

VĚSTNÍK

IN ENGLISH
Czech Mission
www.czechchurch.org

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



*“To all of you
I affectionately
say again: may
the risen Christ
guide all of you
and the whole of
humanity on the
paths of justice,
love and peace.”*

POPE FRANCIS

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CALIFORNIA / JANUARY 2014

.... I would like to add a third expression which must distinguish you: missionary spirit. You have a specific and important mission, that of keeping alive the relationship between the faith and the cultures of the peoples to whom you belong. You do this through popular piety. When, for example, you carry the crucifix in procession with such great veneration and love for the Lord, you are not performing a simple outward act; you are pointing to the centrality of



the Lord's paschal mystery, his passion, death and resurrection which have redeemed us, and you are reminding yourselves first, as well as the community, that we have to follow Christ along the concrete path of our daily lives so that he can transform us. Likewise, when you express profound devotion for the Virgin Mary, you are pointing to the highest realization of the Christian life, the one who by her faith and obedience to God's will, and by her meditation on the words and deeds of Jesus, is the Lord's perfect disciple (cf. [Lumen Gentium](#), 53).

You express this faith, born of hearing the word of God, in ways that engage the senses, the emotions and the symbols of the different cultures ... In doing so you help to transmit it to others, and especially the simple persons whom, in the Gospels, Jesus calls "the little ones". In effect, "journeying together towards shrines, and participating in other demonstrations of popular piety, bringing along your children and engaging other people, is itself a work of evangelization" (*Aparecida Document*, 264). When you visit shrines, when you bring your family, your children, you are engaged in a real work of evangelization. This needs to continue.

May you also be true evangelizers! May your initiatives be "bridges", means of bringing others to Christ, so as to journey together with him. And in this spirit may you always be attentive to charity. Each individual Christian and every community is missionary to the extent that they bring to others and live the Gospel, and testify to God's love for all, especially those experiencing difficulties. Be missionaries of God's love and tenderness! Be missionaries of God's mercy, which always forgives us, always awaits us and loves us dearly.

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP ESTERKA

Dear Friends of our Czech Mission in California

This continues my reflection on Christmas, though it is now after New Years. Christmas time should be a time of happiness, enjoyment and sharing. In most cases it is probably so. Little children who are not limited by all kinds of worries and obligations can probably enjoy their Christmas gifts wholeheartedly, which can be seen in their eyes, shining with excitement and love. It is prompted by the gifts they receive. We all experience this feeling, this reality. On the other hand I must say that I have not always felt that way. Rather, even during these exciting times of Christmas, I feel that we adults have lost part of our capacity to experience overwhelming joy. I try to overcome this lack in my life and in yours, the members of our communities, and yet, unfortunately, most of us who attend our Eucharistic celebrations are older people and, perhaps because of that, I don't always sense the innocent excitement over celebrations like Christmas, even if we express sentiments of happiness and merriment. I try to overcome this feeling of burden by using the words of the new pope as an example of overcoming difficulties and negative feelings in our life. In all three of our Christmas celebrations, I tried to bring joy and excitement into the celebrations, but I felt I was not very successful doing so. I was concerned and tried to discover in my mind why it is so. I was in the airport flying back to Orange County when I realized I have forgotten one of the most important elements of Christian life, that is, that we should forget about all kinds of duties and obligations and simply enjoy the occasion.



Even though most of us who gather are the older generation, we have children among us, and for example at San Francisco, we had children singing at Mass. They brought a different feeling to the Mass, a lighter, more enjoyable tone to the celebration. But those children don't always live with us, so we cannot shed the pains, even physical and emotional, of our daily lives to enable us to step into this other sphere of our life, where we could become more childlike, leaving aside our worries about our obligations, to really celebrate the birth of Christ with joy and excitement. We need to concentrate on all the positive aspects of our life here in the United States. Sure, there are difficulties and problems, but we as Christians should realize we can worship God freely without being punished for religious commitment. We are very free in ways that people of other countries do not experience. Obligations and duties still exist, but we can fulfill them without being limited by the government or other institutions.

