



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.*

2 Грудень, 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. Василяни/Basilian Fathers
serving this Parish

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

27-а Неділя

Після Зшестя Святого Духа

Лука 13:10-17



Twenty-seventh Sunday

after Pentecost

Luke 13:10-17

**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.**

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 Грудень

Загальний намір: "Щоб імігранти в світі були прийняті із щедрістю любов'ю, особливо серед християнських спільнот."

Місійний намір: "Щоб Христос сам об'явився усьому людству світлом, яке сяє з Вифлеєму і відблискується в обличчі Церкви."

- Тропарі і читання в синій 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.

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, 2 Грудень:

- 10:30 рано – Парафіяльна Катехитична програма зараз по Євангелії під час Служби Божої.
- 7:00 вечора – Парастас за душу покійної Вікторії Кузик.

Понеділок, 3 Грудень:

- 8:25 рано – Служба Божа
- 10:30 рано – Похоронна Св. Літургія за душу покійної Вікторії Кузик

Четвер, 6 Грудень:

- 7:00 вечора – Біблійні Студії: Програма охоплює "Одкровення".

П'ятниця, 7 Грудень: Перша П'ятниця

- 8:25 рано – Служба Божа і Молебень до Серця Христового.

Субота, 8 Грудень:

- 9:30 рано – Сходини Л.У.К.Ж.К. піchnуться молебнем до Пречистої Діви Марії а відтак засідання у вітальні під церквою.

Неділя, 9 Грудень:

- 10:30 рано – Парафіяльна Катехитична програма зараз по Євангелії під час Служби Божої.

Четвер, 13 Грудень:

- 7:00 вечора – Біблійні Студії: Програма охоплює "Одкровення".

Неділя, 16 Грудень:

- 10:30 рано – Парафіяльна Катехитична програма зараз по Євангелії під час Служби Божої.

Понеділок, 17 Грудень

- 7:00 вечора – Сходини Парафіяльної Ради у Борд Румі.

December 2, 2012

Twenty-seventh 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 December: *“That migrants throughout the world may be welcomed with generosity and authentic love, especially by Christian communities”.*

Mission Intention for December: *“That Christ may reveal himself to all humanity with the light that shines forth from Bethlehem and us reflected in the face of his Church”.*

- Tropar, Kondak & readings for today in the BLUE 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.

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.*

Sunday, December 2:

- 10:30 am – **Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schoolers** following the reading of the Gospel during the Divine Liturgy.
- 7 pm – **Prayer Services “Parastas”** for + **Victoria Kuzik.**

Monday, December 3:

- 8:25 am – daily Divine Liturgy.
- 10:30 am – **Funeral Divine Liturgy** for + **Victoria Kuzik.**

Thursday, December 6:

- 7 pm – **BIBLE STUDIES:** we are studying **“Revelations”** in Fellowship Room.

Friday, December 7: First Friday

- 8:25 am – daily Divine Liturgy followed by Moleben to Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Saturday, December 8:

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

Sunday, December 9:

- 10:30 am – **Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schoolers** following the reading of the Gospel during the Divine Liturgy.

Thursday, December 13:

- 7 pm – **BIBLE STUDIES:** we are studying **“Revelations”** in Fellowship Room.

Monday, December 17:

- 7 pm – **Parish Council Meeting** in the Board Room.

Position of Contract Janitor/Custodian: Full time position at St. Mary’s Ukrainian Catholic Centre in Vancouver. Job description: general cleaning, floor maintenance and set up. Salary based on experience and training. Send resume to email address: office@stmarysbc.com

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.

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.

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PRAYER FOR A VIBRANT PARISH – O God, Creator of Heaven and Earth! Because of your indescribable love for us, you sent your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ – The Way, The Truth, and The Life – and our Salvation. In His name, we turn to You. Strengthen our hearts and minds in Christian love and in unity of purpose as we strive to build a Vibrant Parish. Give us the grace to model our lives according to the Word of God. Instill in us the desire to pray and to celebrate the Holy Mysteries as one Christian Family in our Parish Community. Inspire us to follow Your great command to be a servant to the less fortunate among us! Grant this, O Lord, through the mercies and love for mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Live-Giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen!

