

# VELIKA GOSPA NEWSLETTER



We sincerely welcome our guests who join us this Velika Gospa: our **bishop, Gustavo Garcia-Siller**; **Father Gabriel Hrvatin Jurišić**, Professor of Classical Languages in Sinj; **Father Marko Puljić**, Custos of Croatian Franciscans; **Father Ivan Šarčević**, Professor and Dean of the Franciscan School of Theology in Sarajevo, **Mate Logara**, Franciscan seminarian in Zagreb, **Zorica Matković**, General Consul, Republic of Croatia, Chicago; as well as guests coming from Arizona, California, Texas, Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, and specially, those from Croatia.

**Izražavamo srdačnu dobrodošlicu** našim gostima koji s nama slave Veliku Gospu: naš **biskup, Gustavo Garcia-Siller**; **fra Gabriel Hrvatin Jurišić**, profesor klasičnih jezika iz Sinja; **fra Marko Puljić**, kustos hrvatskih franjevaca; **fra Ivan Šarčević**, profesor i dekan Franjevačke teologije iz Sarajeva; **fra Mate Logara**, franjevački bogoslov iz Zagreba, **Zorica Matković**, generalni konzul Republike Hrvatske u Chicagu; te gosti koji su stigli iz Arizone, Californije, Texasa, Floride, Michiganu, Wisconsinu, te posebice iz Hrvatske.

## BISHOP GUSTAVO'S LETTER TO ST. JEROME PARISH

Feast of the Assumption of Holy Mary

Dear friends at St. Jerome Croatian Church:

On this beautiful feast, I send you my warm thoughts and sincere embrace in the Lord! May you, your children and your children's children know the rich blessings and abundant graces from this feast for generations to come.

The Feast of Holy Mary's Assumption is a time of special celebration for you, my friends at Sr. Jerome and for all Croatians! Today recognizes that the Croatians have been entrusted with special spiritual favors from our Lady of Sinj. Your faith in the Church, your love of Holy Mary, your cherished heritage all give honor Velika Gospa. Today we unite in a graced way with your history and your homeland that

gratefully and humbly honor Our Lady.

My prayer is that you will know and experience Our Lady of Sinj again and again. Our Mother of Grace will enable you, then, to see and to love in Christ, all that she sees and knows in Him. What a beautiful privilege and faith heritage is yours!

In our Lady and Jesus Christ:

Bishop Gustavo, M.Sp.S.

## VELIKA GOSPA....JESTE LI ZNALI...?

- ◆ **Da** naša procesija ove godine slavi 98. godinu postojanja. Za dvije godine spremamo veliku feštu, 100 godina Gospe Sinjske u Chicagu!
- ◆ **Da** je naša Velika Gospa jedina i specifična proslava Gospe Sinjske izvan samog Sinja.
- ◆ **Da** se u Sinju održava svake godine Sinjska viteška igra pod nazivom Sinjska alka. Ove godine je održana 289. u čast Gospi, a iz zahvalnosti za pobjedu nad Turcima 1715. godine.
- ◆ **Da** obitelj Valerije Babić, njeni prijatelji i susjedi svake godine uoči Velike Gospe dolaze pješke u našu crkvu iz mjesta Justice (oko 15 milja od naše crkve). Oni ispunjavu zavjet Gospi Sinjskoj hodanjem koje traje oko 6 sati.

## NADOLAZEĆI DOGAĐAJI....

- **Hodočašće na Holy Hill**  
21. kolovoza

Autobus: \$20 po osobi;  
djeca ispod 12 ne plaćaju.  
Javite se u župnom uredu.

- **Oproštajna misa fra Tomislava**  
22. kolovoza

11:00 na hrvatskom; osvježenja  
u velikoj dvorani u 12:30

- **Hrvatska škola:**  
11. rujna

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

- **Misa za obljetnice braka**  
19. rujna

11:00 na hrvatskom

- **Thompson!**  
16. listopada

- **Hrvatska žena Fashion Show**  
24. listopada

- **Tatjana Tajči!**  
15. prosinca

## GRAND MARSHALL - JAMES and ANN SUTERA

Jim was born to Phillip and Mary Sutera. Ann was born to George and Cvita Vladovich. Both grew up in the Saint Jerome community. Jim's parents were born in Nicosia, Sicily. Ann's parents were born in Selo-Kotlenice. Ann is a graduate of Saint Jerome's. On November 22, 1947, Jim and Ann were married at Saint Jerome's Church.

They have two children, James and Stephen who attended and received their sacraments at St. Jerome's. They also have three grandchildren.

