

VĚSTNÍK

IN ENGLISH

Czech Mission

www.czechchurch.org

sv. Jakuba v San Diegu – sv. Františka v San Francisku - sv. Cyrila a Metoděje v Los Angeles



We Three Kings come to you,
wishing you happiness health and long life.
We come to you from far away

Homage and gifts are silent but at the same time clear testimony that this little baby is the Messianic King (Ps 72, 10-11). The Magi represent the pagan nations and are, second only to the shepherds, witnesses of the newly born Messiah who is the redeemer not only of the Jewish nation but also of the Gentiles.

JANUARY 6. FEAST OF THE LORD'S EPIPHANY.

CALIFORNIA / JANUARY 2012

You are invited to attend



**OUR
CZECH
LITURGY**

In SAN DIEGO our Mass will be on Saturday, January 21 at 4:00 in the afternoon at St. John's Church on the corner of Normal and Lincoln.

In LOS ANGELES our Mass will be on Sunday, January 22 at 1:30 in the afternoon at the Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA 92886. Immediately after Mass a meal will be served. A donation of \$10.00 is requested, \$5.00 for parky.

IN SAN FRANCISCO our Mass will be on Sunday, January 29 at 11:00 in the morning at Star of the Sea

N.B.: Why do we have two Masses in January in San Francisco? (the first on 8. 1. and the second on 29. 1.)

Answers: 1. Because the San Francisco community is more religious than those in San Diego and Los Angeles.

2. Because the people at our San Francisco mission need to pray more than those in our other missions in order to grow spiritually.

The correct answer and explanation:

Even though we tried to schedule a Czech Mass closer to Christmas it was not possible. The closest we could come was January 8, the celebration of the Three Magi. But we still wanted to have a regular January Mass, which had been announced earlier as January 29, 2012. We will keep that date for our regular January Eucharistic celebration. Our February Mass will be on February 19.

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP ESTERKA

Dear Friends of our Czech Mission in California



Christmas and New Year's Day are over and life is back on track. I hope that if not all, the vast majority of us spent the holidays in good health and with people who love us. I hope also that those of us who were working during the Christmas holidays took proper rest, and had enough strength to perform their daily duties.

- During the holidays I was looking at a list of compatriots to whom we send our newsletter. We have around 650 addresses. Almost every month a number of the Bulletins are returned— sometimes with the remark "addressee unknown", sometimes the address change is noted by the post office and so on. It would help us if you let us know in advance when you change addresses, or if for some reason you no longer want to receive the Vestnik, just tell us. We do not want to send it to someone who does not read it. As you can imagine the paper, printing and postage costs approximately \$ 550 per month for 650 copies. However, I do not want to discourage the taking of the Vestnik by those of you who read it, even though you might be in financial distress and therefore can not afford to pay for it. Just like our Mission, our newsletter exists to keep us connected in the first place and help us to live here, away from our homeland, according to the Gospel of Christ. But if you know of someone who has died or moved on, please let us know.

- As you surely know, our former president Vaclav Havel died December 18. You will find more about him in this Vestnik, pp.8-10.

- On 6 January we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, the Revelation of the Savior to the nations, usually known as the feast of Three Kings. Actually, the entire month of January celebrates the fact that the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, came into the world not only as Savior of the Jewish people, who had for centuries expected a messiah, but came as the Savior of all nations. Jesus taught his Jewish countrymen, but he suffered, sacrificed and eventually died on the cross not only for Jews but for all people. Therefore, sending his apostles, he said, "Go into all the world and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." So not only Jews but all people are invited to become members of his "chosen people" In this spirit, it is our duty to try to bring unity to Christian communities, but also people of other religious traditions and even people we consider unbelievers. Jesus Christ came into this world to redeem all people. Therefore, we must try to love all people even those who have not yet received Christ as their Redeemer. After all we are all children of one God the Father who created us.

Be proud that you are a Catholic.

Excerpts of an article written by a prominent Cleveland Jewish businessman and sent to us by e-mail:

“Why would newspapers carry on a vendetta on one of the most important institutions that we have today in the United States, namely the Catholic Church?”

Do you know—the Catholic Church educates 2.6 million students everyday at the cost to that church of 10 billion dollars, and a savings on the other hand to the American taxpayer of 18 billion dollars. The graduates go on to graduate studies at the rate of 92%.

The Church has 230 colleges and universities in the U.S. with an enrollment of 700,000 students.

The Catholic Church has a non-profit hospital system of 637 hospitals, which account for hospital treatment of 1 out of every 5 people—not just Catholics—in the United States today.

