



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.*

23 Вересня, 2012

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September 23, 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

**оо. Василян/Basilian Fathers**  
serving this Parish

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

**17-а Неділя Після Зшестя Святого Духа**

**Маття 15:21 - 28**



**17 Sunday after Pentecost**

**Matthew 15:21 - 28**

**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.**

23 Вересень, 2012

17-а Неділя Після Зшестя Святого Духа

Парафія Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці вітає всіх гостей, приятелів та рідних які зедналися сьогодні разом брати участь в цій Службі Божі. Нехай наш Господь через заступництво Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці благословить Вас і Вашу родину.

**Місячний намір Святішого Отця Папи Римського – на Вересень**

**Загальний намір:** *"Щоб політики завжди діяли чесно, інтегрально і з любов'ю до правди."*

**Місійний намір:** *"Щоб християнські спільноти, мали зростаюче бажання висилати місіонерів, священників, і мирян, разом із дійсними ресурсами до бідніших Церков."*

- Тропарі і читання в рожевій книжці на стор. 9 і 10.

- 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, 23 Вересень:**

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

**Неділя, 30 Вересень:**

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

- **ПАРАФІЯЛЬНИЙ ПРАЗНИК:** Архиєрейська Свята Літургія відправиться о год. **10:30 рано.** Після Святої Літургії запрошуємо всіх на Празничний Обід в нашій аудиторії.

**Понеділок, 1 Жовтень: ПРАЗНИК Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці**

- 8:30 ранку – Служба Божа.

- 7:00 веч. Спільна Вервиця в церкві.

- 7:30 веч. Сходини Базаровий Комітет в Віталний під церкви.

**Середа, 3 Жовтень:**

- 7:00 веч. Спільна Вервиця в каплиці.

**П'ятниця, 5 Жовтень: Перша П'ятниця**

- 8:30 ранку – Служба Божа а від так Молебень до Серця Христового.

- 7:00 веч. Спільна Вервиця в каплиці.

**Неділя, 7 Жовтень:**

- **Спільна Вервиця** – 10:00 рано в церкві перед Службою Божою у 10:30 рано.

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

**Понеділок, 8 Жовтень: "День Подяки"**

- 9:00 ранку **Служба Божа в церкві за подяку всіх даних ласк.**

- 7:00 веч. Спільна Вервиця в каплиці.

**Середа, 10 Жовтень:** – 7:00 веч. Спільна Вервиця в каплиці.

**П'ятниця, 12 Жовтень:**

- 7:00 веч. Спільна Вервиця в каплиці.

*September 23, 2012*

*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

The Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish welcomes all our guests, friends, visiting relatives and Parishioners in celebrating this Divine Liturgy together. May our Lord, through the intercession of the Protectress, the Blessed Mother of God, bless you and your family!

**Papal General Prayer Intention for September:** *“Pray that politicians may always act with honesty, integrity, and love for the truth.”*

**Mission Intention for September:** *“Pray that Christian communities may have a growing willingness to send missionaries, priests, and lay people, along with concrete resources, to the poorest Churches.”*

- Tropar, Kondak & readings for today in the pink booklet pages: 9 & 10.

- 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, September 23:**

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

**Thursday, September 27:** - “Author’s Night” sponsored by St. Mary’s UCWLC at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Room. Launching of Roman Fudchuk’s new book “Zhorna”, a different look at the Ukrainian pioneer experience.

**Sunday, September 30:**

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

- **PARISH PRAZNYK: Pontifical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 am. Dinner will follow in the Parish Auditorium.** Cost per ticket is \$15.00/adult; children 6 to 14/\$8.00. Children under 6 years free.

**Monday, October 1: Feast Day of the Parish “Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

- 8:30 am Divine Liturgy.

- 7:00 pm Communal Rosary in Church.

- 7:30 pm Bazaar Meeting following Rosary in Fellowship Room.

**Wednesday, October 3:**

- 7:00 pm Communal Rosary in Rectory Chapel.

**Friday, October 5: First Friday**

- 8:30 am Divine Liturgy & Moleben to Mother of God.

- 7:00 pm Communal Rosary in Rectory Chapel.

