

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



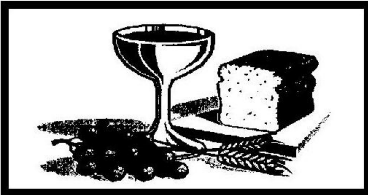
St. Francis of Assisi Feastday October 4

“Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary...

Use words.”

CALIFORNIA / OCTOBER 2014

You are cordially invited



TO OUR CZECH LITURGY!

In SAN DIEGO our Czech Mass will be held on **Saturday, October 18 at 4.00 pm** in the hall of St John the Evangelist Church, corner of Normal and Lincoln.

In LOS ANGELES our Czech Mass will be held on **Sunday, October 19, at 1:30 pm in the Polish Center**, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda CA 92886. After Mass a meal of chicken paprikash and knedliky will be served, \$10.00 donation. Parky will be available, \$5.00 donation.

In SAN FRANCISCO our Czech Mass will be on Sunday, October 26, 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: November Masses: SD 15, LA 16, SF 23.



Consul General Michal Sedlacek



Irene and Mary Halouzka



FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP ESTERKA

Dear Friends of our Czech Mission in California



Thanks for a great celebration. Its success was assured by the many who participated. I appreciated the festive feel and the energy of it. All of you who were a part of making it happen know who you are. And God knows. Especially, Otto. Thank you! We have survived and grown in many ways, but not numerically. It was wonderful to see such a large turnout. Now let's work to keep our community strong and unified. Occasionally in this column I will feature memories which did not get into our book, such as this one by Ivo and Eva Plachy, formerly of the San Francisco Mission.

Remembering our years with the Czech Mission

I arrived in the United States in the fall of 1969 and thought that we were probably the only one from Bohemia on the West Coast. After six months, I learned about the Los Angeles Sokol and then I found another Czech connection that led me to the Czech mission. At that time Fr. Popelka led the mission. He welcomed us and Eva's parents to the mission and in return Father Popelka was often invited to the house for a home-cooked meal. Father's usual comment was that it was so good that it belongs in the newspapers. So they wrapped the rest in newspapers for him to take home! At these meetings we often talked about his work among the Indians in Canada. Father Popelka had a large collection of photos and slides that showed his love for them.

At that time, the Czech mass was held in Loyola High School in LA. The service was in the chapel and after Mass we had refreshments in the lobby. On occasion we used the hall to celebrate the holidays. On the feast of St. Wenceslas Father Popelka arranged a "pout" for which he made stalls where gingerbread hearts, various sweets, rosaries and other small items were sold. From somewhere he managed to get a barrel organ. It was mainly an opportunity for children to play on the barrel organ. In celebration of Father Christmas, Fr. Popelka made a replica of the Laduv crib of Bethlehem. He took pictures of slides, which a projector increased to almost life-size; then he traced it on cardboard covered with white paper. All the figures were then finished in colors. It was really an impressive nativity scene.

At the end of the seventies, we moved to San Mateo near San Francisco, where we continued to participate in the activities of the Czech mission. Because of the distance from Los Angeles Father Popelka commuted to San Francisco only four times a year. This did not discourage him, and for the holidays he loaded the Laduv crib into his car so we could celebrate like they did in Los Angeles. Worship in San Francisco took place in the University buildings at UCSF.

One day we visited Father Esterka when he still taught at the University in Minnesota. I think that he had reached the conclusion that sooner or later he would have to help out. After Fr. Popelka's death Father Colankin took over the mission temporarily. Meanwhile, Father Esterka commuted from Minnesota to California to keep our mission running. After leaving the University to retire, Father Esterka settled in California, and celebrated a Czech Mass every month in Los Angeles and San Diego and San Francisco. It greatly revived our mission. When Fr. Esterka was later appointed bishop, members of the mission even went to his ordination in Brno. It was indeed a great celebration. Not only that Father Bishop was in charge of three missions in California but in addition he was also charged to take care of all Czech missions in the United States, Canada, Australia and western Europe. Such a schedule would be enough for some people. Father Bishop tried to get another priest from Bohemia, but help came just short. Today, it seems almost impossible to get a priest to help, which unfortunately threatens the future of our mission. Without a pension, Father Bishop continues to work for the mission and say the masses. Thanks be to God for his dedication.

