Philadelphia—Monday morning, June 8 the Archeparchy Chancery resumed normal operations after being closed for several months by the coronavirus pandemic.

The day began with a chancery staff meeting held in the conference room, chaired by Archbishop Borys Gudziak. This was the first time since March 17 that the entire chancery staff had been together.

During the session, Archbishop Borys provided an inspirational scriptural reading and asked everyone to share their reflections on the impact the covid-19 virus had on their personal lives and what spiritual meaning they discerned for the world from this pandemic.

After a short break, before lunch the staff gathered in the chancery chapel to pray the Sixth Hour, which was led by Archbishop Borys.

Since mid-March, in compliance with the safe practices policies suggested by governmental agencies, the chancery was officially closed. However, during that time Archbishop Borys, Bishop Andriy Rabiy and other chancery personnel from time to time would continue to come in to the chancery to keep up with ongoing archieparchial needs and requests.
Rosary walk in city brings prayer, healing to troubled streets

By Gina Christian
Posted June 9, 2020

Some 200 area faithful took to the streets of downtown Philadelphia on Sunday afternoon, June 7 for a “Rosary Walk for Healing and Peace” in a city and nation beset by disease and division.

The two-hour procession was led by Father Dennis Gill, director of the archdiocesan Office for Divine Worship and rector of the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, which was the starting point for the event.

“We come together to pray for many things today,” said Father Gill, stressing the intercessory power of Jesus before God the Father, and of Mary “who brings all of our needs to her divine Son.”

Archbishop Nelson Perez joined the participants for the length of the walk, as did Archbishop Borys Gudziak, metropolitan archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States.

Wearing face masks, priests, women religious and laity of all ages walked in the procession, which was accompanied by a Philadelphia Police Department escort.

The procession — during which all four sets of rosary mysteries were recited — wound past City Hall and continued down streets closed to traffic.

Participants also recited the Litany of the Sacred Heart, since “June is the month of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus,” said Father Gill.

Focusing on Christ’s heart and on our own is essential in healing society, said Archbishop Gudziak.

“The Lord is waking up the world,” he said. “We can’t overcome the sinfulness of our human nature without God’s grace, and so we pray. We need to convert and treat each other with dignity — black, white, brown, male, woman, handicapped, non-handicapped, born and un-born. That is our vocation and our prayer.”

The rosary is a perfect prayer for this mission, said event organizer David Sao of the Culture Project, since “in times of trouble we scream out for our mom.”

George Floyd, who was killed May 25 under Minneapolis police restraint, did just that in a video capturing his final minutes, in which he called out for his late mother as he died.

David Sao said the rosary walk, which concluded with a blessing from Archbishops Perez and Gudziak, was a moment to invoke Mary, the mother of all.

Adapted from an article on https://catholicphilly.com/2020/06/news/local-news/rosary-walk-in-city-brings-prayer-healing-to-troubled-streets/?fbclid=IwAR1oM9L0VvZZILg1vdVdpYf624BFNK076dcIPyx-R9S_oNf4rJcom06Ko
Eternal Memory
Sr. Mary Ann Botsko, SSIMI
1955 - 2020

Sr. Mary Ann Botsko, a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate, passed away at Nyack Hospital in Nyack, NY on June 10, 2020. She was 65 years old and 39 years in Religious Life.

She was born on April 15, 1955 along with her twin brother Jerome in Donora, PA. John and Mary Botsko nurtured the faith of their four children, John, Thomas, Jerome and Mary Ann. They were parishioners of St. Michael’s Byzantine Catholic Church in Pittsburgh, PA. Sr. Mary Ann attributed her vocation to Consecrated Life and her twin brother’s vocation to the priesthood, the fruits of the continued prayers of their grandmother for vocations.

Sr. Mary Ann spent a few years in teaching and at St. Basil’s Seminary Library in Stamford, but most of her years of ministry were in Sloatsburg, NY. Her ministry at St. Mary’s Spiritual & Educational Center was to serve and care for the retreatants. Retreatants remember her willingness to spend time talking with them, her contagious smile, her joyful presence and uplifting laugh. Sr. Mary Ann also served at St. Joseph’s Adult Care Home as Activity Director, as the elderly were always close to her heart.

Her life of prayer and service to the Church and the Sisters Servants was done in a simple, but faithful manner. She was sincere and conscientious about her religious life, prayer life, and felt strongly that this was her calling. Although she liked to stay in the background, we know she affected the lives of many. She did much to spread God’s love behind the scenes.

A tribute to her memory by Fr. Paul Wolensky expresses the simplistic, yet powerful witness Sr. Mary Ann gave as a Sister Servant. “I especially recall Sr. Mary Ann’s kind welcome of me whenever our paths crossed at various church events. She possessed a kindness and joyful demeanor, which I will never forget. Her happiness in her vocation and infectious laughter and smile, gave me a glimpse of the wonderful relationship she enjoyed with our Lord Jesus and His Most Blessed Mother Mary. What a great example she gave to those around her.”

