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services advertised on this page.*

IN ENGLISH

Czech Mission

www.czechchurch.org**VĚSTNÍK**

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

**St. Hedwig the Silesian
(1174 Andechs - Trzebnica Sep-
tember 15, 1243) was a Silesian
princess and patron saint.)**

Her sons Jindrich and Conrad were embroiled in a fratricidal war in which Conrad was beaten and later died after a fall from a horse. Hedwig's husband Jindrich I Bratady died in 1238 in the Polish wars along with her most beloved son, Jindrich II, who was active in the fight against the Tartars (1241). After her son's death, Hedwig moved to a monastery. The rest of her life was devoted to the welfare of her people and the deepening of the Christian faith. She founded hospitals, treatment centers and monasteries.

She was canonized by Pope Clement IV. on the 26th March, 1267. St. Hedwig is also the patron of the Ostrava-Opava diocese.

**CALIFORNIA / FEBRUARY 2013**

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP ESTERKA

Dear Friends of our Czech Mission in California



1) It is necessary to change another date: Our next Mass in Los Angeles, which was originally announced to be on 10 February, has been postponed to 24 February, while Mass for San Diego remains as originally reported, 9 February.

2) Many of us live with the echo of significant anniversaries. Even so is my approaching 50th year anniversary of ordination to the priesthood at the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome on the feast of St. Frances, March 9, 1963. Not even in my dreams did I think I would live to 50th years of priesthood and even, thanks to God, in relatively good health. I would like to invite you all to a special votive Mass of St. Frances on Saturday, March 9, in San Diego. Then, as it was in 1963, I had my first Mass the next day, Sunday, March 10, in the chapel of the Pontifical Ne-pomucenum College in Rome, where I did my 4 years of theology. Now, after the 50 years have passed, I will celebrate this Mass here in the church of the Pope John Paul II Polish Center in Yorba Linda. The San Francisco community will celebrate this anniversary during our Mass on Sunday, March 17.

I would love to have all of you come to celebrate this anniversary with me by thanking the Lord God for all the good that he has accomplished during these 50 years, and also asking for his protection in the future.

3) During the last Mass in San Francisco, on the Feast of the Three Kings, I said in a sermon that this holiday reminds us of the fact that Christ came to save also the people of other nations and not just Jews. Immediately after Mass received several objections, which may be summarized as follows: when salvation is possible in other religions, *why should I try to be Catholic?*

Some 30 years before the Second Vatican Council an American Jesuit, Fr. Leonard Feeney taught that anyone who is not a member of the Church can not be saved. He followed the maxim "*extra Ecclesiam nulla salus*" (outside the church there is no salvation)! For this teaching, which is not the teaching of the church, he was excommunicated by Pope Pius XII. It was not until shortly before his death, that he admitted he was wrong and he died reconciled with the Church. *Lumen Gentium 16* states: Those also can attain to everlasting salvation who through no fault of their own do not know the gospel of Christ or His Church, yet sincerely seek God and, moved by grace, strive by their deeds to know His will as it is known to them through the dictates of conscience....Salvation will not be denied to those who, without blame on their part, have not yet arrived at a clear knowledge of God, but try to live a good life because of his grace..."

January 2013

Total collections for operation of the California missions: \$1,268.00

SD collection \$148.00, for Velehrad \$60.00 LA collection \$867.00, meal \$253.00.

Mission Expenses: \$1,864.00

\$1,000.00 Bishop's salary; 375.00 (rent for Polish Center 200; SF 125 and the hall in San Diego 50; 120.00 (gas, car maintenance); Věstník publication : \$99.00 +270.00 (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.

