



1948-2018 - celebrating its 70 years

Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church



Українська Католицька Церква Успення Пресвятої Богородиці

1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8

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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>

If you need to meet with the parish priest, please, call or email in advance to arrange time and a day.

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



20th Sunday after Pentecost - October 7th, 2018 A.D.

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: Glory to Jesus Christ! – Glory to Him Forever! Slava Isusu Chrystu! – Slava na Viky! Слава Ісусу Христу! – Слава на Віку! Christ is among us! – He is and will be!



Liturgical and Sacramental celebrations during week:

Mon., Oct. 8th - 7:00 p.m. Akaphistos in Thanksgiving to God

Tue., Oct. 9th - 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: **For repose of the soul of Mr. Edward Holick** (*requested by parishioners of Christ Resurrection Ukrainian Catholic parish in Pentiction, BC*)

Wed., Oct. 10th - NO SERVICES

Thurs., Oct. 11th - NO SERVICES

Fri., Oct. 12th - 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: **For repose of the soul of Mr. Edward Holick** (*requested by parishioners of Christ Resurrection Ukrainian Catholic parish in Pentiction, BC*)

Saturday, Oct. 13th - 4:00 p.m. The Divine Liturgy: **God's blessings for all parishioners** (**Service in Pentiction, BC**)

Sunday, Oct. 14th - 9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: **God's blessings for all parishioners.** (*in English language*)

- 11:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: **God's blessings for all parishioners** (*in Ukrainian language*)

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 3, text from book “*The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*”; pages 93-95

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 up to know Cephas, with whom I stayed fifteen days. I did not meet any other apostles except James, the brother of the Lord.



Gospel: (Luke 7: 11:16)

At that time, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he approached the gate of the town a dead man was being carried out, the only son of a widowed mother. A considerable crowd of townsfolk were with her. The Lord was moved with pity upon seeing her and said to her, “Do not cry.” Then he stepped forward and touched the litter; at this, the bearers halted. He said, “Young man, I bid you get up.” The dead man sat up and began to speak. Then Jesus gave him back to his mother. Fear seized them all and they began to praise God. “A great prophet has risen among us,” they said; and, “God has visited his people.”

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.**



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.

❖ **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.*



Літургійні частини Українською мовою:

Глас 3, текст "Божественна Літургія Святого Івана Золотоустого"; сторінки 92-94

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

Браття та Сестри, звістую вам, що Євангелія, яке я вам проповідував, не є за людською мірою; бож я його не прийняв, ані навчився від людини, лише – через об'явлення Ісуса Христа. Ви чули про мою поведінку колись у юдействі, про те, як я несамовито гонив Божу Церкву та руйнував її. Я перевищував у юдействі багатьох ровесників з мого роду, будиши запеклим прихильником передань моїх предків. Та коли той, хто вибрав мене вже від утроби матері моєї і покликав своєю благодаттю, зволив об'явити в мені Сина свого, щоб я проповідував його між поганями, то я негайно, ні з ким не радившись, ані не подавшись в Єрусалим до тих, що були апостолами передо мною, пішов в Арабію, а потім знову повернувся в Дамаск. По трьох роках по тому пішов я у Єрусалим відвідати Кифу і перебув у нього п'ятнадцять днів. А іншого з апостолів я не бачив, крім Якова, брата Господнього.



Євангеліє: (Лк. 7,11-16)

В той час пішов Ісус у місто, що зветься Наїн, а з ним ішли його учні й сила народу. Коли ж вони наблизились до міської брами, якраз виносили мертвого сина, єдиного в матері своєї, що була вдовою; і було з нею досить людей з міста. Побачивши її, Господь зглянувся над нею і сказав до неї: "Не плач." І приступивши, доторкнувся до мар, і що несли, зупинились. Тоді Ісус сказав: "Юначе, кажу тобі, встань!" І мертвий підвівся і почав говорити. І він віддав його матері. Страх огорнув усіх, і вони прославляли Бога та й говорили: "Великий пророк устав між нами", і: "Бог навідався до народу свого."



Молитва Живої 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 єднай 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. Єднай 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 славилася, 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! <<<<<<<<<<<<

Gratitudes to all our parishioners, guests, visitors and all people of the good will who by their kindness share time, volunteer and organize coffee and socials, make donations, knowingly and unknowingly for the other people thoughtfully care and help our parish community, welcomed guests and visitors, volunteered sharing time and care helping at the coffee-socials, cleaning and organizing, cutting parish lawn, helping with 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)

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in many, happy and blessed years of life to Mrs. Virginia Pizio on her birthday (Oct. 10th), Mr. Peter and Mrs. Diana Bihun on their wedding anniversary (Oct. 11th), and to all those who celebrate their birthdays, name-days, wedding anniversaries and any other special anniversaries this week – Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!

