

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



Ad Limina Apostolorum
February 14, 2014.

CALIFORNIA / MARCH 2014

You are invited



TO OUR CZECH

In SAN Diego our holy Mass will begin on Saturday, March 15, at 4:00 pm in the Hall of St. John's Parish, on the corner of Normal and Lincoln. There will be refreshments after Mass.

In LOS ANGELES Holy Mass will be held on Sunday, March 16, at 1:30 pm in the Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda CA 92886. After Mass a meal of roast pork, knedliky and sauerkraut will be served. Suggested donation \$10.00; parky \$5.00.

In SAN FRANCISCO our next Czech Mass will be on Sunday, March 23, at 11:00 am in the auditorium of STAR OF THE SEA Church, 4420 Geary Blvd., San Francisco, CA. Refreshments will follow.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: April (Easter) Masses

In his book *The Heart of Catholicism*, Bert Ghezzi presents a vivid picture of what it means to be a Catholic. He describes in a lively popular format seven practices that shape us as Catholics. The habits:

1. Developing a personal relationship with Jesus;
2. Celebrating the Sacraments;
3. Observing the Liturgical Seasons;
4. Praying and reading Scripture daily;
5. Participating in your parish;
6. Sharing your faith; and

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP ESTERKA

Dear Friends of our Czech Mission in California



Ash Wednesday ushers believers into the forty days of Lent, which prepare us for the celebration of Easter. In the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church it is that Wednesday, which precedes the first Sunday of Lent and marks the beginning of Lent.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on the 5th of March.

The right motive for Lenten conduct is for us to aspire to be an example of Christ. He fasted and prayed in the desert to prepare for his task. His task was to rescue us. And we want to prepare also. He accepted his task from God as he came to know it. And it is the job of a lifetime. What was intended by Jesus own Lenten atmosphere of retreat? Was it to lose body weight, try a new diet? Well , probably not

Christ prepared for his task here among us in the lenten atmosphere of retreat. Does each of us have a vision of a life plan? It is not only the child's school assignments, adolescents' tests, but the backbone trials of life : marriage , raising children , relationships, sibling or close persons, illness, old age, strength and weakness . We are all clear on these issues ? Why then agonize over them? Start the habits of prayer and bible reading, kindness to others, and self sacrifice and your life plan will follow the example of Jesus.

Photos on the first page: Holy Father, Bishop of Brno Vojtech Cikrle, and his auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Peter Esterka.

THE "AD LIMINA" VISIT OF CZECH BISHOPS ENDED

Vatican: Program of the visit of fifteen bishops from the Czech Republic to Rome was marked by meetings with various representatives of the offices in the Roman Curia and also by two meetings with the Holy Father – during his general audience on Wednesday and then at a private audience on Friday.

In his speech to thousands of pilgrims gathered for the general audience on Wednesday, 12th February, Pope Francis greeted the Czech bishops as well as some three hundred pilgrims from the Czech Republic. *“Dear brothers, convey my greeting to your priests, men and women religious and lay faithful. I assure you of my prayer for you and for those the Lord has entrusted to your care,”* he told bishops and added: *“Pray for me too.”* During the audience, the Holy Father also blessed crowns for the Palladium of Bohemia and for the statue of Our Lady of Olešnice and said: *“As I bless the rosaries for the Palladium of the land of Bohemia, from my heart I impart to you and to the Czech Church the apostolic blessing.”*

The private meeting of Czech bishops with the Holy Father started on Friday at 10.30 a.m. and took about ninety minutes. Pope Francis gave to bishops his speech with some recommendations to the Czech Church. *“While the Church in your country was oppressed for a long time by regimes based upon ideologies suppressing human dignity and freedom, today you have to deal with other traps such as secularism and relativism,”* he told them and called upon them to welcome all people, even those who are far from any religious feelings. He also appealed for support of families as well as the presence of the Church in schools and culture.

The Holy Father then mentioned the economic situation of the Czech Church. *“It is necessary to develop such a system that would ensure basic resources for any ecclesiastical institution as well as freedom to pastoral activity while mindful of the fact that all material goods are reserved only to support the spiritual mission of the Church,”* he underlined and added:



trustworthy and qualified lay faithful.” Closing the private audience, Pope Francis asked bishops to pray for him and imparted to them his apostolic blessing.

Besides the official appointments of the *Ad Limina* visit, bishops also met the three hundred pilgrims from the Czech Republic who accompanied them during the week-long event; each day they celebrated mass with them in some basilica. On the first day of the visit, the mass presided by Cardinal Dominik Duka, archbishop of Prague, was celebrated at the Vatican basilica. On Friday, the 1145th anniversary of the death of St. Cyril, who died on 14th February 869, Czech pilgrims together with representatives of various Slavic countries celebrated the mass at the St. Cyril’s tomb in the basilica of St. Clement; the mass was presided by Cardinal Miloslav Vlk, archbishop emeritus of Prague. On Sunday, bishops prayed at the memorial of Jan Palach, a Czech student who set himself on fire on 16th



January 1969 to protest against the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

The visit of bishops from the Czech Republic, called *Ad Limina Apostolorum* (“to the thresholds of the apostles”), took place eight years after the last such event. Bishops also

Pope Francis on Bishops...

Pope Francis said bishops should act not like ambitious corporate executives, but humble evangelists and men of prayer, willing to sacrifice everything for their flock

"We don't need a manager, the CEO of a business, nor someone who shares our pettiness or low aspirations," the pope said on Feb. 27. "We need someone who knows how to rise to the height from which God sees us, in order to guide us to him." Pope Francis' words came in a speech to the Congregation for Bishops, the Vatican body that advises him on the appointment of bishops around the world.

