

Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Dormition of the Mother of God

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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>

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

Українська Католицька Церква Успення Пресвятої Богородиці

4th Sunday after Pentecost - July 7th, 2019 A.D.

'All human persons – all of us – are important in God's eyes.'

– 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: 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:

Saturday, July 13th (Service in Penticton, BC)

– 4:00 p.m. The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all parishioners

Sunday, July 14th – 8:15 a.m. Rosary: (Service in Kelowna, BC)

– 9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all parishioners



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 Romans: (Rom. 6:18-23; 28-39)

Brothers and Sisters, you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: (Matthew 8:5-13; 5:1-16)

At that time, when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." And the servant was healed in that hour. When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will

be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

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.**

Літургійні частини Українською мовою:

Глас 3, текст з книги "**Божественна Літургія Святого Івана Золотоустого**"; стт. 92-94

Апостол: До Римлян послання Святого Апостола Павла читання: (Рм. 6, 18-23; 28-39)

Браття і Сестри, звільнившись від гріха, стали слугами праведності. Я говорю по-людському, через неміч вашого тіла. Бо так, як ви колись віддавали ваші члени на служіння нечистоті і беззаконню, щоб жити беззаконно, так тепер віддайте ваші члени на служіння праведності, на освячення. Коли ж ви були слугами гріха, ви були вільні від праведності. Які ж плоди ви тоді мали? Того ви тепер соромитеся, бо кінець їхній – смерть. Тепер же, звільнившись від гріха і ставши слугами Богові, маєте ваш плід на освячення, а кінець – життя вічне. Бо заплата за гріх – смерть, а дар ласки Божої – життя вічне в Христі Ісусі, Господі нашим ... Ми знаємо, що тим, які люблять Бога, – покликаним за його постановою, усе спідіє на добро. Бо яких він передбачив, тих наперед призначив, щоб були подібні до образу Сина його, щоб він був первородний між багатьма братами; яких же наперед призначив, тих і покликав; а яких покликав, тих оправдав; яких же оправдав, тих і прославив. Що скажемо на це? Коли Бог за нас, хто проти нас? Він власного Сина свого не пощадив, а видав його за всіх нас, – як же разом із ним не подарує нам усього? Хто буде винуватити вибраних Божих? Бог – той, що оправдує; хто ж той, що засудить? Христос Ісус, який умер, ба й воскрес, що по правіці Божій, – він заступається за нас. Хто нас відлучить від Христової любові? Горе чи утиск, чи переслідування, чи голод, чи нагота, чи небезпека, чи меч? Як написано: "За тебе нас увесь день убивають, уважають нас за овець (призначених) на заріз." Але в усьому цьому ми маємо повну перемогу завдяки тому, хто полюбив нас. Бо я певний, що ні смерть, ні життя, ні ангели, ні князівства, ні теперішнє, ні майбутнє, ні сили ні висота, ні глибина, ані інше якесь створіння не зможе нас відлучити від Божої любові, що в Христі Ісусі, Господі нашим.



Євангеліє: (Мт. 8:5-13; 5:1-16)

У той час, коли Ісус увійшов у Капернаум, приступив до нього сотник, благаючи його словами: "Господи, слуга мій лежить дома розслаблений і мучиться тяжко." Ісус каже до нього: "Я прийду й оздоровлю його." Тоді сотник у відповідь мовив: "Господи, я недостойний, щоб ти ввійшов під мою покрівлю, але скажи лише слово і слуга мій видужає. Бо і я теж підвладний чоловік, маю вояків під собою, і кажу цьому: Іди, – і йде, а тому: Ходи, – і приходить; і слугі моєму: Зроби це, – і він робить." Почувши це Ісус, здивувався і сказав тим, що за ним ішли: "Істинно кажу вам: Ні в кого в Ізраїлі я не знайшов такої віри. Кажу вам, що багато прийде зо сходу й заходу, і засядуть з Авраамом, Ісааком та Яковом у Царстві Небеснім, а сини царства будуть викинуті геть у темряву кромішню, де буде плач і скрегіт зубів." І сказав Ісус сотникові: "Іди, хай тобі станеться за твоєю вірою!" І видужав слуга тієї ж години... Ісус вийшов на гору. І коли він сів, підійшли до нього його учні; а він, відкривши уста, почав навчати їх: "Блаженні вбогі духом, бо їхнє Царство Небесне. Блаженні тихі, бо вони усядуть на землю. Блаженні засмучені, бо будуть утішені. Блаженні голодні та спрагли справедливості, бо вони наситяться. Блаженні милосердні, бо вони зазнають милосердя. Блаженні чисті серцем, бо вони побачать Бога. Блаженні миротворці, бо вони синами Божими назвуться. Блаженні переслідувані за правду, бо їхнє Царство Небесне. Блаженні ви, коли вас будуть зневажати, гонити та виговорювати всяке лихо на вас, обмовляючи мене ради. Радійте й веселіться, бо нагорода ваша велика на небі; так бо переслідували пророків, які були перед вами. Ви – сіль землі. Коли ж сіль звітріє, чим її солоною зробити? Ні на що не придатна більше, хіба – викинути її геть, щоб топтали люди. Ви – світло світу. Не може схватись місто, що лежить на вершій гори. І не запалюють світла та й не ставлять його під посудиною, лише на свічник, і воно світить усім у хаті. Так нехай світить перед людьми ваше світло, щоб вони, бачивши ваші добрі вчинки, прославляли вашого Отця, що на небі.

