

Feb 2, 2014

Slovak Catholic Parish



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*Ja prosím, najmä,
pomáhaj mi, Mária,
by Ježišova láska zo
mňa žiarila.*

*Veď viem, že iba v
láske k Bohu a blížnym
sa s tebou, Matka, k
cieľu žitia bližim.*

*V tej láske si mi,
Matka, skvelý ideál
a preto teba pred
očami stále mám.*

*Chcem celý život v tvo-
jej kráske prežívať,
Chcem s tebou večne v
Božej láske prebývať.*

*"Because he himself was
tested through what he
suffered, he is able to help
those who are being
tested."*



Slovenský kostol Sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish

Obetovanie Pána

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Príď, Pane, do svojho svätého chrámu.

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord

V liturgickom roku sú určité symboly, ktoré nám Cirkev v isté dni kladie pred duchovný zrak. V dnešný deň je to svieca. Možno pri pohľade na sprievod so zažatými sviecami začneme uvažovať: "Prečo práve svieca? Veď je tak bežná v našom živote! Používa sa v domácnostiach, v kostoloch, v reštauráciách, na cintorínoch..."

Na správnu cestu nás napravi staručký Simeon, ktorý nazýva Krista svetlom na osvietenie pohanov a slávou Izraela, Pánovho ľudu.

Iste všetci si dokážeme predstaviť, čo sa stane, keď zhasne svetlo, aký nastane zhon a chaos. Tápame v tme, narážame do rozličných predmetov a niekedy priam zúfalo hľadáme sviečku alebo baterku. Vtedy si najviac uvedomíme, že bez svetla je život ťažký.

Podobná situácia bola aj pred príchodom Krista. Ľudstvo poznačené hriechom žilo v tme smrti. Vedelo síce, že príde Vykupiteľ, ale netušilo, kedy nastane tá radostná chvíľa. Narážalo na rozličné ťažkosti, problémy a prekážky, ktoré nedokázalo riešiť. Boh práve v tých najťažších chvíľach posielal prorokov, aby povzbudili ľudí a upevnili v nich túžbu po Mesiášovi. Simeon si veľmi dobre uvedomoval tento stav a preto, keď držal Ježiša v náručí, nazval ho SVETLOM, lebo svojím príchodom osvietil ľudstvo a pomohol mu. Porovnateľná situácia nastáva aj v každom človeku, keď jeho duša je poznačená ťažkým hriechom. Vtedy sa v ňom rozhostí hustá tma.

V tomto stave naráža na ťažkosti, na problémy a nemá odvahy poprosiť Otca o odpustenie. Z tejto situácie hľadá potom únik v alkohole, v drogách, v neviazanom živote, v páchaní ďalších hriechov, len aby dajakým spôsobom umlčal

svedomie, ktoré je mu výkričníkom. Úspech ale môže čakať len vtedy, keď ho osvieti pravé Svetlo - Ježiš Kristus. Iste všetci poznáme ten okamih, keď Ježiš ústami kňaza nám odkazuje: Odpúšťajú sa ti hriechy! Chod' a viac nehreš! V tej chvíli z nás všetko spadne a máme chuť spievať, tancovať a smiať sa. Vidíte, čo robí čisté svedomie, keď do našej duše vstúpi Kristus - Svetlo sveta.

Už chápeme prečo Simeon nazýva Krista Svetlom? Lebo jeho príchod na svet, do duše, do života je úplný zlom a zmena, preto je dnes v našej pozornosti svieca. Predstavme si ju, ako horí a svieti. Vydáva teplé, príjemné a hrejivé svetlo. Osvecuje celý priestor a spôsobuje, že ľudia v jej blízkosti sú k sebe milší a bližší. To je služba sviecy, pri ktorej sa sama spaľuje a tým aj nič. Iným slúži a v službe sama zaniká.

Byť sviecou je aj našim poslaním. Máme byť svetlom, ktoré zapálil Kristus. Sviecou, ktorá šíri okolo seba milosrdenstvo a ochotu pomôcť bližnému. Aj my sme povinní šíriť okolo seba teplo lásky, hoci sa tým budeme sami spaľovať a bude to niekedy na úkor nášho času, pohodlia a možno aj zdravia. Staručký Simeon v nás provokuje otázky: Som svetlom a sviecou? Spaľujem sa v službe iným? Dokážem vo svojom okolí šíriť lásku a dobrotu? Nepozerám na čas a pohodlie, keď treba niekomu pomôcť?

From the beginning Mary was there. At the end Mary under the Cross was there, silently "keeping all of these things in heart" and pondering what they might mean. Throughout it all she is a model for us. In her quiet humility and openness to whatever God wants to accomplish in and through her, she witnesses to us what it means to be a Christian; she represents how we should re-

spond to God's presentation of Himself to us.

All too often we think we are the ones to fashion our religious response to God. We construct for ourselves a religious response that suits us and meets our standards. Not so with Mary. She receives what God fashions; she receives God's gifts to her and humbly follows the promptings of God's Holy Spirit, pondering in her heart all that God is doing while faithfully carrying out all of the prescriptions that were observed in her Jewish religious tradition.

