



This year's Catechists – Наші Катехитки 8/21/2014



Fr. Robert Moreno in in his over 90 years old car



On Ukrainian Day, August 24 – На Українському Дні



2 best friends (can you tell?) – Найкращі приятельки



Господи, Спаси Україну!

Lord, Save Ukraine!

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SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



№
37

ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІГТРИЇ

UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN

September 14 – 2014 – 14 Вересня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



МОЛІТЬСЯ ЗА УКРАЇНУ
PRAY FOR UKRAINE



Христос несе наші хрести.
Christ carrying our crosses.

Almighty Father, You said that when two or three are gathered in your name – you would be among them. Remembering Your words and having received the land of Ukraine for our heritage; We ask you today to prove us mindful of this great blessing. Bless our ancestral home-land Ukraine with honorable works, sound learning, and good manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance. Defend liberty which is an expression of your Divine Will. During this time of difficulty throughout our ancestral homeland Ukraine fill our hearts with gratitude, and grant the people of Ukraine, and all of us the grace to continue to trust in You and Your mercy as we did in previous days of trouble. We ask this for we know that you are a gracious and loving God in whom we are blessed through the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, always now and ever and to the ages of ages. AMEN.

CHURCH BULLETIN

Septem. 14 – 2014 – 14 Вересня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

4:30 PM +Славко Савка («Рідна Школа»)

Septem. 14 Exaltation of the Cross – Воздв.

12:00 AM. +Metr. Ambrose Senyshyn, OSBM

Monday, September 15 Вересня, Понеділок

8:15 AM +Марія і Филип Процик (родина)

Tuesday, September 16 Вересня, Вівторок

8:15 AM +Ann. Joe Bakalik & son Thomas
(Peter Maxim)

Wednesday, September 17 Вересня, Середа

8:15 AM +Michael & Mary Homen; Family (John
Homen, Julia Quinn, Anne Spitler) (Rose Gail)

Thu., September 18 Вересня, Четвер

8:15 AM +Sophie Sudyn (Emil & Vera Marc)

Friday, September 19 Вересня, П'ятниця

8:15 AM В нам Орісі Перейма (родина)

Saturday, September 20 Вересня, Субота

8:00 AM +Маруся Процик (Pat. M)

4:30 PM +Ihor Zankiw (40th day)

Septem. 21 S. aft. Exaltation – Н. по Воздв.

12:00 AM. For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М.
горить за МИР в Україні.

Light in honor of Theotokos
burns for Peace in Ukraine.

The Eternal Light burns for
+Joan Biernat
(Requ. by: Jagodzinski Family)



Saint Nicholas Church
Церква Св. Миколая
(Під Опікою П.Д.М.)

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

14 Вер.: 14 Неділя по З.С.Д. - Поч. Ц. Р.

10:00 р. +Павло і Гелена (Elaine Nowadly)

21 Вересня: 15 Неділя по З.С.Д.

10:00 р. +Любомир (М. і Л. Стасюк)



Most Rev. Ambrose Senyshyn, O.S.B.M., D.D.

February 23, 1903 - September 11, 1976

- Ordained August 23, 1931

- Appointed Aux. of Philadelphia July 6, 1942

- Consecrated October 22, 1942

- Appointed Apostolic Exarch of Stamford,
August 8, 1956

- Appointed Eparch of Stamford, Nov. 1, 1958

- Appointed Metropolitan Archbishop of
Philadelphia, August 14, 1961

- Died September 11, 1976

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Cell Phones - Мобільні Телєфони:

Please turn off or silence your cell phone before entering the church.

Thank you!

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні телефони підчас Святої Літургії.

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Пам'ятаймо про Рідну Церкву та про її майбутність у нашому Завіщанні!

Щоб довідатися більше інформацій про це що діється в громаді,
Просимо відвідати веб-сторінку.
<http://www.ukrainiansofbuffalo.com>

Is the the web-page to find
More information and events
In our Ukrainian Community.

DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

"Special Appeal"

IMO Joseph Andrew Procyk

Timothy Hogue & Marianne Chort -
\$5,000.00

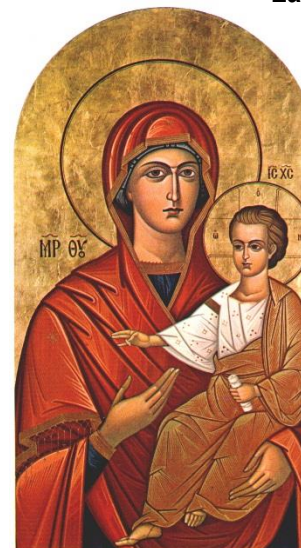
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Wendel Mgmt. LLC - \$30.00
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Donations Towards Coffee Hour (benefits Yearly Communication Assessment Fee)

Christine Stasiuk Farion
Eva Kowtalo

THANK YOU! ДЯКУЄМО!



**Блаженніший
Патріарх
Святослав
закликав нас усіх,
щоб помолитися
кожного дня Отче
Наш і Богородице
Діво о 3 год. по
обіді за Український Нарід.**



76th Annual Convention League of Ukrainian
Catholics - October 10, 11, 12, 2014
Holiday Inn – Johnstown, PA
Sponsored by the All Saints Chapter.
Hope to see you this October!
76 Конвенція Ліги Католиків
буде від 11 до 13 Жовтня ц. р.
Просимо взяти участь!

<https://www.facebook.com/LUCofAmerica>

1914 SAVE THE DATE 2014

The Ukrainian American SITCH is
celebrating its 100th Anniversary on
Sunday, September 28, 2014 at Salvatore's
Italian Gardens Restaurant corner of
Genesee St. & Transit Rd.
Cash Bar 4PM – 5PM,
Dinner/Program promptly at 5PM.
The Program will be bilingual.
Included in the entertainment are:
Women's Choir MRIYA and
award-winning bandurist from Toronto:
BORYS OSTAPIENKO.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Cost per person: \$40.00.
It's not too late to buy a ticket, but time is
running out. YOU MUST PAY FOR YOUR
TICKET NO LATER THAT FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2014.
NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR
Tickets are available from: Michael
Liskiewicz, Maria Malaniak, Elaine
Nowadly, Nadia Marc, Julia Blendonohy.
For tickets and ads make checks payable
to: Ukrainian American Sitch
Thank you for your support.

1914 УВАГА! УВАГА! 2014

Даємо до відома, що в неділю, 28-го
Вересня, 2014. Товариство Україн-
сько-Американська Січ відмічує 100-ту
річницю свого існування! Ювілей
відбувається в ресторані Salvatore's
Italian Gardens при роздоріжжю вул.
Transit і Genesee.
Бара від 4-5 год.
Програма/обід точно від год. 5:00.
В програмі беруть участь Хор Мрія
і молодий банурист з Торонта
Борис Остап'єнко.

Просимо усіх.

Вступ: \$40.00 дол. Віс особи.
Але час короткий. Квитки можна набути
тільки до п'ятниці, 19 вересня.
Квитки не будуть на продаж при вступі.

Продавці:

Михайло Ліскевич,
Марія Маланяк,
Елейн Новадлей, Надія Марк,
Надя Блендонога.

Просимо виписувати чеки на
Ukrainian American Sitch
Дуже дякуємо за підтримку.



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

- KITCHEN is closed during the summer
Thank you for your patronage.
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after
Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- Ukrainian Day – August 24, 2014.
- Bible Meeting – Summer Vacation.

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



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церква одержить \$50. Що б закупити слід
звертатися до п. Марії Боднар, або до кан-
целярії. Дякуємо!

CHURCH BULLETIN is published weekly.
Deadline for information is Friday Evening.
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК видається тижнево.
Інформації подавати до П'ятниці вечора.

SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ
(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
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Web Page: <http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

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

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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 – Релігійна Програма

Субота - Saturday

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

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean

Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

**Please call if you are hospitalized,
homebound and need a priest.**

**Просимо закликати якщо ви у ліжничці
або приковані до ліжка!**



Soaring to New Heights!

Join other men at the Eparchial Men's Conference which will be held at St. Basil Seminary in Stamford, October 4, 2014, 8:30am to 4:30pm. **Make Plans Now!**

Запрошуємо усіх чоловіків на день віднови та духовних роздумів, який відбудеться 4 жовтня 2014! Реєструйтеся прямо зараз! Просимо зголошуватися через вашу парафію або за телефоном: **(203) 324 4578**

Presented by:
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY
Of Stamford

WOMAN'S DAY of PRAYER

for
A SPIRITUAL SPA

Saturday,
October 18, 2014
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
at
St Josaphat
Ukrainian Catholic Church
940 Ridge Road
East Rochester, NY 14621
Registration in Advance by
October 6, 2014
Call the rectory at 852-7566
Or talk to Elaine
Email: stnbuffalo@yahoo.com

18 Жовтня від 9 рано до 4 по обіді, в церкві Св. Йосафата в Рочестері буде програма для жінок «Жіночий День молитви». Ми завжди говоримо, що до Стамфорду далеко, щоб взяти участь у різних програмах. Тепер не далеко, і ми повинні постаратися скористати з цієї нагоди. Не пожуємо. Просимо закликати на чл 852-7566 або поговорити з Елейн.