But the press is trying to totally denigrate in every way the Catholic Church in this country. They have blamed the disease of pedophilia on the Catholic Church, which is as irresponsible as blaming adultery on the institution of marriage.

Let me give you some figures that Catholics should know and remember. For example, 12% of the 300 Protestant clergy surveyed admitted to sexual intercourse with a parishioner; 38% acknowledged other inappropriate sexual contact in a study by the United Methodist Church; 41.8% of clergy women reported unwanted sexual behavior; 17% of laywomen have been sexually harassed.

Meanwhile 1.7% of the catholic clergy has been found guilty of pedophilia. 10% of the Protestant ministers have been found guilty of pedophilia. This is not a Catholic Problem.

A study of American priests showed that most are happy in the priesthood and find it even better than they had expected; and that most, if given the choice, would choose to be priests again in the face of all this obnoxious PR the church has been receiving. You have been hurt by a small number of wayward priests that have probably been totally weeded out by now. Walk with your shoulders high and your head higher. Be a proud member of the most important non-governmental agency in the United States. Then remember what Jeremiah said: ‘Stand by the roads and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.’

Be proud to speak up for your faith with pride and reverence and learn what your Church does. *Be proud that you're a Catholic.*”

ÚMYSLY NA MŠE SVATÉ:

LEDEN • JANUARY

1. + Ing. Borek Jelínek, minulý prezident naší misie
2. +Jana a Annu Harmady– syn Jan Harmady
3. +Tomíka Šachu—matka Dagmar Rus
4. +Zdeňka Zemánka (výr.+) - manželka Anna s rodinou
5. +Josepha V.Reichert - wife Jane
6. +Bedřicha Hudečku - Milada Vegvary
7. +Marii a Jana Hrobařovy - manželé Hrobařovi
8. + Gen. konzula Ladislava Urbana - Doris Klega, dcera
9. +Karla Nováka - manželka Inka a dcera Irenka
10. +George Martinku - Jean Hoard
11. +Marii Jordánovou - syn Pavel
12. +maminku Olgu Urbanovou - Doris Klega, dcera
13. +Radomíra Hudečka - Milada Vegvary
14. +Mary Ann Breuer - Bertha Srnka
15. +Zdenku Vrbovou - Doris a Danny Klega
16. +Miloslav Marik - manželka Edith
17. +Ludmilu Vegvary - Milada Vegvary
18. +Raymunda Dvorského - manželka Marie
19. +syna Jaromíra Hrobaře - manželé Hrobařovi
20. +Veronica Sujak – Jean Hoard
21. + Jiřinu Jordánovou - manžel Pavel
22. +Vladimíra Cymbála - manželka Jiřina
23. +Dr. Luďka Kozlika - manželka Brigitte
24. + Dr. Drahoslav Lim - MuDr. Marketa Limová, dcera
25. +Marii a Josefa Nečasovy - přátelé
26. + Petra Vranu - manželka Jarka
27. za živé a zemřelé členy české síně Karlín - Joe Kocáb
28. za Boží požehnání pro paní Vlastu Grulíkovou
29. +Miloš Halouzkovi, minulý prezident naší misie
30. +dceru Marii Caruso Hrobařovou - manželé Hrobařovi
31. +Annu a Jana Vaňurovy, rodiče- manželé Hrobařovi



.....*And Many More*

Happy Ninety-Ninth birthday to
Vlasta Grulick of Las Vegas!

Daniel Sputa was chosen by Bishop Esterka to participate in his scholarship program for Czech students at Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania in 2006. An excellent student, Daniel graduated from Marywood in 2010 with a Bachelor of Business Information Technology. He is now finishing his Master's Degree in Financial Systems. Our community in LA and Orange County is happy to have him return to California every summer and winter break, when he participates in the events of our Czech Mission. He is currently maintaining our website, www.czechchurch.org, originally created by Robert Dobs. I appreciate it very much and am hoping you will be generous as Daniel is asking for your support for his service trip to Guatemala in May. Thank you for your participation.



This year, I am one of ten student participants, selected from the university student body, to be part of the international service trip to San Lucas Mission in Guatemala in May, 2012. As a volunteer at the San Lucas Parish, I will participate in the parish projects, including reforestation, construction, and water projects, as well as learn, understand, and appreciate the local culture. Through working alongside Guatemalans, receiving talks from community members, and observing the goings-on of the area, I will be able to learn about the richness of Mayan culture, the work of the parish, and life in Guatemala.

