

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

ПАРАФІЯ НЕПОРОЧНОГО ЗАЧАТТЯ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ МАРІЇ

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10ТА НЕДІЛЯ ПІСЛЯ П'ЯТДЕСЯТНИЦІ 9 СЕРПНЯ, 2020

«СВЯТКУВАТИ СВЯТИЙ ДЕНЬ — ЦЕ ОЗНАЧАЄ ВІДДАТИ ЙОГО БОГОВІ І БЛИЖНЬОМУ», — ГЛАВА УГКЦ ПРО НЕДІЛЬНИЙ ВІДПОЧИНОК

Святкувати святий день — це означає віддати його Богові і ближньому.

Шість днів на тиждень людина забирає собі, бо виконує справи, від яких



залежить її добробут. Сьомий день потрібно віддати Богові, як знак, що ми живемо не лише з праці власних рук, а й завдяки тому, що Бог нам це життя посилає. Про це сказав Блаженніший Святослав, Отець і Глава УГКЦ, у коментарі для Департаменту інформації УГКЦ.

«Як правильно святий день святкувати?» — запитує Блаженніший Святослав, вказуючи, що це наш обов'язок, ба більше, Божа заповідь. За його словами, семиденний період нашої праці і відпочинку — це спадок юдеохристиянської

культури. До того, як Слово Боже пронизало культуру, каже Предстоятель УГКЦ, навіть старі римляни не мали такого ритму праці та відпочинку. Вони не пов'язували його зі семи днями тижня. Тому, на переконання Предстоятеля УГКЦ, ми повинні дякувати Богу за дар тижня і святого дня. Для цього так важливо в день Господній стриматися від важкої праці і присвятити його Творцю.

Заповідь святкувати святий день відповідає на потреби людини, сприяє відновленню її сил. Проте важливо пам'ятати про правила, щоб робити це правильно.

«Сьомий день, який ми жертвуємо Богові, показує нам правильне розуміння основних фундаментів нашого життя. Він показує нам вічне джерело, від якого залежить наш добробут, здоров'я, наше сучасне і майбутнє. Саме тому так важливо знаходити час для того, щоб присвятити його Богові», — переконаний Глава УГКЦ.

(продовження на ст. 4)

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 9, 2020

ПОРЯДОК БОГОСЛУЖЕНЬ (27го липня до 9го серпня, 2020) ORDER OF SERVICES (July 27th to August 9th, 2020)

Понеділок – Mon. 10	8:00 A.M.	+Hryhoriy, Natalia, Lewko, Vera, Slawko, Dana, Adrian – Luba Lukomskyj
Вівторок – Tues. 11	8:00 A.M.	+Svitlana Kusyik (5 th anniv. P) – Kusyik/Kushnarenko families
Середа – Wed. 12	7:00 P.M.	+Diane Storkel - family
Четвер – Thurs. 13	8:00 A.M.	Special Intention
П'ятниця – Fri. 14	8:00 A.M.	+Marian Koskiewicz – Luba Lukomskyj
Субота – Sat. 15		УСПІННЯ БОГОРОДИЦІ – DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
	9:00 A.M.	+Pavlo Jachniw – family Special Intention
Неділя – Sunday 16	8:30 A.M.	+Bishop Richard Seminack – Luba Lukomskyj
	10:00 A.M.	for our parishioners
	11:30 A.M.	Special Intention
Понеділок – Mon. 17	8:00 A.M.	+Rev. Bohdan Kocur (P) – family Special Intention
Вівторок – Tues. 18	8:00 A.M.	+Stephen Storkel - family
Середа – Wed. 19		ПРЕОБРАЖЕННЯ ГНІХ – TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (юліан. кал.)
	9:00 A.M.	for our parishioners
	7:00 P.M.	Special Intention
Четвер – Thurs. 20	8:00 A.M.	Special Intention
П'ятниця – Fri. 21	8:00 A.M.	+Svitlana Kusyik (P) – Borys, Victoria, Adriana, Brendon
Субота – Sat. 22	9:00 A.M.	+Filipina & Wolodymyr (P) – Anna Senishin Healing of the sick
Неділя – Sunday 23	8:30 A.M.	Natalka Rettmuller (B-day) – Hania Guralchuk Yarko & Sonia Rohowsky – Luba Lukomskyj
	10:00 A.M.	Yuriy Kuzma (B-day) - family
	11:30 A.M.	for our parishioners

