those little red, explode-in-your-mouth delights. After having summer tomatoes do you ever wonder how we tolerate the stuff we get in winter? God bless our farmers! They have to be angels sent from heaven to be sure we are fed!

Another clear sign of the impending fall season, other than the fact that today is the first full day of autumn, is that the apples are now ripening and coming to market. We are now enjoying a bag of delicious "Ginger-gold" right from the orchard in Grimsby. Ymmmm! Nothing like a Smerek apple!!

As we made the 30 mile trip from Holy Protection in the Falls to our house this morning, we saw another very interesting sign of fall which I'd never noticed before. This would be the migration of the Monarch butterflies on their way to Mexico to mountains they've never been before! As we were driving down *the one-ninety*, we became increasingly aware that we were seeing butterflies every quarter to a half-mile. Sometimes, as we zipped along at 65 mph, it seemed as if there were only one or two, other times we were able to see 5 or 6 at one time, but I know there were thousands of them already on their dangerous trip, all flying in a southwest direction. Sadly, we also saw a few who flew too low and were probably hit by a semi, or other large vehicle, as it zoomed down the highway. The miracle of nature, the hand of God, was very clear in this amazing gift we were able to be part of this day. Those little wispy creatures are on their very perilous and uncertain journey of thousands and thousands of miles. You wouldn't think they could fly out of the backyard, yet there they are being called home in spite of storms, predators, cars, trucks and everything else that would hinder them, or kill them. Safe trip, little guys! You and your family and friends delighted us every time we saw one of you this summer as we would say, "Look, there's a butterfly!"

As I wrote in your letter last week, Sunday last, September 21, was the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos (o.s.). We were able to accept the invitation of Fr. Viktor and his parishioners to attend the parish celebration over the river in Niagara Falls, Ontario. There were at least 12 priests (most with their wives and children), one sub-deacon, a choir and a full church, and then later for the banquet, a full church hall. It was good to return to that church as it was a trip down memory lane for us.

I was assigned to there as deacon in the late 1980's, and it was from there that I was called to ordination as priest. My first Liturgy was there in September 1990. While I missed the reunion in Stamford last week, this reunion with the parishioners and our return to this community in Ontario was a pretty good second best. Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

That reminds me....Holy Protection in Niagara Falls, USA will also, soon be having our Patronal Feast Day. We will be celebrating this special and important day of the Liturgical Year, and of our parish family on Sunday October 5, 2014. We will have our Sunday Liturgy at the regular time of 9:30am, and then we will immediately proceed to the church hall for our "first Sunday of the month" coffee hour. This will be a little extra special, as it is our special day. Will you please think about coming to join us? We'd love to have you as we gather to honor and thank our Heavenly Mother for her unceasing Protection of us all.

The Praznyk is like a birthday party, or a name day party of an individual, however, this is a celebration for the entire parish as we remember all parishioners, both living and reposed, all who serve and have served there, and all our family and friends. So we invite you to come and be with us. If you can't be there physically, why not send a card just as you would for a birthday or name day? We'd love to have you, either way. I know your pastor won't mind if you didn't go to your "own church" for

that Sunday, but came to pray with us instead. Hope to see you there!

The reason I'm writing this on Tuesday is because, God willing, we're heading a bit south later in the week. We want to make a quick pre-winter, autumn visit to the Bremer's in Western Pennsylvania. We intend to do our patented, quick overnight visit from Thursday to Friday. We've been making the trip at this time of year for quite a few years. Three years ago I took Presbyteria Laryssa's boys outside and we secretly planted bulbs in order to make a special springtime surprise for Mom. Well it worked perfectly, the kids remembered all winter, kept the secret and the bulbs grew and bloomed and Mom was very surprised! And we did it the following year, and the year after that, and now I've got another batch of bulbs to plant this week. The kids are waiting for our project, and I am sure Mom is too.

We are safe and peaceful and in the hand of our God, but we only need to look around us to see the Evil One lurking and prowling. All the world is rumbling, from Lackawanna to the Middle East to Ukraine to Africa, to Ferguson, Missouri and everywhere. Our Holy Mother gives us the answer to all this, pray and repent and let our hearts come to her Son. Then after we examine ourselves we must decide what we can do to improve and help. Are you ready to vote? The same godless, treacherous, devious government is in power here. Our freedom and our basic rights are still being stolen right before our faces. They are still killing babies, Three thousand eight hundred every day! Are you ready to Vote your Christian Faith?! No more room, gotta go.....God willing and the creek don't rise, talk to you next week.

