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Czech Mission

www.czechchurch.org

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



50 Years a priest: March 9, 1963–2013

CALIFORNIA / MARCH 2013



*Members and Friends
of the Czech Catholic Mission in California*
congratulate Bishop Peter Esterka on
50 years of priesthood and service to the people of
God. We wish him health and happiness for many
more years and thank him for his pastoral spirit and
loving presence.

FEBRUARY 2012

Total collections for operation of the California missions: \$2,111.00

SD collection \$175.00, for *Velehrad* \$0.00 LA collection \$905.00, meal \$248.00, for *Velehrad* \$0.00; SF collection: \$533.00; refreshments \$250.00 for *Velehrad* \$348.00 .

Mission Expenses: \$2,119.00

\$1,000.00 Bishop's salary; 375.00 (rent for Polish Center 200; SF 125 and the hall in San Diego 50; 300.00 (travel to SF, gas, car maintenance); *Věstník* publication : \$180.00 +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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FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP ESTERKA

Dear Friends of our Czech Mission in California

From Ash Wednesday, which begins the Lent season, we are in preparation time for the biggest of church holidays -Easter. When marked with ashes we were reminded: "Remember, man, that you are dust and shall return to dust again!" During Lent when I was in Bojanovice, dances were not to be held every day, only on Sunday. We prayed the family rosary together and it was expected that during the day all of us do some other act of contrition, for example, that we gave someone alms, or denied ourselves a pleasant thing, and so on. Every Friday of Lent it was three o'clock in the afternoon on Calvary. So we slowly approached Palm Sunday, when we reenact the solemn entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. That buzz in the church came from holy "pussy willows" because we did not have palms. That Sunday was called "Palm Sunday" and was the beginning of Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday, a priest of Christ washed the feet of 12 old men as Jesus did for the apostles before his last supper. Previously I did not even realize how outstanding an act of symbolism is revealed in the foot washing. It is an act of service, without which the sacrifice of Christ on the cross would not have the deep sense that it represents. At the Last Supper Christ then establishes communion. When taking bread and wine, he blessed them and said: "This is my Body and this is my blood, which I will pour out for your redemption," and adds, "Do this in memory of me."

On Good Friday, during Holy Week, we acknowledge the supreme sacrifice offered by Christ to redeem us for our sins. In his dying he showed us how truly he loves us. What we have lost by our sin, comes back again with his free offering of himself as victim.

From Friday at three o'clock Jesus is symbolically dying on the cross, and then resting in the grave, and therefore, no Mass or liturgy is celebrated on that day. Only on Holy Saturday evening, the official vigil of Easter, Jesus rises from the grave in the beautiful liturgical celebrations of the blessing of the new fire and the installation of the new Easter candle. It is the Great Night..

These three days of Holy Week are called the "Easter Triduum".

ÚMYSLY NA MŠE SVATÉ:

BŘEZEN • MARCH

1. +J.V. Reicherta - manželka Jana
2. +Marii Malinovou - Marie Dvorska
3. +Maria Nachtigall - přátelé
4. +Ellen Macháčkovou - manžel Victor Machacek
5. +Dášu Kovařikovou - Dagmar Civin a Věra Borkovec
6. + Mirka Janáka - Gita a Jan Dedek
7. +za rodinu Rasla - Evelyn Holicky Puhala
8. +Miloslava Mařika - manželka Edith
9. **Na Poděkování za padasat let kněství**
10. **Na Poděkování za padasat let kněství**
11. +Bohumila Hrušku - manželka Paulette
12. +Dra Wiliama Jonce - manželka Marta
13. +George Martinku - Jean Hoard
14. +Ing. Ctibora (Borka) Jelínka - manželka s rodinou
15. +Dr. Luďka Kozlíka - manželka Brigitte
16. +Karla Nováka - manželka Inka a dcera Irenka
17. **+Na Poděkování za padasat let kněství**
18. +Raymunda Dvorského - manželka Marie
19. +JJ Vondraček - manželka Elizabeth
20. +Veronica Sujak - Jean Hoard
21. +Jiřinu Jordánovou - manžel Pavel
22. za živé a zemřelé členy české síně Karlín - Joe Kocáb
23. +Marii Jordánovou - syn Pavel
24. +Jerry Gebr - Irene Marlow and Zikmund Teba
25. +Petr Vrana - manželka Jarka

*Why be a Catholic?
There is only one reason—
the Eucharist.*

continued from February issue

God-machine: that works, though it occasionally mangles the faith or prayer;

God-exhibitionist: a godly life plays first violin in our recitals, but at the conductor's podium we stand and we decide when and where God may or may not interfere.