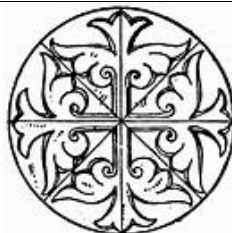
ВАШ ДАР БОГОВІ ТА ПАРАФІЇ – YOUR GIFT TO GOD & PARISH

Неділя 26го липня / Sunday, July 26th (mail & website) - \$2,283.00

Неділя 2го серпня / Sunday, July 2nd (mail & website) - \$2,517.00

Будівельний Фонд / Building Fund / Go Fund Me – \$5,868.00

Кухня / Food Sales -\$657.00



(продовження з ст. 2)

Проповідник пригадав слова патріарха Йосифа Сліпого, який стверджував, що гори трупів і ріки крові Україна віддала як свідчення віри перед Господом Богом. Тоді Мирослав Іван Любачівський, дякуючи за дар свободи, відновив цю посвяту.

За словами Блаженнішого Святослава, з перспективи часу ми розуміємо, що свобода і незалежність є Божим даром для нас. Вони є відповіддю Бога на віру наших батьків. «Ми теж відновили подібний акт посвяти у навечір'я свята Богородиці у 2014 році. Тоді наші владики в усьому світі у своїх катедральних соборах стали на коліна і відновили акт посвяти. Як ви пригадуєте, Україна тоді лежала безборонною і ослабленою перед обличчям агресора, який точив кров на Донбасі та в Криму», – додав духовний лідер українців.

Бачимо, що Пресвята Богородиця покрила нас покровом. Бог проявився присутнім і дав нам силу. Ми залишилися єдиною Церквою і Україною.

Глава Церкви наголосив, що, чуючи про те, що світ стоїть на колінах перед хворобою, ми сьогодні станемо на коліна перед чудотворною іконою Пресвятої Богородиці. Такий вчинок, на його переконання, засвідчить про нашу віру в те, що Бог готовий творити чудо тут для нас – тих, які вірять.

«Наша віра проявляється в тому, що Бог є посеред нас. Він є з нами, і ми не захитаємося, не станемо на коліна ні перед ким і ні перед чим. Це свідчення того, що Він нас не покине», – зауважив Блаженніший Святослав.

«Ми сьогодні, як друзі розслабленого, приносимо в молитві усіх тих, які просили нас про молитву. Ми сьогодні приносимо в молитві усіх тих, хто бореться з хворобою, – наших лікарів, які "на передовій". Приносимо всіх, хто благає в Бога радості, миру, справедливості, добра і здоров'я для своїх рідних і близьких. Ми сьогодні молимося за мир, бо не забуваємо, що Україна є далі у стані війни. Нехай Господь Бог, який є нашим миром, як каже апостол Павло, через віру своєї матері вислухає наші молитви. І скаже нам сьогодні, як тому розслабленому: візьми своє ліжко, стань і ходи», – додав на завершення Глава Церкви.

Департамент інформації УГКЦ

ПРОСИМО МОЛИТИСЯ ЗА: о.Френка Аванта, о.Леонарда Корчинського, о.Михайла Кузьму, о. Тому Добровольського, о. Андрія Чировського, Тима Гайдера, Дебі Плішки, Ольгу Ширмир, Мардж Матвіїв, Любу Чорну, Євгена Павліша, Богдана Юринця, Світлану Санагурську, Любу Лукомську, Андрею Андрес, Євгенію Яхнів, Жоану Сокальську, Лярису Дас, Джекі Мишкієвич, Христину Рудавську, Анну Назар, Келвин Мекмен, Наталію Лісову, Михайла Саливина, Джонатана Кловс, Марію Ступень і за всіх недужих.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Fr. Frank Avant, Fr. Leonard Korchinski, Fr. Mykhailo Kuzma, Fr. Tom Dobrowolsky, Fr. Andriy Chirovsky, Fr. Bohdan, Tim Heider, Debbie Plishka, Olha Schirmer, Marge Matviuw, Luba Chorny, Eugene Pawlisz, Bohdan Yurinets, Svitlana Sanahurska, Luba Lukomskyj, Andrea Andres, Betty Jachniw, Laryssa Das, Jackie Myshkiewicz, Christine Rudawski, Anna Nazar, Calvin McMahon, Nataliya Lisova, Michael Sullivan, Jonathan Close, Maria Stupen and all those in need of our prayers.

