



Українська Католицька Парафія
Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці

Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian
Catholic Parish

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

30 Червня, 2013

Volume 58 No. 26

June 30, 2013

Служби Божі/Divine Liturgies

В Неділю/Sunday

8:30 am partially sung

10:30 am sung

У Свята/Holy Day of Obligation

10:00 am and 7:00 pm

Щодня/Daily Scheduled

8:20 am in church

First Friday - 8:20 am Divine Liturgy followed
by Moleben to the Sacred Heart of Jesus or
Mother of God

Сповіді - 30 хвилин перед Службою Божою
або наперед домовитися під час тижня

Confessions - 30 minutes before the Divine
Liturgy or by appointment during the week

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**

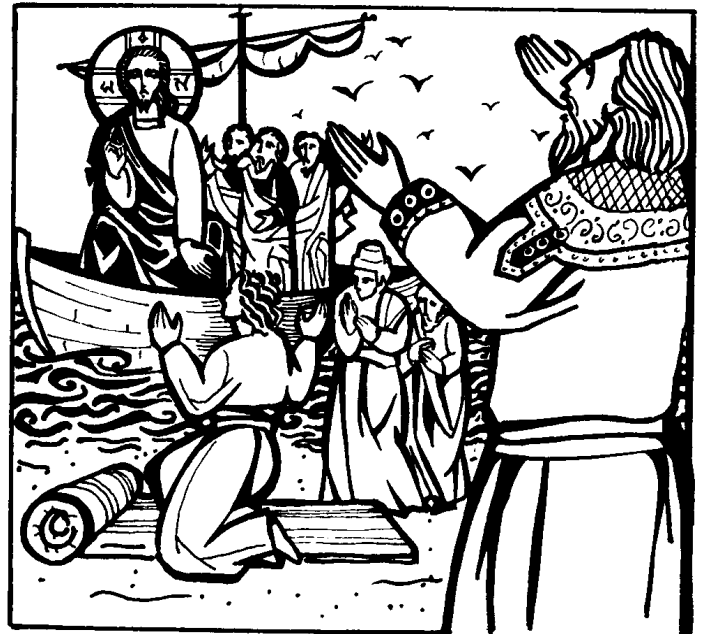
Father Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Pastor
Most Rev. Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM

Bishop Emeritus

6-а Неділя по Зісланні

Святого Духа

Маттея 9:1-8



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 9:1-8

**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 зєдналися 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 Червень

Загальний намір: Діялог серед народів. Щоб серед народів перемагала культура діалогу і взаємної пошани.

Місійний намір: Нова Євангелізація. Щоб у середовищах більш секуляризованих, християнські громади могли поширювати ефективніше нову Євангелізацію.

- Тропарі і читання в фіолетовій книжці на стор. 13 і 14 .

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

В цьому часі тільки один священник буде служити в парафії. Щоби вз'яти участь у Св. Сповіді, заохочуємо Вас приходити до церкви 30 хвилин скоріше перед Св. Літургію. Ви можете також наперед домовитися і прийти до Каплиці в нашій резиденції під час тижня.

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 допоможим, щоби наші лавки були чисті й акуратні.

Сьогодні, Неділя, 30 Червень: 6-а Неділя по Зісланні Святого Духа

- 9:50 ранку – Молебень до Серця Христового.

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

П'ятниця, 5 липня: Перша П'ятниця

- 8:20 ранку – Служба Божа а від так Молебень до Серця Христового.

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.

CAMP ST. VOLODYMYR August 18 – 25th, 2013 Camp St. Volodymyr will be celebrating its 30th anniversary. We have been enriching campers in their Ukrainian Catholic Faith and Culture since 1983. Located in Kelowna campers spend a week participating in age tailored activities such as Ukrainian dancing, arts & crafts, singing, catechesis, sports and water activities. Camper fees: \$260 before July 4, \$310 after July 5. 3rd/4th child from same family is \$150 each. Bus transportation is available from New Westminster. Registration forms can be downloaded from the eparchial website at www.nweparchy.ca/. For more information contact Jennifer Sawka @ 604.876.5691 jennsawka@hotmail.com. Register early. Space is limited!

