



Fr. Henry Orszulak with Wojchak Family



Mr. & Mrs. Wasyl & Anne Marie Serediuk after the Divine Liturgy on the occasion of their 25th Wedding Anniversary

Sitch Dinner, September 27, 2015



SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

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ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІПТРИЇ

41

UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN

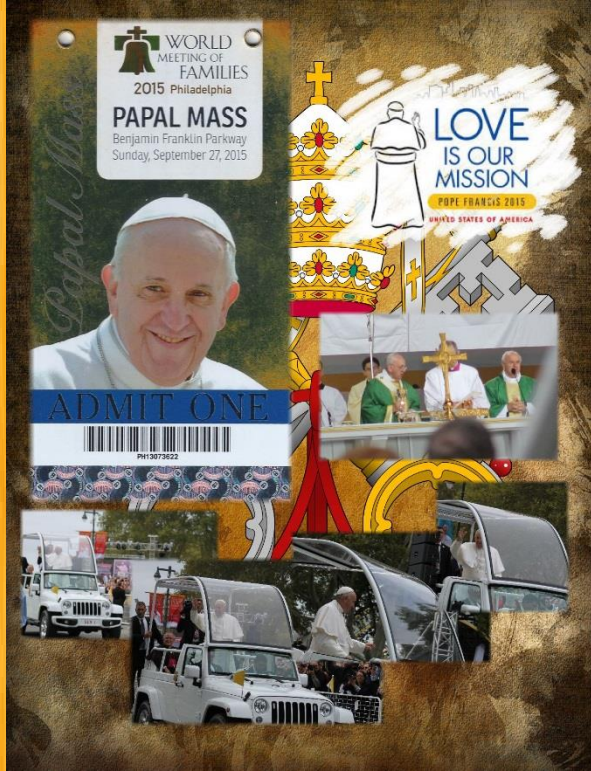
October 11 – 2015 – 11 ЖОВТНЯ

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

The love of family and the admiration of friends is much more important than wealth and privilege.

You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.

Покров Пречистої Діви Марії
Protection of Mother of God



CHURCH BULLETIN

Oct. 11 – 2015 – 11 Жовтня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM +Anna Jacyszyn (Family)

October 11, 20 S. aft. Pent. – 20 Н. по ЗСД

12:00 For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Monday, October 12 Жовтня, Понеділок

8:15 AM +Alexander, Sophia & Walter Kot
(Elaine Nowadly)

Tuesday, October 13 Жовтня, Вівторок

9:00 AM +John & Mary Colomon
(Allen & Nadine Burkholder)

Wednesday, October 14 Жовтня, Середа

10:00 AM See Julian

Thursday, October 15 Жовтня, Четвер

I will be in Lansdale, PA at LUC Convention

Saturday October 17 Жовтня, Субота

4:30 PM +Onufrey Biloholowskyj (Olia Kobryn)

October 18, 21 S. aft. Pent. – 20 Н. по ЗСД

12:00 For Parishioners – За Парохіян

With Monday being a holiday we thought some of our parish family might be off from work or school for the day and would willing to help us to move boxes from about 9:00-12 noon. This job is too big for a couple of people to try and move. So please consider helping out your parish for a few hours on Monday. We desperately need the help. Until all boxes are moved, work will not be able to be started in the rectory. Please, if you have a few hours to spare, come and help us. Thank You!

У понеділок державний празник, тому звертаємося до вас прийти і допомогти перенести пачки з книжками до гаражу. Це візьме 2-3 години. Дякуємо!

11 Жовтня: 19 Неділя по 3. Св. Духа

10:00 р. За покійних членів Патріархального Товариства і Прославу Слуги Божого Патріярха Йосифа Сліпого

--- По Літургії посвячення прапорів---
--- Blessing of the Flags after the Liturgy ---

Середа: 14 Жовтня: ПОКРОВ П. Д. М.

10:00 р. За Український Нарід

18 Жовтня: 19 Неділя по 3. Св. Духа

10:00 р. +Онуфрій Білоголовський
(Дружина Галина з родиною)

--- По Літургії панахида ---
за поляглих за волю України

October 17: Eparchial Meeting of Families in Stamford, Connecticut.

October 16-18: LUC Convention in Lansdale, Pa.

October 20-23: Clergy Conference of all US Eparchies. Chicago, IL.
PRAY FOR US!

