

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Newsletter

Paphos Gate, 1010 Nicosia; PO Box 21964, 1515 Nicosia, Cyprus
 Tel. (357) 22 662132; Fax: (357) 22 660767
 Email: holcross@logos.cy.net; URL: www.holy-cross-nicosia.com
 Parish Priest: Fr. Zacheusz Dulniok, ofm



January 2016

Year 21 — No. 1

SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES (For Sunday)

- 4:00 pm Polish: *Every 1st Saturday of the month*
 4:00 pm Spanish: *Every 2nd Saturday of the month*
 6:30 pm English

SUNDAY MASSES

- 8:00 am English
 9:30 am Greek
 10:30 am English
 12:00 nn French: *Every 1st Sunday of the month*
 12:00 nn Tagalog: *Every 2nd Sunday of the month*
 12:00 nn Indian: *Every 3rd Sunday of the month*
 12:00 nn Sinhala: *Every 4th Sunday of the month*
 5:30 pm English (Children/Families)

WEEKDAY MASSES

- 7:30 am Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday - English
 7:30 am Tuesday - Greek
St. Anthony Devotion
 8.00 am Wednesday - English
 6:30 pm Every day - English

MASSES IN NORTH CYPRUS

- 12:00 nn St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Kyrenia - *Every Sunday* - English
 7:00 pm Famagusta - *Every Sunday* - English



FATHER UMBERTO BARATO, OFM

Camisano (Italy) 13 March 1930
 † Larnaca (Cyprus) 22 December 2015

When he was only eleven years old, Umberto Barato entered the Franciscan college of Chiampo, Vicenza. He did his Novitiate in the friary of Barbarano, Vicenza. He made his first profession in 1947 and his solemn profession in 1952. He was ordained priest on 27 June 1954. He also pursued higher studies in philosophy and theology and obtained a doctorate in pedagogy.

He left Italy in 1964 to be a missionary in the Philippines. Until 1970 he taught at the Franciscan Seminary of Manila.

He commenced his service in the Custody of the Holy Land in 1971. Between 1982 and 1989 he was parish priest at Our Lady of Victory in Rhodes. From 1989, for twenty years, he was Patriarchal Vicar of the Latins in Cyprus, Responsible for the Apostolic Nunciature of Cyprus, and from 1995 Delegate of the Father Custos in Cyprus. From 1989 to 1992 he was parish priest at St Catherine, Limassol, and from 1992 at Holy Cross, Nicosia. He concluded his service in Nicosia in July 2010, after welcoming the Holy Father Benedict XVI during his visit to Cyprus in June of that year. In July 2010 Fr. Umberto was transferred to Our Lady of Graces, Larnaca, where he continued his service to his beloved island of Cyprus, which had by now become his second home.

Besides his native Italian, Fr. Umberto was fluent in English and Greek and had an excellent command of French and Spanish. He also knew Latin, Classical Greek and German.

Fr. Umberto was 85 years old and was a professed friar for 68 years. He was a priest for 61 years and was in service in the Holy Land for 44 years

In his letter of presentation of Fr. Umberto's memoirs (2014), the Father Custos wrote: *"The thread of narration of these pages illustrates the manner in which grace has worked on a person who, from his youngest years, was chosen gratuitously by God to follow Him on the way of Saint Francis and to the priesthood. The particulars of his life, which he describes in this volume, have meaning only if one keeps this thread present. When at the end the author writes that in his life he received "grace upon grace" he confirms this truth."* MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE.

My dear parishioners and friends,

On the last day of the year we thank God for everything we have received from Him and we ask forgiveness for what went wrong, trusting in His unmeasurable mercy. Today we stand again at the beginning of the New Year and a new journey, unknown, mysterious and uncertain, and we pray that the merciful Father may bless it, each day and every single moment of it. Let us proclaim His mighty deeds together with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace and Mother of Mercies.

The Fathers of Holy Cross wish you a Blessed, Happy and Prosperous in everything 2016.

Fr. Zacheusz M. Dulniok, ofm

Lord Jesus, may Your light shine our way, as once it guided the steps of the magi:

January Calendar

CELEBRATIONS

Friday 1 January
Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Solemnity



Wednesday 6 January
Epiphany of the Lord
Solemnity



Sunday 10 January
Baptism of Our Lord
Feast



Saturday 16 January
St. Berard and Companions
Feast



Monday 25 January
Conversion of St. Paul
Feast



MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

"Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men." (Catechism of the Catholic Church 721).

Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace", the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace". New Year's Day is also designated as the "World Day of Peace", further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The Epiphany takes its name from the Greek Επιφάνεια, which denotes the visit of a god to earth. The first idea of the feast is the manifestation of Christ as the Son of God. "Begotten before the day star and before all ages, the Lord our Savior is this day made manifest to the world." The feast unites three events in the life of Christ when His divinity, as it were, shines through His humanity: the adoration of the Magi; the baptism of Christ in the Jordan; and the first miracle at the wedding feast of Cana. Moreover, at Epiphany the Church looks forward to the majestic coming of Christ on the "youngest day" when His manifestation as God will be complete. The Gospels of the baptism and the marriage at Cana are read on the Octave Day and the Second Sunday after Epiphany, and later Sunday Masses in the Epiphany season continue to show the divine power of our Lord in some of His most striking miracles.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or Θεοφάνια which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the river to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

ST BERARD AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

In 1219 with the blessing of St. Francis, Berard left Italy with Peter, Adjute, Accurs, Odo and Vitalis to preach in Morocco. As they were preaching in the marketplace, the friars were apprehended and ordered to leave the country; they refused. The sultan ordered them executed. After enduring severe beatings and declining various bribes to renounce their faith, the friars were beheaded by the sultan himself on January 16, 1220. They are the protomartyrs, i.e. the first martyrs among the Franciscan Order.

THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. (Acts 9:3-9)

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of January 2016

Universal: Interreligious Dialogue

That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

Evangelisation: Christian Unity

That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.

that we too may be led into your presence and worship you, the Child of Mary,

PARISH NEWS

St Anthony Benevolent Society



We wish to thank all who have contributed to the success of our 2015 bazaar either with donations, items to sell, baking cakes, or helping out in any other way as well as the great many who visited our bazaar. Your generous contributions made it a great success which in turn enables 'St. Anthony' to help some families in need throughout the year.

Social Centre

The Sisters of St. Joseph would like to thank all those who participated in the annual bazaar - either by their contributions, by their presence, by their singing, dancing, by their willingness to help in the organisation, by fetching and carrying - all the help that is so essential in ensuring that everything goes well.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and may 2016 be filled with peace and goodwill towards all men.

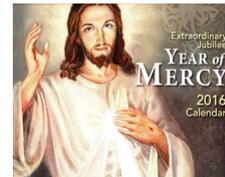


with peace
Sr. Adeline



NO MOVIE NIGHT IN JANUARY
(The first Friday is New Year's Day)

**THE 2016 CALENDAR
of the Divine Mercy Jubilee
Year in now on sale (€ 2)**



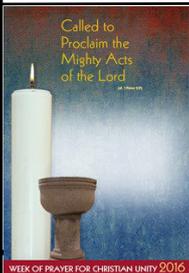
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

January 18 - 25

**Theme: "Called to proclaim
the mighty acts of the Lord."**

(Peter 2:9).

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (John 17.21). Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. In order to prepare for the annual celebration, ecumenical partners in a particular region are invited to produce a basic liturgical text on a biblical theme. This year the theme is "Called to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord." (Peter 2:9). The prayer material was prepared by members of different churches in Latvia.



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2016

DECEMBER 2015 HIGHLIGHTS



JUBILEE YEAR
Opening of the Holy
Door of Mercy
Maronite Cathedral



THE NATIVITY
Midnight Mass



THE 2015 CRIB
Prepared by the
Indian Community

HOLY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS & MESSAGES

ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ ΚΙ ΕΥΛΟΓΗΜΕΝΑ! The New Year 2016 begins and the Parish Council extends to you their warmest greetings and best wishes at this special time of the wonderful Feast of Christmas which lasts not for one or two days, but for twelve whole days, until the feast of the Epiphany on 6 January.

The executive members finalised the 2016 Holy Cross Parish Calendar for 2016, and we hope you get your copy and find it useful and inspiring as we go through the year.

We also discussed the Holy Cross Parish Website which is being updated and continually enriched. We invite you to visit it regularly at www.holy-cross-nicosia.com and to also encourage others to do so. You can find there information and updates about our Parish and the Church, the newsletters, other articles on the faith, the feasts, the activities, words and pastoral work of Pope Francis. Also on the right hand side of the homepage, under the Liturgy and Divine Office sections you can find and pray daily the morning and evening prayers with the whole Church and read the Mass readings for the day.