There is one sin that has two forms: Make a caricature of God and then remove it or deny it. We are God's creation and therefore our life becomes inhuman when the essence is turned inside out: When God becomes our creation, we have a problem!

A major threat to the faith comes undoubtedly during situations where a person is experiencing frustration, for example, having prayed intensely for something or someone, but everything turns out differently. Are these doubts manifestation of bad faith?

One experienced spiritual leader used to say to people: "When you pray to God, you must be willing to accept a far greater gift than the one which you requested. It is just that God gives great gifts, because he is great. Too bad that we often have little hearts into which those great gifts have to be poured." Not everything that we consider to be good is good, and not everything we want is a true blessing. Sometimes what we want to avoid is not that bad. God would have wronged us, if all our requests were heard and granted literally!

How can I take care of the faith, even strengthen it, during loss of a relationship?

In the same way we strengthen each relationship - meeting and talking with his beloved creatures! After this conversation with young people, I argue: "When you are parents and the child will cry at night, will you wake up for it?" "Certainly," is the clear answer. "And you think that you will want to get up every time?" "Absolutely not." "Would not it be better to put cotton in your ears, not to disturb your baby?" "Absolutely not, we have to get up!" "Why?" "Because this is my baby ... and because we love them!" Yes, we do out of love and it turns into what we want.



Cardinal Duka: President Zeman should strengthen the unity of the nation

Prague 26 January (ČTK) - Cardinal Dominik Duka hopes that the newly elected President Milos Zeman will strengthen the unity of the nation and will positively represent the Czech Republic abroad. According to Duka, the elections have shown that people consider the role of the presidency to be very significant. Olomouc Archbishop, Jan Graubner, hopes that now that the fight has ended, cooperation can start again.

"I wish the new President to be successful in an attempt to strengthen the unity of our nation. I hope that as a statesman, he is aware of his responsibility towards our country, will credibly represent it abroad and will base his work and decisions on moral principles of our own European tradition," Duka said in an official statement.

Duka also thanked the unsuccessful candidates for defending Christian values and the necessity of respect for the moral issues, justice, social responsibility and solidarity during the campaign.

Archbishop Graubner also sent his congratulations. According to him, the voters clearly decided. "I wish him to be president of all, to be fortunate in choosing his collaborators and consultants, to contribute to development of cultural life in our country and to open new horizons of human hope, which lies in quality education of our children, growing up in stable families with one father and mother, to whom owe respect and gratitude. I wish him the courage to successfully oppose a short-term solution and promote the values of the state which benefit its citizens in the long run," said the Archbishop.

Graubner added that he was disappointed in the election campaign. According to him, on television it seemed as if it was the election for an entertainer rather than head of state. "Moderators should have been more interested in fundamental questions that affect our future. The only excuse to their behavior is that it was the first election," said Graubner.

*Frantisek Jemelka, Czech Bishops Conference
Translated from the Czech by Eva Loncekova*

The bishops Parted with Klaus but Do not Share Support for Zeman

The Czech bishops informed Vaclav Klaus that this gathering does not mean support for Klaus's favorite presidential candidate Milos Zeman. This has been said in a statement of Czech Bishops' Conference (CBK), which has been provided to the media. Klaus thanked to the highest representatives of the Czech Catholic Church for dialogue with the Church that was led by him. President believes that during his presidency, his leadership in this matter positively shifted the relationship between the Church and the Czech public.

The lunch was planned in advance as a farewell to the Klaus presidency, which ends in early March, said Czech Bishops' conference before a gala dinner with Klaus in Prague Archbishop's Palace. "This meeting, which falls in turbulent times, does not support the bishops expressing attitudes and Presidential election in the presidential campaign," said CBK. Klaus clearly supported Zeman in the final presidential election.

CBK or cardinal and Archbishop of Prague Dominik Duka, who is head of the Roman Catholic Church in the Czech Republic has not given specific recommendations related to the presidential election. Some representatives of the Catholic Church, including Cardinal and Duka's predecessor Miloslav Vlk supported Karel Schwarzenberg (TOP 09).

"If someone is able to humiliate himself and ask for the electoral support representatives of a totalitarian system from fifties and later years, who have caused so much evil in our recent past, shows that it is mainly to achieve own goals for any cost," criticized Wolf presidential candidate Zeman in a statement to media. According to him, it cannot be expected to find "angelic" and completely flawless candidate in these elections, therefore it is obvious choice is to support Schwarzenberg.

Neither Duka nor Klaus released any statements related to the presidential elections today to the reporters. Prague's archbishop thanked Klaus for his "various political positions". He appreciated the cooperation with the president during variety of negotiations and with the preparation of the visit of Pope Benedict XVI in the Czech Republic.

Klaus said to bishops that he has always considered as necessary to facilitate the dialogue with the Catholic Church. "I learn from it and I gained some understanding," he said. He always wanted for Churches to be successful in finding a good relationship with the society. "I believe that this decade meant some positive shift in relationships that exist within our country between the Catholic Church and the Czech public," he said.

Frantisek Jemelka

Czech Bishops Conference

Translated from the Czech by Daniel Sputa

Do not worry. It is important that we start. And I also say to God: "See now how I want, and yet it is so important to me, why I'm here ... "And at that moment I begin to understand the deepest spiritual plane in itself, where I meet God. As someone wise said in the Middle Ages: "God often visits us, but we are not at home ..."

And what does a person do who wants to believe, but do not know how to do it?

A few years ago a book was published by the French militant atheist Augusta Ricardeta, *I searched and I have not found.* He writes there, that he searched for God - and found none. Soon after a book was published in response by writer Carl Carrett, *I searched and I found.* And it says: "Dear brother without faith, I saw the title of your book, I was looking for God, and I have found nothing. ' You seem like a man who goes in search of the forest. Coming to the forest, he see trees. But he is still crying, I see only the trees, there is no forest here! 'You seem like a man looking for air. He looks around, touching hands, but then cries in disappointment, I found the air and it is not! 'You look like a man who looks at the sun, then dazzled, closes his eyes and says: The Sun is not!' Fish may also disregard the water in which they live. Birds see some air, in which they fly. But if you took the air from the bird, the water from the fish, soon they would know that they lack. Did you not realize, brother, that we are in a period of life similar to the fish or birds? That we will notice the missing air and water?"

With God, it's like this: People do not care about God, until the light of faith and love run dim. The God we can not see and touch is close to us! Search through the eyes of your heart and you will find him as I do. I'm happy I can testify that I was looking for God, and that I found him. I believe in God!"

This means that the beliefs of others can help their own living and lived faith?

And above all have patience with those who seek. Everyone has their time and the manner in which they search. Philip invited his friend Nathanael, saying: "Come and see" (John 1,46). I still remember the words often repeated by our senior father John: "Eyes that look with hope - see below. Eyes that look with love - see deeper. Eyes that look with faith - they see everything in a different light! "

You are invited to attend



**OUR
CZECH
LITURGY**

In SAN DIEGO our Mass will be on Saturday, March 9 at 2:00 in the afternoon at St. John's Church on the corner of Normal and Lincoln. The community is invited to go to Balboa Park at 3:30 for an afternoon of *Karneval*.

In LOS ANGELES our Mass will be on Sunday, March 10 at 1:30 in the afternoon at the Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA 92886. Immediately after Mass a meal of steak or chicken from the grill will be served. See page 7 for details.

In SAN FRANCISCO the celebration will take place at 11 am on March 17 at Star of the Sea Auditorium. A cold luncheon will follow the Mass.

**Please mark your calendars for Easter:
SD Mar 30, LA Mar 31, SF Apr 7.**

San Diego

The celebration begins on Saturday March 9 with Holy Mass celebrated early - at 2 pm in the usual place. Then the community is invited to go to Balboa Park for a *Karneval* beginning at 3:30. For a ten dollar entrance fee there will be dancing, food, drinks, games for children, and fun to fill the evening. Contact: Petr Peterka

San Francisco

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the priesthood of the Most Reverend Peter Esterka, Bishop for Czech Catholics in North America and Australia, the Czech Catholic mission of San Francisco invites you to attend with us the Holy Mass on March 17 at 11:00 am at the Auditorium by the church of Star of the Sea, 4420 Geary Blvd., San Francisco. Cold luncheon will follow. Contact: Jan

Dedek

Los Angeles

Friends, there's still time to join our LA celebration, which will be held on March 10th in the Church (1:30) and large hall of the Polish Center in Yorba Linda. A dinner of grilled steak or chicken with all the trimmings will be served after Mass. You are requested to make a donation of \$15 per person 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 March 3.

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

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

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