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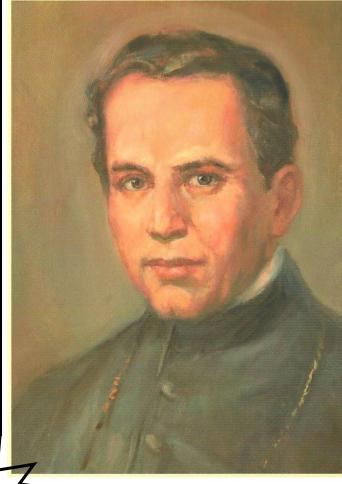
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> SEND PICNIC RESERVATION



St. John Nepomuk Neumann Fourth Bishop of Philadelphia

KALIFORNIE JUNE / JULY 2011

An Appreciation of Saint John Neumann



Saint John Neumann never aspired to be a Bishop of the Church. When Archbishop Kenrick of Baltimore told him that he was being talked about as the great possibility and probability of being appointed the fourth Bishop Philadelphia, St John Neumann begged him to tell the Pope and the Vatican that he was a

lousy administrator, and that he wanted to be just a holy missionary priest of the Redemptorist Order and nothing more. St. John Neumann didn't even like being the Provincial Superior of the Redemptorists, and was glad to be relieved of his duties as Provincial Superior.

When St John Neumann took on the awesome responsibility of being the Fourth bishop of Philadelphia, and the Bishop of so many immigrants coming from all over Europe, he knew that he had to be a good administrator for the well being of his people, and of church property.

In eight years he built 80 Catholic Churches and 35 Catholic Schools, and staffed his schools with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and later with other Religious Communities. He worked himself many times to exhaustion, but he did it all for his tremendous love of God, and the people of God, and especially the immigrants.

He wanted the people to be generous in the building of the churches and schools, but he also wanted them to save as much money as possible for the well being of the family and the people back home. He was one of the Founders of Beneficial Bank, which was a great help and service to the immigrants, in the savings of their hard earned money. That same bank has since established an Endowment Fund for the School of St Peter the Apostle, which is located at 5th and Girard in Philadelphia, and continues the legacy of St John Neumann. Neumann's contributions to the Catholic school system were organization on a diocesan level, proper and competent teachers, good textbooks, and patience in dealing with the pupils. Catholic schools in Neumann's time taught the children of immigrant families especially in faith and virtue.

The national shrine of St John Neumann, 1019 N Fifth Street, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, welcomes pilgrims. When I visited with a delegation from the Czech Republic last year I was impressed with the stained glass windows in the lower church. They tell the story of this Czech immigrant, an ordinary Redemptorist who changed the city of Philadelphia and the Catholic Church in America. Countless people now pray to him for help and healing.

MAY 2011

Total collections for operation of the California Czech Mission: \$2,205. 00.

SD \$206.00, *Velehrad* \$65.00; LA collection \$791.00, meal \$263.00; *for Velehrad* \$60.00; SF collection \$945.00, *for Velehrad* \$202.00.

Regular expenses of our Mission: \$2,260.00

\$1,000.00 (salary for the bishop), \$500.00 (rent of the halls in San Diego (50), Polish Center(200), and San Francisco (250); \$350.00 (airfare to SF, gas & auto); printing for Věstník \$146.00, 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 SO 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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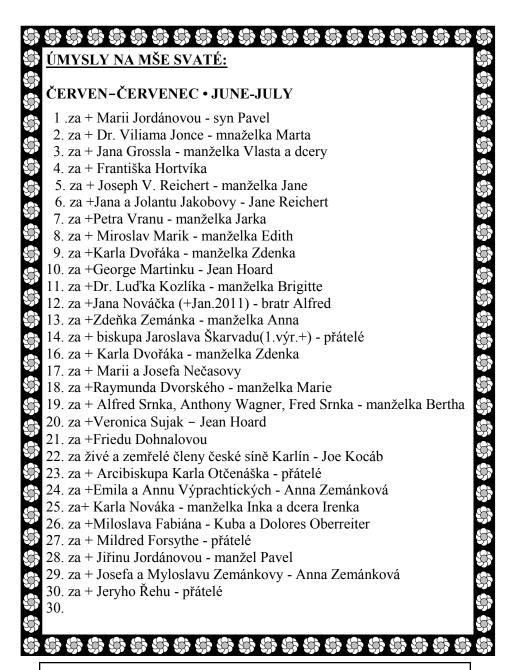
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Future Planning: Sokol Los Angeles invites you to a picnic on Saturday, August 27 in William S. Hart Park, 24151 Newhall Avenue, Newhall, California 91321 (11AM-3PM). Barbecue hot dogs provided. Games, fun, and socializing for all.

