



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.*

5 Лютого, 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/Утренняя 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

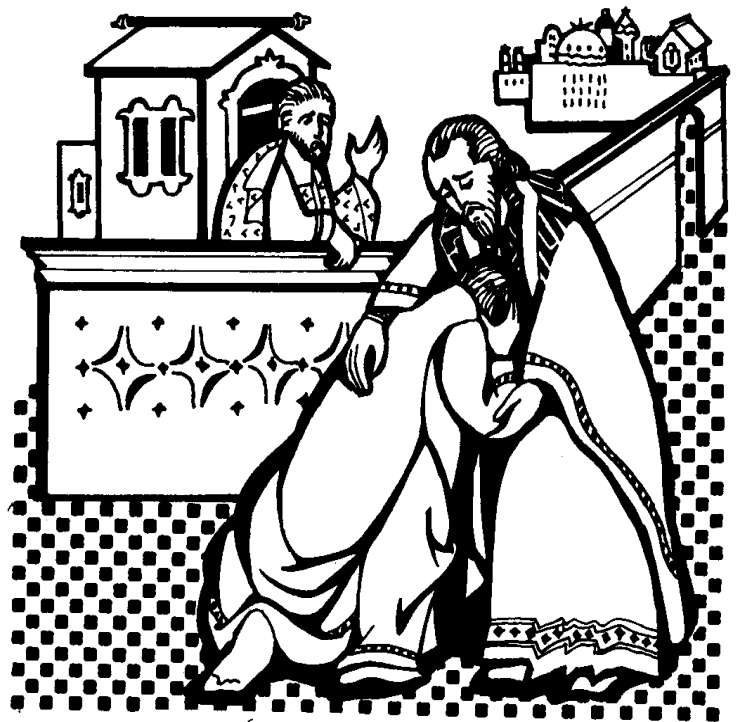
Marriages by appointment made at least six
months in advance. Membership in Parish
is required

Funerals by arrangement in the Parish Office

**оо. Василяни / Basilian Fathers serving in
this Parish**

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

*Неділя Про Блудного Сина
Лука 15:11-32*



*Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Luke 15:11-32*

**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 Лютий:

Загальний намір: Щоб усі люди мали доступ до води та до інших потрібних ресурсів для життя.

Місійний намір: Щоб Господь підтримав зусилля працівників здоров'я, що доглядають недужих і похилих людей віком у світі.

- Тропарі і читання в рожевій книжці на стор. 1 і 2.
- Кава і солодке Сьогодні після Служби Божої о год 8:30 і 10:30 рано, у вітальні під церквою.

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

Сьогодні, Неділя, 5 Лютий:

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

Четвер, 9 Лютий:

- БІБЛІЙНІ СТУДІЇ о год. 7:00 веч: Програма охоплює "Велика Подія" на тему «Історія Спасіння».

П'ятниця, 10 Лютий: - День молитви за хворих

Субота, 11 Лютий:

- 8:30 ранку – Служба Божа
- 9:30 ранку – Молебень до Пречистої Діви Марії, а відтак Сходина Л.У.К.Ж.К. у вітальні під церквою.

Неділя, 12 Лютий:

- Парафіяльна Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.
- Велентайн Сніданок після Служб Божих в Авдиторії. Улаштує ЛУКЖК. Вступ \$8 для дорослих. \$3 для дітей нижчи 12 років. Вступні нагороди.

Понеділок, 13 Лютий: - 7:00 вечора Сходина Парафіяльної Ради у Борд Румі.

Четвер, 16 Лютий: - БІБЛІЙНІ СТУДІЇ о год. 7:00 веч: Програма охоплює "Велика Подія" на тему «Історія Спасіння».

Субота, 18 Лютий: - 6:00 вечора – Пушчення і забава.

Неділя, 19 Лютий: - Парафіяльна Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

Понеділок, 20 Лютий: - Перший день посту – стримуємося від м'яса і молочних продуктів.