Request for Prayers: for you, your family, or friend – please submit the name to the Parish Office or submit a 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 радють 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, Mary Balevicius, Joseph Bayduza, Frances Bethune, Mary Earl, Catherine Hladij, Alice Humenick, Bohdan Karpinski, Brian Kluchkowsky, Karlo Kozy, Emily Kuzyk, Bodzie and Shirley Lawryshyn, Oscar Lyseyko, Ben Marchinkow, Jason Obuck, Orest Obuck, John Pura, Mary Scott, Wasyl Saik, Kaiya Williams, Leon Woznow.

Thank you to the Fathers for visiting Bill in the hospital, for your prayers and expression of sympathy. Thank you to St. Mary's UCWL for serving coffee following the Prayer Service.
Kay Bachewich and Family

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

If there are people you visit requesting our prayers, please call the Parish office.

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

HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV HAS INVITED YOU TO KYIV IN 2013!

His Beatitude, our Patriarch Sviatoslav, has invited the faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Church to make a pilgrimage to Kyiv in 2013 to celebrate the 1,025th anniversary of the baptism of Kyivian-Rus, Ukraine! The major celebration will be a special Divine Liturgy on Sunday August 18 at the Holy Resurrection Sobor in Kyiv. Join Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, OSBM of Winnipeg and Bishops David Motiuk of Edmonton, Ken Nowakowski of New Westminster and Bryan Bayda, C.Ss.R. of Saskatoon on an official pilgrimage to Ukraine 7-21 August. The Pilgrimage will begin in Western Ukraine visiting Lviv, Zarvanytsia, and Ternopil before proceeding to Kyiv for the major celebrations. In the next few weeks more details will be announced as soon as the program is finalized. Solaway Travel has been commissioned to assist our Church in arranging for our travel plans and accommodations on this pilgrimage. To express your interest in being part of this very exciting pilgrimage with our Bishops please contact:

Myrna Arychuk of Solaway Travel: 3819 Sunset Street, Burnaby, BC V5G 1T4
Tel: 604.430.6789 Fax: 604.430.2244. Myrna – myrna@solawaytravel.com, or **Solaway Travel** www.solawaytravel.com/

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.

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.

ПРОСИМО ДОПОМОГТИ В НАВЧАННІ НАШИМ МАЙБУТНІМ СВЯЩЕНИКАМ І ГРОМАДСЬКИМ ДІЯЧАМ! Єпископи Української Католицької Церкви у Канаді, покровителі Інституту ім. митр. Андрея Шептицького і Семінарія Святого Духа в Оттаві, постановили що, **під час місяця листопада** в кожній парафії відбудеться збірка. Щиро просимо бути щедрими у Вашій підтримці. Для отримання додаткової інформації відвідайте нашу веб сторінку: www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca

OUR FUTURE PRIESTS AND LAY LEADERS NEED YOUR SUPPORT! The Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of Canada are the patrons of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute and HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARY in Ottawa. They have authorized a collection to be taken up in each parish **during the month of November**. The education of our future priests and lay leaders depends upon your generosity. For more information on the Institute, you are invited to visit their website at: www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED in the vestibule.

DO YOU LIVE IN GREATER VANCOUVER?

HAVE YOU MOVED INTO GREATER VANCOUVER RECENTLY?

We encourage you to register your name and address and e-mail with the parish.

People come to arrange for baptisms, marriages, funerals, or special blessings. Only then do the fathers discover that they have been participating in the Liturgical Services for years but have not registered as Parishioners. We may recognize you, we may see you in church but we do not know your name or address. **Please print your name, address, telephone number, e-mail and postal code** on your donation envelope, or contact the Parish Office.

