

**Dormition of the Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church**

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Parish web-site: <http://kelowna.nweparchy.ca/> Pastor: Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts / о. Павло Миць
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Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster: www.nweparchy.ca



**Українська Католицька Церква
Успення Пресвятої Богородиці**



17th Sunday after Pentecost - October 6th, 2019 A.D.

“Caring for our little ones and for our elders is a choice for civilization. And also, for the future, because the little ones, the children, the young people will carry society forward by their strength, their youth, and the elderly people will carry it forward by their wisdom, their memory, which they must give to us 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: Glory to Jesus Christ! – Glory to Him Forever!
Слава Ісусу Христу! – Слава на Віку!
Slava Isusu Chrystu! – Slava na Viky!
Christ is among us! – He is and will be!**



Liturgical and Sacramental Celebrations:

- Mon., Oct. 7th - 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *repose of the soul of Mr. Harold Moffitt* (requested by Ms. Cheryl Shynkaryk and Family)
- Tue., Oct. 8th - 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *repose of the soul of Mrs. Maria Boyduy* (requested by Mrs. Lidia Devonshire)
- 6:30 p.m. Akathistos to Jesus Christ
- Wed., Oct. 9th - 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *repose of the soul of Mr. Nestor Zemlak* (requested by Ms. Sherry Zemlak)
- Thurs., Oct. 10th - 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *repose of the soul of Mr. Petro Boyduy* (requested by Mrs. Lidia Devonshire)
- Fri., Oct. 11th - 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *repose of the soul of Mrs. Sophia Stec* (requested by Mrs. Lidia Devonshire)
- Saturday, October 12th - 3:40 p.m. Lectio Divina / Bible Studies: (**Studies and Service in Penticton, BC**)
- 4:00 p.m. The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all parishioners
- Sunday, October 13th - 10:15 a.m. Rosary: (**Service in Kelowna, BC**)
- 11:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for all parishioners, guests and visitors*
- (service in English and Ukrainian languages)

Liturgical Propers in English language:

Tone 8, text from book “*The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*”; pages 105-107

Epistle: *A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians: (2 Cor. 6:16 - 7:1)*

Brothers and Sisters, you are the temple of the living God, just as God has said: “I will dwell with them and walk among them. I will be their God and they shall be my people. Therefore, ‘Come out from among them and separate yourselves from them,’ says the Lord; ‘and touch nothing unclean. I will welcome you and be a father to you and you will be my sons and daughters,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us purify ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, and in the fear of God strive to fulfill our consecration perfectly.

Gospel: (**Mt. 15:21-28**)

At that time, Jesus: withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. It happened that a Canaanite woman living in that locality presented herself, crying out to him, “Lord, Son of David, have pity on me! My daughter is terribly troubled by a demon.” He gave her no word of response. His disciples came up and began to entreat him, “Get rid of her. She keeps shouting after us.” “My mission is



only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel," Jesus replied. She came forward then and did him homage with the plea, "Help me, Lord!" But he answered, "It is not right to take the food of sons and daughters and throw it to the dogs." "Please, Lord," she insisted, "even the dogs eat the leavings that fall from their masters' tables." Jesus then said in reply, "Woman, you have great faith! Your wish will come to pass." That very moment her daughter got better.

Літургійні частини Українською мовою:

Глас 8, текст "Божественна Літургеія Святого Івана Золотоустого"; сторінки 104-106

Апостол: До Коринтян другого послання Святого Апостола Павла читання: (2 Кор. 6, 16 - 7, 1)

Браття і Сестри, ми бо храм Бога живого, як сам Бог сказав був: 'Я поселюся в них, і (посеред них) буду ходити. Буду їхнім Богом, вони ж будуть моїм народом. Тож вийдіть з-поміж них і відлучіться, – каже Господь. Нечистого не дотикайтесь, і я вас прийму. Я буду вам Отцем, ви ж будете мені синами та дочками – каже Господь Вседержитель.' Маючи ж такі обітницї, о любі, очистьмо себе від усякої скверни тіла і духа, довершуючи наше освячення в Божому острасі.



Євангеліє: (Мт. 15, 21-28)

Того часу ввійшов Ісус у сторони тирські та сидонські. Коли це жінка ханаанянка вийшла з цих околиць і почала кричати: "Змилуйся надо мною, Господи, Сину Давида! Біс мучить мою дочку страшенно." Він же не озвався до неї і словом. Тут приступили його учні й почали його просити: "Відпусти її, бо вона кричить за нами." А він у відповідь промовив: "Я посланий лише до загиблх овець дому Ізраїля." Та ж підійшла і, вклонившись йому в ноги, каже: "Господи, допоможи мені!" Він відповів їй: "Не личить брати хліб у дітей і кидати щеняттам." А вона каже: "Так, Господи! Але й щенята їдять кришки, що падають зо столу в панів їхніх." Тоді відповів їй Ісус: "О жінко, велика твоя віра! Хай тобі буде, як бажаєш." І видужала її дочка від тієї години.

