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Podporujte podnikatele, kteří inzerují v našem Věstníku. Kupujte jelich výrobky a použivejte jejich služby! Oni podporují naši misii svými inzeráty a dary.

VESTNIK IN ENGLISH Czech Mission

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

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FEBRUARY 2: Feast of the presentation of Christ in the temple

KALIFORNIE ÚNOR / FEBRUARY 2011

You are invited to attend



OUR CZECH LITURGY

In SAN DIEGO our Mass will be on <u>Saturday</u>, February 19 at 2:30 in the afternoon at St. John's Church on the corner of Normal and Lincoln. This will open the festival described on p. 6.

In LOS ANGELES our Mass will be on <u>Sunday</u>, <u>February 20</u>, <u>at 1:30 in the afternoon</u> 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 no Czech Mass is scheduled for the rest of February, due to the lack of availability of our usual space at Star of the Sea Church. If we are able to find a church to accept us, you will be informed by postcard.

For March: SD 19, LA 20; SF 27.

Cover: Selection from painting by Vittore Carpaccio (1455-1525)

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

"The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him, and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Luke 2:29-35.

JANUARY 2011

Total collections for operation of the California Czech Mission: \$1,317.00.

SD \$160.00, *Velehrad* \$65.00; LA collection \$967.00, meal \$190.00; *for Velehrad* \$25.00; SF collection \$595.00, *for Velehrad* \$239.00;

Regular expenses of our Mission: \$1,954.00

\$1,000.00 (salary for the bishop), \$350.00 (rent of the halls in San Diego, Polish Center, and San Francisco); \$150.00 (gas & auto); printing for Věstník \$190.00, for postage \$264.00.

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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We apologize to our English-speaking readers who may have received a Czech copy of Vestnik last month. We erred in printing too few English copies. We will try our best not to let it happen again.

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP ESTERKA

expected to attend. Will I see you there?

Dear Friends of our Czech Mission in California

- 1) Today I would like to draw particular attention to the upcoming festival in San Diego. The program appears on page 6. Not only you from San Diego but also those who would have to come from the Los Angeles area are welcome, and your support and participation will be appreciated. I thank those who had the courage to organize and then re-schedule the festival. We are told that the Czech and Slovak Consuls General are
- 2) Earlier in my priestly ministry I moved from one parish to another and served in several states. A few times it happened that I was there to see a pastor receive a car as a gift from his parishioners. I never thought that I would be so lucky to receive such a gift, too. And yet it happened, thanks to all of you who contributed to the purchase of my car. I have been driving the 2009 Toyota Camry for almost a month now, and can see that it is a very reliable vehicle, in addition to being comfortable. The warranty from the dealership is better even than that which is available on a brand new car. My consultant when selecting the car was the president of our mission in San Diego, Petr Peterka, whose title of engineer is not all that qualifies him for this task. Even more important may be the fact that he has three family cars, since his wife and three of their four daughters already have a drivers license and their youngest, Tynka, is waiting for hers. Once again, to all of you who helped, I say thank you, or better, in our own Moravian way: May God reward you for your generosity.
- 3) On page 9 you will find the annual statement of our financial health. What is not shown by the numbers is this: Last year we had 11 funerals, and only 3 baptisms. For a long time it has been evident that our death rate is greater than our birth rate. That is probably the fate of emigrants. This decrease can also be seen in other parts of the world, where our compatriots live. In the past, and even into the 60s of the last century, the expatriate community could be counted to the second and third generations. They lived on farms, but in a typical Czech or Slovak suburbs of cities such as Chicago: Cicero, Berwyn, and Pilsen. they had their national organizations, dances, and used their mother tongue for worship, parish activities, entertainment, and visiting with each other. Even the schools were often Czech. The young people married among themselves and in that way they maintained the language, customs, food and faith of our heritage. Now even in the first generation, the children assimilate, blending with their surroundings. Unfortunately, such is life. And yet, there is joy in revitalizing the past with festivals such as we will have in San Diego in a few weeks.

