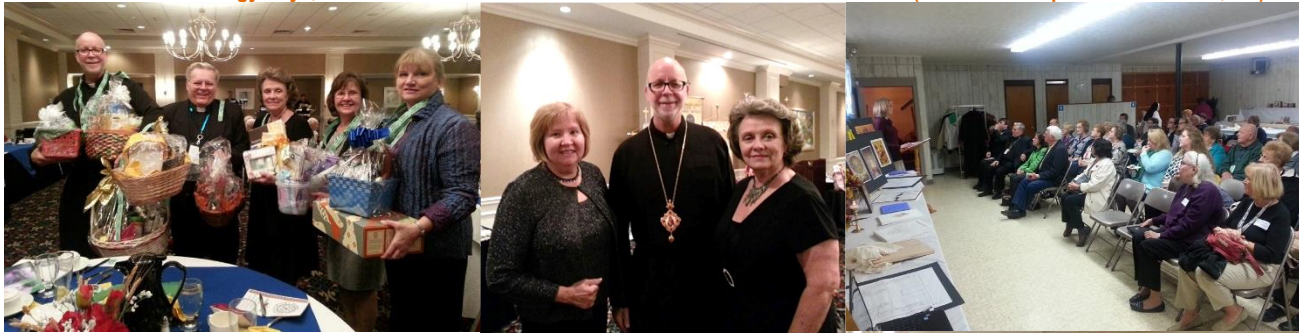




Clergy Days, October 6-8

LUC CONVENTION 2014 - (All Saints Chapter in Johnstown, PA)



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SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



ЎКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



№

ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІГТРИЇ

42

UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN

October 19 – 2014 – 19 ЖОВТНЯ
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



Protecion of Mother of God in St. John
the Baptist Church in Johnstown, PA.
Вітраж Покрова Пречистої Діви Марії у
Джонставн, де відбулася Конв. Л.У.К.



Theotokos of Zarvanycia in Saint John
the Baptist Church in Johnstown, PA.
Зарваницька Богородиця у Джонставн.

Конвенція Ліги Українців Католиків
відбулася надзвичайно вдало.
Новозорганізований Відділ «Всіх
Святих» чудово вив'язався, за
що налажаться їм щира подяка.

LUC Convention in Johnstown, PA
was incredibly good organized. Kudos
to newly formed Chapter of "All Saints".

CHURCH BULLETIN

October 19 – 2014 – 19 ЖОВТНЯ

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

4:30 PM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

October 19 19 S. aft. Pent. – 19 Н. по З.С.Д.

12:00 AM. +Anna Perhach (Tania Ronomarenko)

Monday, October 20 Жовтня, Понеділок

8:15 AM +Paraska Michaliw (Puhacz Family)

Tuesday, October 21 Жовтня, Вівторок

8:15 AM +Michael C. Chort (Marianne)

Wednesday, October 22 Жовтня, Середа

10:15 AM +Rose Sonnick

(Norma & Mary Ann DuBois)

12:00 PM +Ralph Winter (Louise Porreca)

Thursday, October 23 Жовтня, Четвер

8:15 AM +Ewa Borowiec (Michael & Anna)

Friday, October 24 Жовтня, П'ятниця

8:15 AM +Iwanna & Mykola Osmak

(Joseph & Vera Tarapata)

Saturday October 25 Жовтня, Субота

8:15 AM +Helen Maxim (Peter)

4:30 PM +Anna Sedlarczuk (Joanne Bader)

October 26 20 S. aft. Pent. – 20 Н. по З.С.Д.

12:00 AM. For Parishioners – За Парохіян

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

Eternal Light in honor of Theotokos
burns for the Peace in Ukraine.

The Eternal Light burns for
+Filip Prosek
(Requ. by Family)



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

19 ЖОВТНЯ: 19 Н. по З.С.Д.

10:00 р. +Мар'ян Борачок (Пласт)

26 ЖОВТНЯ: 20 Н. по З.С.Д.