ОГОЛОШЕННЯ

1. В суботу 15го серпня святкуємо празник Успіння Пресвятої Богородиці. Свята Літургія о год. 9:00 рано.
2. В середу 19го серпня припадає празник Преображення ГНІХ за юліан. кал. Святі Літургії о год. 9:00 рано і 7:00 вечір.
3. Вареники можна закупити сьогодні після св. Літургії.
4. Щиро дякуємо усім паням та панам за приготування і переведення Парафіяльного "Yard Sale".
5. Усі охочі бути катехитами, дяками, дияконами або кваліфікованими християнськими служителями при наших парафіях заохочені вписатися до Місійного Інституту. Інформації можна отримати від наших отців або прошу взяти інформації видруковані на листках, коли виходити із залі сьогодні.
6. Владика Венедикт щиросердечно просить усіх вірних взяти участь у онлайн бенкеті Вдячності і Єдності, який запланований на 18 жовтня 2020 року. Отож прошу зголошуватися до участі до керівниці єпархіального Відділу Розвитку п. Марії Кокор (mariya.kokor@esnucc.org). Вона радо поділиться інформацією і розповість деталі участі у бенкеті.
7. Запрошую до участі у 54-денній молитві за вибори і мир в Америці. Відмовте одну вервицю від празника Успіння, 15 серпня до 7го жовтня.

ANNOUNCEMENT

1. This Saturday, August 15th we celebrate the feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:00 A.M.
2. On August 19th the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord on the Julian calendar will be celebrated with Divine Lilturgies at 9AM and 7PM.
3. Varenniky (pyrohy) are available for sale after today's Divine Liturgies.
4. Thanks to all the women and men who worked so hard to prepare and conduct the Parish Yard Sale. They worked extremely hard and did a wonderful job.
5. All those who want to be catechists and Christian leaders in our Ukrainian parishes are encouraged to enroll in the Mission Institute of our Eparchy. This is a four year program to prepare those called to serve in our parishes in a special way. Thise year is dedicated to the topid, "Prayer of the Church". For those interested contact one of our priests and/or pick up a copy of information at the back of the gym as you leave today.
6. Bishop Benedict invites all parishioners to join him in an online Banquet of Gratitude and Unity that is being planned for October 18, 2020. Please contact the head of the Stewardship and Development Office, Ms. Maria Kokor (mariya.kokor@esnucc.org). She will be happy to answer your questions and share detailed information regarding the event.
7. Join millions of Americans in 54 days of prayer for the elections and peace in American from the Feast of the Dormition, August 15th to October 7th.

TO YOU, I ENTRUST ALL THAT I HAVE, ALL THAT I AM

Mary O'Regan



Just today I consecrated myself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary using the prayer which I include below. I entrusted all that I have, all that I am to the Virgin Mary's Immaculate Heart. I asked of the Queen of Heaven that she reign over me, that I may be hers in good times and bad, in happiness

and sadness, in times of wellness and illness, in this life when my soul and body are a composite and in death when my soul has left this flesh shell and gone to God. It is about time that I consecrated myself to the Immaculate Heart; a dedication of self which is made valid by my making a complete offering of myself.

I am guilty of hypocrisy in that I have long debated whether or not Russia has been consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, but I have not ever consecrated myself to the Immaculate Heart, until now when we find ourselves in August, the month dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Personally, I do not believe that Russia has been consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, but even if I did believe Russia were already consecrated to the heart of Jesus's mother, this would still mean that I ought perform a self consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I do wonder if few or many people who ponder the Fatima Secrets have made efforts to consecrate themselves to Our Lady's Heart. T'would be quite the contradiction, to argue that the Pope has yet to consecrate Russia, but to neglect consecration of the self. If anyone wants to involve you in heated discussion on this, perhaps ask them if they have consecrated themselves. In any case, I invite you to consecrate yourself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. You may use this prayer which I found [here](#):

O Virgin Mary, most powerful Mother of Mercy, Queen of Heaven and earth, in accordance with your wish made known at Fatima, I consecrate myself today to your Immaculate Heart. To you I entrust all that I have, all that I am. Reign over me, dearest Mother, that I may be yours in prosperity, in adversity, in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness, in life and in death.

