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<http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

Buffalo Community Web-Page Is:

<http://www.ukrainiansofbuffalo.com>

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**SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

N^o
45



**УКРАЇНЬСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**



Сл. Божий Митр. Андрей (Св. Софія, Рим)
Servant of God Metr. Andrew (Rome, Italy)

“He was a good shepherd to his flock and a great champion of Christian unity. Through his intercession send to our entire nation the great gift of unity and freedom!”

**UNDER THE PROTECTION
OF MOTHER OF GOD**



**ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ**

CHURCH BULLETIN – N^o45
November 4 – 2012 – 4 Листопада
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК – Ч. 45

**Молитва за Прославу
Слуги Божого Митрополита
Андрея Шептицького**

Господи Ісусе Христе – Ти завжди нагороджуєш Твоїх вірних слуг не тільки Особливішими дарами Своєї любови, але й вічною нагородою святих у небі, а в багатьох випадках і прославою на Твоїх святих престолах, тут на землі.

Покірно благаємо Тебе: зволь так прославити Твого вірного слугу Митрополита Андрея Шептицького. Він упродовж свого праведного життя, „повного терпіння і досвідів”, був добрим пастирем свого стада і великим подвижником церковної єдності. А через його прославу і заступництво пошли і цілому народові нашому великий дар єдності і любови.

«Митр. Андрей є святым - не молись за Нього а молись до Нього, бо якщо ми не визнаємо Його святым, то ніхто Його не визнає.» (Патріярх Йосиф Сліний)

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

4:30 PM +Pawlo & Mykola Bobencyk
(Jaroslawa)

Nov. 4: 23 S. aft. Pent. – 23 Н. по ЗСД **T6**

12:00 PM. For Parishioners

Monday, Nov. 5 – Пон., 5 Листопада

9:15 M + .
()

Tuesday, Nov. 6 – Вів., 6 Листопада

6:00 M + 6 40 .
()

Wed., Nov. 7 – Сер., 7 Листопада

8:15 M . Danielle
()

St. Michael Arch. – Св. Арх. Михаїл

Thu., November 8 – Чет., 8 Листопада

8:15 M + ()

Fri., Nov. 9 – П'ятниця, 9 Листопада

8:15 M . !-
()

Sat., Nov. 10 – Субота, 10 Листопада

9:00 AM + ++ .
()

4:30 PM For Parishioners

Nov. 11: 24 S. aft. Pent.–24 Н. по ЗСД **T7**

12:00 PM. +Pavlina Taran – 40 d. & pan.
(Family)

Eternal Light burns for
+Anna Mychajliw
Requ. By: Dorothy & Anne Kordrupel

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М. горить
за +Юстину і Филипа
По жертва: Павліна Регула

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4 Листоп.: 22 Н. По Зісл. Св. Д. **Гл. 5**

10:00 р. +Василь і Анна Федорак
(Анна Ганицька і Васирина Остахук)

→Сьогодні молимося за прославу Сл.
Божого Митрополита Андрея (Пласт)

8 Листоп.: Св. Вел. Муч. Димитрій

8:15 . + ()

11 Листоп.: 23 Н. По Зісл. Св. Д. **Гл. 6**

10:00 р. +Володимир Ганицький
4 річниця - (дружина Анна)

Remember to vote!

“As Christians we do owe an appropriate loyalty to the State. We strive to maintain good relations with civil authority. But our primary allegiance must always be to God and to God alone. As St. Thomas More once said so eloquently, we are God’s good servants first.

That is the nature of our personal calling; that is our human mission; and that is something we cannot forsake without betraying our baptism. Moreover, our calling and mission as Catholics remain fully consonant with the historic American understanding of law and justice.

Our allegiance to God and our reverence for religious liberty are not sectarian interests; rather, they render testimony to ideals of truth and charity that serve all people.”

From the Statement of the Pennsylvania Catholic Bishops on the 2012 Elections

Remember to vote!

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Ukrainian Cultural Center

562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 856-4476

www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com

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Cheektowaga, NY 14225

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2321 Millersport Hwy

(Getzville Plaza)

Amherst, NY 14068

tel. 716-688-1495

Melvin J. SLIWINSKI

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Cheektowaga, N. Y. 14225

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of Ukrainian Heritage, Serving Western N.Y.