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

Eternal Lights burns for
+Anna Hudymiak
Requ. by Family

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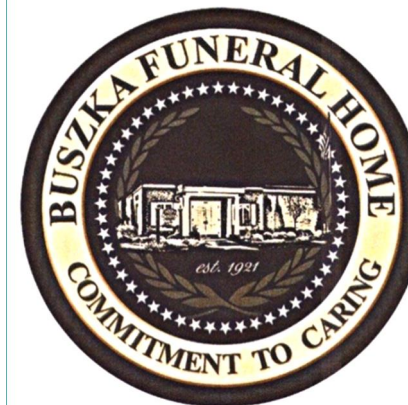
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(Closed Mondays | Зачинені по понеділках)

Tuesday – Thursday | 3 вівторка по четвер

| 9:30 am – 5 pm |

Friday | 9:30 am – 6 pm | П'ятниця

Saturday | 9 am – 1 pm | Субота

Our existing branch on **GENESEE STREET**
will remain open; however, we will be
CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS starting **JULY 1**.
Філія на **GENESEE STREET** буде **ЗАЧИНЕНА**
ПО СЕРЕДАХ, починаючи з 1 ЛИПНЯ.

BUFFALO BRANCH BUSINESS HOURS:

(Closed Wednesday | Зачинені по середах)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday | 9:30 am – 5 pm |

Понеділок, Вівторок, Четвер

Friday | 9:30 am – 7 pm | П'ятниця

Saturday | 9 am – 1 pm | Субота

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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Thank you for your donations!
We welcome your comments.

Чи ви слухаєте нашу радіо передачу
«Милосердний Самар'янин»
Неділя, 2 год. на WJLL 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.

DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

From the Estate of Eugene
Wolinski - \$15, 542.11

In Memory of Stephen & Mary Ploytcia
Gary & Kacy Plotycia - \$500.00

Thank you for your Donations

Relig. Education 2015 – Релігія

As the 2015-16 school year begins, we
would like to inform parents of the dates
of Religious Education classes for the
upcoming school year. We hope that
children enrolled in our program will
make the commitment T.A.A.C.:

To Attend All classes

St. Nicholas Religious Education
Classes will run from 9:00AM until
12:30PM on the following Saturdays:

1. Saturday, October 24, 2015
2. Saturday, November 21, 2015
3. Saturday, January 23, 2016
4. Saturday, February 20, 2016
5. Saturday, March 19, 2016
6. Saturday, April 23, 2016
7. Saturday, May 14, 2016

Children enrolled in the Solemn
Communion class will also be required
to attend weekly Monday evening
classes beginning in March 2016.



ЗАПРОШЕННЯ

65-Річчя з дня загибелі головного
командира УПА

Романа Шухевича – Тараса
Чупринки

Свято ПОКРОВИ - Свято УПА
яке відбудеться в неділю, 18-го
жовтня, 2015р.

В Програмі:

Ранком, в годині 10:00 Богослуження
в церкві св. О. Миколая в намірненні
Українського Народу
А опісля Панахида за усіх полеглих
українських борців Героїв-Лицарів.

По полудні, в годині 1:00 в
Українському Домі "Дніпро"
562

Виступають - хор ОЖ-ОЧСУ „Мрія”,
і члени СУМ.

Перекуска для присутніх перед
програмою (від 12:00 до 1:00).



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- **OCT 24, 2015**
Washington DC
Army Navy Country Club-Arlington
- **OCT 25, 2015**
Chicago
Ritz-Carlton Hotel
- **OCT 31, 2015**
Syracuse, NY
Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel
- **NOV 1, 2015**
New York City
The Roosevelt Hotel



- **NOV 14, 2015**
Toronto
Liberty Grand Complex
- **NOV 15, 2015**
Montreal
Centre Mont-Royal
- **NOV 20, 2015**
Calgary
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Ukrainian Catholic Cultural Center

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Bishop Borys Gudziak
President, Ukrainian
Catholic University



Fr. Bohdan Prakh
Rector, Ukrainian
Catholic University

- **Maria Burmaka**
Activist and Musician
- **Chrystia Freeland**
Writer, journalist and
politician
- **Victor Morozov**
Musician

- **Oksana Mukha**
Musician
- **Mikheil Saakashvili**
Governor, Odessa Oblast,
Ukraine

- **Pavlo Sheremeta**
Director of UCU's School
of Public Management

- **Timothy Snyder**
Housum Professor of
History at Yale University
- **Tenors Bel'Canto**
Opera Singers
- **Sviatoslav Vakarchuk**
Activist and Musician

FOR MORE INFORMATION call the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation at
1 (800) 599-3671 or visit us at www.ucef.org

* Not all will appear in every city



Scan this QR code for more info



Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory for ever!

Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава на віки!

- KITCHEN is closed until further notice.
- Thank you for your patronage.
Thanks are extended to all who helped!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall will not take place because of flood we had in the Church Hall!

Untill 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 допомагаєте 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 ОПКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
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Web Page: <http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

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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 лічниці
або приковані до ліжка!

LUC SUNDAY



The League of Ukrainian Catholics will celebrate LUC Sunday on October 25, 2015. Liturgy will be at Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Niagara Falls, NY at 9:30AM. Dinner will follow the Liturgy at the Four Points by Sheraton, Niagara Falls. Cost \$20.00 For reservations call Elaine Nowadly (825-8169) or Joanne Palko (675-0629) by October 18, 2015

Salvation Army Box



By our Parking Lot from Fillmore. Used clothing. Help those in need. Thank You!

Ukrainian Badurist Chorus
with special guest **Ruslana**
Massey Hall, Toronto
October 24 2015
For more info: www.bandura.org

UNWLA Br. 97

will sponsor
a benefit

Wine Tasting

This Saturday,
October 10 from 7 -9 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Church Hall
3275 Elmwood Ave., Kenmore, NY
\$20 per person. Must be 21 or older
Admission includes wine,
appetizers and desserts.
Raffle available.
Proceeds benefit
UNWLA
War Victims Fund
and other UNWLA charities

HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY 2015 Washington, D.C.

Friday, November 6 7 P.M. Exhibit Opening/Reception	Saturday, November 7 2 P.M. Dedication Ceremony 10 A.M. - 7 P.M. Exhibit	Sunday, November 8 2 P.M. Concert
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Letter from Fr. Ray Oct. 11, 2015

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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

Hello Dear One! As you know, from time to time I begin this letter by dedicating it to a group of people such as the sick, or those in assisted living or to the caregivers. When I make such a dedication, we are reminded to pray deeply and more fervently for those people as they fight their daily battles and climb their mountains, as they 'fight the good fight', and 'run the race to the finish.' It is to remind us that they are out there, and always in need of our thoughts, charity and prayers.

Having said that, I would like to dedicate this week's letter, not directly to a particular person or group, but I would rather dedicate it to prayer itself, and how we are all called to pray for each other. As I begin, I am thinking first of all about the suffering people of South Carolina who are in dire straits following the extraordinary and epic rainfall over the past two weeks. God help them! And to those who lost their lives in the flooding, we pray our Good God has taken them to *"that place where there is no longer any sickness or suffering or sighing, but only Life Everlasting. Vichnaja Pamjat! Eternal Memory!"*

The pictures coming out of that state have been incredible and heart-wrenching. Today, several of the TV stations were showing people coming back to their homes, or what is left of their homes, after they had evacuated. Where does one even start to clean up that mess? Or how does one go forward from here? Every material possession is destroyed and all they have intact of their life before the storm is whatever they managed to pack before leaving. What do you do when you stand, in what used to be your driveway, and see your house

leaning off the foundation and your two cars, one smashed against a stone wall, and the other upside down, and dangling out of a tree?!

Yes, this letter is dedicated to prayer and that is all we can do....that is what we must do. We, who are safe and dry and have our homes and possessions, must be the prayer warriors for those victims. Why us? Because we are safe and dry and in our homes, it is simply easy for us to pray. Not only in this situation is prayer important, but we pray always. Whether it is easy or not, we have got to know our Good God is a faithful God and He will never fail us or leave a prayer unanswered. Remember in Luke's gospel He says, *"And He told them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart."* (Lk 18-1) *"And which of you, if he ask his father bread, will he give him a stone? Or a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or, if he shall ask an egg, will he reach him a scorpion?"* (Luke 11:11-12)

How do we pray? Let us pray for courage and faithfulness for those so harmed by the fury of nature, and the cunning of the Evil One. We pray they will be courageous, and walk forward, knowing life is changed forever for many of them. We pray they will be faithful to God. In times like this the inevitable question arises, *"Where is God? Why didn't He do something to stop it, or save them?"*