On June 14th at 6:30 p.m., Msgr. John Terlecky, Chaplain, and Fr. Jerome Botsko blessed the casket and celebrated the Parastas for the repose of Sr. Mary Ann’s soul.

On June 15th, Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Ukrainian Eparchy of Stamford; Bishop Kurt Burnett, Byzantine Eparchy of Passaic; Fr. Jerome Botsko and Msgr. Terlecky, chaplain for the Sisters Servants, celebrated the Funeral Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of Sr. Mary Ann. In his homily, Bishop Paul spoke about the calling of the first apostles and compared the apostles’ response to both Sr. Mary Ann and her brother Fr. Jerome, in answering positively, even though they may not have really known what that call entailed, but were willing to risk everything. Bishop noted that she was a woman of prayer; and although she never held positions of authority in the Congregation, but she was a prayerful presence to the Sisters and those whose life she touched.

Fr. Jerome Botsko shared about how much of an impact his sister, Sr. Mary Ann, made on his priestly life. Sr. Kathleen Hutsko, Provincial Superior, shared in her homily how Sr. Mary Ann’s life of prayer and service to the Church and the Sisters Servants was done in a simple and faithful manner. Interment was at the Sisters Servants Cemetery in Sloatsburg, NY. Eternal Memory!
OPENING OF PARISHES

The following parishes of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia will start having PUBLIC Divine Liturgies and other services the weekend of June 6-7, 2020, as scheduled, and with all precautions of public health safety being observed:

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (Philadelphia, PA)
Christ the King (Philadelphia, PA)
St. Nicholas (Philadelphia, PA)
St. Michael the Archangel (Jenkintown, PA)
Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women (Swarthmore, PA)
Annunciation of BVM (Melrose Park, PA)
Presentation of Our Lord (Lansdale, PA)
St. Anne (Warrington, PA)
Patronage of the Mother of God (Bristol, PA)
Sts. Peter & Paul (Phoenixville, PA)
St. Michael the Archangel (Pottstown, PA)
Nativity of BVM (Reading, PA)
St. Andrew (Lancaster, PA)
Sts. Peter & Paul (Bridgeport, PA)
St. Nicholas (St. Clair, PA)
St. Michael the Archangel (Shenandoah, PA)
Holy Ghost (West Easton, PA)
St. Josaphat (Bethlehem, PA)
St. John the Baptist (Northampton, PA)
Sts. Peter & Paul (Simpson, PA)
St. Volodymyr the Great (Scranton, PA)
Sts. Peter & Paul (Plymouth, PA)
Transfiguration of Our Lord (Nanticoke, PA)
Sts. Cyril & Methodius (Olyphant, PA)
Sts. Peter and Paul (Mount Carmel, PA)
Assumption of BVM (Centralia, PA)
Ascension of Our Lord (Sayre, PA)
Patronage of the Mother of God (Marion Heights, PA)
Transfiguration of Our Lord (Shamokin, PA)
St. Michael (Frackville, PA)
St. John the Baptist (Maizeville, PA)
St. Volodymyr the Great (Palmerton, PA)
Sts. Cyril & Methodius (Berwick, PA)
St. Nicholas (Glen Lyons, PA)
St. Nicholas (Minersville, PA)
Nativity of BVM (Middleport, PA)
Patronage of the Mother of God (McAdoo, PA)
St. Michael (Hazleton, PA)
St. Volodymyr the Great (Edwardsville, PA)
Sts. Peter & Paul (Wilkes Barre, PA)

ALL PARISHES IN PENNSYLVANIA WILL BE OPEN ON JUNE 6-7, 2020.

St. Nicholas (Wilmington, DE)
St. Basil (Chesapeake City, MD)
Sts. Joachim and Anna (Front Royal, VA outdoors)
Annunciation of BVM (Manassas, VA) on Saturdays at 5PM (outside)

ALL PARISHES IN NEW JERSEY WILL BE OPEN ON FATHER’S DAY WEEKEND JUNE 20-21, 2020.

*St. Andrew Mission Parish in Lancaster, PA opening is still pending*

Please contact parish offices for more information and schedule.

Pennsylvania counties in green will still be asked to restrict nursing home visitations, and restrict large gathering in entertainment venues.

Decisions on opening churches for public services depend foremost on decisions of state or local authorities to lift quarantine and Stay at Home order. As soon as it happens, pastors will prepare their churches for services and make an official announcement about when services will start. We will continue monitoring the situation.

Deacon Volodymyr was born in 1991 in the Lviv-region of Ukraine. He grew up in Belarus and graduated in 2015 from the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine. On August 19, 2017 Volodymyr was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Borys Gudziak (now Archbishop of Philadelphia) for the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Volodymyr the Great, Paris, France.

The dissertation for his Licentiate explored the subject of gender dysphoria, analyzing and coinciding the anthropology of Judith Butler and St. Pope John Paul II. Volodymyr illuminated the distinguished moral and psychologically-emotional consequences of the affirmative treatment of dysphoria.

Archbishop Borys Gudziak participated in the defense of Deacon Volodymyr’s thesis. The work was well-written in the academic French language. The discussion pursuant to the defense of the thesis was more about the subject than about the text itself.