**Sunday, October 7: - 10:00 am** Communal Rosary in church.

- **Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schoolers** during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

**Monday, October 8: “Thanksgiving Day”**

- **9:00 am Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving in Church.** You are encouraged to participate.

- 7:00 pm Communal Rosary in Rectory Chapel.

**Wednesday, October 10: - 7:00 pm** Communal Rosary in Rectory Chapel.

**Friday, October 12:**

- 7:00 pm Communal Rosary in Rectory Chapel.

**Saturday, October 13:**

– **UCWLC Meeting begins at 9:30 am with Moleben** to the Mother of God followed by the monthly meeting in the Fellowship Room.

**Субота, 13 Жовтень:**

– **9:30 ранку Сходини Л.У.К.Ж.К. пичнуться молебнем до Пречистої Діви Марії** а відтак засідання у вітальні під церквою.

## **PARISH ANNUAL MEETING – OCTOBER 28, 2012**

**Our Parish Annual Meeting is fast approaching and our Nominating Committee is in need of assistance.**

Are you interested in making our Parish a better place of worship and Fellowship? Are you interested in assisting our fellow Parishioners to be more conscious of the need for Stewardship? Are you interested in encouraging your fellow Parishioners to take an active part in the life and welfare of this Parish?

These are very good qualities that would help you to be a member of the Parish Council.

To be named to the Parish Council, or one of the committees, or to nominate a Parishioner please call one of the Parish Nominating Committee Members listed below.

**The Parish needs your input! You can do this by:** 1. Praying for the good of the Parish. 2. Offering your time and talents by serving on Parish Council. 3. Supporting the members of the Parish Council by participating in Parish events.

The Nominating Committee consists of:

**Chair:** Dr. Michael Myckatyn – 604-277-0828

Adam Kozak – 604-929-2581

Bill Humenny – 604-574-5777

Eugene Lupynis – 604-274-8631

Verle Kaweski – 604-224-3785

**PICK UP YOUR ANNUAL REPORT IN CHURCH ON OCTOBER 21, 2012.** Please note that all Financial questions must be in writing and handed in to the Parish Office by October 24. Financial Questions raised during the Meeting will be addressed at the next Parish Council Meeting – most likely on Dec. 17, 2012.

*PRAYER OF JOHN PAUL II when he visited the Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas – TO OUR LADY OF ZARVANIZA – Saturday, 23 June 2001*

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Zarvaniza, I thank you for the gift of my visit to the 'Kyivan Rus'. From where the light of the Gospel spread through this whole region.

Here before your miraculous icon, kept in this church of Saint Nicholas, I entrust to you, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, my apostolic journey to Ukraine.

Holy Mother of God, spread your maternal mantle over all Christians and over all people of good will who live in this great nation.

Lead them to your Son, Jesus, who is for everyone the way, the truth and the 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.

### *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.*

### **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)



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

*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.*

BAZAAR NEWS - PARISH BAZAAR - NOVEMBER 24, 2012

Наш Парафіяльний Базар зближається чим-раз ближче. Базаровий Комітет ласкаво просить Вас, якщо Ви приготуєте консерви цього літа, то просимо зробити декілька "екстра" на наш Базар. Ваша поміч буде оцінена.

1. **The Bazaar "Preserves and Baking" Committee** is requesting any extra **preserves** that you will be making over the summer. Please bring as many as you can spare to the Auditorium kitchen on Tuesdays. They will be sold **at our Parish Bazaar**. Your help is greatly appreciated.
2. **They are also** asking for **Home baking** such as brownies, breads and buns, pies, cakes, cinnamon buns, cookies and any other baking that does not include fillings such as cream or cheese or other dairy products.
3. **The Bazaar "Silent Auction" Committee** is asking for **donations** of all things (ie: Hockey tickets, dinners for two, wine box, etc.) to be bid on **at the Silent Auction**. Please bring them as soon as possible to the Parish Office or place them in the "Silent Auction" box in the Church Fellowship Room.
4. **The Bazaar "Paper Lottery" Committee** is asking for **donations of new items for the children and adult "Paper Lottery"**. Your help is greatly appreciated.
5. **The Bazaar "Crafts" Committee** is asking for **items for the Crafts Corner**; such as small wooden ornaments or boards, knitting, home decorated aprons and other such useful items, and things for scrapbooking. Drop them off at the Fellowship Room.
6. **The Bazaar "Rummage Sale" Committee** need items for the **Rummage Sale** such as clean slightly used clothing, clean kitchen utensils (pots and the like), household items (picture frames, ornaments and the like). Drop them off at the Fellowship Room. We will not accept used TVs, electronic devices, big living room furniture, or any other item that can carry unwanted creatures.
7. **Dates for "pyrohy making" for the Bazaar - start on Wednesday at 8 am:** Sept. 26; Oct. 3 and Oct. 17. For more information, call Henriette Ukrainetz at 604.291.0087.

