

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



CALIFORNIA / AUGUST 2015

You are invited



TO OUR CZECH LITURGY!

In SAN DIEGO our Czech Mass will be held on August 15, at 4:00 pm in the auditorium of St John's Church, Normal and Lincoln. Refreshments will follow.

In LOS ANGELES our Czech Mass will be held on August 16, **at the Polish Center in Yorba Linda CA, 3999 Rose Drive.** After Mass, a meal of chicken schnitzels and mashed potatoes will be served. A donation of \$10.00 is requested; Parky are available for \$5.00.

In San Francisco our Czech Mass will be held on August 30 at 11 am in the hall of Star of the Sea Church, 4420 Geary Ave, San Francisco, 94118. After Mass a beseda will be enjoyed.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: September 2015 Masses: LA 13, SD 19, SF October 4.

Thanks to all who responded to our query about discontinuing the English version of *Vestnik*. The number of heartfelt responses from those who did not want to see it die was truly energizing. You have spoken. It will continue, *but don't be surprised if you are called on to help in some way!*

Cover photo: *This statue of the Infant of Prague, along with several boxes of archival material, was given to the mission by Mrs. Jirina Fuchsova before she returned to the Czech Republic. She will be remembered with gratitude, not just for what she gave to us, but for her attentiveness to the history of Czech immigrants.*

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP ESTERKA

Dear Friends of our Czech Mission in California



After the solemn Mass honoring Cyril and Methodius at Velehrad several bishops leave every year for Mikulčic where another Mass is celebrated for the people of that region. It is believed that here, according to excavations on the ramparts at Mikulčic, that the foundations of a church of Irish origin was located. That was the original church built by Irish monks.

Gathered at Milulcice were a lot of believers from the area, many young people in splendid costumes, priests from surrounding parishes, and pilgrims from everywhere. ... “To the faith brought by Sts. Cyril and Methodius will Moravians always be faithful. Lord preserve us!”



Cyril and Methodius celebrations culminate in the national pilgrimage to Velehrad, 2015



*Velehrad
(Uher-
skohradištsko)/
Mikulčice
(Hodonínsko)*

5. July (ČTK) -

Velehrad to-
day revels in

one of the biggest religious events in the country, the celebration of the arrival of Cyril and Methodius to Greater Moravia. Pilgrims from all over the country and abroad gather at 10:30 in the courtyard castle for basilica worship, which is annually attended by thousands of people. They will have to withstand tropical heat; according to forecasts it is expected to get to the high 90s.

Festivities to honor Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Velehrad began on Saturday with the 16th annual Days of People of Good Will, which this year commemorates two important anniversaries - 1200 years since the birth of St. Methodius, and 25 years since the visit of Pope John Paul II. To Velehrad. They included a series of exhibitions, rewriting the Bible and competitions for children. The program culminated in a charity concert.

The Cyril and Methodius pilgrimage takes place today on the Slavic settlement in Mikulčice near Hodonín where the missionaries were active.



IS THERE AN ARCHIVE IN OUR FUTURE?

The Czech Mission in California has existed for more than 50 years with little concern for the records from which its history could be written. A serendipitous series of events could change that. George Dvorsky was in contact with Mrs. Jirina Fuchsova as she was packing up to leave for the Czech Republic, and accepted several boxes of books and items that had been retained from the time of Fr. Popelka. Along with materials kept since Bishop Esterka has been in California, that could, when organized, produce a pretty clear view of the developments in the life of the three centers of the California Czech Catholic Mission. We are still without a complete set of Vestniks. Most are missing from the 80s and 90s. If you have copies, we would appreciate them.

Dvorsky has several ideas to get this archive organized and to move toward a more complete history of the mission. Look for them in future issues of Vestnik.