That fact itself should make us feel like rejoicing. But I think the main point of this issue is in our personal attitude towards the reality of life: either we allow the things around us to limit us, or (and here comes the divine into our lives) even the difficult things can be accomplished with His help. We don't take responsibility for those things that can destroy lives, but just stress the beauty and fullness of the life which we are privileged to enjoy in this country. We need to be watchful not to become "sourpusses," as the pope describes them, and not be paralyzed by the negatives. We should learn from children how to overcome the difficulties and obstacles in our daily lives. Imagine how people in Chicago and Minneapolis suffered under the low temperatures and wind and snow, when we here in California had sunshiny days full of light and warmth. So, in conclusion, I would like to say it is up to us how we approach daily life. We can emphasize and lean toward the positive, or we can feel sorry for ourselves and carry the negatives in our lives like a ball and chain. My wish is that we can learn to live more like children, seeing the gifts which we sometimes ignore, as truly gifts from a loving unseen God.



January 6: Feast of the Epiphany

Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question...

(St. Peter Chrysologus)

January 5: St John Nepomuk Neumann

January 13: Baptism of the Lord

January 21: St Agnes of Rome

January 24: St Francis de Sales

January 30: St Martin

January 31: St John Bosco, founder of the Salesians

Billy Graham's Prayer

'Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from sin and set us



Check out our facebook page, "CzechChurch in California," developed and maintained by Daniel Sputa. Thanks, Daniel!

A screenshot of the Facebook page for "CzechChurch in California". The page features a blue header with the Facebook logo and a login section. Below the header is a large photo of a group of people, including a man in a wheelchair, standing outdoors. A white box overlaid on the photo says "CzechChurch in California is on Facebook. To connect with CzechChurch in California, sign up for Facebook today." Below the photo is the page name "CzechChurch in California" and a "Like" button. At the bottom, there is a navigation bar with icons for "About", "Photos", "Likes" (41), "Map", and "Email Signup".

You are invited to attend



**OUR
CZECH
LITURGY**

In SAN FRANCISCO our Mass will be on Sunday January 5. A beseda with refreshments will follow.

In SAN DIEGO our Mass will be on Saturday, January 18 at 4:00 in the afternoon at St. John's Church on the corner of Normal and Lincoln. Refreshments follow.

In LOS ANGELES our Mass will be on Sunday January 26 at 1:30 in the afternoon at the Polish Center. Immediately after the Mass a meal will be served. A donation of \$10.00 is requested. Parky will be available for \$5.00.

Please mark your Calendars for February Masses: SD 22, LA 23, SF March 2.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOMBOLA WINNERS

1st prize - \$200.00 - **Olga Rajec**

2nd prize - \$100.00 - **Dagmar Civin**

3rd prize - \$ 75.00 - **Jiřna Cymbal**

Commemorative Book for 50th Anniversary

Memorial book for the 50th Anniversary of our Mission

As mentioned in the October issue of *Vestnik*, we are preparing to publish this year a similar memorial book as we published for our 40th Anniversary. Many of you were pleasantly surprised with the result and purchased several books, not only for themselves, but also for family back home. Some of you regret that they ordered only black and white page. Now you have an opportunity to order full color page.

Immediately after announcing our plans at our mass in Yorba Linda, many of you had questions. I believe that members of our missions in San Diego and San Francisco will also participate. Please, do not procrastinate and wait until last minute, send us your message with your payment. The prices were published in October *Vestnik*. We need your contributions as soon as possible, but no later than July 15, 2014. If you have any questions or need more information, send me an e-mail,

Frankgvlion@aol.com, or call my office at (310)768-1836 or home at (310)532-1829.



Frank J. Onderka

*A sincere thank you to all who made my
Christmas happier with your good
wishes and gifts. May you have a
healthy and peaceful new year!*

+ Pete Estro

FOR YOUR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Exhortation of Pope Francis.

