



Українська Католицька Парафія
Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці

*Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Parish*

*The No. 1 priority for ... the church is evangelization:
preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in today's world.*

29 Липень, 2012

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July 29, 2012

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Служби Божі / Divine Liturgies

В Неділю / Sunday

8:30 am recited - Bilingual

10:30 am sung - Ukrainian

У Свята / Holy Day of Obligation

10:00 am and 7:00 pm

Щодня / Daily Scheduled

7:30 am Matins/Утреня in chapel

8:25 am in church

First Friday - 8:25 am Divine Liturgy
followed by Moleben to the Sacred Heart
of Jesus or Mother of God

Сповіді починаючи десять хвилин перед
Службою Божою

Confessions begin ten minutes before the
Divine Liturgy or by appointment

Baptism by appointment - membership in
Parish is required

Marriages by appointment made at least six
months in advance. Membership in Parish
is required

Funerals by arrangement in the Parish Office
oo. **Василіяни/Basilian Fathers** serving in
this Parish

Father Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Pastor
Most Rev. Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM

Bishop Emeritus

*9-а Неділя по Зісланні Святого Духа
Матея 14:22-34*



*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 14:22-34*

**SPECIAL NOTICE - Do not park in the
RESERVED stalls in front of St. Mary's
Gardens when you come for the
Sunday Divine Liturgy. Your car will
be towed.**

Місячний намір Святішого Отця Папи Римського – на Липень

Загальний намір: "Щоб усі люди мали працю в безпечних умовах".

Місійний намір: "Щоб християнські добровольці у місійних територіях свідчили любов до Христа".

- Тропарі і читання в бурожовтій книжці на стор. 7 і 8.

- Кава і солодке Сьогодні після Служби Божої о год 8:30 і 10:30 рано, у вітальні під церквою.

Спеціальне прохання: після закінчення Служби Божої просимо замкнути молитвенники і співаники і поставити їх на відповідне місце. Рівнож просимо не залишайте бюлетенів і других матеріалів в лавках. Будьмо господарними в нашій церкві і допоможемо, щоби наші лавки були чисті й акуратні.

Сьогодні, Неділя, 29 Липень:

- Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

Просимо всіх Парафіян приносити продукти для потребуючих, які не псуються (non-perishable) в першу і третю неділю кожного місяця. Просимо допомагати!

П'ятниця, 3 Серпень: Перша П'ятниця

- 8:25 ранку – Служба Божа а від так Молебень до Серця Христового.

Неділя, 5 Серпень:

- Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

Понеділок, 6 Серпень: Преображення Г. Н. І. Христа

- 10:00 год. ранку – Служба Божа і благословення овочів

- 7:00 вечора – Служба Божа і благословення овочів

Неділя, 12 Серпень:

- Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

Середа, 15 Серпень: Обов'язуюче Свято – Успіння Пресвятої Богородиці

- 10:00 год. ранку – Служба Божа і благословення зілля і квітів

- 7:00 вечора – Служба Божа і благословення зілля і квітів

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Almighty and Merciful God, Inspire those You have chosen To hear and answer Your call to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Give them the courage to be the prophets for our times. Give them the wisdom and openness to live their personal call. Give them the strength to be ready witnesses of Your love and care for the world. May they find support and encouragement in our words and in our prayers. Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God and all the Saints. Amen.

July 29, 2012

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Papal General Prayer Intention for July: "Pray that everyone may have work in safe and secure conditions."

Mission Intention for July: "Pray that Christian volunteers in mission territories may witness to the love of Christ."

- Tropar, Kondak & readings for today in the buff booklet pages: 7 & 8.

- Coffee and sweets are available today following the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Divine Liturgy in the Fellowship Room. All guests and parishioners are invited.

A SPECIAL Request: At the conclusion of each Divine Liturgy, please close all Liturgy and/or hymnbooks and return them to their proper place. Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or any other material in the pews. Let each of us do our part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church pews clean and neat. Thank you.

TODAY, Sunday, July 29:

- **Catechism Program** for Pre-Schooler's during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Food Bank Donations: We encourage all parishioners to contribute to the Food Bank on the first and third Sundays of every month. PLEASE ADD YOUR SUPPORT.

Wednesday, August 1:

- 11:00 am - Internment of ashes of † Nick Pasowesty at St. Peter Cemetery, 100 Richmond Street, New Westminster.