Most compassionate Heart of Mary, Queen of Virgins, watch over my mind and heart and preserve me from the deluge of impurity which you lamented so sorrowfully at Fatima. I want to be pure like you. I want to atone for the many crimes committed against Jesus and you. I want to call down upon this country and the whole world the peace of God in justice and charity.

Mindful of this consecration, I now promise to strive to imitate you by the practice of the Christian virtues without regard for human respect. I resolve to receive Holy Communion on the first Saturday of every month when possible, and to offer daily five decades of the Rosary, with all my sacrifices in the spirit of penance and reparation. Amen.

OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE, QUEEN OF PEACE

"Medjugorje is the spiritual center of the world"

(St. Pope John Paul II)



Dear Family of Mary!

Today for our preparation I have two consecration prayers for us to pray. They are both written by powerful Polish Saints!!! The first is written by St. John Paul II, in 1982! The second is written by St. Maximilian Kolbe!! Both men were devoted and powerful servants of Our Lady, and both had lived during the very trying times of the 20th Century. These prayers will be a good preparation for tomorrow's feast. Thank you for joining me in this little preparation for the Feast of the Assumption, 2020.

Prayer of Consecration to Mary by Pope John Paul II 1982

To You, Oh Mary!

O Mother of men and peoples, you know all their sufferings and their hopes, you feel in a motherly way all the struggles between good and evil, between the light and the darkness which shakes the world, accept our cry addressed in the Holy Spirit directly to your heart and embrace with the love of the Mother and the Handmaid of the Lord the peoples who await this embrace the most, and likewise the peoples whose consecration you too are particularly awaiting. Take under your motherly protection the whole human family which we can consecrate to you, O mother, with affectionate rapture. May the time of peace and freedom, the time of truth, justice and hope, approach for everyone.

O you, who are the first handmaid of the unity of the Body of Christ, help us, help all the faithful, who feel so painful the drama of divisions of Christianity to seek with constancy the way to the perfect unity of the Body of Christ by means of unconditional faithfulness to the Spirit of Truth and Love, which was given to them by your Son at the cost of the cross and death.

O you, who are so deeply and maternally bound to the Church, preceding the whole People of God along the ways of faith, hope and charity, embrace all men who are on the way, pilgrims through temporal life towards eternal destinies, with that love which the divine Redeemer himself, you Son, poured into your heart from the cross. Be the Mother of all our earthly lives, even when they become tortuous, in order that we may all find ourselves, in the end in that large community which you Son called the fold, offering his life for it as the Good Shepherd.

O you, who were with the Church at the beginning of her mission, intercede for her in order that going all over the world she may continually teach all the nations and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.

O you, who have known in the fullest way the power of the Holy Spirit, when it was granted to you to conceive in your virginal womb and to give birth to the Eternal Word, obtain for the Church that she may continue to give new birth through water and the Holy Spirit to the sons and daughters of the whole human family, without any distinction of language, race, or culture, giving them in this way the "power to be come with children of God." (Jn. 1:12).

O you, who have always wished to serve! You who serve as Mother the whole family of the children of God, obtain for the Church that enriched by the Holy Spirit with the fullness of hierarchical and charismatic gifts, she may continue with constancy towards the future along the way of that renewal which comes from what the Holy Spirit says and which found expression in the teaching of Vatican II, assuming in this work of renewal everything that is true and good, without letting herself be deceived either in one direction or in the other, but discerning assiduously among the signs of the times what is useful for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

O you, who--through the mystery of your particular holiness, free of all stain from the moment of your conception--feel in a particularly deep way that "the whole creation has been groaning in travail" (Rom. 8:22), while, "subjected to futility," "it hopes that it will be set free from its bondage to decay" (Rom. 8:20-21), you contribute unceasingly to the "revealing of the sons of God," for whom "the creation awaits with eager longing" (Rom. 8:19), to enter the freedom of their joy (cf. Rom. 8:21).

O Mother of Jesus, now glorified in heaven in body and in soul, as the image and beginning of the Church, which is to have its fulfillment in the future age--here on earth, until the day of the Lord comes (cf. 2 Pt. 3:10), do not cease to shine before the pilgrim people of God as a sign of sure hope and consolation (cf. Lumen Gentium, 68).

O you, who more than any other human being have been consecrated to the Holy Spirit, help your Son's Church to persevere in the same consecration.