As Deacon Volodymyr was pursuing this degree from Paris, he at the same time studied at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, near Philadelphia in Wynnewood. Having obtained a visa, Deacon Volodymyr had begun his studies for the first time in an English-speaking country, namely the United States. He studied well and received a 5.0 (straight-A) average for all his courses taken during the second semester.

In addition to his studies, Deacon Volodymyr accompanied Archbishop Borys on his pastoral visits to a number of parishes in our Philadelphia Archeparchy. Deacon has been a confrere and faithful co-worker with Archbishop Borys even on a daily basis. Deacon Volodymyr presently resides at the Archbishop’s residence in Philadelphia. Archbishop Gudziak has expressed his gratitude for Deacon Volodymyr’s faithful service and wishes him: Many happy and blessed years!

-Rev. D. George Worschak
Summer Camp Cancellation

While we were very much looking forward to welcoming everyone to the Spirituality Center and monastery grounds, we are cancelling our summer camp due to COVID-19. Education, especially of youth, is a fundamental dimension of the ministry of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great. Yet we must prioritize the safety and well-being of campers and their families.

We are praying each day for the health and flourishing in Christ of all those we serve. And we look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Sr. Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM
Provincial Superior

E-mail “The Way” about news and events in your parish

“The Way” would like to increase coverage of parish life by including more articles of events that occur in parishes in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

Kindly submit articles together with a photo or two on a regular basis of events and activities happening in your parishes to: theway@ukrcap.org

Subscribe to “The Way” by e-mail!

If you or someone you know would like to receive “The Way” by e-mail and currently are not on our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to: theway@ukrcap.org

“The Way” appreciates your support! Thank you!
Mount Carmel Religious Pray for Peace

On June 7, 2020, Clergy and nuns of the Mt. Carmel Area Ministerium Prayed for Peace in Town Park in Mount Carmel. Among the participants was Fr. Michael Hutsko from Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Mount Carmel, PA.

Shamokin, Pa. News Item-Monday, June 8, 2020
https://www.newsitem.com/news/local/prayer/image_f0e39c00-ee29-572c-a87a-3ece10c5cf30.html

All parishes in Pennsylvania are open to the public as of June 6-7, 2020.

So wonderful to see the faithful gathering in the pews at the Cathedral in Philadelphia.

Photos: Sunday, June 14, 2020

Very Rev. Roman Pitula
Sr. Zenovia Chmilar - Vocation—Poklykanya—a Calling...

Along this journey of life I believe all human beings are created to love and be loved...for GOD IS LOVE. Are you called to the married, the single, the consecrated religious life or the priesthood? It is when you listen with your heart and reflect deep within that you are able to make the best positive choice...for GOD MAKES ALL THINGS POSSIBLE.

My parents were forced to leave their native land of Ukraine after WWII and work in several camps in Germany. Both my sister and I were born in Germany. In 1950, I became very sick and our plans to travel to America had to be delayed. Finally, in 1951, we arrived and stayed in Bayonne, NJ for a short time. We then moved to Rochester, NY, where my brother was born.

My “growing-up years” were difficult, but full of love, faith, hope, excitement and learning. We were surrounded by people who loved and lived in togetherness. Life revolved around family/friends, church, school and youth organization activities. My good, prayerful, dedicated and hard-working parents showed us right values and the meaning of sacrifice and compassion. The pastors, sisters and teachers of St. Josaphat Church and School re-enforced these values. They taught us to be the best we could be through hard work and study. They gave practical lessons in life and transmitted an excellent Catholic education. For this I am very grateful. As a Sodality member I was part of the helping crew for Sr. Luke in the Church and Sacristy. It was a big moment when we went for an errand to the convent kitchen. I was always intrigued with the Sisters and felt a strong drive within to live the life of a Sister; even though I had no idea what it was really like.

I attended Monroe Community College and worked part-time. The strong drive to be a Sister continued in my life. After much prayerful reflection, I decided to take the challenging step of joining the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. I knew I had to act on this decision. I began helping the Sisters at the convent, such as driving them for grocery shopping. I learned more about their life. At prayer time they sang like angels and were joyful. Spending time with the Sister-in-charge (Sr. Sebastian) and the other Sisters (Sr. Juliette and Sr. Bernitta) confirmed my prayerful decision. I entered the Sisters Servants Community Novitiate that summer in Ancaster, Ontario (Canada). For the 50+ years of service among the little ones, the needy, and the elderly in the various Ukrainian parishes and schools of Philadelphia Archeparchy and other Eparchies I can only say: Blessed are You, O Gracious Lord. It is You, Jesus, Who are my Strength and my Help.

Sister Albina Gregory, SSMI – I was born in Belfield, ND where many Ukrainian people settled when they came from Ukraine. Most of them became farmers. There were churches and schools in the country which people attended. The school that was the nearest where I lived was a mile away and we walked to school.