Friday, August 3: FIRST FRIDAY

- 8:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by Moleben to the Sacred Heart.

Sunday, August 5:

- **Catechism Program** for Pre-Schooler's during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Monday, August 6: Feast of the Transfiguration

- 10:00 am and 7:00 pm - Divine Liturgy and **Blessing of Fruit**

Thursday, August 9:

- 7:00 pm - **Memorial Divine Liturgy for + Leona Moody in Church.**

Sunday, August 12:

- **Catechism Program** for Pre-Schooler's during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Wednesday, August 15: Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Day of Obligation

- 10:00 am and 7:00 pm - Divine Liturgy and **Blessing of Herbs and Flowers.**

All able bodied persons should attend.

Fr. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University, has been appointed Apostolic Exarch for the Ukrainian Catholic faithful of the Byzantine rite in France. The bishop-elect was born in Syracuse, U.S.A. in 1960 and ordained to the priesthood in 1998. He is the author of more than fifty works on the Church on theological formation and various cultural themes. He succeeds Bishop Michael Hrynchysyn, CSsR, whose resignation from the same office the Holy Father accepted, in accordance with canon 210: paragraph 1, of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches.

Request for Prayers: to pray for you, your family member, or friend – please submit the name to the Parish Office by phone 604.879.5830 or by written note on the collection plate.

Пам'ятайте помолитися: за Вашу родину, за членів Парафії, а особливо за тих які знаходяться в лікарнях, або тих що очікують Божої відповіді на їхні молитви, або радіють Божою відповіддю, або за тих які відзначають уродини, або роковини, або за тих що покликані до їхньої вічної винагороди, або за родину яку вони залишили.

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR: your family; your fellow parishioners; especially the shut-in or those in the hospital; those seeking God's answer to their prayers or those rejoicing with God's answer; those celebrating a birthday or anniversary; those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind; as well as any other need.

Please remember in your prayers especially: Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Fr. Vincent Prychidko, OSBM; Fr. Steven Basarab, Joseph Bayduza, Mary Earl, Catherine Hladij, Victoria Kuzik, Emily Kuzyk, Bodzie Lawryshyn, Oscar Lyseyko, Ben Marchinkow, Jason Obuck, John Pura, Mary Scott, Wasyl Saik, Kaiya Williams, Leon Woznow, and the Canadian Armed Forces on peacekeeping missions. Also remember the family of David Tomblin, husband and father, who passed away recently. May God grant him eternal memory.

PLEASE VISIT our Parishioners or phone those that are confined to their hospital beds or their homes. They need your visits, your phone calls, as well as your prayers.

If there are Parishioners that you visit and we are not listing them for others to pray for them, please call the Parish office with that information, or to request father to visit them.

Please remember to pray daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Це пригадка для всіх вірних. Просимо приходити вчасно на Службу Божу. Будьмо готові разом заспівати початковий гімн. Зрозумійте, якщо Ви прийдете до Церкви після Великого Входу, Ви пропустили більшу частину Служби Божої, і дійсно не вислухали приписаної Служби Божої на неділю.

Церковна Етика: Будьмо свідомі, що беручи участь у Св. Літургії ми мусимо одержати кінцеве Благословення перед тим як ми залишимо Службу Божу. Ми рівнож просимо не виходити з Церкви перед закінченням Служби Божої. Ми просимо Вас не спілкуватися в Церкві перед, під час і після Служби Божої. Прошу це робити в притворі Церкви або у Вітальні під церквою. Залишім наву (Nave) церкви для вірних які моляться.

A SPECIAL NOTE to ALL PARISHIONERS: Please come on time for the Divine Liturgy. Realize that when you come into the Church proper after the Great Entrance, you have missed most of the Divine Liturgy and have not really attended the prescribed service for a Sunday.

Church Etiquette: Be aware that to have attended the entire Divine Liturgy one must receive the Final Blessing before leaving the Church Service. We also ask that you do not visit in the main part of the Church before, during or after the service. Please use the Vestibule or the Fellowship room to conduct your conversations – leave the Church proper (the Nave) for those that want to pray.

