

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



***MAY 1. FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER
AND PATRON OF FATHERS***

CALIFORNIA / MAY 2014

This beautiful prayer was composed by Blessed Pope John XXIII (1958-63). It places all workers under the patronage of Saint Joseph the Worker and asks for his intercession so that we may regard our work as a means of growing in holiness.

A Prayer for Workers

O glorious Joseph! Who concealed your incomparable and regal dignity of custodian of Jesus and of the Virgin Mary under the humble appearance of a craftsman and provided for them with your work, protect with loving power your sons, especially entrusted to you. You know their anxieties and sufferings, because you yourself experienced them at the side of Jesus and of His Mother. Do not allow them, oppressed by so many worries, to forget the purpose for which they were created by God. Do not allow the seeds of distrust to take hold of their immortal souls. Remind all the workers that in the fields, in factories, in mines, and in scientific laboratories, they are not working, rejoicing, or suffering alone, but at their side is Jesus, with Mary, His Mother and ours, to sustain them, to dry the sweat of their brow, giving value to their toil. Teach them to turn work into a very high instrument of sanctification as you did. Amen.



Když následuji tebe, Maria, nebloudím,
When I follow you, Mary, I will not be lost,

když na tebe myslím, nemýlím se,
When I think about you, I am never mistaken,

když ty mne podpíráš, nepadám,
When You hold me, I cannot fall,

když ty mne chráníš, nebojím se ničeho,
When you are my protector, I will not be afraid,

když ty mne vedeš, neunavím se,
When you lead me, I will not get tired,

když mi vyprosíš u Ježíše milost, jistě dosáhnu cíle.
When you intercede for me with Jesus, I will surely reach the goal.

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP ESTERKA

Dear Friends of our Czech Mission in California



Holy Week through Easter is always an exhausting time for a priest. As I reflect on our Czech celebrations during these days, I realize that you probably noticed that I was moving slowly and, during the liturgy, I was sometimes forgetting things that normally are second nature to me.

The problem is not what might first come to your mind. It is not the result of „aging.“ It is not Parkinsons. It is not Alzheimers. The doctors have diagnosed my condition as NPH, that is, non pressure hydrocephalus. It means that my body is not efficient in eliminating extra spinal fluid. It may have been caused by my previous surgery for the meningioma, when they removed the benign tumor from the band around my brain. It is an unfortunate development, but one that can be fixed. And I am now in the process of arranging for the surgery to insert a shunt to take that excess liquid away. I am assured by the surgeon that after a short period of recovery my walk should be normal and my memory better. And it may even help the tremor in my hands!

I would like to respond to the comments I have heard that we should try to get another Czech priest to take over my position here. From everything I know, the bishops in the Czech Republic, including Bishop Maly, continue to say that „no way“ can they send priests outside the Czech Republic, because they do not have enough priests for their own parishes, and that is their highest priority. Australia has not had a Czech priest for more than 5 years already. I would be more than happy to turn the mission over to some younger priest, but unless something changes drastically, I won't get that opportunity.

I am, however, willing to continue to work for you, with my improved situation, and the doctors assure me I will be able to do that. I just wanted at this time to share with you my thoughts and feelings. The problem affects all of us, and I will do what I can to solve it. Your help is needed too.



A Priest from the Hlucin Region criticized the Nazis. The Vatican is considering his beatification

March 2, 2014

Father Richard Henkes was the parish priest in Strahovice, in the Hlucin region in Northern Moravia. He openly criticized the gestapo which led to his arrest and internation at the Dachau concentration camp. Vatican is processing his beatification, a stepping stone to the later canonization.

The little village of Strahovice in the Hlucin region can have its own beatified person in just a few years. The beatification of Richard Henkes, a local priest during the World War II, is now under way in the Vatican.

“He was a man who stood up in difficult times and who paid for his opinion about the nazi Germany by internation in a concentration camp, where he died,” says the spokesman of the Ostrava-Opava diocese, Pavel Siuda.

Since Father Henkes was born in Ruppach, close to Bonn, the actual beatification process was initiated by the Limburg Bishop Franz Kamphaus, in the presence of the Ostrava-Opava Bishop Frantisek Vaclav Lobkowicz.

Richard Henkes died in Dachau on February 22, 1945, just two months shy of his 45th birthday, after he volunteered to help people in the isolation barracks during a typhoid epidemics. “He knew he was going to certain death, but he volunteered nonetheless to help in the isolation barrack full of Czechs,” says Karel Malcharek, a councilman from Strahovice.

Father Henkes never came back from the sick barracks. “Those were closed death blocks. You could enter, but there was no way out,” says Jan Larisch, a priest from Ostrava’s Svinov, who has a long-term interest in Henkes’s life. He was arrested and sent to the Dachau concentration camp because of his sermons in Strahovice. This was not his first encounter with the gestapo, though.

The Priest Knew about the Informants

“Father Henkes knew for a long time that his sermons were being written down by Nazi informants, and he did not hesitate to publicly denounce them. During one of his sermons in Frankenstein he interrupted his speech and said: ”Give this to that gentleman over there, so he can stop writing down all I say”, and handed the manuscript of his sermon, according to a testimony of Father Henkes’s times in the late thirties in Germany.

He arrived in Strahovice as a parish priest in 1941. “That particular year he was threatened by the draft, so his church superiors sent him to Strahovice. He became the superior of the Pallottines (a religious congregation of the Catholic Church, founded by Roman priest Vincent Pallotti in 1835) for the Eastern Sudeten region (borderland of Czechoslovakia and Germany/Austria, with a strong German presence at the time).

“He negotiated that some of his brothers from the West, who were at risk of persecution by the Nazi regime, could come here too,” says Jan Larisch.