Simon Pasnik & Matthew Pasnik

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Lackawanna, New York 14218

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Translations, Notary Public

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Hours of operations:

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Wednesday 10:00am-2:00pm;

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**UPCOMING
CHURCH
EVENTS**

**Просимо звернути
увагу на дати:**



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

- **KITCHEN** – is open Fridays 11 AM - 3 PM. Thank you for your patronage.
- **Coffee Hour** - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- **We need help in the kitchen.** Thank you!

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 помагате 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! Також можна цією карточкою купувати бензину.

CHURCH BULLETIN is published weekly. Deadline for information is Friday Evening.

ЦЕРК. ВІСНИК видається тижнево
Інформації подавати до четверга вечора.

SAINT NICHOLAS

**UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ
(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРИЇ)**

Parish E-Mail: stnbuffalo@yahoo.com

Web Page: <http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

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

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

Rectory: (716) 852-7566

Fax: 855-1319 ~ **Kitchen:** 852-1908

Confession: Before Liturgies

Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями

Baptism: By appointment

Хрещення: За домовленням

Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance

Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

**Religion classes – Релігійна Програма
Vacation - Вакації**

Ministry to the sick - Опіка над хворими

Family members should call the Rectory
Родина повинна повідомити священика

IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME

В разі потреби завжди можна закликати

Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean

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

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

DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

IMO Alex Kurlak

“Special Appeal”

Hanya Kurlak & Family - \$500.00

Dr. Pedro & Luba Joven - \$30.00

Victor & Luba Cap - \$20.00

Olha Czmola - \$25.00

Andrew & Gertrud Diakun - \$25.00

Paul Bohdan & Dora Iskalo - \$100.00

Roman & Lyuba - \$20.00

Roman & Leon Kuzminsky - \$10.00

William & Nadia Marc - \$25.00

Kenneth & Providence Murray - \$25.00

Elaine Nowadly - \$20.00

William & Ann Serediuk - \$20.00

Turyk Family - \$20.00

“Memorial Donation”

Co-workers from Blue Cross/

Blue Shield in Rochester, NY - \$60.00

Nowosiadlo Family - \$20.00

IMO Taras Zanaczko

Anna Holowaty - \$25.00

Donations Towards Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour Benefits-

Yearly Communication Assessment Fee

Andriy & Maria Petryshyn

Maria Plotycia

Nina Palmeri



Things we still need for the Bazaar!

Help is needed Monday evening at 5:00PM to set up tables for the Bazaar. We will begin setting up the theme baskets and need the tables set up before we can begin. Please, gentlemen we need your help for about an hour maybe two. Thank you in advance.

1. Theme Baskets -
2. \$5.00 gifts for the Surprise Booth
3. **BAKED GOODS !!!!!**
Contact Dranka Family to donate Baked Goods
4. Kitchen Jar Items
5. Help to set up. Call the rectory for the time we will be setting up on, or watch your e-mail. An e-mail will be sent out with the time we will be setting up.
6. **HELP CLEANING UP ON SUNDAY EVENING.** Please stay and help us clean up. We know everyone is tired, but the hall has to be cleaned before we leave.
7. Volunteers to help at the various booths during the weekend
8. Help in the Kitchen, both the make the food during the week and to sell on the weekend. Please see Mrs. Melnyk to offer your assistance.
9. Attic Treasures, please make sure the items are usable and not broken. We especially need Christmas items. **Please do not bring the Attic treasures to our Church hall. Please drop them off at the Ukrainian Hall on Friday afternoon, November 9th.**

This way these items do not have to be transported.

Please remember this is a parish event and we need the assistance of the entire parish to make this a successful event!

To High School Students:

Community Service hour available for helping to set up or work at the Bazaar.

URGENT HELP

Is desperately needed on Fridays to make food for our Friday kitchen. Women who helped in the past are no longer able to help. It would be greatly appreciated if you could donate a few hours on Friday mornings to help. If you are able, please contact Anna Melnyk.

Please consider to do extra work for our church. We need your help especially these two weeks before our Bazaar.

Thank You!!!

* * *

Потребуємо негайно ПОМІЧ

До кухні у п'ятницю. Деякі з жінок, що допомагали, тепер вже не годні. Якщо можете пожертвувати пару годин, просимо це зробити. Про час слід поговорити з Пані Анною Мельник.

Цього і наступного тижня просимо спеціальної допомоги, бо приготуємося на базар. Дякуємо!!!