Letter from Fr. Ray Septem. 14, '14 A.D

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Dear _____ (say your name right here for your very own personal letter),

Hello, and let me be the first to say, "Brrr" to you. Did you hear or see where some of the plains states and the Canadian provinces already have had serious "September snow"? Our friends in Edmonton had a slippery day of snow and sleet on Tuesday. For sure, "Brrrrr!" Better them than us, right?! Only one thing worse than an "October Surprise" is a "September Surprise", I would think!

Our weather forecasters have been right on the mark with their forecast of the big cool down for much of the country. It's been a tad chilly the last several days, but you won't hear me complain. Love this jeans and jacket weather....or cassock, vest and "skoufia." I'm sure we'll get a few more of those "Indian summer" days (am I still allowed to say that without offending somebody? ☺ ☹) But for now this cool, crisp, breezy and refreshing air is most pleasant, and is a welcome change.

Of course, the changing weather pattern is but a signal of the days and weeks to come. It's quite dark outside about 6am, the cider mill and pumpkin fields are open. "Ken the Wren", who nested in the Martelli's backyard, along with the other summer birds, are long gone. Don't know when I last saw a robin....they are kind of here, and then there comes the time when one realizes, "Hmmm, haven't seen a robin lately." The Canada geese are packing their bags and practicing their "V-formations" and will be soon heading south with all our other "snowbirds" (the human kind) who came north for the summer.

On this Sunday of September 14 the Catholic churches who pray according to the new calendar, Eastern Rite as well as the Roman Catholics, are celebrating the major and glorious feast day of *The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross*. I'm very happy it falls on a Sunday because so many more of our people will get to see the moving ceremony of the lifting up of the beautifully

decorated Cross, as well as to hear the inspiring and God-filled words of the prayers for that day. "We bow in worship before Your Holy Cross, O Master, and Your Holy Resurrection we glorify."

On this day of the Cross, and for the entire next week following, we spiritually lift of the Precious Cross as blessing for the whole world and as the sign that this 'Tree of the Cross' now replaces the 'Tree of Paradise'. Through the Cross joy has come into the world. May you be blessed, Dear One, and know that this sign of glory and victory is yours: the glory of Christ and Christianity, and our own victory over all evil and sin. This is the instrument that will eventually overcome the world. All enemies of our God will be crushed beneath the power of the Life-giving Cross! As the tropar of the day tells us, "the Holy Cross for us is indeed the weapon of peace and the banner of victory!"

Speaking of the late summer days and the Cross, I am reminded of my old neighbor who would tell me on June 21, the first day of summer, "the days will get shorter now." She and her husband quit living a long time before they ever actually became sick and died. They became miserable in their old age and even though they were moving around and breathing and functioning and in relatively good health, surrounded by family, they saw only sadness and melancholy around them. They refused to enjoy the good things and blessings they truly had as they only waited for their end. The husband, upon buying a new car would tell me, "This is gonna be my last car." He kept them a long time and bought THREE more! It was all about sickness and dying, and that wasn't even in their house! They were relatively healthy...actually very healthy. But they were not really living, only going through the motions of the day to day activity. They must never have heard those comforting words, "Come to me all who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest." For them and for us, those words are so powerful and such a help!

They are both gone now, but I always felt so sorry for them. They were alive spiritually, but they died to

all the good things and people around them. They quit persevering and striving for the Kingdom. They did not know, or they refused to acknowledge, the power of the Cross and of the saving acts of our Lord. I don't know exactly when they quit living, but I do know they had that attitude for over twenty years before their actual physical deaths. Pretty sad, don't you think?!

I believe our God has a plan for us and for our salvation and we must cooperate with Him in this. Yes, maybe the Cross of old age comes upon us....our friends and family begin to go from us. Yes, maybe the old body begins to get tired and is now affected by some illness. Yes, it is hard to go on sometimes. We simply can't do the things we used to do, or even the things we "think we can." But we know the key to all of this is never to give up! We have a job to do until the very moment we are called "to check out."

