

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

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

Email: dormitionkelowna@gmail.com



21st SUNDAY after PENTECOST / 21^a Неділя по Зісланні Св. Духа CHRIST THE KING - October 25th, 2020 A.D.

"If we want to advance in the spiritual life, then, we must constantly be missionaries." - 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



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!

Prayer During the Coronavirus Outbreak:

Lord, Our God,
We thank you for the life that is your gift,
For the providence that sustains us,
And for your wisdom that directs the course of our days.
The threat of an infection of coronavirus is upon us today.
This disease causes fear among us and has claimed lives.
We humbly beg you, loving Lord,
Dispel our fear and deliver us from this and other diseases.
Heal those who are afflicted and stop the spread of the virus.
Strengthen us in charity to care for one another.
For You are a God of mercy, kindness, and love, and we glorify You Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Молитва у Часі Спалаху Коронавірусу:

Господи, Боже наш,
Дякуємо Тобі за життя, яке є Твоім даром,
За провидіння, яке нас підтримує,
І за Твою мудрість, яка спрямовує хід наших днів.
Сьогодні перед нами загроза зараження коронавірусом.
Ця хвороба викликає страх серед нас і забирає життя.
Ми смирено просимо Тебе, люблячого Господа,
Розвій наш страх і позбав нас від цієї та усіх інших хвороб.
Вилікуй тих, хто страждає, і зупини поширення вірусу.
Зміцнюй нас у благодаті, щоб ми дбали одні про одних.
Бо Ти - Бог милосердя, доброти та любові, і ми прославляємо Тебе Отця, Сина і Святого Духа, нині, і повсякчас і на віки вічні. Амінь.

Please contact Fr. Pavlo if you want to have the Divine Liturgies celebrated in your special intentions, such as: In Thanksgiving for Favours Received, the Infirm, General Intentions, Repose of the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travelers, Students, Workers, etc. In case of emergency phone (250) 299-7249. If you would like to come to Confession, meet with the parish priest at the church or parish office, receive spiritual care and support via telephon or internet, want him to visit you, your relative or friend at their home, hospital or care homes, please, call or email the pastor in advance to arrange time and a day.

Liturgical propers in English language:

Tone 4, text from book "*The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*"; pages 95-97

Epistle: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians: (Gal. 2:16-20)



Brothers and Sisters, yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gospel: (Luke 8: 5:15)

"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

At the conclusion of every Divine Liturgy we say an additional prayer for peace in Ukraine until the end of the war and in the whole World:
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 4, текст "Божественна Літургія Святого Івана Золотоустого"; сторінки 94-96

Апостол: До Галатів послання Святого Апостола Павла читання: (Гал. 2, 16-20)

Браття та Сестри, довідавшись, що людина оправдується не ділами закону, а через віру в Ісуса Христа, ми й вірували в Христа Ісуса, щоб оправдатися нам вірою в Христа, а не ділами закону; бо ніхто не оправдається ділами закону. Коли ж, шукаючи оправдання у Христі, виявилось, що й ми самі грішники, – то невже Христос – слуга гріха? Жадним робом! Бо коли я знову відбудовую те, що зруйнував був, то я себе самого оголошую переступником. Я бо через закон для закону вмер, щоб для Бога жити: я – розп'ятий з Христом. Живу вже не я, а живе Христос у мені. А що живу тепер у тілі, то живу вірою в Божого Сина, який полюбив мене й видав себе за мене.



Євангеліє: (Лк. 8,5-15)

Сказав Господь притчу оцю: "Вийшов сіяч сіяти своє зерно. І як він сіяв, одне впало край дороги й було потоптане, і птиці небесні його видзьобали. Друге упало на камінь і, зійшовши, висхло, бо вогкості не мало. Інше впало між тернину, і тернина, вигнавшись з ним вкупі, його заглушила. Врешті, інше впало на добру землю і, зійшовши, сторицею вродило." Кажучи це, Ісус голосно мовив: "Хто має вуха слухати, нехай слухає." Учні його спитали, що б вона могла значити, оця притча. Він сказав їм: "Вам дано знати тайни Божого Царства; іншим же в притчах, щоб вони, дивлячись, не бачили, і слухаючи, не розуміли. Ось що значить оця притча: зерно це слово Боже. Тії, що край дороги, це ті, що слухають, та потім приходять диявол і вириває геть з їх серця слово, щоб вони не вірували та й не спаслися. Ті ж, що на камені, це тії, що, почувши, з радістю приймають слово, але не маючи коріння, вірують дотепер і під час спокуси відпадають. А те, що впало між тернину, це ті, що вислухавши, ідуть, та клопоти, багатства і життєві розкоші їх душать, і вони не дають плоду. Нарешті, те, що на землі добрій, це ті, що чувши слово серцем щирим, добрим, його держать і дають плід у терпінні."