For any other information call the Parish Office or Dr. Michael Myckatyn, Bazaar Chairperson, so that we can direct your call to the right person.

**Bulletin Announcements** must be in the office by Wednesday noon. It is your responsibility to notify the office, do not think that 'well they know', Father or the Secretary may know but do not always remember to put it in the bulletin!

**Monthly Calendar Announcements** for the next two months must be in the office by the 20th day of this month.

**Note to All Parish Members:** Please be on time for the Divine Liturgy. The Fathers are punctual and start on time at 8:30 am or start incensing at 10:25 am.

**Request for Prayers:** for you, your family, or friend – please submit the name to the Parish Office or write note and place 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 відповідю, 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; the shut-ins or those in hospital; those seeking God's guidance or rejoicing with God's favour; or for those celebrating a birthday or anniversary; or have been called to their eternal reward or 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, Bohdan Karpinski, Karlo Kozy, Victoria Kuzik, Emily Kuzyk, Bodzie Lawryshyn, Oscar Lyseyko, Ben Marchinkow, Jason Obuck, Orest Obuck, John Pura, Mary Scott, Wasyl Saik, Kaiya Williams, Leon Woznow. Also remember +Anna Dmytriw who passed away recently and her family in your prayers.

**PLEASE VISIT** our Parishioners or phone confined to their homes. They need your visits, your phone calls, as well as your prayers.

**If there are Persons you visit and need our prayers,** please call the Parish office.

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

## **GRANDPARENTS' EXPERIENCE TO COUNTER CRISIS IN FAMILIES**

VATICAN CITY, 5 APR 2008 (VIS) – At midday today in the Vatican's Clementine Hall, the Holy Father received participants in the 18th plenary assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Family, which was held from 3 to 5 April on the theme: "The presence and witness of grandparents in families".

After highlighting how the Church has always recognised grandparents' "great richness in human and social, religious and spiritual terms", the Pope recalled how "in the past grandparents played an important role in the life and growth of the family. Even as they got older, they continued to be present for their children, grandchildren and perhaps even great-grandchildren, providing a living witness of kindness, sacrifice and a daily and unreserved giving of self".

"Today, the economic and social evolution has brought about profound transformations in the lives of families", noted the Holy Father. Some elderly people feel "a burden to their family and prefer to live alone or in rest homes, with all the consequences such choices bring."

"Unfortunately", he added, "the 'culture of death' seems to be gaining ground on various sides, threatening even the period of old age. With growing insistence, euthanasia is even proposed as a solution to resolve certain difficult situations". Hence "it is necessary to react forcefully to that which dehumanises society. ... We must unite to defeat all forms of marginalisation together, because it is not just they (grandparents and the elderly) who are overwhelmed by the individualistic mentality, but everyone. If, as is often said, grandparents represent a valuable resource, it is

important to make coherent choices in order to take full advantage of them".

The Pope called for grandparents to return as a "living presence in the family, in the Church and in society. ... May they continue to be witnesses of unity, of values founded on faithfulness to the one love that generates faith and the joy of life. The so-called new models of the family and rampant relativism have weakened these fundamental values of the family nucleus".

"Faced with the crisis of the family," the Holy Father asked, "is it not perhaps possible to start afresh from the presence and witness of people (grandparents) who have more robust values and projects? It is not, in fact, possible to plan the future without drawing on a past full of significant experiences and of points of spiritual and moral reference".