REMEMBER: To be considered a member of this Parish one must be registered in the Parish, attend the Divine Liturgy regularly and make regular contributions to maintain the Parish.

SPECIAL ENVELOPES FOR "FLOWERS and other Church Decorations". Before Christmas and before Easter, a collection is taken up for Flowers and other decorations needed for the season. Your offering is greatly appreciated. Please use a special envelope to designate your donation.

**SPECIAL ENVELOPES FOR THE
EDUCATION OF BASILIANS FOR PRIESTHOOD and MISSIONARY WORK**

Please make your contribution in the special envelope provided in your box of envelopes (the yellow envelope marked “Basilian Fathers Education Fund” dated November, 2012) or use the envelope marked “Basilian Fathers Missionary Fund” that is provided in the vestibule.

The Basilian Students aspiring to the priesthood and Missionary work live and receive their religious formation at the “Basilian House of Studies” in Edmonton. The studies or university degrees are attained through Newman Theological Seminary, which is part of the University of Alberta. **We invite you to pray for vocations and that the present students may be strengthened in their calling. Also offer your material and monetary help in providing this education for our future priests. And, pray for new vocations from our parish.**

REQUEST from the HISTORY and PICTORAL COMMITTEE: To all Parishioners

- **We are looking for pictures of any priest who served at St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church before the year 2000.** Please provide Orest Kernycky with any pictures, he will copy them and return them to you the following week. You can also put them into the collection basket, in an envelope with your name, phone number, the name of the priest, and the year the picture was taken. Thank you for your assistance.
- **ALSO:** Parishioners are encouraged to submit, to the parish office, a short biography of individual persons and/or families who have contributed to the life and growth of the Parish. These will be compiled into a book as a history of our Parish.

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

Annual Ukrainian Christmas Carol Festival and Sing-along, Sunday, Dec. 16 at 3 pm. 3150 Ash Street, Vancouver. Tickets \$12,\$11, \$10, under 12 Free. Refreshments served. For information/Christmas Caroling at your home: 604.929.2581, 604.985.7972. Sponsored by Svitanok Chorus.

Річний Фестівал Укр. Коляд, 16-го грудня, год. 3 попол. в Укр. Катол. Центрі. Вступ: \$12,\$11, \$10, діти менше 12 років вступ вільний. Кава і солодке після концерту.

Church Etiquette: Just a reminder that to have attended the entire Divine Liturgy one must be in Church and have heard the reading of the Gospel as well as the homily, participated in the responses for the consecration and received the final Blessing before leaving the church. We also ask that you do not visit in the main part of the Church (the Nave) before during or after the Service. Please use the Vestibule or the Fellowship room to conduct your conversations – leave the Church proper for those that want to pray.

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.

The children of Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Heritage School have decided to begin an annual appeal to help children in need in Ukraine. The school has decided to take part in a global fundraising program sponsored by "Caritas" in Ukraine, and entitled. "**Christmas Candle**" or "**Різдвяна свічка**". In Ukraine, the Christmas Candles are handmade by people with special needs, and distributed at the start of the Christmas Fast (or Pylipivka) through Parishes in Ukraine with the hope that the candles will be a part of the Christmas celebrations. The Funds collected by the regional Lviv Caritas branch, which we are working with, are used to help needy, disadvantaged, disabled and orphaned children.

As a show of support the children of our school will have these special Christmas Candles available starting in early December at all of the lower mainland parishes in the New Westminster Eparchy. Please consider supporting them with a minimum donation of \$5 per candle and lighting them as part of your Christmas Eve celebrations. 100% of the proceeds go to Caritas Ukraine, which is an organization that is supported and approved by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk and His Excellency Bishop Ken Nowakowski.