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, help to sanitize and clean at the parish after church services, Mr. Edward and Mrs. Marian Kaskiw for \$100.00 donation toward the purchase of a deep freezer, parishioners who volunteered to fix hall roof and clean gutters, anonymously donated two new safety glass for Tetrapod and Proskomodiinyk liturgical church use, every person who knowingly and unknowingly for the other people thoughtfully make donations, care and help our parish community in various ways and projects by keeping and sharing their Christian love, unity by looking after and graciously supporting our Christian, Catholic Church community! May the Almighty God bless and abundantly reward your time, care and generosity!

➤ Holy Resurrection Parish in Penticton: Sunday (Oct. 18th) Divine Liturgy donation was \$ 210.00

➤ Dormition of The Mother of God Parish in Kelowna: Sunday (Oct. 18th) Divine Liturgy donation was \$ 720.00.

+ \$ 50.00 through e-transfer was received on Tue. of Oct. 20th, 2020 A.D.

DONATIONS! Amid Covid-19 outbreak causing these challenging times we continue to rely on your generosity. **Please continue to support our parish financially by e-transfer** (it is a direct deposit, no security question is needed) via dormitiontransfer2020@gmail.com or mailing a cheque payable to **Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church** 1091 Coronation Ave., Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8 Thank you for your support and care at this uneasy time for us all.

"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!

ЩИРО ВАМ ВІТАЄМО!

May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation for many, happy and blessed years of life to Mr. Andrew and Mrs. Karen Feniuk on their 50th Wedding Anniversary (Oct. 26th), Mr. Florian Vedress on his birthday today (Oct. 28th), Mr. John Hill on his birthday (Oct. 28th), Mr. Ihor Voytovych on his birthday today (Oct. 29th), Mrs. Naomi Lindstein on her birthday (Oct. 30th), 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 / Many Blessed Years of Life!

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LIVE STREAMING of church services from Dormition of the Mother of God

Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kelowna, B.C.: <https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5>

You can also view 24 / 7 many inspiring videos, articles, pictures, etc. are regularly published by the pastor. Please visit our parish Facebook page: **DormitionKelowna Parish: <https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5>**

✚ Please also welcome to visit our Cathedral Facebook page for live-stream videos of the liturgical services at Holy Eucharist Cathedral <https://www.facebook.com/holyeucharistcathedral/>

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING TO GOD AT THE CHURCH, YOUR HOMES AND ON-LINE TODAY!

Wishing you and all your dear ones to be blessed by God with health, hope, joy, peace and Christian love!

**Liturgical and Sacramental Services are celebrated
by your spiritual father-pastor at the church during this week:**

SUNDAY, October 25th at 8:15 a.m. Rosary: (Service in Kelowna, BC)

at **9:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings of all our parishioners, relatives and friends. (in Engl.)

at **11:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings of all our parishioners, relatives and friends. (in Ukr.)

at **7:00 p.m.** Vespers



Mon., Oct. 26th (**Great-Martyr Demetrius**) at 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for all suffering Christians in the World today.*
 Tue., Oct. 27th at 8:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *Rest of the soul of Mr. Eugene Wyshynsky* (requested by Mrs. Ann Wyshynsky)
 Wed., Oct. 28th at 8:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for Mrs. Ann Wyshynsky* (requested by Mrs. Ann Wyshynsky)
 Fri., Oct. 30th at 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *Rest of the soul of Mr. Nestor Zemliak*
 Sat., Oct. 31st at 3:40 p.m. Lectio Divina / Bible Studies: (**Studies and Service in Penticton, BC**)
 at 4:00 p.m. The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for all parishioners* (in Eng.&Ukr.)