ADRESA MISIE / Redakce VĚSTNÍKU

Bishop Peter Esterka

344 Koch Avenue
Placentia, CA 92870

www.Czechchurch.org

Check us out on FACEBOOK: CzechChurch in California

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ÚMYSLY NA MŠE SVATÉ:

ÚNOR • FEBRUARY

1. +Mirek Janak - Jan a Gita Dedek
2. +Daša Kovařík (+27.11.2012) - přátelé
3. +Miloslav Marik - manželka Edith
4. +J.V. Reicherta - manželka Jana
5. +Marii Jordánovou - syn Pavel
6. +František a Helen Vykydal—Helen Misik
7. +Eva Litochleb (22.12.2012) - Martin a Susana Kay
8. +Dr. Luďka Kozlíka - manželka Brigitte
9. +Petra Vranu - manželka Jarka
10. +George Martinku - Jean Hoard
11. +Joseph a Anna Nečas - přátelé
12. +Bruce Korbař - přátelé
13. +Daniel Gábor (+13.11.2012) - Růžena Kristoff
14. +Alfred Srnka, Anthony a Marie Wagner - Bertha Srnka
15. +Karla Nováka - manželka Inka a dcera Irenka
16. +Miroslav Vykydal - sestra Helen Misik
17. + Albert Misik - Helen Misik
18. +Raymunda Dvorského - manželka Marie
19. + Libuse Rohaček - přátelé
20. +Veronica Sujak - Jean Hoard
21. + Dasha Kovařík - Irene Marlow and Zikmund Teba
22. za Marii Dvorskou (90. naroz.) - přátelé
23. +Bob Mařík - Stella Huntington
24. za živé a zemřelé členy české síně Karlín - Joe Kocáb
25. +Jiřinu Jordánovou - manžel Pavel
27. + Milos Halouzka - přátelé
28. +Talia Mascagno - Bertha Srnka

Memorial for Eva Litochleb - Martin a Susana Kay

*Memorials for Dasha Kovařík -Jirina a Jaroslav Marik,
Irene Marlow, Zikmund Teba.*

R C CZECH MISSION CALIFORNIA ANNUAL REPORT 2012 (1/1/- 12/31/2012)

<u>DONATIONS</u>		
COLLECTIONS	33,301	
MAIL	2,968	
<u>TOTAL DONATIONS</u>		36,269

Interest income		
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>		<u>36,269</u>

<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Rent for churches	3,425	
Salary/medical for bishop	12,492	
Velehrad household	8,268	
Program Expenses - tombola	375	
Office	2,537	
Car and California air travel	3,286	
Vestnik printing and mailing	3,916	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>		<u>34,299</u>

BALANCE		1,970
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ASSETS		
RC Czech Mission checking	7,762.16	
Share	2,316	
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>10,078.16</u>

VELEHRAD CALIFORNIA CZECH CATHOLIC MISSION, Inc.

DONATIONS Building Fund		8,274.00
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EXPENSES		13,712.66
County assessments	850.00	
Loan payments	12,000.00	
Insurance	862.66	
Balance		(5,438)

ASSETS		6,767.60
Building Fund checking	1,475	
Savings	5,292.60	
Equity in 344 Koch Ave		480,000 +

LIABILITY Remaining balance on loan (1.1.13)		(362,665)
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Congratulations to Ester Silharová, who was baptized on January 20th at the Polish Center in Yorba Linda and to her parents, Silvia and Peter Šilhar, who recently moved from our Mission in San Diego to Orange County.



Zleva: Vincent a otec Petr Šilhar, biskup Petr s Ester, a maminka Silvia.

MARCH 9 IS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP ESTERKA'S ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD.

Our LA celebration will be held on March 10th in the Church (1:30) and large hall of the Polish Center (3 pm). A dinner of grilled steak and chicken with all the trimmings will be served after Mass. You are requested to make a donation of \$15 dollars with an advance reservation, or \$20 dollars at the door. This will include the steak or half chicken dinner, entertainment, coffee and dessert. Beer, pop and water will be available for cash as usual.

Please send the coupon below with your reservation and payment as soon as possible, but no later than February 25.

I/we are happy to attend. Number of steaks ____; chickens ____

I cannot attend but will be happy to make a donation. _____

Name _____

Phone or email _____

Amount enclosed _____

Is it possible to lose faith, to lose it under the influence of external events or let it expire? What problems in this regard are expressed in the confessionals and often elsewhere?