Please help our children in their mission to help disadvantaged children in Ukraine. For more information, please contact Fr. Yuriy Vyshnevskyy [604.526.1261](tel:604.526.1261) or Dana Lupynis [604.274.8631](tel:604.274.8631) or email holyeucharistschool@gmail.com

Учні Української Школи Пресвятої Євхаристії вирішили розпочати щорічний заклик на допомогу потребуючим дітям в Україні. Школа бере участь у міжнародній програмі збору коштів, яка спонсорується організацією "Карітас" в Україні і носить назву "Різдвяна свічка". В Україні свічки вручну виготовляють люди з особливими потребами і на початку Різдвяного посту (Пилипівки) їх розповсюджують по парафіях в Україні з надією, що свічки стануть частиною святкування Різдва. Кошти, зібрані львівським відділом Карітасу, з яким ми співпрацюємо, використовуються для допомоги потребуючим, бідним, дітям з особливими потребами та сиротам.

Як вияв підтримки, діти з нашої школи будуть продавати ці особливі Різдвяні Свічки від початку грудня у парафіях Нью-Вестмінстера, Ванкувера, Річмонда та Суррі. Просимо розглянути можливість підтримки пожертвою не менше \$5 за свічку і засвітити ці свічки вдома на Святвечір. Усі зібрані кошти будуть передані в Карітас України, організацію, яку підтримує та схвалює Блаженніший Святослав Шевчук та Преосвященний Владика Кен Новаківський.

Допоможіть нашим дітям у їхній місії для потребуючих дітей в Україні. За додатковою інформацією просимо звертатися до о. Юрія Вишневського [604.526.1261](tel:604.526.1261), Дани Лупиніс [604.274.8631](tel:604.274.8631), або на email holyeucharistschool@gmail.com

Is your child ready to receive Holy Communion – age 7 or older? Please fill out the form below and present it to Fr. Josaphat or place it on the collection Plate. OR: Are you interested in strengthening your faith?



*Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(St. Mary's)*

Ukrainian Catholic Parish

Basilian Fathers

550 West 14 Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1P6

Telephone: 604-879-5830

e-mail: office@stmarysbc.com

We will be offering a **Parish Catechism Program** for children in preparation for Holy Communion and for adults interested in strengthening their faith will begin early in the new year- 2013 and conclude in May.

Please fill out this form and hand to Father Josaphat, or place it on the collection plate or bring in to the Parish office

=====

I would like to register my child (Children) for the Preparation for Holy Communion Program.

I would like to register for the strengthening my faith program.

Name of Child _____ age _____

Name of Child _____ age _____

Name of Child _____ age _____

Name of Parents (guardian) _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Postal Code _____

RELIGION REMINDS SOCIETY OF OBJECTIVE MORAL NORMS

Vatican City, 15 October 2012 (VIS) – On 14 October, Fr. Miguel Angel Ayuso Guixot M.C.C.J., secretary of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue, addressed the Istanbul World Forum, dedicated to the theme: "Justice and the Construction of a New Global Order". In his remarks during the meeting, which took place from 13 to 14 October, Fr. Ayuso examined the essential contribution that social justice and religious freedom make to peace, and the indispensable role religions have in promoting peace and justice in global society.

"Religion", said Fr. Ayuso speaking English, "has a role in contributing to the national conversation of any given society. That conversation needs to engage with all the complexities that societies face in the modern world. Concepts such as 'justice' and 'social justice' are an integral part of that conversation. Thus, we ask ourselves, what is the contribution of religion to the national conversation about 'justice' and 'social justice'? Justice is a divine attribute, and religious teaching certainly contributes to the reflection on the right ordering of relationships, in other words, social justice. Catholic tradition, however, maintains that justice is accessible by means of human reason, to all men and women of goodwill, both religious and non religious".