The Pope concluded his remarks by recalling that the 6th World Meeting of Families, is due be held in Mexico in 2009. And he invited ecclesial communities, especially family groups, movements and associations "to prepare themselves spiritually for this event of grace". AC/GRANDPARENTS/...VIS 080407 (450)

### **SILENCE AND WORD: PATH OF EVANGELISATION**

VATICAN CITY, 24 JAN 2012 (VIS) – Today's Feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron of journalists, marks the World Day of Social Communications, and the Holy Father's Message for the Day, entitled: "Silence and Word: Path of Evangelization" was made public this morning. Ample excerpts from the English-language version of the text are given below.

On this "World Communications Day 2012, I would like to share with you some reflections concerning an aspect of the human process of communication which, despite its importance, is often overlooked and which, at the present time, it would seem especially necessary to recall. It concerns the relationship between silence and word: two aspects of communication which need to be kept in balance, to alternate and to be integrated with one another if authentic dialogue and deep closeness between people are to be achieved".

"Silence is an integral element of communication; in its absence, words rich in content cannot exist. In silence, we are better able to listen to and understand ourselves; ideas come to birth and acquire depth. ... By remaining silent we allow the other person to speak, to express him or herself; and we avoid being tied simply to our own words and ideas without them being adequately tested. In this way, space is created for mutual listening, and deeper human relationships become possible. ... When messages and information are plentiful, silence becomes essential if we are to distinguish what is important from what is insignificant or secondary. Deeper reflection helps us ... to make evaluations, to analyze messages; this makes it possible to share thoughtful and relevant opinions, giving rise to an authentic body of shared knowledge. For this to happen, it is necessary to develop an appropriate environment, a kind of 'eco-system' that maintains a just equilibrium between silence, words, images and sounds.

"The process of communication nowadays is largely fuelled by questions in search of answers. Search engines and social networks have become the starting point of communication for many people who are seeking advice, ideas, information and answers. ... Indeed, people today are frequently bombarded with answers to questions

they have never asked and to needs of which they were unaware. If we are to recognize and focus upon the truly important questions, then silence is a precious commodity that enables us to exercise proper discernment in the face of the surcharge of stimuli and data that we receive".

"Ultimately, this constant flow of questions demonstrates the restlessness of human beings, ceaselessly searching for truths, of greater or lesser import, that can offer meaning and hope to their lives. Men and women cannot rest content with a superficial and unquestioning exchange of skeptical opinions and experiences of life – all of us are in search of truth".

"Attention should be paid to the various types of websites, applications and social networks which can help people today to find time for reflection and authentic questioning, as well as making space for silence and occasions for prayer, meditation or sharing of the word of God. In concise phrases, often no longer than a verse from the Bible, profound thoughts can be communicated, as long as those taking part in the conversation do not neglect to cultivate their own inner lives. It is hardly surprising that different religious traditions consider solitude and silence as privileged states, which help people to rediscover themselves and that Truth which gives meaning to all things. The God of biblical revelation speaks also without words: As the Cross of Christ demonstrates, God also speaks by His silence".

"If God speaks to us even in silence, we in turn discover in silence the possibility of speaking with God and about God. ... In speaking of God's grandeur, our language will always prove inadequate and must make space for silent contemplation. Out of such contemplation springs forth, with all its inner power, the urgent sense of mission: the compelling obligation 'to communicate that which we have seen and heard' so that all may be in communion with God".

"In silent contemplation, then, the eternal Word, through Whom the world was created, becomes ever more powerfully present and we become aware of the plan of salvation that God is accomplishing throughout our history by word and deed. ... This plan of salvation culminates in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, the mediator and the fullness of all revelation. He has made known to us the true face of God the Father and by His Cross and Resurrection has brought us from the slavery of sin and death to the freedom of the children of God. The fundamental question of the meaning of human existence finds in the mystery of Christ an answer capable of bringing peace to the restless human heart. The Church's mission springs from this mystery; and it is this mystery, which impels Christians to become heralds of hope and salvation, witnesses of that love which promotes human dignity and builds justice and peace.