I believe that many people in different situations lose faith in a god, which they themselves have created. God created man in His own image. But man overturned this idea and creates his various gods on his own terms. Denial of God is the basic form of atheism. The use of God for themselves is a form of practical atheism. And so we create a god who should help us in our efforts toward selfish gratification. That is why the following false gods appear in our lives:

- the God-firefighter: who should come quickly to help when something burns, but we would prefer if it did not need to;
- the God-nanny: who is held in the background, but pays attention to our children;
- the God-bulldozer: who removes obstacles that stand in the way of our happiness;
- the God-drug: which leads us out from sadness and delivers a good mood;
- the God-helper: who puts everything in motion and then withdraws;
- God-The Milky Way: who is a higher being and belongs somewhere up there;
- the God-decoration: helping us beautify our family celebrations and important life events;

To be concluded next month, March Vestník

Czech language courses now online

29.11.2012 / 23:43

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic would like to inform you about the new online Czech language courses now available. The Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies of Charles University in Prague hosts virtual classes, complete with tutor assistance and even an official Czech language certificate exam.

More detailed information about participating in individual courses, including current fees, is available at: <http://ujop.cuni.cz/ldv>

A trial lesson is available at: <http://ujop.itutor.cz/student> (password: demo).

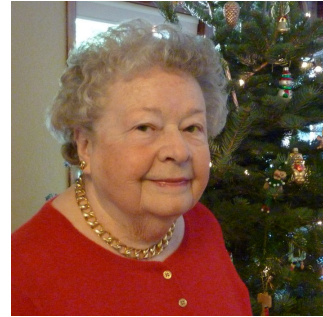
Such meetings with God come to everyone. At different times of life, in different situations. God is infinite, beyond imagination.

One boy meets a girl. He'll love her. She believes in Jesus and his eyes of faith will be opened. Another coworker finds a friend who is likeable. Is faithful. As they get to know each other, they begin to talk about faith. A researcher realizes that Einstein was right when he said: "In space, everywhere is manifested Wisdom without borders. Observation of nature leads a thinking person to believe in a Creator." There are people who bring the faith to others through books. Wounded soldier Ignatius of Loyola was lying in a hospital. Bored, he wanted to at least read a thrilling book of adventure. But what was on hand was just the "Lives of the Saints." From the book he heard the voice of Jesus and was given the impetus to follow Him.

According to Catholic doctrine, faith is a gift, while Protestants express it differently. Where did this contradiction come from? Is it manifested in the differing practice of individual churches?

That would probably be a long theological discussion for which there is not sufficient space. The gift of faith is certainly a reason to beg God, but faith is also a task and we have to do something ourselves. Faith is like a life raft thrown by God. Whoever will not reach out to catch it is threatened with drowning. The Christian faith does not mean that someone is given from God the automatic ability to swim. Rather, we might say that when God saw us drowning, he decided to save us. The life raft is available to all. But those who do not catch it with the desire to save themselves, sooner or later will realize that they can not.

Just because one believes "in God" does not mean that they believe "God." How many believers trust God when they have problems? It may seem to me that I do not feel the presence of God, that God seems distant to me that I feel abandoned by God, but the opposite is true. It beautifully expresses one story bearing the title "tracks in the sand." Man accuses God: "God, you have always been with me, you were always by my side, I always saw two tracks in the sand: one being yours and one mine. Why did you leave me now, when I needed you most, why are you not with me; why do I see just one track in the sand?" And God answers man: "I did not leave you! I carried you, and the tracks that you saw were mine with you in my arms ..." It is the experience of so many generations before us, it is also my personal experience, it is the experience of many of us: God does not abandon humans. We see this in the great figures of faith, about which he writes in the 11th chapter of Hebrews. I recommend this as compulsory reading.



EVA LITOCHEBOVÁ (1924 - 2012)

Eva Jaroslav Litochlebová, a longtime member of Sokol Los Angeles and our Czech mission community, died on 22 December 2012. She was 88 years old. Her husband Vladimir preceded her in death. Survivors are daughters Catalina (Kathy) Litochleb and Susan (Suzy) Kay, son Martin (Marty) Kay and grandchildren Byron and

Sabrina Kay.

