

VELIKA GOSPA NEWSLETTER

WELCOME!

We sincerely welcome all of you who join us this Velika Gospa — those who return year after year, who take time off of work to attend our grand, solemn procession and Mass — as well as those who are in attendance for the first time.

We especially welcome Father Tonči Matulić, a professor of theology, who is the main celebrant of today's Mass; Father Marko Puljić, Custos of the Croatian Franciscans; and Zorica Matković, Consul General of the Republic of Croatia in Chicago.



DOBRO DOŠLI!

Dobro došli svi! Dobrodošli Vi koji ste nazočni svake godine, te izostajete s posla kako bi sudjelovali u našoj svečanoj procesiji i svetoj Misi, kao i Vi koji ste s nama prvi put.

Izražavamo srdačnu dobrodošlicu don Tončiju Matuliću, profesoru na teološkom fakultetu, koji predvodi današnje misno slavlje; fra Marku Puljiću, kustosu hrvatskih franjevac; te Zorici Matković, generalnoj konzulici Republike Hrvatske u Chicagu.

S Marijom je jednostavno!

S Marijom nekako nam je jednostavno naći zajednički jezik. Ona kao da se nudi biti sestra i mater. Lijepo je imati i mater i sestru! Vjerojatno od svega, Marijina nježnost privlači ljude, jednostavnost života, te veličina koja se ne hvali sobom. Ponizni ljudi su privlačni. Jednostavni ljudi su izraz blizine. I dobro je nekako se spojiti s njom, Marijom. Putovati s njom, razgovarati s njom. Naša devetnica ovdje u Sv. Jeronima oduvijek je imala tu svrhu i nakanu: hoditi s Marijom.

Naša Velika Gospa ima nju u središtu događaja, misli, povezanosti. Jednostavno je primjetljivo kako ljudi koji su Mariji bliski imaju u sebi dubinu vedrine, iskrenost poniznosti, život shvaćaju kao dar. Marija im je pomogla da tako lako susretnu Krista. Velika Gospa ovdje u Chicagu nije samo ime, nije samo tradicija, nije samo spektakl, ona je i poziv na povratak k sebi, na iskustvo zajedništva, na osjećaj pripadnosti većim stvarnostima. Neka nam Duh ovog blagdana učini naše živote radosnima ljudima oko nas!

Fr. Tonči Matulić, a professor of theology, was born in 1966 in Postira, on the island of Brač. He was ordained a priest in 1992 and belongs to the Diocese of Hvar. Over the years he studied at various universities, from Rome to Washington. Currently, he is a professor of Moral Theology and Social Teachings of the Church at the Catholic Seminary in Zagreb, where he lives and works. Over the years he has participated in various public debates involving bioethical challenges. He continues to participate in various symposiums throughout Europe, as well as being a member of the International Theological Commission. Through his extensive research, he promotes and develops the critical reality of the importance and necessity of interdisciplinary dialogue in resolving bioethical challenges. He has published articles specifically focusing on themes in Bioethics and Genetics, as well as several books including, *Bioethics, Shaping the Identity of the Discipline of Bioethics, Life in Human Hands, Medical Re-evaluation of Ethical Borders, Bioethics Challenges in Cloning Humans*.

Our Guest — Naš gost:



Fr. Tonči Matulić

Prof. Dr. don Tonči Matulić, teolog, rođen je 1966. godine u Postirama na otoku Braču. Za svećenika je zaređen 1992. Član je Hvarske biskupije. Usavršavao se na raznim sveučilištima od Rima do Washingtona. Profesor je moralne teologije i socijalnog nauka Crkve na Katoličkom bogoslovnom fakultetu Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, gdje živi i radi. Već niz godina sudjeluje u javnim raspravama o bioetičkim izazovima. Sudjeluje na raznim simpozijima u Europi te je član je međunarodne teološke komisije. U svojim istraživanjima promiče i razvija kritičku svijest o važnosti i nužnosti interdisciplinarnosti dijaloga u rješavanju (bio)etičkih izazova. Piše o stručnim temama iz područja bioetike i genetike, objavljuje stručne članke a objavljeno mu je i nekoliko knjiga - *Bioetika, Oblikovanje identiteta bioetičke discipline, Život u ljudskim rukama, Medicinsko prevrednovanje etičkih granica, Bioetički izazovi kloniranja čovjeka*.