"Word and silence: learning to communicate is learning to listen and contemplate as well as speak. This is especially important for those engaged in the task of evangelization: both silence and word are essential elements, integral to the Church's work of communication for the sake of a renewed proclamation of Christ in today's world". MESS/VIS 20120124 (890)

## **CHRISTIAN UNITY REQUIRES INDIVIDUAL CONVERSION**

VATICAN CITY, 25 JAN 2012 (VIS) – Benedict XVI dedicated his catechesis during this morning's general audience to Christ's priestly prayer during the Last Supper, as narrated in chapter 17 of the Gospel of St. John. In order to understand this prayer "in all its immense richness", said the Pope, it is important to see it in the context of the

Jewish feast of atonement, Yom Kippur, in which the high priest seeks atonement first for himself, then for the order of priests and finally for the community as a whole. Likewise, "that night Jesus addressed the Father at the moment in which He offered Himself. He, priest and victim, prayed for Himself, for the Apostles and for all those who would believe in Him".

The prayer, which Jesus prays for Himself, is the request for His own glorification. "It is in fact more than a request", the Holy Father said, "It is a declaration of willingness to enter freely and generously into the Father's plan, which is accomplished through death and resurrection. ... Jesus begins His priestly prayer by saying: 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you'. The glorification Jesus seeks for Himself, as High Priest, is to be fully obedient to the Father, an obedience which leads Him to fulfill His filial status: 'So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed'".

The second part of Jesus' prayer is His intercession for the disciples who have followed Him, and His request that they may be sanctified. Jesus says: 'They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth'. (John 17) Benedict XVI explained how "To sanctify means to transfer something – a person or an object – to God. This involves two complementary aspects: on the one hand, the idea of 'segregation' ... from man's personal life in order to be completely given over to God; on the other hand there is the idea of 'being sent out', of mission. Having been given to God, the consecrated thing or person exists for others. ... A person is sanctified when, like Jesus, he is segregated from the world, set aside for God in view of a task and, for this reason, available for everyone. For disciples this means continuing Jesus' mission".

In the third phase of the priestly prayer, "Jesus asks the Father to intervene in favour of all those who will be brought to the faith by the mission inaugurated by the Apostles. ... 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word'. ... Jesus prays for the Church in all times, He also prays for us. ... The main element in Jesus' priestly prayer for His disciples is His request for the future unity of those who will believe in Him. This unity is not a worldly achievement. It derives exclusively from divine unity and comes down to us from the Father, through the Son and in the Holy Spirit".

By this priestly prayer Jesus establishes the Church, "which is nothing other than the community of disciples who, through their faith in Christ as the One sent by the Father, receive His unity and are involved in Jesus' mission to save the world by leading it to a knowledge of God".

Benedict XVI invited the faithful to read and meditate upon Jesus' priestly prayer, and to pray to God themselves, asking Him "to help us enter fully into the plan He has for each of us. Let us ask Him to consecrate us to Himself, that we may belong to Him and show increasing love for others, both near and far. Let us ask Him to help us open our prayers to the world, not limiting them to requests for help in our own problems, but remembering our fellow man before the Lord and learning the beauty of interceding for others. Let us ask Him for the gift of visible unity among all those who believe in Christ, ... that we may be ready to respond to anyone who asks us about the reasons for our hope".

At the end of his audience, Benedict XVI delivered greetings in various languages to

the pilgrims and faithful gathered in the Paul VI Hall, reminding them that today's Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul marks the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Addressing Polish faithful he said: "The conversion of the Apostle of the Gentiles near Damascus is proof that, in the final analysis, it is God Himself Who decides the destiny of His Church. Let us ask Him for the grace of unity, which also requires our individual conversion, while remaining faithful to the truth and love of God". AG/VIS 20120125 (826)

## **ALL CHRISTIANS HAVE THE DUTY TO ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL**

VATICAN CITY, 25 JAN 2012 (VIS) – Made public today was the Pope's Message for World Mission Day, which falls this year on Sunday 21 October. The theme of the document is: "Called to radiate the word of truth". Extracts of the message are given below.

