

VELIKA GOSPA NEWSLETTER

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Izražavamo srdačnu dobrodošlicu našim gostima koji su ove Velike Gospe stigli k nama: **fra Ante Bekavac**, hrvatski franjevac iz New Yorka; **fra Marko Puljić**, kustos hrvatskih franjevaca; naš novi **biskup, Gustavo Garcia-Siller**; **Lovorka Oštrunić**, hrvatski konzul; **fra Ivan Leotar**, hrvatski franjevac na post-diplomskom studiju u Austriji; te naši gosti koji su ove godine stigli iz Njemačke, Arizone, Californije, Teksasa, Floride, Michigan, Wisconsin, te na poseban način iz Hrvatske.

CARDINAL FRANCIS GEORGE'S LETTER TO ST. JEROME PARISH

August 15, 2003

Dear Friends in Christ,

Congratulations and best wishes as you celebrate the Velika Gospa Feast. Such occasions are a time for remembering and giving thanks for the many people who have built a tradition of faith, love and service to the parish.

I extend my best wishes as you look toward the future and continue to serve the people of St. Jerome Parish. May the Lord fill your hearts with his love and may you continue to witness the Gospel of Jesus in service to one another.

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary is part of every Catholic's life. The rosary



Velika Gospa—Assumption Feast Procession 2002

is a chain which unites us from generation to generation (Lk. 1:48) meditating on the mysteries of Christ's life, death and resurrection, uniting ourselves to Christ in our prayer to his mother.

The Parishioners and

staff of St. Jerome Parish are remembered in my prayers; please keep me and the Archdiocese in yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George

MEMORIES OF VELIKA GOSPA

◆ My mother once told me of one of our old Croatian immigrant men (someone who was probably one of my Dida and **B a b a P e s o ' s** borders at the time) who refused to work on Velika Gospa even during the Depression, regardless of the fact that he was warned that he would be

fired if he didn't show up for work on that day. He did indeed get fired, but shortly afterward found an even better job!

(Mary)

◆ My memories of the Velika Gospa celebration at St. Jerome's parish goes directly to my spiritual formation! It was dur-

ing this novena, year in and year out, through my youth that I learned that Jesus through Our Blessed Mother Mary is not only an integral part of my (our) mere existence, but also the reason for all my (our) joy and the remedy to all my (our) sorrows.

(cont'd. on p. 2)

"Without our Mother, we are lost, and we are nobody."

- Carl

NADOLAZEĆI DOGAĐAJI....

- *Hodočašće na Holy Hill*
23. kolovoza

Autobus polazi u 8; vraća se u 5; \$20 po osobi; djeca ispod 12 ne plaćaju. Javite se u župnom uredu.

- *Hrvatska škola počinje 6. rujna!*

Za upis, javite se gđi Nevenki Jurković: 773-525-8571

- *Misa za obljetnice braka*
21. rujna

11:00 na hrvatskom

- *Slikanje za foto album župljana počinje*
28. rujna!

MEMORIES OF VELIKA GOSPA

(cont'd. from p. 1)

To simplify, I was MOVED by the late Fr. Mark Kozina's homilies. It was reassuring to know that others were also deeply touched. In an increasingly secular world, I learned that all active Catholic religious participation was infinitely good while being not "cool".

Camaraderie naturally flows from such an incomparably religious, spiritual and joyous tradition and celebration. Without our friends, we are not a community. Without our Mother, we are lost, and we are nobody. Ergo, without friends co-celebrating our beginnings, we are a nobody who is lost in a strange land.

So I am thankful to all our ancestors who carried on their tradition to us. We're thankful to their devotion to the feast day of Our Blessed Mother's Assumption into Heaven.

(Carl)

◆ In August 1984, about a week or two before the Feast of Velika Gospa, I went to Lino's Restaurant on Ontario Street and met Bill Finn, a friend and former co-worker. Bill introduced me to his companion, Bill Meyers, who was from Florida. Mr. Meyers and I began talking about various subjects and eventually began arguing. Bill Finn broke up the argument by asking me to tell Bill Meyers about Velika Gospa. I told him all I knew and then he said he would match whatever my church collected that day. I told him it could be over \$15,000 to \$20,000 and he said that was okay - to just call him.