During the summers, we had Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate who came from Canada to teach catechism and the Ukrainian language. They taught in difficult areas because of the distance where people lived. Some of the girls became interested in becoming Sisters as they joined the order. When I was growing up and got to know the Sisters, I wanted to be like one of them so I used to dress up to look like a Sisters especially when I was home alone.
Sr. Albina (cont’d)  Later, as time went on and my desire to become a Sister increased, it was time to let the Sisters know my plan. When my mother told the Sisters my plan, they were very happy to have me join their order now, so that I could be a companion for the Sister who was staying that summer to teach there. This worked how well. I was given a postulant’s dress and veil and then received a blessing from the priest. I stayed with the Sister in the convent. I said “yes” at that moment, and continue to say “yes” to my Loving God 75+ years later as a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate.

Sr. Charlotte Pipping  - “God’s Special Graces in my Life”
I was born in Akron, Ohio on Jan. 6, 1938 and had a brother Charles and a sister Helen. There were many struggles I faced as I grew up as my mother was a faith-filled woman, but my step-father didn’t want anything to do with the Catholic Church, and did not allow the children to be raised Catholic or my Mom to follow her faith. It was through perseverance that finally after graduation from high school, my siblings and I could embrace our hope-filled desire which was to join the Byzantine Catholic Church of my Mom’s family members.

As we grew up, we frequently went to visit Mom’s parents in that area, and became acquainted with the Eastern Catholic faith. So, we both decided to embrace this faith too. As I grew up, I greatly wanted and desired to help my Mom get reunited with her true faith again. Eventually I got a job and worked approximately for a year, that was when I decided to do something that would help my mother to be able to return to her faith again.

I decided to join a community of Sisters known as “The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate.” I learned of them from our pastor, Rev. Sam Fetzko, who had a sister in that Community. My step-father left my Mom and so she was able to return to the Church. This was also a great blessing for me, because it is what I had been hoping for a very long time. I had prayed for her to receive Holy Communion again in her life before she met her Heavenly Maker. It was one of the main reasons that I had decided to become a nun, so that my Mother would be able to return to the Church, and be reunited with God before she left this earth.

I am most pleased and grateful for God’s special graces and blessings that He has so abundantly blessed me with in my life. I thank God for my vocation as a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate and for his strength and to serve my Church and Community for over 60 years.
Sister Natalya Stoczany, SSMI
An Amazing Journey When We Allow God to Lead Us

I met the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate when I was in my late twenties. I had been working as a Social Worker for the Human Services Department in my County in Wisconsin. I was also working in my parish as a Youth Minister. I loved being with young people and helping them to discover the beauty of God and how God was part of their daily lives.

I was very happy with my life but felt that I wanted to do more – to be more – to get to know God more and to help others to get to know God better. I met the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate during a weekend retreat but I didn’t think I wanted to become a sister. It was nice for some people, but I had a life I was happy living. Eventually I took a trip to visit Sloatsburg, NY, the home of the Sisters. It was a wonderful experience. I met many of the older Sisters who lived there and felt the beauty of their lives, but I still was not sure that I wanted to join them. When I left Sloatsburg, I found myself crying on the airplane. I did not know why, but I felt like I was leaving a part of my heart in New York.

This was a very odd feeling but it remained in the back of my mind, along with the thought that God wanted something more of me. I did not know what or why, but I decided to come back to Sloatsburg and spend 6 months learning about the sisters – who were they and what they did. Even though I had grown up being taught by sisters in Chicago, I needed to experience the life for myself. My 6 months has now turned into 29 years and the doubts I had, left me a long time ago.

Life is filled with ups and downs, with successes and defeats, but as a Sister Servant, I have a very deep knowledge that God walks with me through all of it, even when it was hard to feel His presence. I may have had to look for my God at different times, but God has always led me and shared my journey with me. God has shown me the beauty of life and the beauty of other people by allowing me to visit many places and to meet people of every age. By allowing me into their lives, these amazing people have, in turn, helped me to grow in my faith and to become the woman God created me to be.

I have learned:

Life is a truly amazing journey when we allow God to lead us through it.

Am I happy being a woman religious? Yes, but happiness is a daily choice.

Would I support any woman who is open to beginning her journey? You bet, in a minute!

Is religious life easy? Not always, but neither is married life or single life! But the ‘good’ times make it easy to thank God, and the ‘challenging’ times make it necessary to cling to God.

All in all, every moment is worth taking the journey. Don’t be afraid to take a leap into the unknown—that’s where you find life, love and God.

Are you being called to be a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate?
Phone: 845-753-2840 E-mail: srkath25@gmail.com
website: ssmi-us.org
Children’s Corner

We begin this month within the octave of the Feast of Pentecost. The name of the feast comes from the Greek pentēkōstē ēmera, meaning “Fiftieth Day.” It is the fiftieth day from Passover (Pascha). In the Old Testament story of the final plague upon Egypt, God “passed over” the houses of the Israelites and spared them from death (Exod 12:11-14). The celebration of this event became an annual memorial thereafter known as “Passover.” Fifty days from that first Passover, while at Mount Sinai, Israel received the Law of God on stone tablets (Exod 19-24). This event also became an annual celebration known as Pentecost. Christians celebrate these two feasts in their fulfillment.