He stressed the importance of self-sacrifice in a bishop's ministry, which he described as a kind of martyrdom. "The courage to die, the generosity to offer one's own life and exhaust one's self for the flock are inscribed in the episcopate's DNA," he said. "The episcopate is not for itself but for the church, for the flock, for others, above all for those whom the world considers only worth throwing away."

Pope Francis listed several desirable virtues in potential bishops, including a "capacity for healthy, balanced relationships," "upright behavior," "orthodoxy and fidelity" to church doctrine; and "transparency and detachment in administrating the goods of the community."

The pope laid special emphasis on a bishop's ability to evangelize and pray. In preaching the Gospel, bishops should be appealing rather than censorious, upholding church teaching "not in order to measure how far the world falls short of the truth it contains, but to fascinate the world, enchant it with the beauty of love, seduce it by offering the freedom of the Gospel." "The church doesn't need apologists for their own causes, nor crusaders for their own battles, but humble sowers who trust in the truth ... bishops who know that even when night falls and the day's toil leaves them tired, the seeds in the field will be sprouting."

As models of prayer for bishops, Pope Francis cited Abraham and Moses, who argued with God to dissuade him from destroying their sinful people. "A man who lacks the courage to argue with God on behalf of his people cannot be a bishop," the pope said.

Pope Francis also stressed that bishops should be suited to the particular local needs of their dioceses. "There is no standard pastor for all the churches," the pope said. "Christ knows the singularity of the pastor every church requires, able respond to its needs and help it realize its potential."

Papal message for Lent

Vatican: " The reason why Jesus became poor, is not for poverty herself, but - as Saint Paul says - " so that you may become rich by his poverty , " the Holy Father said in his message. According to the Pope's words, Christians are called to see the misery of their brethren, " touching her , and took it to heart and acted specifically to mitigate climate change. " In his message the Pope Francis distinguished three kinds of misery , which people - especially Christians - are required to mitigate: material , moral and spiritual poverty. "Lack of material means is what is usually meant by poverty and it includes the concerns of those who live in conditions unworthy of the human person ," the Holy Father says. The Christian response to this form of misery is *diakonia* - service which "comes to meet the neighbor in distress and heals the wounds which disfigure the face of humanity."

When it comes to moral misery , according to Pope Francis, the human individual becomes a slave of sin and vice. "How many families live in anxiety that some of its members - especially young people - are victims of alcohol, drugs, gambling or pornography ! How many people have lost the meaning of life, are deprived of prospects for the future, and have lost hope! , "says the Holy Father. This kind of poverty causes economic disruption and can be called incipient suicide.

Spiritual poverty, argues the Holy Father, separates us from God. " If we believe that we need God, who in Christ gives us his hand, and we think that we can get by ourselves, we are embarking on a path to ruin. God is the only one who actually saves and liberates ." The spiritual antidote to this misery, according to the Pope, is the gospel. Believers are called by the Pope to bring hope to any environment in which spiritual poverty is located. Lent is the perfect time to be able to share the spiritual wealth of faith hope and love.

" He makes us well when we ask what we can do to help oth-



Bishop Peter accepts the gift of a pectoral cross from the Holy Father to commemorate this rare opportunity for the Czech and Moravian Church. The same cross was given by the Holy Father to all

MARCH PRAYER INTENTIONS

The intention of the prayer of the Holy Father, Francis, for the month of March is that all cultures respect the rights and dignity of women.

The second prayer intention is that many young people accept the Lord's invitation to dedicate their lives to preaching the Gospel.

“ Are you angry with someone?

Pray for that person. This is Christian love. ”

(Pope Francis on Twitter).

MASS INTENTIONS

BŘEZEN • MARCH

1. za živé a zemřelé členy české síně Karlín - Joe Kocáb
2. +Marii Malinovu-Marie Dvorská, dcera
3. +Maria Nachtigall - přátelé
4. +Dr. Viliam Jonec - manželka Marta
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
8. +Dr. Ludka Kozlíka - manželka Brigitte
9. za uzdravení Marta Jonec-přátelé
10. +Tomika Šachy (+4th anniv.)- matka Dagmar
11. +Puhala Family - Evelyn M. Holicky Puhala
12. +Albert Misik - Helen Misik
- 13.
14. Ing. Ctibor (Borek) Jelinek– manželka Caroline a rodinou
15. +Jaroslav Gajdos - manželka Charline
16. +Dr Desider Slavoj - přátelé
17. + J.V. Reicherta – Jana Reichert
18. +Raymunda Dvorského - manželka Marie
19. +J.J. Vondráček - manželka Elizabeth
20. +Miloslava Mařika - manželka Edith
21. +Petra Vranu - manželka Jarka
22. +Anna Necas - přátelé
23. +Oton a Dasha Kovářik - přátelé
24. +Otec John Morkovsky- přátelé
- 25.
26. +Marii a Josefa Šimkovy - přátelé

REST IN PEACE

Irene Marlow

+ *November 29, 2013*

FEBRUARY - 2014

Income from Mission collections: \$2,013.00

SD collection: \$225.00; LA collection: \$655.00, meal \$275.00, SF \$858, na centr \$360.00.

Regular Expenses: \$1,980.00

\$1,000.00 Bishop's salary; 375.00 (rent za farní halu v San Diegu 50, LA 200, SF 125); \$120.00 (gas, car maintenance); **Věstník printing: \$215.00** +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

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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VĚSTNÍK Vychází vždy na začátku měsíce
Printing: Minuteman Press, Anaheim CA. 92807

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