Holy Spirit of God, Who are worshipped and glorified with the Father and Son! Accept these words of humble consecration addressed to You in the heart of Mary of Nazareth, Your bride and mother of the Redeemer, whom the Church too calls her Mother, because right from the Upper Room at Pentecost she has learned from Her, her own motherly vocation! Accept these words of the pilgrim Church, uttered amid toils and joys, fears and hopes. (written by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II)

And here is the prayer by St. Maximilian Kolbe

Act of Consecration to Mary

written by St. Maximilian Kolbe

O Immaculata, Queen of Heaven and earth, refuge of sinners and our most loving Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy to you. I, (name), a repentant sinner, cast myself at your feet humbly imploring you to take me with all that I am and have, wholly to yourself as your possession and property. Please make of me, of all my powers of soul and body, of my whole life, death and eternity, whatever most pleases you.

If it pleases you, use all that I am and have without reserve, wholly to accomplish what was said of you: "She will crush your head," and, "You alone have destroyed all heresies in the world." Let me be a fit instrument in your immaculate and merciful hands for introducing and increasing your glory to the maximum in all the many strayed and indifferent souls, and thus help extend as far as possible the blessed kingdom of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. For wherever you enter, you obtain the grace of conversion and growth in holiness, since it is through your hands that all graces come to us from the most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

V. Allow me to praise you, O sacred Virgin.

R. Give me strength against your enemies.

In Jesus, Mary and Joseph!

Cathy Nolan

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ПРИГАДУЄМО УСІМ ПАРАФІЯНАМ

Щоб гідно приймати Святі Тайни парафіянин повинен жити за правилами віри та серйозно підготуватися. Добрі (віддані) парафіяни є ті котрі:

1. В неділі й свята беруть участь в Святій Літургії
2. Жертвують час, таланти і матеріально підтримують парафію
3. Записані до парафії
4. Знають загальні правди й молитви нашої віри

A REMINDER TO ALL PARISHIONERS

Reception of the Sacraments requires the committed practice of the faith and serious preparation. Committed parishioners are those who:

1. Attend Divine Liturgy on Sunday's and Feast Days
2. Give of their time, talents and financial resources
3. Have enrolled in the parish
4. Know and understand the basic prayer and tenets of our faith

Remember Our Parish in Your Will

You can leave a lasting legacy to benefit future generations! Please remember our Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Parish when creating your will. Your good works will continue after you have gone! ***Please contact the office for information.***

Згадайте нашу парафію у Вашому заповіті

Ви можете залишити частину своєї спадщини на благо майбутніх поколінь! Ласкаво, пам'ятайте, парафію Непорочного Зачаття Пречистої Діви Марії при створенні Вашого заповіту. Ваші добрі діла будуть продовжуватися після Вашого повернення Додому, до вічного життя!

Saint Philomena And Our Times

By Brian K. Kravec

I have a dear friend and heavenly patroness in St. Philomena. I wear the red and white wrist cord of St. Philomena which symbolizes her virginity and martyrdom. My cord, a gift of love from a fellow devotee, was touched to the first class relics of St. Philomena's bone and the blood of St. John Vianney, who fostered public devotion to St. Philomena with great enthusiasm.

Though my personal devotion to the *Wonder-Worker* is quite new, I've wasted no time in presenting my petitions to her and she has wasted no time in affirming her patronage. It is widely known that whenever St. Philomena is working on your behalf, she would announce it by knocking three times. I knew *nothing* of this very special communication until *after* I was discussing three very distinct knocks that awakened me in the middle of the night just weeks ago. At that time, the world was nearly 40 days into the present Covid-19 pandemic.



It would be reasonable to dismiss the three knocks as a dream or even wishful thinking *if* I had *prior* knowledge of this playful saintly custom. The fact that I learned about the three knocks afterward and that they were followed by a very clear dream leading me to a message from St. Philomena for our times is something to be considered.

In a dream following the three knocks, I could vividly see books of varied colors that were numbered. When my eyes opened the following morning, it immediately occurred to me that I had seen *The Volumes* as published by Direction for Our Times. *The Volumes* contain private revelation given to the world through Kathryn Ann Clarke, also known as Anne, a lay apostle. Rev. Leo O'Reilly, Bishop of the Diocese of Kilmore, Ireland, has granted

Anne's writings an imprimatur. *The Volumes* are in my home library and I hadn't thought about them or read them in more than a decade.

