

УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЄПАРХІЯ
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF
SAINT NICHOLAS

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November 2023

Healing Our Wounds With Jesus ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Throughout its history, mankind has faced many challenges, some of which have changed the course of history and are now affecting our present. For the past year, the world witnessed historic events – from the major social upheavals that caused economic and political instability to the immense suffering and pain, inflicted on millions of people by the war in Ukraine. Millions of wounded souls are in dire need of physical and spiritual healing that we, good Christians, are called to provide.

These events echo the theme of this year's Annual Eparchial Appeal Healing Our Wounds With Jesus. It evokes the Gospel scene of Jesus healing a paralyzed man. As Jesus was preaching among people in Galilee four men brought a paralyzed man on a stretcher. St. Luke recorded Our Lord's words: "But not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." (Lk, 5:19-20). Through this parable Our Lord reveals to us the power of faith and what it can do for us. Jesus emphasizes that it was their faith that helped heal the man. Another important lesson of this Gospel is that the paralyzed man wouldn't have had any chance to be healed if his friends hadn't brought him to Jesus. By this example Our Lord teaches us that we can do a lot when we profess our faith together, celebrate liturgical services together, when we do good works and acts of service to our neighbor and share our generosity with others. Our faith is an underlying principle of healing and is our path to salvation.

The Annual Eparchial Appeal offers us the opportunity to discover how we can help heal the wounds of those who need this, and how we can deepen our faith on our road to forgiveness and salvation. I invite you to join me on that path with the Lord by responding generously to this year's Appeal.

May God bless you for your prayers and your willingness to share your support throughout this journey with us and may the Lord protect you and your families every day.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Bishop of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy