



Українська Католицька Єпархія св. Євстахія у Пармі
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF SAINT JOSAPHAT IN PARMA

February 19, 2017
Meatfare Sunday

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

This year the Ukrainian Catholic Church calls our attention on one of the most important aspect of our Christian life Diakonia – serving one’s neighbor. This is an appropriate theme in preparation for the Great Lent! The Gospel reading on the Meatfare Sunday recalls the scene of the Last Judgment. The most important words that Christ will address to each of us: Did you offer me something to eat when I was hungry, a glass of water when I was thirsty, clothing when I was naked, shelter when I was homeless? Did you visit me when I was sick or in prison?

This is why Synod of our Bishops is calling us, our parish communities starting with Meatfare Sunday to engage in serving one another. This Sunday lesson helps us to focus on less fortunate among us and prepare for Great Lenten days. Through serving one’s neighbor we encounter the living Christ. There are many concrete ways to serve those less fortunate than us: visit the sick, help the poor, feed the hungry, support victims of injustice, comfort the sorrowful.

During this Great Fast, I urge you to pray and fast and please make a special effort to serve those less fortunate than us in our parishes and communities. Please choose this Lenten season a concrete way to engage in this ministry. First of all, we should remember that we are responsible for those in need who live in our midst, then as much as possible the parish should support the charitable activities of the Church on a regional, national and international level. By doing this we will grow in faith, love and service to one another as one parish community.

Most importantly, we must live in such a way that the words of the Lord might apply to us: “Come, You have my Father’s blessing! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me ... I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brother, you did it for me.” (Matthew 25: 34-36, 40)

May God bless you and thank you for your service to one another! Have a blessed Lenten pilgrimage!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Bohdan J. Danylo
Bishop of St. Josaphat Eparch