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Our Church Web-Page Is:
<http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

Buffalo Community Web-Page Is:
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N^o
36

SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor/dean
Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

Parish E-Mail: stnbuffalo@yahoo.com

Web Page: <http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

Dioc. Web: <http://www.stamforddio.org>

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

Rectory: (716) 852-7566

Fax: 855-1319 ~ **Kitchen:** 852-1908

Confession: Before Liturgies

Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями

Baptism: By appointment

Хрещення: За домовленням

Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance

Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

Religion classes – Кляси Релігії

Vacations - Вакації.

Ministry to the sick - Опіка над хворими

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священика

IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME

В разі потреби завжди можна закликати

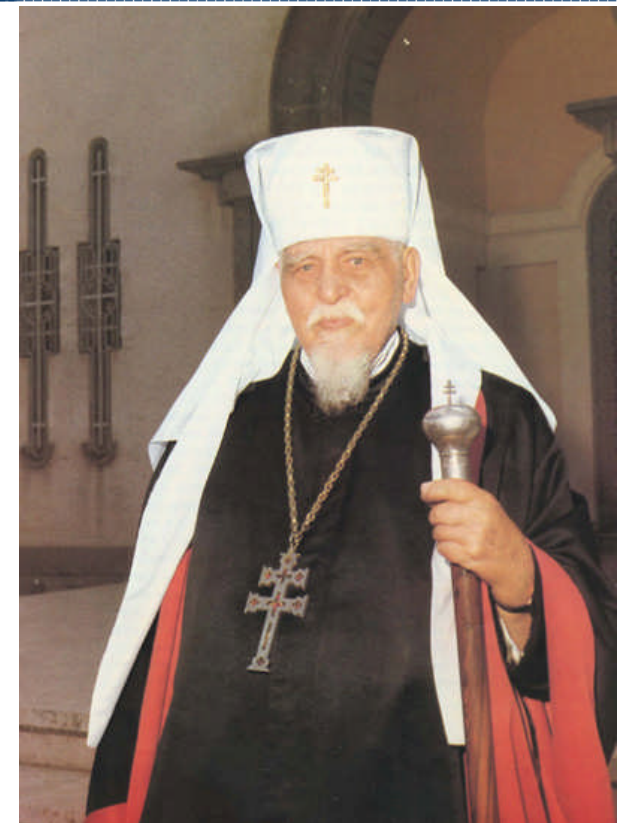
UNDER THE PROTECTION
OF MOTHER OF GOD



ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ

CHURCH BULLETIN – N^o36

September 4 – 2011 – 4 Вересня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК – Ч. 36



Патріарх Йосиф 1894 – 1984 Patriarch Josyf

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

Sep. 4: 12 S. Aft. Pent.-12 Н. По ЗСД **T3**

10:00 AM +Володимир Осадців
(Любомир і Соня Головаті)

12:00 PM За Парохіян - For Parishioners

Mon., Sep. 5 – Понеділок, 5 Вересня

8:15 AM +Michael C. Chort (Marianne)

Tue., Aug. 6 – Вівторок, 6 Вересня

8:15 AM За зд. Валерія Яворського
(Оля і Оленка)

Wenesday, Sep. 7 – Середа, 7 Вересня

9:30 AM +Патріярх Йосиф - Patr. Josyf

Thu., Sep. 8 – Чет., 8 Вер.– Birth of BVM

9:30 AM За Парохіян - For Parishioners

Friday, Sep. 9 – П'ят., 9 Вересня

8:15 AM +Богдан Пашковський (Дмитро
і Долорес Бараницький)

12:00 PM +Halyna Szczerba (Pitolaj Fam.)

Saturday, Sep. 10 – Субота, 10 Вересня

9:00 AM За учнів, учителів і батьків
„Рідної Школи”

4:30 PM +Mychajlo Oros (wife)

Sep. 11: 13 S. Aft. Pent.-13 Н. По ЗСД **T4**

10:00 AM +Іван і Марія Правак
(родина Правак)

12:00 PM Katherine M. Chort (Marianne)

**Eternal Light burns for
+Timothy & Anna Sarachman
Requ. By: Joanne Bader**

**Вічне світло в честь ПДМ горить за
Прославу Сл. Б. Патр. Йосифа
~Glorification of Patriarch Josyf~**

In the Beginning . . . (cont.)

(week 24) I have fine hair all over my body that is there to protect my skin. Chris will lose all this body hair before birth. I'm a little thin at this point but am putting on more baby fat. My eyes are formed, but the iris does not have color – I'd like brown eyes! Chris now weighs over a pound and is about a foot long.