10:00 р. +Клим Панасевич (р. Курляк)

Блаженніший Патріарх Святослав

Закликав нас усіх, щоб

МОЛИТИСЯ

МОЛИТВУ

Отче Наш і Богородице

Діво

о 2 год.

по обіді

за нарід в Україні

Пресвятая Богородице, спаси нас!

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West Seneca NY 14224

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9:30 am – 2pm | Thursday 9:30 am – 6 pm |
Friday 9:30 am – 7 pm | Saturday 9:00 – 1 pm |

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ФІНАНСОВІ ПОСЛУГИ**

ОЩАДНІ ТА ЧЕКОВІ РАХУНКИ | СЕРТИФІКАТИ | ММ | ПОЗИКИ | КРЕДИТИ НА НЕРУХОМІСТЬ | ПЛАТІЖНІ КАРТКИ VISA | MONEYGRAM | ГРОШОВІ ПЕРЕКАЗИ | ЕЛЕКТРОННІ ПОСЛУГИ | ПОСЛУГИ НОТАРІУСА |

*Membership subject to eligibility.
Federally insured by NCUA.*

Cell Phones - Мобільні Телєфони:

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

Thank you!

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні телефони підчас Святої Літургії.

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

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

Please Remember
Our Church in Your Will!

Пам'ятаймо про Рідну Церкву та про її майбутність у нашому Завіщанні!

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.

ЦЕРКОВНА КУХНЯ

Просимо зійти на каву.
Сердечна подяка усім,
що прийшли допомогти
робити вареники у п'ятницю.
Просимо також допомогти в цьому тижні, як рівно ж порадити у який спосіб можна краще зробити.
Дякуємо Вам усім за поміч і
За дорогоцінну пораду.
Базар наближається.
Потрібно нам буде
ще більшої допомоги.

Kitchen started. Friday as usual.
Thank you for your selfless help and a great support. Vazaar is approaching
We need all the help we can get.

The League of Ukrainian Catholics
will celebrate LUC Sunday
on October 26, 2014.
Liturgy will be at St. John the Baptist
Ukrainian Catholic Church, Kenmore,
NY at 10:30AM.

Dinner will follow the Liturgy in the
Hall, Cost \$15.00 For reservations
call: Elaine Nowadly (825-8169)



Congratulations

to

Jessica Lynn (Popadyn) Fechter

Daughter of George Popadyn &
Donna Ann (Metros)

and

Robert Mathew Repeta

Son of Calvin (Kevin) & Laura Ann (Wilson)

In the occasion of their wedding!

Happy Many Years!

Гратулюємо

з нагоди Вінчання

Джесіка Линн (Попадин) Фехтер,
Доньці Юрія і Донни Анне (Метрос)

i

Роберта Матвія Репета,
Синові Калвіна і Лауре Анне (Вілсон)

На Многая і Благая Літа!

Reminder: Увага! Увага!

Our Annual Parish Bazaar is just 4 weeks away. November 8th and 9th. More information will follow in the coming weeks. We are in need of Christmas items for the Attic Treasures Booth. If you have any such items, please contact Michael Petryshyn.

=====

Наш Базар буде 8-9 Листопада у залі Церкви Неустаючої Помочі.

**Annual Parish Bazaar –
November 8 & 9th
Ukrainian Hall, Lackawanna
10AM-5PM**

THEME BASKETS – THEME BASKETS

Our Annual Parish Bazaar is scheduled for November 8-9th. One of the biggest money makers is Theme Baskets. Please start thinking of putting one together or donating money for one. We want to advertise “Over 200 baskets” Last year we had over 300 baskets. Since this is a parish function, it would really be helpful if each family donated a basket. This year we are going to try something a little different. We are going to have one table (about 25 baskets) of items valued over \$50.00. If you would like to donate one of these items, please contact the rectory.
On this table only a sheet of tickets will be \$10.00 a sheet.

