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FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Anastasia [Metropolitan Yuriy's mom], Metropolitan Theodosius [OCA], Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Father George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, Father Nestor Kowal, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John & Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Adam Yonitch, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynech, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Joseph Sliwinsky, Gary & Linda Mechtly, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, George Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Archbishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Esther Holupka, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—young man with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann

Kuznik, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciw, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Strozh [young lady with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Richard Dunst, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Jerry Quinn, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Virginia Catherine Pynch, Susan Lucas, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Mira Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Sherri Walewski, Marika Zeliszczuk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Stella McKeag, Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaughaupt, Louis & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Sarah Dorning, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Denis

Strittmatter, Nancy, Ian Brick, Cecilia Barnhart, Logan Magorien, Pam Grant, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Sandra Dillard, Danielle McCann, Barry [Father Jim Orr's cousin], Tim Joyce, Mike Pawlyshyn-Jeannie Stutchell's brother, Marianne Mulroy, Joe Samchuck—vocations, Albert Heckman, Brianna Stumpf, Stanley Porembka, and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini's mom. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline and Walter Sakol. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

"The dead feel our presence in their graves, they feel our prayers and our sacrifices and love for them. And we will soon feel it, on that side of the grave, and will be grateful for those who remember us and pray for us to God." + *St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: All Christians and the others in the Middle East who are suffering during this time of great tragedy and unrest. May God watch over and keep them safe! Lord have mercy!

Please remember ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and all American service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please ask Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY, JUNE 09 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL;
AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR THERAPON-BISHOP OF
SARDIS; VIRGIN-MARTYR THEODORA & MARTYR DIDYMUS THE SOLDIER OF
ALEXANDRIA

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

John 17:1-13

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Walter Burlack, Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, and Mary "Maxine" Kitch—
Fr. Bob***

**SUNDAY, JUNE 16 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
8TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT; SAINT METROPHANES-FIRST PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE;
MARTYRS FRONTASIUS, SEVERINUS, SEVERIAN, & SILANUS OF GAUL; MARTYR
CONCORDIUS; HIEROMARTYR ASTIUS-BISHOP OF DYRRACHIUM; VENERABLE
ZOSIMAS OF CILICIA-BISHOP OF NEW BABYLON**

*******OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY*******

Ephesians 5:8-19
Matthew 18:10-20

**SUNDAY, JUNE 23 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; HIEROMARTYR
TIMOTHY-BISHOP OF PRUSA; MARTYR ALEXANDER & VIRGIN-MARTYR
ANTONIA AT CONSTANTINOPLE; VENERABLE THEOPHANES-MONK & SAINT
PANSEMNE-FORMER HARLOT OF ANTIOCH; SAINT BASSIAN-BISHOP OF LODI
IN LOMBARDY**

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2
Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 09 JUNE 2019

**7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL
COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR
THERAPON-BISHOP OF SARDIS; VIRGIN-MARTYR THEODORA &
MARTYR DIDYMUS THE SOLDIER OF ALEXANDRIA**

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever,
and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.

Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES "IT IS TRULY MEET..."

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

38th Annual Commemoration of the Fall of Constantinople

Pictured left to right: Archon Robert Buhler, Archon Theodore Theofilos, Archon Tom Kanellos, Hellenic Society of Constantinople President Anna Harisiadis, Archon Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas, His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago, Rev. Fr. Tilemahos Alikakos, Emcee and Secretary of the Hellenic Society of Constantinople Hellena Chrones, Archon Regional Commander John G. Manos, Archon Steve Laduzinsky, Archon Wesley Stinich and Archon Dr. John Fotopoulos.

On Tuesday, May 28, 2019, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, the Metropolis of Chicago Archons and the Hellenic Society of Constantinople in Chicago held the 38th Commemoration of the Fall of Constantinople at St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Heights, Illinois.

The annual event remembers and raises awareness on the conquest of Constantinople, which occurred on May 29, 1453. This event marked the end of the Byzantine Empire, which had lasted for 1500 years, and was also the day that Hagia Sophia in Constantinople was converted from a Christian Orthodox Church into a mosque.

Keynote speaker Archon John Fotopoulos, Ph.D., Didaskalos Tou Evangeliou, presented a lecture titled, "The Fall of Constantinople, Backward, Forward, or Why Should We Care?", which delved into the history and importance of this event to Orthodox Christians and its importance for people today. The lecture was followed by a question and answer period.

During the event, the organizations also acknowledged the 100th anniversary of the genocide of the Greeks of Asia Minor, Pontos and Eastern Thrace, which took place on May 19. A trailer of the upcoming film, *The Great Catastrophe*, which was produced by The Asia Minor and Pontos Hellenic Research Center was also shown. In addition, the Archons made available and distributed an array of information on their mission and on the Five Key Issues facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Why Does God Allow Evil? A Parable by Elder Cleopa
Archimandrite Cleopa (Ilie)

When Elder Cleopa was asked, "Why does the Lord allow evil?" he answered with the following story.



