



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.*

12 Серпень, 2012

Volume 57 No. 33

August 12, 2012

550 West 14 Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 1P6  
E-Mail: office@stmarysbc.com

Phone: 604.879.5830  
Fax: 604.874.2727  
Website: www.stmarysbc.com

**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*

*11-а Неділя по Зісланні Святого Духа  
і*

*Неділя по Святі Преображення*



*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
And  
Post Feast of Transfiguration*

**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 Серпень*

*Загальний намір: "Щоб в'язнів завжди трактували справедливо і з пошаною до їхньої людської гідності".*

*Місійний намір: "Щоб молоді люди, які покликані іти за Христом, бажали проповідувати і свідчити Євангелію до країв землі".*

- Тропарі і читання в зеленій книжці на стор. 2 і 3.

- 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, 12 Серпень:**

- Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.
- Просимо всіх Парафіян і Приятелів, які охочі допомогти у візиті Верховного Архієпископа Святослава взяти участь у засіданні о год. 12-ій в полудне у вітальні під церквою. Дивіться на листу де є потрібна поміч.

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

**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

**Неділя, 19 Серпень:**

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

**Неділя, 26 Серпень:**

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

**Середа, 29 Серпень: Усікновення Голови Івана Хрестителя (піст)**

- Служби Божої в 8:25 рано.

August 12, 2012

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost and Post Feast of Transfiguration

*Papal General Prayer Intention for August: "Pray that prisoners may be treated with justice and respect for their human dignity."*

*Mission Intention for August: "Pray that young people, called to follow Christ, may be willing to proclaim and bear witness to the Gospel to the ends of the earth."*

- Tropar, Kondak & readings for today in the green booklet pages: 2 & 3.

- 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, August 12:**

- **Catechism Program** for Pre-Schooler's during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.
- All able bodied Parishioners and Friends willing to assist with the Major Archbishop Sviatoslav's visit are invited to attend a planning meeting at 12 noon in the Fellowship Room in the Church. See list of where help is needed.

*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 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.

**Sunday, August 19:**

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

**Sunday, August 26:**

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

**Wednesday, August 29: Feast of the Beheading of John the Baptist.**

- **We abstain from eating meat this day –**
- Divine Liturgy – 8:25 am.

*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.*

**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-ins 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, Frances Bethune, 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 Emily Kuzyk and her family, on the passing of her son, Patrick. 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](http://www.nweparchy.ca).

Bus transportation is available from New Westminster.

For further information contact Jennifer Sawka @ 604.876.5691 or [jennsawka@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca)

We invite former choir members as well as singers from Holy Eucharist Parish, Dormition Parish, Holy Cross Parish and St. Nicholas to participate **at 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 Parish.**

The only **PROVISO** is **singers must attend and participate in the three Sunday Divine Liturgies at St. Mary’s on: AUGUST 12; AUGUST 19; AUGUST 26.**

**All able bodied Parishioners and Friends** willing to assist with the Major Archbishop Sviatoslav's visit **are invited to attend a planning meeting on Sunday, August 12, 2012 at 12 noon in the Fellowship Room in the Church.**

**NEEDED FOR September 1, 2012 - Major Archbishop's Visit**

Various committees to look after preparations and dismantling in different facilities: "This plan needs a sunny day"

**1. Church Fellowship Room – K of C vesting and removal of vestments**

- Need:**
- **Friday (evening) set up:** Coat Racks, tables, chairs, water
  - **Saturday** - security - before/during / after
  - **Saturday** - assist with pizza and pop
  - **Saturday** - helpers to clear things away after service

**2. Recreation Centre – All Clergy vesting and removal of vestments**

- Need:**
- **Friday (evening) set up:** Coat Racks, tables, chairs, water
  - **Saturday** - light refreshments after
  - **Saturday** - security - before/during / after
  - **Saturday** - helpers to clear things away after service

**3. Hall and Kitchen – Banquet in main Hall Buffet style**

- Need:**
- **Friday (evening) set up:** the Banquet Hall tables and settings
  - **Saturday** - greeters and ticket takers
  - **Saturday** - persons to assist with seating special guests and all other guests
  - **Saturday** - buffet table servers
  - **Saturday** - coffee servers
  - **Saturday** - to clear tables and clean up after
  - **Saturday** - dishwashers

**4. Church / Parking and Procession**

- Need:**
- **At least week or two before:** to polish all brass and clean kneelers
  - **Friday set up:** chairs in Sanctuary
  - **Saturday - from 8:30 am** Parking attendants
  - **Saturday** - persons to assist with guiding clergy to vesting site and guiding ecumenical guests to church seats
  - **Saturday** - ushers in Church (8)
  - **Saturday** - persons to carry Banners (10)
  - **Saturday** - helpers to straighten up church after service