We see the autumn of the yearly season and we see the autumn of our life. Yes, the autumn signals the slowing down and eventual sleep of the earth. It signals the going away of some of the flowers and wildlife, and the days will become harsh. The autumn of our life, in the same way, is the time of many of our family and friends departing and the slowing down and preparing of our very selves for the sleep of winter yet to come. However: "The game's not over till the Fat Lady sings!" As Yogi Berra said, "The game ain't over till it's over!" There are many exquisite and incredible things about the yearly autumn season, and so there are many, many exquisite and incredible things about the autumn of our life. We don't stop...we don't give up....we don't quit. Did you never hear Baba say, "With patience and fortitude the elephant climbed the apple tree." And it doesn't matter if one is relatively healthy or lying on a bed in a hospital or nursing home. We are blessed with this incredible gift of time and LIFE, and we cannot waste one second of it. Look around you....celebrate the day! As one of my favorite writers, Erma Bombeck, once wrote, "Do it while you can." She meant enjoy your life right now, and

don't always be worrying and fretting, and worst of all, waiting for "a better time." Erma writes that *"too often, too many people fail to seize the moment. They put off something that can bring them joy because they haven't thought about it, don't have it on their schedule, didn't know it was coming or are too rigid to depart from routine. I got to thinking one day about all the women on the Titanic who had passed up dessert at dinner on that fateful night in an effort to "cut back.".....Life has a way of accelerating as we get older. The days get shorter and the list of promises to ourselves gets longer.....My lips have not touched ice cream in 10 years (too fattening). The other day I stopped the car and bought a triple-decker. If my car had hit and iceberg on the way home, I would have died happy."* (Erma Bombeck 6-2-91)

So, my Dear One, do what ya gotta do. 'Do it while you can.' Look for that apple tree and climb it! In the struggles of lif, in whatever form they come to us, we can rest assured that victory is ours through the Cross and our Lord's saving acts for us. Yes, lift up that Cross, embrace it, kiss it and know that all is well. The banner of victory is before us! Through the Cross comes the Resurrection-Eternal Life! And the best part is "You'll never walk alone." We have family and friends, the saints in heaven, our Most Holy Lady, and most of all our Good and Loving God.

"The fat Lady" isn't singing yet! Celebrate all the days of your life! Do it while you can! Enjoy the gorgeous times of your life, whether it is your springtime or your days 'on the Golden Pond.' May He Who lifts up the soul and brightens the eyes, who gives healing, life and blessing (Sir. 34) be for you Life and Salvation. May our Holy Lady protect you beneath her heavenly veil!

In His Love,
Fr. Ray



Владика Архієпископ
Амбросій Сенишин,
ЧСВВ, митрополит
Української Католицької
Церкви в США.

Народився в 1903 році у Старому Самборі, на Бойківщині. На 18-му році життя вступив до Василіанського Чину. Рукоположений на священника в 1931 році. В 1933 році приїхав до США, в 1937 році – ігумен і парох церкви св. Миколая у Чікаго. Іменованій єпископом в 1942 році, як помічник для Владики Константина Богачевського. В 1946 році очолив Український Допомоговий Комітет при Американській Єпископській Службі для допомоги повоєнним біженцям в Європі та еміграції до США. Завдяки цьому переселено біля 42000 українців з Європи до Америки. Свій великий організаційний хист виявив організуючи Евхаристійний Конгрес Східних Обрядів у Чікаго 1941 року та Евхаристійний Марійський Конгрес у Філадельфії 1954 року. Редагував місячник "Ковчег" в 1946-1956 роках. Меценат українського церковного мистецтва й музики. Апостольська Столиця в 1961 році іменувала Владика Амбросія Архієпископом Філадельфійським і митрополитом Української Католицької Церкви в США. Визначним завершенням його архіпастирської діяльності було здвигнення митрополичого собору Непорочного Зачаття Пречистої Діви Марії у Філадельфії. Помер 11 вересня 1976 року.

(З журналу „Літопис Бойківщини” № 2/44 (55)
1986 року, стр. 11).



Уже люди у п'ятницю приходили
за варениками, а також дзвонили
питатися,
**ЧИ КУХНЯ БУДЕ ЗАМКНЕНА
НА ЗАВЖДИ?**

Або продовжемо!!!

