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## DORMITION FAST

**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, Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Metropolitan Savas, Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Father George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, 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, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynech, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father Steve Hutnick [COVID-19], Father Victor Wronskyj [COVID-19], Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Fr. Volodymyr Muzychka [COVID-19], Diakonissa Mary Ann Cherkas, Father Harry Linsinbigler [COVID-19], Archimandrite Raphael [COVID-19], 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, 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, 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, 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, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, 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, 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], 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 & Gordon Grant, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Sandra Dillard, Danielle McCann, Barry [Father Jim Orr's cousin], Tim Joyce, Mike Pawlyshyn-Jeannie Stutchell's brother, Joe Samchuck—vocations, Albert Heckman, Brianna Stumpf, Stanley Porembka, David & Terry Coyne Hartnett, Mike C., Jennifer Scheirer [Nick Behun's daughter], Catherine Beecham [Father Bob's

cousin], JoAnne & Dave Andrews, Rev. Peg Bowman, Pat Jennings, Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Joe Veto, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Cathy Lotinsky, Monk Andrew, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Steven—Harry Batch's cousin, Rose Mary Pavlovich—Mary Anne Kuznik's Cousin, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Dollie Irvin, Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Micky Delans [COVID-19], Pastor Terry Polen, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Dolores Wachnowsky, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Denis Strittmatter, Father Joe Uzar—newly ordained, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—young girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko [triple by-pass], John, Kris & Kait, Jeff & Mary Jane Double [COVID-19], Terri Crosby-Vega [COVID-19], Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Mike, Amy, Nathan, & Ben Forbeck [COVID-19], David Salazar, Ann Zurasky [knee replacement], James Mary, Barb Bookser, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Carolyn Strittmatter, Barbara Shegat & Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Candace Irvin, Dollie Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr. [newborn], Elizabeth [5-year-old], Lillian Skowvron, Pani Cathy Danczak, Sue & Greg Heinen, Paul Simpson [Father Bob's cousin, car accident], Sharon Curtis Rivas, Kathy Milcic, 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.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is NOTHING to keep us from praying...for each other, for our family and friends, and most of all for the first responders—EMTs, nurses, doctors, firefighters, police officers, and members of our military who keep us safe. Be well and be SAFE!!! God Bless!**

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.**

**SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE**

**SUNDAY, August 15    OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS    10:30 AM**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF  
PROTOMARTYR & ARCHDEACON STEPHEN AND RIGHTEOUS NICODEMUS,  
GARNALIEL, & ABIBIUS; HIEROMARTYR STEPHEN-POPE OF ROME**

*Tone 7*

*1 Corinthians 1:10-18*

*Matthew 14:14-22*

**SUNDAY, August 22    OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS    10:30 AM**  
**9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; AFTERFEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION;  
APOSTLE MATHIAS; MARTYR ANTHONY OF ALEXANDRIA; SAINT PSES OF  
EGYPT; MARTYRS JULIAN , MARCIAN, JOHN, JAMEX, ALEXIUS,  
DEMETRIUS, PHOTIUS, PETER, LEONTIUS, & MARY OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

*Tone 8*

*1 Corinthians 3:9-17; Acts 1:12-17, 21-26*

*Matthew 14:22-34; Luke 9:1-6*

**SATURDAY, August 28    FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS**

**SUNDAY, August 29    OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS    10:30 AM**  
**10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; AFTERFEAST OF THE DORMITION;  
TRANSLATION OF THE IMAGE NOT-MADE-BY-HANDS FROM EDESSA TO  
CONSTANTINOPLE; MARTYR DIOMEDES THE PHYSICIAN OF TARSUS IN  
CILICIA; VENERABLE CHERIMON OF EGYPT; 33 MARTYRS OF PALESTINE**

*Tone 1*

*1 Corinthians 4:9-16; Colossians 1:12-18*

*Matthew 17:14-23; Luke 9:51-56, 10:22-24*

**BULLETIN INSERT FOR 15 AUGUST 2021**

**8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF  
PROTOMARTYR & ARCHDEACON STEPHEN AND RIGHTEOUS  
NICODEMUS, GARNALIEL, & ABIBIUS; HIEROMARTYR STEPHEN-  
POPE OF ROME**

**TROPARION—TONE 7**

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death!  
To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise!  
For the Myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy.  
And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,  
To proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy!