Shortly after the dream, I was discussing the wonders of St. Philomena with the same friend who gifted me with her cord and told me about the three knocks. She shared a video which she credits as her introduction to St. Philomena in which Dr. Mark Miravalle interviews Anne the lay apostle in December, 2008. Again, it was *after* seeing the video that I shared the details of my recent dream with my dear friend. Only then would I return to Volume 7 (page 11-14) and read St. Philomena's message to me and the world as given July 8, 2004 which I believe the little saint wishes to be circulated anew:

Dear brothers and sisters, you must be joyful during this time. Whenever you are tempted toward despair, you must think of heaven and how Jesus is making the earth like heaven by allowing this cleansing. Jesus is reclaiming the earth. That is a wonderful thing and will ensure that your children's children will not have to contend with the darkness of sin that surrounds your children. It would please Jesus if you would be thankful to Him, despite any circumstances.

A saint conducts herself this way and finds that she is joyful regardless of any and all hardships. Dear friends of heaven, the enemy will not prevail. You know this because you have been told this. At the end of this time, Jesus will return and the earth will be beautiful again. Before that, there will be a time when it will appear that the enemy has taken control of the world. The darkness of sin will reign and our beloved Church will suffer even more.

Followers will face grave and constant attacks for their faith in many areas of the world. They will persevere and set the most beautiful example for others. This will draw others back to the faith in great numbers, so you see, the enemy's strategy will backfire. The more God's enemies persecute His children, the more children will choose God and remain true. It has always been this way, sadly. God's children should serve Him faithfully in good times also, but many do not.

Many become worldly when the times are easy. Be brave. Your courage will come from heaven and inspire many. We teach you how to prepare and those who take our advice will find that they are calm and able to lead. Heaven will call upon many to lead because during the worst of the troubles, holy souls will be cut off from each other. Leaders will spring up in every area to help holy souls to remain steadfast.

How beautiful are these times when viewed from our perspective. My dear friends, read about our lives. Many saints in heaven faced the greatest of persecutions on earth. We never relied upon ourselves and in that way we became invincible. You will too. The earth will quake during this time and heaven's responses will be apparent to all, giving the faithful great hope.

The enemy's actions will be met with heavenly retribution.

This also will convince many that God is preparing to return and will also bring many back to God. So you see, the enemy cannot win and God will turn everything to the good. It is important that you are aware of the coming events so you will be confident and prepared. My friends, your world is asleep at this time and many doubt God's presence in the world. I would advise you all to remain alert. You will be glad that you did.

St. Philomena, pray for us!

MYSTICS OF THE CHURCH

THIS WEBSITE IS DEVOTED TO THE EXTRAORDINARY MYSTICS AND VISIONARIES OF THE CHURCH, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE LESSER KNOWN, SUCH AS ST GEMMA GALGANI, BLESSED ALEXANDRINA DA COSTA, SR CONSOLATA BETRONE, THERESE NEUMANN, REV. PERE LAMY, GABRIELLE BOSSIS, JOSEFA MENENDEZ, MARTHE ROBIN, SERVANT OF GOD LOUISE LATEAU, BLESSED ANNA MARIA TAIGI, SISTER MARY OF THE HOLY TRINITY, SISTER MARIA ANTONIA AND OTHERS. THE AUTHOR ENDEAVORS ALWAYS TO BE IN COMMUNION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND ITS TEACHINGS.

St. Paul's simple formula for preserving unity



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Philip Kosloski | Jun 08, 2020

In the Letter to the Ephesians St. Paul lays out a simple yet powerful guide to preserving unity.

It is a praiseworthy endeavor to strive for unity in our world, but not always easy to accomplish. Unity requires cooperation on both sides and this can be a long and arduous task. St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians lays out a simple, yet profound formula for unity. He describes what is required for unity to be preserved and how to go about maintaining it.

*I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all **humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace**: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one*

Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

His words of advice are quite simple, but very difficult to accomplish!

It means that we have to humble ourselves before another and treat others with **gentleness, patience and love**. Too often we don't have one of these key ingredients and each time we let ourselves slip, it threatens that unity.

Above all, we must attach ourselves to Christ and let God unite us together in a bond that nothing can break.

Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love...be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth. (Ephesians 4:15-16, 23)

If we can follow St. Paul's formula, we will be much closer to unity than we could ever be on our own.