FOREWORD TO THE BOOK "INVITATION TO THE JOURNEY"

Foreword written by Jan Graubner, Archbishop of Olomouc *Italicized and interspersed commentary by Bishop Peter Esterka*

The gospel when it is accepted in a life creates culture. By culture I do not mean just literature, architecture, music and painting. I think for example about the culture of life in interpersonal relationships, and also, as far as human thinking is involved, I mean by it also public and private morality, the culture of business and politics. During the communist era the church was forced to retreat into the sacristy and our church activities were mostly confined to the sacraments and almost no education. Younger generations do not know the abundant contributions of religious orders to the fields of health, education, and social welfare. They do not know of the rich activities of believers, and I do not even mean the organization of trade unions and political efforts of Christians. It is true that the Church today does not want the clergy to be involved politically; even among the lay faithful we are suspicious about the political commitment of a devout Catholic is considered.

PE The communists, to a large extent managed to push the Church, that is, persons representing the Church, such as priests and religious brothers and sisters, from the, hospitals, and even largely from parishes. Where there were two and three parish priests, there remained only one priest with a limited impact. If he was successful as a priest, the church "secretary", a communist acting in the role of bishop, removed him from office and sent him into the factories or to manual work. Sometimes they accused him of undermining the state (treason) and he ended up in prison. Of course in the church we must not speak about politics directly, but aren't the questions of human rights or social justice matters of "faith and morals?"

In the free world the idea has spread that religion is a private thing. In the name of religious tolerance and conflict prevention all particular religious expression is erased from the public arena until finally it looks as if the only permitted religion is atheism, which exercises its right to manifest itself as intolerant of any religion.

What are the consequences? In Europe, which from the political point of view often rejects the influence of the gospel from which Christian Europe arose, the culture is changing. What is changing primarily is the outlook on fundamental values. Some are speaking about a culture of death and the loss of hope because they cannot see a future.



R C CZECH MISSION CALIFORNIA ANNUAL REPORT 2010	
DONATIONS COLLECTIONS	27,645
MAIL Bishop's Car Christmas tombola	8,667 12,000 1,527
TOTAL INCOME	<u>49,839</u>
EXPENSES Rent for churches Salary/medical for bishop Velehrad household Office Car and California air travel Vestnik printing and mailing	3,600 13,292 13,169 2,597 3,660 4,605
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>39,978</u>
BALANCE 12/31/10	9,861
ASSETS RC Czech Mission accounts	8,551
VELEHRAD CORPORATION	
INCOME Donations Building Fund 5,146 Tax Refund 4,432	9,578
EXPENSES County assessments 3,420 + 254 Loan payments 19,200	<u>24,391</u>
Insurance 865 Donors Board 652 Balance	(14, 813)
ASSETS Building Fund checking, savings Equity in 344 Koch Ave (2010 Assessed value 712,307)	15,902.39
LIABILITIES Remaining balance on loan (12.31.10)	(374,044)



FRANTIŠEK RYCHECKY

On February 13 my husband, František Rychecký, will celebrate his 95th birthday.

He was born na Vysocina and at age 33, longing to see the world, he went through Austria and Australia to Canada, and put down his anchor in California in Los Angeles.

He lives his fruitful life with a strong faith in God who leads him on his way . . . his wife, Věra

We too congratulate you, Frank, and wish you good health and God's blessing. Bishop Peter





Photo, taken by Robert Dobes at the LA birthday celebration, shows (left to right) Dolores and Kuba Oberreiter, Fr. Henry Noga, director of the Polish Center, Bishop Peter, Lidia Onderka, Irene Halouzka and Jirina Cymbal. I want to thank Fr. Noga for his willingness to allow our community worship at his church.

PE But isn't it our fault that we are missing the past as well? From the very childhood we were answering the question, why are we here on earth? and the answer was. So we would love our God and the love would consist in our doing his will and our reward would be our salvation. According to this view of life, many of us lived and are still living. Are we certain, though, that our young people ever ask the same question? Here we may wonder what is their grasp of the purpose of human life. For me personally the answer to the question about the meaning of human life was always the springboard for making decisions in my life. I know from my experience that I was not the only one to act from that sense of purpose. Before his death one of our parishioners told me that since his childhood, he always asked in critical situations, "What would my mother say about this decision?" His mother died when he was a child but he always believed that she was in heaven and that from heaven she saw him and knew what he was doing here on earth. This conviction motivated him to do what was right and good. Therefore when he was dying he was calm and resigned to the will of God and did not fear death. Rather he was finally going to join his mother, a joy for which he yearned his entire life.