SUNDAY, November 1st at 8:15 a.m. Rosary: (**Service in Kelowna, BC**)
 at 9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for all our parishioners, relatives and friends.* (in English language)
 at 11:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for all our parishioners, relatives and friends.* (in Ukrainian language)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR: Most Reverend Bishop-Emeritus Severian Yakymyshyn, Lucy D., Janet F., Volodymyr P., Ivan L., Ray Saranchuk, Cameron V., Rose Ostopowich, Keyton A., Danny M, Jordan M., Kit C., Shirley C., Olga Kuzyk, George Dashkewych, Olga Romanyshyn, Myron Stec, Kay Ilnitski, Kalyna Kociuba, William Shuya, Maria Pylypchuk, Bronie Huska, Peter Huska, Roma Nowakowski, Barbara and Vincent Pasternak, Lorraine Turcotte, Dr. Nadia Popil, the Hillman Family, John 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, Marilyn Daulat and Family, Shelley Zemliak, Ron Horon, Adeline Sorochuk and all members of our parochial family and those who are not able to join actively in our community, your families, relatives, friends and neighbours; governments and armed forces, especially the shut-in or those in the hospitals, traveling, working or studying, nursing and senior homes, seeking God's answer to their prayers or those rejoicing with God's answer; your spiritual fathers, those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries; those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind; widows and widowers, orphans, homeless, those who love us and those who hate, use & hurt us; and all people who have asked us pray for them. Please, also in your kindness keep praying those daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Remember to ask for special blessings to all Christian families and yourselves! **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 or 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 his or her 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.

Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for October 2020 A.D.

- For Catholic Education: For protection and graces during this time of Pandemic, we pray to the Lord.
- For educators and school staff called to live a life of love and sacrifice during Covid 19, we pray to the Lord.
- For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may show the love of God in the world, we pray to the Lord.
- For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may be blessed with courage and energy to continue to live out their invaluable role in our society, we pray to the Lord.

Basic Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion: 1) 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:** 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.

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 овець, 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 Твою 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 згоді, щоб ми були Твоєю спільнотою любові. Всели в нас місійного духа, щоб ми стали тим світлом 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.



Devotional Services to Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky: Every Wednesday at 7:00 pm, Live-Streaming on the YouTube Shrine Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Og0D2DhlpU> Website: Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine: <https://bvmartyrshrine.com/>

2 volunteers are needed each time before and right after Divine Liturgies on Sundays to welcome parishioners and follow all required COVID-19 safety rules and regulations, fill up Sign-In List/Questionnaire and clean by sanitizing the church after each service.

Volunteers' help is needed to make perogies starting at 8 a.m. on Saturdays of Nov. 31st, 2020 A.D. Following Covid-19 protocols we help our parish fundraisers. If you feel healthy please come to help!

YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND RESPECT OF OTHERS: 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. In consideration of other Christians, please do not leave any items 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 safe and clean. Thank you very much for your understanding, help and care! **Please always remember that church is a house of prayer!**

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**

CATECHISM ANNOUNCEMENT: We will start catechism classes this Sunday, October 18 with 2 short classes each Sunday. The first session will go from 10 am (right after Communion) to 10:30 am and the second session will go from 10:45 am to 11:15 am. This will keep class numbers small and allow for sanitizing between classes. Children from the same family must sit together and 2 meters from other children. There will be no singing and all adults will wear masks. Thank you very much for the parents and other volunteers who have offered to help. We hope to provide a safe, fun, and spiritual experience for our Parish children.

UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE PARISH SCHOOL: If you want your child or grandchild to learn Ukrainian language during this 2020-2021 school year – please, contact Mrs. Olena Fedorov or Dobr. Mariia Myts.

Express Depot Recycling: We have this set up for parishioners to use. They enter the church's phone number and place the sticker on the bag. All monies will then be able to be able to be etransfered (after \$10) or check (after \$50). It can help with donations for those unable to attend and financially support the church. <https://www.return-it.ca/express/>

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, possitive and generous!**

Traditional and Very Delicious Ukrainian Food is available for sale at our parish: Perogies – \$ 7.00 per dozen. If you need more information or to place your order, please contact Mrs. Alice Pelechaty at 250-763-4870 or Mrs. Olena Fedorov at 778-821-0759.



An old, medium size deepfreezer is broken and must be replaced with a working one for our church kitchen use and future food sales. If any person can donate a good, working deepfreezer or help to buy a new one it will be trully appreciated.

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 HELP IS ALWAYS NEEDED:** to help out with weekly cleaning in the church, cutting the grass and maintaining the lawn, 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! **Every parishioner is personally responsible before God for our spiritual home-parish church!** **NOTE: If you wish to place your message or announcement into our weekly parish bulletin, please sent it by email to the office at dormitionkelowna@gmail.com by no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday.**

Stewardship Prayer

O God, the Father of every gift, all that we are and have comes from your hand.

In Jesus Christ, your Son, you have given us the greatest of all gifts.