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, talents and treasures, volunteered, organized coffee-socials, make donations, everyone who knowingly and unknowingly for the other people thoughtfully care and help our parish community, parishioners welcoming our guests and visitors, prayerfully participate at the church services, 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)

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Sincerest prayerful greetings to Kayla Pfob and Andrew Bowie who receive the Mystery/Sacrament of Marriage at our Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kelowna today. May the Almighty God bless your young Christian family, your parents and all relatives and friends with good health, love, peace, prosperity and salvation for many, happy and blessed years of life!

May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in many, happy and blessed years of life to our Eparch Most Reverend Bishop Ken Nowakowski as His Excellency celebrates his 12th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination (July 24th), Mr. Peter Bihun on his birthday (July 8th), Mr. Wesley and Mrs. Monica Schaumleffel on their 4th wedding anniversary (July 11th), Mrs. Yulia Lynova on her birthday (July 11th), Mr. Chris and Mrs. Gale Billinton on their



wedding anniversary (July 16th), Mr. Ron and Mrs. Lydia Pfob on their wedding anniversary (July 18th), Mr. Bill Wilson on his birthday (July 18th), Mrs. Diana Wilson on her birthday (July 20th), Jacob Verhelst on his birthday (July 22nd), Mr. Lawrence and Mrs. Judy Syrnyk on their golden 50th wedding anniversary (July 26th), and to all who celebrate their birthdays, heavenly patron's name-days of Saint Princess Olga, Saint Prince Volodymyr, Saint Prophet Ellias, and all our parishioners and family members who celebrate their birthdays, heavenly patron's /saint's name-days, wedding anniversaries and any other special anniversaries this week – Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR PARISHIONERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WHO HAVE JOINED US IN THIS DIVINE LITURGY. THANK YOU FOR PRAYERFUL PRESENCE AND FULLFILLING GOD'S COMANDMENT AT THE CHUCH TODAY! EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME TO COME AND ATTEND CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AT THE CHURCH HALL TODAY!

Wishing you to be guided by the Holy Spirit, blessed with joy, peace and Christian love always!

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, Olga Kuzyk, Anthony and Victoria Huziak, George and Mary Dashkewytch, Olga Romanyshyn, Myron Stec, Kay Ilitski, Kalyna Kociuba, William Shuya, Maria Pylypchuk, 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, John and Ann Bulych, Joseph Stetch, Rosa Maria Santos, Anita N., Ron and Verna Shoemaker, Jonas and Anne, Alyssa and Adam, Mark and Asia, Karen Feniuk, Volodymyr Melnyk and all members of our parish family 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 or her know that our parish community misses this brother or sister at the church very much and prays for them daily!

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.

❖ **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.*

Pastoral and Sacramental Ministry:

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

Funerals and Memorials: by appointment. * 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. *If you need to meet with the parish priest, please, call or email in advance to arrange time and a day.*

❖ **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 Mrs. Yvonne Crawford or Fr. Pavlo for more information. You will be amazed how "BEING" can make a difference at our spiritual, parish life!

❖ **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*)



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.



❖ **‘Joyful Summer with God’ – our parish summer camp will be from 9:00 am to 11:30 am from Tuesday, August 13 to Thursday, August 15th, 2019 A.D.** Children from age 5 to 12 years old are very welcome. Please, Contact Mrs. Marilyn Daulat or Fr. Pavlo for more information.