In His Love,

Fr. Ray



П Л А С Т

Українська Скавтська Організація
Окружна Таборова Комісія
І станиця Баффало, Н.Й.

Запрошує Вас на
ПЕЧЕННЯ БАРАБОЛІ

На Новому Соколі
2301 School St.,
North Collins, New York 14111

1:00 год. по полудні
5-го Жовтня, 2014 р.

Добровільні Датки

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Ласкаво Вас просимо відвідати сторінку
<http://www.novyisokil.org/>

October 17, 2014 1t 7pm, UCCA sponsored
Fundraiser for Election Observer Mission to
Ukraine : Bidding Farewell and Safe Passage to
Observers!

Location: Dnipro, 562 Genesee Street, \$25 per
person, at the door, will include a light buffet/
refreshments. Collection will help fund travel
expenses of those traveling from Buffalo.
Everyone welcome! For more information,
please call Yuri Hreshchyshyn (716) 392-9657

Dr. Samotowka is bringing in some stuff from
Cleveland Monday 9/29/14. Need to pack for
shipping. EuroDeli 4:30 pm. RSVP if available.

Can anyone help out on Monday 9/29/14?
Please pass along to those who may be
available. Product Shipment needs to be
packaged & shipped to Ukraine. (Euro Deli)

Clergy Days for all Priests of Eparchy. Oct. 6-8.
Wappinger's Falls:

ЦЕРКОВНА КУХНЯ

Просимо зійти на долину на каву.
Сердечна подяка усім, що
прийшли допомогти у п'ятницю
робити вареники.

Просимо також допомогти і в
цьому тижні, як рідно ж дати
пораду Олесьові у який спосіб
краще можна зробити.

Kitchen started.
Thank you for your help
and support

Bishop Ordination: *Ordination and Installation
of Most Rev. Bohdan Danylo, bishop-elect, as
new Bishop of Parma for Ukrainian Catholics.
Tuesday November 4, 2014 at 2:00 pm in St.
Josaphat Cathedral, Parma, OH.*

Election Day: Tuesday November 4 is Election
Day. Anyone going to the ordination of
Bishop-elect Bohdan Danylo may need an
absentee ballot if you wish to vote in your local
district. We have a Christian obligation to vote.

**Next Sunday is:
Respect Life Sunday
Guarding & Protecting
Life at all stages**

За радія «Милосердний Самар'янин»

Вчора Святкували ми празник Воздвиження Чесного Хреста Господнього.

Сенс цього свята глибоко вкорінений у нашому житті, адже це свято життя, перемога над смертю того, хто любить нас і дає нам життя; то ж які б події ми не переживали цього дня, приймімо у своє серце справжній мир, адже внутрішній мир – це не просто стан душі; це присутність Ісуса, Який у кожному з нас, як і в кожному з наших братів – християн чи нехристиян – продовжує переживати те таїнство життя, яким є хрест.

Тіло нашого улюбленого Господа розп'яте, але якщо ми, яким дано пізнати, приймемо Його, Він дасть нам свій мир. Не існує миру поза Його хрестом і не існує певности поза вірою у цей хрест.

«Хто хоче спасти свою душу, той її погубить, а хто погубить свою душу мене ради та Євангелії, той її спасе» (Мр. 8, 35). Ці слова євангелиста Марка, які ми чули у сьогоднішньому Євангельському читанні, підтверджує апостол Павло, говорячи про власне життя у посланні до Галатів: «Я – розп'ятий з Христом» (Гал. 2, 19); я живу, але «живу вже не я» (Гал. 2, 20) – не моє «я», «а живе Христос у мені» (Гал. 2, 19-20). А як є у нашому житті, в нашому досвіді?

Чи свідомі ми того, що відбувається протягом Божественної Літургії, яку служимо? Кого ми шукаємо – Христа чи себе? Коли ми причащаємося Його Тілом і Кров'ю, чи перемінюємося на Нього? Коли закінчується святе причастя, чи живе Христос у нас, чи може ми знову вирушаємо на пошуки власного «я»? Адже саме у Євхаристії Господь Ісус приходиться, щоб ми могли безпосередньо розділити Його страждання, перенесене з

любви, яке нас усіх спасає від смерті і дає нам життя.

