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IN ENGLISH
Czech Mission

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www.czechchurch.org

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Saint Therese of the Child Jesus
"The Little Flower"
Feastday October 1

CALIFORNIA / OCTOBER 2011

Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower of late 19th century provincial France, spent her short life striving after God. Her *Story of a Soul* is still a spiritual best-seller.

Tomas Halik has said about her, "On the verge of death Therese confesses that she has lost her faith and all the certainty and light. She is now only capable of loving. She does not see God in the light of faith but nonetheless she relates to him with a passionate love. Suddenly her youthful decision that her vocation was to be love in the heart of thy. God is terribly distant. The dying woman experiences only unfathomable emptiness.

"Therese of Lisieux became my favorite saint. At first I saw just this sweet figure and this kitsch, but then I discovered this very dramatic personality who got this experience of emptiness, of loneliness, of losing the certainty of faith, and she interpreted this as solidarity with non-believers. God, let me sit at the table of the non-believers and to eat their bread. And I think it's something great. There are many sorts of atheism. There is agnosticism, there is what I call apathy-ism, as in the apathy against religion. Or the religious illiteracy that is in our country, so the people have a very strong statement against religion but they have no experience with the living church and they know almost nothing about religion. And there is also this so-called scientific atheism or the naive materialistic atheism. But there is also the atheism of the people that were wounded by the evil in the world, and I think we must take this atheism of protest and of sorrow very seriously as a partner - not to answer with the scholastic arguments for God, but to tell them it is also part of our living faith experience. We also know the dark nights of the faith, and in our history, in the story of the gospel there is a very important when Jesus was crying, 'My God, my God, why do you abandon me?' The Czech Christian poet [Jan Zahradnicek](#) wrote that the totalitarian time was the hour of the people, they wanted to stop the history in this afternoon of the Good Friday. And I think we must tell those people, yes, there are dark moments in the history of human life, but life did not stop in the afternoon of Good Friday.

"I was in India many years ago and I visited the place of martyrdom of the apostle Thomas and this place was a house for poor children, and it was terrible, terrible to see the misery of the children, and I realized they are the wounds of our world and those wounds are the wounds of Christ today. We must touch those wounds. If we avoid the wounds of the society, of our world, we avoid the wounds of Christ and we have no right to say 'my Lord' and 'my God' as the apostle Thomas touching the wounds of Christ. And I like the legend about St Martin, the saint, when the devil appeared in the figure of Christ, and St Martin asks him, 'Where are your wounds?' And I don't believe in Christ without wounds, in church without wounds, in religion and God without wounds. I think only the wounded healer can heal us.

Tomas Halik in [Encounter](#), 3 July, 2011.

SEPTEMBER 2011

**Total collections for operation of the California missions:
\$2,036.00**

SD collection \$330.00, *for Velehrad* \$160.00 LA collection \$852.00, meal \$254.00, *for Velehrad* \$10.00; SF collection: \$600.00, *for Velehrad* \$257.00 .

Mission Expenses: \$2,196.00

\$1,000.00 Bishop's salary; 500.00 (rent for Polish Center (200), SF church (250), and the hall in San Diego (50); 283.00 (travel to SF, gas, car maintenance); Věstník publication : \$149.00 +264.00 (postage).

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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RIJEN • OCTOBER

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8. za zdraví a Boží požehnání pro Jana a Jarmilu Matějovičovy
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10. +George Martinku - Jean Hoard
11. +Oton Kovarik (1. vyr +) - manželka Dasha
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13. +Martina Kryšku - matka Eva
14. +Mary Carlisle - přítel
15. +Michaela Kratochvíla - sestra Anna Pařezová
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23. +Miloslav Marik - manželka Edith
24. +Marii Jordánovou - syn Pavel
25. +Tomase, Andělu, 4 syny a snachu - Geo. a Mary Bartos
26. + Michaela a Elaine Cerula - Cerula a Bartos Families
27. +Marii a Jaromíra - děti manželů Hrobařových
28. +Karla Dvořáka - manželka Zdenka
29. +Micha a Maria Cerula - Geo. a Mary Bartos
30. +Marii a Jana Hrobařovy - Anna a Josef Hrobařovi
31. +Michal a Elaine Cerula - Geo. a Mary Bartos

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FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP ESTERKA

Dear Friends of our Czech Mission in California



New Translation of liturgical Texts

- Our next Masses will take place before the new liturgical year which begins on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, this year. That is also the Sunday when the Church in the United States will begin to use the new translation from Latin for the Roman Missal. The changes are not significant; nevertheless, we will have to get used to several variations on our present responses to the English Mass. The new translation corresponds more literally to the Latin, for example, “and with your spirit” instead of “and with you.”
- Very often it happens that the members of our California Missions need our assistance, for example, to baptize their newborn babies, to prepare the children for first Holy Communion, weddings, or to visit a sick person to administer the sacraments. There are of course also activities which we do not have the possibility to offer. Then we need to turn to the diocesan parish in the area in which we live, for example, visits to the sick at home, or in the hospital or nursing home. Sometimes we send the children to the school in our territorial parish and expect that the couple who wishes to marry should take advantage of the marriage preparation course in the local parish.
- It could seem to us that we are living in two different worlds. In one is our Czech Mission and in the other is our territorial parish. One does not exclude the other but they are complementary. The Mission is more intimate and family-like; the parish is broader and has many more resources. Our ethnic “parish” is limited by our means and for that reason we should feel free also to ask help from our territorial parish. Basically I would like to encourage to participate in both.