Одержав вже деякі поради, але ще не
певний якою дорогою нам іти. Питання
для жінок на знімці (і до інших):

**Якщо знайдеться особа, хоча
можливо і тимчасово, чи мож-
на числити на Вашу поміч?**

I am still waiting for some solution.
Had a few suggestions to determine:
**IS KITCHEN CLOSED
PERMANENTLY?**

Or will we continue!!!

People were already coming to the kitchen
door asking about varenyky, or calling me
to connect them to the kitchen, because
nobody was answering the phone there.

**Definitely, it would not be
good to close.**

З радіо «Милосердний Самар'янин»

Сьогодні 14 н. по ЗСД. Мова про весільний бенкет, на який усі запрошені, але не всі рішаються прийняти участь. Якщо ми зайняті своїми справами не маємо часу на Божі. Так було у Старому Завіті, і таксамо в Новому. Особиста відповідальність вимагається від кожного і кожної з нас.

Господь, будучи нашим батьком і Творцем, Той, хто знає навіть про кількість наших волосинок на голові (пор. Мт 10, 30), знає також про наші щоденні потреби. Він у такий спосіб покликав нас до життя, такою обдарував нас душею, що ми не спроможні існувати без Його підтримки. Святий Августин твердив, що людське серце не спокійне, доки не спочине в Господі. Так, як творіння людських рук - автомобілі - без палива не рухаються, а електроприлади стають порожніми коробками без струму, подібно й людина - порожня та беззмстовна без Господа, свого Творця. Життя без Бога, справді, чинить людину схожою у вчинках на мавпу чи іншу тварину, тому що тоді вона живе лише тілесними потребами. Господь дав нам щось більше, ніж просто тілесне життя, він уподібнив нас до себе й живить собою у Святому Причасті. Ми, буває, опираємося та не розуміємо цього, а Він шукає нас і запрошує на цей бенкет із Ним, щоб ми насичувалися, щоб не були голодними, щоб не були сумними та самотніми. Бог вибирає нас, щоб змінювати наше життя на краще та давати вічні дари. Хто здатний подарувати нам більше, ніж Господь?

Колись Бог покликав Авраама. Авраам на цей час мав 75 років, жив із численними родичами, родинні зв'язки на той час були дуже міцними; був заможною людиною,

говорячи сучасною мовою, - бізнесменом. У нього було все: достаток, стабільність, особисте життя і т. д. Кожен день, що наставав, був схожим на інший - Авраам мав свій план життя. Запитаймо, чи це приносило йому повноту радості та щастя? Можна мати багато матеріальних благ, вигоду, забезпечення, але все одно в серці залишиться якась невимовна туга за вічним та незмінним - Господом, повнотою щастя. І ось в один момент Авраам почув запрошення Господа, так, як отримали його люди із євангельської притчі, тільки з великою різницею: ці - на бенкет; Авраам - у подорож. Отже, "Господь сказав до Авраама: "Вийди з землі твоєї, з твоєї рідні, і з дому батька твого в край, що його я тобі покажу". Так само Господь пропонує й нам вийти із того, до чого прив'язане наше серце, розірвати непотрібний зв'язок, не триматися своєї мамони. Інколи невдача в буденних речах викликає в людини більше переживань, ніж відвертання та несприйняття Божих дарів. Творець запрошує людину до участі в Божому синівстві, але людина відмовляється.

Господь пропонує кожній особі, що живе на світі, розпочати нове життя. Він промовляє до нас через сумління. Але мало слухати, потрібно почути й почати діяти, зробити крок, подібний до вчинку Авраама. Чи легко було йому це зробити? Уявімо собі, що людина, маючи землю, владу і все необхідне для життя, раптом бере якусь частинку добра, зривається з місця і йде, не знаючи куди - не відаючи, що її чекає. Авраам повірив, що Бог здатний дати йому нове життя, вивести з нього велике потомство, і йде за Божим голосом...