Наше навернення – це не суто вибір добра і відмова від зла. Коли віримо в того, хто любить нас і віддав за нас своє життя, навернутися набагато легше: треба вибрати Його, шукати Його, чекати Його, «бажати Його», тобто любити Його. Важливо, щоб наше життя йшло у напрямку до Ісуса. Навіть якщо ми не робимо нічого поганого, прожите життя може не мати жодного сенсу. Розп'ятий Ісус перебуває в центрі не лише історії людства, а й історії життя кожного і кожної з нас. Він є для нас центром, звідки все гармонійно витікає і куди все сходиться. Він є нашим початком і кінцем. Він може постійно жити у нас, звільнивши нас від усіх форм смерті.

Нехай кожен і кожна з нас перевіряє себе і з погляду Святого Духа, Духа істини, Якого Ісус дав нам, відходячи від нас, відверто скаже: кого ми шукаємо? Що зазвичай входить до поля зору нашої свідомості? Якщо наш внутрішній погляд не зосереджений на Ісусі, це означає, що ми замкнулися в собі, зайняті власним «я», яке «я хочу спасти», тоді я переживаю відчуття провини, вмю спритно виправдовувати себе, тривожуюся, коли треба пережити незручності, міцно тримаюся своїх бажань тощо. Поле нашої свідомості – це немов барометр нашого внутрішнього тиску, перепади якого найбільше відчуває наше оточення. Коли ми споглядаємо Ісуса, то рухаємося вгору, до зрілості. Як тільки я починаю ухилятися від «розп'яття з Христом», то регресую у зрілості і «гублю своє життя».

Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий
Помилуй нас грішних!

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio Program

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from Above, coming down to us from the Father of Light" (Divine Liturgy, St. John Chrysostom). A pastor tells of a mission tour to the Far East. While in Hong Kong, he observed a hungry little girl outside a bakery window. She had fallen asleep with her face pressed against the window that separated her from the freshly baked bread inside. He took slides of that scene. When sharing his slide presentation back home, the pastor always climaxed his sermon with that picture and an appeal for people to share Christ, the Living Bread, with a hungry world. Following one presentation, one worshiper asked him, "What did you do about it?" "About what?" the pastor replied. "About the little girl asleep at the bakery window, what did you do to help her?" One of the highest of human attributes is the God given talent of being a helping hand to someone in need. It is easy to do nothing; to look away, take photographs, or not get involved. It is even easier to place responsibility on others or assume that someone else will come along to lend a helping hand. But today's Gospel reading reminds us that if we do not get involved, if we do not utilize the talents which God has given us, then we will lose our ability to be productive in His Kingdom. The world is full of people who do nothing, but we have a Christian duty to help and encourage one another to do something. Many times a word of thanks or appreciation, a genuine smile, a helping hand or a charitable deed has kept a person on their feet. We have each been blessed with God-given talents, ways in which the Lord utilizes the gifts He has given us in order to spread His Kingdom throughout this world. Consider the words from

today's Gospel reading, "For to everyone who has shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him who does not have, even that which he seems to have shall be taken away" (Matthew 25:29). Consistent with our Lord's way of addressing life's struggles, Jesus tells a parable to remind us how God has invested talent in each and every one of us. God looks at our abilities and sees not just who we are, but who we can become and what we can accomplish for His Kingdom. The servants in today's parable were each given talents according to their abilities. Each servant had potential. They were each responsible for the talents that they had been given. God has also entrusted each of us with various talents, investments that He has made in us before we were even born. He knows our potential and our possibilities. We have an obligation to be all we can be and do all that we can do in developing these talents. Even the simplest things make a difference.

There once was a banker who always tossed a coin in the cup of a legless beggar who sat on the street outside the bank. But, unlike most people, the banker would always insist on getting one of the pencils the man had beside him to give to the people who gave him something. "You are a merchant," the banker would say, "and I always expect to receive good value from merchants I do business with." One day the legless man was not on the sidewalk. Time passed and the banker wondered what happened to him, until one day he walked into a public building and there in the concession stand sat the former beggar. He was the owner of his own small business now. He was very excited when he saw the banker again. "I have always hoped you might come by someday," the man said. "You are largely

responsible for me being here. You kept telling me that I was a 'merchant'. So I started thinking of myself that way, instead of a beggar receiving gifts. I started selling pencils and lots of them. You gave me self-respect, and caused me to look at myself differently." Sometimes, even the simplest things like showing compassion and encouragement to others can become our greatest achievements for the Kingdom of God.