On April 8, 1943, Father Richard was summoned to the gеста-po office in Ratibor and arrested. He was then sent to Dachau, where he met, among others, the later archbishop Josef Beran.

“The two became friends in Dachau. They were thinking together what the world would look like after the war. They supposed there would still be regions where Czechs and Germans lived together, and they agreed that it is crucial to have priests who could speak both languages-Czech and German.

“And so Richard Henkes at 43 years of age started studying Czech.” says Jan Larisch.

He did not live to see freedom. He died just 66 seemingly endless days prior to the liberation of the concentration camp.

Continued p.6.

How to become a saint...

“Beatification is the first step of the canonization process,” explains Pavel Siuda.

“First you have to put together all the available materials concerning the life of the person, and then the bishop, after a consultation with the Congregation for Beatification and Canonizations, can initiate the diocesan process. Once this process is complete, all is forwarded to the Vatican.

Vatican analyzes the case, requests additional materials, and writes so-called positio, a summary of biography and reasons why the person should be beatified. If the opinions are positive, the case is presented to the pope to decide,” explains Pavel Siuda the whole process.

Translated from Czech by Katerina Capkova

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CONGRATULATIONS! Six Baptisms on Easter Sunday

**Baptized at the Polish Center in Yorba Linda, CA,
by Bishop Peter Esterka:**

Margaret Veronica Maretta

Katarina Bukovanova and Michal Maretta, parents;

**Evan Slater De Lallo and Andrew Kai De Lallo, twins,
Mr & Mrs Peter Matthew De Lallo, parents;**

**Anna Daniela Pitha and Lukas Jan Vaclav Pitha
Martin Lukas Pitha and Jana Brabcova, parents;**

Jana Daniela Pitha (mother)

You are invited



TO OUR CZECH LITURGY!

In LOS ANGELES Holy Mass will be held on Sunday, May 11, at 1:30 pm in the Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda CA 92886. After Mass a meal of roast duck, knedliky and sauerkraut will be served. Suggested donation \$10.00; parky \$5.00.

In SAN Diego our Holy Mass will begin on Saturday, May 17, 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 SAN FRANCISCO our next Czech Mass will be on Sunday, June 1, 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: June Masses
SD 14. LA 15 (Fathers Day at our Velehrad), SF 22.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Four medals were awarded by Bishop Peter Esterka on Sunday, April 20, for years of service to the Czech Community. Recipients were Maria Batlik, Pavel Jordan, Jana and George Ponec, and John Krato.

Happy Mother's Day!

***Congratulations to all the mothers among us
as we celebrate Mother's Day on May 11.***



We remember our Moms who are still among us, but also especially those who have passed away.

We join with all of our families in wishing our mothers health, happiness and God's blessing.

For those who have died we pray to God to give them the joys of his kingdom.

+ Petr Esterka

The Saints and Beatified of the Moravia-Silesia Region

St. Hedvika of Silesia

The wife of Jindrich I., the Duke of Silesia, a nun after his death

St. Jan Sarkander

Priest and martyr born in Skocov in Tesin-Silesia.

St. Melichar Grodecky

The martyr priest born in 1584 in Tesin was tortured to death during the Estates Uprising in Trnava

Marie Antonina Kratochvilova

The beatified religious sister born in Vitkovice died as a result of gestapo torture in Stanislavov, Ukraine, on October 2, 1942.

Metodej Dominik Trcka

The beatified priest born in Frydlant nad Ostravici died of torture in the communist prison of Leopoldov on March 23, 1959.



Bishop Esterka pauses before blessing the cartons, bags and boxes of Easter eggs and candy. After Mass they will be “hidden” in plain sight on the back lawn of the Polish Center for the children to gather in baskets.



Even though it is the same every year, both children and parents enjoy the hunt for blessed Easter eggs.

MASS INTENTIONS

KVĚTEN • MAY

3. +Eduarda Valčíka (+9.2.2014 v ČR) - Růžena Valčíková
4. +Frances Kokta - Peter Kral
5. +Vlastimil Ujčík (+3.5.2014) - Ujčík family
6. za Marii a Jana Rákosníkoví - M.

- 7.+Albert Misik - Helen Misik
- 8.+Dr. Luďka Kozlíka - manželka Brigitte
- 9.+Rudolfa Rusa (první výročí umrtí) - manželka Dagmar
- 10.+Petra Vranu - manželka Jarka

- 11.+Miloslava Maříka - manželka Edith
- 12.+Anna a Josef Necas - přátelé
13. za živé a zemřelé členy české síně Karlín - Joe Kocáb
- 14.+Zdeněk Sotomík (+14.4.2014) – Syn Peter, nevěsta Ružena,
vnuk Anthony
- 15.+Frank Lizec - Peter Kral

- 16.+Petra Vranu - manželka Jarmila
- 17.+Jaroslav Skubna (10, výr,+) - přátelé
- 18.+Raymunda Dvorského - manželka Marie
- 19.+Karla Nováka - manželka Inka a dcera Irenka
- 20.+Tom Olson - přátelé

- 21.+Jana a Jolantu Jakobovy – Jane Reichert
- 22.+Karla Dvořáka (5.výr.+) - přátelé
- 23.+Ludmila Hyvnářová - Joe Kocáb
- 24.+Marii a Josefa Šimkovy - přátelé
- 25.+J.V. Reicherta - manželka Jane

APRIL - 2014

Income from Mission collections: \$3,533.00

SD collection: \$722.00, *for Velehrad \$100.00*; LA collection: \$1,320.00, meal \$638.00; SF \$853, *for Velehrad \$215.00*.

Regular Expenses: \$1,874.00

\$1,000.00 Bishop's salary; \$375.00 (rent for the space in San Diego 50, LA 200, SF 125); \$120.00 (gas, car maintenance); Věstník printing: \$215.00 +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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