CAMP ST. VOLODYMYR – August 20 – 27, 2012

Look at our new website! Camp St. Volodymyr has been enriching campers in their Ukrainian Catholic Faith and Culture since 1983. Located in Kelowna, campers spend a week participating in age tailored activities such as Ukrainian dancing, arts & crafts, singing, catechesis, sports and water activities. Camper fees: \$260 before July 12 and \$310 after. Third and fourth child from same family – \$150 each. The deadline for registering is Thursday, July 26. Registration forms can be downloaded from the eparchial website at www.nweparchy.ca.

Bus transportation is available from New Westminster.

For further information contact Jennifer Sawka @ 604.876.5691 or jennsawka@hotmail.com or Father Andriy 250.860.7295. Register early. Space is limited!

Support our Camp! Donations are always greatly appreciated. We are always happy to accept food donations of vegetables, fruits, cereals, and treats for children, as well as monetary donations. Tax receipts can be issued with donations of \$25 or more.



Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God Metropolitan

Andrey: Our Lord Jesus Christ, You always reward Your faithful servants, not only with special gifts of Your love, but also with the eternal reward of the saints in heaven, and in many cases You grant them the recognition of sanctity by Your Church here on earth. We humbly pray: grant that Your faithful servant Metropolitan Andrey be numbered among the saints. Throughout his just life, “full of suffering and trials,” he was a good shepherd for his flock and a great labourer for Christian unity. And through his beatification and intercession, grant our entire people the great gift of unity and love. Amen.

www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca

Unity 2012 – August 16–19, 2012 in Pinawa, MB

Final deadline for registration Monday, July 30

For those who are still thinking about going to UNITY you have just 1 more week to mail in your registrations which are available at their website:

<http://ucyc.ca/unity2012/index.php>

Cost: \$250 includes all meals, accommodation, sessions and social event for the program. You are responsible for booking your own flights to and from Winnipeg. Please be at the airport in Winnipeg by 2:00pm on Thursday, August 16. For departing flights on Sunday, August 19, please book return flights anytime after 4:00pm. Remember to check the box on your registration form if you require transportation from the airport to the unity site. Please mail in your registrations along with \$250.00 to:

Unity 2012 Planning Group, c/o Youth Ministry Office, 233 Scotia Street, Winnipeg, MB R2V 1V7

For more information, please contact. Fr. Theo theomac@lycos.com or Ph:1.250.384.2292

UNITY 2012
August 16-19, 2012
in Pinawa, MB
PRAYER FOR UNITY 2012

To Our Lord Jesus Christ

O Lord Jesus Christ,
You prayed on the night of Your Passion
That all Your disciples might be one,
As You are one in the Father,
And the Father is in You.
Grant us, Lord,
That we may find ourselves in You.
Restore and perfect in us Your image
And true likeness.
Grant us courage to reject
The spirit of indifference and mistrust.
Open the eyes of our minds and hearts
To see Your holy face in each other.

May we embrace and celebrate
This great gift of Faith
Which You have given us.
O Lord, all-perfect in Love,
Show us the way that leads to Unity;
And keep us in Your Holy Will aslways.
We give glory to You, Master and King,
Together with Your eternal Father
And Your most holy, good and life-giving
Spirit,
Always, now and forever and ever. Amen.

Intention

We pray for Unity 2012, that the young adults who gather may not be afraid to open their hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to venture out into the wilderness according to His Gospel! “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God.’” - Isaiah 40: 3 “The voice said, ‘Cry out.’ So I said, ‘What shall I cry?’ -Isaiah 40: 6a “He will feed His flock like a shepherd and gather the lambs with His arm; and He will comfort those with young.” - Isaiah 40: 11 “Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the elect shall be without strength. But those who wait on God shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like the eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not hunger.” Isaiah 40: 30-31

To Our Lord Jesus Christ - O Lord Jesus Christ, show us the way that leads to Unity; and keep us in Your Holy Will always. We give glory to You Master and King, together with Your eternal Father and Your most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, always, now and forever and ever. Amen.