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.**

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 at parish projects, Ms. Marie Shanalla and other thoughtful people for organizing a yard/tent sale, make donations, Mr. Eldon and Mrs. Elizabeth Hnylycia for buying a new deepfreezer for our parish use, those our parishioners who welcomed into their hospitable homes our guest-singers,, 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!!!

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 who celebrate their birthdays, heavenly patron's name-days 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 BY COMING TO THE CHUCH!

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., Deanna M, Danny M, Jordan M., Kit C., Shirley C., Peter Dranchuk, Olga Kuzyk, Anthony and Victoria Huziak, George and Mary Dashkewytch, Olga Romanyshyn, Myron Stec, Kay Ilnitski, Kalyna Kociuba, William Shuya, Maria Pylypchuk, Bronie Huska, Peter Huska, Stanley and Roma Nowakowski (Bishop Ken's parents), Barbara and Vincent Pasternak, 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

“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.



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 дїбр 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 світлом євангельського слова, молитви і добрих дїл, що кличе кожного до участі в Божественному житті, щоб славилосся, Спасе, Твоє Ім'я з безначальним Твоїм Отцем та пресвятим, благим і животворящим Твоїм Духом нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.



❖ **Parish Executive Council** meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 8th, 2019 A.D.

❖ **PLEASE NOTE: There will be only one bi-lingual Divine Liturgy celebrated at 11:00 am on Sunday, October 13th, 2019 A.D. A special parish family and friends Thanksgiving Dinner will be celebrated together right after the service. Please, do not forget to write your names and delicious meal you wish to bring and share attending this wonderful annual event.**

❖ **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!**

❖ On behalf of our parish family, I would like to express the deepest sympathy to Mrs. Rose Fylyshtan, their family, relatives and friends! **May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ place Mr. Marion Fylyshtan's soul in the place where all of the saints abide and may his memory be everlasting with the Lord and our prayers – Vichnaya Pamyat'/ Eternal Memory!**

❖ On behalf of our parish family, I would like to express the deepest sympathy to Mr. Ron Bidoka, their family, relatives and friends! **May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ place Mr. Richard Bidoka's soul in the place where all of the saints abide and may his memory be everlasting with the Lord and our prayers – Vichnaya Pamyat'/ Eternal Memory!**

❖ On behalf of our parish family, I would like to express the deepest sympathy to Ms. Cheryl Shynkaryk, their family, relatives and friends! **May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ place Mr. Harold Moffitt soul in the place where all of the saints abide and may his memory be everlasting with the Lord and our prayers – Vichnaya Pamyat'/ Eternal Memory!**

❖ **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!

❖ **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.** Email: Donoharmclinic@gmail.com or phone: **250-212-4899**

❖ **Rachel's Corner:** *“On this retreat I learned that wanting to die does not honor my son and that not only am I hurting myself, I am hurting those around me as well as his memory. I want to live. I want to learn to stop the things that I was doing to try to die. My son deserves more than that and he would want that for me too.”* -Testimonial

Come on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat and discover what it means to release that burden you have been carrying for years. Rediscover the person you were created to be. 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](https://www.facebook.com/RachelsVineyardKelowna)





Springfield Funeral Home is honored to present a FREE Grief Seminar for the public on Oct 9, 2019 at 6:00 pm. **Understanding the Grief process & How to Cope** will be presented by internationally renowned grief counsellor, speaker, author and TV Host, Dr. Bill Webster. Learn ways to develop strategies to support yourself and identify ways to help others move through the hurt to find healing. More information can be found at www.springfieldfuneralhome.com/events. Registration is recommended but not required. Light refreshments will be served.

ПАТРИАРША КАТЕХИТИЧНА КОМІСІЯ
УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ ГРЕКО-КАТОЛІЦЬКОЇ ЦЕРКВИ
вул. Хуторівка 35-Б - Львів 79031 - Україна
e-mail: pec.ugcc@gmail.com



PATRIARCHAL CATECHETICAL COMMISSION
UKRAINIAN GREEK-CATHOLIC CHURCH
35-B Khutorivka str. - Lviv 79031 - Ukraine
web: www.pec.ugcc.org.ua

Lviv, September 23, 2016, № 063 / 2019

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Dear Catechists,

“PASS IT ON”

I greet all of you as we begin a new Catechetical Year! And I express my gratitude to you on behalf of all the pastors of the Church for your beautiful ministry!