❖ **Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church Praznyk/Feast Day will be celebrated on Sunday, August 18th, 2019 A.D.**

The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m.

Dinner / Reception to follow at the church hall. (Clergy and Religious – FREE, Adults (15 years and older) - \$20, Youth (age 7-14) - \$10, Children (6 years of age and younger) - FREE). Please, let us know about your participation. Please RSVP - call or email one of the following contacts if you will

attend: Dormition Parish office - Tel.: 250-860-7295, Email: dormitionkelowna@gmail.com

We are looking forward to pray, welcome and share the blessings and joy of this wonderful parish celebration with all of you!

❖ **If you wish to help or have any questions, suggestions, ideas about our parish community life, please, contact our parish executive council chairperson Mrs. Yvonne Crawford.**

❖ **Please, see our parish May 2019 Financial Statement** presented at the church vestibule and parish hall bulletin boards.

❖ **Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts and his family will be away on annual vacations from July 8th until August 8th, 2019. Rev. Fr. Stepan Dovhoshyia will be substituting. In case of emergency, please, call Saint Pius Xth Roman Catholic Church or Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Kelowna, BC.**

❖ **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!**

❖ **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!

❖ **Rachel's Corner:** “No matter how dark it gets, when you light a candle, the darkness can never overpower the light of Christ. We need to be a people of hope and recognize that God's love in that light overpowers our darkness.” - teaches Rev. Fr. Larry Richards

Is it hard to imagine what it would be like to escape the darkness you have known since your abortion decision? Would you be willing to invite God in, so He can show you the way with His light? Join us on a Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat. Join us on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat and let the healing begin. Life can be so much better. Give yourself the chance. Join us on a Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat and come alive again as you are warmed by the rays of His healing mercy. www.RachelsVineyardKelowna.com info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com 250-762-2273 Like us on Facebook: Rachel's Vineyard Kelowna



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VOLUNTEER as our Camp Nurse. We are looking for an individual to be our camp nurse. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the children in our Eparchy. This position would require valid first aid and nursing certification. Responsibilities would include administering medications brought by campers/staff as well as recording all incidents and treatments. Supplies and medications are provided by the camp.

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DONATE Monetarily: Each year the Eparchy sponsors several children to attend. You can help send a deserving child to camp through your donations. Donation can be made through the Eparchy or online at our Eventbrite page. Tax receipts can be issued for donations of \$25 or more. Visit our website www.nweparchy.ca

HELP NEEDED at CAMP ST. VOLODYMYR: We are currently in need of a camp nurse, kitchen coordinator and part/daytime help in the kitchen. If you are interested or know of anyone who may be able to fulfill these roles please contact Jennifer Caldwell @ 604.220.0584 or jennsawka@hotmail.com. Visit our website via www.nweparchy.ca

Ukrainian Greek-Catholic leaders meet with Pope at the Vatican

05 July 2019, 13:09

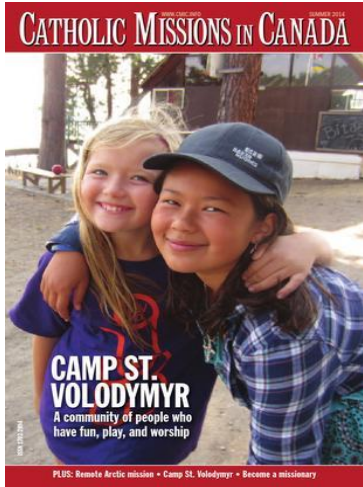
A two-day meeting with leaders of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, convened by Pope Francis, begins Friday at the Vatican. Present for the encounter are the Greek Catholic Major Archbishop of Kyiv-Halych, Sviatoslav Shevchuk; the members of the Permanent Synod and the Metropolitans of the Church; and the heads of various dicasteries of the Roman Curia.

The meeting at the Vatican of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, called by Pope Francis, begins today. The encounter, which concludes on Saturday, calls together the Greek Catholic Major Archbishop of Kyiv-Halych, Sviatoslav Shevchuk; the members of the Permanent Synod and the Metropolitans of the Church; and the heads of the dicasteries of the Roman Curia that are competent for the Country.

Sign of closeness

In the statement announcing the meeting, the Holy See Press Office said, "In the delicate and complex situation in which Ukraine finds itself, the Holy Father... wishes to give a sign of his closeness to the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church that carries out pastoral service both at home and in various places in the world.