Jim and Ann have spent the majority of their married life at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Princeton. They frequently could be seen attending various masses, particu-

larly Saturday evening mass at which Jim was a regular usher. Jim and Ann have been generous supporters of



the Saint Jerome's throughout their marriage. They are more affectionately known by many in the parish as "Uncle Jim" and "Auntie Annie." Jim was regularly seen in our processions

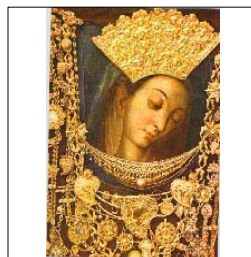
marching with the Holy Name Society, Club SINJ or the Catholic War Veterans. He regularly attended meetings for these organizations and participated in their activities. In the past, Jim was a "chauffeur" for Sister Benedict. Ann used to regularly iron altar clothes, vestments, and used to regularly iron for Sister Geraldine.

Unfortunately, after the church chose Jim and Ann as their Grand Marshalls for this year's August 15<sup>th</sup> procession, Jim passed away on May 13, 2004. Jim will be our Honorary Grand Marshall, along with Ann. Ann will be by her sons and their families.

## 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.

## VELIKA GOPSA - JEDNO SJEĆANJE....

BY LOUIS SCALISE

Ranih 60-ih posluživao sam za misom. U ta doba smo se redali ministrirati tokom devetnice. Tako je mene nažalost zapalo 14. kolovoza, kada se moralo ostati puno dulje pomagati za sutradan. Tako te godine kad su drugi otišli, mi smo čekali u vrućoj crkvi što će nam časne sestre narediti da radimo. Dok smo čekali u sakristiji, čuli smo neko šaptanje iz crkve. Ja sam se nadvirio i ugledao svoju baku i bake mojih kolega kako puze na koljenima. Slušavši bolje, primijetio sam da su molile krunicu. Tiho sam gledao kako se svaka ženska mučila da stigne Gospinoj slici. Kako smo mi bili sa strane poledine same slike, vidjeli smo kako su te naše bake ljubile sviju pet velika slova M na poledini slike. I tako su nastavile svoje puzanje.

Nekih 20 godina kasnije putovao sam u Hrvatsku i posjetio Svetište Majke Božje Sinjske. Kad sam se približio oltaru, vidio sam opet stare bake kako su puzale oko oltara moleći krunicu.

## PISMO BISKUPA GUSTAVA

Blagdan Velike Gospe 2004

Dragi prijatelji hrvatske župe svetog Jeronima:

Na ovaj prekrasan blagdan, šaljem vam svoje tople misli i iskreni zagrljaj u Gospodinu! Neka vi, vaša djeca i djeca vaše djece upoznate bogate blagoslove i obilne milosti ovoga blagdana za nadolazeće generacije.

Blagdan uznesenja svete Marije je vrijeme posebnog slavlja za vas, moji prijatelji u župi svetog Jeronima i za sve

Hrvate! Danas priznajemo da su Hrvati bili obdareni posebnim duhovnim blagodatima Gospe Sinjske. Vaša vjera u Crkvu, vaša ljubav prema svetoj Mariji, vaša povjerenja baština, sve to daje počast Velikoj Gospi. Danas se na milosrdan način sjedinjujemo s vašom poviješću i s vašom domovinom koja zahvalno i ponizno časti Veliku Gospu.

Moja je molitva da upoznate i doživite Gospu Sinjsku ponovno i ponovno. Naša će majka Milosti onda obdariti vas



da možete vidjeti i ljubiti u Kristu sve što ona vidi i znade u Njemu. Kakva preskrasna privilegija i baština jest vaša vjera!

U našoj Gospi i Isusu Kristu:

Biskup Gustavo Garcia, M.Sp.S.

## UPCOMING EVENTS....

- **Midwest Croatians' Holy Hill Pilgrimage Aug. 21st**

Bus: \$20 per person; children under 12 free. Register in parish office.

- **Father Tom's Farewell Mass Aug. 22nd**

9:30 in English; refreshments in school hall: 12:30

- **St. Jerome School begins Aug. 23rd!**

To register, call 312-842-7668.

- **Wedding anniversaries' Mass Sept. 19th**

9:30 in English

- **St. Jerome School Fashion Show Sept. 29th**

For more information, call 312-225-9751

- **St. Jerome School Annual Benefit Oct. 30th**

- **Tatjana - Tajči Dec. 15th**

## GRAND MARSHALI - JAMES I ANN SUTERA

Jim je sin Filipa i Mary Sutera. Ana je rođena Grgi i Cviti Vladović. Jim i Ana su odgojeni u zajednici svetog Jeronima. Jim-ovi roditelji su rođeni u Nicosiji, Sicilija, dok su Anini rođeni u selu Kotlenice. Ana je pohađala školu svetog Jeronima, a 22. studenoga 1947. Jim i Ana su se vjenčali u istoj crkvi.

Imaju dvoje djece, James i Stephen-a i troje unučadi. James i Stephen su primili sakramente u župi svetog

Jeronima, te također pohađali našu školu. Najveći dio svog bračnog života Jim i Ana su živjeli na 32. ulici i Princetonu. Često su bili na misi, a posebice subotom navečer. Jim i Ana su bili darežljivi pomagači ove župe kroz svoj bračni život. Jim i Ana bolje su poznati u župi po imenima "Stric Jim" i "Teta Annie".