A long time ago in the Egyptian desert there lived a hermit monk. Sometimes he would go to Alexandria to sell the baskets he wove. The hermit would give almost all the money he made on his baskets to the poor, leaving only enough to buy himself the bare necessities.

One day while walking to the city he asked himself the question, "Why does the Lord allow evil in people's lives if He is Good, Just, and Almighty?" His mind was disturbed because he had seen so much unhappiness and sorrow when he was last in the city.

Along the road he met another monk who was also going to Alexandria. They talked with each other, and he told his new travelling companion about his anguish. Seeing that the hermit was troubled, the monk comforted him and told him that the Lord will reveal the truth to him when they arrive at the city, but he will have to pray ceaselessly and never ask questions, no matter what happens.

The hermit promised to do as the monk said, and they continued along their way. They stopped at one home to spend the night. The householders received them with love and generously fed them. On the table was a beautiful silver vessel. Before they left to go to sleep, the monk surreptitiously took that vessel and put it in his rucksack. The hermit wanted to reproach his companion, but he remembered his promise and said nothing.

In the morning they came to the river. The monk took out the vessel, made the sign of the cross over it, and put it into the river.

By lunchtime the travelers had arrived at another village. They were invited to one of the houses for a meal. When they were leaving the house, a dog was barking in the yard. The monk killed it. Immediately a boy ran out of the house and started screaming. The hermit's travelling companion grabbed him by the right arm, yanked it and broke it, then calmly continued his way. The indignant hermit wanted to tell him what he thought, but remembering his promise he again kept silence.

When dusk fell, the monk and the hermit decided to spend the night in a ramshackle house, which turned out to be inhabited by some children. Their parents had died and they had no one to take care of them. The travellers spent the night there, but in the morning before leaving the monk took a firebrand out of the furnace and burned down the house. And again the hermit was indignant, but again he could say nothing.

They came to a third village. There they saw a ruined church, but it was still possible to go into it and pray. The monk took up a stone and flung it through the church window, shattering it. Then he took his

bemused brother to a tavern. When he entered, the monk made three prostrations. The hermit by now had resigned himself to his companion's strange behavior and just prayed.

On the last night the travellers were invited to spend the night in a house on the edge of a wood. There lived a young couple who [had no children](#). In the morning the couple set out to work in the field, and the travellers went on their way. But suddenly the monk returned and burned down that house as well.

Finally they arrived at Alexandria. The hermit could no longer wait to understand the essence of what had happened to them on the road. So he asked his companion, "Tell me after all, who are you?"

"I am an angel," the other replied.

"You! An angel?!" the hermit scoffed disdainfully. "You are a real devil! Only a demon could do all those dreadful things you've done. Those good people showed you hospitality you repaid them all with black ingratitude. You were a thief, an arsonist, a murderer, and a sacrilegious desecrator. And you even wear monastic clothing!"

"You are mistaken," the travelling companion answered. "I really am an angel. And I was sent to you because the Lord saw your anguish and wanted to answer the questions that tormented you. I know that you want to know why I did all those things. I will start from the beginning.

"Why did I steal the vessel? I'll answer you. Our host's grandfather stole it from one monastery church, and because of that sacrilege his family was punished for three generations with illnesses and other problems. As a sign of gratitude for their hospitality I decided to deliver them from this punishment. I signed the vessel with the sign of the cross and put it into the river. Some monks will come there to wash their clothes, find it and return it to the monastery.

"I knew that the dog was already rabid. It would have bitten its owners and that is why I killed it. And I broke their son's arm because I could foresee that when he grows up he would become a robber. But with a bad arm like that you can't do much robbing.

"Why did I burn down the children's house? Those children would soon have died without any care, and now in the place of their burned house they'll find the silver their parents hid, and they can now go to Alexandria to their grandfather who is a bishop—he'll take care of them. When they grow up, the boys will become priests and the girls will marry.

I know that you are puzzled as to why I threw the stone through the church window and made prostrations in the tavern. I saw that the demons

were dancing at the church window and I chased them away with that stone. That church will soon be repaired. In the tavern was a wealthy merchant who had promised the priest that he would pay the cost of repairing the church. That is why I bowed to him.

And finally, about the last house. I burned it down in order to save the young couple from the curse of childlessness. The husband had made a dirty deal and built that house with the money he got from it. That is why they didn't have any children. I saw that he is repenting of his deed and doesn't know how to get rid of his house. Now he will build a more modest house but on honestly earned money. And the Lord will bless them with children.

Do you understand? God's mercy for people is shown in everything, but they don't see it and can't understand it. The Lord never commits evil. But people look at His works as misfortunes and sorrows, while the Lord does these things only for the sake of good and for their correction. Therefore, do not look at the external side, but try to see God's all-encompassing justice in everything.