"This meeting will also offer a further opportunity to deepen the analysis of the life and needs of Ukraine, with the aim of identifying the ways in which the Catholic Church, and in particular the Greek-Catholic Church, can dedicate itself ever more effectively to preaching the Gospel, contributing to the support of those who suffer and promoting peace, in agreement, as far as possible, with the Catholic Church of the Latin rite and with other Churches and Christian communities."



The humanitarian mission the Pope desires for Ukraine

Pope Francis has always had this country particularly at heart, ravaged by a conflict that has been ongoing for five years. In 2016, he promoted a humanitarian initiative for Ukraine, with an active participation of the Catholic churches in Europe and of the faithful of the other parts of the world, and with the collaboration of other confessions and international organization, to meet, in a concrete manner, the basic needs of the inhabitants of the territories struck by the war.

The prayer for peace

Pope Francis has made numerous appeals for peace in Ukraine. In his Easter message this year, the Holy Father said, “May this Easter bring comfort to the people of the eastern regions of Ukraine, who suffer from the continuing conflict. May the Lord encourage initiatives of humanitarian aid and those aimed at pursuing a lasting peace.”

Relations with the Orthodox

In January, Pope Francis met with Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, the Apostolic Nuncio to Ukraine. A statement from the nunciature said that the Pope “dwelled upon the delicate conditions of the relations within the Orthodoxy, on the contribution which the Catholic Churches in Ukraine bring to the well-being of the country, on the political and social environment, particularly the need to make every possible effort in the attempts to favour peace through dialogue, for the wellbeing of the citizens and the commitments to improve the the conditions of everybody and the full exercise of religious freedom.”

Respect for international law

That same month, speaking to the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See, Pope Francis had drawn attention to the humanitarian initiative he had launched in favour of the suffering people of Ukraine: “The Church and her various institutions will pursue this mission, also in the hope of drawing greater attention to other humanitarian questions, including that of the treatment of the numerous prisoners. Through her activities and her closeness to the people involved, the Church strives to encourage, directly and indirectly, peaceful paths to the solution of the conflict, paths that are respectful of justice and law, including international law, which is the basis of security and coexistence in the entire region. To this end, the instruments that guarantee the free exercise of religious rights remain important.”

Fraternity and friendship

Ukraine was also in the Pope’s thoughts during Christmas. He prayed for the country in his Urbi et Orbi address: “May the Newborn Lord bring relief to the beloved land of Ukraine, yearning to regain a lasting peace that is slow to come. Only with a peace respectful of the rights of every nation can the country recover from the sufferings it has endured and restore dignified living conditions for its citizens. I am close to the Christian communities of the region, and I pray that they may develop relationships of fraternity and friendship.”

Cardinal Turkson in Ukraine

In November of 2018, Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development, together with the under-secretary, Segundo Tejado Muñoz, undertook a humanitarian mission to Ukraine.

Meeting with the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic community in Rome

At the beginning of last year, on 28 January 2018, Pope Francis met the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Community at Basilica of Santa Sofia on the Via Boccea in Rome. During his visit, the Holy Father said, “I am here today to tell you all that I am close to you: close with my heart, with my prayers, and when I celebrate the Eucharist. There I beg the Prince of Peace that the weapons of war might be silenced. I also ask of Him that you would no longer have to make enormous sacrifices to sustain your loved ones.”

by Vatican News web-source: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2019-07/ukrainian-greek-catholic-leaders-meet-with-pope-in-the-vatican.html?fbclid=IwAR1DdevvI5EiryuUGP6hEgZA8UOZtxcFJUSUt3kSSITm7AHXtrVDNUNImEM>

Meetings with Putin, Ukraine bishops illustrate unresolved conflict

ROME - Just a day after meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pope Francis met with the bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, who have strongly opposed Russian meddling in the conflict-torn Eastern Ukraine.

Russian-backed separatists have battled Ukrainian government forces since Russia’s 2014 annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.

In a speech to the bishops Friday, Francis said Ukraine for five years has been marked “by a conflict which many call ‘hybrid,’ composed as it is of acts of war where those responsible are camouflaged.”

It is a conflict, he said, “where the smallest ones pay the highest price, a conflict aggravated by propagandistic falsifications and manipulations of every type, even by the attempt to involve the religious aspect.”

