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Buffalo Community Web-Page Is:

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**SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

N^o

38



**УКРАЇНЬСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СЬЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**

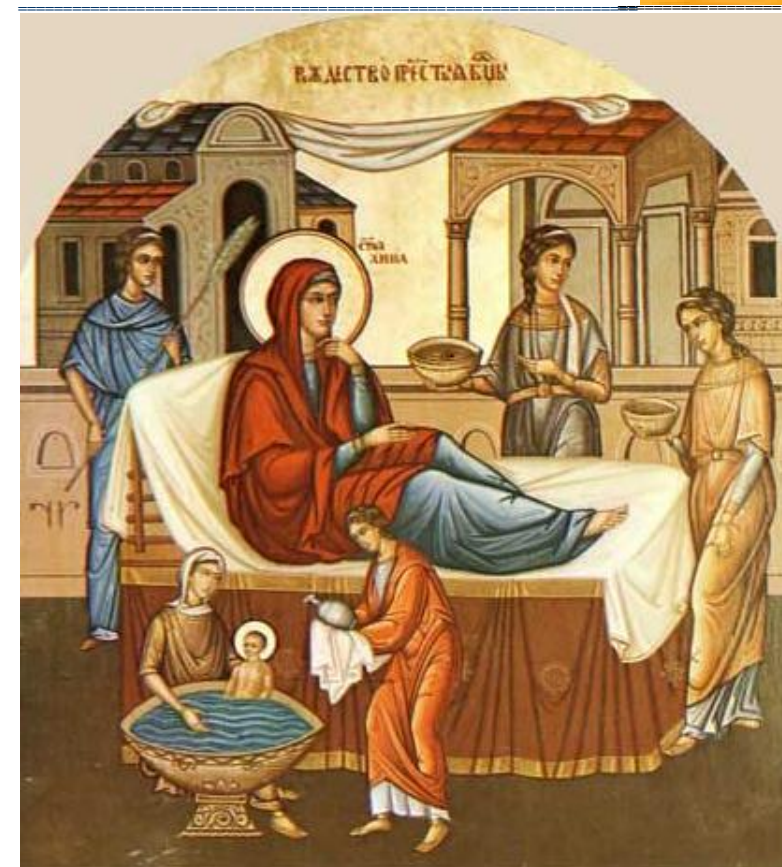
**UNDER THE PROTECTION
OF MOTHER OF GOD**



**ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ**

CHURCH BULLETIN – N^o38

**September 16 – 2012 – 16 Вересня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК – Ч. 38**



"День народження Богородиці, це день всесвітньої радості, через Богородицю, цілий людський рід онновився, і сум праматері Еви перетворився на радість". (Св. І. Дамаскин)

"Різдво Твоє, Богородице Діво, радість засвітило Вселенній, з тебе бо засяло Сонце правди, Христос Бог наш. Він розрушив клятву, ударемивши смерть, дарував нам життя вічне." (тропар)

"Йоаким і Анна з неслави бездітності, і Адам та Ева від тління смерті визволилися, Пречиста в Святім Різдві Твоїм. Його празнують люди твої, з провини прогрішень ізбавлені, як кличуть до тебе: непідна родить богородицю і кормительку життя нашого."

(кондак)

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LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

4:30 PM +Nina Smietana - 40 d. & panach.
(Family)

Sep. 16: S. aft. Exaltation-N. по Воздв. T7

12:00 AM. +Julia & Michel Michalow
(Michelle & Michael)

Monday, September 17 –Пон., 17 Вересня

8:15 M +Helen Maxim ()

Tue., Sept. 18 – Вівторок, 18 Вересня

8:15 M +
()

Wed., September 19 – Середа, 19 Вересня

8:15 M +
()

Thu., September 20 – Четвер, 20 Вересня

8:15 M +
()

Fri., Septem. 21 – П’ятниця, 21 Вересня

10:00 M +Marija Procyk (Anna Hudymiak)

Sat., September 22 – Субота, 22 Вересня

9:00 M + (. .)

4:30 PM For Parishioners – За парохіян

Sep. 23: 17 S. aft. Pent. – 17 Н. по ЗСД T8

12:00 AM. +Olga Belmega (Lesia Rabarski)

Пласт – Укр. Скавтська Орг.
Окружна Таборова Комісія і Станиця
Баффало, Н.Й. запрошує 23 Вересня,
2012 о 1 год. На Новому Соколі на
ПЕЧЕННЯ БАРАБОЛІ
Прихід на розбудову Оселі.
Добровільні датки.

Eternal Light burns for
+Joan Biernat
Requ. By: Jagodzinski Family

ПОР’ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

16 Вересня: 15 Н. По Зісл. Св. Д. Гл. 6

10:00 р. В нам. Ангелини Пасіка (102 р.)
МНОГАЯ ЛІТА!!! (р. Правак)

21 Вересня: Народж. Богородиці

10:00 р. +
()

23 Вересня: Н. Перед Воздвиж. Гл. 7

10:00 р. +Ірина Войчак, Іван і Катери-
на Регула, Никола і Катерина Регу-
ла, Галина Щерба (Роман Войчак)

John Christopher Stevens, the American ambassador to Libya was killed on the 11th Anniversary of the infamous day of 9/11, while he trying to evacuate the U.S. consu- late in Benghazi during an attack by pro- testers of the movie „The Innocence of Mus- lims“. Ambassador Stevens was a firsthand witness to Libya’s transition to democracy. Protesters claim that US is responsible for the movie, although it is not true. US does not have anything to do with it.

„Innocence of Muslims“, previously called Innocence of Bin Laden, working title: De- sert Warrior (from Wikipedia), is an amateur 2012 film. I watched part of it on You Tube and found it disturbing and distasteful, but there is really no sense of accusing United states who had no control over it’s creation. Eternal memory to late ambassador and other who suffered in this senseless attack. May the Lord be merciful to as all!

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М. горить
+Марія Петришин
Пожертва: А. М. Петришин

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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 open Fridays 11 AM - 3 PM. Thank you for your help and patronage.
- **Coffee Hour** - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- **Kitchen is now open. Thank you!!!**

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 грішми 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 ОДІГІТРИЇ)

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 – Релігійна Програма
Vacation - 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

Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean

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

Просимо закликати якщо ви у
лічниці або приковані до ліжка!

DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

IMO Michael & Cathrine Chort
Timothy & Marianne (Chort) Hogue -
\$1,000.00

Keith & Elizabeth Curtis - \$500.00

Thank You! Дякуємо!

To the Members of UHD FCU:

You have received a ballot to vote on a merger (union) of your Credit Union with the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union in Rochester.

Your approval is necessary.

Your Credit Union will remain at the Ukrainian Home Dnipro, 562 Genesee Street, Buffalo, N.Y.

This is part of the merger agreement. Business will continue as usual.

What will change is for your benefit. We will be able to provide you with greater, expanded services.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMEND THAT YOU VOTE **YES** FOR THE MERGER (I AGREE)

Please sign and date the ballot and mail in the envelope that was enclosed.

S/Andrew Diakun S/Maria Sedlarczuk
Chairman, Board of Directors CEO, Manager

Feastday of St. Mary's Church

In Niagara Falls, Canada

September 23, 2012

2:00 Liturgy - 3:30 dinner

Donation \$25.00

All are invited

Запрошуємо на Празник 23. 9.

До церкви Народж. П. Д. М

В Ніягара Фалс. Канада

SITCH DINNER MEETING

Sunday September 30, 2012

At Joseph Hriczko Post

Clemons St., Buffalo, NY

After 12:00pm Liturgy

For the repose and living members of our organization at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Fillmore & Oneida Sts.,

COCKTAILS at 1:00PM

DINNER at 1:30PM includes 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 2013 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 22, 2012

Reservations are a must and liable

Pilgrimage - Проща

Проща до Люрду і Св. Землі
22 Жовтня – 3 Листопада, 2012

Зручна нагода відвідати Св. Місця.
Ціна з Торонто \$3,000.00 плюс податки

За інформаціями дзвонити на
(519) 536-6778 – о. Євтимій

Pilgrimage to Lourdes & Holy Land

October 22 – November 3, 2012

Walk in the footsteps

of Jesus,

Mary

and the Church

Cost is \$3,000.00 plus taxes.

Info: fr. Evtimiy Wolinski

(519) 536-6778

The election season in the United States and in Ukraine is coming up. Elections in Ukraine are scheduled for Sunday, 28 October, 2012. In Ukraine election fraud is widespread. Because of this, organizations such as the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) are registered with Ukraine's Central Election Commission, which enables them to monitor Ukraine's presidential and parliamentary elections since 1994. The UCCA host delegations of international election observers.

This year a small group of election observers will depart Buffalo, joining an expected 3000 international observers headed for Ukraine. The UACC will host a fundraising dinner for the Election Observing Mission to Ukraine on October 19. We're excited to announce that Congressman Brian Higgins will deliver the keynote address at the fundraising dinner to be held at the Ukrainian-American Civic Center that evening. Please mark your calendars for this event and show your support of free and fair elections in Ukraine!

Did you register to vote in the Election for US President???

**Чи Ви зареєструвалися
щоб голосувати у
Президентських Виборах???**



September 22, 2012, Saturday, "Oktoberfest" at the Ukrainian American Civic Center, 205 Military Rd., Buffalo, N.Y. 14207, featuring the music of "The Auslanders" beginning at 7pm-11pm. Doors open at 5 PM.

German dinners. Menu includes Roast Pork and Bratwurst. \$6 advance/ \$8 door (family-friendly).

For more info call Orest or Yuri at U.A.C.C. (716) 877-7200

Cardinal Dolan's prayer at the conclusion of the Democratic National Convention: (similar prayer he also said at GOP Conv.)

With a "firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence," let us close this convention by praying for this land that we so cherish and love:

Let us Pray.

Almighty God, father of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, revealed to us so powerfully in your Son, Jesus Christ, we thank you for showering your blessings upon this our beloved nation. Bless all here present, and all across this great land, who work hard for the

day when a greater portion of your justice, and a more ample measure of your care for the poor and suffering, may prevail in these United States. Help us to see that a society's greatness is found above all in the respect it shows for the weakest and neediest among us.

We beseech you, almighty God to shed your grace on this noble experiment in *ordered liberty*, which began with the confident assertion of inalienable rights bestowed upon us by you: *life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.*

Thus do we praise you for the gift of life. Grant us the courage to defend it, life, without which no other rights are secure. We ask your benediction on those waiting to be born, that they may be welcomed and protected. Strengthen our sick and our elders waiting to see your holy face at life's end, that they may be accompanied by true compassion and cherished with the dignity due those who are infirm and fragile.

We praise and thank you for the gift of liberty. May this land of the free never lack those brave enough to defend our basic freedoms. Renew in all our people a profound respect for religious liberty: the first, most cherished freedom bequeathed upon us at our Founding. May our liberty be in harmony with truth; freedom ordered in goodness and justice. Help us live our freedom in faith, hope, and love. Make us ever-grateful for those who, for over two centuries, have given their lives in freedom's defense; we commend their noble souls to your eternal care, as even now we beg the protection of your mighty arm upon our men and women in uniform.

We praise and thank you for granting us the life and the liberty by which we can pursue happiness. Show us anew that happiness is found only in respecting the laws of nature and of nature's God. Empower us with your grace so that we might resist the temptation to re-

place the moral law with idols of our own making, or to remake those institutions you have given us for the nurturing of life and community. May we welcome those who yearn to breathe free and to pursue happiness in this land of freedom, adding their gifts to those whose families have lived here for centuries.

We praise and thank you for the American genius of government of the people, by the people and for the people. Oh God of wisdom, justice, and might, we ask your guidance for those who govern us: President Barack Obama, Vice President Joseph Biden, Congress, the Supreme Court, and all those, including Governor Mitt Romney and Congressman Paul Ryan, who seek to serve the common good by seeking public office. Make them all worthy to serve you by serving our country. Help them remember that the only just government is the government that serves its citizens rather than itself. With your grace, may all Americans choose wisely as we consider the future course of public policy.

And finally Lord, we beseech your benediction on all of us who depart from here this evening, and on all those, in every land, who yearn to conduct their lives in freedom and justice. We beg you to remember, as we pledge to remember, those who are not free; those who suffer for freedom's cause; those who are poor, out of work, needy, sick, or alone; those who are persecuted for their religious convictions, those still ravaged by war.

And most of all, God Almighty, we thank you for the great gift of our beloved country.

For we are indeed "one nation under God," and "in God we trust."

So dear God, bless America. You who live and reign forever and ever.

Amen!



From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from Above, coming down to us from the Father of Light" (Divine Liturgy, St. John Chrysostom). A pastor tells of a mission tour to the Far East. While in Hong Kong, he observed a hungry little girl outside a bakery widow. She had fallen asleep with her face pressed against the window that separated her from the freshly baked bread inside. He took slides of that scene. When sharing his slide presentation back home, the pastor always climaxed his sermon with that picture and an appeal for people to share Christ, the Living Bread, with a hungry world. Following one presentation, one worshiper asked him, "What did you do about it?" "About what?" the pastor replied. "About the little girl asleep at the bakery window, what did you do about that?" One of the highest of human attributes is the God given talent of being a helping hand to someone in need. It is easy to do nothing; to look away, take photographs, or not get involved. It is even easier to place responsibility on others or assume that someone else will come along to lend a helping hand. But today's Gospel reading reminds us that if we do not get involved, if we do not utilize the talents which God has given us, then we will lose our ability to be productive in His Kingdom. The world is full of people who do nothing, but we have a Christian duty to help and encourage one another to do something. Many times a word of thanks or appreciation, a helping hand or a charitable deed has kept a person on their feet.

We have each been blessed with God-given talents, ways in which the Lord utilizes the gifts He has given us in order to spread His Kingdom throughout this world. Consider the words from today's Gospel reading, *"For to everyone who has shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him who does not have, even that which he seems to have shall be*

taken away" (Matthew 25:29). Consistent with our Lord's way of addressing life's struggles, Jesus tells a parable to remind us how God has invested talent in each and everyone one of us. God looks at our abilities and sees not just who we are, but who we can become and what we can accomplish for His Kingdom. The servants in today's parable were each given talents according to their abilities. Each servant had potential. In this parable, they were each responsible for the talents that they had been given. God has also entrusted each of us with various talents, investments that He has made in us before we were even born. He knows our possibilities and our persuasions. We have an obligation to be all we can be and do all that we can do in developing these talents. Even the simplest things make a difference. There was a banker who always tossed a coin in the cup of a legless beggar who sat on the street outside the bank. But, unlike most people, the banker would always insist on getting one of the pencils the man had beside him. "You are a merchant," the banker would say, "and I always expect to receive good value from merchants I do business with." One day the legless man was not on the sidewalk. Time passed and the banker wondered what happened to him, until one day he walked into a public building and there in the concession stand sat the former beggar. He was the owner of his own small business now. He was excited when he saw the banker again. "I have always hoped you might come by someday," the man said. "You are largely responsible for me being here. You kept telling me that I was a 'merchant'. I started thinking of myself that way, instead of a beggar receiving gifts. I started selling pencils and lots of them. You gave me self-respect, caused me to look at myself differently." Sometimes, even the simplest things like showing compassion and encouragement can become our greatest achievements for the Kingdom of God.

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Сьогодні 15 неділя по Зісланні Св. Духа. У ненишньому євангельському читтані від Матея молодець якийсь, хоче зловити Христа на слові, щоб потім про Нього погано говорити а може і засудити Його. Він по чемному звертається до Христа, щоб ніби то від нього довідатися в чому полягає життя вічне. Христос безперечно знає його намір, але на це не звертає жодної уваги, а радше нагадує йому заповіді. Вичисляє декальог і звертає головну увагу на любов до ближнього. Молодець хвалиться, що він все це зберігав від своєї молодости. У цьому твердженні нема ані троха скромности. Він себе величає. Возноситься за високо.

Думає, що він досконалий, та ще хоче, щоб і інші це побачили. Коли Христос йому каже, «якщо дійсно хочеш бути досконалим, іди, продай все що маєш, роздай убогим, а тоді прийди і йди за мною», то тому молодому чоловікові це було забагато. Будучи багатим він такого зовсім не сподівався і відійшов сумним. За ним пролунали Христові слова: "Тяжко багатому увійти в царство небесне", і робить Він порівняння кажучи: "Лекше верблюдові пройти черз голчане вушко, як багатому увійти до царства Божого." Апостоли не могли таких слів зрозуміти. «Хто ж тоді може спастися» питаються, бо були переконані, що цей чоловік напевно заслуговув бути спасеним. Він же багатий, видно що Бог щедро обдаровував його, напевно за його зас-



луги, він усі заповіді зберігав, і щиро шукав стати ще більш досконалим. Як не він то хто тоді може спастися. І каже Христос: "У людей це неможливо, але у Бога все можливо."

Христос не виступає тут проти багатства. Воно також потрібне. З ним можна багато добра зробити, але і багато лиха накоїти, оскільки стараємося по всяку ціну його досягнути. З багатством можна голодних накормити, спраглих напоїти, нагих одягнути, хворих вилікувати, бездомним знайти притулок, але також можна, озброївшись розпочати війну, понижати інших, бідних робити ще біднішими. Справа не в тому чи ми багаті чи бідні, але у тому яке наше прив'язання до того що посідаємо.

Хтось може бути бідним, але живучи чесно зуміє багато добра зробити, поділитися з іншими своїми нестатками і так дійти до спасіння, а інший може нарікати на нестачу і на людей і на Бога і віддалитися від царства Божого.

Хтось може бути багатим і ділитися зі своїм багатством і не журитися, що збідніє, і такий буде близько Божого Царства, а інший буде сильно розбудувати своє майно, не журячися іншими, тільки самим собою, і очевидно не предатний буде до єдності з Господом.

Спасіння людини, залежне від її духовости, а духовість наша має пр'ямий зв'язок з одержаною ласкою. Ласка з віри, яка у свою чергу виявляється добрими ділами, а діла стають добрими, коли любов їх попереджає...

Як Глава і Батько нашої Церкви намагався я навчати й упоминати. Не раз як Батько закликав я до єдності благальними словами і як Глава нашої Церкви напоумлював рішучим твердим словом, коли треба було збудити прис-



пане сумління і вказати на пастирську відповідальність за духовне стадо перед Богом і Церквою. Бо ж Єпископат повинен бути зразком однозгідності у правлінні Церкви і прикладом єдності в усіх ділянках церковного і народного життя! Всі мої переживання з того приводу – зневаги, душевні рани, словом, всі оці „стріли лукавого” – вам відомі. Вони не були легші, як у в'язницях і на засланнях. І переживав я їх так само болюче, як переживав перед тим в'язничні тортури. Та сьогодні я дякую Всевишньому за те, що мене били в тюрмах і били на волі! Дякую Йому за те, що мене били, а не величали раби!

Прощаю їм усім, бо й вони тільки знаряддя в руках Всевишнього, що покликав мене і дав мені свою Благодать – бути в неволі і на волі в'язнем Христа ради!

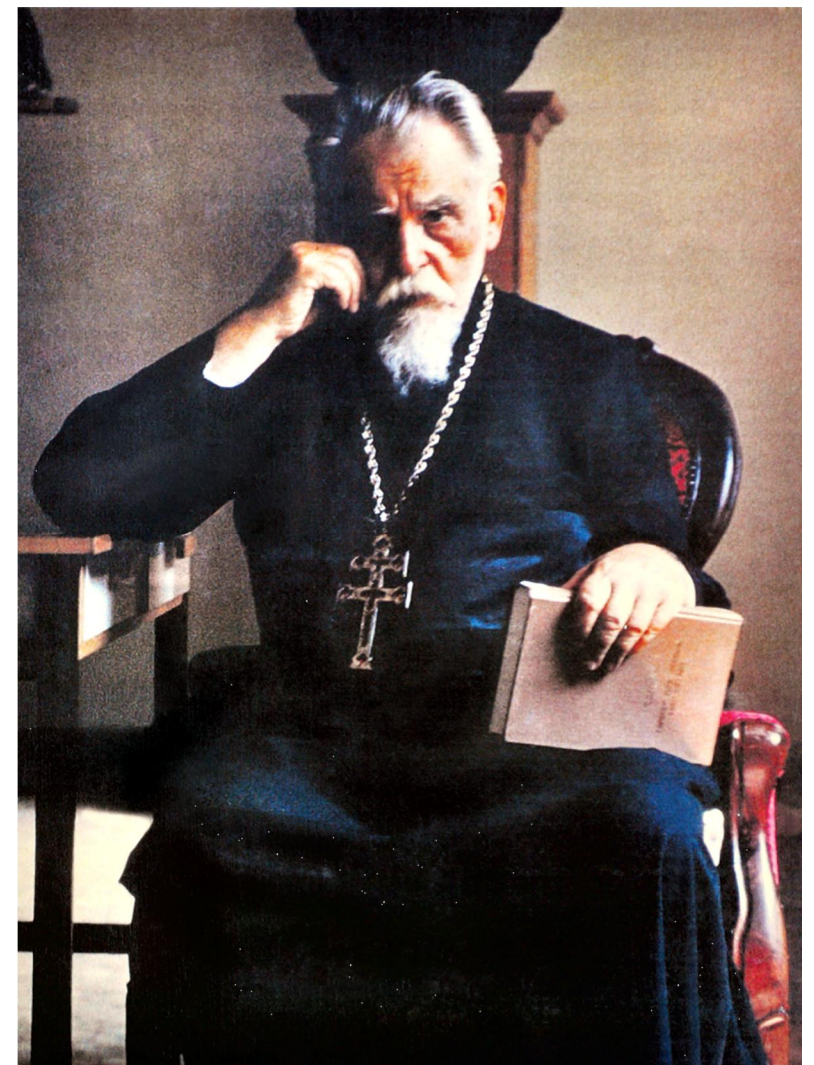
Наш світлий попередник, Сл. Б. Йосиф Веніамин Рутський у його заповіті натякає на цей самий гріх, брак єдності в єпископаті, згадує про суперечки, гонитву за наживою, пастирську недбалість, унаслідок чого закликає всіх

