



1948-2018 - celebrating its 70 years
Dormition of the Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Українська Католицька Церква
Успення Пресвятої Богородиці



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Parish web-site: <http://kelowna.nweparchy.ca/> Pastor: Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts / о. Павло Миць

Facebook page: [DormitionKelowna Parish:https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5](https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5)

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster: www.nweparchy.ca



Sunday after Christmas – December 30th, 2018 A.D. "Authentic justice and lasting peace can only be achieved when they are guaranteed for all!" - teaches Pope Francis I

THE VIBRANT PARISH - A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST: Through the Word, the Holy Mysteries & Prayer, Serving One's Neighbour, Leadership, Fostering & Serving Unity and Missionary Spirit – Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk



"All the challenging circumstances of our life on earth – these are for us an invitation to active love, which is an expression of living faith!"

- Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk
"The Vibrant Parish"

"Всі ці прикрі явища нашого земного життя – це для нас запрошення до чинної любові, яка є виявом живої віри." - Пастирський Лист Блаженнішого Святослава Шевчука "Жива Парафія"

Christian Greetings (Dec. 25th-Feb. 1st):

Christ Is Born! - Let us glorify Him!

Chrystos Rozhdaiet'sia! – Slavimo Yoho!

Христос Рождається! - Славимо Його!

Christ is among us! – He is and will be!

Liturgical and Sacramental celebrations during week:

Please, remember to keep Jesus Christ in Christmas!

He is the only true reason for this whole season!

31 December (Mon.) – New Year's Eve at 4:30 PM – Moleben:

Thanksgiving for God's blessings and graces received in 2018

Blessed and Happy New 2019 Year!

1 January (Tue.) **The Circumcision of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ; Saint Basil the Great; New Year's Day;**

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy; Myrovania/Blessing with Holy Oil.

Wed., Jan. 2nd – 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy:

Fri., Jan. 4th – 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy:

5 January (Saturday) – **THEOPHANY/ЕPIPHANY EVE / НАВЕЧІР'Я БОГОЯВЛЕННЯ**

3:40 p.m. Lectio Divina / Bible Studies: (Service in Penticton, BC)

4:00 PM – The Divine Liturgy followed by Great Blessing of Water and Myrovania/Blessing with Holy Oil

6 January (Sunday) – **FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY / БОГОЯВЛЕННЯ (ЙОРДАН)** at 8:15 a.m. Rosary: (*in English language*)

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (*in English and Ukrainian languages*); Great Blessing of Water, Myrovania/Blessing with Holy Oil. Theophany/Epiphany-Christmas Lunch, Caroling and Christian movie presentation. (Theophany-Christmas lunch attending sign up list will be available at the church vestibule and hall.)

Pastoral and Sacramental Ministry: **Baptisms:** by appointment. **Funerals and Memorials:** by appointment.

Marriages: six months' notice should be given to the parish priest, and he should be contacted before any other arrangements are made. **Holy Unction** (Anointing of the Sick): Those anticipating surgery, hospitalization or treatments and who would like to receive anointing (by appointment, any time) **Reconciliation:** on Sundays and Holy Days: before Liturgies and other days, by appointment.

Holy Communion: for the sick, by appointment, any time * **Please, contact Fr. Pavlo if you want to have the Divine Liturgies celebrated in your special (such as: In thanksgiving for favours received, the Infirm, General Intentions, the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travelers, etc.) intentions.**

Liturgical Propers in English language:

Tone 7, text from book "*The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*"; pages 103-105

Epistle: *A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians: (Gal. 1:11-19)*

Brothers and Sisters, I assure you, the gospel I proclaimed to you is no mere human invention. I did not receive it from any man, nor was schooled in it. It came by revelation from Jesus Christ. You have heard, I know, the story of my former way of life in Judaism. You know that I went to extremes in persecuting the Church of God and tried to destroy it; I made progress in Jewish observance far beyond most of my contemporaries, in my excess of zeal to live out all the traditions of my ancestors.