"This year the celebration of World Mission Day is particularly significant. The fiftieth anniversary of the conciliar Decree 'Ad gentes', the opening of the Year of Faith and the Synod of Bishops on the theme of the new evangelization all come together to reaffirm the Church's will to dedicate herself with greater courage and ardour to the 'missio ad gentes', that the Gospel may reach the ends of the earth.

"Vatican Council II, with the participation of Catholic bishops from every corner of the world, was a luminous sign of the Church's universality. ... Missionary bishops and autochthonous bishops, pastors of communities living among non-Christian peoples, ... all made an important contribution to reaffirming the pressing need of 'ad gentes' evangelization and, consequently, to placing the missionary nature of the Church at the centre of ecclesiology".

"Today this view ... reemerges with renewed urgency because the number of those who do not yet know Christ has increased. ... We need, then, to retrieve the apostolic zeal of the early Christian communities, which, small and defenseless, were nonetheless capable, through announcement and witness, of spreading the Gospel throughout the then-known world.

"It is no surprise, then, that Vatican Council II and the subsequent Magisterium of the Church place particular emphases on the missionary mandate which Christ entrusted to His disciples, and which is the duty of all the people of God (bishops, priests, deacons, religious and lay people). Announcing the Gospel in every corner of the world is the primary responsibility of bishops, who are directly responsible for evangelizing the world".

"The command to preach the Gospel ... must involve all actions and sectors of a particular Church, its entire being and activity. Vatican Council II made this very clear and subsequent Magisterium has underlined it strongly. This means the constant adaptation of lifestyles, pastoral plans and diocesan organization to this fundamental dimension of the Church's being, especially in our continually changing world. ... All the components of the great mosaic of the Church must be aware that they are touched by the Lord's command to preach the Gospel, so that Christ may be announced everywhere. We pastors, religious and all Christ's faithful must follow the footsteps of the Apostle Paul who ... worked, suffered and struggled to bring the Gospel among the pagans, not sparing energy, time or means to make Christ's message known".

"Missionary cooperation must expand to include new forms, not only economic assistance but also direct participation in evangelization. The celebration of the Year of

Faith and of the Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization will be useful occasions to relaunch missionary cooperation, especially in the latter dimension".

"The immense horizons of the Church's mission and the complexity of today's situation call for new ways of effectively communicating the word of God. First and foremost this requires a renewed adherence of individual and community faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ 'especially at a time of profound change such as humanity is currently experiencing'.

"One of the obstacles to evangelization is, in fact, the crisis of faith, not only in the Western world but among a large part of humankind, which nonetheless hungers and thirsts for God, and which must be invited and led to the bread of life and the living water. ... We must renew our enthusiasm to communicate the faith, so as to promote new evangelization in communities and countries of ancient Christian tradition, which are losing their reference to God, and help them rediscover the joy of believing. Concern for evangelization must never remain at the margins of Christians' ecclesial activity or individual lives, it must characterize them strongly in their awareness of being both beneficiaries and missionaries of the Gospel The central point of our announcement always remains the same: ... the 'kerygma' of God's absolute and total love for each man and woman, which culminated in His sending the eternal and only-begotten Son, the Lord Jesus, Who did not disdain to take on the poverty of our human nature, loving it and saving it from sin and death by the offer of Himself upon the cross".

"Faith is a gift that was given to us to be shared. ... It is the most important gift of our lives and we cannot keep it to ourselves".

"Many priests and religious from all over the world, many lay people and even entire families leave their countries, their local communities, and travel to other Churches to bear witness to and announce the Name of Christ. ... This is an expression of profound communion, sharing and charity among Churches".

"Together with this exalted sign of faith transformed into charity, I would like to mention and thank the Pontifical Missionary Works, which is an instrument for cooperation in the Church's universal mission in the world. Thanks to their activities the announcement of the Gospel is transformed into assistance to others, justice for the poorest, education in isolated villages, medical care in remote areas, liberation from want, rehabilitation of the marginalized, support for the development of peoples, the breaking down of ethnic divisions and respect for life in all its stages".

"Upon the work of evangelization 'ad gentes', and especially upon those who carry it out, I invoke the effusion of the Holy Spirit, that the grace of God may make it ever more decisive in the history of the world". MESS/VIS 20120125 (950)

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.