The St. Nicholas Religious Education Program will begin on Saturday, October 25, 2014 with registration at 9:00 AM. in the Church Hall. Classes will take place, in the hall, on the following Saturdays from

9:00- 12:30PM:

October 25, 2014

November 22

January 17, 2015

February 21

March 28,

April 25

May 16



Children who are in 2nd Grade and are eligible to receive their First Penance & Solemn Communion will be **required** to attend the classes listed above as well as the additional classes on the following Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30PM

March 12

March 19

March 26

April 16

April 23

April 30

May 7

May 14



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Elaine at the rectory on Monday or Thursday morning between 9:00 -1200 at 852-7566 or any other time at 867-0981

«Той, хто вбиває людей в Україні, завтра не завагається повернути свою зброю супроти будь-кого в своїй країні та поза її межами...» - Синод Єпископів УГКЦ

Наша мирна суверенна держава зазнала прямого військового вторгнення з боку північного сусіда. Сотні одиниць важкої зброї і техніки, тисячі озброєних найманців та військових регулярної армії Росії перетинають кордони України, сіють смерть і знищення, незважаючи на перемовини про перемир'я та дотеперішні дипломатичні зусилля. Водночас триває нечувана за масштабами ненависті та спотворення істинного стану речей пропаганда, яка є не менше руйнівною, ніж зброя масового ураження. (Про це йдеться у Зверненні Синоду Єпископів Української Греко-Католицької Церкви «Україна спливає кров'ю!»).

Єпископи звертають світову громадськість на те, які злочини впродовж останніх місяців чинить агресор. Владики Синоду застерігають, що потрібно зупинити ці злочини, бо з настанням зимових холодів кількість жертв зросте в десятки разів. «Той, хто вбиває людей в Україні, завтра не завагається повернути свою зброю супроти будь-кого в своїй країні та поза її межами, атакувати будь-яку державу світу», - підкреслюють у Зверненні.

Єпископи закликають до відповідальності тих, кого «Господь наділив владою приймати необхідні рішення на політичному рівні задля відновлення миру і безпеки в Європі». «Всіх віруючих та людей доброї волі знову закликаємо до усильних молитов за припинення агресії і відновлення тривалого та всеохопного миру в Україні», - пишуть владыки Синоду Єпископів УГКЦ у Зверненні «Україна спливає кров'ю!». (Департамент інформації УГКЦ)

From “Good Samaritan” Ukr. Radio Program

Today our Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Let us look beyond the wood of the cross, beyond the historical circumstances which led to the worship of the cross, and concentrate on all that is spiritual and eternal in the very idea of the cross of Jesus. The Holy Cross is a living symbol of many things: God's everlasting love toward each of us, Christ's total self-sacrifice, our redemption and salvation, and Christ's victory over death. Whenever we make the sign of the cross, we profess our faith in our Savior. Saint Paul was the first to speak of the ‘Glory of the Cross’. He wrote, *"God forbid that I should glory in anything but the Cross"*. This must have startled, shocked, and alarmed the poor Christians of Galatia, but Saint Paul is right. The wood of the Cross overcame the tragedy of the Garden of Eden.

A few years ago, I heard a program on EWTN in which Father Benedict Groeschel; a well-known American priest told how he and a member of his community, Brother Fidelis, and retired 83 year old Bishop George Lynch had been sent to jail because they knelt down praying the Rosary in the parking lot outside an abortion clinic. He said the offence was not praying the Rosary, but that they knelt down when the police asked them to leave. The bishop was sent to jail for 15 days, the religious brother for 10 days and Father Groeschel for 5 days. They were strip searched three times during the first twenty four hours. When asked afterwards how they were treated, Father Groeschel said “like garbage.” This is an example of suffering for one's faith. There are many other examples we could think of in our own rite, consider for example the Ukrainian saints, who were persecuted for their acts of faithfulness to God. Or even our own beloved Patriarch Josyf Slipyj who spent 18 years in captivity. But all pale in comparison to the image of Christ on the Cross. Christ willingly laid down His life for us. And for that act of unconditional love, we can all be saved from death and resurrect into new life.

The Cross is more than two beams of wood, it stands for something in the life of Jesus, connected as a symbol of those circumstances and events in our own experiences which humble us, expose us, offend

our pride, and reveal our most basic human weaknesses. The price of our salvation was paid in full, by the crucifixion of Christ. St John Chrysostom in his sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross speaks of the significance of the Cross for each of us. "The Cross is a trophy against evil, a weapon against sin, a sword with which Christ pierced the serpent. The Cross is the will of the Father, the glory of the Only-begotten Son, joy of the Spirit, ornament of the angels, fortress of the Church, the glory of Paul, stronghold of the Saints, and the light of the whole world."