WORLD YOUTH DAY

Eparchy of Stamford is planning to participate in the upcoming World Youth Day in Rio, Brazil, on 23-28 of July, 2013. His Excellency Bishop Paul Chomnycky will lead the group of young people to represent the eparchy at the World Youth Day.

More information about the WYD 2013 is available at their official web-page

<http://www.rio2013.com/en>

Листопадові Свята – 4. XI.

Молитва за Прославу Слуги Божого Митр. Андрея Шептицького. Коротка Програма по Св. Літургії у Церковній залі. Просимо до участі. Пласт

CHURCH ENVELOPES

In the next few weeks we will begin working on the 2013 envelopes boxes. If there are any changes to be made for the 2013 envelopes, or if you do not have envelopes and would like them, please contact either Father Marijan or Elaine at the rectory. We would like to have the 2013 envelopes ready by Thanksgiving weekend.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, November 17, 2012

10 am to 4 pm



St. John the Baptist
Ukrainian Catholic Church
3275 Elmwood Avenue, Kenmore, NY 14217
Tell: (716) 873-5011

Save for the Holiday Season:

Raffles
Theme Baskets
Ethnic Food
"Trash & Treasures"
Vendors
Hot Lunch
Free Admission & Parking

MEAT RAFFLE

Sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary
Joseph Hriczko VFW Post #6245
Sunday, November 4, 2012 – 1:30PM
Doors open at 1:00PM

Joseph Hriczko Post #6245
29 Clemo St. (Off Clinton St)
Buffalo, NY
854-1000

Admission \$5.00

Includes Roast Beef, Beer, Pop, Coffee &
Snacks. - Sandwiches available to purchase

** cash prizes, 50/50 split**

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Sunday, November 11, 2012

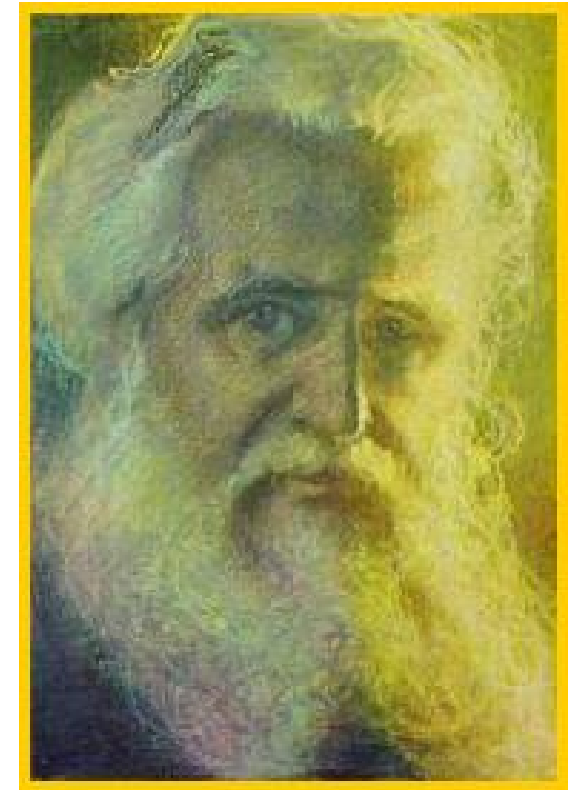
11:00 am to 6:00 pm



Holy Trinity
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
200 Como Park Blvd
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
Phone 684-0738

Theme Baskets, Raffles
Varenyky/Pierogi
Eat-in and Take-out
Free Parking and Admission

Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God Metropolitan Andrew



Lord Jesus Christ - You always reward Your faithful servants, not only with singular gifts of Your love, but also with the eternal reward of the sainthood in heaven - and many times with glorification among the people here on earth. We humbly beseech you to so glorify Your faithful servant Andrew Sheptytsky. Throughout his virtuous life, thou full of trials and sufferings, he was a good shepherd to his flock and a great champion of Christian unity. Through his intercession and glorification send to our entire nation the great gift of unity and freedom. Amen.