But the time came when he who had set me apart before I was born and called me by his favor chose to reveal his Son to me, that I might spread among the Gentiles the good tidings concerning him. Immediately, without seeking human advisers or even going to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before me, I went off to Arabia later I returned to Damascus. Three years after that I went up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, with whom I stayed fifteen days. I did not meet any other apostles except James, the brother of the Lord.

Gospel: (Matthew 2:13-23)

After they had left the angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command: "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is searching for the child to destroy him." Joseph got up and took the child and his mother and left that night for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, to fulfill what the Lord said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

Once Herod realized that he had been deceived by the astrologers, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys two years old and under in Bethlehem and its environs, making his calculations on the basis of the date he had learned from the astrologers. What was said through Jeremiah the prophet was then fulfilled: "A cry was heard at Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation: Rachel bewailing her children; no comfort for her, since they are no more."

But after Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt with the command: "Get up, take the child and his mother, and set out for the land of Israel. Those who had designs on the life of the child are dead." He got up, took the child and his mother, and returned to the land of Israel. He heard, however, that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as king of Judea, and he was afraid to go back there. Instead, because of a warning received in a dream, Joseph went to the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way what was said through the prophets was fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazorean."

Our Eparch, Bishop Ken is requesting that at the conclusion of every Divine Liturgy we say an additional prayer for Peace in Ukraine until the end of the war. For peace in Ukraine, let us pray: Our Father ... Hail Mary ...

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

❖ **Basic Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion:** You are a member of the Catholic Church (faithful of the Orthodox churches are very welcome to receive Holy Communion); 2) You have participated in the Sacrament of Confession at least during the Easter or Christmas seasons this past year if not more frequently; 3) You attend Divine Services regularly; 4) Your lifestyle is consistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church; 5) You have kept the Liturgical fast – no food at least one hour prior to the Divine Liturgy (water and medicine does not break the fast). 6) You have been in church from the beginning of the service, or at least heard the Gospel. 7) To the best of your ability, you are in the state of Grace. *If for any of these or other reasons you cannot receive Holy Communion, you are very welcome to come for a blessing. Please indicate to the priest that you would like to receive his blessing.*



VIBRANT PARISH PRAYER: O Lord Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, as you once gathered lost sheep that they might hear Your voice and be your flock, so also today graciously look down from heaven upon our parish community, and send down on it your Holy Spirit, that it might be a place to receive the joy of Your Good News. Strengthen us with your presence, and always gather us together in prayer. Grant us the spirit of serving others, so that in our parish all might encounter You, the merciful God. Bless our spiritual leaders with Your wisdom, and inspire us to generously give of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of Your Kingdom. Unite us in peace and harmony, as befits Your community of love. Instill in us a missionary spirit, and let our parish community shine with the light of the Gospel, with prayer and good works, inviting all to share in the divine life, so that Your Name, O Saviour, may be praised, together with Your eternal Father, and Your most-holy, good and life-giving Spirit. Amen.

Літургійні частини Українською мовою:

Глас 7, текст з книги "*Божественна Літургія Святого Івана Золотоустого*"; ст. 102-104

Апостол: *До Галатів послання Святого Апостола Павла читання: (Гл 1, 11-19)*



Браття і Сестри, сповіщаю вас, що Євангеліє, яке я вам проповідував, не від людей; бо ж я його не прийняв, ні навчився від людини, а через об'явлення Ісуса Христа. Ви чули про мою поведінку колись у юдействі, про те, що я жорстоко переслідував Церкву Божу та руйнував її. Я визначався серед багатьох ровесників з мого роду, будиши запеклим прихильником передань моїх предків. Та коли Той, хто вибрав мене вже від утроби моєї матері і покликав Своєю благодаттю, зволив об'явити в мені Сина Свого, щоб я проповідував Його між поганями, я негайно, ні з ким не радившись, не пішов у Єрусалим до тих, що були апостолами передо мною, але пішов в Арабію і потім повернувся в Дамаск. Три роки після того пішов я в Єрусалим відвідати Петра. Іншого з апостолів я не бачив, крім Якова, брата Господнього.