I got a copy of the bulletin which showed that the proceeds from August 15 were \$18,573.95. I called Bill Meyers and he told me to send him the bulletin, which I did. He then

sent me a check for \$18,573.95 made payable to St. Jerome Church! When I brought the check to Father Jerome Kučan, our then pastor, he jumped three feet in the air saying, "Now we can get a new furnace, fix the school, etc." When the check cleared, Father Jerome wanted to have a banquet for Mr. Meyers. I again called Bill Finn who told me he had spoken to Mr. Meyers who said he was just happy to be able to help our church.

(Peter)

◆ Prije nekoliko tjedana kada smo najavljivali Veliku Gospu i molili sve koji žele pomoći taj dan, poslije mise se javila jedna mlada djevojka, Hrvatica iz Njemačke i rekla: "Ja sam ovdje u Chicagu samo nekoliko tjedana. Ja bih htjela pomoći, samo mi kažite što." Doista inspirativan primjer.

OUR LADY OF SINJ

Velika Gospa and being Croatian go hand-in-hand. This day (August 15th) is to Croatians what St. Patrick's Day is to the Irish, or what Columbus Day is to the Italians. The tradition of Velika Gospa originated in the town of Sinj, Croatia.

History tells us that in the year 1716, the barbaric armies of the Turkish Empire were advancing toward the town. Their plan was to capture Sinj and press forward. The Turks hoped, to conquer all of Europe. The people of Sinj, fearing certain annihilation in the face of overwhelming odds implored the intervention of the

Blessed Mother. Throughout the night of August 14th, they prayed before the portrait of the Virgin Mary then called "Our Lady of Grace." The following morning, Assumption Day, August 15th, an apparition of a beautiful lady, whom the faithful recognized as the Blessed Virgin Mary, appeared in the sky. The Turkish soldiers became violently ill. They were

unable to cross the river to Sinj, and thus retreated.

Through Our Lady of Sinj's miraculous intervention the attack was repulsed and the powerful Turks fled. Ever since that day the Croatians have maintained a unique love and devotion to Mary. Thousands of pilgrims still make the annual pilgrimage to the church in Sinj.

This religious tradition was brought to Chicago in 1912 with the blessing of a new parish for Bridgeport: St. Jerome Croatian Church, and thus began our feast of Velika Gospa.



PISMO KARDINALA GEORGEA

15. kolovoza 2003.

Dragi prijatelji u Kristu,

Čestitke i najbolje želje uz proslavu Velike Gospe. Takve su prigode trenuci za sjećanje i zahvalu za mnoge ljude koji su gradili tradiciju vjere, ljubavi i službe svojoj župi. Primite moje najbolje želje dok se veselite budućnosti i nastavljate služiti župljane župe sv. Jeronima.

Neka Gospodin ispuni vaša srca ljubavlju da biste mogli nastaviti svjedočiti Isusovo Evanđelje u službi jedni drugih.

Molitva Blaženoj Djevici Mariji dio je svakog katoličkog života. Krunica je lanac koji nas ujedinjuje iz generacije u generaciju (Lk 1,48), razmišljajući o otajstvima Kristova života, smrti i uskrsnuća, ujedinjujemo



se s Kristom u našoj molitvi njegovoj Majci. Župljani i osoblje župe sv. Jeronima u mojim su molitvama, molim sjetite se mene i čikaške nadbiskupije u svojim molitvama.

Francis Cardinal George

"Krunica je lanac koji nas ujedinjuje iz generacije u generaciju"

Francis Cardinal George

UPCOMING EVENTS....

- *Midwest Croatians' Holy Hill pilgrimage Aug. 23rd*

Bus leaves St. Jerome's at 8 am; returns at 5; \$20 per person; children under 12 free. Call parish office to register.

- *Croatian school begins Sept. 6!*

To register, call Nevenka Jurković at 773-525-8571

- *Wedding anniversaries' Mass Sept. 21st*

9:30 in English

- *Pictures for parish photo album begin Sept. 28th!*

GRAND MARSHAL KATA I FRANJO MULAC

Kata Mulac rodila se 17. ožujka 1957. godine u Hrvatskoj, u Ladevcu, juzno od Zagreba. Njezini roditelji su Mijo i Anka Lončar, Kata je išla u školu u Hrvatskoj, a u studenom 1972. udala se za Franju Mulca. Franjo je rođen u nedalekom Pavlovcu, 22. kolovoza 1947., a roditelji su mu Ivan i Marija Mulac.