During the Jewish Feast of Passover (Pascha), Jesus rose from the dead, and through his resurrection, all we Christians who receive his life-giving resurrected flesh and blood in the Holy Mystery of the Eucharist will also experience a life-giving Passover, as we will share in his bodily resurrection when He returns (John 6:53-54). Fifty days later, while the Jews were celebrating the Feast of Pentecost, remembering how they had received the Law at Mount Sinai, the Holy Spirit descended upon the new Israel, the gathered Apostles, placing the Law of God, not on stone tablets, but on the tablets of their hearts of flesh (Acts 2; Ezek 36:24-27; Jer 31:31-34).

There are many other English words that share the same Greek root with Pentecost: pentagon, meaning “five angled,” Pentateuch, referring to the “five books of Moses,” and pentarchy, “a government made up of five rulers.” Can you think of any others? What do you think pentadactyl might mean? I’ll give you a hint. Dactylos is the Greek word for finger!

Answer: An animal with five fingers on each hand or five toes on each foot.

REV. SEBASTIAN CARNAZZO, PHD is PASTOR OF ST. ELIAS MELKITE CHURCH IN SAN JOSE, CA (STELIASMELKITE.ORG) AND TEACHES ONLINE GREEK CLASSES FOR KIDS THROUGH THE ACADEMY OF CLASSICAL GREEK (ACADEMYOFCLASSICALGREEK.COM).
ACROSS
3. MARTYRED BY THE EMPEROR DIOCLETIAN, THIS YOUNG NUN, WHOSE AUNT WAS ABBESS, WAS RAISED IN A MONASTERY AND INSPIRED MANY.
6. PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND ZEALOUS DEFENDER OF THE HOLY ICONS, LATER EXILED BY ICONOCLAST EMPEROR LEO THE ARMENIAN.
8. IN JUNE, WE COMMEMORATE THE BIRTH OF THE HOLY AND GLORIOUS PROPHET AND FORERUNNER, JOHN THE ______.
9. TWO APOSTLES WHO SHARE A FEAST DAY THIS MONTH, SAINTS BARTHOLOMEW AND ______.

DOWN
1. ARCHBISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA WHO FOUGHT HARD AGAINST THE HERESY OF NESTORIUS.
2. THE HOLY MARTYR AGrippina, WHO BRAVELY CONFESSIONED HER FAITH IN CHRIST, WAS KILLED UNDER THE EMPEROR ______.
4. THE SUNDAY AFTER ____ IS THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS.
5. ST. JUDE, THE APOSTLE AND BROTHER OF THE LORD, WAS ALSO CALLED THIS IN THE GOSPEL.
7. THE HOLY AND VENERABLE ONUPHRIUS THE GREAT WAS AN ASCETIC WHO LIVED IN THE DESERT OF THEBES FOR MORE THAN ____ YEARS.
10. CITY IN WHICH THE HOLY, GLORIOUS, AND ALL- Praiseworthy APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL WERE MARTYRED.
HELP THE ANGEL CALL ST. DAVID DOWN FROM THE ALMOND TREE.
STAND

THIS MONTH’S STAND & STAND JR. VERSES. SUBMIT A VIDEO OF YOURSELF RECITING THE VERSES TO BYZIMOM.COM TO UNLOCK THE NEXT PART OF YOUR ARMOUR!

VERSES:

EPHESIANS 4:29 –
LET NO EVIL TALK COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTHS, BUT ONLY SUCH AS IS GOOD FOR EDIFYING, AS FITS THE OCCASION, THAT IT MAY IMPART GRACE TO THOSE WHO HEAR.

EPHESIANS 4:32 –
AND BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, AS GOD IN CHRIST FORGAVE YOU.

JUNIOR VERSES (6YRS & BELOW):

EPHESIANS 4:32 –
AND BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

10. ROME
7. SIXTY
5. THADDEUS
4. PENTECOST
2. VALERIAN
1. CYRIL

DOWN

9. BARNABAS
8. BAPTIST
6. NICEPHORUS
3. FEBRONIA

JUNE ANSWERS:

10. ROME
7. SIXTY
5. THADDEUS
4. PENTECOST
2. VALERIAN
1. CYRIL

JUNE 21, 2020
A Reflection for the Third Sunday after Pentecost—Father’s Day-Sunday, June 21, 2020

Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself

Gospel Reading
Matthew 6:22-34

This Sunday, Father’s Day, we honor our fathers in what are very interesting times.

All of us may have fears and apprehension about the worldwide pandemic of the coronavirus. Perhaps a family member, a friend, a co-worker have been infected or maybe even have succumbed to this virulent illness. Maybe you have spent the past several months out of work, worrying how to pay the bills, provide for yourself or your family as a result of the imposed shutdown. As a young student, you may have experienced the disappointment of not having a traditional high school or college graduation and the other events associated with this important milestone in your life.

Our dedicated clergy have had to be innovative and resourceful in providing for the spiritual needs and the sacramental life for the souls entrusted to their care.