**TO DONATE A BASKET
PUT YOUR DONATION
INTO AN ENVELOPE
MARKED “THEME
BASKET” AND PUT IT INTO
THE CHURCH
COLLECTION BASKET.**

If you have a basket already made up, you can bring it to our church hall.

Please leave your name so you can get credit for it.

We also need \$5.00 items for the Surprise Booth, Kitchen items, Homemade Baked Goods and help in the Kitchen to both make and sell food.

Any help you can give is gratefully appreciated.

It is not too early to start planning.

Please volunteer and don't wait to be asked.

We need your help!

Donations Towards Coffee Hour
Yearly Communication Assessment Fee:

Nina Palmeri



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

- KITCHEN is now open.
- Thank you for your patronage.
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- Parish Bazaar – November 8 & 9.
- Bible Meeting – Starting soon.

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!

TOPS
never stops

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
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СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ
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ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ)

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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!



Medical Supplies for Ukrainian Heroes

Ukrainian hospitals are overwhelmed by seriously injured Ukrainian heroes. Many of them have lost limbs and desperately need our help. Do you or anyone you know have any supplies in good condition?

Medical items needed:

- First Aid
- Wheelchairs
- Walkers
- Surgical instruments

For soldiers fighting for Ukraine:

- Sleeping bags, cots
- Winter coats, socks, gloves
- Military boots

Info call 847-1281, email tridentmc@roadrunner.com or donate at the Credit Union, or at Dnipro.



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

Letter from Fr. Ray October 19, 2014 A.D

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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

Hello to you, my dear reader, wherever you happen to be, or whenever you are reading your letter. I've been thinking about you a lot the past few days, and am very happy to be able to drop you a few lines again this week. The creek didn't rise, God is willing, and God is very good! AND, "You've got mail!"

Here we are already more than half way through "Respect Life Month 2014." We need to repeatedly remind ourselves that this dedicated time during October is not only for this month, but is our yearly renewal and commitment to the protection of life by all of us for the rest of the year. Each October we are asked to stop and examine our consciences and evaluate how we, each one of us personally, is doing in this great and ongoing battle for the protection of life from conception to natural death. Remember, all people, each one of us, is as Pope Francis says, "A Masterpiece of God's Creation." I always thought you were pretty neat...now I know you are more than that. You are indeed a "Masterpiece of God's Creation." As we like to say on our birthdays, "We're glad you were born. The world is a far better place because you are here!"

I ended your letter last week by writing about the LUC convention which was then taking place. I am extremely happy to report that it was a very successful event on all levels.....the organizing and planning, the travel and coming together of the participants, the daily events, activities and prayers all contributed to a very worthwhile and blessed gathering. Everyone to whom I've spoken has come home enthused and hopeful about the renewal of this great organization, exactly what a convention is supposed to be! Now the work begins anew.

Congratulations to the newly-formed Johnstown, PA chapter, who "grabbed the bull by the horns," and volunteered to host this Convention! If they hadn't come on the scene last year, there is no telling what

might have happened to the LUC as we know it. However, their hard work, determination and hope has bred new life into the *League of Ukrainian Catholics*. Look out "Vibrant Parish" here comes the LUC! If the LUC continues to grow and be successful, we will one day look back on that rainy day in Cheektowaga in 2013 and remember the announcement, "Next year's convention will be in Johnstown!"

Look for many good things to happen with, and through that group, in the months and years ahead. As our one time restaurant critic at the *Buffalo News* used to write when she dined at a great place, "No criticism...everything was of high quality." Yes, congratulations Johnstown! A JOB WELL DONE! Everything was of high quality! Thanks and glory to God for the many blessings of that special weekend of October 2014!

A few weeks back I wrote about our parish outreach to the Franciscan Center here in Buffalo. You remember, that's the place where they take care of the teenage boys who come from broken and dysfunctional homes and give them an opportunity to get on the right track. After I mentioned that the donations were down, you came through, as you always do, with flying colors. Thanks for all you do for the boys! Your gifts, prayers and caring definitely make you sharers in the beautiful work of that place. I know Father Joe and the staff greatly appreciate all your donations to help them in that important and blessed work they do. And best of all so does Jesus. "Since you did it unto one of these least of My brethren, you did it unto Me." Be Blessed! God reward your charity a hundred-fold.