Fill our hearts with his love, so that we may be parish communities of faithful, caring people.

Grant us the grace to be good stewards who, in the name and spirit of Jesus, share our gifts of time, talent and treasure for the building up of your Kingdom in our Diocese and throughout the world.

May we see Our Pilgrimage of Faith Appeal as our way to live gratefully and give generously for your honor and glory.

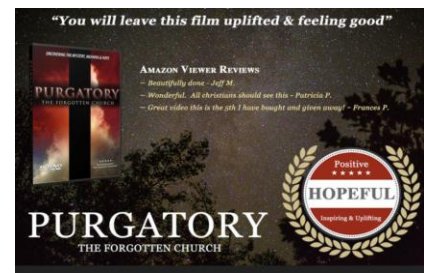
Through Christ our Lord. Amen



Rachel's Corner: *"I have hope now. I had not felt that before. I got rid of a 30-year weight. I have been able to go to Communion and have this weight removed from me, and before I didn't even believe there was forgiveness for me. I am a new person now, and I am free of that burden."* - Testimonial. Join the men and women on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat and see what it is like to live free of the burden of involvement in past abortion decisions.

www.RachelsVineyardKelowna.com info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com Like us on Facebook: [Rachel's Vineyard Kelowna](https://www.facebook.com/RachelsVineyardKelowna)

Movie with Rev. Fr. Ron Dechant, OMI “Purgatory, the Forgotten Church.” When: November 2nd, 2020A.D. Where: at Saint Charles Garnier Roman Catholic Church Hall. Time: @ 7:00 pm. Covid-19 Protocols. Limited space available. Please sign up at the entrance. Is there life after death? Our faith says “yes”, but what does science and human experience have to offer? Learn about “Out of Body” experiences from scientific research. Do these experiences prove or disprove life after death? Then what about Purgatory. What evidence is there from science to show anything about purgatory? Have people experienced purgatory in this world? Come and find out the answer in this documentary. You will be surprised.



Patriarch Bartholomew on “Fratelli tutti”: abandon indifference and cynicism

The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I, grants an interview to Vatican media about Pope Francis’ Encyclical, saying Christians dream of our world as a united family.

Reported by *Andrea Torielli* on October 20th, 2020 A.D.

Source: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2020-10/patriarch-bartholomew-fratelli-tutti-pope-francis.html?fbclid=IwAR2pMih79Ks-hGYsLFh9byZcbcJwQ7a0ReieOs3CETNvdeDu2nNEArBzoko>

“We completely agree” with Pope Francis’ invitation to “abandon indifference or even the cynicism that governs our ecological, political, economic and social life in general, including our self-centered form of unity, and to dream of our world as a united human family.”

With these words, Patriarch Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, on a visit to Rome, commented on Pope Francis’s Encyclical *Fratelli tutti* in a conversation with the Vatican media.

Q: Your Holiness, what was your reaction to Pope Francis’ Encyclical *Fratelli tutti* ?

PB: Even before we learned about our brother Pope Francis’ Encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, we were certain that it would be another example of his unshakeable interest in man, “beloved by God”, through the manifestation of solidarity with all “the weary and burdened” and the needy, and that it would contain concrete proposals to face the great challenges of the moment, inspired by the inexhaustible source of Christian tradition, and emerging from his heart full of love.

Our expectations were fully met after completing the analysis of this very interesting Encyclical, which is not simply a compendium or summary of previous Encyclicals or other texts of Pope Francis, but the crowning and happy conclusion of all social doctrine.

We completely agree with His Holiness’ invitation and challenge to abandon indifference or even the cynicism that governs our ecological, political, economic and social life in general, including our self-centered form of unity, and to dream of our world as a united human family, in which we are all brothers and sisters without exception. In this spirit we express the hope and hope that the Encyclical *Fratelli tutti* will prove to be a source of inspiration and fruitful dialogue through the taking of decisive initiatives and cross-cutting actions on an inter-Christian, inter-religious and pan-human level.

Q: The first chapter of the Encyclical speaks of the “shadows” that persist in the world. What are those that worry you the most? And what hope do we gain from looking at the world through the Gospel?

PB: With his acute humanistic, social and spiritual sense, Pope Francis identifies and names the “shadows” in the modern world. We speak of “modern sins”, although we like to emphasize that the original sin did not occur in our time and in our age. We do not idealize the past at all. Rightly, however, we are disturbed by the fact that modern technical and scientific developments have strengthened the “hubris” of man. The achievements of science do not respond to our fundamental existential quests, nor have they eliminated them. We also note that scientific knowledge does not penetrate the depths of the human soul. We know it, but act as if we do not.