He voiced hope that political leaders would not seek “the so-called partisan good, which in the end is always an interest to the detriment of someone else,” but rather peace and the common good.



Asking God to console all those who have been displaced or lost loved ones in the conflict, Francis noted that every morning and every evening he contemplates an image of the Virgin Mary given to him by Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kiev-Halych, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

“In front of that icon I begin and end my days entrusting to the tenderness of the Madonna, who is Mother, each of you and your Church,” he said, stressing that the Church’s role in conflict is to bear witness to hope.

He also encouraged the bishops to prioritize their spiritual lives, focusing on prayer and being present for their people, especially those who are suffering.

Shevchuk is at the two-day meeting at the Vatican along with members of the church’s permanent synod, its metropolitan archbishops and the heads of

all relevant Vatican departments.

Announcing the meeting earlier this year, the Vatican said in a statement that it was intended “to give a sign of his closeness to the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church that carries out pastoral service both at home and in various places in the world.”

“This meeting will also offer a further opportunity to deepen the analysis of the life and needs of Ukraine, with the aim of identifying the ways in which the Catholic Church, and in particular the Greek-Catholic Church, can dedicate itself ever more effectively to preaching the Gospel, contributing to the support of those who suffer and promoting peace,” the statement said.

To date, more than 10,000 people have been killed in the conflict, while thousands of others are missing and millions displaced. In addition to the physical wounds of the conflict, many are dealing with the psychological strain of being engaged in an endless war, which has cost many people their homes and livelihoods.

Greek Catholic bishops in Ukraine, and Shevchuk in particular, have been loudly outspoken on the conflict, calling Russia an aggressor and insisting the conflict, though largely forgotten in the international community, is the worst Europe has seen since the Second World War.

Ukraine’s new president, Volodymyr Zelensky, who was sworn into office May 20, said resolving the conflict with Russian-backed rebels in the country’s eastern region would be his top priority.

A political outsider, Zelensky was most known in his homeland as the star of a 2015-2019 comedy TV series in which he portrayed the country’s president.

At the time of Zelensky’s inauguration, Putin said he would not congratulate the new Ukrainian leader on taking office but would wait to see signs of success in resolving the conflict first.

Zelensky, who has voiced his desire to establish dialogue with residents in occupied territories in the east, met with Shevchuk in May prior to his inauguration.

According to a statement from the government press office, Zelensky thanked Shevchuk for his spiritual support of citizens during the years of conflict, making note of the Greek Catholic Church’s service in the conflict area.

Mainly operating through their local Caritas branch, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church has offered humanitarian support to residents in the region suffering from a lack of basic foods and supplies, as well as medical treatment. They have also assisted thousands in evacuating the area, including many elderly unable to leave without assistance, and have offered help to the displaced.

The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church makes up roughly 10 percent of the population, and is the largest of the eastern Catholic churches in communion with Rome.

Francis, who has known Shevchuk from his time in Argentina, has been keenly attentive to the conflict in Ukraine, consistently offering both statements and gestures of support to the Greek Catholic Church in the country.

In 2016, he took up a special collection throughout Europe to support all those suffering due to the conflict in Eastern Ukraine, making his own \$5 million donation. Funds gathered during the collection have gone into the “Pope for Ukraine” project, which continues to offer aid to both residents in the war zone and those who have been displaced.

In his speech to Ukraine’s Greek Catholic bishops, Francis said this first project is nearly finished, and would like “that other special projects follow,” ideas for which would be part of discussion during the bishops’ meeting in Rome.

Friday’s meeting with the Ukrainian bishops came just a day after Francis met with Putin, an encounter that focused largely on “various questions of relevance to the life of the Catholic Church in Russia,” according to a Vatican statement following the July 4 audience.

Other areas touched on, it said, were “various themes relating to current international affairs, with particular reference to Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela.”

Francis’s decision to hold back-to-back meetings with both Putin and Ukrainian Greek Catholic bishops was no doubt a bid to give more visibility to the conflict, but it also marks his desire to engage both sides in a concrete example of his continued insistence on dialogue as a path to peace.

Whether or not this will bear fruit is something to be seen, however, one certainty is that this issue will not fall off the pope’s radar anytime soon.

by Elise Harris on July 6, 2019 SENIOR CORRESPONDENT, *follow on Twitter: @eharris_it*
Source: <https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2019/07/06/meetings-with-putin-ukraine-bishops-illustrate-unresolved-conflict/>

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