If you've ever read the *Book of Job* in the Holy Bible, you will have heard those questions asked there, and you also will have heard Job's friends telling him to curse God and get it over with. Surely nothing could be as bad as what he was going through, and God was not going to help him. Even Job's wife told him to curse God and die. But with courage and faithfulness, Job would not go against his God even though he certainly did not understand all that was happening to him. However, with courage and faith he said, *"Naked I came from my mother's*



womb, and naked shall I return; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of Lord." (Job 1: 21) "But as for me, I know my Redeemer lives, and that He will at last stand forth upon the dust; Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him. And from my flesh, I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing." (19: 23-27)

Let us then, pray for all those who have been so affected by the flood waters, and for all in need of our prayer. We remember how after the Great Flood, the Lord God put that rainbow in the sky and made His covenant with Noah. A new day would dawn. So too, in the days of Job.....all was taken away from him, but because of his endurance, courage and faithfulness, he received in the end, long life and twice as much of his earthly gifts as he had had before all his trials and tribulations and temptations. Now in South Carolina or elsewhere it may look bleak and hopeless, but we know our God is a faithful God and soon the rainbow will shine across the sky, and they will know God is with them!

So we pray, we pray for the flood victims, we pray for each other, we pray for our country, our government, our people, our family, our parish, our friends. Those we know, and those we don't know. Yes, we pray for all in need of our prayer. Let our prayer rise like incense before the Holy Throne! I'll bet you never thought much about being a prayer warrior, but you are! And there's more...

A few weeks ago Father Frank Pavone, Director of *Priests for Life* wrote a prayer for the conversion of Planned Parenthood. He posted it on the internet for all to see and pray. One lady took the prayer to *Office Depot* and asked them to print 500 copies so she could distribute it to her church. At that store she was told it was against company policy to do this, and the prayer was "too graphic" and may even contain hate speech. (emphasis Fr. Ray) Enter Fr. Frank and the corporate lawyers of Office Depot and the situation was resolved...they will now print the prayer and even apologized for their actions. I would like you to have this "Prayer for the Conversion of

Planned Parenthood," since we are talking about the importance of prayer this week.

"Lord, for whom all things are possible, we are confronted once again today with the evil of the abortion industry and the corruption found in the world's largest abortion business, Planned Parenthood. O Lord, we pray for all who plan to be parents, and we ask your mercy on those who teach others to reject parenthood. In the light of your Word, O Lord, we affirm today that children are a blessing from you, and that the origin of all parenthood is likewise in You, the God of life and love. Therefore, O God, we stand against the evil that has been exposed in Planned Parenthood and in the entire abortion industry. We stand today for the triumph of truth over falsehood, of light over darkness, and of life over death. Bring an end to the sale of body parts. Bring conversion to all who do this, and enlightenment to all who advocate it. Close the doors of the death camps in our midst, and open the doors of Your mercy and healing! Close the grisly trade in baby body parts, and open the abundant gifts of your salvation and life! Hasten the day when our land will no longer be stained with innocent blood, and when the bodies of all your children will be raised from the dead and set free forever. We pray in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen. Our God comes to our door and knocks and He will answer every prayer. He will not fail!

Before closing, I want to tell you our 95th Praznyk (Parish Birthday) was prayerful and beautiful. Many, many thanks to all who came to make the day special, especially our visitors. Loved having you!

Hey guys, don't forget! This coming Saturday, October 17, is "Sweetest Day"!!! Bet she loves chocolate!

Prayers for the special people of the LUC who have been attending their convention. Talk about prayer warriors, that organization is full of them! May God bless and keep them and grant them success!

And may God bless and keep you, My Dear One! May our Holy Lady protect you! And in the words she says so often, "Pray, pray, pray!" Till next time, God willing...

In His Love,
Fr. Ray

The Saints on Sundays, 2015/16

October 11

Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council (787).
The Holy Icons.



The Seventh Ecumenical Council, convoked by the Empress Irene and met at Nicaea from September 24 to October 13, 787. Patriarch Tarasios (commemorated February 25) presided. The council ended almost fifty years of iconoclast persecution and established the veneration of the holy icons as basic to the belief and spirituality of Christ's Church. As the Synaxarion says, "It was not simply the veneration of the holy images that the Fathers defended in these terms but, in fact, the very reality of the Incarnation of the Son of God..."