50 years ago, if the baby was born at this age, the child could not have survived. But today, with modern technology, babies born at this age have a fighting chance (about 50%) of survival.


“Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

Religion Classes for the upcoming school year will begin Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 11:45AM in the Church Hall. Any children eligible to receive Solemn Communion should be registered in our program. Stamford Eparchy policy suggests two years of Religious Education before receiving the Sacraments of Penance and Solemn Communion. For more information you can call the rectory on Mondays and Thursdays between 9:00AM and 2:00PM, or call Elaine Nowadly at 825-8169. Help is needed. We need Religion teachers to cover all the classes. Anyone interested in volunteering to work in the Religious Education Program should contact Father Procyk.

Congratulations to

Vera Proskunova, dau. of Jurij & Lubov
and Keith Carlins, son of James & Loretta
In the occasion of their wedding!

Гратулюємо з нагоди Вінчання
Віри Проскунової, доньки Юрія і Любов
і Кейт М. Карлінс, син Якова і Лоретти
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Help rebuild our Ukrainian Home.
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Donations are tax deductible.



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Amherst, NY 14068

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UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Просимо звернути
увагу на дати:



Sunday Coffee Hours: If any one would like to volunteer to host a Sunday, please contact Elaine, Dora, Emily, Mary (B.) or Anna.

- KITCHEN – is closed for the Summer. Thank you for your help and patronage.
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- August 7: Church Picnic. Please help!!!

TOP'S GIFT CARDS:

Please help us raise money for our Church by purchasing



Top's Gift Cards from us. If you buy in Tops anyway, why not help. You do not lose or gain anything by doing this, but our Church will benefit greatly. We receive back 5% of your spending. To take advantage of this program, see Mary Bodnar or call 655-3810, or call the rectory. Thank you and God Bless!

Please note: You can purchase gasoline with this card at Tops Gasoline Station.

У нас успішно продаються Карточки з крамниці "Топс". Купуючи їх ви допомагаєте церкві. Для Вас не робить різниці чи ви платили грошми чи карточкою, але церква дістане від „Топс” 5%. На \$1,000 церква одержить \$50. Що б закупити слід звертатися до п. Марії Боднар, або до канцелярії. Дякуємо! Також можна цією карточкою купувати бензину.

CHURCH BULLETIN is published weekly. Deadline for information is Friday Evening.

ЦЕРК. ВІСНИК видається тижнево
Інформації подавати до четверга вечора.

SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ (ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ)

Please call if you are hospitalized,
homebound and need a priest.
Просимо закликати якщо ви у
лічниці або приковані до ліжка!

Коли плянуєте дату вашого вінчання
чи хрещення то просимо поговорити
з парохом, щоб потім не було непорозуміння. Може статися, що в цей день
буде неможливо відбутися заплановане.
* * *

If you are planning a Baptism or Wedding, please contact Pastor about the date before making other arrangements.

V. Rev. Marijan Proyk

Are you listening "Good Samaritan"
Ukrainian Radio Program
on WJLL 1440 AM
Every Sunday at 2:00 PM?
Thanks for donations!

* * *

Чи слухаєте нашу радіо передачу
«Милосердний Самар'янин»
Неділя, 2 год. на WJLL 1440 AM?
Дякуємо за пожертви!

DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

"Special Appeal"

IMO Harry Swiatkiwsky

Ulana Loza - \$30.00

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Anna Melnyk - \$20.00

Anna Zankiw - \$20.00

Mykola & Tania Paslowsky - \$20.00

Bohdan & Sofia Dusanivsky - \$20.00

Michael Liskiewicz - \$20.00

Nancy Weigand - \$20.00

Michael & Maria Petryshyn - \$20.00

Irene Tschip - \$5.00

Thank you – Сердечна Подяка!

SITCH DINNER MEETING

Sunday September 25, 2011

At Joseph Hriczko Post

Clemo St., Buffalo, NY

After 12:00 pm Liturgy for the reposed
and living members of Sitch
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church
Fillmore & Oneida Sts., Buffalo, NY

COCKTAILS at 1:00PM

DINNER at 1:30PM incl. refreshments

Meeting to be held after dinner.

Dinner cost is \$10.00 for members and
\$15.00 for guests

Membership dues of \$5.00

For the 2011 year must be current
and may be paid at the door.

