arish Bulletin z Jupni Vjesnik

June 14, 2015 - 14. lipnja 2015.



St. Jerome Croatian Catholic Parish Hrvatska katolička župa sv. Jeronima

2823 S. Princeton Ave. • Cardinal Stepinac Way Chicago, IL 60616

Croatian Franciscan Friars Fr. Ivica Majstorović, OFM - Fr. Stipe Renić, OFM

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Mass schedule • Raspored misa

Saturday • Subota 5:30 p.m. English Sunday • Nedjelja 7:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. English 11 a.m. Hrvatski Weekdays • Kroz tjedan 7:30 a.m. English

Posjeti bolesnicima — uvijek Sick calls — at any time Krštenja — po dogovoru

Baptisms – by appointment

Ispovijedi — pola sata prije mise Confessions — before Masses

Vjenčanja – najaviti 6 mjeseci ranije Weddings – arrange 6 months in advance

TELEPHONES

Hrvatski katolički radio Chicago Subotom: 12 - 12:30 sati na 750 AM

Croatian Catholic Radio Chicago Saturday: noon - 12:30 p.m. on 750 AM

Monday, June 15 - Ponedjeljak, 15. lipnja

7:30 a.m.

+ Mike Marano	Louis and Mary Scalise
In honor of St. Anthony	Zdenka Sičić

Tuesday, June 16- Utorak, 16. lipnja

7:30 a.m.

++ Carol and Joe Perisin	Catherine and Nick Perisin
Na čast sv. Anti	Nevenka Badrov

Wednesday, June 17 - Srijeda, 17. lipnja

7:30 a.m.

+ Babetta Smith	The Perisins
+ Fred Siani	Kay Siani

Thursday, June 18 - Četvrtak, 18. lipnja

7:30 a.m.

+ Louis Grubisic Cabo	Gen and family
+ Millie Bogetich	family
7 – 9 p.m.	
Eucharistic Adoration – Euharistijsko klanjanje	

Friday, June 19 - Petak, 19. lipnja

7:30 a.m.

+ Juliana Perisin	family
Na nakanu	obitelj Paraga

Saturday, June 20 - Subota, 20. lipnja

7:30 a.m.

+ Phillip Condich	The Perisins
+ Raymond Fisher	Chris and Matt Pesce

5:30 p.m.

+ Brian William Kenny	Kenny family
+ Ross Cannatello	
+ Josie Hanson	Cannatello family
+ Fra Nikola Jureta	Lucy Filipović
+ John Segvich	wife Helen
+ Joe (Pops) Caputo	Pete and Sandy Schurla
+ Barry Babich	Lisa and Christine
+ Mike Iozzo	Iozzo family
++ Carmen and Eva Butera	Cannatello family

Sunday, June 21 - Nedjelja, 21. lipnja 12[™] SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 12. NEDJELJA KROZ GODINU FATHER'S DAY

7:30 a.m.

+ Eugene Dengler Sr	Family
+ Nick LoCoco	
† Vito Barbara	. Family
+ Mary Ciaravino DiPasquale	Family
+ Anthony Tadin	.Family
++ Evelyn, Sr. Bernardine and Jozo Čondić	Duško

9:30 a.m.

+ Pasquale Cimaglia	Albina and Paul Marasovich
+ Johnny Zekich	Cannatello family
+ Joe Zekich	Ken, Jan and John Zekich
+ John "Ish" Botica	. Ken, Jan and John Zekich
+ Lori Reilly	Jan Zekich
+ John Ferro	family
++ Alice and John Insalaco and John Fe	
++ Bozich and Cerina families	Vera and family

11 a.m.