Jim je redovno hodao u procesiji s društvom Ime Isusovo, Klub Sinj ili

Katolički vojni veterani. On je bio uobičajeni sudionik na sastancima i aktivnostima ovih društava, te vratar na subotnjom misi.

Nažalost, nakon što su izabrani za "grand marshall" za ovu Veliku Gospu, Jim je umro 13. svibnja 2004. Jim ostaje naš počasni Grand Marshall, zajedno sa suprugom Anom. Ana sudjeluje sa svojim sinovima i njihovim obiteljima.

## VELIKA GOPSA 2003 - A VISITOR WRITES....

Dear Fr. Joe,

I went to the Velika Gospa Festival and had a wonderful time. I didn't arrive until 10:00 a.m., so I missed the mass, but I saw the procession. The pageantry of the procession really touched my soul. I'm so glad that I was there. I didn't bring any of my relatives with me this time. It was such a hot muggy day that I didn't think my 70-80 year old aunts (on walkers) and uncle (with emphysema) could survive the procession and lunch. I will be well prepared next year to bring a few cousins to share in this wonderful experience. Now I know where to park. And now I know where the procession begins (not in front of the church where I initially waited). We'll have a great time next year. Thank you for encouraging me to attend the festival and bringing me closer to my Croatian Catholic roots.

Kathy Maletich Adamec

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

## VELIKA GOPSA....DID YOU KNOW.....?

◆ **That** our procession is in its 98th year. We are gearing up for a grand centennial celebration just two years away!

◆ **That** our Velika Gospa feast is the only specific celebration of Our Lady of Sinj outside of Sinj itself.

◆ **That** the city of Sinj, Croatia holds annual chivalry games known as the "Sinjska alka". This year marks the 289th running of the alka which is held in honor of Our Lady of Sinj in thanksgiving for a defeat against the Ottoman Turks in the year 1715.

◆ **That** the family of Valerie Babić, her friends and neighbors make a pilgrimage on foot to St. Jerome's from their homes in Justice, Illinois (about 15 miles away) which begins on the eve of Velika Gospa. They walk for Our Lady's feast day as a vow, walking for about 6 full hours.

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## A VELIKA GOPSA MEMORY....

It was the early 1960's and I had just become an altar boy. As custom dictated in that era, each altar boy was required to serve one evening of mass during the Velika Gospa novena. Sadly for me at the time, I was chosen to serve on the night of August 14<sup>th</sup>, the eve of the Assumption. This duty meant that the nuns of St. Jerome would keep my fellow altar boys and me long after mass had ended to help prepare for the following day's holy celebration.

On the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup>, after the mass had ended and many of the parishioners had left our sweltering church for the comfort of their air-conditioned homes, we altar boys set off for our sacristy where we awaited orders from the nuns. While in the sacristy we began to hear whispering in the church. I poked my head out the sacristy door only to find my Baba and the Babas of my friends and fellow altar boys moving through the aisles of the church on their knees. Listening more attentively, I realized that their words were the prayers of the holy rosary. Quietly, I watched each older woman struggle to approach the picture of the Gospa while on their knees. Since the back of the Gospa's picture faced the altar, we watched each woman kiss the five points of the large M painted on the backside of the picture. Our eyes followed them as they returned to their knees and continued their procession around church while praying the rosary. In this group, I saw my Baba as she too struggled in her devotions.

It was some 20 years later that I traveled to Croatia and the Shrine of Sinj. As I approached the altar of our Gospa, I was again amazed to find elderly Croatian women on their knees praying the rosary around the Gospa Sinjska altar.

Louis Scalise

## VELIKA GOPSA 2003 - POSJETITELJ PIŠE....

Dragi fra Jozo,

Bila sam na proslavi Velike Gospe i bilo mi je jako ugodno. Nisam stigla do 10 sati ujutro, pa sam tako promašila misu, ali sam vidjela procesiju. Svečanost povorke dirnula mi je dušu. Tako mi je drago da sam bila. Nisam pvela nikoga svoga ovoga puta. Bio je tako vrući i zagušljivi dan da sam mislila da moje tete u dobi 70 do 80 godina (sa štakama) i tetak (koji boluje na plućima) ne bi mogli izdržati procesiju i ručak. Bit ću bolje pripremljena iduće godine kad mislim povesti par svojih rodjaka da dožive taj dan sa mnom. Sada znam gdje ću parkirati. I sada znam gdje procesija počinje (ne pred crkvom gdje sam čekala). Bit će nam jako lijepo iduće godine. Hvala što si me nagovarao da dođem na proslavu i što si me približio mojim hrvatskim katoličkim korijenima.

Kathy Maletich Adamec