владик до духовної згоди і ревної праці, благаючи їх: „Про єдину тільки річ прошу моїх Високопреосвящених Отців, руських Єпископів, то єсть, щоби любов'ю Христа лучилися зі собою і зі своїм Митрополитом. Нехай словами і ділами потверджують, що визнають його за отця...”

Висловивши отут свої гіркі жалі і біль, якими сповнене моє серце, не хотів би нікому докоряти. Тому, Достойні і Дорогі Брати в Єпископському служінні, простіть мені, як і я Вам прощаю! Коли висловлюю свій гіркий біль, то цим бажаю Вас востаннє по-батьківськи і по-пастирськи напоумити і закликати: в єдності рятуйте нашу Церкву від загибелі і руїни! Нехай Ваша єдність, єдність всього єпископату Української Католицької Церкви, буде стимулом і натхненням для всіх тих Пастирів, ду-

ховників і мирян, чийх батьків і прадідів родила Церква-Мати, Київська Митрополія. На історичному шляху вони розгубились в різних країнах, серед різних народів і забули про матір, яка їх народила. Поможіть їм віднайти цю Матір!

„Сидячи на санях...”, лещу думками до всіх моїх братів і сестер в Україні і на просторах усього Радянського Союзу, до тих, що страждають на волі, і до тих, що караються у в'язницях, в таборах непосильної праці і смерті... Між ними бачу нових борців, науковців, письменників, митців, селян, робітників. Бачу між ними шукачів істини та оборонців справедливості. Чую їхній голос в обороні основних прав людини і людської спільноти. З подивом дивлюся на них, як вони боронять своє українське слово, збагачують свою українську культуру, як усіми силами свого ума і серця рятують українську душу. І співпереживаю з ними всіма, бо їх за те переслідують як злочинців.



Молюся за вас, мої Браття, і прошу Бога, щоб дав вам силу боронити природні і Божі права кожної людської істоти і спільноти. Благословляю вас як Глава Української Церкви, як Син Українського народу, як Ваш брат, Ваш Союзник і Сострадаelecь!
(продовження буде)

N^o38: Letter of Fr. Ray Palko – Лист о. Романа Палко

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

September 16, 2012 A.D.

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

Greetings to you, my dear one, wherever you are in the world when this letter finally catches up to you. This internet thing is quite an invention! I am amazed, and very humbled, to hear that you've read and enjoyed your letter in so many places from Buffalo, Kenmore, Niagara Falls, Lancaster and Lackawanna to the Chautauqua Institution to downstate NY and to PA, DC, New Jersey and to Florida to Germany to Canada, to Australia and so many other places where you've traveled and have family. Where in the world is Waldo? Where in the world is your letter? As the old cleaning woman in the VA hospital always said, "Give God the Glory!"

I write to you on September 12, and we are very much remembering the 9/11 terrorist attack, which as you know, occurred eleven years ago this past Tuesday. Today, the day after that somber memorial, is yet another day like that fateful day, for it is again filled with sadness, anger, fear, confusion, death and mourning. News is flooding the airwaves about the despicable attacks on our US Embassies in the Middle East, where it is reported that we have lost four Americans in Libya, including the Ambassador himself, Christopher Stevens. May their memory be eternal! May their loved ones be comforted!

I don't know what will be going on in the world when you are finally reading your letter on Sunday or early next week. An attack on an embassy according to international law is considered an act of war. We have already, once again, received another wake up call from the Muslim extremists everywhere in the world. They, who admittedly want nothing less than the destruction of America, and, as a matter of fact, the destruction of anyone who does not agree with them. This is another wake up call to the seriousness of the situation in this country and throughout all of the world. Our freedom is being stripped and our defenses are being taken down. Once again, just as in those days following 9-11-01, we have to unite as a country and become ever more vigilant and determined against those who would attack us.

And attack us they will! The news reports have been referring to a video that hurt the feelings of the Muslim world and allegedly is the cause of this latest Arab uprising. This is September. The video has been circulating since June. And now they are hurt? Even as the media writes of this, there are increasing reports that the movie was simply a pretext and an excuse for an attack on America. The real news tells us the attacks, especially the one in Libya, were well planned and in no way spontaneous. They were a direct attack on our embassy and citizens as a sick and vengeful way of marking the attacks on America on that memorable day of September 11, 2001. Even today US warships are moving to the Libyan coast. Once again as we always do, especially in times of trouble, let us turn to Our Holy Lady and her Son and our Lord as we pray: "Our help is in the name of the Lord! Lord have mercy!"

America has been on an increasingly advancing decline during the last 40 or so years. Especially since the passage of Roe vs. Wade and "legalized abortion," the bottom has fallen out of the faith and morals of this country. We really must begin to turn back to the Lord God, individually, personally and as a country! That call has always been there, from Adam and Eve to the present day, but during these last days it has become a clarion call. Speakers, preachers and lay and church leaders since the 1970s have been calling

for a reform to our lives, always saying that unless we changed our ways and became people of God once again, our country was in for some serious and dire consequences. That call for repentance and change of heart back to God is louder than ever in these last days, but it seems to fall on the deaf ears and hardened hearts of so many in this country.

In 1974 Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen said, *“The world in which we live is the battleground of the Church. Abortion, the breakdown of family life, dishonesty, even the natural virtues upon which the supernatural virtues were based are being discredited. Thirty or forty years ago, it was very easy to be a Christian. The very air we breathed was Christian. Bicycles could be left on the front lawn, doors could be unlocked. Suddenly all this has changed; now we have to affirm our faith. We live in a world that challenges us. And many fall away. Dead bodies float downstream; it takes live bodies to resist the current. And this is our summons.”* (Archbishop Sheen-öWe Must Wake Up.ö)

It is definitely up to us as to how we will answer this call. Are you alive? Do you resist the current? It is clear we are to be strong and faithful Christians in all aspects of our life. Besides having a fruitful spiritual and prayer life, this also means during this time of political elections we are definitely called to make our voices and desires known through our vote. If we see people in public office who are advocating the moral evils so condemned by Christian leaders, we must stand against that current of evil and do all we can to resist the surges of evil and destruction. As I write, there are only 57 days until Election Day. Your vote does matter! Are you registered? Are you going to vote?

I would like to send our thanks for your phone calls of concern this week when you became aware that some serious weather had struck the Niagara Frontier and you called to check on us. We appreciate your thinking of us like that! I didn't realize it, but we made the national news and weather with the reporting of the storms of last Saturday, September 8. We were safe here in West Seneca and Niagara Falls, but there were a few places where a lot of damage was done to homes and trees. Those places were hit by strong, straight-line winds, which were very severe over a short period of time and space. Even though it was quick and short-lived, a lot of people were very much affected by it, so much in a few cases that they lost their homes for the foreseeable future. There was no loss of life, although there could have been, because the winds caused much structural damage in those affected areas. One neat story told of a man who was in a meat market and was about to go outside, but realized he forgot his credit card, or the receipt for it, at the counter. By the time he returned to the cash register and started back out, the entire brickwork from the top of the building crashed outside the door. Who knows where he would be today had he not returned to the store?! Life is like öa Fiddler on the Roof!ö

On Tuesday September 18, God willing and the creek don't rise, I'll be serving Liturgy at Holy Protection for öall the names on our parish prayer list.ö It is always a beautiful and uplifting prayer for you. Even though our list is quite lengthy, I want you to know that your name (first name only) is mentioned during the Liturgy and we will be praying for you. Pray with us, if you can, between noon and one on that day.

I leave you for this week with all good wishes and prayers. *“Many people will come in and out of your life, but a few will leave footprints on your heart.”* May God bless you and our Holy Lady protect you!

In His Love,

Fr. Ray