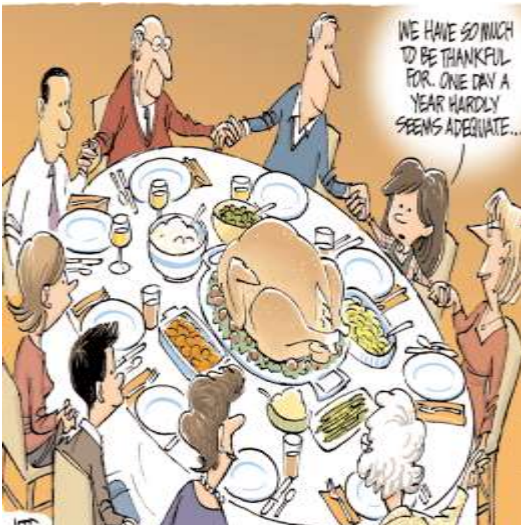


NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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! WISHING YOU A BLESSED, RESTFUL THANKSGIVING WEEKEND AND FRUITFUL, HEALTHY AND SAFE WEEK! EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME TO COME AND PARTICIPATE IN OUR PARISH COFFEE-SOCIAL AT THE CHURCH HALL TODAY.

❖ 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.

❖ **CATECHISM ANNOUNCEMENT:** *"And they were bringing to Him also the infants, in order that He may be touching them; but after the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, Let alone the little children to come to Me, and cease hindering them; for of such is the kingdom of God."* (Matthew 19:14) We are happy to welcome all children to our Dormition of the Mother of God parish catechism program. We want your children to learn more about their orthodox faith in the Catholic Church, sacred scripture, feast days, icons, singing and religious practices and customs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. If you have any questions, please, do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Marilyn Daulat or Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts.



TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Sooner or later every one of us will must to leave all earthy perishable goods and attractions, pleasures and sufferings by encountering physical death and no one can hide or escape from it. It is the one experience in life we all people must to go through and the widow-mother in today's Gospel was no exception. By bringing back to life the son of the widow of Nain in today's Gospel the Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated that He is truly the Lord of life, death and resurrection.

However, the most tragical experience is to see someone spiritually dead, a person selfish and arrogant who does not believe in God or ignores His Commandments, attacks His Church and Christians, disrespects gift of life, does not care about eternity.

When we come to the end of the line, let us hope, pray and believe that it will be He, the Son of the God Jesus Christ, Who will be there to meet us personally, to take lead each and everyone of us into another world where "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human mind, that God has prepared for those who love Him."

(1 Corinthians 2, 9)

Earthly life is short, but eternity is not! The time we live in this earthly world is nothing compared to the time we will spend in eternity, so let's truly and seriously make the best of whatever time we have left now by living with peace, love, joy, care, generosity and respecting one another following and fulfilling God's 10 Commandments and living Gospel of Christ by actively proclaiming the Good News of Salvation in the name of Jesus Christ to every person at every place and all the time because only He is 'the WAY, and the TRUTH, and the LIFE.' (Gospel of Saint John 14:6)

Anonymous Person's Thanksgiving Prayer:

"Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings, thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are many who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes closed against the morning light as long as possible, thank you, Lord, that I can see. Many are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off rising, thank you, Lord, that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bedridden.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned and tempers are short, my children are so loud, thank you, Lord, for having a family. There are so many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the pictures in the magazines and the menu is at times unbalanced, thank you, Lord, for the food we have. There are so many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job often is monotonous, thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work. There are so many who have no job.

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day and wish my circumstances were not so modest, thank you, Lord, for life. Amen.

Let us express our gratitude to the Almighty God for all visible and invisible to our eyes gifts we have received!

❖ **REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:** yourselves, Most Reverend Bishop-Emeritus Severian Yakymyshyn, Fr. Mark Fesniak., Lucy D., Janet F., Alex R., Volodymyr P., Ivan L., Fr. Edward Ewanko., 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 Dashkewytch, Olga Romanyshyn, Myron Stec, Kay Ilnitski, Kalyna Kociuba, Bronie Huska, Peter Huska, Stanley and Roma Nowakowski (Bishop Ken's parents), Barbara and Vincent Pasternak, Dorothy Scott, Lorraine Turcotte, 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!