Recently compounding the situation there has been a deterioration of civility in our society from the senseless murder of unarmed black men from irresponsible local police officers, who rather than enforcing the law, appear to have blatantly broken the law. And violence begets violence. We have witnessed peaceful protests throughout the cities of our nation devolve into riots, looting and the destruction of businesses and the defacing and torching of many buildings, including churches, synagogues and mosques.

All of these cascading events cause us to experience a range of emotions including anger, sadness, worry, fear and despair—just to name a few.

However think back to the days of our youth. When we were afraid, we would run to daddy to help us, to protect us, to defend us. This was the dad who provided for us and counseled us with his advice and wisdom and instilled in us hope. He assured us everything would be all right. And we were comforted by our fathers with his reassuring words. Don’t worry, be happy!

We hear the same advice from Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in today’s Gospel. He tells us “do not worry about your life. . . .” (Mt. 6:25) and asks “Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?” (Mt. 6:27)

Jesus cites the birds of the air, how Our Heavenly Father feeds them and how He clothes the lilies of the field in splendor that surpasses that of Solomon.

Jesus reminds us Our Heavenly Father knows our needs and our concerns. “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you. . . .” (Mt. 6:33)

So, today on this Father’s Day, as we honor our fathers, our dads, our pops, let us thank God for blessing us with them and thank them for all that they have provided for us. To those who are living, call or visit them and express your thanks to them and your love for them. If your father has been called home to the Lord, pray that he will find rest in the bosom of Abraham, be numbered among the saints and that his memory be eternal.

Finally, let us thank our Heavenly Father for the gift of life and for all He has given us and for providing for our daily needs. And let us always heed the assuring words of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, “Do no worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself.” (Mt.6:34)

- Fr. John Fields
Saint Peter was the apostle whom Jesus Our Lord had chosen to lead His Church. The Lord said to Simon Peter: And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. (Mt. 16:18) Peter became the Vicar of Christ on earth, the first Pope. St. Peter is regarded by the Church as “the immovable rock, the wisdom of the Church, and the one whom Christ had given the keys of the Kingdom.”

Peter was called Simon before his calling; he was an ordinary man by trade, a fisherman. On the shores of Lake Genesareth Peter first heard our Lord preaching to the people about the Kingdom of God. On one occasion the Lord asked Simon Peter to sail out from the shore a bit as Jesus preached to the people. Afterwards, Jesus asked Peter to put out the net for a catch, a catch of fish. Peter was hesitant at first for he was busy at work prior all day and caught nothing. Nonetheless, he does as the Lord had told him and the catch of fish was truly remarkable. So much so, that the nets were at the breaking point. The Lord was going to make this fisherman the fisher of men – to catch many and bring them to salvation, save their soul.

On another occasion the Lord went to pray alone and the apostles were at sea. There then came a strong storm with powerful winds and waves beating against the boat. The Apostles then see what they thought was a ghost in the distance, walking on the sea. It was Our Lord and He told them: “Do not be afraid, It is I.” Peter said if it is You Lord, bid me to come to You. The Lord instructs him to do so and Peter begins to walk on water. Peter, however, falters and begins to sink. Peter asked the Lord to rescue him. Peter was frightened by the powerful wind, but the Lord Jesus stretches out His hand to save him, saying: “o you of little faith, why did you doubt?” (Mt. 14:31)

St. Peter had come to know and understand and confess that Jesus is “truly the Son of God.” Peter truly loved Our Lord and was directed to “Feed his sheep.” Peter had the desire to stand by the Lord even unto death. But his weak human nature prevailed and before the cock crowed, Peter three times denied knowing the Lord. It was later that Peter was to become a martyr for the faith.

The second of the Apostles commemorated on this feast day is St. Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles. Although not one of the original Twelve, Paul after his conversion dedicated his life to spreading of the Gospel of Christ to the various early Christian communities: Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Thessalonica. Phillipi, Colossae.

Paul was called Saul before his conversion. Saul was a devout Jew who had sought out and persecuted the early Christians. Saul set out
to go to Damascus to find the early Christians and to bring them to trial in Jerusalem. But God had other plans.

A brilliant light suddenly shines brighter than the noon-day sun. Saul is thrown down from his horse unto the ground. The Lord God then called out to Saul, saying: “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” (Acts 9:3-4) Saul asks: “Who are you, Lord?” The voice answers: “I am Jesus of Nazareth, Whom you are persecuting.” The Lord then instructs him to go to Damascus and there Saul was healed of his physical blindness by the laying on hands from Ananias. Paul was then baptized.

Saul experienced a conversion, a change of heart. As an outward sign of this, his name is changed from Saul to Paul. The zealous Jew (Saul) would become the ardent follower of Christ (Paul). Paul would proclaim the Gospel of Christ to the Gentiles, to the many communities of his eloquent preaching. He baptized many and kept in contact with these early newborn Christians through his writings, the Epistles. At times the Epistles would instruct, build up the spirit (Holy Spirit) amongst them, and warn them and even saved them from falling into error and away from their Christian faith. The Epistles in his absence would reaffirm Christ’s teaching of Love and Truth that he had personally shared with them.