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

Special Petition for Evangelization – *Let us ask our Heavenly Father for His gifts of wisdom & courage in our efforts of spreading the Good News and building up God's kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.*

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

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.

YEAR OF FAITH Heavenly Father, we ask for Your blessings as we celebrate this Year of Faith that we may deepen our personal encounter with Christ, that we may be more able to share our faith with those around us; to share our love for the Church and its people as Christ showed His love for us. By this, we renew our baptismal call by living out our daily moments with faith, hope and love. We ask through the prayers of the Most Holy Mother of God and all the saints. Amen.

A quiet, Catholic female student from Mexico, fluent in Spanish, English, speaks intermediate French, and a little bit of German is looking for room and board in a Ukrainian Catholic family as soon as possible. If you can help, please call the parish office.

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 does the Pastor 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.

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

Monthly Papal Intentions for JUNE

General Intention: - Mutual Respect - That a culture of dialogue, listening, and mutual respect may prevail among peoples.

Missionary Intention: - New Evangelization - That where secularization is strongest, Christian communities may effectively promote a new evangelization.

- **Tropar, Kondak & readings** in the purple booklet pages 13 & 14.

- **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.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE - there will be only one priest serving the parish. To participate in the Mystery of Reconciliation, (Confession), we are encouraging you to come 30 minutes before the Divine Liturgies. You may also make an appointment to come during the week to the chapel in the rectory.

A SPECIAL Request: At the conclusion of each Divine Liturgy, please close all Liturgy and/or hymn books and return them to their proper place. Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or other reading material in the pews. Each and every participant is invited to do their part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church pew pockets and pews clean and neat. Thank you.

TODAY, Sunday, June 30: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

- **9:50 am – Moleben to the Sacred Heart.**

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

Friday, July 5: - First Friday

- **8:20 am – Divine Liturgy followed by Moleben to the Sacred Heart.**

Special Petition for Vocations - We pray for those in the religious and consecrated life and for those in vocation discernment, hear us O Lord and have mercy.

You may purchase a DVD of Major Archbishop Sviatoslav's September 1 visit. The cost of this commemorative DVD is \$10. This DVD contains the complete Divine Liturgy celebrating Bishop Budka's hundredth anniversary of arrival to Canada. Please indicate how many copies you would like.

During the month of June we will be having a **Moleben to Christ the Lover of Mankind** each **Sunday at 9:50 am**. In the Latin tradition, the Feast of Christ the Lover of Mankind is known as the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The difference? Really, there is none, other than the Byzantine Catholics hold to an older tradition and remembrance. At the beginning of the last century, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky strove to establish the true spiritual welfare of the Ukrainian nation. Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, he gave our Church and our nation an actual cure for the spiritual disease of modernism, and that was the worship of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus that was to be promoted by the Parish organization of the Apostleship of Prayer. This produced a sound piety that brought hundreds of martyrs for the sake of our Eastern Catholic Church (in the years 1946-1990). These prophetic words of Metropolitan Andrey, uttered 100 years ago are extremely topical even today: *“Drawing close to the Saviour, finding refuge in His Heart, perhaps is a way similar to the one we use to draw close to a man. When we want to draw close to a man (or woman’s) heart, we strike the most accessible and warmest part of his soul. A hundred times it happens to us in our relations with people that we must use the phrase ‘I rely on your good heart’. I know people who hearing these words get soft, anger melts, indifference yields”*.

To Request Prayers for: yourself, your family, or a friend - please submit the name to the Parish Office or place a 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; fellow parishioners; those confined to their hospital beds or their homes; 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: Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Fr. Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Fr. Steven Basarab, Mary Balsevicius, Joseph Bayduza, Frances Bethune, Elizabeth Duda, Mary Earl, Quenten Fabiano, Catherine Hladij, Alice Humenick, Bohdan Karpinski, Emily Kuzyk, Bodzie and Shirley Lawryshyn, Ben Marchinkow, Joseph Nadelko, Roma Nowakowski, (Bishop Ken’s mother), Orest Obuck, John Pura, Mary Scott, Dave Shelast, Tiny Zarski.