NADOLAZEĆI DOGAĐAJI....

- **Hodočašće
na Holy Hill
subota
23. kolovoza**
- **Velika Gospa
Golf Turnir
nedjelja
24. kolovoza**
- **Hrvatska škola:
Piknik,
30. kolovoza
Početak škole,
6. rujna
Za upis, javite se
Nevenki Jurković:
773 525 8571**
- **Misa za
obljetnice braka
14. rujna
11:00 na hrvatskom**
- **Hrvatska
nogometna večer,
Toyota Park,
nedjelja, 21. rujna**
- **Hrvatska žena
Fashion Show
19. listopada**

GRAND MARSHALLS - CATHERINE I NICHOLAS PERISIN

Catherine i Nick su se zainteresirali jedno za drugo i nakon nekog vremena provedenog zajedno odlučili se vjenčati. Bilo je to davnog 25. studenog 1955. Živjeli su u maloj sobici u 27th i Princeton, no morali su se seliti kad se obitelj počela širiti. Imali su sedmero djece, šest cura i konačno jednog sina.

Bili su vrlo zauzeti oko djece uz svesrdnu pomoć baka i tetki. Prije rođenja najmlađeg preselili su se u 338 W. 29th, a djeca su bila upisana u školu Sv. Jeronima. Kad je gazda čuo da dobivaju i sedmo dijete, rekao im je da napuste zgradu. U panici nađu prostor u 30th i Emerald, kojeg su kupili. Djeca su bila tužna što će morat napustiti školu i prijatelje i preseliti se na *drugu stranu*. Na sreću, djeca su mogla ostati u školi zahvaljujući pomoći gospodje Berger, koja ih je vozila kući svaki dan nakon škole, jer Catherine nije imala vozačku dozvolu sve do 1972. Svih devet članova obitelji živjeli su u trosobnom stanu sa samo jednom kupaonicom. Odrasli su vrlo blisko jedni uz druge, jer drugog izbora i nije bilo. Vrata su im uvijek bila otvorena, tako da su mnogi navraćali na kavu, obrok ili piće. Do danas su ostali jako gostoljubivi.

Djeca im se poudaše i poženise i porastoše u veću zajednicu. Sve zajedno imaju 18 praučuđadi, 9 dječaka i 9 djevojčica. Brojeći njih dvoje obitelj Perišin danas broji 34 člana.

Nick i Catherine, zajedno sa svojom djecom primiše sve sakramente u crkvi Sv. Jeronima. Ta crkva je bila i ostala važno mjesto njihovih života. Crkva i škola Sv. Jeronima su u srcu te obitelji. Danas, treća generacija Perišinih pohađa istu školu.

Dok su djeca bila mala, odlazili bi dnevno u crkvu sa školom. Nick bi dolazio s djecom svake nedjelje, i sjedili bi u pozadini kora na strani Blažene Djevice Marije. Catherine nikad nije propuštala dnevnu misu i pomagala je župu kako god je mogla. I danas djeca i njihova djeca dolaze u našu crkvu. Njima je na ponos da su dio ove velike i žive zajednice, koja im je dala snage u vjeri, jedno u drugo, u prijatelje, susjede i konačno Boga. Velika Gospa im je najvažniji dan u godini i zahvaljuju Gospinom vodstvu. Župna zajednica Sv. Jeronima, darovala je obitelji Perišin smisao. Zahvaljujući župi postali su jedno, Bog ih je blagoslovio i oni su mu neprestano zahvalni.