Need to be informed, active participants in politics

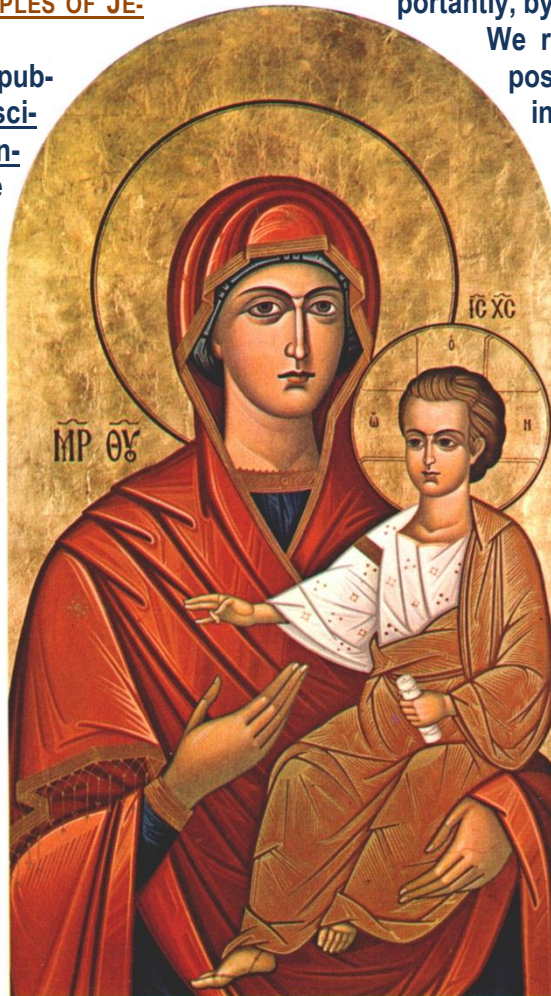
By MOST REVEREND RICHARD J. MALONE
Bishop of Buffalo



CIPANTS IN THE AFFAIRS OF POLITICS. VOTING CONSCIENTIOUSLY IS NOT SIMPLY AN AMERICAN PRIVILEGE. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY, BOTH AS GOOD CITIZENS AND AS FAITHFUL DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST."

The U.S. Bishops, in our publication, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," have provided the faithful with a reliable guide for understanding our responsibilities relative to voting. In this resource we outline how respect for the life and dignity of every person, from conception to natural death and at every moment in between, must be the guiding principle underpinning every political agenda. We are called in a special way to protect the weak, vulnerable and voiceless, to defend religious freedom and conscience rights and to share our blessings with those in need.

The only way we can make sound, morally correct decisions about issues impacting our society and informed decisions about candidates for office is to rely on a well-informed conscience. A well-informed conscience does not allow us to justify doing whatever we want, nor is it a "feeling" about what is right and wrong. Rather, conscience is the voice of God speaking to our hearts, calling us to do what is good and to reject what is evil. We inform our con-



sciences by becoming knowledgeable about God's revealed truth as we find it in sacred scripture and Church teaching, and, very importantly, by praying for guidance.

We recognize that there can be proposals for addressing some pressing social concerns, such as the economy, immigration reform, or retirement security, on which people of good will can reach different conclusions. This is the exercise of prudential judgment, which demands that we never justify an immoral means to achieve a good end.

Prudential judgment does not come into play with every issue that confronts us. Not every course of action is morally acceptable. There are situations in which what is being proposed is an intrinsic evil. Intrinsic evils are actions that must always be opposed because they are always, by their nature, gravely opposed to the will of God. Examples of intrinsic evils are abortion, euthanasia and physician assisted suicide, embryonic stem cell research and human cloning,

genocide, torture and racism. Intrinsic evils undercut the dignity of the human person. If we think about it for a moment, we can see how all of the life issues are connected. Erosion of respect for the life of any person or group in society necessarily diminishes respect for all life.

Without a doubt, the conscientious Catholic faces many complex and difficult decisions in

preparing to vote. That is why an informed conscience, and confidence in the moral wisdom of our Church, is so important. A Catholic may never vote for a candidate who supports an intrinsic evil if, in voting for her or him, one is doing so in support of that immoral position. Conversely, a Catholic cannot justify voting for a candidate who opposes an intrinsic evil if that candidate is known to be indifferent to other serious moral issues involving human life.

There may be times when we find it necessary to vote for a candidate who holds an unacceptable position on a grave moral issue for other grave moral reasons.

We may sometimes find ourselves in the dilemma of being unable to find any candidate who is fully acceptable if all candidates hold one or more morally unacceptable positions. In cases such as this, the voter may decide to choose the candidate who is least likely to do the most harm, or even to take the extraordinary measure of not voting for any candidate.