Disputes concerning the Person of Christ did not cease with the Council of 681, but were extended in a different form into the eighth and ninth centuries. The struggle centered on the Holy Icons, the pictures of Christ, the Mother of God, and the Saints, which were kept and venerated both in churches and in private homes. The Iconoclasts or icon-smashers, suspicious of any religious art which represented human beings or God, demanded the destruction of icons; the opposite party, the Iconodules or veneration of icons, vigorously defended the place of icons in the life of the Church. The struggle was not merely a conflict between two conceptions of Christian art. Deeper issues were involved: the character of Christ's human nature, the Christian attitude towards matter, the true meaning of Christian redemption.

The Iconoclasts may have been influenced from the outside by Jewish and Moslem ideas, and it is significant that three years before the first outbreak of Iconoclasm in the Byzantine Empire, the Mohammedan Caliph Yezid ordered the removal of all icons within his dominions. But Iconoclasm was not simply imported from outside; within Christianity itself there had always existed a "puritan" outlook, which condemned icons because it saw in all images a latent idolatry. When the Isaurian Emperors attacked icons, they found plenty of support inside the Church. Typical of this puritan outlook is the action of Saint Epiphanius of Salamis (315?-403), who, on finding in a Palestinian village church a curtain woven with the figure of Christ, tore it down with indignation. This attitude was always strong in Asia Minor, and some hold that the Iconoclast movement was an Asiatic protest against Greek tradition. But there are difficulties in such a view; the controversy was really a split within the Greek tradition.

(From *The Orthodox Church*,
by Bishop Kallistos Ware.)

19 Неділя по Зісланні Святого Духа

У нинішньому євангельському читанні, 19 Неділі по Зісланні Святого Духа Христос каже: “Як бажаєте, щоб вам чинили люди, чиніть і ви їм так само. Коли чинити добро тим що Вам чинять, яка вам заслуга? Та й грішники люблять тих що їх люблять. І коли чинити добро тим, що вам чинять, яка вам заслуга. Та і грішники те саме чинять. І коли ви позичаєте тим, від кого маєте надію назад узяти, яка вам заслуга. Адже і грішники грішникам позичають, щоб відібрати від них рівне. Ви ж любіть ворогів ваших, добро чинити їм, і позичайте, не чекаючи назад нічого, а велика буде ваша нагорода, і будете Всевишнього синами, бо він благий для злих і невдячних.” І закінчує: “Будьте милосердні, як і Отець Ваш милосердний.”

Ми радо робимо добро іншим коли знаємо, що інші нам відплатять подібною мірою. Учитель Гілеє, який був дідом праведного Гамаліїла, про якого св. Павло згадує, що був його учителем, навчав, що заповідь: “робити іншим то що ми хотіли б, щоб нам робили,” містить цілий закон, а все решта є тільки поясненням.

Та Христова думка іде троха далі. Нам слід робити добрі діла з любови а при тому навіть і не думаючи, що ми щось за це одержимо. Наша любов має бути даною добровільно і без якого небудь зобов'язання зі сторони тих, яким її показуємо. У протилежному Христос нам скаже, що ми вже одержали свою нагороду, і немає підстави вічної сподіватися.

Любити тих які нас люблять і робити добро тим що нам добро роблять, мема жодних трудностей. Та любити тих, які з нас сміються, які зневажають нас, які нам кривду чинять очевидно не легко. Це вимагає поважного зусилля з нашого боку, бо потрібно забути заподіяне, не згадувати неприємне, не відплачуватися за образу. Простити зі щирого серця...

Що ж означає «бути милосердними, як Отець наш милосердний?», про що ми чули на закінчення сьогоднішнього Євангелія. Що означає це «як»? Якщо Ісус так вимагає, то, звичайно, можливо це виконати, адже кожна людська істота, незалежно від віку, труднощів, талантів, сотворена «на образ» Отця. Отож, нам притаманне милосердя, до певної міри воно схоже на Боже милосердя. Але, будучи

сотвореними на Його образ, мусимо погодитися бути «Його подобою». І тут виникає запитання: як?

Ми отримаємо певне прояснення, як тільки визнаємо, що не вміємо самі по собі бути милосердними, як наш Отець. Насправді, яким є Його милосердя? Вийдімо за межі наших несвідомих образів Бога, які змінюються залежно від нашого настрою, обличчю благодійний романтизм, що криється за словом «милосердя». Боже милосердя пізнається у тиші віри. Отець виявляє нам, наскільки Він милосердний, коли ми споглядаємо Ісуса.