JEDNO SJEĆANJE NA VELIKU GOSPU....

Oni među nama koji su već na dobrom putu prema vječnosti još uvijek se sjećaju tko je bila glavna kuharica za Veliku Gospu prije naše legendarne Mary Mandić. Njeno ime je Mara Bezić. Mara je rođena na otoku Šolti. Bila je glavna kuharica za sve župne događaje kroz mnoge godine. Mary Mandić je njoj u stvari bila glavna pomoćnica sve dok Mara nije otišla u mirovinu kratko prije svoje smrti. Njena hrana koje se svi najviše sjećaju i koju su svi voleli bili su Marini makaroni. Koristila je jednu okruglastu posudu za mješanje hrane koja je inače bila namijenjena kupanju male djece. Njene dvije pomoćnice nalijevale

su začine polako dok je Mara vrlo precizno miješala svoje makarone. I kada bi se ponekada Mary Mandić naljutila na Marinu sporost ili neefikasnost, Mara bi joj samo odgovorila: Mary! Ne ljuti se!

Možda većina ljudi pretpostavljaju da je naša procesija uvijek imala svečano dekorirana kola koja su danas bitni dio procesije. Ali do 1950tih godina bilo je drugačije. Godine 1952. Papa je proglasio Marijansku godinu. Naš župnik, fra Ferdinand Skoko pozvao je fra Karla Balića, poznatog svjetskog Mariologa da predvodi devetnicu. Tih godina, Sveta misa se nije mogla slaviti

navečer. Običaj je bio samo moliti molitve za devetnicu, pamtiti dugačku propovijed i blagoslov s Presvetim sakramentom na kraju.

Fra Ferdinand je odlučio učiniti nešto drugačije. Evelyn Čondić, Caroline Luccarelli, Duško Čondić, Mark Čondić i Pete Čondić iznajmili su mali «trailer» i oblikovali ga u naša prva procesijska kola. Dekoracija je napravljena u župnoj garaži, a na središnjem mjestu je postavljen kip Bezgrešne Djevice. Petrov Volkswagen vukao je ova dekorativna kola u procesiji te je tako otpočela tradicija.

—Duško Čondić, 2008.

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 Ottoman 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.

The religious tradition of a Velika Gospa Procession and Mass was brought to Bridgeport in 1906 by Croatian immigrants from Sinj. In 1912, with the founding of a new Croatian parish, St. Jerome's, the Velika Gospa tradition put down permanent roots in Chicago.

UPCOMING EVENTS....

- **Midwest Pilgrimage to Holy Hill, Saturday, August 23**
- **Velika Gospa Golf Outing, August 24, Hoffman Estates. For more info, call: 312 315 1746**
- **St. Jerome Elementary School begins Wed., Aug. 20 To register, call 312 842 7668**
- **Marriage Anniversaries Sunday, September 14th**
- **Croatian Women's Fashion Show Sunday, October 19**
- **St. Jerome School Annual Benefit Saturday, November 22**

A VELIKA GOSPA MEMORY....

Those of us who are well on the road to Eternity can still remember who the chief cook for Velika Gospa and other Church affairs was prior to Mary Mandić. Mara Bezić, born on the island of Šolta, was the chief cook for all the Parish affairs for a long number of years. In fact, Mary Mandić was her chief assistant until Mara retired shortly before she died. Perhaps her most memorable dish, loved by all, was Mara's famous makarone. She used a small bathtub designed to bathe children as her mixing bowl. Two of her helpers would slowly pour the sauce over the cooked makarone while Mara mixed them with a four-foot mixing paddle. Sometimes, Mary Mandić would become frustrated at Mara's old-country inefficiency. Mara's loving response would be: Mary! Ne ljuti se!