Community service has always been very important to me. During my years at Marywood University, I have participated in various service activities and projects for local communities. For example, I helped in delivering Thanksgiving baskets to people in need, collecting Christmas gifts for underprivileged children, as well as organizing numerous day trips for Marywood students to help the flood victims in our area. I enjoy being part of my community and contributing to others' happiness and well-being in any way I can. I believe that any kind of help that can impact the community and change the people's lives is important.

As a participant in this service program, I am asking for your support: for your prayers for the safety and success of our work, and financially, so that you can participate indirectly. The estimated trip's travel and accommodation expense is \$1,500.00; however, any financial contribution will be much appreciated. So that your donation can be tax deductible, please make the checks out to the Czech Mission with my name on the memo line and send them to Bishop Esterka at 344 Koch Avenue, Placentia, CA 92870. Sincerely, Daniel Sputa
<http://www.sanlucasmission.org> dsputa@m.marywood.edu



CONGRATULATIONS !

Michael Jon Babicka was baptized by Bishop Peter Esterka during Christmas Mass in the Pope John Paul II Polish Center. His parents are Jon Babicka and Milena Srbova. Godparents are Robert and Anicka Dobes.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS

1st. prize - \$200.00

John Vostenak

2nd. prize - \$100.00

John Vostenak

3rd prize - \$ 75.00

Yvonne Novacek

*Tombola accounting: Received \$2,555; expenses \$550 (printing \$175, prizes \$375);
Income \$2,005.*





Vaclav Havel went quietly, as a candle goes out ...

The Catholic Weekly 01/2012

Five nuns cared for Vaclav Havel until his last moments. In the week before Christmas we met up with one of them, Sr. VERITAS Holiková, who gives testimony to the ex-president's death.

How is it that your order - Sisters of Charles Boromeo— were chosen to care for Vaclav Havel?

In July he had to decide about where to continue his rehabilitation and treatment of pneumonia and other health complications. He and his personal physician, Dr. Thomas Bouzek, agreed that he should go to his cottage on Hradeček. But he still needed constant medical supervision and care. Shortly before he was to leave for Hrádeček, he approached Archbishop

Duka to ask for the help of the boromeo sisters, whom he knew from the hospital under the Petrin hill - that is, he knew it from hearsay. He was there several times as a prisoner-patient, because that hospital was used by the prisoners from Ruzine prison, but at that time the Sisters were not yet working there. Mrs. Havel then contacted our Superior General.

Earlier, President Havel was under the care of Sr. Dominic, who is a doctor and was then Archbishop Dominik Duka's assistant. Later on we were invited to help: Sister Evangelista, Angelika, Alena and me. In September Sr. Ldumila of the Congregation of Grey Sisters of the Third Order of St Francis came to join us.

How were you influenced or even enriched during this period when you worked so closely with Vaclav Havel?

Mr. Vaclav Havel was a practical philosopher, certainly not a dreamer or an idealist, as he was sometimes pictured in an effort to discredit some of the ideals he formulated, defended and stood by. As I got to know him at the end of his life, he really thought in a realistic and practical way. He was very interested in how ordinary people live, how much they have to pay for medications and things like that. Because of this I could see how even great ideals could also be manifest in daily life.

To what extent was Vaclav Havel in contact with other people at the end of his life? What do you remember now?

I was surprised to see that he was not trying to deny his difficult experiences. He was not afraid to face difficult things; he was ready to discuss them. Similarly he was not afraid to talk about death and the process of dying. He faced the difficult situation he was in and was not unwilling to discuss this difficult time of his life, not only with us but also with his doctor.

In a television interview with Archbishop Dominik Duka it was obvious that the former president had not abandoned humor ...

Mr. Havel loved flowers and candles, which were always lit when he ate. I once asked him why he liked the candles so much, and he said with a grin: "Well, I have to get used to them."

He also had a spiritual life?

He spent time meditating daily, and then he wanted to be alone. As that time he did not talk, and it was obvious that he was immersed in reading and observing nature. He asked me often whether I had enough time for prayer and Bible reading, or if I was too busy just working at Hradeček. Of God, he did not speak or use any pious phrases, but he took it seriously and every day he certainly turned to Him - if in no other way than how he treated other and approached those of us around him.

Did you accompany him in public?

Yes. He said that by our relationship we were letting people know that our place is in the public sphere. He said also that he needed no great care in a nursing home, but he had sufficient care at home. From the beginning he made it clear to his personal physician that he would not be taken to the hospital and that he wanted to die at home - by which he meant Hradeček, that is, the place where he had his existential home.