Two weeks ago it was October 5th and on that Sunday we celebrated our parish feast day at Holy Protection in Niagara Falls. It was a beautiful day as we prayed to our Holy Lady and Theotokos for her continued protection upon us, our church, and on all the world. Following the Divine Liturgy everyone was invited downstairs for a bite to eat and to continue sharing the joy of the day. Thank you to all who attended, parishioners of course, but also our friends who came from near and far to be with us. Your

presence was so very important to us. There were thirty people at the Liturgy and meal. You might laugh at that number, but for us that's just fantastic! Hope we can "fill the church" again real soon!

I've just written about the eparchial church and the local church. There are also a lot of goings-on in the national and international church, too. Regarding the international, there has been a gathering of bishops in Rome for an *Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family* from October 5 to 19. This gathering has got the media buzzing with rumors about our Church. You're going to hear a lot about the Church changing teaching regarding marriage and homosexuality. Don't believe it!

We need to remember the Church doesn't decide what it teaches based on emotions, trends or whims of the people. Instead, it proclaims those truths found in Scripture, sacred tradition, and that which we can know by right reason (natural law). So what can you do? Don't lose patience or despair about all the noise of the media. The Holy Spirit isn't asleep at the wheel. And of course, don't believe everything you read from those outlets. They lie a lot and have their own agendas. Pray. Pray extra hard for the Church and for those who are, and were, at the Synod. Read and listen to Catholic commentary. (Catholic Vote)

Regarding the national church, we are nearing voting time again. Our bishops (through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) have once again called us to witness to the Truth. They tell us, *"This November Catholics across the nation will be put to the test. Catholics across the nation will have the opportunity to shape the future for our generation and generations to come. Many issues are once again at stake. But some issues are not negotiable. "The protection of life from conception to natural death." Benedict XVI. Marriage should be reinforced not redefined. Forcing the Church to buy insurance that goes against the teaching of Jesus Christ is a violation of religious freedom. "When government tampers with a freedom so fundamental, one shudders to think what lies ahead."*

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York. Your vote will affect the future and be recorded in eternity. Will you vote the values that will stand the test of fire? Marriage, Life, Freedom! Catholics Called to Witness

Yes, there are many ominous, dark clouds surrounding our world. *ISIS, Jihad, Ebola*, disrespect for life and each other on so many levels, just to name a few. Our parish is reading the Bible and we are right now deep in the Old Testament. It is eye-opening to see how "those people" turned away from God on so many occasions and it wasn't until they realized what would happen without having the Life of God in and among them, and that they would and could return to Him.

For many years now we, the United States, especially, and all the world have been constantly warned about the need for conversion and repentance and for the need to turn back to God. Wherever our Holy Mother has appeared, her main message has been, that unless mankind turns back to her Son, there will be dire consequences for our world and for our souls. The dark clouds should not be a surprise. We are in so many ways those very people of the Old Testament! "Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil." (Joel 2: 13) 'But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.' (Joshua 24: 15) I know that is also your thought and prayer, dear one. Time for me to go, but God willing and the creek don't rise, I'll write again next week. Have a beautiful and blessed week! God bless you and give you His Peace! Our Holy Lady Theotokos protect you!

In His Love,
Fr. Ray

Election Day:
Tuesday November 4 is Election Day.
We have a Christian obligation to vote.