For reservations call:

Mike Liskiewicz – 837-0285 or

Maria Malaniak – 668-5105

Reservation deadline is
September 18, 2011

Ridna Shkola - Рідна Школа

The start of Ridna Shkola's 2011-2012 school year will begin on Saturday, September 10, 2011. The school year will begin with a Liturgy at St. Nicholas Church at 9 am. Following in the Church Hall will be registration for the school year along with a brief parents meeting. Dismissal for the first day will be at 11 am. If you have any questions, please contact:

Ann Serediuk at 821-0711 or
Halya Nazarevych at 714-5315.



Повідомляємо, що новий 2011-2012 навчальний рік в нашій "Рідній Школі" розпочинається 10 вересня 2011 р. Починаємо його Святою Літургією в церкві Св. Миколая о 9 годині ранку. Після Богослуження в церковному залі відбудуться запис учнів на новий шкільний рік та інформативні збори батьків. Перший день нового навчального року закінчиться об 11-й год.

LUC News Reminder:

The deadline to put an ad the 2011 League of Ukrainian Catholics Convention Journal is Thursday, September 1, 2011.

Tickets are available for purchase for convention events from Elaine Nowadly or Mary Beth Sukmann.

73rd Annual Convention,

League of Ukrainian Catholics
October 7, 8, 9, 2011
Holiday Inn Airport
- Cheektowaga, NY



The League of Ukrainian Catholics, Niagara Frontier Council cordially invites the Buffalo area Ukrainian community to join with them in celebrating their 73rd Annual Convention from October 7, 8, 9, 2011 at the Holiday Inn-Airport in Cheektowaga, NY. The theme of this year's convention is "Grant me the wisdom of our Eastern rite, to hold it, to renew it and develop it." Taken From the *Servant of God Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky's Prayer of the for Divine Wisdom.*

The Convention will begin on Friday, October 7th with a general meeting of delegates. Following the meeting there will be a workshop conducted by Rev. Ivan Kaszczak.

A "Buffalo Fest" Welcome Party will begin the weekends festivities.

Saturday will begin with breakfast followed by a keynote address by Rev. Kaszczak. Then its on to Niagara Falls, NY . A Panachyda service for deceased members of the League will be held at Protection of the BVM Ukrainian Catholic Church. After the service its on to various locations in Niagara Falls and the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston, NY. At the Saturday evening Banquet, Reverend Czeslaw Michal Krysa, Director of Worship of the Diocese of Buffalo will be the Main Speaker, entertainment will follow the banquet.

Sunday morning will begin with Liturgy at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Buffalo, NY. , Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Eparch of Stamford, will be the main celebrant. The convention will conclude with Brunch and closing activities at the hotel.

Again, please know, you are most cordially invited to join with us for all the weekend festivities.

SCHEDULE OF CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Friday, October 7, 2011

REGISTRATION	10:00 am – 5:00 pm	\$15.00
HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN	10:00 am – 5:00 pm	
GENERAL MEETING	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	
WORKSHOP	3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	
WELCOME PARTY	6:30 pm – 10:30 pm	\$25.00

Saturday, October 8, 2011

BREAKFAST & KEYNOTE SPEAKER	8:30 am - 9:45 am	\$20.00
TOUR LEAVES FOR NIAGARA FALLS	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	\$20.00

Protection of the BVM Ukr. Cath. Ch.
 Niagara Falls and Area Attractions
 Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, Lewiston, NY
 Leave Niagara Falls for Holiday Inn 3:15 pm

FESTIVE BANQUET

Cash Bar	6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	
Dinner	7:00 pm – 11:00 pm	\$45.00

Sunday, October 9, 2011

Leave Holiday Inn	8:30 am	
Liturgy at St. Nicholas Church	9:00 am	
Return to hotel after Liturgy		
Brunch at Hotel	12:00 pm	\$25.00

Final Deadline for tickets is
September 28, 2011

For ticket information contact:

Mary Beth Sukmann	824-1433
Maria (Slabyk) LaPaglia	826-0281
Elaine Nowadly	825-8169

Ліга Українців Католиків повідомляє, що Конвенція Ліги відбудеться тут у нас в Жовтні. Просимо взяти участь. Рівно просимо щоб в цей час не влаштовувати своїх імпрез. Дякуємо!

