

VĚSTNÍK

ENGLISH

Katolické Misie

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



LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 10

CALIFORNIA FEBRUARY 2016

Mission Receives Significant Bequest from Jaromir Strizka

The Corporate Board of Directors of our Mission was informed on February 6 that a significant gift of money has been received from the estate of Jaromir Strizka, known to some of our members as "Mirek."

"We are grateful for this bequest," said Bishop Peter Esterka. "It will help to ensure our future." This bequest was the first sizable response to the notice that appears in every copy of Vestnik on page 11, inviting readers to include our mission in their wills and trusts.

"God will reward Jaroslav Strizka for his generosity," continued the Bishop, "and perhaps his gift will inspire others." The board now has the happy task of deciding how the money will be used.

Jaromír Strížka

June 22, 1919 - March 13, 2015
Hollywood, California | Age 95



The story of Jaromir Strížka is one of success and perseverance in the face of adversity. He was born in 1919 in Melnik where he studied at the Gymnasium; his parents Albinka and Francis owned a big house, No. 88 in Charles Square, for the production and wholesale of leather shoe uppers and other footwear items. Then he studied at Charles University in Prague from age of 13. For several years he was a successful athlete, first representing *Sokol Melnik*, an athlete capable of running various distances. Later while studying in Prague, he became a member of *Slavia Praha* and specialized also in pole vaulting.

In 1939 he was nominated by the Czechoslovak Athletic Union to take part in the Olympic Games in Helsinki. Unfortunately his sporting activities and also his studies at Charles University in Prague were interrupted by the war. An honorary degree in engineering was later awarded to him for his achievements, as well as the recognition of his completion of the program of the University, retroactively awarded by Charles University in Prague several years ago.

He worked in his father's business, which Jaromir took over and led until February, 1949; he built a highly successful →

**ÚMYSLY NA MŠE SVATÉ:
ÚNOR • FEBRUARY**

- 3.+Josef a Marie Nečas - přátelé
- 4. za živé a zemřelé členy české síně Karlín - Joe Kocáb
- 5.+Jaromíra Střížku - přátelé
- 7.+Rasla Family - Evelyn Holicky Puhala
- 10.+Harry Lawrence - manželka Mary Kay
- 11.+Tom a MaryAnn Mahoney - dcera Karla Mahoney
- 13.+Jaroslava Hromka - manželka Anežka s rodinou
- 14. +Mirka Janáka - manželka Jana
- 15.+Eugene Runde - manželka Shirley
- 16.+Josefa Hrobaře - manželka Anna
- 17. +Miloslava Mařika - manželka Edith
- 18.+Raymunda Dvorského - manželka Marie
- 19.+Libuse Rohaček - přátelé
- 20.+Dr. Lud'ka Kozlíka - manželka Brigitte
- 21.+Jiřinu Jordanovou - manžel Pavel
- 22.+J.V. Reicherta - manželka Jana
- 23.+Karla Nováka - manželka Inka a dcera Irenka
- 25.+Jarmila Vrana - Jaroslava a Katerina Prossr
- 26.+Halyna Holy (+ 26.9.15) - manžel Josef a děti
- 27.+rodiče Hrobařovy, Marii a Jana - Anna Hrobařová
- 28 + Frank a Mirka Míkša (memorial)- přátelé Pavel a Marta Burda
- 29 +Marii a Jaromíra Hrobářovy – mamka Anna

Josefovská zábava
Josef party



*SOMETHING TO LOOK
FORWARD TO. . .*

We are planning to recover our tradition of the "Josefovská zábava" this year. If you have ideas or can offer to help, please contact Anna Dobeš at 818-448-1716.

FROM THE PEN OF BISHOP ESTERKA.

Dear friends of our Czech Mission in California!

In this year's Lenten season, within the Holy Year of Mercy, believers have the opportunity for a particularly intense experience of God's mercy. In this year's message for Lent.



Francis says it is paramount to listen to the Word of God in prayer. Mary is an example; she shows that there is a close relationship between the adoption of the Word of God and mercy. "In the prophetic tradition mercy is already etymologically closely associated with the maternal womb (Rahamim) and with generous, faithful and compassionate goodness (Hesed); both are associated with marital and parental relationships," writes the Pope.

God's mercy is manifested in the history of God and his chosen people in the Old Testament, but often only one side God was shown. He was ready to show his people tenderness, but the people were unfaithful. "We are faced with a real drama of love in which God plays the role of a betrayed father and husband, while Israel is the unfaithful wife or child."

This "drama of love" culminates in the coming of Jesus Christ, who is the "fiance, who does whatever it takes to win the love of the Bride; She attracted him to her, and his unconditional love becomes visible by unending commitment to her. (...) In Jesus crucified, God goes so far that he wants to seek the sinner even in outermost distance, where he seems to be lost and separated from him. He is doing it in the hope of finally softening their hardened hearts."