❖ **Recording Secretary position is vacant at our parish executive council.** This parishioner (sister or brother in Christ) is recording and keeping the minutes of all monthly Parish Council Meetings; together with the Pastor and the Chairperson signs the adopted minutes of the Council. **If you have a gift and wish to share it as a recording secretary, please contact Mr. Neil Lalach or Fr. Pavlo.**

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

❖ **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.



Traditional and Very Delicious Ukrainian Food is available for sale at our parish: Pierogies – \$ 6.00 per dozen, Borschch – \$ 7.00 per a jar, Pies – \$ 9.00. For more information, please contact Mrs. Alice Pelechaty at 250-763-4870.

❖ **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!

❖ **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.

❖ **BE A STEWARD:** Have you ever wondered what more can you do to help our parish? 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!

❖ **PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE AND UKRAINE:** Sept. 4 - 22, 2019, an unforgettable experience with Sr. Angelica SSMI, brother & sister pilgrims. For details and price call Mrs. Myrna Arychuk at [604 - 617 - 7200](tel:604-617-7200)

❖ **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!

❖ **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.



Rachel's Corner: Healing after Abortion Ministry 250-762-2273
info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com or information and registration visit:
www.rachelsvineyardkelowna.com, Facebook: Rachel's Vineyard Kelowna
Rachel's Vineyard Retreat: Our next retreat, for anyone suffering from an abortion experience, will take place October 12, 2018. It is not too early to register. Please contact us at info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com, 250-762-2273.
Strict confidence is assured.

❖ **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*)

❖ **Home Blessing and Pastoral Annual Visitations sign up list to arrange the actual date is available at the entrance to the church and at the church hall. Please assist Fr. Pavlo in planning these visits by letting him know your most convenient time and day.**

❖ **Fr. Pavlo will be away at the Eparchial Clergy Conferences** that will take place from Tuesday, Oct. 9th to Thursday, Oct. 11th, 2018 in New Westminster, BC. No Divine Liturgies or other church services will be celebrated on these days at our parish. In case of pastoral emergency, please, call the nearest Roman Catholic Church.

❖ **ATTENTION TEENS! grades 8-12, NET Encounter Retreat Day Saturday October 24th from 9am - 9pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Parish Centre (West Kelowna).** Theme: 2 Billion People! Our World has been influenced by many people who have gone before us. Martin Luther King had a dream and from that equal rights was born. Terry Fox was determined not to let his cancer trump his passion for life and so he ran for cancer awareness. Jesus Christ came to die for the Salvation of the world and from that 2 Billion People call themselves Christians today and have transformed the world. In a world that tries to wipe out Jesus' relevance, how can we begin to understand the magnitude of His sacrifice in our day-to-day lives? Join us and the other youth from the parishes from the North and South Okanagan for an awesome Retreat Day. There is a live band, fun and games, praise and worship, prayer, friends, mass celebration and guest speaker Fr. Ron Dechant and much more! Cost is \$30.00/participant includes, lunch, dinner and snacks. Registration forms are available [here](#) or from your church/school office. Join us!

Homily of Pope Francis during the opening Mass of the Synod of Bishops



“The Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to remembrance all that I have said to you” (*Jn 14:26*).

In this straightforward way, Jesus offers his disciples the assurance that will accompany all the missionary work to be entrusted to them: the Holy Spirit will be the first to preserve, to keep alive and relevant, the memory of the Lord in the heart of his disciples. It is the Spirit who ensures that the richness and beauty of the Gospel will be a source of constant joy and freshness.

At the start of this moment of grace for the whole Church, and following God’s word, we ask the Paraclete to help us preserve the memory of the Lord and rekindle in us his words that have made our hearts burn (cf. *Lk 24:32*). A Gospel ardour and passion which lead to an ardour and passion for Jesus. A memory that can rekindle and renew in us the *capacity to dream and to hope*. For we know that our young people will be capable of prophesy and vision to the extent that we, who are already adult or elderly, can dream and thus be infectious in sharing those dreams and hopes that we carry in our hearts (cf. *Joel 2:28*).