St. Paul suffered much for his faith in Christ. He was imprisoned and ultimately beheaded by the Emperor Nero in the year 67. St. Paul remains an inspiration to Christians today who may be experiencing difficult times. He was a man of prayer and fortitude. St. Paul from the moment of his conversion to the moment of his martyrdom lived the Christian life as an authentic believer and follower of Christ. May we be filled with the Holy Spirit and be inspired to do likewise.

Fr. D. George Worschak, Assistant Editor

Catechism

New Testament

The Holy Scriptures of the New Testament contain the Revelation which God has given to humanity through his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and his apostles. It consists of 27 books: the Four Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which announce the earthly life and teaching of Christ; the Acts of the Apostles, which describes the growth of Christ’s Church, especially the service and preaching of the chief apostles Peter and Paul; fourteen epistles of the holy apostle Paul (one to the Romans, two to the Corinthians, one each to the Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians, two to the Thessalonians, two to Timothy, and one each to Titus, Philemon, and the Hebrews); seven catholic [universal] epistles, written by other apostles to various Christian communities (one by James, two by Peter, three by John, and one by Jude); and the Revelation of John the Theologian.

Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church: Christ Our Pascha, #40
Due to Coronavirus Pandemic, SingCon 2020, which had been scheduled for October 1-4, 2020, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has unfortunately been cancelled.

God willing, we hope to see you next year at SingCon 2021. Stay tuned for further information.

In order to help you out during this difficult time, we will be posting resources on our website in the form of texts, music, videos of seminars, and audio of church singing, including an online SingCon-A-Thon on October 1-4, the date of the originally planned weekend gathering. If you have specific requests for resources and topics to be addressed, please write to us with your suggestions.

https://ugccmusic.com/singcon-2020
JUNE 21, 2020

Visit the store’s new website at
http://byzantinechurchsupplies.com/

At Byzantine Church Supplies online, you are able to shop 24 hours a day and place your online order from a large variety of religious items including icons, wedding icons, liturgical and prayer books, Bibles, crosses, incense, fabrics for altar coverings and vestments, deacon and priest vestments, clergy apparel, chalice sets, handcrosses, decorated candles, holy cards, Easter and Christmas cards in both English and Ukrainian languages, Ukrainian Easter eggs, pysanky making supplies and souvenirs from Ukraine.

Byzantine Church Supplies also sells votive and altar candles (Cathedral, Root, Almay) and altar wine in bulk that can be delivered directly to parishes.

All profits from your purchases at Byzantine Church Supplies support St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington D.C. and the formation of the future priests of our Ukrainian Catholic Church.

STORE HOURS: MONDAY–FRIDAY 9:30AM TO 4PM. CLOSED NOON TO 1PM. ALSO OPEN BY APPOINTMENT. PLEASE CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT.
UPDATE: Due to the Coronavirus, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate Announce that the 66th Holy Dormition Pilgrimage August 8 - 9, 2020 will be a Virtual Pilgrimage (via internet) this year.

We had hoped that this year’s pilgrimage would have been a place of sanctuary where all of us could gather to replenish our souls after the devastating effects of this pandemic. However, there is still uncertainty as to when travel and gathering in large groups will be safe.

We plan to live-stream Divine Liturgy for that weekend as well as offer other opportunities for the faithful to receive spiritual graces. We will try to have the Divine Liturgy also broadcast on television.

We hope to provide opportunities for those who do not have internet access. Please watch for details in the near future.

Advertisements
“A Call to Prayer Marian Pilgrimage” in Centralia, Pa. is canceled this year due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

July 2020 Schedule of Zoom Talks

- **Understanding the Old Testament**
  **WEDNESDAY, July 8, 2020 | 7:00 - 8:00 PM**
  The Old Testament, properly known as the Hebrew Scriptures, began from oral tradition and was gradually written down over a period of more than one thousand years. It includes multiple languages, genres, and cultures of the ancient Near East. How can we begin to understand these biblical books and their messages?

- **Understanding the New Testament**
  **WEDNESDAY, July 15, 2020 | 7:00 - 8:00 PM**
  The New Testament was written in Greek by a number of authors over a period of fifty to sixty years. The twenty-seven books draw heavily from the Hebrew Scriptures but also from Greco-Roman philosophy and rhetoric. How is the New Testament Structured? Who determined the books contained by it?

- **Christianity and the Beginnings of Islam**
  **WEDNESDAY, July 22, 2020 | 7:00 - 8:00 PM**
  Islam began in the 7th century and spread with incredible speed throughout the Near East and other regions with ancient Catholic populations. What does the documentary evidence suggest about early interactions between Christians and Muslims? What can we know about the formative centuries of Islam?

Check out their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/basilcenter/
Alcoholics Anonymous

There is a Ukrainian-language Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets in “Zoom.” For information please contact Taras at 1-347-722-4130 or email aa@aa.lviv.ua. More information is available at www.aa.lviv.ua.

НАДІЯ ЗЦІЛЕННЯ ВІД АЛКОГОЛІЗМУ

Вітаю всіх із 85-ю річницею Спільноти Анонімних Алкоголіків, завдяки якій тисячі чоловіків і жінок знайшли ТВЕРЕЗІСТЬ, позбулися згубної звички пияцтва. 85-років!