З радія «Милосердний Самар'янин»

"Я воскресіння і життя. Хто в мене вірус не знає смерті ніколи, бо навіть як і фізично умре, буде жити зі мною навіки." Воскресіння молодця з нинішнього євангельського чтання є тільки прообразом воскресіння кожного і кожної з нас. Це приклад воскресіння тілесного. Цей юнак знову помре, а цей, що воскресив його запевняє життя і по смерті. Запевняє нас, що ми перемінимся і воскреснемо, щоб разом з Ним у вічності перебувати. Життя має неоцінену вартість, і не важне чи це життя щойно почалося чи воно при кінці туземної мандрівки. Важне, щоб бути чесними і щоб працювати над собою, щоб зберігати своє життя і життя інших, наслідуючи того що може нам подарувати Життя Вічне. На прикладі Христа ми розуміємо, що якщо знайде потреба допомогти іншим ми можемо. І не будуть вони бідними і нещасними, і не будуть чутися самотніми, бо мають когось у своєму житті – мають нас.

У святому Письмі згадується про інші воскресіння, так як воскресіння дочки Яіра і воскресіння Лазаря. У всіх тих випадках милосердне Христове серце, співчуття до терплячих: вдові матері молодця з Наїну, Яірові, батькові померлої доньки та сестрам Лазаря, привело до повороту життя тих, які вже опинилися по другій стороні.

Цікаво також відмітити, що Христос воскресив дочку Яіра, яка щойно була померла, молодця з Наїну коли його везли щоб похоронити, а Лазаря коле вже 4 дні перебував у гробі. Значиться, смерть безсила перед життям у якій би то стадії не було, і мусить уступити коли то Спаситель цього забажає.

Все ж таки найбільше воскресіння з мертвих є це, коли Христос своєю власною силою по трьох днях славно воскрес із мертвих і тим показав нам що Він є справжнім володарем життя і смерті, і що наша доля залежна від Нього. Терпів він на хресті і увійшов у славу і нас притягнув до себе і дав нам надію. Наше прославлення також прийде по нашому терпінню, і наше піднесення по упадку і наше воскресіння по тілесному переставленню. Тому

радо приймемо усе що на нас приходить, без нарікання, що би сила Господня через нас показалася і щоб ми у всьому уподібнолися до нашого учителя, який нас усіх дуже добре знає, і наші труднощі і наші терпіння і наші сумніви і наші бажання і неповнені мрії.

Господь не тільки що висловив співчуття мамі покійного, (так як ми звичайно це робимо при похоронах) але й привів цього молодця з Наїну наново до життя. Для скорботної матері це був справді найбільш щедрий подарунок. Господь утер сльози болю і жалю, перетворивши їх у сльози радості і подяки.

І нам Спаситель утирає сльози з наших очей...

Приходять тяжкі хвилини, прийде і радість.

Терпіння тепер в Україні - і радість не забариться.

Зрозуміймо що з кожним терпінням запевняється Христова присутність між нами. Ми одержуємо силу з висоти, яка дає нам надію і приносить перемогу. З ним ми сильні і все посідаємо, а без Нього не маємо нічого і жадного доброго діла не зможемо сповнити.

Коли терпимо Христос нас благословляє. Так як до тої матері з і до нас Він промовляє: "Не плач"... Звертаймося до Нього у всіх наших потребах. Він нас не залишить сиротами, бо він той сам "учора, сьогодні і повіки", і хоче нас бачити у Цвоєму Царстві...

Нашим завданням є також допомогти. Бачачи потребу не відвертаймося у інший бік, не служимось тільки очима, щоб бачити і відійти, але використаймо усі можливості, щоб ніхто не чувся покритим і не відійшов від нас без допомоги. Ми не зможемо воскресити з мертвих, ми не повернимо зір сліпим, ані мову німим, ані слух глухим, ані зпараліжованим можливість ходити, але можемо привирнути надію на Господа, утвердити інших у вірі, і привести їх до злуки з Христом, а Він же подбає про слух, і про зір і про все інше, якщо Він вважатиме це конче потрібним.

Слід нам жити по Христу, щоб Христос нас освятив і через нас уділив благословення тим яких ми у житті щоденно стрічаємо.



Ваше Блаженство, 14 жовтня розпочали роботу «малі групи» (circoli minori) Папського Синоду та дискусії над документом кардинала Ердо. Поділіться своїми думками про цей Синод та скажіть, як ви оцінюєте його роботу.