Євангеліє: (Мт. 2, 13-23)

Коли відійшли мудреці, то ангел Господній у сні явився Йосифові, кажучи: Встань, візьми дитя і матір Його, і втікай в Єгипет, і будь там, поки скажу тобі, бо Ірод хоче шукати дитя, щоб погубити Його. А він, вставши, взяв дитя та матір Його вночі і відійшов у Єгипет. І був там до смерти Іродової, щоб збулося сказане від Господа пророком, що говорив: З Єгипту визвав Я сина Мого. Тоді Ірод, побачивши, що був поруганий волхвами, розгнівався дуже і післав повбивати всіх дітей, що були у Вифлємі і всіх околицях його, від двох років і нижче, згідно з часом, про який докладно розпитав у мудреців. Тоді збулося сказане Єремією пророком, що говорить: Голос в Рамі чути було, плач і ридання і голосіння велике. Рахиль — оплакуюча дітей своїх: і не хотіла утішитися, бо їх немає. І коли помер Ірод, то ангел Господень у сні явився Йосифові в Єгипті, кажучи: Встань, візьми дитя і матір Його і йди в землю Ізраїлеву, бо вимерли ті, що шукали душі дитяти. А він, вставши, взяв дитя і матір Його і прийшов в землю Ізраїлеву. Та почувши, що Архилай царює в Юдеї замість Ірода, батька свого, побоявся туди йти, а прийнявши вість у сні, відійшов в сторони галилейські. І прийшовши, поселився в городі, званім Назарет, щоб збулося сказане пророками, що Назорей назветься.



Молитва Живі Парафії: Господи Ісусе Христе, Пастирю Добрий, як колись Ти пригорнув заблуканих овечок, щоб вони пізнали Твій голос і були Твоїм стадом, так і сьогодні глянь ласкаво з небесних висот на нашу парафію та зішли на неї Твого Святого Духа, щоб вона була місцем пізнання радості Доброї Новини. Скріплюй нас Твоєю присутністю та єдною нас кожночасно в молитві. Даруй нам духа служіння ближньому, щоб у нашій парафії кожний міг зустріти Тебе, милостивого Бога. Благослови наш духовний провід Твоєю мудрістю і дай, щоб ніхто з нас не шкодував ні часу, ні талантів, ні матеріальних дібр для розбудови Твого царства. Єдною нас у мирі та злагоді, щоб ми були Твоєю спільнотою любові. Всели в нас місійного духа, щоб ми стали тим світилом євангельського слова, молитви і добрих діл, що кличе кожного до участі в Божественному житті, щоб славилось, Спасе, Твоє Ім'я з безначальним Твоїм Отцем та пресвятим, благим і животворящим Твоїм Духом нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.



»»»» **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

ЩИРО ВАМ ДЯКУЄМО!

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Gratitudes to all our parishioners, guests, visitors and all people of the good will who by their kindness share time, talents and treasures, volunteer and organize coffee and socials, make donations, all who went carolling and those who welcomed our church carrolers, knowingly and unknowingly for the other people thoughtfully care and help our parish community, parishioners welcoming our guests and visitors, help with cleaning, and actively participate at different parish projects and programs, looking after and graciously supporting our Christian, Catholic Church community! May the Almighty God bless and abundantly reward your time, care and generosity! "Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor. Send down Your mercy upon all of us!" (A Prayer from the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom)

Sincerest thanks for your warm Christmas greetings and gifts. May God bless and keep all of you in His tender care at this Christmas time, New 2019 Year and always! With gratitude and prayers sincerely Yours in Christ,
Nazariy, Veronica, Dob. Mariia and Fr. Pavlo Myts

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in many, happy and blessed years of life to all our faithful parishioners celebrating Christmas/Nativity in the Flesh/Birthday of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and beginning of New 2019 Year of the Lord, to Mrs. Carol-Ann Hillman on her birthday (Jan. 2nd), Mr. Steven Popyk on his birthday (Jan. 3rd), all those parishioners who celebrate their birthdays, heavenly patron's /saint's Basil/Vasyly' (Jan. 1st) name-days, wedding anniversaries and any other special anniversaries this week –



NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR PARISHIONERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WHO HAVE JOINED US IN THIS DIVINE LITURGY. THANK YOU FOR PRAYING WITH US AT THE CHURCH TODAY! EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME TO COME AND PARTICIPATE IN OUR PARISH COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP AT THE CHURCH HALL TODAY FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY!