- 8:30 рано і 7:00 вечора, Служби Божі. Заохочуємо Вас почати Великий Піст і просити нашого Бога за ласки потрібні нам, щоби жити життям більше згідним з Божим світом. Церква також заохочує нас більше постити і молитися під час цього часу.

Четвер, 23 Лютий:

- БІБЛІЙНІ СТУДІЇ о год. 7:00 веч: Програма охоплює "Велика Подія" на тему «Історія Спасіння».

Заупокійні Служби Божі і Сорокоусти за померлих членів Ваших Родин будуть відправлятися кожної п'ятниці о год. 7 вечора під час Великого Посту, починаючи від 11-го березня. Зробіть відповідні зарядження.

Ковертки з пожертвами за відправлення сорокоустних парастасів знаходяться в притворі церкви. Просимо зложити їх на недільну тацу під час Служб Божих, або передати їх Отцям, чи занести до парафіяльної канцелярії.

П'ятниця, 24 Лютий: – 7 вечора – **Заупокійні Служби Божі і Сорокоусти.**

Субота, 25 Лютий: – 8:30 ранку – **Служби Божої не буде**

– Поминальна Служба Божа за + Микола Пасовистий о год. 10:00 рано.

Неділя, 26 Лютий: – **Парафіяльна Катехитична програма** під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

Церковна Звукова Система: Повний кошт нової системи виносить \$18,132.00.

Просимо Вас допомогти покрити кошта. Просимо зложити Ваші пожертви. Нехай Наша Пресвята Богородиця і Покровителька Благословить Вас усіх за Вашу щедрість!

До цього часу ми одержали \$9,497.70. Нехай Найсвятійша Родина – Ісус, Марія і Йосиф благословить за Вашу щедрість! Корейська Місія Св. Павла Чонг пожертвувала \$9,065.70. Нехай наша Свята Покровителька Мати Божа благословить за їхню щедрість.

CHURCH SOUND SYSTEM: The total cost of the new system is \$18,132.00. You are asked to help with the cost. Please make your donation by marking your envelope or cheque with the words: "Church Sound System".

To date we have received \$9497.70. May the Holiest of Families – Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless your generosity! The Korean Mission of St. Paul Chong donated \$9,065.70. May our Blessed Protectress, the Mother of God, bless their generosity.

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.

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.

February 18, 2012 10:00 am – 3:00 pm 4th Annual Hearts and Flowers Fair

At: Holy Eucharist Cathedral Hall, 501 4th Avenue, New Westminster B.C.

Admission: \$3.00/person. Lunch served from 11:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m., Silent Auction, Door prizes, Bingo, Children's games/prizes, White Elephant, and more. Hosted by: the New Westminster Eparchial UCWLC Executive. Prize donations always gratefully accepted. For more information, please call the UCWLC Eparchial President – Lil Saranchuk 604.936.4972

Papal General Prayer Intention for February: Pray that all peoples may have access to water and other resources needed for daily life.

Mission Intention for February: Pray that the Lord may sustain the efforts of health workers assisting the sick and elderly in the world's poorest regions.

- **Tropar, Kondak & readings** for today in the **Pink booklet** pages: 1 & 2.
- **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.

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.**

Sunday, February 5: - **Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schooler's** during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy and will continue as the schedule dictates.

Thursday, February 9: - **BIBLE STUDIES begin at 7 pm in the Fellowship Room.**

Friday, February 10: - **World Day of Prayer for the Sick**

- On this day we are encouraged to pray for the healing of our families, our parish and community members.

Saturday, February 11: - 8:30 am Divine Liturgy

- 9:30 am **Moleben** in Church followed by **UCWLC Meeting** in the Fellowship Room.

Sunday, February 12: - **Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schooler's** during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy and will continue as the schedule dictates.

- **Pancake Breakfast following both Divine Liturgies** sponsored by UCWLC.