Quote:

Section 11 " Jesus Christ can break the boring expressions in which we try to imprison the Gospel, and surprise us with their constant, divine creativity. Every time we come back to the fountain and restore the original freshness of the Gospel, new ways, creative methods, alternative forms of expression, expressive signs, words, charged with new meaning for today's world are revealed. In fact, every authentic evangelistic activity is always new."

Comment:

We have heard the message of a God who became man. It changes us, fills us with love and still leads to wonder. It changes our view of God and the other person. This message is not only for our private spiritual needs ourselves; we are obliged to pass this message on to other people.

It is essentially Jesus who speaks, even if with our voice. So we have to come back to him, to the source of the Gospel, so that we do not create a "new religion " of our traditions and regulations. At the same time, however, we must learn to communicate the Good News of the Gospel sensitively with respect to the culture and environment in which we live together with others. Transmission of the faith without considering the needs of individuals can have a long lasting effect and can cause more harm than good.

Questions:

1: What boring notions/outlived expressions of faith and their consequences need to be broken?

2: Are we trying to find new ways of proclaiming the Gospel, or are we stuck in stereotypical behavior? In proclaiming the Gospel are we always sensitive to the recipient 's needs and concerns? What harm can be caused?

Taken from Kattolicky tydenik

LIFE IN OUR MISSION
Mass in San Francisco January 5, 2014



*Above: Bishop Esterka with SF mission co-president Bohous Botcha;
Below: Masar family and other children sing Christmas songs.*



ÚMYSLY NA MŠE SVATÉ:

PROSINEC • DECEMBER

30.+Fritz Bouchereau - dcera Edith Marik

LEDEN • JANUARY

1. +Borka Jelinka - manželka Caroline
2. +Ing. Edmunda Teyrovskeho - manželka Geogina
3. +Zdeňka Zemánka- manželka Anna
4. +Viliam Jonec - manželka Marta
5. za Evonne Nováčkové-manžel Alfred
- 7.+Franka Lizece- přátelé
- 8.+Stanislava Knappa - Anna Zemanek
- 10.+George Martinku - Jean Hoard
- 11.za živé a zemřelé členy české síně Karlín - Joe Kocáb
- 12.+Dr. Luďka Kozlíka - manželka Brigitte
- 14.+rodiny Frolikovy - Aška a Lada
- 15.+Karla Nováka - manželka Inka a dcera Irenka
- 16.+ Miladu a Vaclava Vilímkovy- rodina Jednorozec
- 18.+Raymunda Dvorského - manželka Marie
- 19.+Evonne Novacek - Louis and Constance Belšán
- 20.+Veronica Sujak - Jean Hoard
- 21.+Petra Vranu - manželka Jarka
- 22.+J V Reicherta - Jana Reichert
- 23.+rodiny Zrzavých- Aška a Lada
- 24.+Alfred Srnka-manželka Bertha
- 25.+Anna Necas - přátelé
- 26.+Marie a Anthony Wagner - dcera Bertha Srnka
- 27.+rodiny Štíchovy- Aška a Lada
- 28.+Miloše Halouzku (8.výr.úmrťi) - manželka Irena a dcery
- 29.+Lidušku Halouzkovou- matka Irena
- 30.+Fred a Hedy Srnka-Bertha Srnka
- 31.+Milouse Pelce - Anna Zemanek

+ FRANK LIZEC

We have learned that Frank Lizec died in December 2013. He was generous to the Czech mission, donating his last car to us. We will try to include an obituary next issue.

May he rest in peace.

DECEMBER 2013

Total collections for operation of the California missions: \$6,036.00

SD collection \$1,013.00; for *Velehrad* \$200.00. LA collection \$1,692.00, meal \$846.00, for *Velehrad* \$150.00; SF collection: \$96600; for *Velehrad* \$388.00. Tombola \$1,519.00

Mission Expenses: \$2,126.00

\$1,000.00 Bishop's salary; 375.00 (rent for Polish Center 200; SF 125 and the hall in San Diego 50; \$160.00 (gas, car maintenance); *Věstník* publication & printing of tombola tickets: \$361.00 +\$230.00 (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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