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Official Publication of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

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ENGLISH

Parishes in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia use social media to reach the faithful during Pandemic

Photo: An iPhone is used to livestream on Easter Sunday at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia, PA. (Photo: Teresa Siwak)



“The Way” will have a special issue dedicated to the late Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk



The funeral of the late Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk was held on April 13, 2020 at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Pictures from the funeral and other memorial articles will be compiled into a special issue of “The Way.”

You can watch video from his funeral at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/thewayukrainian>

May his memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

Archeparchy News pg. 2-16
Children’s Corner pg. 17-21
Holidays/Feast Day pg. 22

Catechism pg. 23
Advertisements pg. 23-24
Church News pg. 25-29

Coronavirus Pandemic Closes Church Doors but Opens New Windows to Our Heaven on Earth

Philadelphia, Pa.--It is a microscopic organism, specifically a virus not seen by the naked eye, but a living germ that is presently disrupting human life on planet earth. The coronavirus, also known as Covid-19, has impacted all aspects of everyday life and is now found in 185 nations throughout the world. The highly contagious disease has caused a pandemic that has not wreaked such world-wide havoc since the Spanish flu epidemic in 1917-18. It will probably be the unanimous choice as Time magazine's Living Organism of the Year.

All areas of human life have been impacted. Schools are closed. Businesses have been shut down. Millions have suddenly become unemployed. Travel has been restricted. Sports and all entertainment venues have come to a halt. People are asked to stay at home. If venturing outside, all are asked to wear masks and gloves are recommended. Frequent washing of hands is encouraged. Life is anything but normal.

The toll on human life has been unprecedented. As of April 24, 2020, more than 2.7 million cases have been reported across 185 countries and territories. Worldwide more than 190,000 people have succumbed to the disease.

In the United States, the death toll was expected to reach 50,000 on April 24, doubling in just 10 days and the highest in the world, according to Reuters. About 875,000 Americans have contracted the highly contagious respiratory illness COVID-19 caused by the virus, and Reuters reports on average about 2,000 have died every day from April 1 through April 23.

People suspected of having the disease are quarantined at least for 14 days. Those infected are kept in isolation. Families cannot visit loved ones. Funerals for victims are private, limited to very few people.

Even the almost unimaginable concerning religious services and church attendance has become the reality—public church services

have been cancelled by religious leaders in following government guidelines and recommendations of the medical professionals.

On March 19, 2020, the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops in the United States issued a Memorandum in which they state: "Bound together in our care for the spiritual and physical health of our faithful, we would like to inform you about certain norms and practices intended to confirm us in faith and truth, safeguarding all members of our communities, especially the most vulnerable, and preventing the spread of disease.

"Keeping in mind the fragility of human life and acknowledging with humility the limits of human reason and resources, we are called to do all that is possible to help the national government, local authorities, and medical personnel to fight the spread of the virus."

That Memorandum included pastoral norms and practices for pastoral ministry including the following,

"All weekday and Sunday services will be celebrated temporarily without the participation of the assembly of the faithful. Our clergy will continue to celebrate and pray for you and with you vicariously."

Since March 19, no public liturgical services have been conducted in our parishes. The church doors have been temporarily closed for public worship.

However, with modern technology and the resourcefulness and dedication of the clergy and laity, the internet has opened new windows into our sacred places, our Heaven on earth.

Livestreaming of the Divine Liturgy and other liturgical services has become the norm in many of our parishes since the weekend of March 21-22. Pastors shared on their social media websites and provided the information to the Chancery, which not only posted this information on the archieparchial social media websites, but also emailed the information

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Coronavirus Pandemic Closes Church Doors but Opens New Windows to Our Heaven on Earth

(continued from previous page)

to those who receive The Way.

With the most sacred time of the liturgical year approaching, the Ukrainian Catholic hierarchs in the United States on April 1 issued a subsequent Memorandum with guidelines for how the faithful can virtually experience through the internet the blessing of pussy willows, Easter foods, and share in the Liturgical services of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, including Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Pascha.

Throughout many of the parishes of the archeparchy, the pastors, already trying to provide dignified liturgical services without their choirs and congregational singing and the presence of their parish families, undertook the additional responsibilities for the coordination and the livestreaming of these services on FaceBook and YouTube.

As a result, faithful, not only throughout the archeparchy, but literally throughout the world,

have been able to experience these liturgical services that were held in many of our parishes. This evangelization by technology provided the opportunity for many from other faith traditions to experience Ukrainian Catholic liturgical services for the first time.

The following is a compilation of the total number of views of all services on a given day, prepared by Deacon Volodymyr Radko: Palm Sunday-22,020, Holy Thursday-(Vespers, Divine Liturgy and Strasti)-11,127, Good Friday-17,036, Holy Saturday-9,473, Easter Sunday-(Matins and Divine Liturgy)-41,288. These numbers do not reflect how many people were actually sitting

together in front of their computer monitors or smart TVs.

Livestreaming also provided our clergy, religious and faithful to experience the private funeral services from the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Bright Monday, April 13, for the late Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk, 95, who became a victim of the Covid-19 pandemic on April 6, 2020. FaceBook indicated there were 16,300 views of the Funeral Divine Liturgy and interment in the cathedral crypt.

The livestreaming of liturgical services in parishes throughout the Philadelphia

Archeparchy will continue until such time as the norms for social distancing are revised or eliminated.

In their April 1 Memorandum, our Ukrainian Catholic Bishops state, "Our beloved faithful, one day soon, an announcement will be made that we can celebrate the Divine Liturgy and other services all together again. We look forward to that joyous day. We will appreciate seeing each other more than ever, giving thanks for God's gift of communion in the Church, the Body of Christ of which we are members!"

May we soon experience that joyful day!