May the Spirit grant us the grace to be synodal Fathers anointed with the gift of dreaming and of hoping. We will then, in turn, be able to anoint our young people with the gift of prophecy and vision. May the Spirit give us the grace to be a memory that is diligent, living and effective, that does not allow itself from one generation to the next to be extinguished or crushed by the prophets of doom and misfortune, by our own shortcomings, mistakes and sins. Rather may it be a memory capable of enkindling our hearts and of discerning the ways of the Spirit. With this attitude of docile listening to the voice of the Spirit, we have gathered from all parts of the world. Today, for the first time, we have also with us two bishops from mainland China. We offer them our warm welcome: the communion of the entire Episcopate with the Successor of Peter is yet more visible thanks to their presence.

Anointed by hope, let us begin a new ecclesial meeting. One that can broaden our horizons, expand our hearts and transform those frames of mind that today paralyze, separate and alienate us from young people, leaving them exposed to stormy seas, orphans without a faith community that should sustain them, orphans devoid of a sense of direction and meaning in life (cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 49).

Hope challenges us, moves us and shatters that conformism which says, “it’s always been done like this”. Hope asks us to get up and look directly into the eyes of young people and see their situations. This same hope asks us to make efforts to reverse situations of uncertainty, exclusion and violence, to which our young people are exposed.

Having been formed by so many choices taken in the past, young people now call us to join them in facing the present with greater commitment and to work against whatever prevents their lives from growing in a dignified way. They ask us and demand of us a creative dedication, a dynamism which is intelligent, enthusiastic and full of hope. They ask us *not to leave them alone* in the hands of so many peddlars of death who oppress their lives and darken their vision.

This capacity to dream together that our Lord offers the Church today as a gift, requires, as Saint Paul expresses in the first reading, that we cultivate one specific attitude: “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (*Phil 2:4*). And it requires that we aim even higher, humbly considering others to be better than ourselves (cf. v.3). In this spirit we will try to listen to one another, in order to discern together what the Lord is asking of his Church. And this demands that we be really careful against succumbing to a self-preservation and self-centredness which gives importance to what is secondary yet makes secondary what is important. Love for the Gospel and for the people who have been entrusted to us, challenges us to broaden our horizons and not lose sight of the mission to which we are called. In this way we shall aim for an even greater good that will benefit all of us. Without this disposition, all of our efforts will be in vain.

The gift of that ability to listen, sincerely and prayerfully, as free as possible from prejudice and conditioning, will help us to be part of those situations which the People of God experience. Listening to God, so that with him we can listen to the cry of the people; listening to our people, so that we can breathe in with them the desire to which God calls us (cf. *Address during the Prayer Vigil in preparation for the Synod on the Family*, 4 October 2014). This disposition

protects us from the temptation of falling into moralistic or elitist postures, and it protects us from the lure of abstract ideologies that never touch the realities of our people (cf. J.M. Bergoglio, *Meditations for Religious*, 45-46).

Dear brothers and sisters, let us entrust this time to the maternal protection of Our Lady. May she, the woman who listens and cherishes memories, accompany us in recognizing the signs of the Spirit, so that with a sense of urgency (cf. *Lk* 1:39), with our dreams and hopes, we may accompany and encourage our young people to always continue prophesying.

Dear Synod Fathers, many of us were young or taking our first steps in the religious life while the Second Vatican Council was drawing to a close. The final message of the Council Fathers was addressed to the youth of that time. That message which we ourselves heard in our youth will do us much good if we revisit it in our hearts with the help of the poet's words: "May the man hold fast to what the child has promised" (Friedrich Hölderlin, *Poems*).

This is how the Council Fathers spoke to us: "For four years the Church has been working to rejuvenate her image in order to respond the better to the design of her Founder, the great Living One, the Christ who is eternally young. At the term of this imposing re-examination of life, she now turns to you. It is for you, youth, especially for you that the Church now comes through her council to enkindle your light, the light which illuminates the future, your future. The Church is anxious that this society that you are going to build up should respect the dignity, the liberty and the rights of individuals. These individuals are you. [...] She trusts [...] that you will express your faith in life and in what gives meaning to life: the certainty of the existence of a good and just God. It is in the name of this God and of His Son, Jesus, that we exhort you to open your hearts to the dimensions of the world, to heed the appeal of your brothers, to place your youthful energies at their service. Fight against all egoism. Refuse to give free course to the instincts of violence and hatred which beget wars and all their train of miseries. Be generous, pure, respectful and sincere, and build in enthusiasm a better world than your elders had" (Paul VI, *Closing of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Address to Young Men and Women of the World*, 8 December 1965). Dear Synod Fathers, the Church looks to you with confidence and love.

Source: Press Office of the Holy See: <http://www.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/en/news/homily-of-pope-francis-during-the-opening-mass-of-the-synod-of-b.html>

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