BASILIAN SISTERS

The Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great are celebrating 100 Years in America as a praying, healing, life-giving presence. Please mark your calendars for following Centennial Events:

Centennial Pilgrimage
October 2nd - Fox Chase

Closing of the Centennial Year
Divine Liturgy and Banquet
November 6th Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

For more information:
www.stbasils.com

Проща до Сестер Василяник
На Факс Чейс з нагоди 100-ліття
Чину Сестер Василянок у Америці
буде 2 Жовтня. Просимо до участі!

Please accept the invitation to all men of our Eparchy to join me and some exciting speakers for a Day of Reflection on Saturday, September 24th on the grounds of St. Basil's in Stamford. The theme of the day is **BE A MAN** and we will reflect and talk about this together in a manly way. You may sign up at our website www.stamforddio.org or pick up a registration form at your parish.

Most Rev. Paul P. Chomnycky, O.S.B.M.
 Eparch of Stamford

BE A MAN!
Eparchial Men's Day
of Reflection

"Planted and build in Jesus Christ,
firm in the faith"

September 24, 2011

St. Basil Seminary

Schedule

- 9:00-9:30am** Arrival & registration
- 9:30** *Moleben to Mother of God* – Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM
- 10:00** *"Be a Man"* - Father Paul Luniw
- 11:00** *Coffee break*
- 11:30** *"Who am I"* - Richard Pucher
- 12:30pm** *Lunch*
- 1:30** Workshop Sessions 1
 - Workshop: *Bob Douglas*
 - What Conditions Challenge Us**
to Be a Good Christian Today &
how can we overcome them?
 - Workshop: *Orest Kozicky*
- "Our lives: family, work, community"**
- 2:30** *Coffee break*
- 3:00** Workshop Sessions 2
 - Workshop: *Andy Bamber*
 - How to Bring Out the Best in Your Wife:**
To help her have a richer and fuller life
as a wife and mother!
 - Workshop: *Richard Pucher*
 - "What pew do I sit in?"**
- 4:00** **"What it means to be a Man in the Church Community?"** - Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM
- 4:30** Departure

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

...Патріярх Йосиф журився майбутнім, він добре знав яку відповідальність поклав Христос на його плечі, він не заввагався піти у кайданах на заслання через довгих 18 років. Перед очима бачив він віднову, твердо вірив у воскресіння нашої церкви, яка була живцем похована в 1946-му році, надіявся на кращу долю.

Ця надія кріпила його в тюрмах і в нестачі, в небезпеках смерті від голоду і холоду, від кримінальних в'язнів і від тих, що їх пільнували. В той час, він, в'язень Христа Ради, був світлом для всіх несправедливо засуджених, що шукали хоч крехітки справедливості. Він для них був Христом. Допомагав кілька міг, а тим, що його нераз ображали, прощав...

У своїому заповіті Блаженніший згадує: "Передо мною, наступником Слуги Божого Митрополита Андрея і переєм-

цем його духовної спадщини і його заповітів, простилився довгий шлях відречення, несення хреста і свідчення Йому перед людьми в роді тім перелюбодійнім і грішнім. На цьому шляху Божа десниця помагала мені, в'язневі Христа ради, давати свідчення Христові, як це Він прорік своїм учням послідовникам: 'І будете мені свідками в Єрусалимі і в усій Юдеї та Самарії, і аж до краю землі...' Але на придорожних стовпах мого шляху видніли інші написи: Не Єрусалим, Юдея, Самарія, а Львів, Київ, Сибір, Красноярський Край, Єнісейськ, Полярія, Мордовія..., і так дослівно 'аж до краю землі'.

Ув'язнення ніччю, тайні судилища, безконечні допити і підглядання, моральні і фізичні знущання й упокорення, кату-

вання, морення голодом; нечестиві слідчі, а перед ними я, безбороний в'язень каторжник, 'німий свідок церкви', що знеможений, фізично і психічно вичирпаний, дає свідчення своїй рідній мовчазній і на смерть приреченій церкві... І в'язень каторжник бачив, що його шлях кінчався приреченням на смерть."

І дивно є, що Патріярх лишився при житті, що його не розстріляли, як багатьох інших небажаних. Господь мабуть зберіг його, щоб відновити церкву на поселеннях, і дати надію терплячій церкві в Україні, і відкрити очі світові на її терпіння. "Вам не вільно мовчати на вид ліквідації нашої церкви в країні вкритій горами трупів і ріками крові" – казав патріярх на Другому ватиканському Соборі. І він ніколи не мовчав. І сумніву не може бути, що Його гідний

приклад приспішив визволення нашої страждучої церкви.