WISHING ALL OF YOU A BLESSED WITH JOY, PEACE AND CHRISTIAN LOVE NEW 2019 YEAR!

Christmas Carolling All English and Ukrainian speaking parishioners wishing to participate at our parish Christmas carolling visitations or to be visited, please contact Mrs. Olena Fedorov, Dob. Marichka or Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts. Please, sign up.

- ❖ **Great Blessing of the Water, Christmas and Theophany lunch** is on Sunday, Jan. 6th, 2019 A.D. Please, sign up.
- ❖ **JOIN OUR CHOIR:** Do you enjoy singing? Please consider joining our Dormition Parish Choir and remember that we are looking for new members! Contact Mrs. Lesia Achtymichuk for more information and details.
- ❖ **Volunteers for Sunday coffee socials and clean-ups are needed** – please continue putting your name on the calendar posted in the church hall. If you can help out, please, let us know. Your help is truly appreciated!



❖ **KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS'** - as part of our parish fundraiser these special magnets are available for purchase at a donation of \$ 5.00. By placing on our cars, a magnet KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS, prepared by the Knights of Columbus, we evangelize silently and verbally through this wonderful symbol. In addition, by purchasing this magnet we also support our parish, since all money collected in our parish for these magnets are donated by the Knights of Columbus to our parish.

❖ **PLEASE, REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:** yourselves, Most Reverend Bishop-Emeritus Severian Yakymyshyn, Lucy D., Janet F., Alex R., Volodymyr P., Ivan L., Ray Saranchuk, Cameron V., Rose Ostopowich, Keyton A., Ric B., Rocio A., Kit C., Shirley C., Peter Dranchuk, Sandra Sh., Patricia U., Olga Kuzyk, Anthony and Victoria Huziak, George and Mary Dashkewtych, Olga Romanyshyn, Myron Stec, Kay Ilnitski, Kalyna Kociuba, William Shuya, Bronie Huska, Peter Huska, Stanley and Roma Nowakowski (Bishop Ken's parents), Barbara and Vincent Pasternak, Dorothy Scott, Lorraine Turcotte, Dr. Nadia Popil, the Hillman Family, Ann Boitson, Sandra Shynkaryk, John and Ann Bulych, all members of our parish and those who are not able to join actively in our community, your families, relatives, friends; governments and armed forces, especially the shut-in or those in the hospitals, traveling, working or studying, nursing and senior homes, those seeking God's answer to their prayers or those rejoicing with God's answer; those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries; those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind; widows and widowers, orphans, homeless and all people who have asked us pray for them. Please, also in your kindness keep praying daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Remember to ask for special blessings to all Christian families! **REMINDER** for families of individuals, who are admitted to hospital - If you or a family member is admitted to hospital and you wish to have a priest visit, please be sure to have someone call our parish rectory office to make this request. Your pastor may have no other way of knowing that you are in hospital, as privacy legislation. **SPIRIT OF CHRISTIAN AWARENESS: Dear parishioners, if our brother / sister in Christ, who usually sits next to you, is not in the Church today, please phone him / her and ask how he / she is doing. Let him /her know that our parish community misses him / her very much!**

❖ *We also pray for the people of Ukraine, that with the help of the Holy Spirit, they may obtain social peace, political harmony and economic stability: Lord, hear us and have mercy.*

❖ **BOX FOR USED CHURCH BULLETINS** – since our Sunday bulletins contain Sacred Scripture readings & icons, they need to be disposed of properly/respectfully after use. Please do not throw them into the garbage but recycle them after shredding if possible. In order to assist with this request, we have provided a special box for used bulletins at the church entrance.