Imagine, Jesus' last words as he returns to the Father are addressed directly to catechists. Following his Resurrection, he says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28: 18-20).

With this, Jesus commissions his disciples, and not only his disciples, but all of us, to be catechists.

To be a catechist means to “pass it on.”

Let me explain.

My Grade 3 teacher was Mrs. James. Among the many lessons she taught us was how important is listening. She did so through a game known as the Telephone Game. In this popular children's game, the players stand in a circle, and the first player thinks up a short phrase and whispers it into the ear of the next player. The second player repeats the phrase into the ear of the next player, and so on. The last player says the phrase out loud. The fun in the game is to see whether or not the last phrase resembles the first, which can be quite funny when it doesn't (either through poor listening skills or when one of the players deliberately changes the phrase half-way through the game!)

Some common phrases in playing the game today are: “When I grow up, I want to be an elevator;” or “The best chips are chocolate chips;” or “Wouldn't the Minions look funny in contact lenses.”

If we play the game using Bible phrases, some popular phrases might be: “God is love;” or “Without Jesus, we can do nothing;” or, for the more adventurous, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (which is the very first “big” Bible verse that I learned as a youth!).

Our faith is intended to be passed on, from one generation to the next. Indeed, we can judge what makes a parish successful (or a family for that matter, which is the domestic Church) is its ability to pass on the faith from one generation of parishioners to the next, that is from parents to their children, and then to their grandchildren.

Catechists, as begin a new Catechetical Year, I pray that the Holy Spirit blesses you and your ministry in passing on our faith in Jesus Christ – who loves and cares for us – to our children, youth, and adults whom you teach, but also to your own children, family, and friends.

God bless you!

In Christ,
Bishop David Motiuk,
Chair Patriarchal Catechetical Commission
Eparchy of Edmonton

Львів, 23 вересня 2019р. Вих. № 063 / 2019

Високопреосвященним та Преосвященним Владикам, Головам Єпархіальних катехитичних комісії, Катехитам

Слава Ісусу Христу!

Дорогі катехити!

ПЕРЕДАВАЙМО ДАЛІ!

Вітаю всіх Вас з початком нового катехитичного року! І я висловлюю подяку Вам від імені всіх пасторів Церкви за Ваше прекрасне служіння!

Уявіть собі, останні слова Ісуса, коли Він повертається до Отця, адресовані безпосередньо катехитам! Після свого Воскресіння Він каже: «Дана мені всяка влада на небі й на землі. Ідїть, отже, і зробіть учнями всі народи: християчи їх в ім'я

Отця і Сина і Святого Духа; навчаючи їх берегти все, що я вам заповідав. Отож я з вами по всі дні аж до кінця віку» (Мт 28, 18-20).

Цим Ісус зобов'язує своїх учнів, і не тільки своїх учнів, але й усіх нас, бути катехитами.

Бути катехитом - означає "передавати далі".

Дозвольте мені пояснити.

Моєю вчителькою у 3 класі була пані Джеймс. Серед багатьох уроків, які вона навчила нас, було те, наскільки важливим є слухання. Вона зробила це через гру, відому як «Поламаний телефон». У цій популярній дитячій гравці стоять у колі, перший гравець придумує коротку фразу і шепоче її у вухо наступного. Другий гравець повторює фразу у вухо чергового гравця і так далі. Останній гравець вголос каже фразу, яка дійшла до нього. Суть гри полягає в тому, щоб порівняти, чи нагадує остання фраза першу, що може бути досить кумедно, коли це не відбувається (або через погані навички слухання, або коли хтось із гравців свідомо змінює фразу на половині шляху задля розваги!)

Деякі поширені фрази з цієї гри: «Коли я виросту, я хочу стати ліфтом», або «Найкращі чіпси - це шоколадні чіпси», або «Чи міньйони виглядали би смішними в контактних лінзах».

Якщо би ми пограли у цю гру, використовуючи біблійні фрази, деякі популярні фрази можуть бути: «Бог - це любов», або «Без Ісуса ми нічого не можемо зробити», або, для більшого азарту: «Бог бо так полюбив світ, що Сина свого Єдинородного дав, щоб кожен, хто вірує в нього, не загинув, а жив життям вічним»(це найперший «великий» вірш з Біблії, який я вивчив у юності!).

Наша віра призначена для передачі від покоління до покоління. Дійсно, ми можемо судити про те, що робить парафію (або сім'ю, як домашню Церкву) успішною у цьому питанні, - це її здатність передавати віру від одного покоління парафіян до іншого, тобто від батьків – до своїх дітей, а, відтак, – до своїх онуків.