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

### **KONTAKION—TONE 7**

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,  
For Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers!  
Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry:  
The Savior has come to those in faith!  
Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!

### **PROKEIMENON—TONE 7**

**READER:** The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

**PEOPLE: The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless His people with peace!**

**READER:** Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

**PEOPLE: The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless His people with peace!**

**READER:** The Lord shall give strength to His people!

**PEOPLE: The Lord shall bless His people with peace!**

### **ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 7**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High!

To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night!

#### **New in Christ**

***Romans 6:4-Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (KJV)***

The Holy Apostle Paul's epistles reach through the centuries to benefit believers. Time and space are transcended by God's power working through the Holy Apostle. Believers continue to benefit and are enriched by the Holy Apostle Paul's epistles. God's Holy Church utilizes the epistles of the Apostle Paul in the Divine Liturgy. Attentive believers savor the God-inspired epistles and change their lives accordingly.

***2 Corinthians 5:17-Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (KJV)***

Believers become “new” in Jesus Christ and the epistles serve as written inspiration. The Holy Apostle became “new” in Christ and serves to guide others to Jesus Christ. Serious believers immerse themselves in the timeless writings of Holy Apostle Paul. The “new” life possible in Christ is well-described in St. Paul’s preserved epistles. Reading the epistles enriches and inspires believers seeking newness in Jesus Christ.

***Galatians 6:15-For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. (KJV)***

Newness in Jesus Christ is possible throughout life and is spurred by repentance. Repentance is the shedding and rejection of sinful ways and embracing Jesus Christ. Embracing Christ is a mutual action simultaneous with Christ embracing the believer. When the believer draws near to Christ in repentance, Christ welcomes the individual. Joy arises in Christ when repentance occurs and individuals firmly reject sinful ways.

***Ephesians 4:24-And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (KJV)***

Age is no impediment to growth in Christ as long as the mind continues to function. A firm desire to live in Christ is necessary for Christ to fill the heart, mind and soul. Sin is cast from the person with God’s help in order for purity to prevail in the soul. Conscious decisions during the course of daily life foster newness in Jesus Christ. God’s Holy Church offers the necessary nourishment to sustain the new life in Christ.

***Colossians 3:10-And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (KJV)***

The new life in Jesus Christ results in interior and exterior changes in the believer. Noticeable changes occur in outward behavior, actions and in personal disposition. When newness in Jesus Christ occurs, personal relationships are directly affected. Efforts at peaceful accord and greater civility increase when a person is new in Christ. Anger dissipates and forgiveness and love abound when Christ lives within the person.

*Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal to the Apostle Mary Magdalene. July 22/August 4, 2021.  
Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*





**Hierarchs of the UOC OF USA address clergy and faithful  
concerning the rapidly changing metrics associated with the  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**Звернення ієрархів УПЦ США до духовенства та мирян  
щодо зміни показників зараження  
КОРОНАВІРУСОМ**

30 July, 2021 Great-Martyr Maryna (Margaret) of Antioch

**TO: ALL CLERGY, PARISH BOARDS OF ADMINISTRATION AND ALL  
FAITHFUL OF OUR HOLY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA**  
**RE: *Changing Metrics Associated With the Covid-19 Pandemic and the  
Necessity of Responsible and Measured Means to Combat Them***

*Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters in our Loving Lord,*

**CHRIST IS AMONG US! HE IS AND ALWAYS SHALL BE!**

We had not expected the necessity of writing to you once again concerning necessary responses to the COVID-19 PANDEMIC because of the seemingly positive numbers of people getting vaccinated. Perhaps the initial success throughout the early months of this year convinced us all that the greatest danger had passed and that "normal" life could, step by step, return. Obviously, however, the new and far more dangerous variant(s) of the virus have changed the perspective of not only the medical and scientific communities, but most of the general population of our nation that we are far from "normal" and that "normal" may now become something very different from that we knew back in December 2019 before the wide spread of this disease throughout the world.