❖ **A SPECIAL REQUEST:** After each Divine Liturgy and every church service, please, keep silence in the House of the Lord as some of the faithful are still praying at the church. As well, please, do not forget close all Liturgy and/or hymnbooks and return them to their proper place. Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or any other material in the pews. Let each of us do our part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church building clean and neat. Thank you very much! ***Every parishioner is personally responsible before God for our spiritual home-parish-church!***



❖ **BE A STEWARD:** Have you ever wondered what more can you do to help our parish-church? Here are some suggestions: Steward of property security; Steward of grounds cleaning; Steward of cleaning church; Steward of church linen; Steward of outreach; Steward of caring; Steward of prayer; Steward of service. Quite often, our homebound or senior members, once active in their younger years, want to find purpose in their senior years. It's not only about doing but about "BEING" present to others! Please, feel very welcome to participate in our church choir singing, reading of the Epistles and others inspiring Bible texts, holding the candles during the Gospels readings, processions, welcoming, parish cleaning, projects, etc. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** to help out with weekly cleaning in the church and organizing of coffee social after the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, work-bees, etc. If you can help out, please, let us know. Please, Contact Mr. Neil Lalach or Fr. Pavlo for more information. You will be amazed how "BEING" can make a difference at our spiritual, parish life!

❖ **A SPECIAL REQUEST:** After each Divine Liturgy and every church service, please, keep silence in the House of the Lord as some of the faithful are continue praying at the church. As well, please, do not forget close all Liturgy and/or hymnbooks and return them to their proper place. Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or any other material in the

pews. Let each of us do our part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church building clean and neat. Thank you for your Christian understanding and cooperation very much!

❖ **FAITHFUL GIVING** ... Please, remember that we never take a day off or a vacation from God, or from our obligation to attend Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days. **When traveling, working, participating in different sport's tournaments, activities or studying, please, make sure you check out the service schedule for the area churches at our eparchial website: www.nweparchy.ca and attend the Divine Liturgy.** Remember as well, that while parishioners may be away and on vacation, the parish-church is not. Expenses continue as they do throughout the year. Please, remain consistent in your gifts to parish. Your weekly Sunday offering is important to our financial well-being. If you are away, we appreciate it when you forward your "make-up" donations. The financial stability of the parish counts on regular Sunday contributions. Please, continue to be supportive and generous! "Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor. Send down Your mercy upon all of us!" (*Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*)

❖ **Glasses Prescription Box for Ukraine** is placed and located at the left side by the entrance to the parish hall. Please, feel free to participate in and support this important project.

❖ **Please, share to Kelowna Food Bank.** A special box is located at the church vestibule.

❖ **Ukrainian Catholic Church interactive map:** as Christmas season is approaching some of you will be travelling and visiting your friends and families not only in Canada. So, we want to ensure that you can find a Ukrainian Catholic parish in different parts of the world. Please check out this interactive map of our parishes throughout the world where you can find parish near you: <http://map.ugcc.ua/>

❖ **Rachel's Corner:** *'When you are in a difficult situation and everything seems to be against you, to the point where you feel like you can't handle one more minute, don't give up, because that is the precise place and time in which the tide will change.'* - Harriet Beecher Stowe. The beginning of a year is a wonderful time for a tide to change. Are you ready to lay that burden down? The one that you have carried inside since the day of the abortion decision? Join us on a Rachel Retreat. Make the decision to start this new year by handing God that burden and letting Him set you free. **Healing after Abortion**

Ministry: 250-762-2273 info@rachelvineyardkelowna.com or information and registration visit: www.rachelvineyardkelowna.com, Facebook: *Rachel's Vineyard Kelowna*

❖ **Since 2012 our Eparchy has been collecting funds to help underprivileged and orphaned children in Ukraine through our Christmas Candle appeal.** Since 2012 our Eparchy has been collecting funds to help underprivileged and orphaned children in Ukraine through our Christmas Candle appeal. Our fundraising program is part of a larger global appeal sponsored by Caritas Ukraine. We have had great momentum over the last few years raising over \$20,000 with support from our BC Parishes as well as Parishes in other Provinces and parts of the United States.