"Both believer and non believer can subscribe to the innate dignity of the human person, and agree that such dignity is the reason for the inalienable rights of each individual, the protection of which is the objective of justice. ... These rights are antecedent and independent of the State, and the measure of the justice of the State is the extent by which it respects and vindicates these antecedent rights, for justice requires that all persons should be left in the free enjoyment of their rights. ... When the State fails to administer justice or, indeed, acts unjustly, it no longer has any moral authority or legitimacy. This implies that the State is subject to judgement, that it does not have absolute power that it can, and indeed, must be held to account. Our question is, therefore, who or what can hold the State to account, to ensure that it acts justly? The question is not political but moral, although the answer will require political choices".

"Since the ultimate question is moral in nature then it follows that the hallmark of a civil and just society is the proper and due space afforded to religion, which has a unique contribution in being the voice for the voiceless, a voice for the downtrodden, a voice for the oppressed, a voice for the persecuted, a prophetic voice calling all to act in peace and justice. Religion calls forth the conscience of society to act genuinely in favour of the common good. Religion, therefore, has a role in political debate, not in providing concrete political solutions, which lies outside the competence of religion, but to recall to society the objective moral norms at the basis of justice and the just society".

God's Purpose in Things

One day a woodcutter took his grandson into the forest for his first experience in selecting and cutting oak trees. These they would later sell to the boat builders. As they walked along, the woodcutter explained that the purpose of each tree is contained in its natural shape: some are straights for planks, some have the proper curves for the ribs of a boat, and some are tall for masts. The woodcutter told his grandson that by paying attention to the details of each tree, and with experience in recognizing these characteristics, someday he too might become the woodcutter of the forest.

A little way into the forest, the grandson saw an old oak tree that had never been cut. The boy asked his grandfather if he could cut it down because it was useless for boat

building – there were no straight limbs, the trunk was, short and gnarled, and the curves were going the wrong way.

“We could cut it down for firewood,” the grandson said. “At least then it will be of some use to us.”

The woodcutter replied that for now they should be about their work cutting the proper trees for the boat builders; maybe later they could return to the old oak tree.

After a few hours of cutting the huge trees, the grandson grew tired and asked if they could stop for a rest in some cool shade. The woodcutter took his grandson over to the old oak tree, where they rested against its trunk in the cool shade beneath its twisted limbs. After they had rested a while, the woodcutter explained to his grandson the necessity of attentive awareness and recognition of everything in the forest and in the world. Some things are readily apparent, like the tall, straight trees; other things are less apparent, requiring closer attention, like recognition of the proper curves in the limbs. And some things might initially appear to have no purpose at all, like the gnarled old oak tree. The woodcutter stated, “You must learn to pay careful attention every day so you can recognize and discover the purpose God has for everything in creation. For it is this old oak tree, which you so quickly deemed useless except for firewood, that now allows us to rest against its trunk amidst the coolness of its shade.

“Remember, grandson, not everything is as it first appears. Be patient, pay attention, recognize, and discover.” –Author Unknown

We live in a disposable society and an age of instant gratification. We often buy things for the sake of buying, whether we need the item or not. If it is new on the market, we immediately go out and buy it, even when we really could use the money for something else. It gives us a thrill to have the newest, the best, the one with the most attachments.

In many cases, we have forgotten how to wait for things, choosing instead, to possess them immediately.

Rather than waiting for a letter or writing a letter and sending it in the mail, which can take up to a week to get to its destination, we email or text, we skype or twitter. Rather than reading a newspaper, which may give a more complete story but takes at least a day to be printed, we pick up bits of information as soon as they occur on the internet and risk a one-sided or incomplete story.

Rather than saving money for something and living with the anticipation of the joy it will bring, once we can afford it, we go out and use our credit card, immediately bring it home and then spend up so much time paying off the bill that, at times, when we are done with payments it is time to purchase a new one.

As a consequence, if we do not see the value of something immediately, we tend to dismiss it as having no value. This is as much true of persons as it is of material goods. If a person does not appear to us as worth spending our time with, we write them off without even taking time to get to know them and discovering their gifts.