In 2011, I retired and, with my wife Eva, decided to move to Georgia to be near our grandchildren. We lack the Czech Mass but we continue to support the Czech mission. We keep in touch with friends in California, and we pray for the future of the Czech mission.

CONGRATULATIONS!

William Neil Jurecka



was baptized at the Polish Center in Yorba Linda on August 17, 2014.

His parents are Romana Silhanová and Jiri Jurecka. They live in Riverside. Jana Silhanová is godmother. Please pray for this new family and make them welcome when you see them.



Snapshots from Jubilee Celebration



George Dvorsky, Master of Ceremonies; Karica dancers from San Diego; Jan Zemanek; Caterers Milan and Elizabeth Seidl with Czech chef Miro; Yvonne Masopust, Petr Peterka with Karica, Bp Peter, Liz O and Jana Ponec.

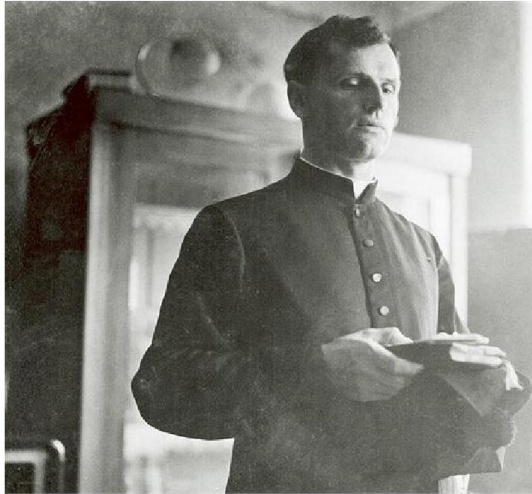
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**Pit XVI, number 19, wrote down the Secret Police (StB).
That's where the tortured priest's body lies.**

Translated by Katerina Capkova

Prague council members agreed to having the body of parish priest Josef Toufar, beaten to death in February 1950 by the StB officers, exhumed from the mass grave. It is necessary for his beatification. It was unknown for a long time where exactly he was buried, but the

StB archives now yielded surprising information.



Pastor Josef Toufar from Cihost died February 25, 1950, as a result of torture by the StB investigators in the Valdice prison.

Pit XVI, Zoukal Josef, February 28, 1950, number 19. This brief note refers to one of the most heinous crimes of the Czechoslovakian communist regime. The communication is

part of a list of people buried in a mass grave at the Dablice cemetery.

There, in the second layer from bottom, lies the body of Cihost parish priest Josef Toufar. A man beaten to death during an interrogation by the StB officers. The regime was eager to get rid of all evidence, erasing this case and Toufar's name from people's memory. That's why Zoukal (listed elsewhere as Zouhar or Zouhal), but not Toufar. Coincidence (and meticulousness of the StB officers) brought a completely different outcome, though.

It was known that Toufar was hastily buried somewhere at the Dablice cemetery, but no one knew the exact spot. The location book was destroyed under suspicious circumstances in 1968, says Josef Toufar's biographer Milos Dolezal. Someone set the cemetery office house on fire and burned the list of buried people including their location. Most likely a cover-up.

The meticulous StB preserved the testimony

Right before the fire, though, the two pages regarding Pit XVI were photocopied by StB officer Frantisek Machar and added to Toufar's file. At the same time he noted down the statements of the gravediggers who used to work there in the 1950s. Furthermore, a sketch exists, drawn by StB officer Robert Skerl who witnessed Toufar's burial in person, says Dolezal, who stumbled upon these documents in the StB archive. Skerl was a weird figure.

Coincidentally, he was also there when Toufar was arrested one month earlier on January 29, 1950.

It can be said with great confidence that this is where the remains of the priest, whose beatification is being pursued by the Czech Catholic Church, really are, even though the commemorative golden cross with Toufar's name was erected a few yards away.