Intention - We pray for Unity 2012, that the young adults who gather may seize the day and receive the Spirit, and live according to His Gospel! “Whatever you do, whether in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (Colossians 3:17)

**MAJOR ARCHBISHOP, HIS BEATITUDE, SVIATOSLAV'S, FIRST PASTORAL VISIT TO
THE EPARCHY OF NEW WESTMINSTER, BRITISH COLUMBIA
AUGUST 29 to SEPTEMBER 4, 2012**

The spiritual leader of the world's 6 million Ukrainian Catholics, will be visiting the New Westminster, Richmond, Vancouver and Kelowna Ukrainian Catholic Parishes which are part of the Eparchy (Diocese) of New Westminster. This event of the first Pastoral visit of His Beatitude, Sviatoslav, on the Labour Day Weekend, invites the Ukrainian community to experience and share their celebration of faith and nationality.

The Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, His Beatitude, Sviatoslav, will help commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Servant of God, Martyr, Blessed Bishop Nykyta Budka's appointment as the first Ukrainian Catholic Bishop of Canada (October 14, 1912).

Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, His Beatitude, Sviatoslav:

1. – will bless the newly renovated Bishop Jerome Chimy Eparchial Centre in New Westminster on Friday, August 31.
 - 1a. – That same evening, there will be a prayer service and reception at Holy Eucharist Cathedral in New Westminster (501 – 4 Avenue). **Tickets for the reception to follow must be purchased before July 29 from St. Mary's Parish Office.**
2. – **will be the main celebrant at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary's) Ukrainian Catholic Church in Vancouver (560 West 14 Avenue) at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 1, 2012. A formal banquet will follow in the parish hall (3150 Ash Street).**
 - 2a. – **The Banquet is reserved seating for 400 persons. Tickets for this event are \$60/ticket with a \$30 tax receipt. Tickets for the banquet are available from the parish office (604.879.5830), from Mrs. Pat Sorochuk (604.433.0661) and Dr. Michael Myckatyn.**
3. – will be in Kelowna, Sunday, September 2, at the **Dormition of the Mother of God Church (1091 Coronation Avenue) where he will be the main celebrant at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 11:00 a.m. A formal banquet will follow for which tickets must be purchased.**

Your invitation to participate:

To prepare for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Saturday, September 1, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. during the visit of our Major Archbishop Sviatoslav, in the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Vancouver we are extending an invitation to former choir members of St. Mary's Parish choir as well as singers of: Holy Eucharist Parish in New Westminster, Dormition Parish in Richmond and Holy Cross Parish in Surrey and St. Nicholas in Victoria to participate.

The only **PROVISO** is that all **singers attend and participate in the three Sunday Divine Liturgies at St. Mary's in Vancouver prior to Saturday, September 1, 2012, (that is: AUGUST 12; AUGUST 19; AUGUST 26).**

These three Sunday Divine Liturgies at 10:30 a.m. would serve as rehearsals to adequately prepare for the occasion. If the current and/or prospective singers cannot meet this REQUIREMENT, IN FAIRNESS TO THE CHOIR AND ITS CONDUCTOR, they are respectfully asked NOT TO APPEAR IN THE CHOIR LOFT ON THAT PARTICULAR DAY.

PASTORAL VISIT OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV TO THE EPARCHY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

His Beatitude Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk – Father and Head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, lives in Kyiv, Ukraine. He will be visiting British Columbia in August and September this year. His visit will take place during this special year commemorating the centennial of the appointment of Blessed Nykyta Budka, Martyr, as the first Ukrainian Catholic Bishop for all of Canada. Everyone is invited to participate in the public events during His Beatitude's visit that will take place in New Westminster, Vancouver and Kelowna:

31 AUGUST – 2 SEPTEMBER 2012

Friday, August 31st

6:30 PM Moleben at Holy Eucharist Cathedral, 501–4th Avenue, New Westminster, BC, to celebrate the 100 Anniversary of the appointment of the first Bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada, Blessed Nykyta Budka, Martyr; and the 60th Anniversary of the founding of Holy Eucharist Parish. The Moleben is open to the public and no advance tickets or passes are required for admission. Advance tickets for reception that will follow are \$25.00/each. After August 1st tickets may be purchased by phoning 604.526.1261 for \$30.00/each.

Tickets for the reception must be purchased before July 29 at St. Mary's Parish Office.