If a person experiences the merciful love of God, even he himself becomes merciful. Francis calls for practicing the acts of mercy "by which we are judged." These actions in fact awaken the conscience of man, often dulled in the face of contemporary poverty. "The poor man as Christ's body becomes visible again as a body that is tortured, aching, battered, malnourished and on the run ... We recognize him, touch him and give him attention. Unprecedented and shocking is the mystery of the suffering of the innocent Lamb continuing in history: in the presence of the burning bush of selfless love, like Moses, we can just take off our shoes," says Francis.



According to Francis “the poorest poor” appears to be the one who presents himself as something he is not. Their wealth or power is not used to serve God and others, but to suppress self-awareness; that is poor. It is in contact with the poor that these people may realize that they are loved by the Crucified without merit of their own . "But there is a permanent danger that the proud, rich and powerful who isolate themselves while the poor continue knocking on their doors and hearts, end up condemned to fall into that eternal abyss which is hell."

"Do not miss this Lent as a time of need for conversion." With that admonition the Pope ended his message.

According to the tradition, the works of mercy are divided into physical and spiritual actions. The first ones include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, giving lodging to travelers, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and burying the dead. The spiritual works are teaching the ignorant, advising the indecisive, comforting the afflicted, admonishing sinners, forgiving insults, patiently enduring difficult persons, and praying to God for the living and the dead.

Fašiangová zábava-pre-Lenten Celebration Dance!



Friends of Slovak Folklore and Folk Ensemble Karička are cordially invited to Fašiang fun in conjunction with a short program that will bring you closer to traditional customs associated with the pre-Lenten Carnival period in Slovakia. Profits will go to support our folklore group Karička, and Podkovička.

When: February 20, 2016

Where: Church hall of St. John Evangelist, 4005 Normal Street
San Diego, CA 92103

Schedule: Door opens at 5:00pm Dinner 5:30- 6:30pm Performance:
7:00- 7:30pm Socializing and dance with DJ Martin from 7:30pm

Tickets: \$20.00 including dinner; children under 15 free admission,
dinner \$5

Dinner: Perkel (chicken paprikash) with dumplings or pasta; or
potato “Halušky” with sauerkraut

Contact: Anka (619) 992-9831 anhrab@hotmail.com or
anka@priateliaslovenskehofolkloru.com



CHRISTMAS 2016 in San Diego.
Photo courtesy of Petr Peterka

St Thomas More Prayer

Grant me, O Lord, good digestion,
and also something to digest.

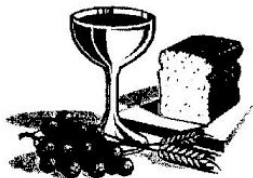
Grant me a healthy body, and the
necessary good humor to maintain it

Grant me a simple soul that knows to treasure
all that is good and that
doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil, but
rather finds the means
to put things back in their place

Give me a soul that knows not boredom,
Grumblings, sighs and laments,
nor excess of stress because of that
obstructing thing called "I."

Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humor.
Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke
to discover in life a bit of joy, and
to be able to share it with others.
Amen.

YOU ARE INVITED!



TO THE MASS IN CZECH

In SAN DIEGO Holy Mass will be celebrated on **Saturday, February 20 at 3:00 pm.**, at St. John the Evangelist hall, Normal a Lincoln, San Diego, 92103. **Fašiangová zábava** to follow at 5 pm.

In LOS ANGELES our holy Mass will be celebrated on **Sunday, February 21 at 1:15 pm**, in the Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA 92886. After Mass a meal will be served. A donation of \$10.00 is requested. Párky \$5.00.

In SAN FRANCISCO our holy Mass will be celebrated on **Sunday, February 28 at 11:00 am**, in the auditorium of the Church, STAR OF THE SEA, 4420 Geary Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94112. A beseda will follow.

Mark your calendars for Easter: SD March 26, LA March 27, SF April 3.

Pope allows women to participate in Holy Thursday ceremony

Pope Francis has reformed the ceremony of the washing of the feet during Mass on Holy Thursday by decreeing that henceforth it will be open to women too or, as he put it in a year-old decree that was published on Jan. 21, “to all the members of the People of God.” The relevant part of the decree reads: “In order that the full meaning of this rite might be expressed to those who participate, it seemed good to the Supreme Pontiff Pope Francis to vary the norm which is found in the rubrics of the Roman Missal... so that pastors may select a small group of the faithful to represent the variety and the unity of each part of the people of God. Such small groups can be made up of men and women, and it is appropriate that they consist of people young and old, healthy and sick, clerics, consecrated men and women and laity.