When we study the current maps of the spread of the virus in the USA, we once again see massive concentrations of the color red, indicating that the rates of infection, hospitalization and death are rising at rates very near the worst part of the pandemic in April of this year. The areas on these maps that show the highest concentration of these changing and rapidly rising metrics are without doubt in the states with the highest concentration of people who are NOT vaccinated. However, the rising metrics can be seen in significant areas of even those states with high rates of vaccination. We will not attempt here to make this message into an attempt to convince people to get vaccinated because we believe that our President, Governors and other civic leaders are making powerful arguments in this regard. We are also convinced that there will always be a

portion of our population that will never accept vaccination and it is for this reason that we write to you this day.

None of us can control the decisions of other members of our society. We must be concerned for and about them and we must, above all, pray for them and respond to them in ways that will be protective of ourselves and our loved ones. We can only pray that we do not have to continue viewing and reading about individuals who refuse vaccination finally regretting their decision because they themselves have suffered greatly from the virus or they have watched helplessly as they lost parents, spouses, brothers and sisters or their own children to the virus.

THE MOST OBVIOUS RESPONSE THAT WE ARE NOW CALLING YOU ALL TO IS TO RETURN, AS PER THE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL, TO THE WEARING OF MASKS DURING ANY LITURGICAL SERVICES OR IN ANY PARISH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. TO BE CLEAR: THIS IS A RESPONSE OF GREAT CAUTION. THOSE WHO HAVE **NOT BEEN VACCINATED** MUST VOLUNTARILY WEAR MASKS AT LITURGY OR OTHER PARISH FAMILY EVENTS. THOSE WHO **HAVE BEEN VACCINATED** BUT HAVE BEEN PART OF ANY GATHERING OF PEOPLE—INDOORS OR OUTDOORS—WHICH INCLUDES INDIVIDUALS WHOSE VACCINATION STATUS IS UNKNOWN TO THEM SHOULD VOLUNTARILY WEAR MASKS DURING LITURGY OR OTHER PARISH FAMILY EVENTS.

The goal of this response is to protect everyone worshipping in our parish churches and participating in our activities without the impossible task of trying to identify those who are vaccinated and those who are not. As Ukrainian Orthodox Christians, it is not our responsibility to be the "Vaccination Police" in forcing anyone, parish members or not, to prove to us that they have been vaccinated. Anyone who is vaccinated is protected quite well from serious consequences of the virus. There is a small number of those vaccinated who have been infected with the new variants of the virus, but most of the time they exhibit no symptoms and require no hospitalization. They are, however, capable of infecting others during this time. Of course, those who are unvaccinated are very capable of infecting others whether they exhibit manifestations of the disease or not. Let us all be concerned for one another by acting responsibly with the use of masks.

*"O Lord Jesus Christ, in Your loving care, You traveled through towns and villages 'curing every disease and illness.' At Your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, as the global spread of the coronavirus intensifies again, that we may experience Your healing Love anew. Be with us as we continue to experience the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, whether we have survived the disease, lost loved ones, or have felt helpless with no ability, because of severe but necessary medical and physical restrictions, to comfort those who continue to suffer. Help us to respond to the devotion of doctors, nurses, researchers, and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and put themselves at risk in the process with our continued prayers for their safety. Help us, O Lord, to comprehend that we all are vulnerable to this virus and that we must take all necessary measures to protect*



*one another. For You are a Merciful and Loving God and to You we give glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen"*

*In our Lord's All-Encompassing Love,*

**+ ANTONY**

***By the Grace of God, Metropolitan***

**+ DANIEL**

***By the Grace of God, Archbishop***

**Father Theophan Kenyon Mackey**—This is powerful stuff.



**Steve Robinson**

The chipper customer service rep at Enterprise Truck Rental handed me the keys to the van and said, "SO, what are we hauling today?"