Everyone simply presumes that

floats were part of our Procession forever. They were not. The Pope declared the year 1952 to be a Marian Year. Our Pastor, Fra Ferdinand Skoko, invited Fra Karlo Balić, the world's leading Mariologist, to hold the novena. At that time, a Mass could not be said in the evening. The custom was to say the novena prayers, deliver a long sermon, and give benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. Father Skoko also thought we should do something different to mark the occasion. Evelyn Čondić, Caroline Luccarelli, Duško Čondić, Mark Čondić, and Pete Čondić rented a small flat-bed trailer and fashioned our first float. The float was decorated in the rectory garage. A statue of the Immaculate Conception was its central feature. The U.S. is dedicated to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. So Pete's Volkswagen drew the float through the Procession. —*Duško Condich, 2008*



**St. Jerome
Croatian Catholic
Church, Chicago**

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(Cardinal Stepinac Way)
Chicago, IL 60616
Phone: (312) 842-1871
Fax: (312) 842-6427
Emails:
web@stjeromecroatian.org
or VelikaGospa@gmail.com**

**VELIKA GOPSA
PARKING**

Please call and tell your friends and relatives that we have plentiful parking available for our feast. Thanks to our neighbors, we have the following:

- Old Neighborhood Italian American Club parking (30th & Shields)
- State of Illinois parking under the highway (27th & Wells, entrance on 27th)

***Croatian Catholic
Radio - Saturdays
10 a.m. - 750 AM***

www.stjeromecroatian.org

**GRAND MARSHALLS -
CATHERINE & NICK PERISIN**

Catherine and Nick always had an interest in each other, and after dating for a while decided to get married on Nov. 25, 1955. They lived in a one bedroom apartment on 27th & Princeton and had to move when their family started to grow. From that marriage they had seven children in a row, six girls and finally one son.

They were very busy raising their family, but with the help of grandmothers and aunts, they managed to survive. Prior to the youngest being born, they lived at 338 West 29th Place and the children attended St. Jerome School. When the landlord heard they were going to have a seventh child, he asked them to leave the building. In a panic, they looked for somewhere to live and finally found a building to buy on 30th & Emerald. The children were terrified that they would have to leave their school and friends when they moved to *the other side*. Luckily the children were able to stay at St. Jerome School with the help of Mrs. Berger who drove the children home every day, since Catherine did not get her license until 1972.

All nine members of the family lived in one three-bedroom apartment with only one bathroom. They

grew very close – they had no choice. The doors were always open, and people felt comfortable to stop by for coffee, dinner or drinks. To this day, they are the ultimate host & hostess.



Their children were married and the family grew into a larger enterprise. Now, there are a total of 18 grandchildren, 9 boys and 9 girls. Counting the spouses, there is a total of 34 family members that help to create the Perisin compound.

Juliana married Charles DiCaro, their children are Miles & Lena; Laura married John Perseghin, children are Madeline & Catherine; Rita married Christopher Johnston, children are Terese, Evan & Elizabeth; Patricia married Andy Sperando, children are Joe, Dominick, Andrew & Peter; Michalina married Jerry Considine, children are Adam, Alexandra, & Jerry; Cathi married Pete Wilkie, children are Mary & Barbara; and Nicky married Paula Zegadlo,

children are Jessica & Nicholas. Nick & Catherine, along with their children, made all their sacraments at St. Jerome Church.

The church was, and still is, a central part of all their lives. St. Jerome Parish and School were and are the heart of this family. Currently, the third generation of Perisin grandchildren is attending St. Jerome School.

When the children were young, they went to Mass daily with school. Nick brought his children to Mass every Sunday when they were young and they sat in the back of the balcony on the Blessed Mother's side. Catherine never misses daily Mass and continues to support St. Jerome's Parish in every way possible. To this day the children and their children attend St. Jerome's Church. Belonging to this spiritual community has strengthened their faith in one another and their friends and neighbors and most importantly in God. Velika Gospa is the most important day of the year and they thank Gospa for her guidance. St. Jerome's Parish Community has given breadth and depth to the lives of the Perisin family. They are whole because of the parish. God has blessed them, and they are eternally grateful.