Цей документ не є остаточним чи офіційним документом роботи Синоду, а, радше, чернеткою, збіркою різних виступів синодальних отців упродовж засідань минулого тижня. Його не можна вважати остаточним підсумком наших дискусій. Зараз у робочих групах ми вивчаємо цей текст, є багато критики, деякі члени нашої робочої групи вважають, що потрібно дещо змінити, доповнити, щоб наше звернення, як до Святішого Отця, так і до наших вірних, було виваженим і зрозумілішим. Найперше хочемо ще раз підтвердити доктрину Церкви про подружжя. Ми не маємо жодного наміру щось змінювати чи заперечувати, як це зараз часто повідомляється в засобах масової інформації. Насправді, ми переймаємося викликами, котрі походять не зсередини Церкви, а ззовні. Синодальні Отці шукають найкращий спосіб, як відповісти на ці виклики, наново пропонуючи Євангеліє родини у позитивному та радісному світлі.

У чому, на вашу думку, найбільший недолік цього документа і чому він викликав стільки непорозумінь?

У формулюванні висловлювань необхідно бути набагато точнішими. Адже, як відомо, часто диявол приховується в деталях. Інколи наміри та автентичні думки отців не відповідають вповні сформульованому тексту. Це створює певні непорозуміння. Саме тому зараз ми намагаємося висловитись у якомога зрозуміліший спосіб: з одного боку, щоб краще обговорити цю тему, а з іншого - щоб запропонувати традиційну доктрину Католицької Церкви у ключі нової євангелізації.

Отже, доктрина не змінюється з плином часу впродовж історії?

Доктрина не змінюється, вона розвивається, тобто уточнюється, щоб дати відповідь на певні виклики. В історії Церкви доктринальна частина була сформована як відповідь християн на декотрі єресі чи неправильне розуміння християнської віри з боку навколишнього світу. Сьогодні ми маємо нові виклики, нові труднощі в

прийнятті традиційної доктрини Церкви, тому мусимо роз'яснити деякі аспекти вчення Церкви, щоб надати певні орієнтири, зокрема практичного характеру, для пасторального служіння Церкви. Цей Синод не є доктринальним. Ми зібралися тут не для того, щоб дискутувати про доктрину, а щоб поділитися душпастирським досвідом. На цьому Синоді ми замислюємося над великими стражданнями християнської сім'ї в сучасному світі та тими атаками, які на неї здійснюються.

Так звані «неврегульовані ситуації», тобто ті пари котрі не можуть бути визнані Церквою як подружжя, але до котрих вона ставиться з позиції милосердя та сприйняття. Чого вони сьогодні потребують і очікують?

Передусім ми намагаємося підтвердити доктрину Церкви, що сім'я – це вірний, нерозривний і таїнственный союз між чоловіком та жінкою. Інші способи співжиття не можуть вважатися сім'єю. Але, одночасно, потрібно визнати: якщо, наприклад, чоловік і жінка навіть без церковного шлюбу живуть у стабільному, плідному та вірному зв'язку, то в ньому присутні оті semina verbi, зерна істини, котрі потрібно належно пошанувати. На цьому Синоді, мабуть, чи не вперше увага душпастирів виходить за межі їхньої церковної огорожі, щоб розглянути ситуації важкого гріха та допомогти цим людям досягнути євангельських ідеалів. **Мас-медіа також говорять про відкритість до одностатевих пар...**

Ми не говорили про відкритість до одностатевих пар, а, радше, про страждання цих людей. У своєму виступі я сказав, що ми не можемо вважати гомосексуальну орієнтацію саму в собі благом, тобто чимось добрим. Це важке випробування, тягар і проблема, що завжди страждає. Рани, які наносить цей феномен, не залежать від того, як ми його сприймаємо: позитивно чи негативно. Тому на цю проблему потрібно дивитися з відкритими очима. Не можна ідентифікувати особу з її гомосексуальною тенденцією. Ми повинні дивитися на цю людину, поважати її як образ Божий, беручи до уваги її актуальний екзистенціальний вимір, та у світлі Євангелія допомогти їй у її стражданнях.