Just before the completing this *Vestník* we were informed by Anna Pare-zova from Westlake Village that her brother, **Michael (Misha) Kratoch-vil**, suffered a massive heart attack in the airplane on his return from Europe. It was the 5th of October.

Michael was born in a Catholic family. during the first years of his educa-tion, his parents sent him to religious education class and Michael and his older brother were altar servers in the church. Immediately after the occu-pation of Czechoslovakia in 1968 Misha left his native country and emi-grated to the USA through Canada. While in Prague during the occupa-tion, Misha was very close to Cardinal Tomasek. His remains will be in-terred in the family plot in the Prague cemetery Malvazinky.

May he rest in peace.



**Blessed Pope John XXIII -
Feast day October 11**

The twentieth century was an amazing century. Life changed dramatically during those years, mostly for the good. Diseases like polio and smallpox were conquered. People could travel across the world in a day on airplanes and communicate with each other in seconds on the Internet and the telephone. But not everything was great in the twentieth century. It was a century filled with horrible wars that killed millions and with evil leaders—like Stalin in Russia, Mao in China, and Hitler in Germany—who slaughtered tens of millions of people, too. Technology brought us wonderful inventions that made life easier and more fun, but it also brought us weapons that could wipe out half the earth, if they were ever used.

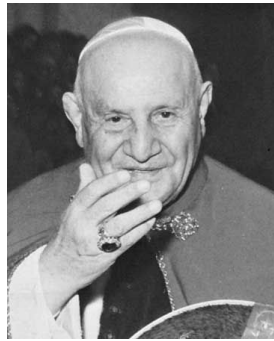
With so much possibility for good and evil, the twentieth century was a time that needed good leaders who could look at the past, present, and future and make good, prudent decisions. Even the church needed leaders like that. Just when we needed it most, God gave us a gift: Pope John XXIII, who was pope for only a short time (1959 to 1963) but who had an amazing impact on the church and the entire world.

Of course, John XXIII was not the name he was born with. His parents named him Angelo—Angelo Roncalli, born in 1881 in the northern part of Italy. His family farmed for a living, and Angelo was the oldest boy of twelve brothers and sisters. Angelo's earliest memories are of his mother at prayer. He could remember trotting alongside his mother, who was carrying two babies and pregnant with another—on a long walk through the country that ended up at a beautiful shrine dedicated to Mary.

When he was a teenager, Angelo decided he wanted to be a priest. He studied in the seminary, where he was most interested in the history of the church. After he was ordained a priest, Angelo expected nothing more out of the rest of his life than that of a normal parish priest back in the part of Italy where he'd grown up. It was what he knew and what he thought God was calling him to. But very soon, it became clear that God had other plans for Angelo.

Over the course of his career, Fr. Angelo held many jobs: he was a secretary to a bishop for ten years. He served as a medical worker in battlefields during World War I, and he never forgot the suffering he witnessed there. He represented the church in countries like Bulgaria and Turkey, countries where there were hardly any Catholics, and it was really important to understand and get along with people of different religions.

Finally, when he was seventy-one years old, Fr. Angelo Roncalli was appointed to be the leader of the church in the city of Venice, Italy. Fr. Angelo—now archbishop—would spend the rest of his life simply tending to the needs of the people of Venice.



**Vera Svobodova
December 20, 1920- September 5, 2011**

Vera Svoboda passed away on Labor Day, September 5th at the age of 90. Born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, she settled in California and raised her two daughters, Eva and Ann with her husband Milo, after their escape from her homeland when the communists took over. Vera survived breast cancer at a young age and took over her husband's business when he died prematurely at age 56. Her two children (Eva Macho and Ann Smith) and four grandchildren and four great grandchildren were her pride and joy. She never tired of spending time encouraging them or laboring for them. Vera was a very adventuresome woman who loved to travel and visited all seven continents, using many modes of travel, including hot air balloons, dog sled, elephants, camels, and a Russian Aeroflot plane. She will be greatly missed. A memorial service was held for her on Friday, September 23 at the Church of St. Bede the Venerable in La Canada.

May she rest in peace.