Please Visit: our Parishioners in their homes or in the hospital. They need your visit, your phone call, as well as your prayers.

Please pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

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

Молитва Митрополита Андрея Шептицького за українську родину

Боже великий, Боже отців наших! Дай нашому народові якнайбільше добрих, святих християнських родин. Дай нам таких батьків, які голосно й відверто признавалися б до божественної Твоєї Євангелії і до Твоєї служби. Дай нам батьків, які для своїх дітей були б прикладом християнського життя, правдивими опікунами та добрими провідниками в житті. Дай нам таких матерів, що вмiли б добре, по-християнськи виховувати своїх дітей, а для своїх чоловіків були б поміччю, потіхою та доброю радою. Дай нам таких дітей, які були б потіхою та славою батьків і красою свого народу. Благослови, всемогутній Боже, український нарід. Даруй йому ласку вірно Тобі служити і доступити колись вічної нагороди в небі, бо Тобі, Боже, у Святій Тройці єдиний, Отче, Сину і Духу Святий, належить вся слава, честь і поклін навіки вічні. Амінь.

Prayer by Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky for Ukrainian Families

God Almighty, O God of our Fathers! Grant to our nation many good and holy Christian families. Give us fathers who will loudly and openly confess your holy Gospel and be in Your service. Give us fathers who will be a good example of Christian life for their children, true protectors and good leaders in life. Grant us mothers who are capable of bringing up their children in a Christian way, and are a joy and help as well as good advisors for their husbands. Grant us children who will be the pride and joy of their parents and the splendour of their nation. Almighty God, bless our Ukrainian nation. Grant her the grace to faithfully serve You and one day to be granted the eternal reward in heaven. For You are a good and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

You will be remembered in a very special way during every Divine Liturgy. In order for this to happen you are invited to make a donation towards the purchase of Deacon, Lector, and Acolyte vestments.

We are planning to purchase three sets of Deacon/Lector vestments in the following colours: Gold, Blue and Red: each set will cost \$800 and one set of white vestments at a cost of \$1,000. We also need to purchase one set of White Acolyte (Altar Server) vestments (for taller servers) at a cost of not more than \$1,000/set. Total cost – \$3,400.

Each time the Deacon, Lector or Altar Server vests, they include in their prayers the persons that have provided them with the vestment.

Your donation is greatly appreciated. May the Mother of God continue to intercede for you before the throne of God!

DONATIONS To date:	UCWLC	1,000.
	Anonymous	<u>1,700.</u>
To date total donations:		2,700.

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
By: Father Michael Venditti at ByzantineCatholicPriest.com.

The Divine Liturgy, Part Six:
“The Wisdom, be attentive!” The Little Entrance and the significance of the Gospel Book”



We have discussed the beginning of the Divine Liturgy consisting of the prayers of the priest and deacon before the icon screen, as well as the vesting ceremonies. We talked about the Proskomedia in detail, the Great Ektenia or Litany of Peace, and the Antiphons, with a concentration on the *Monogenes* or Hymn of the Incarnation. What occurs next, of course, is the Little Entrance, when the priest (or deacon, if there is one) processes out of the Northern Door of the Iconostas carrying the Book of the Gospels, and walks in again through the Royal doors, placing the Gospels on the Holy Table, where he took it from in the first place. It is called the Little Entrance to distinguish it from the Great Entrance,

when the priest does the same thing carrying the gifts of Bread and Wine from the table of preparation to the Holy Table.

Now, an outside observer who has never seen our Liturgy before — and who has no experience with Christian Liturgy — could very easily ask himself, “What is going on?” The priest or deacon takes the Gospel Book from the Altar, walks around in a circle, then puts it back right where he found it. What is the point? Why not just leave it where it is and save yourself the trip? But you already know the answer, I am sure: this is a highly symbolic act, which is grounded in a lot of history.