The talents that are spoken of in today's parable are symbolic of more than just money. The talents are also a metaphor for gifts and abilities. The Master who was issuing the talents to his servants was giving to each one according to his ability. He expected his servants to invest, increase, and multiply what they had been entrusted with. We each want to strive to be the servant to whom the Master says: "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; now I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness" (Matthew 25:23). The only way that we can succeed is to apply what we have been given, just as a seed cannot grow unless it is planted, so a talent cannot increase unless it has been invested. Investing our talent means that work is required. The point of today's Gospel is a reminder that we are not measured by what we have to begin with, but by what we choose to DO with what we have. The story tells us that God has given each of us at least one talent, one gift that is to be used in the work required to build His Kingdom. We must also remember that God does not give all of us the same talents, so that each of us has a unique gift to offer to others. And when we are willing to use the talents God has given us, we find that the

return on our investment is not money, but rather people. Investing ourselves in the lives of others, gaining interest in human terms is what the Church is all about - that is God's most redeeming business. When we invest the gifts we have been given, wisely, when we serve someone as Christ so lovingly serves us, we suddenly realize just why we were given such a gift in the first place. No talent is too small, and every person is needed here on earth.

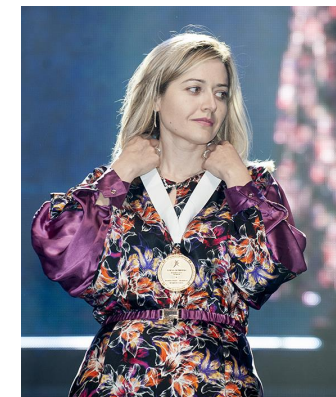
We all felt the immense loss this past summer of one of the greatest comedians and most heartfelt actors, Robin Williams. He had a rare and priceless talent of making us laugh and cry at the same time, because he could cleverly identify with every part of humanity. Just recently, I learned a very insightful thing about Robin Williams, and I am certain that I will never watch a movie, without thinking about this article I read. A studio agent recently posted a story online of how he had never actually booked Robin Williams for an event, but how he came close enough that William's office sent over his rider. For those outside of the entertainment industry, a rider lists out an artist's specific personal and technical needs in hosting them for an event... anything from bottled water and their green room to sound and lighting requirements. You can learn a lot about a person from their rider. When Robin William's rider came through, this agent was very surprised by his requirements. Williams's only stipulation was that for every single event or film he worked on... the company hiring him also had to hire a certain number of homeless people and put them to work. Not just for a single day, but for the entire time he was working on the project.

I am sure that on his own time and with his own money, Robin Williams was working with many people in need, but the fact that he had also decided to use his clout as a talented entertainer to make sure that production companies and event planners also learned the value of giving these people a chance to work their way back... this to me is inspirational. I wonder how many people got a chance at a job and the pride of earning a paycheck, even temporarily, from his actions. Williams was a great multiplier of his impact, his talent was beyond reproach, and I just hope that his compassionate influence lives on without him.

I ask you today - What can you give from yourself? What talent has God given you to share with this world? Is it your laugh or friendly manner? Perhaps the way you smile and share your sense of humor or your ability to encourage and inspire others? Is it your devotion to prayer, or the loving tone people hear in your voice? Because I promise you that there is something that you can do, that you can share and offer to others that will make a difference. The challenge before us today is to ask ourselves how we can best use our resources of time, talent, and treasure - for God! Regardless of the amount or the type of talent that we possess, God wants us to be faithful in our service. We can either use what God has given us, or we can lose this opportunity. As Christians, we have been entrusted with both our talents and the teachings of the Gospel, so that we might be faithful and fruitful in investing what God has entrusted to us. If we want to succeed, then we must invest what God has given us wisely. Our potential is God's gift to us, and what we do with it is our gift to Him. Never become discouraged with the seemingly smallness of your task, job,

or life. Cling fast to these words: "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something I can do" (Edward Everett Hale). The key to accomplishment is making the most out of what you can do and believing it will make a difference. God is concerned about each and every one of us - about what kind of child we are becoming, and what we are making from this life here on earth. When we stand before the judgment seat of Christ on the day of last judgment, like the Master in today's Gospel parable, the Lord will not ask us, "How many talents did you have?", but rather, "What did you DO with what I gave you?"

CHES: Before the Olympiad, in Norway this year the names of the Russian women's team weren't submitted before the deadline. This way the Russians gained more time to arrange the transfer of Kateryna Lagno from the Ukrainian to their own federation. Lagno played board one for Russia, who won its third gold in a row.



Natalija Zhukova of Ukraine, who won the individual gold medal (board four), didn't mince words when asked about the situation.

"Getting rid of the parasites is always painless. Well, love cannot be forced. If she doesn't want to play for Ukraine, why do we need such people? We didn't communicate at the Olympiad, she avoided it. Cleansing is always for the better."