I smiled. "Actually...My Mother's body to a monastery in New Mexico where we're burying her. Well, in her coffin that I built...not just her body."

The pause was probably shorter than it seemed. "Well. Umm. THAT'S one I've never heard before.... But wow. That's...ummm, pretty... Awesome, actually... You can do that?"

And we had a short chat about the Orthodox view of death and funerals and dead body transportation. (I told him when I returned the van, "Don't worry about it being haunted, my Mom wasn't that kind of person...")

My sister and brother-in-law weren't able to come to Phoenix when my Dad died last year because the country was locked down. My Mom's caregiver could not attend Dad's funeral last year because she stayed home with Mom to care for her during his funeral. This was their first experience of an Orthodox funeral service. Bea asked, "Who is preaching the funeral?" I said, "No one. The church is. You'll just have to see it..." Afterward, she said, "You were right, I ain't NEVER seen any funeral like that before! It was beautiful!"

We left the Church and drove to New Mexico, the casket packed with ice and surrounded by cases of olive oil, roasted peppers, kalamata olives,

bulk bags of aromatic spices and coffee from our local Middle Eastern grocery store for the Monastery.

The grave was dug. Mom's casket was placed on top of my dad's. Our monk-son said, "Your dad isn't incorrupt...just so you know." "No doubt...," I said.

The casket rested on two pieces of lumber over the hole. The dirt was piled beside it. There was no fancy brass and chrome frame draped in velvet to hide the hole beneath the casket. There was no fake grass covering the mound of dirt to hide the earth from whence we were created and to whence we return.

The graveside prayers were said. We lowered the casket into the ground. A monk brought out several shovels and a rake. I took a shovel, stood beside the grave and stabbed the dirt. I lifted the shovel and dumped the dirt into the hole. A trail of dust followed it into the grave. The casket resonated, a dull hollow dirt drumbeat, the last thing Mom would hear except the pulse of the earth surrounding her.

The family took turns putting dirt into the grave. Sister, grandchildren, great grandchildren. Then everyone joined in, monks, pilgrims, and children. The monks sang the Paschal troparia and "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life" as they filled the grave to level with the surrounding earth

The monks served us a "mercy meal". We all were handed a small elegant glass of plum brandy. "You need to offer a toast for your mother..." the Abbot whispered. I don't remember exactly what I said, but it was something like this: *"The earliest photo I have of my mom is of her dancing for her family. She always danced in life. She danced with an abusive, dysfunctional family, she tap danced for 68 years around my dad's temperament, she danced professionally and brought joy to hundreds, she waltzed through cancer and for the past five years, on paralyzed legs, danced with dementia, decline, and finally death. She always danced elegantly and with strength, grace, and love. Today, she is dancing with the angels."*

We cannot help but see death. Our culture tries to dress it up, hide the horror, "celebrate the life" rather than confront the grief, we play God and shortcut "ashes to ashes, dust to dust" on our terms and time. It is easier to spread ashes in the forest than to look into the face of the departed and kiss the beloved one last time and feel the horror of an ending full on.

There is a raw brutality of death, horrific if graceless. But, if we can bear grace and truth, it is beautiful.

But by faith, in death the beauty of The Image is not obliterated, but only sleeps and will be awakened at the sound of the trumpet of the Resurrection in the last day.