More information from Otto Notzl 714-785-9929.

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP ESTERKA

Dear Friends of our Czech Mission in California

Instead of my own comments I'd like to share with you these thoughts of the former secretary of the Czech Bishops Conference.



Do not be afraid!

Psychologists tell us that modern humans suffer from various kinds of anxiety and fear: fear of illness, aging, unemployment, inflation and rising prices, and therefore display irritability and restlessness. Previously people mainly worried about their souls; now it is the opposite, focused on their bodies, including comfort, wealth, and a variety of delights. So-called modern man is trying to live life as far as possible without God and be emancipated, in the sense that he rejects any reliance on a supernatural power. But the problem goes even deeper: although in theory there is no danger to our contemporaries and they can live quite normally, yet the anxiety remains essential, proportionate to his attempts to move away from God. The psychologist Adler stressed that the background of fear in man is his temptation to be like God, as we read in the first few pages of the Bible.

Some might argue that a true Christian does not suffer from fear. But from experience we know that's not true. There is a kind of fear that is specific for us believers. Because we live in the world, but we do not live <u>like</u> the world many consequences of our Christianity may arise and challenge us. It is this kind of fear Jesus is concerned with when he says to his disciples, Let not your hearts be troubled! But this is not so much a warning as the revelation of a reliable way to overcome any fears that might fill our heart: *Believe in God, believe also in me!*

Jesus points to himself, even as his death on the cross could not separate him from the Father's love, so all its paths point to the Father, always fulfilling his will. Whoever believes in him may reach a firm conviction that *nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (Rom 8,35)*. This conviction can overcome every kind of fear, because in every darkness the Lord's promise to him stands firm. The brightness of Easter radiates light to us, and the Holy Spirit – the Comforter – reminds us that there is a place prepared for us in the house of our heavenly Father.

Our spiritual home, the safe harbor of the church, is made up of the believers, living stones. According to Romano Guardini, *anyone who wants to see and accept Jesus Christ, can find him in his Church.* Because we ourselves make up this community, the Lord's call to overcome fear is directly binding upon us as an integral part of our apostolate.

You are invited!



WELCOME TO OUR CZECH LITURGY FOR PENTECOST.

In LOS ANGELES our next Mass will be on Sunday, June 12. at 1:30 PM at 344 Koch Avenue, Placentia, CA 92870. After Mass we will have our traditional PICNIC and TOMBOLA outside. For more information see p. 5.

No Masses in July. We will resume our normal schedule August 13 (SD),14 (LA), and 21 (SF).

The feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius is always celebrated in

our country on the fifth of July with a morning Mass at the Moravian Velehrad. The historic place of pilgrimagive for Slovakia is Nitra.

Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee year 2013

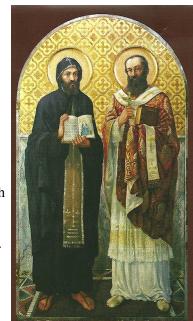
O God, you sent Sts. Cyril and Methodius to preach the gospel to our ancestors in the Slavic language.

Grant that we accept your message with pleasure, and follow in their life.

Through their intercession may we all be united in the unity of faith and love.

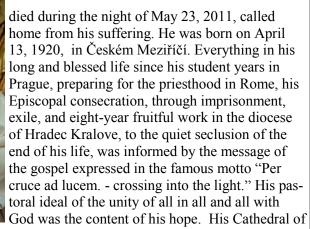
Amen.

Reproduction of painting by E. Neumann 1913. Foto F. Ingr.
Vydalo Občanské sdružení Matice velehradská
církevním schválením Arcibiskupství olomouckého.



Archbishop Karel Otčenášek

archbishop emeritus of Hradec Kralove.



the Holy Spirit gave strength and encouragement to his life. He was a daily inspiration to many with his apostolic activities, which are written in the hearts of many people.

"I am the vine and you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him will bear much fruit....My father is gloried when you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples" (Jn 15, 5.8).

With love we announce to all relatives, friends and acquaintances the death of our beloved husband, father and grandfather,

MILOSLAV FABIÁN

His heart stopped beating on Wednesday April 27, 2011, at the age of nearly 91 years.

Míla was born in Prague on May 15, 1920. In the Spring of 1952 he left Czechoslovakia with his wife and 4-year old son

Arnost, and spent a year in Austria, then five years in Canada before they eventually settled in California. His wish was to be buried in the Czech Republic close to relatives. Thanks to his two sons, his wish is being fulfilled.