Saturday, September 1st

10:00 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish 560 West 14th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, to celebrate the 100 Anniversary of the appointment of the first Bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada, Blessed Nykyta Budka, Martyr; and the first visit of our present Major Archbishop, His Beatitude Sviatoslav. The Divine Liturgy is open to the public and no tickets or special passes are required for admission. Advance tickets for the Banquet that will follow in the Parish Cultural Centre are \$60.00/each for which a \$30.00 tax receipt will be issued. Tickets can be purchased from:

St. Mary's Parish office – 604.879.5830, or from

Mrs. Pat Sorochnik – 604.433.0661 or from **Dr. Michael Myckatyn**

Sunday, September 2nd

11:00 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Dormition of the Mother of God Parish – 1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna, BC. to celebrate the 100 Anniversary of the appointment of the first Bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada, Blessed Nykyta Budka, Martyr; and the first visit of our present Major Archbishop, His Beatitude Sviatoslav. The Divine Liturgy is open to the public and no tickets or special passes are required for admission. Advance tickets for the Banquet that will follow in the Parish Hall are \$50.00/each. Tickets can be purchased from:

St. Mary's Parish Office – 604.879.5830 or Phone: 1.250.860.7295

MARY OF NAZARETH: WOMAN OF THE TOTAL "HERE I AM" FOR GOD

Vatican City, 18 May 2012 (VIS) – This afternoon in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace, the Holy Father attended a viewing of "Mary of Nazareth", a coproduction of RaiFiction, Lux Vide, BetaFilm, Tellux, Bayerischer Rundfunk, and Telecinco Cinema directed by Giacomo Campiotti.

At the end of the screening the Pope addressed a few words on the film that focuses on three female protagonists: Herodias, Mary Magdalene, and Mary of Nazareth, whose lives cross but who choose different paths.

"Herodias", Benedict XVI said, "remains locked within herself and her world. She is unable to raise her gaze to read the signs from God and she is not freed from evil. Mary Magdalene's experience is more complicated. She is attracted by the appeal of an easy life rooted in material things and uses various means for getting her own way up until the dramatic moment when she is judged and is faced with her own life. Her encounter with Jesus opens her heart and changes her existence. But the centre is Mary of Nazareth who possesses the wealth of a life that has been a **"Here I am"** for God. She is a mother who would have always wanted to keep her son at her side, but she knows that He is God. Her faith and her love are so great that she can accept Him leaving to accomplish His mission. Her life is a constant "Here I am", said to God from the Annunciation until the Cross".

"Three experiences", the Pope concluded, "a paradigm of how one can build their life around selfishness, being locked within oneself and material things, being guided by evil, or rather upon the presence of a God who came and stays with us, who awaits us with kindness if we make a mistake and asks that we follow Him, that we trust in Him. Mary of Nazareth is the woman of a full and total "Here I am" to the Divine Will. In her "Yes", repeated even when faced with the sorrow of the loss of her child, we find complete and profound beatitude".

EACH HUMAN BEING IS A MIRACLE OF GOD

Vatican City, 23 May 2012 (VIS) – "God is our Father because He is our Creator. Each one of us, each man and each woman, is a miracle of God, desired by Him and known personally by Him. ... For Him (God) we are not anonymous and impersonal, we have a name. The Holy Spirit, which speaks within us and says 'Abba! Father!', leads us to this truth, communicating it to the most intimate depths of our being and filling our prayer with serenity and joy". These words were pronounced to the 20,000 faithful filling St. Peter's Square for his weekly general audience.

The Holy Father focused his catechesis on two passages from the Letters of St. Paul, wherein the Apostle speaks of the power of the Holy Spirit which enables us to call God "Abba", 'our Father'. The Pope explained that "that great master of prayer which is the Holy Spirit teaches us to address God with the affectionate terms of children, calling Him 'Abba, Father'. This is what Jesus did, even at the most dramatic moment of His earthly life. He never lost faith in the Father and always invoked Him with the intimacy of a beloved Son".

The Holy Spirit, gift of the risen Christ, "places us in a filial relationship with God, a relationship of profound trust, like that of children; a filial relationship analogous to that of Jesus though different in origin and importance. Jesus is the eternal Son of God Who became flesh, while we become God's children in time through faith in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation".

The Holy Father went on: "Perhaps mankind today does not perceive the beauty, greatness and profound consultation contained in the word 'Father' with which we can

address God in prayer, because often the paternal figure is not sufficiently present or positive in daily life". Yet, the Pope explained, "the love of Jesus, the only-begotten Son Who even gave Himself on the cross, reveals the true nature of the Father: He is Love".