Дорогі катехити, починаючи новий катехитичний рік, я молюсь, щоб Святий Дух благословляв Вас і Ваше служіння у передаванні нашої віри в Ісуса Христа, який любить і пікується про нас, – нашим дітям, молоді та дорослим, яких Ви навчаєте, але також – власним дітям, родині та друзям. Хай Господь Вас благословить!

У Христі,
Єпископ Давид Мотюк
Голова Патріаршої катехитичної комісії
Єпарх Едмонтонський

**Letter of the Holy Father Francis to
His Holiness Bartholomew I,
Archbishop of Constantinople,
accompanying the gift of some relics
of Saint Peter, 13.09.2019**

The following is the letter sent by the Holy Father Francis to His Holiness Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople, Ecumenical Patriarch, accompanying the gift of some relics of Saint Peter, consigned to the delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul:

Letter of the Holy Father

*To His Holiness Bartholomew
Archbishop of Constantinople
Ecumenical Patriarch*

Your Holiness, dear Brother,

With deep affection and spiritual closeness, I send you my cordial good wishes of grace and peace in the love of the Risen Lord. In these past weeks, I have often thought of writing to you to explain more fully the gift of some fragments of the relics of the Apostle Peter that I presented to Your Holiness through the distinguished delegation from the Ecumenical Patriarchate led by Archbishop Job of Telmessos which took part in the patronal feast of the Church of Rome.

Your Holiness knows well that the uninterrupted tradition of the Roman Church has always testified that the Apostle Peter, after his martyrdom in the Circus of Nero, was buried in the adjoining necropolis of the Vatican Hill. His tomb quickly became a place of



pilgrimage for the faithful from every part of the Christian world. Later, the Emperor Constantine erected the Vatican Basilica dedicated to Saint Peter over the site of the tomb of the Apostle.

In June 1939, immediately following his election, my predecessor Pope Pius XII decided to undertake excavations beneath the Vatican Basilica. The works led first to the discovery of the exact burial place of the Apostle and later, in 1952, to the discovery, under the high altar of the Basilica, of a funerary niche attached to a red wall dated to the year 150 and covered with precious graffiti, including one of fundamental importance which reads, in Greek, Πέτρος εϋι. This contained bones that can quite reasonably be considered those of the Apostle Peter. From those relics, now enshrined in the necropolis under Saint Peter's Basilica, Pope Saint Paul VI had nine fragments removed for the private chapel of the papal apartment in the Apostolic Palace.

The nine fragments were placed in a bronze case bearing the inscription, Ex ossibus quae in Archibasiliacae Vaticanae hypogeo inventa Beati Petri apostoli esse putantur: "Bones found in the earth beneath the Vatican Basilica considered to be those of Blessed Peter the Apostle". It was this same case, containing nine fragments of the bones of the Apostle, that I desired to present to Your Holiness and to the beloved Church of Constantinople over which you preside with such devotion.

As I reflected on our mutual determination to advance together towards full communion, and thanked God for the progress already made since our venerable predecessors met in Jerusalem over fifty years ago, I thought of the gift that Patriarch Athenagoras gave to Pope Paul VI: an icon depicting the brothers Peter and Andrew embracing, united in faith and in love of their common Lord. This icon that, at the behest of Pope Paul VI, is displayed today in the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, has become for us a prophetic sign of the restoration of that visible communion between our Churches to which we aspire and for which we fervently pray and work. Hence, in the peace born of prayer, I sensed that it would be highly significant were some fragments of the relics of the Apostle Peter to be placed beside the relics of the Apostle Andrew, who is venerated as the heavenly patron of the Church of Constantinople.

I sensed that this thought came to me from the Holy Spirit, who in so many ways prompts Christians to regain that full communion for which our Lord Jesus Christ prayed on the eve of his glorious Passion (cf. Jn 17:21).

This gesture is intended to be a confirmation of the journey that our Churches have made in drawing closer to one another: a journey at times demanding and difficult, yet one accompanied by evident signs of God's grace. Pursuing this journey calls above all for spiritual conversion and renewed fidelity to the Lord who requires on our part greater commitment and new, courageous steps. Difficulties and disagreements, now and in the future, must not distract us from our duty and responsibility as Christians, and particularly as Pastors of the Church, before God and history.

The joining of the relics of the two brother Apostles can also serve as a constant reminder and encouragement that, on this continuing journey, our divergences will no longer stand in the way of our common witness and our evangelizing mission in the service of a human family that today is tempted to build a purely secular future, a future without God.

Your Holiness, beloved Brother, I have found great comfort in sharing these thoughts with you. In the hope of soon encountering you once more, I ask you to pray for me and to bless me, and I exchange with Your Holiness a fraternal embrace of peace.

From the Vatican, 30 August 2019

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