Admission \$8 / adult. \$3 / child under 12. Door Prizes.

Monday, February 13: - **7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting including a final Bazaar Report and discussion** - in the Board Room.

Thursday, February 16: - **BIBLE STUDIES begin at 7 pm in the Fellowship Room.**

Saturday, February 18: - **6:00 pm doors open PUSHCHENNIA** in the Auditorium

Sunday, February 19: - **Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schooler's** during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy and will continue as the schedule dictates.

Monday, February 20: **First day of Great Lent - abstain from meat & dairy products**

- **8:30 am and 7 pm Divine Liturgy.** You are encouraged to begin Great Lent by asking our Lord for the graces needed to live a life more in-tune with God's Word. The church also encourages us to fast and pray more during this time.

Thursday, February 23: - **BIBLE STUDIES begin at 7 pm in the Fellowship Room.**

Memorial Divine Liturgy and Sorokousty for the deceased of individual family members will be celebrated every Friday during Great Lent at 7 pm beginning on February 24, 2012. Arrange to have the deceased members of your family remembered during these Services. Special envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please fill them out and place them in the Sunday collection plate, or give to Father, or bring to the Parish Office.

Friday, February 24: - **7 pm Memorial Divine Liturgy and Sorokousty**

Saturday, February 25:

– 8:30 am Divine Liturgy **Cancelled**

– 10 am 40 day Memorial Divine Liturgy for + Nick Pasowesty

Sunday, February 26:

– **Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schooler's** during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy and will continue as the schedule dictates.

FLEA MARKET – Saturday March 3, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Table rental \$20/table! For rental of tables call Olga at 604.274.9804 or Mary Scott at 604.271.1131

Прохання молитов: за Вас або за членів Вашої родини, просимо подати ім'я до Парафіяльної канцелярії на телефон 604-879-5830 або кинути записку на тацу.

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 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.

Please remember in your prayers especially: Fr. Vincent Prychidko, OSBM; Fr. Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Fr. Steven Basarab; Joseph Bayduza; Catherine Hladij, Martha Huzyk, Victoria Kuzik, Bodzie Lawryshyn; Ben Marchinkow; Jason Obuck; William Orysik, Mary Scott, Kaiya Williams, Leon & Polly Woznow, and all the Canadian Armed Forces on peacekeeping missions.

PLEASE VISIT our Parishioners who are confined to their hospital beds or their homes. They need our visits as well as our prayers.

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

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

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!

This note is 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.

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 цеквою. Залишім наву (Nave) церкви для вірних які моляться.

BC is going to Unity – August 16–19, 2012

At Pinawa, MB, – Wilderness Edge Retreat Center – just north of Winnipeg

Unity is a gathering of Ukrainian Catholics from across Canada to further understand, embrace and celebrate our faith through prayer, education and fellowship. Unity is open to young adults 18 (1994) to 35 years of age.

Come and pre-register today! Cost: \$225 before May 31 includes all meals, accommodation, sessions and social event for the program. Transportation extra.

Some of the program highlights include BBQ, Bonfire, Liturgy, Keynote Speakers, Breakout Sessions, and Zabava,

Fundraising will begin in the coming months to help with transportation costs.

Interested? Contact the following names for more information.

– Jennifer Sawka: jennsawka@hotmail.com, Ph: 604.876.5691

– Fr.Theo: theomac@lycos.com Ph: 1-250.384.2292

– www.ucyc.ca/unity2012/

Please see the Poster at the front entrance of the church and Registration forms.

MAKE IT YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION – SIGN UP TODAY!

The Catholic Health Association of BC will be awarding two bursaries valued at \$250 each to two 2012 graduating students enrolled in a Catholic secondary school, or who are a member of a BC or Yukon parish and enrolled in a public secondary school, or who are home-schooled. Students are asked to submit a 500 word essay that demonstrates an awareness and understanding of the significance of Spirituality in Health Care. Submissions must be received on or before March 9, 2012. For further details, please refer to the poster in the vestibule of the church, or check the CHABC website at www.chabc.bc.ca under upcoming events.