God presents Himself to us. How should we respond? Each of us must answer that question. In developing our answer we cannot overlook what the elders among us have to offer us. They offer us wisdom along with the insights of tradition. In many respects they represent Mary's quite and humble receptivity of God's love and will.

What do we do with what is old - tear it down, discard it and build anew? Sometime we should; sometimes we should not. Whatever we do we cannot afford to easily jettison the old. Reading the bible's recorded history of God's work among us we have things to learn. The same is true for each one of us personally. For each and every one of us there will come a day that will be our last one and our earthly history will come to an end. Hopefully on that day I will be able to repeat the words of Simeon heard in today's Gospel account: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace,."

Bulletin Announcements

Relationships and Marriage – Made in Heaven But Lived on Earth

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish invites you to a seminar jointly delivered by Fr. Elias Vella from Malta and Diana Mascarenhas. This seminar is for singles and married couples and will be taking place on Saturday, Feb. 22 & 23 from 9 to 5 p.m. each day. Topics will include: (1) Relationships- who needs them? (Fear of Intimacy); (2) I think I have had enough! (Interferences In Relationships); (3) The bitter half or the better half? (Reconciliation and Forgiveness); (4) My way or the high way (God's Plan for Marriage); (5) Who rules the roost? (A Christ-Centred Family). The day will include Mass and the cost of the seminar is \$50.00. Refreshments will be served, bring your own lunch. For more information, visit www.cyrilmetod.org/retreat2014 or contact retreat2014@cyrilmetod.org 604-526-7351.

Discernment – Seeking God's Plan for Our Lives

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish invites you to another seminar jointly delivered by Fr. Elias Vella. The seminar will be taking place on Mar. 1 & 2 from 9 to 5 p.m. each day. Topics will include: (1) Discerning God's plan for my life; (2) The art of choosing when two or more paths open up; (3) Personal and Group discernment; (4) Making sense of my faith journey; (5) Sharing the story of my life (faith and evangelization). The day will include Mass and those of the seminar is \$50.00. Refreshments will be served, bring you own lunch. For more information, visit www.cyrilmetod.org/retreat2014 or contact retreat2014@cyrilmetod.org 604-526-7351.

***One Conference 2014** - Only one more month to go! The ONE Conference is the annual Archdiocesan event to cultivate, unite, and inspire leadership for our Archdiocesan mission. Featuring world-class speakers Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ, Christopher West, Dr. Josephine Lombardi, and a closing Mass with Archbishop J. Michael Miller, this is the "can't miss" opportunity for everyone involved and interested in the life and mission of the Church in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. The conference will be at the Vancouver Convention Centre East Building, 999 Canada Place, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014 from 9 a.m to 5:30 p.m. Doors open 8 a.m. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased online at <http://rcav.org/one/> or at any Catholic parish office.

***A Man Called John and a Man Called Louie:** Pope John XXIII & Thomas Merton—Join us on Friday, Feb. 7 from 7-9 p.m. for a talk by Michael W. Higgins on Pope John XXIII & Thomas Merton at St. Andrew's United Church, North Vancouver

Join us for coffee and traditional sandwiches and treats in February 16, 2014 at 12.30pm (Slovak Hall) to help our friend Maria Pauchly, who fights with cancer. Refreshments are served by donation. Let's fight together!

Sunday's Collection from the Last Week

Our Weekly Goal	\$1,500
Sunday's Collection	\$1,184
Weekly (Shortfall) Excess	-\$316

Thank You. Vďaka. God Bless Your Generosity.

*Tuto nedelu je modlitba prihovoru v kostole 12:30—13:30h
This Sunday is a prayer ministry at church from 12:30 to 1:30pm*

Sun 2 9:00am	The Presentation of the Lord; Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40	Thanksgiving	Christy Paras
Sun 2 11:00am	4. nedel'a v Cezročnom období; Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40	Za zdravie a Božiu pomoc pre otca	Janka
Mon 3 8:00am	St Blasé; St Ansgar; 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Mark 5:1-20	Požehnanie, zdravie a poďakovanie za brata Juraja	Mária
Tue 4 8:00am	2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Mark 5:21-43	+ Jozefína	Vnučka Janka
Wed 5 8:00am	St Agatha; 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Mark 6:1-6	+ Ladislav Toth	Manželka a dcéry
Thu 6 8:00am	St Paul Miki & Co.; 1Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; Mark 6:7-13	Pokoj a požehnanie pre Mareka a Danielu	Mária
Fri 7 8:00am	Blessed Pius IX; Sirach 47:2-11; Mark 6:14-29	Za Božiu pomoc, zdravie a povolanie pre sr. Máriu	Juraj
Fri 7 7:30pm	Blessed Pius IX; Sirach 47:2-11; Mark 6:14-29	Pod'akovanie za Mareka	Janka
Sat 8 9:00am	St Jerome Emiliani, St Josephine Bakhita; 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mark 6:30-34	Za zdravie a Božie požehnanie pre mamu	Lucia
Sun 9 9:00am	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16	For parishioners living and deceased	Fr. Juraj
Sun 9 11:00am	5. nedel'a v Cezročnom období; Iz 58:7-10; 1 Kor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16	Za Božie požehnanie a sprevádzanie pre Michala	Fr. Juraj