Співчуваючи, ми певним способом «відчуваємо» страждання іншої людини (за умови, що вона не зранила нас!), але ми не можемо замість неї зносити її страждання. Відмінність Ісуса від нас, яка виявляє нам любов Отця, полягає в тому, що Він не просто знає наші страждання і наші рани, Він знає їх «зсередини»: вони є Його стражданнями і Його ранами. Його милосердя полягає у співстраданні з нами. Адже Він єдиний любить усіх нас настільки, що бере на себе нашу смерть. Ісус несе на собі гріхи навіть найбільших злочинців, так само, як і наші. І хоча наші гріхи завдають Йому ран, Він не перестає любити нас. Тому, коли Ісус каже нам: «Любіть ворогів ваших», це не просто гарні слова, адже Він виявляє це милосердя на хресті.

Бути милосердним до всіх людей, як наш Отець милосердний, означає «плекати ті самі думки в собі, які були й у Христі Ісусі» (Флп. 2, 5). Споглядаючи Його на хресті, просимо у тиші нашого серця, щоб ми прониклися Його любов'ю, Його любов'ю до нас і до всіх людей. Те, що неможливе для нас, стає можливим з Ним і в Ньому. Такий перехід від образу Божого до Його подоби є дією Святого Духа.

У момент епіклези, єднаючись із Сином, ми все віддамо Отцеві – себе зокрема, цілий світ з його скорботами, щоб Святий Дух перемінив наше приношення на Тіло і Кров Христа. Переживаймо впродовж цілого дня те, що ми переживаємо впродовж Божественної літургії. Тоді подібність до Отця набуватимемо зсередини. Дух Отця поєднає нас з Ісусом і преобразить нас. Після цього ми зможемо випромінювати хоч трохи справжньої радості – радості від Божого милосердя, яке спасає світ.

(Жан Корбон, *Це називається світанком*, Львів, Свічадо 2007)

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

A young mother in Oklahoma City once told the following: "It was one of the worst days of my life: the washing machine broke down, the telephone kept ringing, my head ached, and the mail carrier brought a bill I had no money to pay. Almost to the breaking point, I lifted my one-year-old into his highchair, leaned my head against the tray, and began to cry. Without a sound, my son took his pacifier out of his mouth and stuck it in mine." There are those times when life seems absolutely crushing. The cause may be grave and serious, or it may be the result of an accumulation of minor things, but in any case, a person's sorrow can become inconsolable, and the grief overwhelming. And unfortunately, no one has yet perfected a pacifier for adults. So, in such times, we may find ourselves in the ashes of grief with no prospect of joy anywhere on the horizon. The words of Job speak of this condition: "Oh that my grief was thoroughly weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances; for it is heavier than the sands of the sea . . . My soul is weary of my life; I will give free utterance to my complaint, I will speak in the bitterness of my soul" (Job 6:2-3; 10:1). You can almost hear words of a similar sort on the lips of the widow from Nain in today's Gospel reading.

As the Lord approached the village of Nain on that day long ago, his eyes landed on the tragic scene unfolding there: a widow attending the burial procession of her only son. Needless to say, he found her weeping: weeping over the loss of a child, her only child - a sorrow greater than which is hard to imagine; weeping, for having lost her husband previously, now she found herself totally alone in the world; weeping, for as a woman without a husband or a son, she had lost her entire family; weeping, we can be sure, because at that point - life had absolutely crushed her. What reason could there be for her to carry on? And yet, even as her mind was filled with such sorrowful considerations, in the midst of her moaning and crying, and that of the crowd, she beholds a strange man approaching and hears him utter these words: "Woman, weep not." When we pull back from this scene to reflect on our own lives in the here and now, it is not hard to recognize her experience in ours. Like her case, it could be the death of a loved one, or it could be a grave or debilitating illness. It could be a business

enterprise in the throes of near collapse. It could be a marriage torn by conflict, betrayal and resentment. It could be a child that has wandered far from the pure and holy ways. The possible circumstances are endless, but the result is the same: we find ourselves swallowed up by sorrow, consumed by grief, battered by bouts of sadness. We read that Job took a piece of broken pottery to scrape his boils and sat down in the ashes – the ashes of his grief - and we can identify (Job 2:8). It was at just such a time that this widow heard Jesus announce: "Weep Not."