## **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. Advance tickets are needed for the reception to follow.

### **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 Sorochuk – 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. Advance tickets for the Banquet can be purchased. Phone: 1.250.860.7295

At a recent event, a young married Pentecostal couple approached me and said, "Because of your writings, we are becoming Catholic." I was filled with joy as we embraced one another, delighted that this brother and sister in Christ were going to experience His power and life in new and profound ways — particularly through the Mysteries (Sacraments) of Reconciliation (Confession) and Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion).

And so, here are two "no-brainer" reasons why Protestants should become Catholics.

## IT IS IN THE BIBLE

Another evangelical has been writing me recently stating that it is not necessary to confess one's sins to another, and that he does so directly to God. Nothing wrong with that on one level. As soon as we see our sin, we should speak to God from the heart, asking His forgiveness, and then begin again, resolved to sin no more.

But according to the Bible we are to do more: "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." (James 5:16)

The question is, to whom are we to confess? The answer is *to those whom Christ gave the authority to forgive sin*. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to the Apostles, breathed the Holy Spirit upon them and said: "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (John 20:23)

This was not a command to everyone, but only the Apostles, the first bishops of the Church. Confession to the priests was practiced from the earliest times: "Many also of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices." (Acts 19:18)

**"Confess your sins *in church*, and do not go up to your prayer with an evil conscience."** (Didache "Teaching of the Twelve Apostles", c. 70 A.D.)

**"Do not shrink from declaring your sins to a priest of the Lord and from seeking medicine..."** (Origen of Alexandria, Church Father; c. 244 A.D.)

**"He who confesses his sins with a repentant heart obtains their remission from the priest."** (St. Athanasius of Alexandria, Church Father, c. 295–373 A.D.)

"When you hear a man lay bare his conscience in confession, he has already come forth from the sepulchre," says St. Augustine (c. 354–430 A.D.) in an obvious reference to the raising of Lazarus. "But he is not yet unbound. When is he unbound? By whom is he unbound?"

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matt 18:18)

"Rightly," Augustine goes on to say, "is the loosing of sins able to be given by the Church?" Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." (John 11:44)

"I cannot say enough about the healing graces I have experienced in my **encounters with Jesus** in the confessional. To *hear* I am forgiven by Christ's appointed representative is a wonderful gift." (see *Confession Passé?*)

And that is the point: this Mystery (Sacrament) is only valid in the presence of a Catholic priest. Why? Because they are the only ones who have been given the authority to do so through apostolic succession down through the centuries.

## HUNGRY?

Not only do you need to *hear* the Lord's forgiveness pronounced, but you need to "taste and see that the Lord is good." Is it possible? Can we touch the Lord before His final coming?

Jesus called Himself the "bread of life." This He gave to the Apostles at the Last Supper when He pronounced: "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matt 26:26–28) It is clear from the Lord's own words that He was not being symbolic. "For my flesh is *true* food, and my blood is *true* drink." John 6:55)

**Then,**

“Whoever *eats* my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.”

The verb "eats" used here is the Greek verb *trogon* means to "munch" or "gnaw" as if to emphasize the literal reality Christ was presenting.

It is clear that St. Paul understood the significance of this Divine Meal: “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment upon himself. *That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.*” (I Cor 11:27–30).

Jesus said that whoever eats this Bread has eternal life! The Israelites were commanded to eat an unblemished lamb and place its blood upon their doorposts. In this way, they were spared from the angel of death. So too, we are to eat the “Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29). In this meal, we too are spared from eternal death.

“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.” (John 6:5)

**I have no taste for corruptible food nor for the pleasures of this life. I desire the Bread of God, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ, who was of the seed of David; and thus I desire to drink of His blood, which is love incorruptible.”** (St. Ignatius of Antioch, Church Father, *Letter to the Romans 7:3*, c. 110 A.D.)

**“We call this food Eucharist... For not as common bread nor common drink do we receive these; but since Jesus Christ our Saviour was made incarnate by the word of God and gave both His flesh and blood for our salvation, so too, as we have been taught, the food which has been made into the Eucharist by the Eucharistic prayer set down by Him, and by the change of which our blood and flesh is nourished, is both the flesh and blood of that Jesus incarnated.”** (St. Justin Martyr, *first apology in defense of Christians*, n. 66, c. 100 – 165 A.D.)