*"Weep, and with tears lament when, with understanding, I think on death, and see how in the graves there sleeps the beauty which once for us was fashioned in the image of God, but now is shapeless, ignoble, and bare of all the graces. O how strange a thing; what is this mystery which concerns us humans? Why were we given up to decay? And why to death united in wedlock? Truly, as it is written, these things come to pass by the ordinance of God, Who to her now gone, gives rest." Kontakion of the Funeral, Tone 8*  
*Death is the blessed curse.*

May God give rest to the soul of His servant, Nellie Natalia, and give her strong legs that will dance for eternity.



*Jawn, pronounced \ˈjɑːn\, is the Philadelphia all-purpose noun. It can refer to a single thing, or a collection or class of things, or a situation, or a person.*

As you may remember from a previous edition of *The Jawn*, the Dispaldo household is the proud owner of a dog named Tenny. Before we had the invisible fence installed, Tenny would occasionally lose her mind and run as fast and as far away as she could before she made up her mind to come home. I vividly remember Tenny running up to our neighbor's 11-year-old child and wondering why she immediately didn't want to get off her swing and play with this strange dog.

I was on the fence, no pun intended, about the invisible fence issue but I was reminded of the Robert Frost poem "Mending Wall." In it, two neighbors gather to rebuild a fence and the one neighbor says, "good fences make good neighbors." We would eventually relent and write a check for the invisible fence.

Tenny took to the fence well. Training was a breeze and she did not like the subtle shock the collar gave her during training. She has only challenged the fence once and we've often forgotten to put the collar back on her in the morning and she has not run away. Not only is she a GOOD GIRL!!! but she is a smart one, too.

Dogs and humans, as I see it, have at least two things in common. The first is that we both make great emergency responders and emergency managers. Dogs have a great sense of smell, they're agile, they can get places we can't, they hear well, they're happy to please, and they're compassionate. Humans, by virtue of being humans, make the best emergency managers because cats are mischievous and Narwal's live underwater. So, that's one thing we have in common.

The second thing is that we (should) both understand consequences. Tenny, for example, understands that if she crosses that invisible fence, she will get a small, yet uncomfortable shock. It will not feel good. She knows that every time she jumps up on our new sitting chairs, she will get fussed at. She knows that if she rolls around in whatever that strange smell is in the backyard, she will need to get that bath that she hates.

Humans understand consequences, too. We know that if we break laws, we will be fined or go to jail. We know that if we smoke, drink, or conduct ourselves in other inappropriate ways that our health will suffer because of it. We know that if we drive intoxicated or recklessly that we run a greater risk of getting in an accident.

We know, as emergency managers, that when we're sitting around making decisions for others, that those decisions have consequences. There are actual human beings on the other end of those decisions. And it's not just emergency managers. It's police officers, fire fighters, not-for-profits, EMT's, etc. The decisions made by us affect them, them being, other humans.

And, to that end, there is one big thing that separates us from dogs. Dogs, instinctually, remain embedded in the pack mentality that has helped them survive since the last ice age. It's the reason that they obey your commands, look cute at you for treats, cower when you raise your voice, and accept your love unconditionally.

It's also the same reason that even the smallest of dogs alert you when they sense trouble, or the biggest of dogs protect their pack, their family, when a physical danger is present. Your survival will make their survival easier. Some call it love. Some call it quid pro quo. Either way, in theory, it works.

A dog's world is small. Our world is not.

While a dog must worry about their next meal or their next pet, humans must worry about that, and climate change, and pandemics, and hurricanes, and tornadoes, and a host of other disaster du jours.

The planet is our human pack, whether it is understood or not. There is no "Mending Wall". Our individual actions have consequences, not just for ourselves, but for others at home within our community that never asked for those consequences to be bestowed upon them. Unlike our furry friends, we have the opportunity and capacity to embrace that and do something about it.

There is no invisible fence for humans, no bubble we can build. We cannot choose our pack because our pack of nearly 8 billion has been chosen for us.

A dog gets to live the dog's life of belly rubs and fetch. A human gets to live the human life, and that life is hard, consequential, collective, and worth defending.

**John DiSpaldo**, Teracore, Federal Emergency Management Agency—Region III