FATHERS DAY PICNIC 2015





It was a pleasure to be at our annual Fathers' Day picnic at Velehrad - seeing all of us together, celebrating all of our fathers and a couple of birthdays and of course the Eucharist. It takes many people and many selfless hours to prepare an event of this dimension. I'd like to name just a few who made the picnic a success - Jakub Obereiter and Peter David for excellent steaks, Maria Kletecka for wonderful desserts, ladies for the lovely side dishes, Anna Dobes for spending most of her time keeping the kitchen tidy, Jitka Rollova for collecting the cash, George Ponec for delivering cold drinks (especially the Czech beer), and Joan for orchestrating everything. Frank Blazek and others cleaned up after all of us, and that is hard work too. But one person stood out that day for me - Otto was an example of true Christian caring and self-sacrifice for bringing Jerry with him so that he could celebrate his birthday and enjoy our company.

Thank you all for coming, from near and far, and I can't wait for the next one.

Sincerely, Petr Peterka



Petr Peterka, with wife Maria and daughters Carolinka and Tinka, added greatly to the fun of the day with their high energy and entertaining way of calling tombola winners. Daughter Veronika was present but not pictured.

Life Journey of John Hus

(Thanks for Msgr. Dusan Hladik for this article from Hlasy Naroda)

Youth and education - Jan Hus was born in Husinec near Prachatice around 1370. From 1390 he studied at the Prague University, in 1393 earned a Bachelor degree and in 1396 he was awarded the title of Master of Arts.

University professor and preacher - In 1398 he became a university professor. In 1401 he was elected dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and later rector of the university. As rector he stood for a greater share of the Czechs in the university. In 1400 he was ordained a priest. He began preaching in the church of St. Michael in Prague. From March 14, 1402 he preached at the Bethlehem Chapel. He was inspired by the ideas of English theologian John Wycliffe. His sermons drew from biblical teachings.

Heretic and exile - In 1411 the Catholic Church labeled Hus a heretic, his teachings as heresy, and then excommunicated him. The Pope forbade Hus to preach or perform religious ceremonies in Prague. Hus left Prague and moved to the countryside, to Kozi Hrádek, and later to Castle Krakovec.

Prisoner - In spring 1414 he urged the Emperor Sigismund to justify before the Council convened in Constance. Despite the promise of personal protection received from Sigismund, Master Jan Hus was arrested and interrogated. The council accused him of heresy and Church representatives asked him to recant his teachings. Hus, however, insisted on his truth and appealed to Christ as "the Chief Justice".

Trial and burned at the stake - At the Council of Constance Hus was then denounced as a heretic and the secular power released him to be burned. It happened on July 6, 1415 in Constance. When the pieces of wood were set alight, Jan Hus sang a song full of trust in Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary.

Vindication - In 1999, Pope John Paul II., expressed regrets at the cruel death of Jan Hus, and awarded him the title of Reformer of the Church.

Feast Day - July 6 - Jan Hus Day in 2000 was declared a national holiday of the Czech Republic.

Prayer of Jan Hus

Oh sweetest Christ, carry us forward, as we can not follow you. Give us bravery of soul to be strong when the body is weak, and both precede and follow us with your mercy. Without you we can do nothing, and cannot bear to go to a horrifying death.

Give us a determined spirit, a fearless heart, true faith, a firm hope and perfect love, to put suffering behind, and live our lives with joy.

Jaroslav Striszka
1920 – 2015

In March, at the age of 95, a famous Czech athlete, runner and pole vaulting star, Ing. Jaromír (Mirek) Střížka, died at the Providence Hospital of St. Joseph in Burbank, California. He was originally from Melnik, where his family owned the company, Střížka and Son. After the nationalization of the company when the STB came to arrest him, he managed to escape and cross the border to Germany, where he took refuge in the camp Valka. In 1953 he emigrated to the US and settled permanently in Hollywood, where he founded a very successful wholesale business for musical instruments and parts, European Crafts, Inc.



He was a great and noble man who provided employment and help for many Czech immigrants, and supported Czech and other organizations. He had many friends in the Czech Republic and here in the USA. He will be missed by all of us.

