

TOGETHER

a monthly bulletin insert from the archdiocese



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RISE TO THE CHALLENGE OF NEW LIFE GIFTED TO US BY OUR RISEN LORD

Happy Easter! We rejoice that Jesus manifested the resurrection, giving us the promise of new and eternal life after our death, which we live beginning now.

A new life, for example, where instead of loving things and using people, we use things and love people; better yet, use things to love people in need.

Helping the poor is one of the markers for a personal, saving faith, as well as for a vital community of those believers, like a parish.

Such markers should most definitely also include learning and teaching the Gospel, and gathering together for daily prayers and Sunday Mass.

Other markers have been suggested by over 16,000 people in our Archdiocese, through their participation in our synodal exercise, the survey on parish vitality.

The purpose of this exercise was to invite prayer, thought, and discussion about parish vitality, to raise awareness about that, and to challenge us to “up our game.”

Contrary to what some people fear, there is no plan, or even desire to close parishes; in fact, it's hoped that no parish that is a parish in the true sense of the word will close.

But if our only concern is for a convenient place to fulfill the Sunday obligation, or to preserve the church because it's pretty, or because our ancestors helped build it...

Well, call it what you will, but it isn't a parish, really. And as a consequence, the people in that place may have made the decision to close the parish.

Otherwise, the vitality of a parish isn't judged by things like size, geography, or finances, but by sharing time, talents, and treasure in support of mission and ministry.

And most especially in carrying out the 3 essential activities: helping the poor, learning and teaching the Gospel, and gathering together for daily prayers and Sunday Mass.

There may be communities where, because of a temporary priest shortage, Mass can't be celebrated every Sunday or weekday, but the Catholics there can still gather.

They can (and should) still gather for prayers or worship. On Sundays (but not on weekdays), they can use a form of the Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest.

That can take the form of the Liturgy of the Word for that day, or Morning or Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of Hours.

If there is no priest for a daily Mass, parishioners can gather in the church for the Rosary, the Liturgy of Hours, or Eucharistic Adoration.

Now, with our awareness raised, let's rise to the challenge and up our game, living the new life gifted to us by our Risen Lord!

Michael O. Jackels
Archbishop of Dubuque



CATHEDRAL HOSTS UKRAINE PRAYER SERVICE, ARCHBISHOP PARTICIPATES IN CONSECRATION

By Dan Russo

In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Catholics across the Archdiocese of Dubuque recently came together for two special events during which they asked the Prince of Peace and his Blessed Mother to bring an end to the war.

On March 16, Archbishop Michael O. Jackels presided over a prayer service at the Cathedral of St. Raphael in Dubuque. The event, proposed by the cathedral staff, united about two-hundred people in person. Over 4,000 took part virtually from parish halls, churches and homes.

The colors of the Ukrainian flag — blue and yellow — sat beneath icons of St. Raphael, the Blessed Trinity and Mary holding the baby Jesus on the steps leading up to the cathedral's altar. The congregation said a Rosary before the start of the 6:30 p.m. prayer service.

“Somebody gave me a blue and yellow rosary to pray with this evening,” said the archbishop to the gathering. “I just opened it up and it was broken. Well, maybe it was intended to be that way because of Ukraine being broken right now in a state of war. We will pray the Glorious Mysteries on account of our Christian hope that there is victory in the experience of suffering and death.”

On March 25, the Archbishop led the archdiocesan participation in the consecration and entrustment of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Pope Francis invited all bishops in the world to join him in this undertaking that happened on the Feast of the Annunciation.

Locally, the archbishop offered a reflection and prayed a rosary with staff members at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center before reciting the consecration prayer the pope composed. This event was also livestreamed. Over 2,000 people have viewed the video online.

The cathedral service was planned before the news of the consecration was made public by the Vatican. As a result, there were two local services that shared the same goal of praying for peace.

At the cathedral, the archbishop condemned Russian President Vladimir Putin for his role in initiating the conflict.

“War is an evil,” said the archbishop. “Sadly, sometimes a necessary evil as a legitimate means to defend ourselves or our home or country or a community of vulnerable people against an unjust aggressor. But war is never legitimate when it’s waged for purposes of revenge or expansion, fueled by pride or greed or malice, like Putin’s war ...”

At both events, Archbishop Jackels spoke about three steps people can take locally to help the people in harm’s way: praying, contributing to humanitarian aid and “becoming a peacemaker in our own sphere of influence.”

Before completing the prayer of consecration and entrustment at the Pastoral Center’s chapel



Archbishop Jackels reads the prayer written by Pope Francis to consecrate and entrust Russia & Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary during a ceremony March 25 in the St. Raphael Room Chapel at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center in Dubuque.



Archbishop Michael O. Jackels distributes incense as the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar of the Cathedral of St. Raphael March 16. Eucharistic adoration and silent prayer were part of a prayer service for peace in Ukraine proposed by the cathedral staff. More than 200 people participated in person. The hour-long event was also livestreamed.

in Dubuque, the archbishop spoke about Our Lady of Fatima, a church-approved apparition of the Blessed Mother that occurred in 1917.

“There are various requests that are associated with the Marian Apparition in Fatima,” said Archbishop Jackels. “Pray the Rosary every day for peace in the world. Do penance for the conversion of sinners and to make reparation for sin. Practice the five first Saturday devotion, which includes going to Confession, going to Holy Communion, praying the Rosary and meditating for fifteen minutes on the mysteries of the life of Christ and consecration of Russia to Mary by the pope, in union with the world’s bishops. This last request is what we’re doing here today. And with all due respect to Our Lady of Fatima and to the pope, consecration isn’t the best word for what is going on ...”

Various popes have made consecrations in order to fulfill the Fatima request. The most recent pope to do so, prior to Pope Francis, was Pope St. John Paul II, on March 25, 1984. Archbishop Jackels said Our Lady of Fatima’s request for the consecration of Russia “has been successfully fulfilled, according to Sister Lucia, the last of the Fatima seers to die.”

“A more fitting word is entrustment — to give something over to a person for that person’s care or prayer or protection,” said the archbishop. “That’s what we’re doing. We’re committing all humanity, but especially Russia and Ukraine to the love and intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

Archbishop Jackels said that the idea of the entrustment is that our petitions will be heard

and “receive a positive response because it’s the Mother of God that pleads on our behalf...” He also promoted the spiritual practices associated with the Fatima devotion.

“They transform us to reform us and to conform us to the Spirit of Jesus. As a result of the reform to conform in our own local sphere of influence, we will forgive instead of fight; give instead of take and ... peace will reign there as a result in our own little sphere of influence and eventually, like a fire that grows



A cantor leads the congregation at the Cathedral of St. Raphael in a hymn during the prayer service for peace in Ukraine.

and grows, eventually the whole world.”

Money raised at the cathedral prayer service went to Catholic Relief Services to aid victims of the war. Donate online at: <https://support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine> Video of the cathedral prayer service is on the archdiocesan Facebook page. Video of the Consecration is at <https://dbqarch.org/live-broadcasts>