Let me again emphasize the importance of Catholics becoming informed, active participants in the affairs of politics. Voting conscientiously is not simply an American privilege. It is our responsibility, both as good citizens and as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

© Western New York Catholic, November 2012

**Remember to vote in the
Election for US President!!!**



**Не забудьмо голосувати у
Президентських Виборах!!!**

"LET ME AGAIN EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF
CATHOLICS BECOMING INFORMED, ACTIVE PARTI-

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

The Gospel for this Sunday teaches us to trust even in cases which seem hopeless. This Gospel brings together two stories. A woman, who for twelve long years had suffered from hemorrhaging, which long medical treatment had been unable to alleviate, suddenly touches Jesus and is instantly healed. Therefore, scripture reminds us that the ills which affect our bodies and souls are not as incurable as some might think - however serious and long established they may be. Just recently, I was reminded of a woman I have known for some time, who was diagnosed with cancer and not expected to live to the end of the month, let alone the end of the year. She had gone into a surgery, where her surgeon intended to remove a relatively large mass that was growing in her body. Upon making their incisions, the surgeons quickly realized that this woman had several large masses throughout her body: the cancer was in her liver, her colon, her gall bladder, and even the aorta of her heart. They closed up their patient, never expecting this woman to see the end of the month, certain there was nothing more medical science could do, not even chemotherapy or radiation would have helped her. But her family prayed; her daughter and loved ones gathered around and prayed for this woman. She was given a 1% chance of surviving the month, and that was sixteen years ago. The cancer is not gone, the masses have not disappeared, but the Lord has definitely been at work in this woman's life, and she is living proof that no matter what our illness may be, Christ has the power to pick us up from our circumstances and heal all wounds, even those that are long lasting and seem incurable.



The other story in today's Gospel is about the daughter of Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, who appeared to be dead, and when Jesus said that she was not dead but merely asleep, the people ridiculed him. But Jesus, taking the young girl by the hand, commanded her to rise, and she arose. The Gospel therefore teaches us that we must never despair, either for ourselves or for others, even when the appearance of death has set in or seems eminent. In such cases, one can no longer count on human intervention: one must allow Jesus alone to work in the soul. As St. Luke writes: "And He put them all out, and took her by the hand, and said child arise." Back in May of this year, my father who has battled cancer for more than 16 years, became seriously ill and fell into a coma, and was not expected to wake up again. All of his major body systems were failing, he was no longer responding to any form of treatment, and for six long days he was in a comatose state, during which time the hospital moved him from ICU to Hospice. It was a very difficult time for me and my family, I gathered a great many frequent prayer miles (as I like to call them) between his hospital room and the chapel. But on the seventh day, something remarkable happened, almost biblical in some ways - for out of that darkness came a whisper, and it was my father, waking up from his coma and asking me to help him sit up in the bed. To this day there is no explanation for my father's recovery, and while he continues to battle with cancer, those of us who believe in divine interventions, know that the Lord was definitely at work in him, and just as he brought Jairus' daughter back from the dead, so the Lord also took my father by the hand and brought him out of his slumber...

З радія "Милосердний Самаритин"

Зі спогадів мами довідуємося, що Роман, це було хресне ім'я Слуги Божого, Митрополита Андрея Шептицького, мав від малку нахил до самовідречення і жертви. Найбільшу силу будучий митрополит черпав у молитві, роздумуючи про Христові страсті. Знаний нам, один його рисунок, з якого багато розуміємо про Слугу Божого. Це рисунок Христа який несе тяжкий хрест, а коло нього багато інших христів. Це наші хрести, яких нам сам Христос допомагає нести.

Митрополит Андрей упродовж 44 роки очолював Церкву в період двох Світових воєн, пережив сім режимів: австрійський, російський, український, польський, радянський, нацистський і знову радянський.

Народився він 22 липня 1865 року в селі Прилбичі на Львівщині. Походив зі стародавнього знатного українського роду, який у XIX столітті зазнав полонізації, члени родини стали франкомовними римокатоликами. Незважаючи на сильну опозицію з боку батька, він вирішує повернутися до свого коріння і стати ченцем Василіянського чину, щоб служити "селянській", як її називали в той час, Греко-Католицькій Церкві.

1899 він стає єпископом Станіславівським, та не довго він перебував у Станіславові, бо 4 травня 1900 року, пристіп Львівський лишається опорожнений, бо помирає у Львові Митрополит Сас-Куїловський.