This past Thursday marked 13 years since the tragedies that occurred on September 11th, striking at the very heart and fabric of this nation. It is sometimes still hard to see the radiant light which God holds out for this world when we recall our nation's darkest hour, but let us not forget that the Cross of Christ was also there on that fateful Tuesday morning. For out of the very worst man was capable of, the very best was brought forth through the heroic efforts of firefighters, police and rescue personnel; through the thousands of caring and compassionate volunteers who stepped forward in that time of crisis. These tragedies draw on our feelings, not only as Christians, but as people united under God. Yet the events of September 11th stand in a category all by themselves. When we look back on the events of that tragic day there is one symbol which shines brightly; the same symbol that enabled those rescue workers and firefighters to go into that blazing inferno. In the center of all that destruction, if you can still remember – was the Cross at Ground Zero - made from two beams of metal that fused together after the fall of the twin towers. Our icon of hope is not the rebuilding of the Pentagon, or even the replacement of the twin towers - our hope is what was rectified through the smoke and flames. Our symbol of hope is what every fire truck in New York City now bears as an emblem beneath their shield - the Cross at Ground Zero. For after those final heroic hours, and the days where darkness pitched the sky, there stood one Cross that symbolized our nation's freedom and our unity under God.



“Greater love hath no man than this - to lay down one's life for another.” Yes, we remember the morning when our world shattered, crumbled and fell. When brutal and senseless attacks of terrorism were made on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, and a downed plane in Shanksville, PA – but it is also remembered as a day of heroes. It did not start off in that way. It started off like any other day,

children went to school, babies were born, people got married, and birthdays were celebrated. Even my parents celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary that year. The letters NYFD stand for the New York Fire Department. We have all learned this after 9/11. Because men and women of the NYFD died as they climbed the stairs of the World Trade Center Towers. The firefighters of New York City did not know that 9/11 was the day that they would bear the “cross of their calling”, nor did the brave men and women

aboard United Airlines Flight 93 as it crashed into the Pennsylvania countryside. They did not flinch. They did not fail. And we will not forget them. They serve as a constant reminder of how the cross of Christ is always at work in our lives.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have Eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it” (John 3:16-17). During the time of Last Judgment, all the people who ever lived were brought before God. Not submitting to God they came with a complaint. One group made the claim that they suffered persecution. They had died in gas chambers and concentration camps. They wanted to know how God could judge them. What would he know about their suffering? Another group consisted of the ones who had been slaves and beaten. They had no homes and no place to sleep. They had been poor and barely had enough to eat. There were others that died of starvation, infestation, and disease. How could God judge any of them? What did He know of their suffering? Others had been sick most of their lives, and some did not even spend a single day in good health. How could God judge them? God lived in Heaven where there is only

goodness and light. All of these groups appointed a committee to draw up a case before God. They stated that before God could Judge them He must first endure what they went through. They said He would have to live on earth and be subject to all they had gone through. They cried out, "Let him be born poor! Let him be rejected by his people! Let him have friends who betray him! Let him have false charges brought against him! Let him be convicted by a judge! Abandoned by his friend! Let him be lonely! Let him be hungry! Let him be tortured and die at the hands of enemies!" The crowd stood back and gave approval to each sentence. Then there was a sudden hush heard all over the room, as Jesus entered and the scars on His hands and feet poured out a radiant, warm light. The vision of the cross began to fill the room and the minds of all the people present. They then realized that the Son of God had already served that sentence. Jesus came as a man who identified with all of God's people, in his struggles and temptations, and especially in his suffering. He felt it all completely and personally, just so we might know the depth of God's love for us and be reminded of the Cross which gives us new life.

"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). God is always at work in our lives, and the cross remains a living symbol of His presence. Whether at Ground Zero, among our churches, within our homes, or throughout the community of faith... the Cross is our reminder that no matter how difficult times may become, God is still in control. The Cross stands as a symbol of strength in the midst of weakness; victory in what seems like inevitable defeat; comfort in moments of despair; light in our darkest hour. In a world full of uncertainty, the Cross reminds us that God is the giver and sustainer of all things. *“We extol you, O Life giver Christ, and honor your most venerable cross.”* Let us pray: God our Father, in adoration and obedience to You, Your only Son accepted death on the Cross for the salvation of mankind. We acknowledge the mystery of the Cross here on earth. May we receive the gift of redemption in Heaven. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with you in Heaven, one Lord, one God, forever and ever.