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

ПРОСИМО щоб оголошення до наступного дво-місячного календаря треба подати до канцелярії не дальше як 20-го дня цього місяця.

Presentation of our Lord in the Temple

Forty days had passed since Jesus Christ was born. It was the custom in that land to have every baby boy brought to the temple as soon as he was forty days old. The father and mother would bring a gift according to their means to the temple to offer to God, because they were grateful to have a baby son,

Joseph and Mary brought their son, Jesus to the Temple in Thanksgiving and they also brought with themselves a little wicker cage with two pigeons in it. This would be their offering to thank God for their Son.

There lived in Jerusalem, at this time, a very old man named Simeon. He was a prayerful and wise man. He had spent many years reading and studying the Holy Books in which were recorded the prophets foretelling the coming of Christ – the Messiah. Once, while Simeon was praying, God told him that he would not die until he had seen the Saviour, Lord Jesus Christ. Simeon waited and waited for many years. He had grown very tired of living. He often went to the temple to read and pray. Often he wondered when God's promise would come true.

One morning in the very early spring Simeon knew that God wanted him to go to the temple at once. He went to the temple and prayed and waited,

All at once Simeon saw Joseph and Mary, with the Babe Jesus in her arms, coming up the steps of the temple. He knew at that moment that he was seeing the Saviour with his parents whom God had promised he would see before he died. Simeon went up to Mary and asked her to let him hold the Child. When Simeon held the Child in his arms, he began praying out loud: "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all people; A Light to lighten the gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

Joseph and Mary wondered at the meaning of the words that were spoken by Simeon. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary: "Behold, this Child is set for the fall and the rising of many people; a sword shall pierce through your own heart."

There also was a very old woman who lived in the temple, praying and fasting day and night. Her name was Anna. She also received messages from God. Anna also came up to Mary and Joseph and thanked God for letting her see the Babe.

When all was over, Joseph and Mary returned home with their baby Son, wondering about all they had heard.

On this Feast, it is our tradition to bless candles.

Candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world (who is to bring Light to the people). (Luke 2:32) Candles remind us that our prayers should come from a heart burning with the love of God. The light of the candle brings light into darkness, just as the birth of Jesus brought the Light of God's love into the darkness of the world; a world in the dark is a world full of sin.

The Catechist Corner by Fr. Vasile Colopelnic:

"... Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted ... "
(Luke 2:34)

The feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple, celebrated on February 2 (Gregorian Calendar) or on February 15 (Julian Calendar) and related by Luke in his Gospel in Chapter 2, verses 22 to 40, offers various suggestions for spiritual and theological reflections. Forty days after His birth, Jesus, was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. This is in response to the forty years that the Chosen people wandered in the desert during which time they came to recognize God as the provider of all in their lives.

Perhaps, the most challenging part of Luke's account about the encounter of Jesus with Simeon is expressed by the following words: "... this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel." Luke, in his extremely acute evaluation of this biblical event is already pointing to what will later become the "Scandal of the Cross." This, indeed, was the paramount issue that the Church Fathers would have to deal with, in presenting the Christian message to those who would later belong to the Jewish and Hellenic Christianity community. Undeniably, the "Scandal of the Cross" continues to remain the most profound challenge to our contemporary secularized culture as well.

The early Church understood that she was the New Israel and believed that the Old Testament prophecies were now fulfilled and that God is present among his people in a very special way through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. The feast of the Presentation is a point in Jesus' life that affirms the process of God becoming human. Several Eastern Rite theologians mention that: "God's self-positioning in time, His going out from eternity into time, is an unfathomable mystery of His life."

Because, the Incarnation of God is God's path toward us, it is for this sole reason that we can build, with God's grace, our own way toward God. The Eastern Church likes to call this Christian reality, a process of Divinization.