*Archimandrite Cleopa (Ilie) Translated from the Russian version by Nun Cornelia (Rees)
Pravoslaven Sviat 6/1/2019*

The following passage is how Fr. George Calciu concludes a story about a time when, imprisoned by the Communists, he asked one of the cruelest guards for a piece of bread to celebrate the Liturgy in his cell. The guard's jaw dropped at the audacity of the request and he slammed the door...only to return a while later to silently slip him the requested bread.

Fr. George concludes:

"So you can see the miracle. I did not ask God to make the miracle for me. The most important miracle that God performed during my imprisonment was a miracle of the heart: not breaking the doors, not setting me free, not sending His angels flying into my cell, but ***changing the heart of my torturer.*** There is no miracle greater than this miracle."

"As regards the love of God, we say that He loves us or that we love Him, when we feel love for God within ourselves. This is nothing, tiny, compared with that feeling of love for God you have when He visits you, when He gives you His love. Then you melt. If this love, this sense of the love of God, were to last a few minutes, you wouldn't be able to stand it. You'd expire." - *Elder Haralambos Dionysiatis*

Beautiful story of Love.

There was a time when I could not go to church. Everything irritated me there-singers, priests, and even the smell of incense. I had enough strength to get to my father Vasily Yermakov. And he says so happily: "Do not go to church, come to me, we'll have a seagull, we'll take a walk..."

I came to see him almost every day. We walked around the cemetery, he stopped almost at every cross and told about the life of the person lying here. We talked about everything, about the weather, about politics, about the cinema, even about the first love. Sometimes we just sat on a bench and looked at the spring.

A couple of months later I returned to the church. Father Vasily explained to me that this happens almost to all who sincerely came to the Church. "It's like in a marriage: first, you forget everything from love, and then everyday life begins, and the heart cools. This does not mean that love has ended. This means it has become more calm, mature, deep.

Faith also has its "stages", its tests. The Lord draws near to our heart. But you always remember the days when you entered the church. Do you remember how your heart burned? You were ready to give your life for Christ. This is the moment of truth. Always keep it in your memory and never fall away from the water of Life. No matter what happens. *Vladimir Shcherbinin*

Now one can often hear such an opinion 'It doesn't matter whether a person believes in God or not, the main thing is that he has God in his heart, that he lives according to his conscience, and God will save him anyway.' What can you say about this?

"A person who thinks that he can have Christ in his heart without the Church is a person who is in great delusion. Such a person is like a patient who wants to heal without going to a doctor. Unfortunately, he will most likely die if he does not go to the doctor.

If the Church was not needed for our salvation, Christ would not have founded it and the devil would not persecute her. Since the Church is necessary for salvation, therefore Christ became a Man in order to establish the Church and save man." Athanasius (Nicolau), Metropolitan of Limassol.

On the road from which the holy relics would pass, there were 2 people who were begging.

And it was heard that one of them said to the other: --Let 's get out of here! Soon they will pass by with the relics of this saint, and if we get better, we will lose!

Did you understand? They did not want to be well because then they would have to work, and now with begging, they were easily making a living.

So are many people today...Not wanting Christ as it is offered, because it controls their illegal life. They want Christ to bless their weaknesses, their sins and their passions...+ *Fr. Dimitrios Panagopoulos*

The famous elder, Archimandrite Paul (Gruzdev) told the following story about himself. Once he, already old and half-blind, went into a big city. Together with one metropolitan he served there a service.

The Metropolitan gave Father Paul money for the return journey, and they parted. There was time before the train arrival, and father Pavel decided to have lunch.

He comes in a cafe, and the girl behind the counter says to him: "And you, grandfather, better leave, you are poorly dressed."

And looking at his legs. Father Paul had felt boots on his feet, when he was leaving his village, there were frosts, and he came to the city, there was a thaw, and puddles of mud fell from the felt boots to the floor. The priest's coat is also old, worn out, and the suitcase in hand is worn, with priestly vestments inside. The girl apparently decided that this is some kind of beggar. So father Paul left.

He came to another cafe, more like a cafeteria, and he was told: "We have a variety of food here!" "Well," Father Paul answers, "this is good." He put his small briefcase under the table, took a tray and got a set meal for himself with compote. He put his lunch on the table, just before he was going to eat, he realized that he forgot a spoon and a fork! He went for a spoon and fork, comes back and saw a man sitting at his table eating his first meal. So much for lunch. Father Paul sat down opposite of the man and without a word began to eat his second meal. He ate the second, wrapped the bread and put it in his pockets, and the compote was equally divided with the man.

Then the man got up and went to the exit. Father Paul glanced casually underneath the table and saw his briefcase was not there! That greedy man stole it. He ate half of his lunch, and he also took the briefcase. Father Paul got up from the table, ran after the thief, suddenly looking he saw his briefcase. Only at another table. And the lunch plate

was untouched. He got the tables mixed up!!! Father Paul's head started to ache thinking what a humble man he was. He didn't say a word when father Paul ate half of his lunch.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.