Photo: An iPhone is used to livestream the funeral of the late Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk (Photo: Teresa Siwak)

Parishes in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia use social media to reach the faithful during Pandemic

You can watch videos on our YouTube Channel at:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/thewayukrainian>



Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA (Good Friday)



Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA (Easter Sunday)

Parishes in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia use social media to reach the faithful during Pandemic

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**Christ the King parish, Philadelphia, PA
Paschal Food Blessing**



**Jersey City, NJ
Paschal Food Blessing**



Hillsborough, NJ



Shamokin, PA



Hillside, NJ



McAdoo, PA

Parishes in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia use social media to reach the faithful during Pandemic

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Melrose Park, PA



Jenkintown, PA



Newark, NJ



Mt. Carmel, PA



Trenton, NJ

Parishes in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia use social media to reach the faithful during Pandemic

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Scranton, PA



Silver Spring, MD

Parishes in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia use social media to reach the faithful during Pandemic

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Bridgeport, PA



Minersville, PA

Parishes in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia use social media to reach the faithful during Pandemic

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Warrington, PA



Berwick, PA



Olyphant, PA



Perth Amboy, NJ

Parishes in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia use social media to reach the faithful during Pandemic

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Northampton, PA



Reading, PA



Passaic NJ



**Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA
Paschal Food Blessing**



Whippany, NJ



Washington, DC

Sisters of St. Basil Make Masks for Healthcare Workers during Pandemic

The Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great might be handling the COVID-19 quarantine better than most—they are monastics after all. Yet even their timeless regime of prayer and ministry was altered by the pandemic. Most of the Motherhouse at Fox Chase is much more quiet than usual save for one room full of activity. There the Sisters engage in what has quickly become an essential craft: producing masks for healthcare workers.

Sr. Teodora sits at a sewing machine where she turns rolls of fabric and lace into today’s hottest commodity. Beautiful abstract and floral prints take shape and in turn are neatly ironed and stacked by Sr. Olha. Now they are ready to ship, but rather than Amazon Prime customers these masks will be received by nearby Holy Redeemer Hospital. The project was a spontaneous initiative conceived



Sr. Teodora, OSBM sews new masks for Healthcare workers



Sr. Olha folds and irons the new masks for Healthcare workers

during Holy Week but involves two much older elements of the Sisters’ identity.

First, for the task of making masks the Sisters draw from the rich tradition of sewing and embroidery handed down for generations in Ukraine and later throughout the diaspora. Second, their involvement in healthcare dates back to Basil of Caesarea himself, whose monastic foundation in fourth century Asia Minor helped address the medical needs of the poor. Thus, it is fitting that today the Sisters of Saint Basil have combined the penchant for textile handiwork of Ukrainian culture with their Order’s dedication to the sick.

The mission of the Sisters of Saint Basil is to bring about the praying, healing, and life-giving presence of Christ. Once social distancing made this difficult to do in person, they found another way, one responding directly to the needs of our time.



Sr. Rose Margaret (Carolyn) Kanski, SSMI

1938 - 2020

Sr. Rose Margaret Kanski, a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate, passed away at Nyack Ridge Nursing Home in Nyack, NY on April 10, 2020. She celebrated 65 years of Consecrated Life this year.

Sr. Rose Margaret was born on February 3, 1938 in Fairfield, North Dakota. She was the third youngest of a family of 15 children born to deeply religious parents. The family of Peter & Mary Kanski nurtured their children with a deep faith and an unconditional love which also fostered two vocations to the consecrated life +Brother John, CSsR and Sr. Rose Margaret.

She entered the Congregation on July 24, 1955 and professed her final vows in Ancaster, Canada on August 15, 1961. She was one of 16 women who entered the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate from St. Demetrius Parish in Belfield, ND.

Her first mission was at our Home of Divine Providence, an adult care home in Chestnut Hill, PA. Sr. Rose Margaret was gifted with culinary skills and became an expert cook, serving the needs of the elderly graciously and lovingly. She served in this ministry for most of her religious life in several other homes including: Villa of Divine Providence in Lansdale, PA, Catholic Seminary in Washington D.C., St. Mary's Academy and St. Joseph's Adult Care Home in Sloatsburg. She used her talents to minister to a whole spectrum of people.

The ministry of being a cook may not have been as glamorous or appreciated as a teacher or nurse, but Sr. Rose Margaret labored with much love and joy each day in the kitchen making little "banquets for her people." She devoted her talents to the girls at St. Mary's Academy creating a welcoming spirit. The girls loved to come and visit her in the kitchen, where they knew she would listen to them, and of course, give them a treat.

Sr. Rose Margaret's life as a Sister Servant has been lived in a simple and devoted manner, according to the charism of Blessed Josaphata and the life of her patron saint, St. Rose of Lima. Her deep devotion to the Mother of God was prominent in her prayer life and conversations, always taking an opportunity to spread the "Good News." She died peacefully in her sleep on April 10th at Nyack Ridge. "Well done good and faithful servant"

Weekly Offerings to Support Your Parish



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No. 236/2020 O

This Number Should be Prefixed to Your Reply

Office of the Auxiliary Bishop
Most Reverend Andriy Rabiy

March 26, 2020

Слава Ісусу Христу!
Glory be to Jesus Christ!

The rich person is not one who is in possession of much, but one who gives much.
-- St. John Chrysostom

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In our Philadelphia Archeparchy, most of our church communities are small in the number of parishioners but overflowing with generosity, love of God, and a spirit of sacrifice.

During the present pandemic you witness concern for family and friends, love of God and neighbor, and mutual sacrifice. Each of you is to be commended for your care and cooperation during this unprecedented situation. Together we are all listening to what the Lord is communicating to us. It is clear that this crisis is a spiritual wake-up call.

The nation and the world are following the lead of our highest government and church authorities to safeguard each and every one of you in body and soul. With the precautionary cancellation of public services, our clergy, religious, and faithful have responded with understanding. We all experience the loss of coming together as a parish family for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

Although public services are not being held, liturgical prayer in church for your intentions continues. Our priests continue to celebrate Divine Liturgies and other services. The clergy are intensifying their outreach in creative and caring ways.

Weekly Offerings to Support Your Parish

(continued from previous page)

While you are not able to come to church, our parishes must continue to pay their bills. It is common knowledge that many of our parishes rely solely on the weekly collections and fundraisers to meet their expenses. Presently, there are no weekly collections, and fundraisers have been cancelled. As you can imagine, our parishes need your financial support now, more than ever. None of us will avoid financial difficulties completely. Some of you already are experiencing great challenges personally and in your families. To get through these hard times we will all need to make sacrifices.

We appeal to you to please mail your weekly offerings to your parishes until public services are resumed. Your sacrificial giving is needed to help your parish meet its financial obligations in order to maintain pastoral stability.

In doing so, let us recall the words of St. Paul: "whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Thank you for your generous offerings and may the blessings of Our Lord be upon you and your families, now and always.

Very sincerely, Yours in Christ,

+Borys (Gudziak)

Archbishop-Metropolitan of Philadelphia for Ukrainian Catholics in the United States
Head, Department of External Church Relations, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church
President, Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv

Most Rev. Andriy Rabyi

Auxiliary Bishop for the Archeparchy of Philadelphia

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT YOUR PARISH

DURING THIS UNPRECEDENTED TIME, EVERYONE IS ENDURING HARDSHIPS.



PARISHES, WITH NO WEEKLY COLLECTIONS AND CANCELLED FUNDRAISERS, ARE ALSO EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS AND HAVE A DESPERATE NEED OF FUNDS TO PAY THEIR REGULAR BILLS AND MEET THEIR PARISH EXPENSES.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH BY MAILING YOUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS TO YOUR LOCAL PARISH UNTIL PUBLIC LITURGICAL SERVICES RESUME.

Celebrating Catholic Sisters Week



Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

“Here I am Lord”

National Catholic Sisters Week was celebrated March 8-14 this year. However, due to the outbreak of the pandemic, events celebrating this week had to be cancelled. The Sisters Servants had planned an event which included a time when some of the Sisters would share their “Vocation Story.” We have chosen to print a part of their stories in the newspaper for a few editions. If your interest is peaked to hear all of that particular sister's story, just let us know. It is good, and even essential that parents, grandparents share their “stories” with their children and grandchildren as this “lived history” brings us closer together as a family.



Sr. Thomas Hrynewich – I was born in Ambridge, PA, a town about 14 miles northwest of Pittsburgh on June 2, 1924. I am the eldest of 4 children. We belonged to SS Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church. Since the parish did not have a school, I attended public school from grades 1 – 12. I was very active throughout high school and participated in all the sports, drama club and chorus. I loved being in track, and the boys used to laugh because I said that the only reason I won the track meets was because of my long legs. When the high school students found out that I was entering the convent they wouldn't believe it, and said “you can't because you are not even the type.” I would respond “oh yes I can as there is new type going in to the convent.” They said

I would only last 6 months. My sister and I were always helping the sisters, and one day when everyone else left, one of the Sisters asked my sister, who was younger than I, if she would like to be a Sister. My sister said no because she wanted to get married and have a family. The Sisters were taken back by the answer, and then they looked over at me, what about you...and I said sure. So, they were going to write to the Provincial Superior that they were bringing one girl with them. Of course, no one at home knew I was going and there was a big fuss in the house. But it worked out. Thus, on June 21, 1942, I was accepted into the community. Two days later I went with Sr. Sylvester and Sr. Andrea to Sloatsburg by train. The next day we travelled by train to Toronto, Canada. I arrived and met Sr. Athanasius, who was one of the first 7 girls that was taken into the community by Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskia to start the congregation. We finally arrived in Mundare, Canada to begin my life as a Sister Servant. It is a life that I have never regretted and I have enjoyed all these years serving God and the Church in various ways. So, those friends who were waiting for me, are still waiting for me 78 years later.

Sr. Bernitta Dub – I was born on August 4, 1935 in Ambridge, PA. Our wonderful parents brought eleven children into the world, four boys and seven girls. Early childhood was spent in Ambridge attending Religious and Ukrainian classes offered at SS. Peter & Paul Parish School. I recall at that early stage of my life one of the Sisters asking me what I wanted to be when I grow up. I answered very enthusiastically – A Sister! Time passed as I realized with deep feelings more and more that entering the convent was going to be my way of life. I entered the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate on July 4, 1953 travelling to Ancaster, Canada. My devotion to Jesus and our Blessed Mother, along with deep love of God and Church instilled by my parents as well as their living example, let me to make this decision.



Celebrating Catholic Sisters Week

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Sr. Eliane Ilnitski - "I was born a Sister, I just didn't have a habit" I think the fruit of my vocation was the prayers of my mom especially, because I was her first born and during her pregnancy she began hemorrhaging, and was taken to the hospital. The Doctor said that it was by the grace of God that she was able to still carry the baby. My mom began to pray to Sr. Anatole Bodnar, the first SSMI to follow her people from Ukraine to Brazil, because at that time she was known to the people in Brazil as having miraculous intercession. She prayed to Sr. Anatole to have this child, and if God called this child to become a priest or sister, she will never hold them back. I must mention here that my mother never told me this until after my final vows. I grew up with the Sisters and went to the school where the Sisters were teaching. There were two young sisters that made a strong impression on me. Sr. Anna loved working with the people, attending meetings and being involved in the lives of the people. The second one was Sr. Josphata, a young sister with only temporary vows, who was the driver and sometimes invited me to go with her to get corn for the chickens. I loved to watch the Sisters work by the altar or with the children, and would say, "That is what I want to be... they don't have only one family, and they can be free to love many children." My father helped the sisters a lot and I used to go with him, and each time they would give me a bag of candy. I loved when they invited us to go pray in the chapel. In those days, the Sisters invited girls in any grades to live with them. It was a good way for the parents to send their children to school. The girls would live with the Sisters, who would feed them and care for them, and the children would also help the sisters by doing some chores. I knew I had aunts and cousins that were sisters or priests but did not know them as I grew up. I knew in my heart that I wanted to go and live with the sisters. When I told my parents about my desire, my mother simply said "If that is what you want, God bless you." I will be celebrating my 25th Jubilee as a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate next year.

Sr. Bernardine Symionow – I am one of 16 women who have joined the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate from St. Demetrius Parish in Belfield, North Dakota, which was originally called Ukraine, North Dakota.

My high school years took place at St. Mary's Villa Academy in Sloatsburg, NY. I experienced the kind, caring, joyful presence of the Sisters who taught us and cared for us. Sister Sylvester said to me..."I am praying that Jesus steals your heart" ...and I said to myself "don't bother."

In our senior year, each of us was encouraged to see the retreat master privately about our future plans. I shared with Father Bernier that this thought comes to me that maybe I could be a Sister. As I left him, I wanted to enter the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. I wrote to my Dad to get his blessing, which he gave wholeheartedly. They say "Join the Navy and see the world!" I say, "Join the SSMI's and see the world!"



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

KIDS of THE WAY ШЛЯХ

Official Publication of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

A King's Invitation Including All God's Children



Once upon a time there was a king who wanted to throw a big party for his son who was to be married. So he filled his banquet hall with every delicious and beautiful and expensive thing. Then he sent messengers to the richest, most beautiful and most important people in all the land inviting them to come celebrate his son's wedding feast.

But the important people were too busy, the beautiful people didn't want to come. The rich people were not impressed by the king's invitation. The king was angry but then he had an idea. "If the rich, beautiful and important people won't celebrate with me, I will invite the poor, sick and the lonely to my feast." So that is just what he did. He gave new clothes to everyone so the guests would be as beautiful as the feast itself.

I bet you could attend a thousand parties and would never meet more grateful, happy people anywhere.

Jesus told this story to some very important people to help them understand that God has a very special relationship with the poor and the sick.

We can see it in every liturgy. Hand cradled in hand they process down the church's center aisle: Christians joyfully called to the supper feast of the lamb.

Each one of them is broken. Some need help walking, some make odd noises, some have a temporary cast or cold. All have an illness deep inside called sin. Our Lord calls us all to his table for healing.

Sometimes God chooses to heal someone of their illness in order to show us how he can also heal our broken souls. Do you remember the Gospel story of the friends who lowered a man down through the roof so Jesus would heal him? (If not, ask your parents to tell you that story). They thought Jesus would heal his legs so he would walk. But Jesus healed his soul first.

In Jesus' day people thought that God punished people by giving them disabilities. They thought that the good people were healthy and the sick people were sinners. This made them feel good about staying away from people who made them uncomfortable. But Jesus let them know just how very wrong this thinking is. When they saw a man who was born blind, the disciples asked Jesus, "Who sinned, this man or his parents?" They thought that God had cursed the man with blindness because either

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he or his parents had done something really awful. Jesus' answer surprised them: his blindness was for the glory of God.

Sometimes we see suffering and we think the person suffering needs to be healed. But maybe it is the person suffering who needs to heal us. You see, not all disabilities are visible and sometimes those with physical struggles are the ones most healthy on the inside.

Is there anyone in your congregation who sits in a wheelchair? Have you ever considered how difficult it must have been for that person to get dressed, leave their home and come to liturgy? But Liturgy is so important to them, they come. They are like the thankful guests at the King's feast. Would you come if it took that much work? Once Jesus saw a very poor woman place the last of her money in the offering box. He told the disciples that she gave more than anyone else because she gave all she had. The same thing is true when those with disabilities come to church. When you see someone who can't speak making loud noises in liturgy, look closer. They are lifting their voice in song. Their song is beautiful to the Lord. Join your voice to theirs and praise God.

Have you ever seen someone walking with a cane and thought to hold the door for them? Or move slowly around them? Or pull out a chair so they can sit down? That person is teaching you kindness and that kindness will heal your soul of selfishness which is far more crippling than feet that don't work.

Age has a way of disabling even the strongest of us. Elderly people often can't hear well, or their voices are too weak to be heard. But if you sit very still and pay attention, they can tell you stories and have wonderful words of wisdom. It is a little bit like a treasure hunt. It can require hard work to talk with someone who can't hear or speak well, but the conversation can be filled with riches.

Unfortunately, adults often forget that we are all the same on the inside and can need help remembering. Do you remember the story of Job? When he faced great tragedy, his neighbors scolded him saying he must have done something wrong. Some people are like Job's negative neighbors and say mean things. Sometimes, they scold parents whose children suffer with autism. They tell them, "control your children," or they think that loud children need to go to a cry room, or they think badly of the sick just like the people in Jesus' day. And sometimes this causes people to leave the church and never come back. But you can help these adults remember that Jesus sent a very special invitation to the poor and to the sick. They are his guests of honor. When you bring a cup of water to the elderly, invite the child with down syndrome to play, or sit beside the blind person, you can help remind the adults that Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost and that we were all once lost.

Written by Judith Jolma

FINDING GOD AT DIVINE LITURGY CONT.

Observe:

What are some ways your Church accommodates those with disabilities?

Think:

Can you think of any other ways that your church family might make it easier for those with disabilities to participate in the life of the congregation?

- Written by Lynne Wardach

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FINDING GOD AT DIVINE LITURGY

When you go to Divine Liturgy on Sunday, take a moment and consider all the ways in which we find God there.

Well, first we walk into the Church!

Yes! We do. But what if our legs couldn't get us there? Could we still find God? How?

We make the sign of the cross and venerate the icons!

Yes! We do! But what if our arms were missing, or wouldn't move for us. Could we still find God? How?



We see the faces of the saints on the gorgeous icons on the tetrapod and iconostasis!

Yes! We do! But what if our eyes were blind and all we could see was darkness. Could we still find God? How?

We hear the beautiful singing and listen to the prayers, the Gospel and the homily!

Yes! We do. But what if our ears didn't work and it was silent there. Could we still find God? How?



We smell the incense as the priest blesses us and the entire church!

Yes! We do! But what if we didn't smell the scent? Could we still find God? How?



We focus our minds on the presence of God there and on the prayers being said and the coming of Jesus to us in the Eucharist.

Yes! We do! But what if our mind couldn't focus. What if we couldn't help but become distracted? Could we still find God? How?

We taste the Eucharist.

Yes! We do! This is the best part: even if we do not have the ability to taste the bread or the wine, we know that Jesus is present in them. He assures us that He is there whether we recognize Him or not; whether we can see Him, smell Him, hear Him, feel Him, or taste Him, or even if you are unable to focus on Him, He is there with us and we are with Him!



Now consider this: Often, when our senses work perfectly, we can take them for granted and not realize how difficult life can be for someone with a disability. This does not mean that they can not participate! When one of these senses is missing or deficient, it is usually the case that all of the others are still there to help us!

When you go to Liturgy, remember these things:

YOU have the opportunity to be the legs for those who can not walk. **YOU** can give help to those who can not see or hear.

YOU can bring Jesus to those who have trouble focusing on Him!

Walk into the Church reverently and hold the door or make a place for those who can not walk in by themselves and must be brought in by their family and friends.

Be the arms of someone who can't hold a book for themselves or who might need help opening the door.

Look at those around you and identify those in your congregation who may need help to find God because of a disability and then offer your services to those in need.

Be Seen: Make the sign of the cross and venerate the icons with care so that those who can't, but will see you do so, can be uplifted.

Listen: to the prayers and to the homily quietly so that others who might not be able to hear well are able to understand what the priest is saying.

Sing: when it's time to sing! Sing joyfully to help those who are unable to sing to at least join you in praising God in their hearts! Be patient when they sing too loudly or scream out. It may be the best they can do and it just might bring them joy to praise God in that way.

Love: all our brothers and sisters so that we can fully participate in the life of the Trinity! When we look for God's goodness in another and seek to understand them, we welcome them not only to the parish but into our friendship and community!

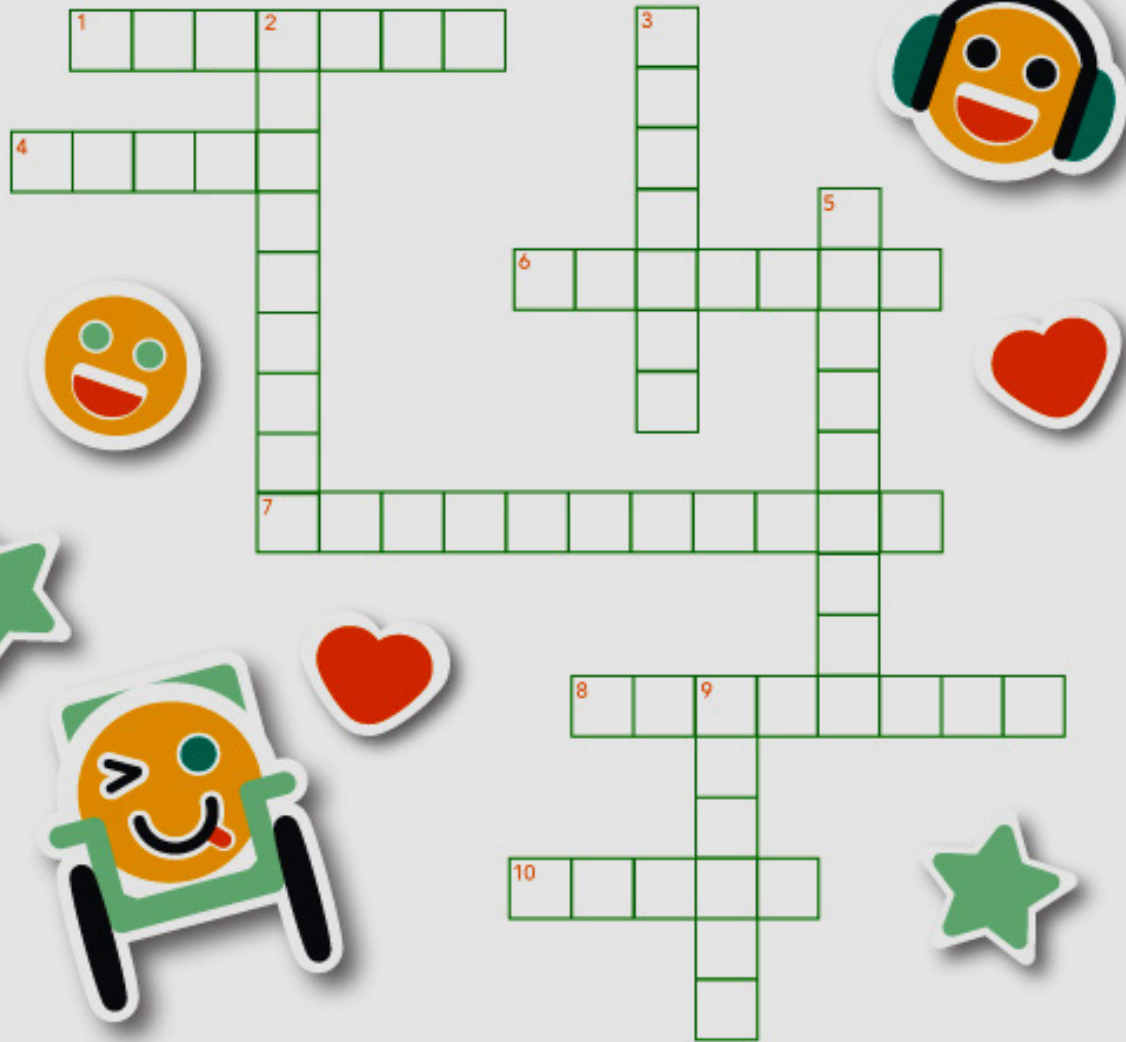
Accept: others where they are in their journey with God while calling them up to where they will be. Do you have a mental or physical impairment, learning difference, or disability which you haven't accepted and can learn to "let go and let God" in order to love even yourself?

Keep in mind that if one part of the body doesn't work well, there are so many other ways to find God at the Divine Liturgy AND so many people who can help just by offering them some understanding, like **YOU!**

Continued on previous page

>Written by Lynne Wardach

April Inclusion Crossword puzzle



ACROSS

1. A WORD USED TO DESCRIBE CHRIST'S PRESENCE AMONG US, WHAT HE DID AND CONTINUES TO DO FOR US.
4. THE WORD FOR THE HIGHEST FORM OF LOVE IS _____.
6. THE MYSTERY OF REPENTANCE AND THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK ARE TWO MYSTERIES OF _____.
7. KINDNESS CAN HEAL YOUR SOUL OF _____.
8. IN 2 CORINTHIANS, ST. PAUL SAYS THE LORD TOLD HIM, "MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN _____."
10. THE BLIND MAN OF JERICHO CALLED OUT, "JESUS, SON OF _____, HAVE MERCY ON ME!"

DOWN

2. BENEATH YOUR COMPASSION WE TAKE REFUGE, O VIRGIN _____.
3. LAZARUS AND HIS SISTERS LIVED IN THE TOWN OF _____.
5. A WORD WHICH MEANS WE SHOULD WELCOME ALL.
9. A NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER THAT IS CAUSED BY GENETIC DIFFERENCES.

ANSWER KEY TO CROSSWORD

APRIL ANSWERS:
 CROSSWORD PUZZLE
 ACROSS:
 1. MYSTERY
 4. AGAPE
 6. HEALING
 7. SELFISHNESS
 8. WEAKNESS
 10. DAVID
 DOWN:
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VERSES:

EPHESIANS 2:10

FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND, THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.

EPHESIANS 4: 4-6

THERE IS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO THE ONE HOPE THAT BELONGS TO YOUR CALL, ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, ONE GOD AND FATHER OF US ALL, WHO IS ABOVE ALL AND THROUGH ALL AND IN ALL.



JUNIOR VERSES (6YRS & BELOW):

LUKE 6:31

AND AS YOU WISH THAT MEN WOULD DO TO YOU, DO SO TO THEM.

WWW.BYZIMOM.COM 13

FEAST OF ST. GEORGE, THE GREAT MARTYR (April 23/May 6)

The life of St. George was one of devout Christian living – authentic and true to his calling. George was born towards the end of the third century. He was the son of wealthy and renown Cappadocian parents. After his father's death, George's mother, Polychronia, educated her ten-year old son George according to the Christian faith that she had embraced previously without even the knowledge of her husband.

George in his early years was educated in the spirit of the Gospel message of Love and Truth. At age 18, George embarked on a military career. Emperor Diocletian had quickly taken notice of the young soldier's valor and capability to succeed in military maneuvers and campaign. Manifesting the strength given to him by the Almighty Lord God, George had slayed the beast, a dangerous dragon which imperiled the life of the Emperor's daughter. The people in the area were full of awe at this God-given strength. Thus, many were converted from their pagan belief to the true faith, Christianity.

Nonetheless, Diocletian had persisted in his pagan beliefs and then began to persecute Christians. The courage and fortitude of George had become manifest. He bravely made a public confession of his faith in Christ. He feared not any reproach. Moreover, George came to the defense of the Christians of his time. This authentic follower of Christ spoke out in defense of those Christians who suffered persecution under the reign of Emperor Diocletian. This greatly angered the Emperor.

Diocletian had even sought to lure George away from his faith in Christ. Diocletian desired the total support of George, not only in defending the Empire, but also with regard to the Emperor's opposition and persecution of true-believing Christians. The Emperor offered George honors and position if only he would offer sacrifice to the pagan gods.

The saintly George remained true to his faith in Christ, desiring to rather walk in the footsteps of Christ, his Lord and Savior. He

suffered many tortures, but remained steadfast. When given the choice between the fleeting honors, positions and glory of this world and that of taking up one's cross and following Christ and seeking an eternal reward of life with Christ in Heaven, George chose the eternal one. His readiness to even die for the Faith to his being beheaded – Martyrdom.

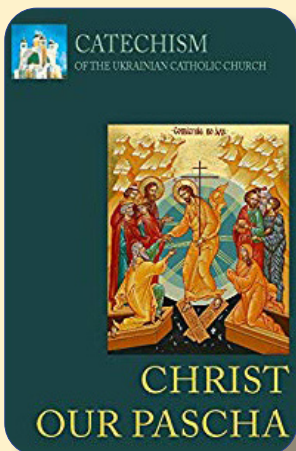
It is this fortitude of St. George that led to him being honored by the early Christian Church as a steadfast believer, a worker of miracles, and a brave warrior against evil. Early Christian art depicted the saintly warrior George, clothed in armor, seated on a white horse and slaying a dragon. George had fought and was victorious over the ugliness of evil with the brilliance of divinely-inspired truth and strength.

St. George is honored today by Ukrainian Catholics as a "Great Martyr". He is called the "Victorious One" able to overcome obstacles placed by the evil one. Ukrainian farmers pray to St. George for the safety and well-being of their flocks. In the western



city of Lviv, a beautiful, majestic Cathedral was built in his honor. St. George was long regarded as the patron, protector of western Ukraine, Halychyna. His veneration extends throughout the Christian world, both East and West. Countries, such as England and Georgia, have designated him as their patron, protector. His valor, his patient endurance and willingness to suffer even death, martyrdom, designate this loyal warrior of Christ, worthy of veneration and intercession before the Heavenly throne of the Pantocrator, Christ the King and Ruler of the Universe.

Rev. D. George Worschak, Assistant Editor



The virtue of long-suffering, which we also call patience or quiet gentleness, is characterized by confidence in the protection of God, and thus allows one to resist human anger. “Fret not yourself because of the wicked, be not envious of wrongdoers! ... Hope in the Lord, and do good; so you will dwell in the land and be fed with its wealth ... Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him” (Ps 36[37]:1, 3, 7). Saint John Chrysostom teaches: “For if we show patience, we shall be invincible; and there is nobody either great or small, who will have power to hurt us.” - (Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church: Christ Our Pascha, #770)

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POPE AT "URBI ET ORBI": LET THE SUFFERING IN THE EAST OF UKRAINE STOP!

April 12, 2020

Today my thought turns immediately to those directly affected by the coronavirus. For many, this is an Easter of solitude, lived amid the sorrow and hardship that the pandemic is causing, from physical suffering to economic difficulties.

This is what Pope Francis said on April 12, in his Easter message "Urbi et Orbi".



"May the Lord of life receive the dead in His Kingdom and give comfort and hope to those who are still going through trials, especially those who are old and alone. May His comfort and necessary assistance be enough for those who are in a situation of special vulnerability, such as those who work in medical institutions or live in barracks and prisons. For many people, this is an Easter of loneliness, which is experienced in the midst of mourning and numerous hardships caused by the pandemic, from physical suffering to economic problems," he wished.

The Pope has noted

that the European Union today faces an epochal challenge due to the pandemic, which will determine not only its future but also the future of the entire world. Therefore, Europeans must show solidarity and reject the selfishness of individual interests.

The Pope also called for helping the poorest countries cope with the greatest needs by reducing, and even forgiving, the debt weighing on their budgets. He also called for easing international sanctions.

"May the crisis we are experiencing not cause us to forget

about the numerous other emergencies that bring suffering to many people," the Pontiff said.

The Pope also recalled Ukraine in his speech.

"May Christ, our peace, enlighten those responsible for conflicts to join the call for a global and immediate ceasefire in all corners of the world. This is not the time to continue to manufacture and trade weapons, spending huge capital that should be used to treat people and save lives. May this, on the contrary, be the time to put an end to the long war that has bloodied dear Syria, the conflict in Yemen and

the tension in Iraq, as well as in Lebanon. May this be the time when Israelis and Palestinians resume dialogue to find a sustainable and lasting solution that will allow both sides to live in peace. May the suffering of the population of the Eastern regions of Ukraine come to an end. May the terrorist attacks carried out against so many innocent people in different African countries come to an end," the Pope said.

https://risu.org.ua/en/index/all_news/catholics/vatikan/79674

His Beatitude Sviatoslav thanks priests for their readiness to stand together with their people amidst the pandemic

April 16, 2020

On the occasion of the Day of the Establishment of the Holy Sacrament of the Priesthood, Patriarch Sviatoslav thanked the priests for "pastoral fervor for human souls in the circumstances of great universal pain and general anxiety, for their willingness to be close to their people and to "lay their soul for their sheep." This is stated in the Pastoral Letter to the Clergy of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church on Holy Thursday.

He also thanked those priests who recorded the video address to our faithful under the slogan: "We stand with you!"

I am pleased that you are longing for live communication with your people and are looking for all possible ways to be with them and allow them to feel your support and prayer," His Beatitude Sviatoslav writes.

In his message, the Head of the UGCC also mentioned the military and medical

chaplains: "It is with special gratitude that I recall today those of our pastors who are entrusted with their ministry in the leading positions of modern Ukrainian frontlines - medical and military chaplains. I am confident that these new circumstances will allow our people to know and love their Church better, and through your ministry, trust in the Lord God more deeply. "

The first hierarch was optimistic: "We will surely come out of forced self-isolation and return

and bring others back to the normal rhythm of our church life and ministry! It is the Lord who gives us the light of hope that we will be able to overcome the wounds of the epidemic together. We may not yet be fully aware of all the economic or socio-political difficulties that await us all. But nobody can deprive us of the joy of Resurrection."

https://risu.org.ua/en/index/all_news/catholics/ugcc/79752

His Beatitude Sviatoslav says in his sermon, "Let us invest in life, not death"

April 12, 2020

Humanity is now on the threshold of a new era and the world will change radically after the pandemic. But whether it will get better depends on each of us.

This was stated by the UGCC Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk in his sermon.

The Head of the UGCC reminded that deadly diseases have passed through Europe more than once, and when they did, people rethought

their lives.

"We see that this is the time before us today. The world, our state, and we will no longer be the same as before this epidemic began. We can say with confidence that man and humanity will become different. But how different it will become depends on us," His Beatitude Sviatoslav said.

According to the Head of the UGCC, to make the world a better place, we have to rethink the value of human life.

"We can become the best when we stop investing in death and start investing in life. If those who have power stop investing today in the production of weapons and invest these funds in the development of the health system. We will become the best when we realize that human life is the highest value of the people, society, and civilization. We will become the best when we feel the value of solidarity when we understand that no walls, no divisions into spheres of influence, no countries,

geopolitics today can hold the slightest virus because in front of it walls and borders have no force," His Beatitude Sviatoslav stressed.

The Patriarch of the UGCC also urged to take more care of the environment and then the earth will not produce deadly diseases to protect itself before humanity.

https://risu.org.ua/en/index/all_news/community/religion_and_society/79671

His Beatitude Sviatoslav says on Easter: These empty temples make our proclamation of faith in the risen Christ even louder

Monday, 20 April 2020

The Feast of the Resurrection of Christ is the greatest feast in the Church. The Primate says that the Resurrection of Christ raises a man from all his infirmities, gives light, joy, brings peace.

"Listening to the story of the Resurrection of Christ, we find striking parallels with how we are celebrating Easter this year. It is a feeling that this very special Easter, by God's amazing design, gives us the opportunity to relive the smallest details in the whole event of Resurrection," said the Head of the UGCC.

Today we sing the solemn song "Christ is Risen!" in the empty temples. We can even say that in different countries of the world, Easter temples are literally "sealed" by secular authorities like it was in Jerusalem.

But what do these circumstances tell us today? "These empty temples, by all the laws of spiritual acoustics, make our singing, our proclamation of faith in the risen Christ even louder, which echoes



to the ends of the earth," emphasized the preacher.

The spiritual leader of the Ukrainians thanked the faithful who listened to the voice of their Church and met the risen Christ behind closed doors in their home churches. "Today, through the closed quarantine doors, the risen Christ will hasten to you as He had come to His disciples through the closed doors to turn their fear into joy, their confusion into the light of hope," said His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

The Primate notes that perhaps this Easter the

Lord God wanted us to have a special experience of His living presence among us. Because it is most difficult for people to change themselves and their stereotypes of behavior. "How often do we, Christians, really feel stuck in various personal habits we practice even with regards to our Christian holidays. Perhaps today, God calls us to respect the person rather than our habit, and calls us to see with new eyes our resurrected Lord," asks the preacher.

The Head of the Church greeted all who are on the front, in the occupied

territories of Donbas, in our Ukrainian Crimea, all those who are far away from their family and lonely.

In particular, the Head of the Church sends Easter greetings to the sick, to those who are on isolation, and to our doctors who care for coronavirus patients endangering their lives.