PAPAL MESSAGE FOR THE WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

VATICAN CITY, 4 JAN 2012 (VIS) – Made public yesterday was the Holy Father's Message for the World Day of the Sick which will be held, as is traditional, on 11 February, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The message, dated from the Vatican on 20 November 2011, Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ Universal King, has as its title Jesus' words to the leper from the Gospel of St. Luke: "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you".

Extracts from the English-language version of the message are given below.

"I wish to renew my spiritual closeness to all sick people, ... expressing to each one of them the solicitude and the affection of the whole Church. In the generous and loving welcoming of every human life, above all the weak and the sick. A Christian expresses an important aspect of his or her Gospel witness, following the example of Christ, who bent down before the material and spiritual sufferings of man in order to heal them.

"I would like to place emphasis upon the 'Sacraments of healing', that is to say upon the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and that of the Anointing of the Sick, which have their natural completion in Eucharistic Communion. The encounter of Jesus with the ten lepers, narrated by the Gospel of St. Luke, ... helps us to become aware of the importance of faith for those who, burdened by suffering and illness, draw near to the Lord. In their encounter with Him they can truly experience that he who believes is never alone! God, indeed, in His Son, does not abandon us to our anguish and sufferings, but is close to us, helps us to bear them, and wishes to heal us in the depths of our hearts.

"The faith of the lone leper who ... immediately went back to Jesus to express his gratitude, enables us to perceive that reacquired health is a sign of something more precious than mere physical healing, it is a sign of the salvation that God gives us through Christ; it

finds expression in the words of Jesus: 'your faith has saved you'. He who in suffering and illness prays to the Lord is certain that God's love will never abandon him, and also that the love of the Church, the extension in time of the Lord's saving work, will never fail. Physical healing, an outward expression of the deepest salvation, thus reveals the importance that man – in his entirety of soul and body – has for the Lord".

"The tandem of physical health and renewal after lacerations of the soul thus helps us to understand better the 'Sacraments of healing'".

"The Sacrament of Penance ... consists in restoring us to God's grace, and joining with Him in an intimate friendship".

"God, 'rich in mercy', like the father in the Gospel parable, does not close His heart to any of His children, but waits for them, looks for them. ... A time of suffering, in which one could be tempted to abandon oneself to discouragement and hopelessness, can thus be transformed into a time of grace so as to return to oneself, and like the prodigal son of the parable, to think anew about one's life, recognizing its errors and failures, longing for the embrace of the Father, and following the pathway to His home. He, in His great love, always and everywhere watches over our lives and awaits us so as to offer to every child that returns to Him the gift of full reconciliation and joy.

"From a reading of the Gospels it emerges clearly that Jesus always showed special concern for sick people. He not only sent out His disciples to tend their wounds but also instituted for them a specific Sacrament: the Anointing of the Sick. The Letter of James attests to the presence of this sacramental act already in the first Christian community: by the Anointing of the Sick, accompanied by the prayer of the elders, the whole of the Church commends the sick to the suffering and glorified Lord so that He may alleviate their sufferings and save them".

"This Sacrament deserves greater consideration today both in theological reflection and in pastoral ministry among the sick. Through a proper appreciation of the content of the liturgical prayers that are adapted to the various human situations connected with illness, and not only when a person is at the end of his or her life. ... Attention to and pastoral care for sick people, while, on the one hand, a sign of God's tenderness towards those who are suffering, on the other brings spiritual advantage to priests and the whole Christian community as well, in the awareness that what is done to the least, is done to Jesus Himself".

"The 'Sacraments of healing' ... are precious instruments of God's grace which help a sick person to conform himself or herself ever more fully to the mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ. Together with these two Sacraments, I would also like to emphasise the importance of the Eucharist. Received at a time of illness, it contributes in a singular way to working this transformation, associating the person who partakes of the Body and Blood of Christ to the offering that He made of Himself to the Father for the salvation of all. The whole ecclesial community, and parish communities in particular, should pay attention to guaranteeing the possibility of frequently receiving Holy Communion, to those people who, for reasons of health or age, cannot go to a place of worship".

"The Eucharist, especially as Viaticum, is – according to the definition of St. Ignatius of Antioch – 'medicine of immortality, the antidote for death'; the Sacrament of the passage from death to life, from this world to the Father, Who awaits everyone in the celestial Jerusalem.

"The theme of this Message for the Twentieth World Day of the Sick, 'Stand up and go; your faith has saved you', also looks forward to the forthcoming Year of Faith which will begin on 11 October 2012. ... I wish to encourage sick people and the suffering always to find a safe anchor in faith, nourished by listening to the Word of God, by personal prayer and by the Sacraments, while I invite pastors to be increasingly ready to celebrate them for the

sick. ... Priests should be full of joy, attentive to the weakest, the simple and sinners, expressing the infinite mercy of God with reassuring words of hope.

"To all those who work in the field of health, and to the families who see in their relatives the suffering face of the Lord Jesus, I renew my thanks and that of the Church".

"[May] Mary, Mother of Mercy and Health of the Sick ... accompany and sustain the faith and the hope of every sick and suffering person on the journey of healing for the wounds of body and spirit! I assure you all of a remembrance in my prayers, and I bestow upon each one of you a special Apostolic Blessing". MESS/VIS 20120104 (1190)

TRINITARIAN MONOTHEISM IS THE SOURCE OF PEACE

VATICAN CITY, 2 DEC 2011 (VIS) – Today in the Vatican, the Holy Father received participants in the annual plenary session of the International Theological Commission, which has just completed its work under the direction of its president, Cardinal William Joseph Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The Holy Father dedicated his remarks to three themes the Commission has been examining in recent years, turning first to consider the question of God and the understanding of monotheism. Benedict XVI recalled how "behind the Christian profession of faith in the one God lies the daily profession of faith of the People of Israel". However, with the incarnation of Jesus Christ, "the monotheism of the one God came to be illuminated with a completely new light: the light of the Trinity, a mystery which also illuminates brotherhood among men". For this reason theology "can help believers to become aware of and bear witness to the fact that Trinitarian monotheism shows us the true face of God, ... and is the source of personal and universal peace".

The Commission has also been studying the criteria whereby a particular form of theology may be considered as "Catholic". On this subject the Pope explained that "the starting point for all Christian theology lies in personal acceptance of divine revelation, of the Word made flesh", in "listening to the Word of God in Holy Scripture". Nevertheless, the history of the Church shows that "recognition of this starting point is not enough to achieve the unity of the faith. The Bible is always necessarily read in a certain context, and the only context in which the believer can be in full communion with Christ is the Church and her living Tradition".

Catholic theology, as it has always done over the course of its history, must continue to pay particular attention to the relationship between faith and reason. Today this is more important than ever, said Pope Benedict, "in order to avoid the violent consequences of a religiosity which opposes reason, and a reason which opposes religion".

Thirdly, the International Theological Commission has been examining the Church's Social Doctrine in the broader context of Christian doctrine. "The Church's social commitment is not a merely human activity", Benedict XVI explained, "nor is just a social theory. The transformation of society by Christians over the centuries has been a response to the coming of the Son of God into the world. ... The disciples of Christ the Redeemer know that no human community can live in peace without concern for others, forgiveness, and love even for one's enemies. ... In our indispensable collaboration for the common good, even with those who do not share our faith, we must explain the true and profound religious motivations for our social commitment. ... People who have understood the foundation of Christian social activity may also find therein a stimulus to consider faith in Jesus Christ".

In conclusion, the Pope highlighted the Church's great need for theologians' reflections "on the mystery of God in Jesus Christ and of His Church. Without healthy and vigorous theological activity the Church risks failing to give full expression to the harmony between faith and reason".

AC/VIS 20111202 (540)



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