Kata i Franjo preselili su u Karlovac, gdje su radili i gdje im se u siječnju 1974. rodila kćer Snježana. 20. rujna 1974. obitelj Mulac emigrirala je u Chicago, gdje su se nastanili, zaposlili i naučili engleski jezik. Nekoliko godina kasnije, dobili su drugo dijete. Sin Ivan rodio se u ožujku 1978.

Kata i Franjo su župljani sv. Jeronima od svog dolaska u Sjedinjene države. Njihova djeca pohađala su školu sv. Jeronima i primili



sakramente u našoj župi. Njihovi unuci trenutno pohađaju našu školu.

Franjo je član Hrvatskog kulturnog centra i pomaže u raznim župnim aktivnostima. Kata je član odbora Hrvatske žene, kao i Marijinog društva, čiji je jedan od utemeljitelja. Kata je također član župnog vijeća i obavlja razne dužnosti, a posebno oko naše proslave Velike Gospe.

St. Jerome Croatian Catholic
Church, Chicago

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Phone: (312) 842-1871

Fax: 312-842-6427
Email: church@stjeromecroatian.org.



*Radio Saturdays at 10 A.M.
On 750 AM*

We sincerely WELCOME
our guests who share this
year's Velika Gospa Feast
Day with us: **Father Ante
Bekavac**, Croatian Francis-
can from New York; **Father
Marko Puljić**, Custos of
Croatian Franciscans; our
new **bishop, Gustavo Gar-
cia-Siller**; **Lovorka
Oštrunić**, Croatian Consul;
Father Ivan Leotar, Croatian
Franciscan in post-graduate
study from Austria; as well as
those guests who have come
from Germany, Arizona, Cali-
fornia, Texas, Florida, Michi-
gan, Wisconsin, and in a
special way, those guests
from Croatia.

**COME BACK
TO
ST. JEROME'S**

**WE
WELCOME
YOU!**

Our Parish radio program can be heard every **Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m.**
on **WNDZ, 750 AM**. The entire program is produced at the newly-built studio in
the church hall. Its broadcast is for the City of Chicago and its surrounding areas.



Hrvatski katolički radio program naše župe emitira se subotom u **10 sati ujutro**
na **stanici WNDZ 750 AM**, a radio posjeduje svoj novoizgrađeni studio i kom-
pletanu opremu. Njegov prijem jest za grad Chicago, njegovu širu okolicu te
države Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana i Missouri. I ovom prigodom pozivamo
Hrvate Chicago da se na radio valovima nađemo zajedno i podijelimo dio misli i
trenutaka koji spajaju daljine i približavaju duše.

GRAND MARSHALL FRANJO AND KATA MULAC

On March 17, 1957,
Kate Mulac was born to
Mijo and Anka Lončar in
the town of Ladevac,
Croatia, located south of
Zagreb. Kate attended
school in Croatia and in
November of 1972 she
married Franjo Mu-
lac. Franjo was born
not far away in Pavlovac,
Croatia on August 22,
1947 to Ivan and Marija
Mulac.

Kate and Franjo
moved to Karlovac,
Croatia where they
worked and had their

daughter Snježana, who
was born in January of
1974. On September 20,
1974, the Mulacs emi-
grated to Chicago where
they learned the English
language and
made their living. A few
years later they had their
second child Ivan, who
was born in March of
1978.

Kate and Franjo have
been parishioners of St.
Jerome since their arrival
to the United
States. Their children at-
tended St. Jerome School

and received
the sacraments at our
parish. Their granddaugh-
ters are currently attend-
ing our school. Franjo is a
member of the Croatian
Cultural Center and helps
out at various
parish functions. Kate is
a board member of the
Croatian Woman Society
as well as the Marian so-
ciety, of whom she was a
founding member.

Kate is also a member
of the parish council and
helps at various functions,
especially at our Velika
Gospa celebration.