What about prayer? For some if it is not immediately answered, in the manner **I choose** to have it answered, then I begin to believe that God does not answer prayer or God does not listen, or God simply does not exist. How often do we hear these kinds of comments?

Maybe, if we can begin to turn off our need for instantaneous gratification, we can begin to discover a world filled with surprises, a life filled with the joy others can bring us, and a God whose love and gifts are innumerable.

May each of us find our own crooked tree with a purpose that brings wisdom into our lives and our world.

God Bless You, Sister Natalya, SSMI, reprinted from “The Sower”, Vol. XXVII; No. 9 pg. 19, 2012

UGCC Head introduced his Church to journalists accredited by the Vatican Press Center

UGCC Head noted that although in Ukraine there are many Catholic communities, and the number of Greek–Catholics comprises about 10 percent, there are still about 40 percent of inhabitants who do not consider themselves as members of any religious community. Therefore, the necessity of a new evangelization seems clear, as well as the need of this evangelization within the Church, only twenty years out of the underground.

As the main means of the new evangelization, capable to answer the challenges of our times, His Beatitude Sviatoslav named the family and the parish, once more emphasizing what he had said during his presentation at the Synod. The significant and unchangeable input into the new evangelization within Ukraine’s social context, in his words, emerges from the social doctrine of the Church. “Even if many people do not consider themselves part of the Church, they listen to its voice because it speaks about concrete things concerning community life. It is this that grants us respect also from the side of the Orthodox, Protestants and Jews,” noted UGCC Head.

The hierarch also described the interest in Christian faith expressed by young Muslims. The aspect which is mostly attractive to them is “Christian joy which emerges from the discovery that God is not a tyrant who demands obedience, but a Father.” This, according to him, is the “powerful sign of the Resurrected Christ.”

Journalists touched on the issue of married clergy that according to His Beatitude Sviatoslav comprises more than 90 percent in Ukraine. He noted, that this ancient tradition of the Eastern Church is acknowledged, for example, by brethren of the Latin Rite in the United States and Canada, expressing their understanding and support for married Greek–Catholic priests in these territories. However, especially in Italy, the presence of married priests is still “painful to accept,” so much so, that the Conference of Bishops rejected the proposal to allow them to come to Italy to provide pastoral care to the immigrants.

“The Italian pastors still do not understand the dynamism of the Eastern Church,” stated His Beatitude Sviatoslav, adding that the situation gets more complicated by the presence of a large number of faithful who lack pastoral care. However, he noted, “we recognize our responsibility to respect the feelings” of the local bishops since when “mutual respect is the starting point, there is always the possibility of a dialogue.” Also, according to UGCC Head statement, it is exactly through the support of the Conferences of Bishops that “our presence is at all possible in Italy or Spain.”

He also somewhat criticized the concept proposed in these countries of “ethnic chaplaincy,” included in the social and cultural aspects that bring on the threat of assimilation. “We await the moment when the local Church will realize that the presence of Ukrainians is a strength for the new evangelization and we can fully live, exercising our traditions,” noted His Beatitude Sviatoslav, sharing also the testimony of many bishops about the kind of influence that the presence of Ukrainian migrants has on the local secularized society. It is enough to mention the caretakers who lead the elderly to church or teach the children to pray.

A separate question emerges with the ecumenical dialogue and especially the relationship with the Moscow Patriarchate. UGCC Primate described the experience of the activity of the All–Ukrainian Council of Churches and religious organizations are for the building of peace. Referring to the relationship with the Russian Orthodox Church,

he noted that, “reconciliation between the Ukrainian Greek–Catholic Church and the Russian Orthodox Church is inevitable. I am taking on the role of the spokesman in this reconciliation, since without it we cannot move forward and therefore we will not become discouraged and will always remain ready to extend our hand.” Radio Vatican – UGCC Department of Information: www.ugcc.org.ua

Synod: Archbishop Shevchuk focuses on family, spiritual fatherhood and motherhood