Scripture is clear. The tradition of Christianity from the earliest centuries is unchanged. Confession and the Eucharist remain the most tangible and powerful means of healing and grace. They fulfil Christ’s promise to remain with us until the end of the age.

What then, dear Protestant, is keeping you away? Is it the priest scandals? Peter was a scandal too! Is it the sinfulness of certain clergy? They need salvation also! Is it the rituals and traditions of the Divine Liturgy (Mass)? What family does not have traditions? Is it the icons and statues? What family does not keep pictures of their loved ones nearby? Is it the papacy? What family does not have a father?

Two reasons to become Catholic: *Confession* and the *Eucharist*—both of them given to us by Jesus. If you believe in the Bible, you must believe in *all of it*.

If anyone takes away from the words in this prophetic book, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city described in this book. (Rev 22:19)

**ENJOY YOUR SUMMER WITH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST – HE IS WITH YOU ALWAYS! REMEMBER TO PRAISE HIM AT LEAST ON SUNDAYS IF NOT EVERY DAY!**

## **THE EUCHARIST UNITES US OVER AND ABOVE ALL DIFFERENCES**

VATICAN CITY, 22 MAY 2008 (VIS) – At 7 p.m. today, Solemnity of Corpus Christi, Benedict XVI celebrated Mass on the square in front of Rome's Basilica of St. John Lateran, then presided at the Eucharistic procession to the Basilica of St. Mary Major.

In his homily, the Pope spoke of the significance of today's Solemnity through the three fundamental gestures of the celebration. Firstly "our coming together around the altar of the Lord to be together in His presence", secondly "the procession, walking with the Lord", and finally "kneeling before the Lord in adoration".

Explaining the first of these gestures, the Holy Father quoted St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians, where it is written that "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus". ... In these words", said the Pope, "we feel the truth and the power of the Christian revolution, the most profound revolution in human history, which we may experience in the Eucharist where people of different ages, sexes, social conditions and political ideas come together in the presence of the Lord. The Eucharist can never be a private matter. ... The Eucharist is public worship, which has nothing esoteric or exclusive about it. ... We remain united, over and above our differences, ... we open to one another in order to become a single thing in Him".

Concerning the second of these gestures, that of "walking with the Lord", Benedict XVI affirmed that "with the gift of Himself in the Eucharist, the Lord Jesus ... raises us up again ... and puts us on the journey with the power of this Bread of life. ... The procession of Corpus Christi teaches us that the Eucharist wants to free us from all distress and discomfort ... so that we can resume the journey with the strength God gives us in Jesus Christ".

"Without the God-with-us, the God Who is near, how can we sustain the pilgrimage of life, either individually or as a society or a family of peoples?" asked the Pope. "The Eucharist is the Sacrament of the God Who does not leave us to journey alone, but puts Himself at our side and shows us the way. Indeed, it is not enough to keep going, it is important to see where we are going! Progress is not enough if there are no criteria of reference".

Finally, the third element of Corpus Christi, that of "kneeling in adoration before the Lord", is "the most valuable and radical remedy against the idolatries of yesterday and today, ... it is a profession of freedom: those who bow to Jesus cannot and must not prostrate themselves before any earthly power, however strong", said the Pope.

As Christians, "we prostrate ourselves before God, Who first bowed down towards man ... to save him and give him life, Who knelt before us to wash our dirty feet. Adoring the Body of Christ means believing that there, in that piece of bread, Christ is truly present and gives real meaning to life, to the vast universe as to the smallest of creatures, to the whole of human history as to the briefest of lives".

Following Mass, the Pope presided at a Eucharistic procession that passed along Rome's Via Merulana to the Basilica of St. Mary Major. Along the way, thousands of faithful prayed and sang, accompanying the Blessed Sacrament. An open vehicle transported the Sacrament in a monstrance, before which the Holy Father prayed.

HML/CORPUS CHRISTI/...VIS 080523 (610)

## **Will you Be My Neighbour?**

A special obligation binds us to make ourselves the neighbour of absolutely every person, and of actively helping him/her when he/she comes across our path, whether he/she be an old person abandoned by all, a foreign labourer unjustly looked upon as a refugee, or a hungry person who disturbs our conscience by recalling the voice of our Lord: **“As long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for Me.”** (Matthew 25:40)

Furthermore, whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia, or wilful self-destruction, and whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, sterilization, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, **such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, as well as acting disgracefully, disgraceful working conditions ... all of these things and others of their likes are infamies indeed ... they are a supreme dishonour to God.**

**Since all persons possess a rational soul and are created in God’s likeness,** since they have the same nature and origin, have been redeemed by Christ, and enjoy the same divine calling and destiny – the basic equality of all must receive increasingly greater recognition.