Eva was born and raised in Prague. She married Vladimir Litochleb, a student of medicine. After the communist coup in 1948 Litochleb decided to emigrate and leave Czechoslovakia. They started in a camp for refugees near Naples in Italy, and eventually settled in Lima, Peru in South America, where their two daughters, Suzy and Kathy, were born.

Litochleb emigrated to the United States in 1958. They became U.S. citizens and settled in Alhambra, in Los Angeles. In 1965 the family moved to Vienna, Austria, where the government planned to complete his medical studies. It did not work out and the family returned to their former home in Alhambra. In 1966 Litochleb bought a house in Mission Viejo in Orange County and in this area remained until his death. Vladimir died in 2001.

The Litochlebs were active members of the Sokol Los Angeles. Vladimir became the main organizer of the annual Labor Day Weekend camps for Pacific County Council and Sokol Los Angeles. For 36 years the family did not miss a single Labor Day Weekend camp. They remained active members of Sokol Los Angeles for four decades.

Eva was an excellent cook who liked to prepare all the typical Czech meals. She also had a talent for interior decoration and design, sewing, gardening, and knew how to appreciate art and playing the piano. Above all, however, she loved to learn, especially languages. When she was over forty she started attending Saddleback College and received a bachelor's degree in linguistics, *Summa Cum Laude* (with highest honors). Eva loved French especially and found a friend who shared this interest. This group of admirers all stayed active in French for many years. They met once a week to discuss a variety of books in French, long before belonging to a book club became fashionable.

Eva was a lover of art, literature, French culture, was an excellent cook and linguist, witty and lively woman who loved life. We will miss her.

- Yvonne Masopust

You are invited to attend



**OUR
CZECH
LITURGY**

In SAN DIEGO our Mass will be on Saturday, February 9 at 4:00 in the afternoon at St. John's Church on the corner of Normal and Lincoln. Refreshments follow.

In SAN FRANCISCO our Mass will be on Sunday FEBRUARY 17. A beseda with refreshments will follow.

In LOS ANGELES our Mass will be on Sunday, February 24 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.

Mark your Calendars for MARCH, Jubilee Masses: , SD 9, LA 10, SF 17.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY TO MARIE DVORSKA

As she celebrates with family and friends on February 22, we wish Marie many more years of good health and happiness.



She is shown (left) with her son George and granddaughter Christine at our Fathers Day picnic

God whom we can not see, yet we are close

Author: George Gracko., Katolicky tydenik, 2013/4



What exactly is faith? How can I keep it and how lose it? Such issues as these are at the heart of the Year of faith. PETER P. Prokop Siostrzonek. Prior of the Břevnov Benedictine monastery, reflects on these and some other problems.

God often visits us, but we are not at home ...

Why is it that faith has such power and gives a person strength? Let's talk first about faith in general. If we are to think it over together it is wrong to divide people into "believers" and "infidels." Mankind is divided into believers and desperation. Everybody lives just because they believe. After all, everyone needs faith in herself. Without it, she would become the plaything of various paranoias.

But the belief, in itself, is not enough. One needs faith in man. Without that life is unbearable. People, however, are mortal ... One therefore needs faith in society, in culture, science (how much faith in the validity of scientific laws is workrooms?). How much faith we have was already showed everyone by my teachers from elementary school - were we all able to touch, to see everything? We just believed. I note this because so many of our friends will say they are unbelievers. It's not true! Faith is, it seems, like a trend. The question, therefore, is probably not why to believe, but how to believe.

In our Christian faith we should have added: Who to believe? Faith is not a matter of family tradition, because it's not just a matter of will or obedience. Faith can not pass a teaching catechism (how many people will even after decades have passed, recite long memorized passages, yet feel removed from God...). Faith is not obtained by chasing miracles and apparitions; that tends to superstition. It's also not just a matter of feeling. Then it would be more important that they believe rather than what and whom to believe.

What bearing does our Christian faith have on all this?

Faith is a relationship with God, and therefore like any relationship must be born from a personal experience of meeting each other. The poet Paul Claudel once went to church just so - for inspiration, for mood. And suddenly he realized: "This speaks the truth." He had left the church before that, and for four years resisted the reach of God, but in the end he reached out and became a Christian, practicing for life.