"To all of you, I wish you a happy holiday, a tasty Easter bread and all those paschal foods that we will consecrate through live streaming from our cathedral at the

(continued on next page)

His Beatitude Sviatoslav says on Easter: These empty temples make our proclamation of faith in the risen Christ even louder

(continued from previous page)

conclusion of the Liturgy. Let the whole universe sing today: Christ is risen! He is Risen Indeed!" wished His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

At the end of the Liturgy, the Head of the UGCC blessed the traditional paschal foods that the faithful in their homes prepared for Easter.

The UGCC Department for Information

Adapted from the article on http://news.ugcc.ua/en/news/ugcc_

head_on_easter_these_empty_temples_make_our_proclamation_of_faith_in_the_risen_christ_even_louder_89424.html

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, date of episcopal ordination of Fr. Mykola Bychok is changed

April 9, 2020

The episcopal ordination of Father Mykola Bychok to the ruling bishop of the Eparchy of Saint Apostles Peter and Paul in Melbourne (Australia) is to take place on June 7, 2020 at St. George's Cathedral in Lviv. The nominee bishop reported this in a comment for the UGCC Information Department. "Because of the coronavirus pandemic, His Beatitude Sviatoslav proposed to move the Hierotonia from April 26 to June 7, 2020, so as not to endanger people. I fully support such a decision, which I consider to be wise and prudent today. I hope that by this time the quarantine will be completed and there will be no obstacle for the faithful to take part in the episcopal ordination," said Fr. Mykola.



As planned, the Holy Liturgy will be led by the Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the main consecrator. The co-consecrators will be Bishop Ihor Vozniak, Metropolitan of Lviv, and Bishop Petro Loza, Assistant Bishop of the Eparchy of Sokal-Zhovkva.

As we informed, on January 15, 2020, the Vatican announced that Pope Francis appointed as bishop of the Eparchy of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne of the Ukrainians the Reverend Mykola Bychok, C.S.R. At the same time, it was reported that the Holy Father accepted the resignation from the pastoral care of the Eparchy of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne of the Ukrainians, Australia, presented by Archbishop Petro Stasiuk, C.Ss.R.

The UGCC Department for Information

news.ugcc.ua/en/news/due_to_the_coronavirus_pandemic_date_of_episcopal_ordination_of_fr_mykola_bychok_is_changed_89281.html

Thirty-fourth Anniversary of Chernobyl Disaster

Sunday, April 26th, marks thirty-four years since the horrific ecological tragedy of the catastrophic “accident” of the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine. This shocked the entire world. This tragedy occurred in 1986, when Ukraine was yet under Soviet rule. One can recall how veracity of the official report was questioned and how the Soviets refused to allow “outsiders” to participate in the probe and cleanup thereafter.

The radioactive clouds from the disaster spread far and wide, not only to neighboring countries, but hundreds, even thousands of miles away. Although the travelling radioactive clouds would eventually dissipate and disappear from the horizons of the other countries, Ukraine would continue to bear the effects of this “catastrophic tragedy” for many years to come. Those affected by this catastrophe were of all ages, generations. It affected those of tender years, especially the young children, even prior to birth, resulting in growth and developmental abnormalities. The

people of Ukraine and in particular the Chernobyl region have carried the cross of pain, suffering and illness. Yet in spite of all these tragic effects, there is also the testimony of numerous survivors who had shown a deep faith in God and a resolve to survive one more difficulty, obstacle in the development of Ukraine.

Four years ago, in 2016, upon the request of the veterans of Afghanistan and Chernobyl, His Beatitude Sviatoslav blessed the Chernobyl icon of Our Lady at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, Kyiv, Ukraine. Well-known artists of Ukraine were commissioned to create the Icon of the Chernobyl Mother of God. This was initiated by the Chernobyl liquidators from the regions of Lviv and Transcarpathia. Their members helped to financially realize this most austere project.

During the blessing of this icon, His Beatitude Sviatoslav praised the heroes-liquidators for their faith, who sought the powerful intercession of the Holy Mother of God. His Beatitude attributed the fact of the heroes-



Four years ago, His Beatitude Sviatoslav blessed the Chernobyl icon of Our Lady at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, Kyiv, Ukraine.

liquidators presence at this memorable event of four years ago, the blessing of the Icon, to the motherly intercession of Our Lady on their behalf.

May we keep alive this memory etched in the hearts of Ukrainians, home and abroad, far and near. May we Ukrainians seek Our Lady’s help – that Ukraine continue to live in freedom, unity and solidarity with one another. May we continue to give glory and praise to the Almighty Lord and to recall with esteem the heroic virtues of Ukrainians for one’s native land. This love for one another and for the

good of all humanity is a praiseworthy trait of our people. Let us recall the words of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ: “With God, all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26)

Glory to God! Слава Бору!
Glory to Ukraine! Слава Україні!
Glory to all the heroes! Героям слави!

**Rev. D. George Worschak,
Assistant Editor**

May 2020 - Травня 2020 р.

Happy Birthday!

З Днем народження!

May 16: Subdeacon Alex Bricki
May 22: Rev. Msgr. Ronald Popivchak
May 23: Rev. Alexander Dumenko

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

Нехай Добрий Господь Тримає Вас у Своїй Опіці та Щедро Благословить Вас. Многая Літа!



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Вітаємо з Річницею Священства!

May 1: Subdeacon Alex Bricki (4th Anniversary)
May 3: Bishop-elect Mykola Bychok, C.Ss.R. (15th Anniversary)
May 5: Rev. Vasyl Putera (24th Anniversary)
May 11: Very Rev. Archpr. John M. Fields (34th Anniversary)
May 12: Very Rev. Archpr. Daniel Gurovich (46th Anniversary)
May 14: Rev. John Ciurpita (31st Anniversary)
May 14: Msgr. James Melnic (42nd Anniversary)
May 16: Rev. Paul J. Makar (10th Anniversary)
May 16: Rev. John Seniw (38th Anniversary)
May 16: V. Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan (38th Anniversary)
May 20: Very Rev. Archpr. Michael Hutsko (36th Anniversary)
May 22: Rev. Robert Hitchens (26th Anniversary)
May 25: Rev. Msgr. Myron Grabowsky (53rd Anniversary)
May 25: Rev. Msgr. Ronald Popivchak (53rd Anniversary)

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

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