Розмовляє Пауло Ондарца.

Переклад з італійської о. Андрія Солецького

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

The Parable of the Sower, which is the Gospel reading for 21st Sunday after Pentecost is perhaps one of the best known scripture readings. The parable of the Sower shows us that there are different responses people make toward the same gift – that gift being the Word of God. It also tells us how the Divine Word is like a seed, and how differently people receive this, depending upon the disposition of their souls. In every Gospel reading, the Word of God is being scattered throughout our lives, but that should not lead anyone to believe that we will all be affected in the same way. Jesus says there are four different kinds of responses that people make to the Word of God. And before He even begins telling us about the different types of people, Jesus lets us know that the "seed" is scattered to all, the Sower does not scatter only the ground that looks promising or productive - He scatters the seed on all of the ground. The Sower is our Lord, Jesus and the ground is our heart, where the Word of God tries to take root and produce fruit. Now imagine the day Jesus taught the Parable of the Sower. The people were accustomed to Jesus teaching in parables about the kingdom of God, so they would automatically compare themselves to the characters in the parable and see whom in the parable they were like. Everyone knew that some seed always fails and that some seed produces a good crop. But what did Jesus mean by the Parable of the Sower?

Jesus was sowing seed when teaching about the kingdom of God. Some people took his message to heart and produced fruit. Others did not care about his message and produced no fruit, and some took his message to heart for a while and then gave up and so produced only a little fruit. It even happened to Jesus' disciples. Judas betrayed Him and then took his own life. Peter denied even knowing Jesus



three times. Even when Jesus was crucified, his apostles were nowhere to be seen, they had fled for fear of their own lives. We would expect better from those who had been personally taught by Jesus for three years and had shared in his company. Not all of the seed that Jesus sowed bore fruit as it should have or as we would expect. The same could happen in a family. One sibling goes on to achieve great things, while the other breaks the law and ends up in prison. They are raised in the same household under the same rules, given the same amount of love and guidance, so why then do some produce fruit for the kingdom and others apparently not? It all depends on whether we take Jesus and his message seriously. But before we can

decide that, we must first understand what this 'fruit' that Jesus speaks of really means. In Saint Paul's letter to the Galatians (5:22), he tells us that the fruits of the Spirit are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. Think of how beautiful our world would be if we all produced these fruits 100% of the time. Jesus had a plan for our world, that we would form a new society where these fruits would be practiced by everyone. That society has not yet come into existence because none of us is yet producing those fruits 100% of the time.

"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit" (John 15:2). God's Word can produce much fruit in our lives, but it all depends on the condition of our heart at the time we receive His Word. Every time God's Word comes to you or me, whether in Church, through reading the Gospels, on the radio or television, in prayer or by some other means, as scripture reaches us, the condition of our hearts will dictate how we will respond. In order to cultivate a heart that is noble

and good, we need to plow up our heart and mind; we need to concentrate on the Word of God long after we receive it. Then we need to sow God's Word into the situations of our lives as well as our daily interactions with one another. Putting our faith into practice allows us to live in the way that scripture teaches. *"The one who sows to please only their sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; but the one who sows to please the Holy Spirit, from their heart will reap Eternal life"*.

This past weekend, I attended the LUC Convention with my son, fellow parishioners, and many people from our neighboring parishes. It was truly an incredible experience, both spiritually and communally. There is a special bond among people of faith and especially those who share and celebrate

the same culture; special traditions which keep us connected to our people and our faith. As the convention came to a close, we decided to visit the Flight 93 Memorial site in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, only 17 miles south from where we were staying. Honestly, from the first moment that I stepped out of the car, I felt like I was on sacred ground, walking out on the precipice of what changed so many lives forever. There was a profound silence that spoke volumes to all of us who were willing to listen. It told of the 40 passengers aboard Flight 93 whose bravery and self-sacrifice foiled an unspeakable act of terrorism and saved the lives of many. The discovery areas, stationed throughout the memorial site, placed us on board that plane, trying to comprehend what went through the passengers' minds as they made final phone calls, briefly conversing with loved ones. The boulder that marks the actual site of the