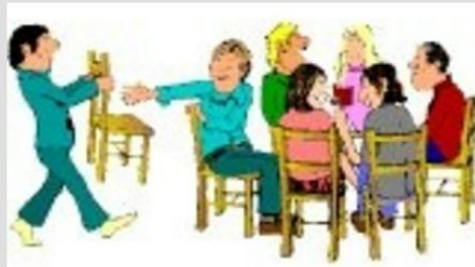
Healthy Samaritans

February 1, 2016 Issue America Magazine

Anyone with a passing familiarity with the Gospels or church teaching knows that helping one's neighbor is good for the soul. Now there is growing evidence that acts of service can benefit physical health as well. In a study published in the journal *JAMA Pediatrics*, researchers found that Canadian 10th-grade students enrolled in a volunteer program lost weight and had lower levels of cholesterol compared with peers who did not participate. And in *Social Science and Medicine* (January 2016), Eric Kim and Sara Konrath report that among people over the age of 50, volunteering was associated with higher use of preventive measures (like flu shots and prostate exams) and 38 percent fewer nights in hospitals.

There is, however, a caveat: motivation matters. In an article in *The Atlantic* by James Hamblin (12/30/15) exploring the connection between volunteering and health outcomes, Mr. Kim explains, "Only the people who were doing it for more outward reasons—compassion for others—had reduced rates of mortality." So spending a few nights at the soup kitchen this February just to keep one's health resolutions for the new year on track might not have the desired effect.

Pope Francis has given Catholics ample inspiration to carry out the corporal works of mercy anyway. In his message for the World Day of Peace, the pope said that as a sign of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are "called to make specific and courageous gestures of concern for [our] most vulnerable members, such as prisoners, migrants, the unemployed and the infirm." Such service is surely its own reward; a papal indulgence and healthy heart could be a welcome bonus.



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

DONATIONS

COLLECTIONS	27,538
MAIL	3,616
GRANTS (Consulate)	802

TOTAL INCOME **31,953**

EXPENSES

Rent for churches	3,475
Salary/medical for bishop	13,500
Velehrad household	13,216
Office	2,200
Travel for Ministry	6,200
Vestnik printing and mailing	4,533

TOTAL EXPENSES **43,124**
BALANCE **(11,171)**

ASSETS (December 31, 2016)

RC Czech Mission checking	8,702
Building Fund checking	2,961
Money market	4,308
Balance	15,971

VELEHRAD CALIFORNIA CZECH CATHOLIC MISSION, INC

DONATIONS Building Fund for 2015 **2,897**

EXPENSES

County assessments	857.00
Loan payments	12,000.00
Insurance	886.00
roof leak repair	3,300.00
Total expenses	17,043
Balance	(14,146)

ASSETS

Market value 344 Koch Ave 2015	760,052
Remaining balance on loan (1.1.16)	(360,145)

company called *Strižka and Son*. They specialized in export-import, with extensive trading among other businesses at home and abroad, particularly in the Netherlands and Belgium.

After the Communist takeover in Czechoslovakia in 1949 the company was nationalized (stolen by communists) and all assets transferred into state ownership. Jaromir was ordered to become a state employee in his former company for a very modest salary, which he refused.

Therefore issued an arrest warrant was issued for him and on February 7, 1949 in the evening, the Communist Secret Police with a vicious dog, forced their way into the apartment, locked the door behind them, and began looting, stealing money and various documents. During the actual arrest of Jaromir he managed to trick them by saying he had to go back for his sweater, but instead he fled before them through a secret back door of the shop. He sprinted through the city in the dark of night to his friends who hid him. They still talk about the horrors of that night and terrifying fear they experienced. They helped him to contact a functioning underground group that specialized in helping people to escape across the border.

After the successful crossing of the closed Czechoslovak border guarded by soldiers with machine guns with sniffer dogs, he asked for asylum in Germany. Very rich at home, he was very poor in Germany, since in addition to everything else, a business partner from the Netherlands robbed him of a considerable sum of money and valuable papers.

In 1953 he moved to the US where in Hollywood, California he started from nothing. Because of his toughness, great intelligence, economic and commercial skills, and especially hard work, he founded and built a business with musical instruments, *European Crafts*, which he led to success until 2014.

Mr. Jaromir Strižka, though himself a very humble person, generously supported various Czech clubs and organizations for many years in the US, as well as athletes abroad.

As a native of Melnik, he loved returning to his city, and enjoyed nature, especially autumn colors, with good friends and good wine at Chateau Melnik.

JANUARY - 2016

Income from Mass collections: \$2,410.00

SD: \$176.00, Building Fund \$100.00; LA: \$1,208.00, meal \$369.00, Building Fund \$.00; SF : \$657.00, Building Fund \$215.00.

Expenses of the Mission: \$2,462.00

\$1,000.00 Bishop's salary; \$425 rent for churches, \$299 meal expenses \$178.00 (travel for ministry ; **Věstník printing: \$315.00** + \$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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PASADENA BESEDA

Mluvite česky nebo slovensky ?

*Přijďte mezi nás, každou druhou
sobotu v měsíci.*

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