**Antoinette Marie Chemlir
April 2, 1919– July 23, 2011**

Antoinette was born in a small village called Lemuy in France. Her mother, Marie Louise Carrey was a French War Bride and her father, Anton War-nuska, was an American soldier who had volunteered to fight for freedom in World War I. After the war (in 1920) they settled in Chicago. On August 2, 1932 her father moved the family to Brno in Czechoslovakia where she finished her high school and college business school. She wrote that her days in Czechoslovakia were a "wonderful time of hiking all over the hills with friends singing all the way!" With the rise of the Nazis in Europe, Antoinette told her father she wanted to go back to America. She met her husband, Charles Chemlir, an outstanding Prebor gymnast, at a Sokol event IN Chicago, and was married in 1941. They moved to California where they continued to be active. Charles died in 2003. Antoinette has two daughters Annette and Karen, two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. She died at age 92. A woman of deep faith, she loved coming to the Czech Mass at the Mission as long as she could travel.

May she rest in peace.

Please, write here the names of those you wish to pray for.

It is part of Catholic tradition and our own Czech culture to indicate names of deceased friends and members of family so that prayers may be offered for them during the month of November. This practice acknowledges the connections that are still alive between the living and the dead members of the Communion of Saints. Please note that the stipend is to be enclosed with your name and address.

I am sending a stipend for remembrance: \$ _____

Name and address:

Email: _____

But once again, God had something else in mind. In 1958, Pope Pius XII died, and all the cardinals of the church gathered to elect a replacement. Much to everyone's surprise, they elected Angelo Roncalli of Venice. He was seventy-six years old.

Now, you would think that a seventy-six-year-old man would settle into the Vatican, sit comfortably in his chair, and just hold the fort until God called him home and a younger, more energetic man could get things going.

Not quite. Angelo—who was now Pope John XXIII—had plenty of energy and plenty of ideas. The Spirit was calling, and Pope John XXIII, thinking of the past, present, and future, was going to answer

First of all, John XXIII knew that times had changed, and it was time for popes to stop acting like royalty, which they had been doing for too many years. John was supposed to wear a big, jeweled tiara on his head. He wore it twice. When he went from place to place, he was supposed to sit in a special chair that would be hoisted up onto the shoulders of men who would then carry him. Even though John was a large man and being carried would have been easier than walking, he usually preferred to walk.

Reporters had to interview the previous pope while on their knees in front of him. John stopped that right away. He was the bishop of Rome, so he acted like it, going into the city of Rome and mingling with people. The very first Christmas he was pope, John visited two children's hospitals in Rome, spending time with sick children, something that people could remember no other pope doing before.

In other words, what John XXIII wanted was to open the church up to the world so that the church could spread the good news of Jesus' love in a way that made sense to people of the new century. It was the twentieth century. John wanted the whole world to be able to hear the Good News in twentieth-century words. He called an ecumenical council—what we call the Second Vatican Council. During this council, all the bishops of the world gathered in Rome for three years (1962 to 1965). They prayed, discussed, and studied. They wrote many papers outlining new, exciting ways the church could spread the old, unchanging truth about God's love in the modern world. The church you see today preaches the same Good News it always has, but in a way that's very different today than it was before the council, and that's because these are different times.

John XXIII wanted the church to be a strong voice proclaiming God's love in modern times to modern people. He looked to the past, present, and future in making his decision to lead the church in that direction.

When we make prudent decisions, that's exactly what we have to do, too: We should think about the past, understand how our choice will affect us in the future, and listen to God's voice in our hearts in the present.



IT IS GOOD TO PRAY FOR THE DEAD. . . .

On Wednesday, November 2nd, we celebrate the feast of All Souls, when it is customary to say special prayers and offer Masses for our beloved friends and relatives who have preceded us in death. Throughout the month of

November, Bishop Esterka will remember the names for whom you are requesting prayers.

Please use the sheet provided on page 8 to list your names, then enclose it with the donation (payable to **RC Czech Mission**) in the envelop provided here (addressed to 344 Koch Avenue, Placentia, CA 92870).

The list of intentions will be published in our November Věstník.
Thank you!

In Loving Memory of

OTON KOVARIK

Dear Friends,

October 11, 2011 marks the first anniversary of the death of my dear husband. I thank all of you whom came to say the last goodbye to him. I am grateful to all of you who expressed your sympathy and those who tried to comfort me.

Oton so loved life.....

Oton so loved his friends.

And everyone always loved Oton. Please keep Oton in your prayers with your best memories of him. Love does not die.

God bless you.

Dasha Kovarik, his wife

"These remain, faith hope and love, but the greatest of these is love." 1Cor.13,



You are invited to attend



OUR CZECH LITURGY

In SAN DIEGO our Mass will be on Saturday, October 22 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, October 23, 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, November 6, at 11:00 in the morning at Star of the Sea Church, 4420 Geary Blvd, San Francisco, CA.

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



Congratulations

*to the parents of **Vincent Silhar**, who was baptized on September 10 at St John's Church in San Diego. Shown with Bishop Esterka and the baby are his father and mother, Peter and Silvia Silhar.*

The godfather is Andrej Patka.