В 1971 р. благопокійний Патріярх Йосиф дав нам такі вказівки: "Ви мусите триматися разом однією мовою, однією вірою в Христа, однією молитвою, однією системою богослужіння, одним обрядом, однією національною

українською свідомістю, однією великою любов'ю до нашої спадщини князів і воїнів, до нашої культури, літератури, мистецтва, до наших традицій і звичаїв державницького правління, скріплених нашою історією багато століть".

Потрібно "засвідчувати єдність української нації в усіх країнах її розкинення"...



From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

GLORY FOREVER!

September 4, 2011

Dear _____,

(Your name here, for your very own personal letter)

Hurricane Irene came and left, but her after effects still linger on, and continue to affect millions and millions of people. Our thoughts and prayers have been going out since last weekend for those who died in the storm, those who suffered and those who continue to experience loss and hardship because of the storm. People are yapping on the TV and radio about how the storm wasn't anything as predicted. Yeah, tell that to the family of the guy who was electrocuted, or to the family of the people who drowned or had a tree fell on them. It was indeed a great and unusual storm and indeed did create havoc and chaos wherever it was, forecast or no forecast. We pray that all who have been touched by Hurricane Irene will find courage, strength, and comfort from our prayers, and that their faith will remain as strong as ever, as they try to find some normalcy in their lives. For some, the storm was a life-changing event and things will never be the same. For most, it will be business as usual soon and Irene will fade into our distant memory to be brought out in the future by something that will trigger the memory and we'll be saying, "Remember 2011 when Irene came through...."

We definitely were remembering our family and friends last Sunday, especially as the storm churned through Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and on up into the rest of New England. I was especially thinking about how many Liturgies could not be served on those days. I once knew a guy

who liked to ask, "How come God brings bad weather on a Sunday and we can't get to church?" I told him maybe it's to remind us of how terrible it would be if we were not able ever to attend services on a Sunday. We should be so in love with the Eucharist, especially "the Lord's Day Eucharist," that we truly feel a deep loss when we are unable to attend on a given Sunday. So, so many people don't care about it one way or the other. Just give them a sporting event, a picnic or some other pursuit of earthly pleasure on a Sunday and they don't need the Liturgy. That's what they think! So perhaps the Lord, by allowing the storm to prevent a few Liturgies, is reminding us just how very important it really is for us, and how much we miss the Holy Eucharist and the gathering of His people when we can't get there. I hope there were many people who felt that sense of loss at not being able to attend the Holy and Divine Liturgy last weekend. If absence makes the heart grow fonder, they will be truly hungering for the blessings of this coming Sunday, when they once again, please God, will be able to gather in their respective parishes.

As I said a lot of people were on our minds, but we especially remembered and were praying for our dear Eva Shalayda. We said good-bye to her on August 14 as she left our parish in Niagara Falls and went to live in New Jersey with her son and his family. Two weeks later she is in the middle of a hurricane. Perfect timing, huh?! Hang in there Eva! It can only get better from now on.

In the towns and cities that have gotten back on her feet after that serious weather it is now time to begin the new school year. I know many systems in the various states

are already back and “gettin’ in the groove.” Jonah had a great first day in first grade yesterday and loves school. Our New York kids are still on vacation till after Labor Day but soon those great big yellow busses will be on the move once again! Dear teachers and students, may you be filled with the Wisdom from on high as you work to increase your knowledge and expertise, and as you find your very special place in this world, making it a better place for all of us. Be good! Study hard! Have a great and profitable year! The best year ever!

Some people have been telling me that their gardens are beginning to fizzle and their veggies are about over. I always say I have an August garden because everything is really beautiful out there. We’ve got a lot of flowers and the two or three tomato plants continue to produce those juicy, delicious and REAL tomatoes! I was especially happy that the gladiolus flowers bloomed this month. I was able to have some for the Dormition feast day on both the old and new calendars. Only thing I miss in our yard are sunflowers now, and tulips in the spring. The squirrels are impossible! If they don’t dig out the seed or bulb as soon as it’s planted, they rip the flower apart as soon as they see it. ☹ ☹ Patience, Father. Patience Father! I’m convinced they know they are in the priest’s yard and I’ll be nice to them. They are so cute, those little rodents with those furry tails!! 😊 😊

It is really a gorgeous time of the year. Our parishes and organizations are either completing the summer activities or beginning the fall ones. Football is in the air once again, and once again, the dreamers are dreaming of glory and a Super Bowl win for their team. Recently I heard a reporter from Philly commenting on the Eagles

team. He said this year they will be a dream team. “Yes,” he said, “they’ve got the dream, but no team!” I guess we can say that about a few other teams too. Buffalo Bills, anyone? Sports fans remember: “Liturgy first, then sports later!!”