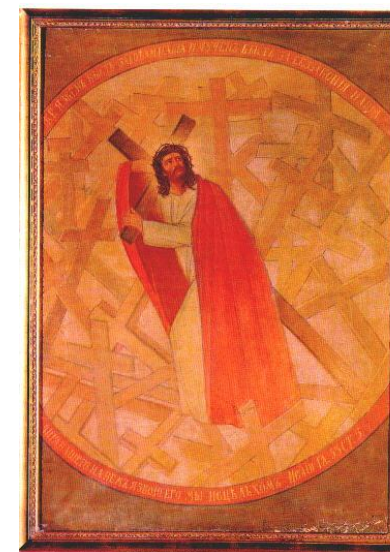
Коли 22 жовтня 1900 року кир Андрей з прочанами відвідував Рим, Папа Лев XIII сповістив про своє благословенне рішення - призначити його на Митрополичий престіл, а 31 жовтня 1900 року у пресі з'явилось офіційне

підтвердження про номінацію єпископа Шептицького Галицьким Митрополитом.

Кир Андрей гідно готувався до виконання нелегких обов'язків Митрополита, відчуваючи велику відповідальність перед Богом за український народ. Не можна не згадати про неоціненну заслугу матері Митрополита Андрея - графиню Софію, багатогранно освічену, талановиту людину, котра своєю святою побожністю влила у серце Романа щирю любов до Господа та людей, замилювання до всього прекрасного й доброго та виховала такого відданого українському народові, достойного сина. Лист матері, Софії Шептицької, що зберігається у фондових матеріалах Львівського архіву, розкриває перед нами не тільки милу жінку - матір Андрея Шептицького, але й її витончений розум. Спробуємо відчутти це, прочитуючи рядки благословення графині Софії Шептицької своєму синові Андрею на митрополичий престіл у Львові:

„Моя благословенна в Господі дитино! Найбільший скарб, який я отримала від Бога - це є ти. І цей найдорожчий скарб мого життя повертаю Богові На ту хвилю, коли береш на себе хрест, до якого тебе покликав Господь, - на ціле життя твоє, під Хрестом або ж на Хресті, на всю працю, наміри, терпіння і радість, на душу твою і розум, серце і здоров'я, на все, що чинити будеш, що постановиш, на цілу працю над будівництвом Церкви Божої і поширенням Царства Його на землі... .. на всі хрести, якими люди тебе обтяжити можуть, і на всю любов, яку ти їм дарувати будеш, посилаю тобі урочисте, Господом випробуване Благословення”.

(14. 01. 1901 р.)



N^o45: Letter of Fr. Ray Palko – Лист о. Романа Палко

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

November 4, 2012 A.D.

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

OK, I'm backí .sorry about the empty mail box the last two weeks. Thank you for your calls and e-mails to check up on us because you thought something bad had happened. I intended to have the letters done in advance of our trip, but things got a bit hectic on those final days before we left. Father Marijan was in Rome, and when he came back I was leaving. You know how it is before you leave for vacation as you try to tie down all the loose ends before heading out. I just didn't get to all the loose ends.

Most of my loose ends were visiting some of our sick and shut-ins with the thought that it's better to bring one daisy than to send a dozen roses. I took the daisies, but never got to send the roses. Hopefully we're back on track for many more weekends and Sundays, and I won't be the one to disappoint you again as you go to your mailbox to look for your mail.

We didn't have a vacation last year so Presbyteria and I decided to journey to the high seas to celebrate our 40th (last year), and our 41st (this year) wedding anniversary. Can those numbers really be correct?!! It was indeed a fantastic voyage with stops in Fort Lauderdale, Halfmoon Cay, which is a small private island in the Bahamas owned by the cruise line, then to Aruba, Curacao, Panama, and Costa Rica. It was great R & R for sure! We had a perfect trip in that small part of God's awesome and beautiful world and it was only when we were returning to Florida we realized the hurricane might be a problem for our travel plans back to Western NY.

As it turned out, we were among the blessed ones since we had no problems at all with connections and our return flight from Florida to Buffalo. It was very bumpy the last hour of the flight, which made a lot of the passengers a little apprehensive. Maybe even more than a little apprehensive, as they broke into applause when we touched down and finally stopped. Other than that, we arrived safe and sound to be welcomed by the wind, rain and cold, which was nothing compared to the serious and life-threatening conditions of the east coast. And yes, we were also welcomed at the airport by the Martelli kids and their Mom. Best welcome home ever!