Christ touched her boy and the cause of this woman's grief was eliminated instantly, totally, and irreversibly. He touched the bier, the boy rose, and a mother's sorrow was turned into joy. And when the young man rises, St. Luke does not tell us that Jesus spoke to him, but rather we read that Jesus "delivered him to his mother". This miracle is living proof that our Lord is never late or ever distant, but always right there beside us, lifting us up from our circumstances and bringing us into the hope of everlasting life. Does it always happen in such a manner? I wish that were so, but we have all witnessed grief and we all know a funeral procession when we see one. Funerals affect all of us, even the most hardened of hearts. None can fail to be solemnized as the mournful procession lingers along the highway, or through the street of a crowded city. But the point of today's Gospel is not to teach that Christ will always instantly appear to take every cause of sorrow away from our lives; rather it is to illustrate – dramatically and powerfully – that the power of the resurrection is still present, even in the ashes of our grief. This is the core message of today's Gospel for us, that the one who raised the boy is Himself risen. Jesus wields life and power way beyond our expectations as even in scripture it is written, "All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth" (Matt. 28:18). Our Lord's abilities range far above what our senses can perceive and what our reason can understand. The power of Christ's resurrection is nonetheless there - perhaps subtle and hidden - even when we are least prepared to accept it, even as we sit in the ashes of our grief.

Grief is a powerful overwhelming emotion. It paralyzes you; it goes very deep inside your soul in ways that, whoever experiences it, will undoubtedly be

changed. I recently went to the funeral of a childhood friend who passed away in a tragic car accident last week. Valerie was only 41 years old, with so much life still ahead of her, leaving behind a family full of grief. They were certainly not as fortunate as the Widow of Nain who received her son back into life through the power of Jesus. Their grief was not instantly turned to joy. But the priest gave a beautiful sermon about Valerie, and he emphasized that no matter how hard things were in her life, Valerie was a woman who walked in hope. Hope for all things that are possible through the Lord, hope in the ashes of her grief, hope to start her next day anew. There are certainly no "get out of death free cards" but there is the everlasting hope of Eternal life. When my dad passed away, it took all the strength I had just to get up each morning and lift myself from the ashes of grief. It took me weeks to re-enter my life as it was, to go back to teaching, to truly smile again with my son, and to trust that the good Lord was now caring for my dad in ways that are far more glorious than I could ever imagine. But I still have days, moments when the grief breaks my heart, we all do, because the intensity of grief that we feel is proportional to how much we loved the ones that are no longer with us.

In another passage of scripture dealing with Christ's power over death, we read that when Jesus arrived to the town of Bethany and found that Lazarus had died, his grief was so raw that the Bible tells us "Jesus wept." (John 11:35). Even though Jesus knew beforehand that he was going to resurrect Lazarus from the dead; He still grieved over the death of his friend. The Bible says that then the Jews watched him in the middle of his grief and anguish; and they: "saw how much he loved him!" (John 11:36). Considering that scenario with Christ, I think back to the widow of Nain who just lost her only son. There are no words to describe her situation. When we lose our parents, perhaps we feel as orphans. When a spouse dies, the other spouse becomes a widow; or widower. But when we lose a child, there is no adjective that describes this situation, perhaps because the grief is like no other. And today we have Jesus, who took away this widow's grief and turned her tears into joy. Tears over the loss of her loved ones, tears that even Christ shed over the death of his friend Lazarus, and tears which I have no

doubt the Lord sheds during our moments of grief and suffering. It is in the ashes of our grief when we need the Lord the most. This leads me to the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah's story can be summed up by his words, "I saw the Lord." Isaiah's story is incredibly hopeful and comforting, something one would not have expected considering the time in history to which he was born. He was told by God to get the attention of a people who did not care anymore. They are "a sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil-doers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward" (1:4). It is a dark time when people no longer understand the things of God. Perhaps it is the darkness that drives Isaiah to proclaim the light more gloriously.

St. Paul once wrote, "Death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory? Thanks be to God who gives us this victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:55-57). The beautiful revelation of today's Gospel is that through Christ's resurrection, death no longer speaks the last word. For the Lord who halted the funeral in Nain and gave back life to this widow's son is also our Messiah, the Word of God, and only He may speak the last word. Today's Gospel is one of glory; glory to God – who gives us Eternal life over death. The widow of Nain serves as a spiritual reminder for us to be reminiscent of our baptism, our place in the Kingdom of God, and as we partake of our Lord's Daily Bread, to be thankful for the Heavenly Host we are about to receive. Jesus showed compassion and love by lifting a widow out of her grief and into the joy only made possible through the Glory of God; you can guarantee Jesus can and will do the same for each of us. But what if God could not take the time to bless us today, because we could not take the time to thank Him yesterday? What if God decided to stop leading us tomorrow, because we did not follow Him today? What if God took away his message because we failed to listen to the messenger? Truthfully, the compassion of our Lord is abundant, but so often we fail to develop our own relationship with Him because we lose sight of His constant presence in our lives. It was Jesus who said: "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, even if he dies will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (Jo 11:25-26)