I usually try to encourage you in your daily struggles somewhere in this letter. I don’t know if I’ve done it yet so far today, but I know you will find it in the PS section.

So for now, I’m going to leave you as I pray that our good God will bless you and cause His face to shine upon you and that our Holy Lady and Theotokos will keep you beneath the veil of her heavenly protection.

In His Love,
Fr. Ray

p.s. (From God)

My Dear Child, this is God writing. I will be handling all your problems. Please remember that I do not require your assistance. If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) pile. It will be taken care of in MY time, not yours. Once the matter has been placed on the pile, do not attempt to continue to hold on to it, or to retrieve it. Holding on or removal will only delay a resolution of your problem. If you believe you can handle the situation, please consult me in prayer first to be sure that it is the proper resolution. Because I do not sleep, nor do I slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep. Rest my child. If you need to contact Me, I am only a prayer away. You can’t even imagine how much I love you! (Anonymous)

Remember, I AM your
TATO, DIDO, FATHER, ABBA!

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

Along the Chesapeake Bay, the Canadian geese know this place well, as do the white swans and the ducks who ride an inch above the waves as they skim their way into the harbor. In the autumn, by the thousands, they come home for the winter. The swans move toward the shores in a stately glide, their tall heads proud and unafraid. They lower their long necks deep into the water, where their strong beaks dig through the river bottoms for food. And there is, between the arrogant swans and the prolific geese - indifference - almost a disdain for each other. Once or twice each year, snow and sleet move into the area. When this happens, if the river near the Bay is at its narrowest, or the creek shallow, there is a freeze which hardens the water to ice. It was on such a wintry morning along the creek near the Chesapeake Bay, that a friend of mine set the breakfast table beside her huge window, which overlooks the water. Across the bay, beyond the dock, the snow laced the rim of the shore in white. For a moment she stood quietly, looking at what the night’s storm had painted. Suddenly she leaned forward and peered close to the frosted window. "It really is," she cried out loud, "there is a goose out there." She reached to the bookcase and pulled out her pair of binoculars. Into their sights came the figure of a large Canadian goose, very still, its wings folded tight to its sides, its feet frozen to the ice. Then from the dark skies, she saw a line of swans. They moved in their own singular formation, graceful, intrepid, and free. They crossed from the west of the broad creek, high above her home, moving steadily to the east. As my friend watched, the leader swung to the right, and then the white string of birds became a white circle. They floated from the top of the sky downward. At last, as easy as feathers coming to earth, the circle landed on the ice. My friend was on her feet now, with one unbelieving hand against her mouth. As the swans surrounded the frozen goose, she feared what life it still had



might be pecked out by those great swan bills. On the contrary, amazingly enough, those powerful bills began to work on the ice. The long swan necks lifted and curved down, again and again. This went on for quite some time. Instead of their fearsome bills attacking the defenseless goose, they were attacking the ice around it. At last, the goose was rimmed by a narrow margin of ice instead of the entire creek. The swans rose again, following the leader, and hovered in that circle, awaiting the results of their labors. The goose's head lifted. Its body pulled. Then the goose was free and standing on the ice. He was moving his big webbed feet slowly. And the swans stood in the air watching. Then, as if the goose had cried, "I cannot fly," four of the swans came down around him. Their powerful beaks scraped the goose's wings from top to bottom, scuttled under its wings and rode up its body, chipping off and melting the ice held in its feathers. Slowly, as if testing, the goose spread its wings as far as they would go, brought them together, accordion-like, and spread them again. When at last the wings reached their fullest, the four swans took off and joined the hovering group. They resumed their eastward journey, in perfect formation, to their winter destination. Behind them, rising with incredible speed and joy, the goose moved upward into the sky. He followed them, flapping double time, until he caught up to them, until he joined the last end of the line, like a small child eager to catch up with the older boys and girls. My friend watched them until they disappeared over the tips of the farthest trees. Only then, in the dusk, which was suddenly deep, did she realize that tears were streaming down her cheeks - for how long she did not know. I do not try to interpret the sheer beauty of what my friend witnessed in nature, I just think of it from time to time, during the difficult moments of life or when I witness something horrific on the news, and from it comes one hopeful question: If so for birds, why not for mankind?