We were very happy and relieved not to be stranded in some Florida hotel trying to make connections for home. Since we arrived back in West Seneca on Monday evening, our thoughts have constantly gone back to the hundreds of our fellow travelers, who reside in those east coast cities, so badly hit by Hurricane Sandy. I'm sure many of them spent the week in Florida trying to arrange a flight or some other transportation to get home. And when they did get home they would be greeted by devastation, wet, dark and damaged homes. And I bet that a lot of them are still down there for the rest of the week. May the Lord bless them and keep them and give them strength and courage! To those who lost their lives, "Eternal Memory!" To those who grieve for their lost ones, may God dry their tears.

Besides thanking you for your phone calls of concern, I want to also thank you for the many cards, letters and gifts Presbyteria and I received on the occasion of our anniversary, and for me on my birthday. (It was 69 this yearí .YIKES!) You made it a very special time with your kind thoughtfulness. God reward you!

This is such an amazing and beautiful world. I know heaven is the place that "eyes have not seen, nor ears have not heard," but this earth is already filled with

unbelievable beauty and God blessed places! The seas were vast and beautiful. The sunrises and sunsets, at first calm and gentle, exploded into visions of our powerful God. We saw the sea teeming with life and fishes of all brilliant colors. One day we saw a pod of about 60 dolphins playing and swimming off the bow of the ship. They stayed with us and entertained us for over 15 minutes as they frolicked in the deep blue.

There were far away storms lighting up the night sky! there was a full moon! there were beautiful flowers of all kinds! there were magnificent mountains of Haiti and Costa Rica! there was the most impressive Panama Canal, an engineering wonder built with blood, sweat and tears! there was the Dole Banana Plantation. See that banana on your table! I saw it coming out of the field the other day! ☺ What a world!!!

Indeed everything reminded us of Psalm 103, which we sing at our Vespers service, and reminded us that we must continually sing, *“How great are your works, O Lord, in wisdom You have made them all.”* Seeing this foretaste of the Kingdom, we can only shout, *“glory to God for all things!”* Indeed, I truly believe, as the gospel teaches, that *“eye has not seen, nor ear has not heard”* the things that He has prepared for us!

The entire trip was God protected I am sure. As we prepared to depart Ft. Lauderdale, a rainbow appeared over the ship. Then late last Sunday afternoon as we were encountering a bit of rough sea another rainbow was in the sky. Not only that, but a dove, I am telling you, a dove, came and sat on the rail right outside our room. We were still many miles from any visible land. Noah! Noah! NOAH! Remember the dove and the rainbow on Noah's ark as God made His covenant with them? I must say that was the highlight of the trip. We went to the sea and we saw God!

So as you can see, it was a great *“R & R”* and the icing on the cake is that we did not gain one pound! As our local radio guy likes to say, *“If I am lying I am dying!”* And now it's time to utter those post vacation words, *“It's back to reality.”* But it is so good to be home! What a joy it was to be at Protection Church this week, put on my vestments and celebrate Liturgy there! I am looking forward to seeing all *“my people”* this weekend. I missed the babies, but I missed you too!

Part of the *“back to reality”* is our upcoming Election Day. I had originally thought that this letter would be all about that, but I think I've written enough over the past four years and you know what the Church teaching is and you know what you must do. There is no doubt we are at a point in our history that will change the world, depending on how we vote. What kind of world do we want? What kind of freedom do we want? What kind of safety will we have for our families and for our children, born and unborn as well as for our elderly? November 6, 2012 will be a day of reckoning, a day that will never be forgotten. *“The power is in our hands to effect legitimate, peaceful and Constitutional change at all levels of government, not only by electing new people, but by ending the always too long nightmare of any government that pretends to have authority to ignore and trample on the right to life and by reclaiming the type of government that our founding documents articulate, namely, one that “secures” the right to life which comes from God, not from government. (Priests for Life)”* We are Catholics before we are Democrat. We are Catholics before we are Republican. We are Catholics before we are American. *“(Archbishop Chaput) Listen to the Church, listen to Jesus and His teaching! And then VOTE for Good and Truth and for LIFE!”*

God bless you! Our Holy Lady protect you! God bless America!

In His Love,
Fr. Ray