True, all persons are not alike from the point of varying physical power and the diversity of intellectual and natural resources. Nevertheless, with respect to the fundamental rights of the person, **every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on gender, race, social condition, language, or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God’s intent for us to love our neighbour.**

By Fr. Robert M. Pipta.

## **THE POPE: ‘DESPITE THE WEAKNESS OF MAN, THE LORD WILL ALWAYS SUPPORT HIS CHURCH’**

Vatican City, 30 May 2012 (VIS) – At the end of today's general audience, the Holy Father made some remarks concerning recent developments in the Vatican.

“The events of recent days involving the Curia and my collaborators have brought sadness to my heart. However, I have never lost my firm certainty that, despite the weakness of man, despite difficulties and trials – the Church is guided by the Holy Spirit and the Lord will ensure she never lacks the help she needs to support her on her journey.”

“Nonetheless there has been increasing conjecture, amplified by the communications media, which is entirely gratuitous, goes beyond the facts and presents a completely unrealistic image of the Holy See. Thus, I wish to reiterate my trust and encouragement to my closest collaborators and to all those people who every day, in silent faithfulness and with a spirit of sacrifice, help me carry out my ministry.”

## **RETURNING TO THE ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF CHRISTIAN LIFE IN ORDER TO RELAUNCH EVANGELISATION**

Vatican City, 24 May 2012 (VIS) – At midday today the Holy Father received participants in the sixty-fourth general assembly of the Italian Episcopal Conference, to whom he delivered an address focusing on the challenges of the new evangelisation in a society increasingly distanced from God. "Our situation requires renewed drive,

aimed at the essential aspects of Christian faith and life", he said. "At a time in which God has, for many people, become the great Unknown and Jesus is simply an important figure of the past, we cannot relaunch missionary activity without renewing the quality of our own faith and prayer. ... We will not be able to win mankind to the Gospel unless we ourselves first return to a profound experience of God".

The Pope began his remarks by recalling that this autumn marks the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Vatican Council II, and he exhorted the prelates to implement its teachings in order to meet the social and cultural transformations of our time which, he said, "also have visible consequences in the religious sphere". Societies of ancient Christian tradition are today characterised by secularism. Thus the spiritual and moral heritage which lies at the roots of the West "is no longer understood in its profound significance, ... and a rich soil risks becoming an inhospitable desert".

The Pope identified a number of worrying trends, including a drop in religious practice and diminishing participation in the Sacraments. "Many baptised have lost their identity. They do not know the essential contents of the faith, or believe they can cultivate that faith without ecclesial mediation. And while many look doubtfully at Church teaching, others reduce the Kingdom of God to certain broad values, which are certainly related to the Gospel but which do not touch the central nucleus of Christian faith".

"Unfortunately it is God Himself Who remains excluded from many people's horizon and, when not met with indifference, closure or rejection, discourse about God is relegated to the subjective sphere, reduced to an intimate and private affair which is marginalised from the public conscience. The heart of the crisis affecting Europe also arises from this abandonment, this lack of openness to the Transcendent".

In this context, Benedict XVI highlighted the fact that "new methods of announcing the Gospel or of pastoral activity are not enough to ensure that the Christian message finds greater acceptance". As the Council Fathers said, "we must begin again from God, celebrated, professed and witnessed. ... Our primary task, our true and only task, remains that of dedicating our lives to the one thing that ... is truly dependable, necessary and ultimate. Men live from God, from He Whom, often tentatively and unawares, they seek in order to give full meaning to lives. We have the task of announcing Him, revealing Him and leading others to meet Him".

The Holy Father continued: "The fundamental condition in order to be able to speak about God is to speak with God, increasingly to become men of God, nourished by an intense life of prayer and molded by His Grace. ... We must allow ourselves to be found and seized by God so as to help the people we meet be touched by the Truth. ... The old and new mission facing us is that of introducing the men and women of our time to a relationship with God, to help them to open their minds and hearts to the God Who seeks them and wants to come close to them, leading them to understand that doing His will does not curb freedom; rather, it means being truly free, it means achieving true goodness in life.

"God is the guarantor not the competitor of our freedom", the Pope added in conclusion. "Where space is given to the Gospel, and therefore to friendship with Christ, man realizes he is the object of a love which purifies, warms, renews, and makes us capable of serving mankind with divine love".