The appeal is once again taking place for the month of December and we encourage everyone to remember these children during the Christmas season with a voluntary

donation. Please place your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Candle and include it with the Sunday collection at any Ukrainian Catholic Church in BC. Donations over \$20 are eligible to receive a tax receipt if requested and cheques can be made out to your Parish with Christmas Candle Project in the Memo.

We thank you for your past support and generosity and ask that you continue supporting this appeal as part of your Christmas tradition. Caritas is an organization that is supported and approved by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk and His Excellency Bishop Ken Nowakowski. 100% of the proceeds go to Caritas Ukraine. For more information, please contact the coordinators Dana Koren Lupynis or Natalia Lupynis at nweparchy.christmascandle@gmail.com and follow us on Facebook at Caritas "Christmas Candle / Різдвяна свічка" Campaign, sponsored by NWEparchy.



Pope Francis Urbi et Orbi: 'my Christmas wish is fraternity'

Fraternity is Pope Francis' wish for the world expressed in his Urbi et Orbi address on Christmas Day as he invites everyone to fall on their knees and worship.

Pope Francis' revealed his "wish for a happy Christmas" as a "wish for fraternity" during his **Christmas Urbi et Orbi message**. To those physically present in St Peter's Square and to all joining through the media, the Pope renewed the angel's song: "Glory to God in the highest"... and invited all to "halt in wonder" as the shepherds did and to silently "fall to our knees and worship".

God is a good Father: The Christmas message is all about a child who came to tell us that “God is a *good Father* and we are all *brothers and sisters*”, Pope Francis said. Without Jesus’ gift of fraternity, what we do to build a more just world would be “soulless and empty”, he said. “For this reason, my wish for a happy Christmas is a *wish for fraternity*”.

Fraternity: Pope Francis said he wishes for fraternity among individuals, regardless of nation, culture, ideology, or religion. Jesus revealed “God’s face” through a “human face”. The variety and differences we experience “are a source of richness”, the Pope said, like the variety of coloured tiles in the hands of a mosaic artist. God, who is our “parent”, binds us together and is the “foundation and strength of our fraternity”.

Specific thoughts: *For the Israelies and Palestinians*, the Pope wishes resumption of the dialogue and path to peace to end the 70-year conflict rending “the land chosen by the Lord to show his face of love”.

For Syrians he wishes that they can “find fraternity after long years of war” and that through international cooperation those who have fled may return home.

For Yemen, the hope that the truce will hold and bring relief to her people and children “exhausted by war and famine”.

For Africa, that the “Holy Child, the King of Peace” might “silence the clash of arms” allowing a “new dawn of fraternity to rise over the entire continent”.

For the Korean peninsula he prayed for the consolidation of the “bonds of fraternity” set in motion this year.

For Venezuelans the Pope hopes they might “recover social harmony” so as to “work fraternally” toward the country’s development.

For Ukrainians, he hopes “the Newborn Lord” might “bring relief” and “a lasting peace” which is possible only through respect for the “rights of every nation”.

For Nicaraguans he prayed that they might “see themselves once more as brothers and sisters” through reconciliation and building Nicaragua’s future together.

Pope Francis also mentioned those whose “freedom and identity” are compromised through modern forms of colonialization, those suffering from hunger, lack of education and health care.

For those celebrating Christmas in hostile situations, Pope Francis prayed that all minorities might live peacefully through respect for the right of religious freedom.

God loves us: In conclusion, Pope Francis prayed that the Child in the manger might “watch over all the children of the world, and every frail, vulnerable and discarded person”. He hopes that all might receive “peace and consolation” as through “the birth of the Saviour” we know that “we are loved by the one heavenly Father”, that we might realize “*that we are brothers and sisters and come to live as such*”.

Written by Sr. Bernadette Mary Reis, fsp

Internet Source: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2018-12/pope-francis-urbi-orbi-christmas-message.html>



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