In his Letter to the Galatians, St. Paul tells us that the the Spirit cries out within us saying 'Abba! Father!', while in his Letter to the Romans he writes that we ourselves make this cry in the Spirit. The Apostle, Benedict XVI explained, "wants us to understand that Christian prayer is never unidirectional, from us to God. ... Rather, it is an expression of a reciprocal relationship in which it is always God Who acts first. It is the Spirit which cries within us, and we too can cry out because the impulse comes from the Holy Spirit. ... This presence opens our prayers and our lives to the horizons of the Trinity and the Church".

"When we address the Father in our hearts, in silence and meditation, we are never alone. ... We are within the great prayer of the Church, we are part of a great symphony which the Christian community in all places and times raises to God. ... Prayer guided by the Spirit causes us to cry out 'Abba! Father!' with Christ and in Christ. It makes us part of the great mosaic of the family of God, in which everyone has an important place and role, profoundly united to all things".

The Pope concluded his catechesis by exhorting the faithful: "When we pray, let us learn to appreciate the beauty of being friends, or rather children, of God, invoking Him with the confidence and trust of a child addressing his parents who love him. Let us open our prayers to the action of the Holy Spirit, that it may cry out within us: 'Abba! Father!'".

THERE CAN BE NO JUSTICE TODAY WITHOUT SOLIDARITY

Vatican City, 19 May 2010 (VIS) – "Solidarity is first and foremost a sense of responsibility on the part of everyone with regard to everyone, and it cannot therefore be merely delegated to the State. While in the past it was possible to argue that justice had to come first and gratuitousness could follow afterwards, as a complement, today it is clear that without gratuitousness, there can be no justice in the first place'. Gratuitousness cannot be bought on the market, or established by law. Nonetheless, both economics and politics need gratuitousness and individuals who are open to reciprocal giving". With these words, taken from his Encyclical "Caritas in veritate", Benedict XVI addressed more than 8,000 members of three Catholic associations whom he received this morning in the Paul VI Hall.

The associations present were the Federation of Christian Organisations for International Volunteer Service (FOCSIV) which brings together sixty-five Italian groups; the Ecclesial Movement for Cultural Commitment which operates in the world of Italian culture, and the Christian Workers Movement, a social organisation dedicated to solidarity and volunteer work which promotes Christian principles in life, culture and legislation.

"Culture, volunteering and work are three inseparable elements of the daily commitment of Catholic lay people", said the Pope in his address. "The lay faithful become involved when they touch one or more of these aspects and, through cultural service, solidarity with those in need and work, strive to promote human dignity. These three aspects are linked by a common denominator: the giving of self. ... Your activity must be animated by charity. This means learning to see with the eyes of Christ and giving others much more than what is externally necessary; giving them ... the gesture of love they need. This arises from the love that comes from God, Who first loved us; it arises from intimate contact with Him".

The activity of Catholic volunteers bears witness to "the logic of giving", the Holy Father explained, "the giving of one's time, abilities, knowledge, and professionalism; in a word, attention to others without expecting a return in this world. By doing so, not only do people do good for others, but they also discover profound happiness, according to the logic of Christ Who gave all of Himself".

Our first experience of this gratuitous love is in the family and, when this does not happen, the family enters into crisis. "Everything we experience in the family, the unreserved giving of self for the good of others, is a fundamental educational experience for us to live as Christians in our relationship with culture, volunteering and work", Benedict XVI said.

At this point in his address he referred to his Encyclical "Caritas in veritate" in which he argues for an extension of the family model of gratuitousness to a universal dimension, because "justice alone is insufficient. In order for there to be true justice we need that 'extra' which only gratuitousness and solidarity can bring".

Concluding his remarks, the Holy Father encouraged the volunteers "to continue in their commitment towards their brother and sisters. Part of this is the task of highlighting injustices and bearing witness to the values which underpin human dignity, promoting forms of solidarity which favour the common good".

WE MUST NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE OVERCOME BY TRIBULATIONS AND DIFFICULTIES

Vatican City, 30 May 2012 (VIS) – During his general audience this morning, which was celebrated in St. Peter's Square, the Holy Father continued a series of catecheses on Christian prayer according to St. Paul who, the Pope said, saw it as "a real individual encounter with God the Father, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit. This dialogue comprehends the faithful 'yes' on the part of God and the trusting 'amen of the faithful".