(Vatican Radio) Finding new ways to preach the Gospel, especially in lands that have already received it, and to cultures that have been penetrated and formed by it, is one of the central points of focus for the Fathers of the XIII Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. This is a special and particular concern for the Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv–Halyč, who, at 42 years of age, is also the youngest of the Synod Fathers. He told Vatican Radio that the concept of spiritual paternity and maternity is a key to the New Evangelization. “[W]e can transmit our faith only in the context of interpersonal dialogue,” he said, “so, we need somebody who can generate us in the faith of the Church.” Archbishop Shevchuk went on to say, “[Such] are the persons we would call spiritual father [and] mother.” The Archbishop also spoke of the role of the family in fostering a sense of faith. “I received my Christian faith [during the time of the persecutions under Communism] in my family, and actually, in the former Soviet Union, Christian families were real *Ecclesiae domesticae* [domestic Churches].” He described the way the life of the larger Church informed the life of the family from within. “This was the ‘home Church’,” he said, “where a priest could come and celebrate Sacraments, where I learned a basic notion of Christian faith from my grandmother, and even in those circumstances, I learned how to pray, how to worship, how to live my life according to the Christian moral principles.”

HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV HAS INVITED YOU TO KYIV IN 2013!

His Beatitude, our Patriarch Sviatoslav, has invited the faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Church to make a pilgrimage to Kyiv in 2013 to celebrate the 1,025th anniversary of the baptism of Kyivian–Rus, Ukraine! The major celebration will be a special Divine Liturgy on Sunday August 18 at the Holy Resurrection Sobor in Kyiv. Join Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, OSBM of Winnipeg and Bishops David Motiuk of Edmonton, Ken Nowakowski of New Westminster and Bryan Bayda, C.Ss.R. of Saskatoon on an official pilgrimage to Ukraine 7–21 August. The Pilgrimage will begin in Western Ukraine visiting Lviv, Zarvanytsia, and Ternopil before proceeding to Kyiv for the major celebrations. In the next few weeks more details will be announced as soon as the program is finalized. Solaway Travel has been commissioned to assist our Church in arranging for our travel plans and accommodations on this pilgrimage. To express your interest in being part of this very exciting pilgrimage with our Bishops please contact:

**Myrna Arychuk of Solaway Travel: 3819 Sunset Street, Burnaby, BC V5G 1T4
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MARRIAGE, THE ONLY WORTHY "PLACE" IN WHICH TO PRODUCE CHILDREN

Vatican City, 25 February 2012 (VIS) – At midday today, the Holy Father received 200 scientists and members of the Pontifical Academy for Life, which is currently celebrating its eighteenth general assembly on the theme: "The diagnosis and treatment of infertility". This subject, said the Pope, "has particular scientific importance, and is an expression of the concrete possibility of fruitful dialogue between ethics and biomedical research".

"Research into diagnosis and therapy is the most scientifically correct approach to the question of infertility, as well as being the most respectful of the human condition of the people involved", said Benedict XVI. "Indeed, the union of a man and a woman, in that community of love and life which is marriage, represents the only worthy 'place' for a new human being to be called into existence".

The Pope explained how "the human and Christian dignity of procreation does not lie in a 'product', but in its bond with the conjugal act: that expression of the spouses' love for one another, that union which is not only biological but also spiritual. ... An infertile couple's legitimate aspirations to become parents must therefore, with the help of science, find a response which is fully respectful of their dignity as people and as spouses". Yet, the Holy Father said, the field of human procreation seems to be dominated "by scientism and the logic of profit", which often "restrict many other areas of research."

"The Church is attentive to the suffering of infertile couples", he added, "and her concern for them is what leads her to encourage medical research. Science, nonetheless, is not always capable of responding to the needs of many couples, and so I would like to remind those who are experiencing infertility that their matrimonial vocation is not thereby frustrated. By virtue of their baptismal and matrimonial vocation, spouses are always called to collaborate with God in the creation of a new humanity. The vocation to love, in fact, is a vocation of self-giving and this is something which no bodily condition can impede. Therefore, when science cannot provide an answer, the light-giving response comes from Christ."