Dusan (Danny) Klega
1923 – 2015



Dusan Klega was born in Czechoslovakia in 1923. During WWII he was put in a forced labor camp run by the Nazis. He escaped and eventually made it to France where he was lucky to land a job on a cargo ship that traveled the world. It was most thrilling for him to find that the ship was eventually going to dock in America. He said he always dreamt about America! This was a chance of a lifetime, and he decided to “jump ship” and stay in New York. He spoke no English, and was introduced to my mother at a Czech club called Sokol. After a very brief courtship in 1949, they got married so that he wouldn't be deported. After a couple of years in New York, my dad said he heard the quote “Go west young man!”, so he and my mother packed up their Buick and drove to California, where my father had dreams of becoming an actor. He did find many acting jobs, always playing a Russian or a German, due to his thick accent and European good looks.

My parents lived in Santa Monica, and then they built a little house in Topanga Canyon where we loved living until 1963, then moved to “The Valley” where we made more wonderful family memories. My Daddy was fun, funny, adventurous and very hard working. Acting was his dream, but he supported his family having a machine shop working as a precision toolist. He eventually went to work for Anhauser Busch where he worked the night shift and often worked 7 days a week. He was a very hard worker with a strong work ethic. He loved his family and was an amazing grandfather. He died on July 14, 2015. No disease or pain... just a heart that finally gave out. He was 91 1/2 years old and lived a very long and good life.

Darcy, his daughter

ÚMYSLY NA MŠE SVATÉ:

SRPEN • AUGUST

1. +Jaroslav Striszka - přátelé
2. +Jiřinu Jordanová - manžel Pavel
3. +Karla Nováka - manželka Inka a dcera Irenka
4. za Chris Garcia - matka Marie
- 5.+Frank Miksa - přátelé
- 6.+Roberta Mařika - manželka Anna
- 7.+Alberta Misika - Helena Misiková
- 8.+Miloslava Mařika - manželka Edith
- 9.+Josefa Hrobaře- manželka Anna
- 10.+Ing. Karla a Marii Škrobovy -
- 11.+Rose Marie Shetka - dcera Debra
- 13.+Mirka Rajca - Olga a Jaro Rajec
- 14.+Dusan Klega (+7/14/2015) - manželka Doris
- 15.+ Jaroslava Kratochvila - sestra Anna Parezová
- 16.+Dr. Luďka Kozlíka - manželka Brigitte
- 17.+syna Jaromíra a dceru Marii Hrobařovy - maminka Anna
- 18.+Raymunda Dvorského - manželka Marie
19. za živé a zemřelé členy české síně Karlín - Joe Kocáb
20. za Mike Hornik (narozeninám)
- 21.+Annu a Josefa Nečasovy - přátelé
- 22.+Marii a Jana Hrobařovy—Anna Hrobařová
- 24.+Marii a Josefa Šimkovy - přátelé
- 25.+Tony Julik (anniv.) - přátelé
- 26.+J.V. Reicherta - manželka Jane
- 27.+sestru Marii a Antonína Šoklovy - Anna Hrobařová
- 28.+Petra Vranu - manželka Jarka
- 29.+bratra Josefa a Martu Vadúrovy – sestra Anna Hrobařová
- 30.+Ignaz Puhala (8 yr Anniv 31.srpna) - manželka Evelyn
31. za Marie Horník (narozeninám)

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

JUNE/JULY - 2015

Income from Mission collections: \$2,242.00

SD, building fund \$100.00; LA PICNIC collection: \$745.00, meal \$898.00, building fund \$100.00; tombola 179.00, July mail \$450.00.

Regular Expenses: \$1,497.00

\$1,000.00 Bishop's salary; no rent for churches; \$140.00 (gas, car maintenance); Věstník printing: \$194.00 +\$245.00 (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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VĚSTNÍK Vychází vždy na začátku měsíce
Printing: **Minuteman Press**, Anaheim CA. 92807

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