The planned exhumation, part of the beatification process, could yield new testimony on the brutality of the communist regime. Professor Hajek was under pressure by the StB to tone down the autopsy report and cover-up the signs of torture. Toufar's exhumation will have a strong, authentic value. Paper can't do that, adds Dolezal.

StB was preparing a political puppet trial as part of the persecution of Catholic Church. The fact that Toufar did not survive the interrogation at Valdice prison was very inconvenient. StB decided to cover-up the murder and dispose of the body. After they realized they wouldn't be able to cremate the body on the day of death, they proceeded with the hasty burial. The parish priest died, the next day the autopsy was performed and right afterwards the body was transported to the Dablice cemetery, says Dolezal, the author of the book *As If This Was Our Dying Day*.

The pit that should house the remains of the priest has allegedly four levels, each containing ten "caskets." Some of them contain the remains of one person, others the ashes of more than twenty people. Toufar's body should be alone in the casket. These are not only the regime victims, though. The pits contain autopsy remains, people who died in hospitals with no next of kin, premature and deceased babies, human fetuses.

The Dablice cemetery is a place of national remembrance. It houses people executed in the 1950s' political processes and other victims of the communist regime, among them babies born to female prisoners, who would typically survive for just a few days due to the inhumane conditions. Next to them are resistance fighters, executed by the Nazis, the paratroopers who succumbed to the enemy in the crypt of St. Cyril and Methodius church during the manhunt following the assassination of Reichsprotektor Reinhard Heydrich, together with the Nazi state minister K.H. Frank or the Gestapo officers from Kladno, responsible for the extermination of Lidice. How absurd.

The time is right, the reverence grows stronger

This is the right time to commence the beatification process of P. Toufar. He has been spontaneously venerated even after more than 60 years have elapsed from his death. The reverence is steady and extraordinary, and much stronger than it was ten years ago, says Jan Vokal, the bishop of Hradec Kralove, who initiated the process. According to bishop Vokal this has to do not only with the ongoing process of society's settlement with the history of oppression, but also with the fact that we are lacking great models to follow. P. Toufar was not an exceptional preacher or theologian, but he was a genuine and authentic priest, every single one of his deeds and gestures were credible. He did not yield to brutality and he refused to lie, which is the ultimate message of his life, adds bishop Vokal.

JAROSLAVA RAINESH +September 18, 2014

Jaroslava Rainesh was born in March 1938 in Msec, just outside of Prague, Czechoslovakia. Growing up during WWII on a working farm was hard work. Her upbringing made her want to continue her education. She went on to the University in Prague to study metallurgy.

In 1964, Jara met Ben during one of his visits. They began dating shortly thereafter and maintained a long distance relationship until they married in November 1965 in Prague. It took almost eight months to process Jara's paperwork and release her from Czechoslovakia before she arrived in Los Angeles in July 1966.

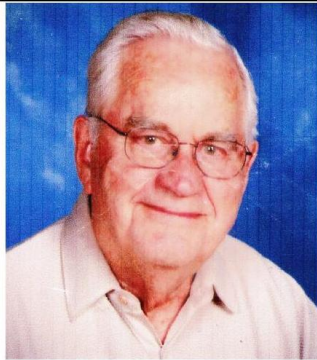


In 1969, Jara and Ben welcomed their daughter Diana. In 1972, they opened European Deli, which became a very popular place for Czech specialties. After selling European Deli, Jara learned medical billing and worked at convalesce hospitals and assisted living facilities. She officially retired in 2003. But Jara continued to stay active by helping Ben with his cooking for the Czech community and Czech organizations until Ben's passing in 2005. Jara became the proud grandmother of Keira Struhl and Leeya Struhl in October 2007.

Over the last year, Jara started to decline, and she lost her battle with cancer on September 18, 2014.

Jara is survived by her daughter Diana, her son-in-law Marc, her granddaughters Keira and Leeya, her brother Pepa and many nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews in the Czech Republic.

Milá Jarko, ODPOČÍVEJ V POKOJI, PO BOJI !