Q: The Pope also speaks of the persistent gap between the few who possess much and the many who possess little or nothing...

PB: Economic development has not reduced the gap between the rich and the poor. Rather, it has prioritized profit, to the detriment of the protection of the weak, and contributes to the exacerbation of environmental problems. And politics has become the servant of the economy. Human rights and international law are elaborated and serve purposes alien to justice, freedom and peace. The problem of refugees, terrorism, state violence, humiliation of human dignity, modern forms of slavery and the Covid-19 epidemic are now putting politics before new responsibilities and erasing its pragmatic logic.

Q: What is Christianity’s proposal in the face of this situation?

PB: The Church’s proposal of life is the trajectory towards “one thing is necessary”, and this is love, openness to the other and the culture of persons in solidarity. Before the modern arrogant “man-god” we preach the “God-Man”. In the face of “economicism”, we give way to the ecological economy and economic activity based on social justice. We oppose the policy of “might makes right,” with the principle of respect for the inalienable rights of citizens and international law. In the face of the ecological crisis, we are called to respect creation, simplicity and awareness of our responsibility to give the next generation an intact natural environment. Our effort to address these problems is indispensable, but we know that he who works through us is the God who is the friend of men.

Q: Why is the image of the Good Samaritan relevant today?

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PB: Christ connects, in particular, the “first and great commandment” of love for God with the “second commandment similar to the first” commandment of love of neighbor (Mt. 22:36 - 40). And He adds: “On these two commandments all the Law and the Prophets depend”. And John the theologian is very clear: “He who does not love, has not known God” (Jn. 4, 8). The parable of the Good Samaritan is close to the parable of the Judgment (Mt. 25, 31 - 46), it is (Lk. 10, 25 - 37) the biblical text, which reveals to us the whole truth of the commandment of love. In this parable, the Priest and the Levite represent religion, which is closed in itself, it is only concerned with keeping the “law” unchanged, ignoring and pharisaically neglecting the “most serious prescriptions of the law” (Mt. 23, 23), love and support for one's neighbor. The Good Samaritan turns out to be the foreign philanthropist close to the one who has been beaten by bandits and wounded. To the initial question of the doctor of the law “Who is my neighbor?” (Lk. 10:29), Christ answers with a question: “Which one of these three seems to you to have been the neighbor of the one who ran into the bandits? (Lk. 10, 36).” Here man is not allowed to ask questions, but he is asked and called to act. It is always necessary to bring out the neighbor, the brother, before and in the face of the distant, the foreigner and the enemy. It should be noted that in the parable of the Good Samaritan, according to the question of the doctor of the law who tests Christ “What must I do to inherit eternal life” (Luke 10:25), in response to it, real love for one's neighbor has a clear soteriological reference. This is also the message of the passage on Judgment.

Q: On what basis can we all consider ourselves brothers and sisters, and why is it important to discover ourselves as such for the good of humanity?

PB: The Christians of the nascent Church called each other “brothers”. This spiritual and Christ-centered fraternity is deeper than natural kinship. For Christians, however, brothers and sisters are not only members of the Church, but all peoples. The Word of God has taken on human nature and united everything in itself. Just as all human beings are God's creation, so all have been included in the plan of salvation. The love of the believer has no boundaries and limits. In fact, it embraces the whole of creation, it is “the burning of the heart for the whole of creation” (Isaac the Syrian). Love for the brethren is always incomparable. It is not an abstract feeling of sympathy towards humanity, which usually ignores the neighbor. The dimension of personal communion and fraternity distinguishes Christian love and fraternity from abstract humanism.

Q: The Pope in his Encyclical strongly condemns war and the death penalty. How would you comment on that chapter of Fratelli tutti?

PB: This theme was referred to by the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church (Crete, June 2016), among others, as follows: “The Church of Christ condemns war in general, recognizing it as the result of the presence of evil and sin.” (The Mission of the Orthodox Church in Today's World, D, 1). On the lips of every Christian, there must be the slogan “No more war!” And the attitude of a society towards the death penalty is an indicator of its cultural orientation and consideration of human dignity. The worthy system of European constitutional culture, of which one of the fundamental pillars is the idea of love, as an expression of its Christian beliefs, requires us to consider that every man must be given the possibility of repentance and improvement, even if he has been condemned for the worst crime. It is therefore a logical and moral consequence that even he who condemns war should reject the death penalty.

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