He is survived by his wife, Alena, sons and spouses Arnošt and Jana, David and Martina, and grandchildren, Martin a Noelle.

"I have not died because I know that I still live in the hearts of those who loved me."



A New Beginning for Viennese Catholics

(A few months after the Pope called for the re-evangelization of Europe, a special office was set up in the Vatican for this purpose. The first attempt at modern evangelization is underway in the archdiocese of Vienna. What do you think of this experiment?)

"The Master Plan for the overall recovery of the Archdiocese of Vienna" so called by Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, in the shortened version of his pastoral letter, was read last Sunday in all 660 local parishes. It is hoped it will bring about fundamental changes in the life and functioning of the archdiocese.

"The goal is a growing number of small communities, which will act as a leaven in the parish," said Cardinal Schönborn. Each of these smaller communities are created and led by laymen and women. Several such "units" will form a parish under the guidance of a priest. He will still be available to the laity, who will help him manage this parish with the volunteers and the paid staff.

"While these new structures are still being developed, we will not appoint any new priests, but only moderators. Everything remains open to the possibilities for change," said Schönborn. The need for reform is explained as follows: "The number of Catholics who bear the burden of the parishes are fewer. These people were often overloaded. In most parishes children and young people are missing. Also, our financial and personnel resources are stretched to the limit in the existing operation. "These systemic changes will not be only an expression of relief, but rather will serve the primary task of Christian missions. This necessarily makes Christians, says the Cardinal, raise the question: "How can we deepen, live and learn to follow Jesus through our new discipleship?"

LEARN TO BE A DISCIPLE

According to Schönborn this new approach will help the faithful to enter into the "life of Jesus, and learn what it means to be a disciple of the Master." It notes that the gift of faith given by Jesus Christ in baptism takes root and grows deeper throughout a lifetime. "We are now better able to explain why we committed ourselves to Jesus Christ," he says simply. Therefore, it is also an opportunity to rethink the general priesthood of the baptized and the sacramental priesthood.

The third priority in the pastoral letter is the pursuit of justice. The task for the Church, under Cardinal and with others, should be to create an "Alliance." "This opens up opportunities for us to connect with others who are committed to the poor, suffering, justice and peace," said Cardinal Schönborn.

THE JOY OF BEING CHRISTIANS

8

"The Master Plan" summarizes an intensive two-year diocesan thinking about the question: What does Jesus want from us? In the context of this question, the entire diocese has been reflecting on the book, *Acts of the Apostles*, which is the inspiration for his current mission efforts. The Cardinal also acknowledged that the Council of Jerusalem was the inspiration for this renewal (Acts, ch.15). The whole recovery process was therefore called "Acts 2010." The process included three major diocesan gatherings in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, attended by about 1,500 people. In his pastoral letter Cardinal Schönborn stated approvingly about those

meetings: "I learned a lot from this experience. Together we rediscovered the joy of being Christian."

Katolicky Tydenik 21



ANNUAL CZECH MASS! PICNIC! STEAKS! SWIMMING!

Gather for outdoor Mass:1:30 PM Steak or Chicken dinner from the grill 2:30- 4:00 BEER AND BEV-ERAGES FOR SALE. SWIMMING FOR THOSE WHO WISH. Bring suits and towels.

Reservations required. Send coupon (below) by June 8.

DIRECTIONS TO OUR VELEHRAD FOR PICNIC Sunday, June 12

From the Polish Center, (3999 Rose Drive, just before Imperial HWY) turn LEFT onto Golden Avenue. Continue through the intersection at Valencia Avenue, and turn at the first possible LEFT, into the development marked STONE GATE. Take an immediate LEFT and find 344 Koch Ave on the right side of the street just before the curve. Feel free to park all around the curve as well as on the left side of the street, but leave the driveway open for the elderly or disabled. Thank you.

<i>I(We) will attend</i> the June 12 Annual Mass (1:30PM) and picnic (2:30-4PM) at Velehrad:
Send with check, made out to RC Czech Mission , to: Bishop Peter Esterka, 344 Koch Ave, Placentia, CA 92870 by June 8.
Name:
Preferred entree @ \$15.00 per person:Steak ——Chicken
Tel.number:
Amount enclosed:
 I/We can help with □ Bring gifts for tombola, □ Sell tickets for meal and games, □ Come early to decorate and set up serving areas, □ Assist with setting up and taking down chairs and tables □ Bring side dishes and desserts, □ help serve, □ Entertain. Thank you!
i

Vacation in Turkey

by Maria Peterka (conclusion)

