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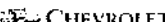


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St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church

2627 Muskoka Road, 117 Baysville, ON

Tony Sacheli
Rosi Vandenberg
Jan Sirek
Fr. Paul Hogan

Office Administrator—office@stmaryshuntsville.ca
Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) - rsidowney@gmail.com
Deacon - office@stmaryshuntsville.ca
Pastor - Frpaulhogan@peterboroughdiocese.org



The Liberation of Nazi Death Camps

As Allied and Soviet troops moved across Europe against Nazi Germany, they encountered concentration camps, mass graves, and other sites of Nazi crimes. The unspeakable conditions the liberators confronted shed light on the full scope of Nazi horrors. This year, 2020, marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of concentration camps and the end of Nazi tyranny in Europe.

As Allied troops moved across Europe in a series of offensives against Nazi Germany, they began to encounter tens of thousands of concentration camp prisoners. Many of these prisoners had survived forced marches into the interior of Germany from camps in occupied Poland. These prisoners were suffering from starvation and disease.

The SS evacuated most of the prisoners to concentration camps further west during the spring of 1944. In late July 1944, as Soviet forces approached Lublin, the remaining camp staff hastily abandoned Majdanek, without fully dismantling the camp. Soviet troops first arrived at Majdanek during the night of July 22–23 and captured Lublin on July 24. Captured virtually intact, Majdanek was the first major concentration camp to be liberated. Soviet officials invited journalists to inspect the camp and evidence of the horrors that had occurred there. In the summer of 1944, the Soviets also overran the sites of the Belzec, Sobibor, and Treblinka killing centers. The Germans had dismantled these camps in 1943, after most of the Jews of Poland had already been killed.

The Soviets liberated Auschwitz, the largest killing center and concentration camp, in January 1945. The Nazis had forced the majority of Auschwitz prisoners to march westward (in what would become known as "death marches"). Soviet soldiers found over six thousand emaciated prisoners alive when they entered the camp. There was abundant evidence of mass murder in Auschwitz. The retreating Germans had destroyed most of the warehouses in the camp, but in the remaining ones the Soviets found personal belongings of the victims. They discovered, for example, hundreds of thousands of men's suits, more than 800,000 women's outfits, and more than 14,000 pounds of human hair.

In the following months, the Soviets liberated additional camps in the Baltic states and in Poland. Shortly before Germany's surrender, Soviet forces liberated the Stutthof, Sachsenhausen, and Ravensbrueck concentration camps.

US forces liberated the Buchenwald concentration camp near Weimar, Germany, on April 11, 1945, a few days after the Nazis began evacuating the camp. On the day of liberation, an underground prisoner resistance organization seized control of Buchenwald to prevent atrocities by the retreating camp guards. American forces liberated more than 20,000 prisoners at Buchenwald. They also liberated Dora-Mittelbau, Flossenbürg, Dachau, and Mauthausen.

British forces liberated concentration camps in northern Germany, including Neuengamme and Bergen-Belsen. They entered the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, near Celle, in mid-April 1945. Some 60,000 prisoners, most in critical condition because of a typhus epidemic, were found alive. More than 10,000 of them died from the effects of malnutrition or disease within a few weeks of liberation.

Liberators confronted unspeakable conditions in the Nazi camps, where piles of corpses lay unburied. Only after the liberation of these camps was the full scope of Nazi horrors exposed to the world. The small percentage of inmates who survived resembled skeletons because of the demands of forced labor and the lack of food, compounded by months and years of maltreatment. Many were so weak that they could hardly move. Disease remained an ever-present danger, and many of the camps had to be burned down to prevent the spread of epidemics. Survivors of the camps faced a long and difficult road to recovery.

Author (s): United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

Note: International Day of Liberation of the Nazi Concentration Camps is a memorable date, celebrated annually on 11th of April.

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Because of your great generosity, our food pantry is good and full!
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At this time then we are not in need of any donations. This can change in the future. When the need arises, it is good to know that this community of faith is so kind. Thank you.



5th Sunday of Easter - May 10, 2020

“I am the way, the truth and the life.”
John 14.

“Humanity, take a good look at yourself. Inside, you’ve got heaven and earth, and all of creation. You’re a world—everything is hidden in you.”
Hildegard of Bingen

Next Sunday May 17th— 6th Sunday of Easter



“The most fundamental aggression to ourselves, the most fundamental harm we can do to ourselves, is to remain ignorant by not having the courage and the respect to look at ourselves honestly and gently.”

Pema Chödrön

“You have it easily in your power to increase the sum total of this world’s happiness now. How? By giving a few words of sincere appreciation to someone who is lonely or discouraged. Perhaps you will forget tomorrow the kind words you say today, but the recipient may cherish them over a lifetime.”
Dale Carnegie

which brings about eternal happiness, beginning here and now, and fulfilled after this life. Please do not think that this “eternal happiness” is something that is all about us, again satisfying our pampered and self-involved lives. On the contrary, it is the end to that way of thinking and living. Eternal happiness is the indwelling of God in every aspect of our lives. God’s vision becomes the only vision of everything and all is changed accordingly. This is not done for us, but is a vision of how things can be. The efforts that will be called upon from each one of us is nothing less than a complete transformation into something that is not of our making. It is to let go of the past, what was “normal” and to begin to live anew.