You will remember when we were talking about the Proskomedia, and how the bishop would originally perform this ceremony in a separate building, then bring the gifts to the Church in a solemn procession which survives today as the Great Entrance. Well, the little entrance has a similar history, which is not actually connected to the Divine Liturgy. It is first described in the writings of Etheria in the year 390. During her visit to Jerusalem, she describes the entrance of the bishop into the Church of the Resurrection.

Now, in her description, she is attending not a Divine Liturgy, but a celebration of one of the daily offices of prayer similar to those services done during the penitential seasons; and what she describes does not involve carrying the Gospel book, since no Gospel would have been read at such a service. As a matter of fact, the prayer that the priest prays silently to himself as he is making this walk today, is the original prayer from the service she is describing, and does not mention the Gospel at all:

O Lord, our Master and God, who in heaven established orders and armies of angels and archangels for the service of Your glory, make this our entrance to be an entrance of holy angels, serving together with us, and with us glorifying Your goodness. For to You is due all glory, etc., etc.

There is no mention of the Gospel there. In fact, the prayer says very plainly, “... make this our entrance ... ,” not the entrance of the Gospel but of the priests and other ministers. Obviously, this entrance was originally the beginning of some other service. How it came to be connected with the Divine Liturgy and how the Gospel Book got included in it is not all that clear; though, as you can imagine, there are countless theories, which I am sure you are not interested in hearing. Our old friend, St. Germanus — who is so fond, as you know, of saying “Who knows and who cares?” — does not say much about it at all, which is probably wise.

But what is interesting is that, in the Roman Liturgy with which I know many of you are familiar, the Mass begins with a procession with the priest and other ministers walking in from the back of the Church; — very different from the way our Liturgy begins — and it is stipulated that, during this procession, the priest or deacon carries the Book of the Gospels and places it on the altar. Now, you do not often see that in Roman Churches today, simply because the priest probably just does not want to be bothered. I always did it when I was a Latin rite priest, but that is because I always did things by the book, no pun intended. Most likely, the Little Entrance that we know today, with the priest or deacon carrying the Book of the Gospels out of one door and in another, developed as a result of the influence of other Liturgical traditions on the Eastern Liturgy. Some have suggested that it developed in parish churches where the bishop was not present, with the Gospel book representing the bishop who stood in the place of Christ. Whatever its origin may be, it was certainly in place when St. Germanus wrote about it, who tells us that the entrance of the Gospel Book represents the presence and entrance of Christ. And from that point on, the Gospel book itself came to be a profound symbol of Christ himself.

What other reason would we have of adorning the Gospel Book with an elaborately decorated cover, the way we do? When the singing of the Gospel is completed, the Gospel Book stands up on the Altar itself, as if Christ himself is presiding over the Liturgy that is taking place there. Even an outside observer with no contact with

Christianity would be immediately aware that this was no ordinary book, especially when the priest raises it over his head and shouts, “Wisdom! Be attentive!” What you may not be aware of is that the word “Wisdom” here does not refer to the simple fact that there is wisdom contained in the words of the book. “Wisdom” is another name for Christ, dating from the earliest days of Christianity. The Church of Holy Wisdom in Constantinople—*Hagia Sophia* in Greek, built by Justinian, and where St. Germanus and many other patriarchs before and after him celebrated the Divine Liturgy — is really titled the Church of the Holy Saviour. For the early Christians, as it is for us, the Gospel is Christ. That is why, after the singing of the Gospel, the Gospel Book stands up on the Holy Table right there with the Eucharist itself. The Altar is for Christ alone — Christ in the Eucharist as well as Christ in the Gospel. And when we hear these words sung to us by the priest, we are not just hearing stories about Jesus in the way that one might tell a bedtime story to a child; we are hearing the voice of Christ himself. That is why only the priest can read the Gospel at the Divine Liturgy: because the priest at the Liturgy stands in the place of Christ, so only he can pronounce the words of Christ. That is why we stand when the Gospel is read: because we are being addressed by our Lord.