TONY JULIK May 21, 1929 - August 25, 2014

Tony Julik was born to a Polish family in Minnesota, the ninth of eleven children. He had polio as a child but recovered fully. His army service in Korea was the transformative event in his life; he was in the infantry for eight months doing the dangerous job of reconnaissance. His military service allowed him to go to the university on the G.I. bill when he returned. He became an engineer and worked from 1958 in California. He was employed by McDonnell Douglas for 35 years. He had one son, Tony Jr., whom he raised.

Well known and loved at St. Norbert Parish, he attended daily Mass after his retirement and was proud to be an altar server. When I was in residence at that parish, he noticed that I traveled a lot and needed help. He became my driver and my friend and took me to the airport every few weeks until just months before his death. He often attended our Father's Day picnic with his sister Peggy, and is remembered by many for his lively sense of humor. He is survived by his son and four sisters.

May he rest in peace.



IT IS GOOD TO PRAY FOR THE DEAD. . . .

On November 2nd, we celebrate the feast of All Souls, when it is customary to say special prayers and offer Masses for our beloved friends and relatives who have preceded us in death. Throughout the month of No-

vember, Bishop Esterka will remember the loved ones for whom you are requesting prayers. *This traditional practice acknowledges the connections that are still alive between the living and the dead members of the Communion of Saints.*

Please use the form provided below to list your names and enclose it with the donation (payable to the RC Czech Mission) in the envelop provided here (344 Koch Avenue, Placentia, CA 92870). The list of intentions will be published in our November Věstník. Thank you!

+ Petr Esterka

Please remember the following loved ones who have gone before us:

I am sending a donation: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address _____

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ÚMYSLY NA MŠE SVATÉ:

ŘÍJEN • OCTOBER

- 1.+Petra Vranu (výr +) – manželka Jarka
2. za živé a zemřelé členy české síně Karlín - Joe Kocáb
- 3.+Zdenka Zemanka - manželka Anna
- 4.+ Marii Janků - dcera Eva Kryška
- 5.+Dr. Luďka Kozlíka - manželka Brigitte
- 6.+ Dr.Roberta Maříka - manželka Anna
- 7.+Ing. Karla a Marii Škrobovy - dcera Eva a Ivo Plachý
- 8.+
- 9.+
- 10.+
- 11.+Oton Kovařík (výr.+) - přátelé
- 12.+Karla Nováka - manželka Inka a dcera Irenka
- 13.+Martina Krysku (+9/13/1992) - matka Eva
- 14.+Mary Carlisle (výr +) - přátelé
- 15.+Františka Rychecky (2 vyr.+) - manželka Věra
- 16.+
- 17.+Dr. Williama Jonce - manželka Marta
- 18.+Raymunda Dvorského - manželka Marie
- 19.+Jaroslava Raineshová (+9/18/2014) - přátelé
- 20.+ Jana Planner, M.D. - manžel George
- 21.+Annu a Josefa Nečasovy - přátelé
- 22.+Dr. Premysl Tuma (výr.+) - Eliška Khodabakhshi
- 23.+J.V. Reicherta - manželka Jane
- 24.+Marii a Josefa Šimkovy - přátelé
- 25.+Tony Julika (+8/25/2014)- přátelé
- 26.+Petr Pohorsky - přátelé
- 27.+Josefa Hrobaře- manželka Anna
- 28.+Miloslava Maříka - manželka Edith
- 29.
- 30.+dceru Marii Hrobařovy (výr.+)- maminka Anna
- 31.

DUŠAN KRIŠTOF

+18. septembra 2014

Je ticho po bolesti, je celkom blízko ku hviezdám. . .

SEPTEMBER 50TH ANNIVERSARY - 2014

Income from Mission collections: \$6,326.00

LA collection: \$1,860.00, meal \$1,440.00, *building fund* \$60.00; SF collection: \$765.00, *building fund* \$208.00; refreshments \$300.00; grant from consulate \$1,961.50.

Regular Expenses: \$4,003.00

\$1,000.00 Bishop's salary; \$325 rent for churches; \$150.00 (gas, car maintenance); catered meals \$2,100.00; Věstník printing: \$232.00 +\$196.00 (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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