What was his relationship with the Tibetan Dalai Lama?

He considered him to be his friend, whom he knew and had contact with for years. They were in contact. The last encounter with the Dalai Lama was being prepared since September. He very much wanted to be in such good condition that he could go to Prague to meet the Dalai Lama. When we spoke on the last Saturday after his return from Prague, he was glad that everything went well, and that he was able to visit with his friends.

Did he ever mention in any way the TV interview with Dominik Duka?

The show was taped on the 11th November, on the feast of St. Martin, and immediately after we left for Hradeček. Several times he returned to the topic and said that he was glad it was successful. He was glad that he could be on the program with the archbishop and appreciated the fact that the archbishop has been his friend for many years - that their relationship never changed and that he could always rely on Dominik Duka. During the last months, when so many attacks were directed against Havel, he expressly emphasized that Jaroslav Duka was one he knew would never turn against him.

Were you aware that he was nearing his last moments?

No, Mr. President did not seem to be a dying man. Not even during the last night was he in agony. I spoke with him a few times, because he could not sleep. In the evening he was talking with his wife, Dagmar, and they were planning together for Christmas at Hradeček.

In the morning when we talked together, he was still in good spirits, spoke clearly and seemed much better than the previous day. As I did every morning I called his personal physician - we made the rounds at a distance, where I described his patient's condition - and he slightly modified the regular medication. The president then told me he wanted to sleep for a while, so I came back in an hour. When I arrived around half past nine, I saw that his breathing had become shallower. As a nurse, I realized that he was really close to death. He died in his sleep. I waited for another breath but it did not come. It affected me deeply: it was as if a candle went out. He just left quietly without any anxiety. Even that night and the night before his death he was very calm and content. It was exactly the way he was hoping to die; he was not dying for too long - and he received the gift of a good death. When he was talking about it, he said: "I understand now what Jiri Wolker meant when he said that death is not bad, but the dying is difficult." He wished that he could write until the end and do all the usual activities.

You chose the religious name of Veritas, meaning truth. Did Vaclav Havel ever comment on it?

Just when we first met and I was introduced, he said: "So you're the *Truth!*" Ever so often his neighbor Andrej Krob came to Vaclav Havel's house to watch television news which they then discussed together. Once Mr. Krob told me: "It is good that you are here with us, at least you belong to the people who love the truth ..." And so I'm actually also in the club pravdoláskařů, who are often misunderstood, and even ridiculed. Vaclav Havel suffered to see how often the ideals of truth and love which he was not afraid to believe in, were being vilified. He loved the fact that young people, the younger generation, were reaching for truth and love.. He believed that it is only they who will be capable of understanding and implementing those ideals.

Sister VERITAS Holiková (40) is a nurse and psychologist. Since September she teaching at the Bishops Gymnasium in Ostrava and lives in the local Boromeo Sisters community . She joined the order at age sixteen in 1987. Until 2002 she worked in the hospital under the Petrin hill and spent the previous eight years on studies of bioethics and clinical psychology in Rome. *Author: Machane, George*



**Dominik Cardinal Duka,
Archbishop of Prague**

We have just learned that Archbishop Dominik Duka of Prague has been named a *Cardinal of the Church by the Holy Father*. More information will be available for our February issue.

DECEMBER 2011

Total collections for operation of the California missions: \$5,850.00

SD collection \$646.00, for *Velehrad* \$100.00 LA collection \$1052.00, meal \$597.00, for *Velehrad* \$25.00; SF collection: \$700.00 plus 300 for meal; for *Velehrad* \$260.00.

tombola earnings: \$2,005.00.

Mission Expenses: \$2,754.00

\$1,000.00 Bishop's salary; 500.00 (rent for Polish Center (200), SF church (250), and the hall in San Diego (50)); 323.00 (travel to SF, gas, car maintenance); *Věstník* publication : \$117.00 +264.00 (postage), tombola tickets 175, prizes 375..

May God reward you for your generosity.

Please take care to make out your checks so that they will match the names on our accounts: RC Czech Mission, or Czech Center Building Fund, or if you wish it to go to the Bishop or to North American Pastoral Center for Czech Catholics: Bishop Peter Esterka, or NAPCCC

OUR MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST ONLY AS LONG AS WE SUPPORT IT FINANCIALLY.

YOUR TRUST OR WILL: Please remember Czech ministry in your trust or will. Our legal title is: North American Pastoral Center for Czech Catholics, 344 KOCH Avenue, Placentia, CA 92870. For information call Bishop Esterka, 714 524 0092.

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