Я вдячний за цей шлях, який відкрився мені і маю надію на вільне і щасливе життя !!! Офіційною датою створення спільноти Анонімних Алкоголіків вважається 10 червня 1935 року. Але перша «зустріч взаємодопомоги» відбулась місяцем раніше - 12 травня.

Нью-йоркський маклер Уїльям Вілсон в цей день був у відрядженні в місті Акрон, штат Огайо, і відчував нестерпне бажання напитися. У спробах приборкати спокусу він звернувся до місцевого відділення Оксфордської групи - товариства поборників християнських заповідей.

Там йому порадили обговорити свої проблеми з місцевим хірургом Робертом Смітом, який також прагнув зав’язати з випивкою.

Замість запланованих 15 хвилин Уїлл і Боб проговорили 7 годин. І мало того що вони не напилися, так ще й поділилися своїм досвідом з іншими.

До 1937 року група з промовистою назвою AAA (Асоціація Анонімних Алкоголіків) налічувала вже 40 учасників,

А коли послідовників Програми вже було більше 100 осіб, - створили організацію, щоби буде надавати допомогу іншим подолати шкідливу пристрасть до алкоголю.

Станом на сьогодні відділення спільноти є в 180 країнах світу і відвідують їх засідання більше 2,5 млн осіб.

В Україні є більше 130 груп АА.
- у США україномовна група збирається у месенджері ZOOM, що середи та що п’ятниці, а також є жива група АА, яка має свої зустрічі що середи у Чікаго. За інформацією можна звертатися до Тараса +1-347-722-4130 або на е-мейл: aa@aa.lviv.ua. Більше інформації можна отримати на www.aa.lviv.ua.
On June 16, 2020, His Beatitude Sviatoslav held a meeting devoted to the construction of the iconostasis at the Patriarchal Cathedral.

The meeting was also attended by Bishop Yosyf Milian, Auxiliary Bishop of the Kyiv Archeparchy, Vasyl Bukatiuk, head of the Construction Directorate under the Patriarch of the UGCC, and the authors of the iconostasis project led by Orest Dzyndra.

As mentioned earlier, the concept of decorating the interior of the temple implies the dominance of white color, which symbolically reproduces the heavenly light of the most important gospel event - the light of the Resurrection of Christ.

During the meeting, the authors of the iconostasis told about new developments that have been made over the past months. His Beatitude Sviatoslav shared his thoughts on further decorative works in the main church of the UGCC.

Bishop Yosyf Milian, Chairman of the Supervisory Board for the Construction of the Patriarchal Center of the UGCC, said: “We have begun intensive work on the construction of an iconostasis for the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Kyiv. A whole team of artists is working on this - stone and wood carvers, as well as icon painters, who will fill this iconostasis with holy icons. It will be a great job that requires a lot of money. Therefore, I ask everyone to join this good cause. We will ask the Lord God to bless your even the most humble donation.”

Bishop Mykola Bychok celebrates his first Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the bedside of a sick priest

Wednesday, 10 June 2020

Monday after Pentecost, June 8, 2020, Bishop Mykola Bychok celebrated the first Divine Liturgy after his ordination. This service was held in the monastery next to hieromonk Volodymyr Kozak, CSsR, who is bedridden due to illness.

According to the Gospel read on Monday of the Holy Spirit, the shepherd leaves 99 sheep and goes to find the one which is lost. This Liturgy, according to the website of the Lviv Archeparchy, became a similar sign - in it the bishop bowed over the sick, giving the Eucharist and blessings to support the spirit during the trials.

As we reported, the ordination of the new ruling bishop of the Eparchy of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul in Melbourne (Australia) Mykola Bychok for Ukrainians in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania took place the day before, on the Feast of Pentecost. The presiding bishop was His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Bishop Ihor Vozniak, Archbishop and Metropolitan of Lviv, and Bishop Petro Loza, Auxiliary Bishop of the Sokal-Zhovkva Eparchy, were co-consecrators.

The UGCC Department for Information

Happy Birthday!

З Днем народження!

July 9: Rev. John Seniw
July 10: Rev. John Wysochansky
July 10: Rev. Deacon Paul Makar
July 17: Rev. Andriy Dudkevych
July 27: Rev. John Ciurpita

May the Good Lord Continue to Guide You and Shower You with His Great Blessings.
Mnohaya Lita!

Congratulations on your Anniversary of Priesthood!

Вітаємо з Річницею Священства!

July 9: Rev. Yaroslav Kurpel (27th Anniversary)
July 10: Very Rev. Archpr. Mitrat Roman Mirchuk (44th Anniversary)
July 13: Rev. Mark Fesniak (17th Anniversary)
July 13: Rev. Ivan Turyk (17th Anniversary)
July 20: Rev. Myron Myronyuk (17th Anniversary)
July 31: Rev. Taras Lonchyna (43rd Anniversary)

May God Grant You Many Happy and Blessed Years of Service in the Vineyard of Our Lord!

Нехай Бог Обдарує Багатьма Благословеними Роками Служіння в Господньому Винограднику!