crash heralds an American flag, and commemorates both the best and worst that mankind was capable of on that fateful day. Behind this boulder still lies the grove of trees that silently stood witness to this horrific tragedy. The names of the 40 passengers who heroically risked their lives by choosing to fight back against the hijackers, in order to preserve the integrity and freedom of this great nation, are forever and indelibly edged into the marble stones that bear their names. Just like

the fire-fighters of New York City did not know that 9/11 was the day that they would produce the "fruits" of their calling, nor did the brave men and women aboard United Airlines Flight 93 as it crashed into the Pa. countryside. They did not flinch. They

did not fail. And we will not forget them. Many years before, the good Lord had sown the seeds of love and goodness in their hearts, and they produced the spiritual fruits of self-sacrifice and bravery that no one can ever put asunder. *"No greater love hath any man or woman, then to lay down their life for another."* We all learned what it truly means to sow seeds of love and produce fruit for the kingdom of God, from these brave young souls aboard Flight 93 who gave their lives so selflessly; leaving behind the families who loved them so dearly. I imagine their harvest must be plentiful as the Lord scattered his seed among the fertile ground of their souls.

In our own relationships with God, if the root of our faith is healthy, we will be fruitful and plentiful. This does not mean that things will always be perfect and that we will avoid our share of problems, or that we will evade tragedy or be without

illness or strife, but it does mean that when we come across difficult times, we will come out stronger. Jesus has promised us that if we ask, it will be given to us, if we seek, we shall find, if we knock, the door will be opened. This is the key to understanding the Word of God. But Jesus wants more than just our understanding of the Gospel. Jesus wants the Word of God, the Gospel, to change our hearts and to bear good fruit. Even St. Luke writes, *"Therefore, consider carefully how you listen."* For how carefully you listen and what you choose to do with God's Message, ultimately determines what you will receive from His Word. If we will plow, prepare, plant and protect our hearts, they will be ready soil that is good for God to use. And with good soil that is daily cultivated and ready to receive God's Word, a plentiful harvest of fruit will be produced. Much depends on how well we listen.

A country boy went to visit a friend in New York City. It was about noon and they were downtown by Times Square in Manhattan. The streets were filled with people. Cars were honking their horns, sirens were wailing and the sounds of the city were almost deafening. The country boy said, "I hear a cricket." His friend said, "You have got to be kidding me. You couldn't possibly hear a cricket with all this noise." The country boy listened again and said, "Yes, I'm sure of it. I hear a cricket." The two boys listened very carefully for a moment and then the country boy walked across the street to a big cement planter where some bushes were growing. He looked inside the bushes and sure enough they spotted a cricket. "That's incredible," said the city boy. "You must have super-human ears." "No," said the country boy. "My ears are no different than yours. It all depends on what you are listening for. Let us ask ourselves: What are we listening for today? Because God wants to speak to all of us! We must take God's Word and let it settle into our hearts. Let the Holy Spirit be our guided ear, allowing the Word of God to pass from our lips. Let it produce an honest, pure, and good heart in each of us. Jesus said, *"Those on good soil are they, which in an*

honest and good heart, having heard the Word of God, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Luke 8:15). If the seed from God falls on good earth, soil that has been tilled with Christ, fertilized with the teachings of the Church, and watered with the Holy Spirit, then our hearts have fertile soil – and we can openly and honestly receive blessings from our Lord. If we "root" ourselves in Christ, then like a tree with deep roots, we will be able to weather any storm. Our hearts can only be fertile ground if we fix our lives, daily, on the Word of God. *"Therefore, consider carefully how you listen. Whosoever has will be given more; whosoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him"* (Luke 8:18).



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