Let us begin. This Hope has been placed within us from the very beginning of our lives. It is not of our making, but of God. It is what enables us to recognize what is both truthful and false. Hope is the vision of God that brings about wholeness and sustains unity. What is required of us is to begin our appreciation of this Hope, to accept our right relationship with God, and to God’s creation: we are not the centre, we are not indispensable, we are neither to have dominion over anything or anyone nor are we stewards of creation. We are no better or less than anything else, and nothing in creation is better or less than us. We are and have always been, one among the whole of Creation. To the degree we can accept this, then the vision of the Hope of God, is the revealing in this world, what the Kingdom of God may look like. The temptation for us will always be to manipulate this vision to suit our needs. We will know this is taking place when even one aspect of creation is being diminished by us. A disharmony and imbalance arises. It is then that we surrender again to Hope. We will have to do this many times. It is not a sign of failure, but of fidelity to God’s vision of creation. Hope for a new world and a better way of being is availed to us, it is within us to accept it and to allow it to unfold. pah

Faith, Hope and Love

It is in 1 Corinthians 13.13 that we hear of what will be known as the three theological virtues. St. Paul writes, “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” Love may be the greatest of the three, but I wonder if it is not Hope that we are in most need of today. Many lament over how their lives have been disrupted by a tiny virus, invisible to the naked eye, and now desperately wish to return to the way things were, to a normal life. But if we were all honest with ourselves, it was that “normal life” that helped to put us in this situation in the first place. The past few weeks have shown us many beautiful and also ugly things about ourselves as a species.

We have rediscovered our families and friends to be essential for our health and well being. Exploring new ways to express ourselves, delve into hidden talents and to take a bit more time to discern what really matters in this life. We have also caught but a glimpse of the devastating effect we have had on this planet. In a very short time, this same planet has begun to heal and reclaim life from death, as a result of our lack of interference. Perhaps what we are beginning to fully appreciate is that this world does not need us, and in fact would do much better without us. This is where Hope enters.

We have mistaken hope to be simply a desire for something to happen according to our will and design. As well, it is a vain and desperate belief that I am deserving of this hope, regardless of the effect on others. But Hope as a Theological Virtue, is not this, but is in fact something altogether transformative. Hope is the desire placed within us through the Divine action of God, to be open to the Divine union

We Remember our Faithful Departed especially **Richard Boivin, Jerry McAndrew & Joseph Knobelsdorf ...**

through our sadness our love shines through, helping us back in time to remember them with Joy

AND

We join our prayers for those who are ill at this time ...

Rebecca Muzzi, Ian Bruce, Pamela Festing, Joe Hanrath, David Phillips, John Schreurs, Connie Gregory, Kristina Lenart, Robert Foley, Steven Knox, Claudette Mainville, Michael Brown, Diana Snowden, Brian Dittmar, Bianca Laurie de Hernandez & Ruth Anne Foley

And let us pray for those who are so tirelessly working to take care of those who are ill at this time. May they remain safe, healthy and well.

“First they came for the Jews
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for the Communists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for me and there was no one left
to speak out for me.”

Martin Niemöller

“If there is some corner of the world
which has remained peaceful,
but with a peace based on injustices
the peace of a swamp with rotten matter
fermenting in its depths
- we may be sure that that peace is false.”

Dom Helder Camara

“Be happy in the moment, that’s enough.
Each moment is all we need, not more.”

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta



A Mother’s Day Blessing

Where would we be without our mother’s love?

Lord, bless our mothers with wisdom to teach and guide their children in a way that will help them to follow You and to become men and women who will be pleasing in Your sight.

Give all mothers the patience to deal with the difficulties of their vocation and, most of all, give them a special blessing as they care so lovingly for the gifts that You have allowed them the honor of raising.

On this special day we honor our mothers. We ask that you continue to grace these women with understanding and compassion. May each mother be given what they need so as to bring about through the work of her hands, your will.

I thank you, Creator of us all, for my mother. I thank you that she gave me life and nurtured me all those years. She gave me my faith, helping me to know you and to know Jesus and his ways. She taught me how to love and how to sacrifice for others. She taught me that it was okay to cry and that I should always tell the truth. Let her example to us be a guiding force in our lives, and may this wisdom be passed down to the next generation of loving and compassionate mothers.

O Lord, bless her with the graces she needs and which you want to give her today. Help her to feel precious in your eyes today and to know that I love her. Give her strength and courage, compassion and peace. Bless her this day with your unconditional love.

Let us also remember those mothers who have lost a child through death. There is no greater heart ache than for a parent to lose their child. May these mother’s faith continue to give them hope, and that their family and friends support and console them.

For our mothers who have died, though they may no longer be present to us, they remain lovingly in our hearts and we pray that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom.

And for those who were not able to have children of their own, but desired in their hearts to be a mother, may you not be forgotten today, but be also honoured because of the many ways you expressed your love to countless other children in your life time. Selflessly you gave, as any other mother has done, and your reward was to pass on your wisdom, kindness and love to them. This is a blessing in God’s eyes.

Today may we hold our mothers a little closer in our hearts, and with gracious spirits and respectful minds, be ever so thankful for our moms. They were not perfect, but genuinely human, giving and sharing with us what they believed would be good for us, never counting the cost, but were always there.

Thank you mom,

I love you.



We are encouraged to “physically distance” ourselves, for the common good of everyone’s health. This is no reason to “Socially Forget.”

Reach out to those who maybe most vulnerable at this time to ensure they are well, or whether they are in need of anything. Be Safe, Be Thoughtful

Please visit our website to see what is going on through our Parish Calendar and so much more.
Website address: maryassumptionparish.com

**May 2nd/3rd
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Thank you for your continued kindness and participation in your parish church, through your time, talent and generous offerings. Peace.