Of course, hearing the Gospel is one thing; putting it into practice is another. We all suffer from that hardship. But it can help to motivate us if we keep in mind that, in the Gospel, Christ himself is standing before us and speaking. It is much more difficult to ignore someone when you realize he is standing right there before you.

PRAYER FOR EVANGELIZATION ‘YEAR OF FAITH’ - O God, who wills that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of truth, pour out Your Spirit upon us and grant that we may respond zealously to Your urgent call to lead back to the Church those who have strayed. Prepare their hearts and minds to be receptive to the saving Gospel of Your Son. Send us workers to gather in Your abundant harvest, so that all Your people, obedient to the Word and sustained by the power of the Sacraments, may advance in the way of Salvation and love. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

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 Life-Giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen!

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: 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.

A selfish culture without truth is dangerous: EWTN host

A culture of relativists and narcissists is dragging Western society downwards, says father Mitch Pacwa, SJ, of the Eternal Word television Network (EWTN).

The star of “EWTN Live” spoke to a crowd of mostly university-aged students at Star of the Sea Parish June 2 as part of the parish’s “Be Transformed in Christ” event.

Father Pacwa said the philosophy of relativism and the psychological mood of narcissism have combined in the West to produce a culture with no understanding of objective truth, a culture full of ignorant people.

He first explained the dangers of relativism in today’s society.

“To a relativist there is no such thing as objective truth,” Father Pacwa said. “They say, ‘If you have your truth, and I have my truth, then I will not judge your truth, and you will not judge my truth, and we can live happily and easily together,’”

Father Pacwa said relativists sometimes use Mt 7:1 to set their agenda. In the Gospel story Jesus tells a crowd, “Do not judge.”

“That verse has taken on a life of its own in modern society,” Father Pacwa said. “They do not know the next part of that sentence which is, ‘Do not judge so that you may not be judged.’”

He said the relativist’s mind-set is illogical because it fails to recognize objective truth. He believes relativists should say they do not know if there is a truth instead of “accepting” everyone’s “truths.”

Father Pacwa said this mind-set is dangerous because it means disagreements cannot be thought through rationally. Instead arguments and conflicts are won through “power plays.”

“What is left for the relativists is that might makes right,” he said.

Father Pacwa told a story from his days as a professor, when he would get various journals from universities. He said history professors reported that students with a relativistic point of view had a hard time saying the Nazis were wrong for having death camps in WWII.

“Their relativism made it impossible to say that the Nazi persecutions of Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, and others were immoral.”

He then moved on to the topic of narcissism, which is epidemic in today’s society, especially in young people.

“Narcissism leaves no room for loving God or other people.” This mind-set, he said, is also prevalent in young people’s sexual relationships.

“People want to have a person who looks good and is ‘up to their standard.’”

He said narcissism has also decreased society’s moral compass. He referred to the series finale of the TV show “Seinfeld” as an example.

In it, as a man gets robbed, the show’s characters watch, filming the situation and laughing. They are arrested under the aptly named “Good Samaritan” law and get prison sentences.

Father Pacwa said Seinfeld fans hated the episode because it depicted what society has become.

Relativism and narcissism have produced a society incapable of taking personal responsibility, he said, warning that lack of understanding of objective truth by a selfish society would lead to a dangerous less aware society.

“When the majority of people do not know things, it is very easy for them to be bamboozled by the few who do.”

BC Catholic, June 18, 2012 page 15 written by Nathan Rumohr

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 true of persons as it is of material goods. If a person does not appear to be worthy enough to spend 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 from The Sower, Vol. XXVII; No. 9 page 19



St. Joseph, guardian of Jesus and chaste husband of Mary, you passed your life in loving fulfillment of duty. You supported the holy family of Nazareth with the work of your hands. Kindly protect our fathers who trustingly come to you. You know their aspirations, their hardships, and their hopes. They look to you because they know you will understand and protect them. You too knew trial, labour and weariness. But amid the worries of material life your soul was full of deep peace and sang out in true joy through intimacy with God's Son entrusted to you and with Mary, his tender Mother. Assure those you protect that they do not labour alone. Teach them to find Jesus near them and to watch over them faithfully.