Benedict XVI invited the participants in the general assembly to continue to develop "a science which is intellectually honest and dedicated to the continual search for the good of mankind. ... Indifference towards truth and goodness is a dangerous threat to authentic scientific progress", he warned. In conclusion, the Pope encouraged his audience to dialogue with faith because "it was Christian culture – rooted in the affirmation of the existence of Truth, and the intelligibility of reality in the light of Supreme Truth – which enabled modern scientific knowledge to develop in mediaeval Europe, a knowledge which in earlier cultures had remained in the bud."

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 moulded 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 realises he is the object of a love which purifies, warms, renews, and makes us capable of serving mankind with divine love".

PLENARY INDULGENCE FOR THE YEAR OF FAITH

Vatican City, 5 October 2012 (VIS) – According to a decree made public today and signed by Cardinal Manuel Monteiro de Castro and Bishop Krzysztof Nykiel, respectively penitentiary major and regent of the Apostolic Penitentiary, Benedict XVI will grant faithful Plenary Indulgence for the occasion of the Year of Faith. The indulgence will be valid from the opening of the Year on 11 October 2012 until its end

on 24 November 2013.

"The day of the fiftieth anniversary of the solemn opening of Vatican Council II", the text reads, "the Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI has decreed the beginning of a Year especially dedicated to the profession of the true faith and its correct interpretation, through the reading of – or better still the pious meditation upon – the Acts of the Council and the articles of the Catechism of the Catholic Church".

"Since the primary objective is to develop sanctity of life to the highest degree possible on this earth, and thus to attain the most sublime level of pureness of soul, immense benefit may be derived from the great gift of Indulgences which, by virtue of the power conferred upon her by Christ, the Church offers to everyone who, following the due norms, undertakes the special prescripts to obtain them".

"During the Year of Faith, which will last from 11 October 2012 to 24 November 2013, Plenary Indulgence for the temporal punishment of sins, imparted by the mercy of God and applicable also to the souls of deceased faithful, may be obtained by all faithful who, truly penitent, take Sacramental Confession and the Eucharist and pray in accordance with the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.

"(A) Each time they attend at least three sermons during the Holy Missions, or at least three lessons on the Acts of the Council or the articles of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, in church or any other suitable location.

"(B) Each time they visit, in the course of a pilgrimage, a papal basilica, a Christian catacomb, a cathedral church or a holy site designated by the local ordinary for the Year of Faith (for example, minor basilicas and shrines dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Apostles or patron saints), and there participate in a sacred celebration, or at least remain for a congruous period of time in prayer and pious meditation, concluding with the recitation of the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate form, and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary and, depending on the circumstances, to the Holy Apostles and patron saints.

"(C) Each time that, on the days designated by the local ordinary for the Year of Faith, ... in any sacred place, they participate in a solemn celebration of the Eucharist or the Liturgy of the Hours, adding thereto the Profession of Faith in any legitimate form.

"(D) On any day they chose, during the Year of Faith, if they make a pious visit to the baptistery, or other place in which they received the Sacrament of Baptism, and there renew their baptismal promises in any legitimate form.

"Diocesan or eparchal bishops, and those who enjoy the same status in law, on the most appropriate day during that period or on the occasion of the main celebrations, ... may impart the papal blessing with the Plenary Indulgence".

The document concludes by recalling how faithful who, due to illness or other legitimate cause, are unable to leave their place of abode, may still obtain Plenary Indulgence "if, united in spirit and thought with other faithful, and especially at the times when the words of the Supreme Pontiff and diocesan bishops are transmitted by television or radio, they recite ... the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate form, and other prayers that concord with the objectives of the Year of Faith, offering up the suffering and discomfort of their lives".