Священним обов'язком Церкви є захистити і зберегти сім'ю. Виступ Блаженнішого Святослава на Синоді Єпископів у Ватикані

«Сучасна сім'я в Україні позначена труднощами посткомуністичного суспільства, яке переживає швидко суспільно-культурну емансипацію», – про це розповів Блаженніший Святослав Шевчук, Глава УГКЦ, доповідаючи вранці 6 жовтня 2015 р. під час третього загального засідання Синоду Єпископів. Його доповідь стосувалася 9,10,11 та 53 пунктів Робочого документа.

«Наша Українська Греко-Католицька Церква готується до спогадування наступного року 70-ї річниці своєї насильницької ліквідації Сталініним у Радянському Союзі та примусового приєднання до Російської Православної Церкви, – розповів Блаженніший Святослав. – Відтоді розпочалася хресна дорога єпископів, священників, монахів та монахинь і насамперед численних християнських родин, які були вирвані зі своєї землі та переселені в просторі сибірські пустелі».

За словами Глави УГКЦ, у цей період переслідування Церкви «саме впокорені та переслідувані родини стали вогнищами, в яких збереглася віра в Бога, де нові покоління отримали дар віри, стаючи справжніми домашніми Церквами». «У їхніх домах, – пригадав Блаженніший Святослав, – підпільні священники могли знайти сховок та місце для Господнього вітаря, де серед нічної тиші звершували Пресвяту Євхаристію та уділяли інші Святі Таїнства».

Як сказав Предстоятель УГКЦ, після розпаду Радянського Союзу з'явилися нові виклики у вигляді масової міграції. «Віруючі родини, особливо віруючі мами, – підкреслив він, – знову вкоренили нашу Церкву в країнах нашої нової присутності, особливо в Західній Європі. Часто ці українські мами та бабусі повернули християнські та загальнолюдські цінності в численні італійські, іспанські, португальські та інші родини. Численні похилі віком люди в цих країнах відійшли до вічності, примирившись з

Богом та отримавши маслосвяття саме завдяки українській доглядальниці».

Зазначивши, за протягом ХХ сторіччя за мігрантами до країн Америки, Австралії, Європи і навіть Далекого Сходу слідували священники, доповідач ствердив, що саме «віруюча українська родина», перенісши свою Церкву до кожного куточка світу, «виконувала і далі здійснює місію, залишаючись вірною її моральному та аскетично-духовному вченню».

«І навіть в теперішньому періоді війни в Україні перед обличчям ще одного виклику, спричиненого дійсно важкою економічною кризою, християнська сім'я виявилася гостинною до переселенців та джерелом небаченої раніше сили солідарності», – зауважив Блаженніший Святослав, вказавши на те, що згідно з оцінками ООН, в Україні нараховується приблизно півтора мільйона переселенців, більшість з яких отримали допомогу саме від «українських сімей як фундаментальної клітини суспільства».

У світлі цього Глава УГКЦ сказав:

«Сьогодні я повинен ствердити: в минулому родина захистила і зберегла Церкву. Сьогодні священним обов'язком Церкви є захистити і зберегти сім'ю, – сім'ю, як вірний, нерозривний та плідний союз між чоловіком та жінкою».

«Мої вірні, – додав Блаженніший Святослав, – попросили мене звернутися до Отців Синоду та пригадати, що ми, єпископи, не є господарями об'явленої істини про сім'ю, але її слугами. Наші люди очікують сьогодні від нас підтвердження та наголошення вчення Церкви про сім'ю, уточнене та викладене блаженним Папою Павлом VI та святим Папою Іваном Павлом II. Святі і побожні родини, утверджені у вірі, самі знаходять найкреативніші способи, щоб дати відповідь на виклики сучасного суспільства та навчать нас, як виявити милосердя до тих, які зазнають труднощів. Ми не можемо розв'язати всіх проблем, якими світ випробовує сім'ю, але можемо звіщати істину Євангелія про родину та допомогти наступним поколінням ступити з Божою допомогою на цей шлях до святості», – підсумував Глава УГКЦ. uk.radiovaticana.va