The Parish Council will meet again in January 2016 to discuss various issues on the agenda, including the 2016 Annual Plan and the schedule for the Movie Nights for the months ahead. We remind you that any suggestions or comments you may have are always welcome and that you can submit them at the email address below too.

We wish you once more an exceedingly prosperous and very happy New Year 2016, full of divine blessings and the abundant mercy of the Lord in this Jubilee of Mercy. We pray for you, pray for us too!

Akis Hjiiossif (Chairman of the Parish Council – email: holcrossparishcouncil@yahoo.com)

the Word of the Father, the King of nations,

MORE NEWS

Misericordiae Vultus - BULL OF INDICTION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY (3)



7. “For his mercy endures forever.” This is the refrain that repeats after each verse in Psalm 136 as it narrates the history of God’s revelation. By virtue of mercy, all the events of the Old Testament are replete with profound salvific import. Mercy renders God’s history with Israel a history of salvation. To repeat continually “for his mercy endures forever,” as the psalm does, seems to break through the dimensions of space and time, inserting everything into the eternal mystery of love. It is as if to say that not only in history, but for all eternity man will always be under the merciful gaze of the Father. It is no accident that the people of Israel wanted to include this psalm – the “Great *Hallel*,” as it is called – in its most important liturgical feast days.

Before his Passion, Jesus prayed with this psalm of mercy. Matthew attests to this in his Gospel when he says that, “when they had sung a hymn” (26:30), Jesus and his disciples went out to the Mount of Olives. While he was instituting the Eucharist as an everlasting memorial of himself and his paschal sacrifice, he symbolically placed this supreme act of revelation in the light of his mercy. Within the very same context of mercy, Jesus entered upon his passion and death, conscious of the great mystery of love that he would consummate on the Cross. Knowing that Jesus himself prayed this psalm makes it even more important for us as Christians, challenging us to take up the refrain in our daily lives by praying these words of praise: “for his mercy endures forever.”

8. With our eyes fixed on Jesus and his merciful gaze, we experience the love of the Most Holy Trinity. The mission Jesus received from the Father was that of revealing the mystery of divine love in its fullness. “God is love” (1 Jn 4:8,16), John affirms for the first and only time in all of Holy Scripture. This love has now been made visible and tangible in Jesus’ entire life. His person is nothing but love, a love given gratuitously. The relationships he forms with the people who approach him manifest something entirely unique and unrepeatable. The signs he works, especially in favour of sinners, the poor, the marginalised, the sick, and the suffering, are all meant to teach mercy. Everything in him speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of compassion.

Jesus, seeing the crowds of people who followed him, realised that they were tired and exhausted, lost and without a guide, and he felt deep compassion for them (cf. Mt 9:36). On the basis of this compassionate love he healed the sick who were presented to him (cf. Mt 14:14), and with just a few loaves of bread and fish he satisfied the enormous crowd (cf. Mt 15:37). What moved Jesus in all of these situations was nothing other than mercy, with which he read the hearts of those he encountered and responded to their deepest need. When he came upon the widow of Nain taking her son out for burial, he felt great compassion for the immense suffering of this grieving mother, and he gave back her son by raising him from the dead (cf. Lk 7:15). After freeing the demoniac in the country of the Gerasenes, Jesus entrusted him with this mission: “Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you” (Mk 5:19). The calling of Matthew is also presented within the context of mercy. Passing by the tax collector’s booth, Jesus looked intently at Matthew. It was a look full of mercy that forgave the sins of that man, a sinner and a tax collector, whom Jesus chose – against the hesitation of the disciples – to become one of the Twelve. Saint Bede the Venerable, commenting on this Gospel passage, wrote that Jesus looked upon Matthew with merciful love and chose him: *miserando atque eligendo* [by having mercy and by choosing him]. This expression impressed me so much that I chose it for my episcopal motto.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

You can receive the Parish Newsletter electronically.

Go to

<http://groupspaces.com/HCNewsletter/>

Click on “Join Group” and follow the instructions.

Notices, Contributions, etc. for Parish Newsletter

Please send your notices and other contributions for the next newsletter to Monique (moniqueburston@yahoo.com) and/or to the Parish priest (holcross@logos.cy.net), or leave them in an envelope in the Church Library.

Deadline for submissions: 24 January

Coffee Morning in the Library

21 January 2016
10.00-12.00

For more information call
Rosemarie (99216007) or Monique
(99795207).

the Saviour of mankind; to whom be glory for ever. [Frank Colquhoun—An Epiphany prayer]