Mostly we do not even have to consider the religious or spiritual plane as we live. Here we are talking about hard numbers, statistics and logic. Nations without children cannot have a physical future. They will abandon their living space to other nations and other cultures.

PE At this point we might reflect on the success of Muslims especially in Europe. While the Turks could not occupy Christian Europe in the Middle Ages with their armies, today they are doing so peacefully, mainly by their family cohesion, their many children, and their sense of purpose and steadfastness.

What, then, is the task for the Church in this situation? We must share our treasure and experiences and not keep them safe in museums, because this treasure is connected with a mission. It implies a task. It is a gift we need to make useful, and make ourselves useful too. If we are not significant to the world we will be like salt without savor and will be thrown out and trampled, thus sharing the fate of the dying world and the end of the Christian culture in Europe.

"Go into the entire world, preaching the gospel" does not refer only to those who have the special calling to be missionaries. To witness to Christ and to build God's kingdom in this world is the task of all Christians. We are not talking of the baptism of fire and the sword, nor the imposition of our personal beliefs on others. This is the contribution we owe to society. Future prospects may not be hopeless if we fulfill this task.



Present

First Czech, Moravian, and Slovak Festival in San Diego Saturday, February 19, 2011

Location:

Church Hall of St. John the Evangelist on the corner of Normal Street and Lincoln Avenue (from 163, exit Washington east), 92103

Program:

2:30-3:30 pm - Czech and Slovak Mass

3:30-5:30 pm - art and craft exhibition, traditional food, kids corner

5:30-7:00 pm - traditional Music and Dance Performance 7:00 pm - tombola/raffle followed by "zabava" free style entertainment.

For more information call (619) 992-9831 (Anka)

IS SOCIAL JUSTICE THE SAME AS SOCIALISM?

Lately there have been accusations that a church with a social justice mission is one that supports socialism. Conservative TV personality Glenn Beck told Christians, "I beg you, look for the words 'social justice' or 'economic justice' on your church website. If you find it, run as fast as you can. Social justice and economic justice, they are code words. . . . If you have a priest that is pushing social justice, go find another parish. Go alert your bishop."

Unfortunately, statements such as this have left even Catholics, who enjoy a rich social justice tradition, confused.

Socialism is defined as economic or political theories that advocate collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods. The threat perceived by socialism is that it threatens the identity of the individual because it merges the masses into one common goal or voice.

Social justice isn't an economic or political theory, but an outlook that seeks to strengthen the identity of the individual because it sees that human dignity derives its meaning from being made in God's image (Gen. 1:26). In God's image, no one is worth more than another. All are deserving of life and whatever is needed to adequately sustain it.

The church's mission is derived from the words and actions of Jesus. Jesus reached out to those living on the margins of society because they had as much value in God's eyes as those living in the center with their power and comfort. Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed in Caritas in Veritate, "If we love others with charity then first of all we are just towards them. . . . Justice is the primary way of charity."

Social justice means living in right relationship. We must live justly not only with God, but with our neighbor and all of humanity. How we treat the least among us becomes a measure of how well we honor our relationship with God. By honoring the least, we are challenged to look at how they are denied the chance to sustain their own life. If our actions, our consumption, or our materialism make it difficult for others to simply live, then we are not loving our neighbors as much as we love ourselves.

Therefore, while socialism is seen as a threat to individual identity. social justice is a call to honor the life and dignity of each individual, especially the least among us. The fear of socialism begins with a fear of losing one's identity and material wealth, as well as the ability to experience economic upward mobility. The mission of social justice begins with honoring the identity of each human and realizing the mobility of one depends upon the mobility of all.

Within the mission of the church, each member has a voice to add and a value and worth as an individual. But we must never forget that we are all one body and no one part is more deserving of dignity and life than any other.

Kathy McGourty is a youth minister in Bloomingdale, Illinois. This article appeared 7 in the September 2010 issue of U.S. Catholic (Vol. 75, No. 9, page 46).