It's slowly time to say goodbye to the sun-bathed south and head back to ancient Istanbul, where history is so rich and intertwined it resembles a spider's web. But before we get to any history, we have to find a place to park. That in Istanbul is quite a task and a test of strength for any marriage. Way in the distance I saw one, and only one, empty space and tried to navigate Petr, the current driver, my husband and father of our four children, to that spot. I wasn't the only one who had eyes for this rare find, as a battle erupted all of a sudden. Chaos beyond belief and nervousness to the highest degree as merciless taxi drivers tried their conniving parking tricks like hungry sharks. We remembered that "life is a battle" and so we went for it. I don't know Turkish, but I understood guite well the names the passersby were calling us. On the other hand, I do know Czech, and I would have rather not understood the words I heard coming out of the mouth of my better half. Nevertheless, again we did not give up and again we conquered and thus we could continue exploring the mysterious history of the oldest Byzantine basilica, the Hagia Sophia – Holy Wisdom. Later, the pressure that came with a change in regime also caused the basilica to be converted into a mosque, but the Christian spirit remains in the decorative mosaics on the walls of Christ, the Archangel Gabriel, and the Virgin Mary.

We couldn't leave out the Blue Mosque which was right across the street; one of the most prestigious in all of Istanbul. It has six minarets, the maximum that a mosque can carry. Minarets, as well known, are not only a place of really loud and public recitation of passages from the Quran, but also a symbol of how significant the mosque is.

Because it was a truly remarkable place, there was a remarkable surprise waiting for us. We had to cover our bare shoulders and knees. What about us women, we were expecting it and had scarves and shawls for such an occasion. What we weren't expecting is that they would have a problem with dad's bare knees! Now what? Petr didn't have any long pants with him at the moment. He didn't want to wait outside, with so much history within reach....Saving grace came from a local guard who shoved a strange bag like skirt into his hands, signaling that he would let Petr in, if he put on the glamorous piece of haute couture. Dad swallowed his Euro-American ego, put on the mosque garb and we proudly fell back in step with the crowd of tourists all admiring the treasures of this incredible place. We tried hard to suppress all the tears of laughter that came to our eyes every time we looked at dad, distracting us from any civilized admiration of history. Understandably, we were having a hard time. Poor dad and his love of history!

A big park surrounded the Blue Mosque where locals abundantly

offered their goods and crafts of all sorts. A sight to see for sore eyes so powerful even our wallets felt the aftershock. I took a fancy to some silk scarves laid out on a carpet on the ground which I wanted to buy from one vendor. The Turkish liras were already in my hand, when all of a sudden the vendors and their goods started disappearing into the bushes and everything cleared out! It looked like God's plague. We did not understand and just looked on, astonished. We must have been a sight: eves wide open, jaws dropped, money in hands, staring as if we couldn't count to ten... within a few seconds, there was not a single vendor in the park. Deserted. Just tourists remained. All just as shocked as we. Where and why did all the sellers vanish? We didn't stop wondering until the moment when we saw the policemen. Yes, they came to check if there was anyone selling without a license. Evidently, the locals can sense when the police is coming and are more than ready and trained for such inspections. As soon as the protectors of the law turned the corner, all were back in business and I was able to buy the scarves I picked out and walked away with not only the goods, but with another experience to tell of.

Night came and with it again the parking problem. This time, right in front of our hotel. The hotel parking lot was completely full and so we had to look elsewhere. From out of nowhere, a small man appeared next to us and offered that he and his friends will watch it. He looked like a fairy-tale character. Nervously we realized we had no other option, as spending the night circling around overcrowded hotels bursting in their seams was unthinkable. We gave him our cars keys and only then did we find out that they do not give bills nor receipts! Our apprehension rose again. Our stranger of an acquaintance swore that we can trust them and that they will watch the car with their lives and spoil it rotten. I don't know if dad slept at all that night, but I was so tired after a long day of history that my eyes were shut even before I hit the pillow and had a chance to think about the car. We met our four-wheeled servant in the morning with enormous relief, but we were in awe at the honesty of the local people. Coincidence? Who knows?

We had half a day left in this mysteriously exotic city and we wanted to spend it in the Grand Bazaar. What a show, what a spectacle. Thousands of stands all under one big roof offering everything from spices to chandeliers, shoes, jewelry, furniture all the way to anything, even the unimaginable, unnamable, unthinkable. The atmosphere was perfectly compelling, enticing, persuasive, very respectful and never arrogant. Simply, "the customer is always right."

We were returning with not only unneeded trinkets, but with fairytale like experiences and moments of relaxation and regeneration of both body and mind.