In his explanation of this relationship Benedict XVI focused on the Second Letter to the Corinthians, where the Apostle writes: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God".

Comfort, the Pope explained, is not to be understood as mere consolation, but as an "exhortation not to allow ourselves to be overcome by tribulations and difficulties. We are invited to experience every situation in unity with Christ, Who takes all the suffering and sin of the world upon Himself in order to bring light, hope and redemption. Thus He enables us, in our turn, to console those who are afflicted by any kind of suffering". Profound union with Christ in prayer, and confidence in His presence, predispose us to share the sufferings of our brothers and sisters.

"Our life and our Christian journey are often marked by difficulty, misunderstandings and pain", the Holy Father went on. "In a faithful relationship with the Lord, in constant daily prayer, we are able to feel the consolation that comes from God. This strengthens our faith because it means that we enjoy a concrete experience of God's 'yes' to man ... in Christ, the faithfulness of His love which went so far as to give His Son on the cross".

The faith, a gratuitous gift of God, is rooted in His fidelity, "in His 'yes' which leads us to understand how to live our lives while loving Him and our neighbour. The entire history of salvation is a progressive revelation of this fidelity of God's, despite our own infidelity and our constant denials".

In this context the Pope pointed out that God's way of acting is quite different from that of man. "Faced with conflict in human relationships, often even within the family,

we tend not to persevere in gratuitous love, which requires commitment and sacrifice. However God never loses patience with us and, in His immense mercy, precedes us always and comes out to meet us. ... On the cross He offers us the measure of His love, which is not calculated and has no limit". Such faithful love can wait even for those who reject it. God always seeks man and wishes to welcome him into His communion, to give him fullness of life, hope and peace.

Onto the 'yes' of God is grafted the 'amen' of the Church, the response of faith with which we conclude our prayers and which expresses our own 'yes' to God's initiative. "In our prayers we are called to say 'yes' to God, to respond with an 'amen' which is an expression of adherence, of faithfulness to Him with all of our lives. But we can never achieve such faithfulness by our own powers, it is not only the result of our daily efforts; it comes from God and is founded on the 'yes' of Christ. ... We must enter into Christ's 'yes' by following God's will so that, with St. Paul, we too can affirm that it is not we who live, but Christ Himself Who lives in us. Then the 'amen' of our individual and community prayers will embrace and transform all of our lives".

WE ARE CALLED TO TRANSFORM SUFFERING INTO LOVE

Vatican City, 2 June 2012 (VIS) – At 7.30 p.m. yesterday the Pope went to the La Scala opera house in Milan, where a concert was held in his honour. The Pope is currently visiting Milan to participate in the seventh World Meeting of Families. Daniel Barenboim conducted the orchestra and choir of La Scala in Beethoven's ninth symphony.

At the end of the concert Benedict XVI expressed his thanks to the musicians, singers and conductor. "By choosing Beethoven's ninth symphony we are sending a message in music which affirms the fundamental value of solidarity, fraternity and peace. This, I believe, is also an important message for the family, because it is in families that we first experience how human beings are not created to live closed in themselves, but in relation with others. It is in the family that we understand that self realisation does not mean being guided by selfishness and putting oneself at the centre, but giving oneself. It is in the family that the light of peace begins to burn in people's hearts, so as to illuminate our world".

The Holy Father also noted that the joy of the concert had been clouded by the recent earthquakes, "which have brought great suffering to so many inhabitants of this country. The words taken from Schiller's "Hymn to joy" sound empty to us, they seem untrue", he said. "At this time ... we have no need for inauthentic accounts of a distant God or of a fraternity without commitment. We are searching for a God Who is close. We are searching for a fraternity which, in the midst of suffering, supports others and helps us to carry on. After this concert many people will go on to adore the Eucharist, they will go to the God Who placed Himself in our sufferings and continues to do so, the God Who suffers with us and for us, and thus makes men and women capable of sharing the suffering of others and of transforming it into love. This is the message we have received from this concert".

At the end of the concert the Holy Father returned to the archbishopric where he spent the night.

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER WITH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST – HE IS WITH YOU ALWAYS!