11 d.111.
+ Karmila Knezović Frano Luburić
+ Sofija Pastuović Jure i Milka Krpan
+ Ivan Pavić kći Ivanka Paraga i obitelj
† Ivan Žužić <i>Žužić family</i>
+ Luka Markotić Mile Jurković
+ Nevenka Mulc Lovro, Dragica i George Rudman
+ Milan Žolo supruga Ana i obitelj
+ Ivica Slišković Ante i Anica Lončar
+ Marko Perić supruga Marija i obitelj
+ John Zelić roditelji, supruga i djeca
† James Pragovich obitelj Penavić
+ Robert Jurlina obitelj Jurlina
+ fra Nikola Jureta, OFM Conv Nevenka Soldo i obitelj
+ Pavica Šimunić
+ Nada Kapitanini Nelica
+ Rafo Rogić Željka i obitelj
+ Petar Aleksić kći Željka Rogić i obitelj
+ Lenka Barbarić obitelj Šimić
+ Marko Šulentić obitelj Šulentić
† Ivan Kosić John i Marija Kosić i obitelj
† Ivka Sudac Mary Elizabeth Pitz
++ iz obitelji Luke Brajkovića Neva Zelić i obitelj
++ iz obitelji Petra Zelića Ante Zelić i obitelj
++ iz obitelji Čondić Duško
Na čast bl. Alojzija Stepinca Bože Guvo
Na nakanu
Na nakanu obitelį Drobinić

Lectors – Čitači

5:30 p.m. – Robert Cannatello Jr. 7:30 a.m. – Matthew Pesce; 9:30 a.m. – Diane Krolo 11:00 a.m. – Mara Kosir, Mariana Kikaš, Ivana Kosir

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

IZVANREDNI POSLUŽITELJI SV. PRIČESTI

5:30 p.m. – Karen Mizera; 7:30 a.m. – Matthew Pesce
9:30 a.m. – Joe Magyar; 11:00 a.m. – Po dogovoru

ALTAR SERVERS - MINISTRANTI

- 5:30 p.m. Angelina Caruso, Lucas Mizera, Koki Murray
- 7:30 a.m. Kiara Luna, John Zekich
- 9:30 a.m. Francesca Bertucci, Jasmine Esparza, Michael Passarelli
- 11:00 a.m. Michael Karačić, Emilijan Kosić, Luka Ivančić,

Marina Hostićka, Kristijan Kosić



Rast Kraljevstva Božjeg

Svetopisamski tekstovi današnje nedjelje povezani su s iskustvom rasta i sazrijevanja u prirodi. Rast biljaka i stabala, ali također životinja i ljudi izvršava se gotovo neprimjetno. Dan za danom prolazi, i brže nego se opaža, iz male biljke nastaje grm ili stablo.

Slično je i s rastom kraljevstva Božjega, kaže Isus u Evanđelju. Kraljevstvo Božje raste u srcima ljudi, i tu također ostaje dugo skriveno, dok se malo-pomalo pokazuju njegovi plodovi i konačno od Boga bude darovano dovršenje u nebu.



Ako Isus u svezi kraljevstva Božjega i ljudskoga života postavlja takve poredbe, tada nam želi pomoći za dublje razumijevanje važnih istina. Prije svega to je pogled pun nade na naš život koji nam je ovdje saopćen: čovjek ne živi uprazno, mi ne idemo samo prema smrti, nego konačno i istinski prema dovršenju s one strane smrti u vječno Božje kraljevstvo. Tko vjeruje u Krista i vrši djela ljubavi, on je kao dobro stablo, koje dozrijeva i donosi plodove za kraljevstvo Božje.

Upravo to pouzdanje iz vjere, koje je utemeljeno na dubokom povjerenju u Boga, može nas kao kršćane učiniti spremnima i sposobnima, da ljudima koji su u traženju i koji možda ne vjeruju, saopćimo pravu nadu. Nijedan čovjek nije isključen iz Božje ljubavi. Bog sam ide grešnicima i zove ih na obraćenje. Bog želi da svi budu spašeni, i nitko nije zauvijek izgubljen. Stoga apelira na našu slobodu za dobro, ali nas u tome ne prisiljava.

Osim toga Isus nam u prispodobi o rastu kraljevstva Božjega pokazuje, kako je važna strpljivost u našemu životu. Velike stvari ne događaju jednostavno od danas na sutra; one trebaju dugu i dobru pripremu. Tko kasnije želi živjeti dobro u braku i udariti temelj svojoj obitelji, ali isto tako tko dohvaća duhovni poziv kao svećenik ili đakon, redovnik ili redovnica, taj već puno prije polaže temelje. Odlučujuće je tu doprinos dobroj obitelji u kojoj djeca doživljavaju bitnu zaštićenost za svoj život kao i da primaju potrebnu orijentaciju kako u vjeri u Boga tako i u povezanosti s Crkvom.

Sigurno je da moramo u životu računati i s poteškoćama i udarcima na dobro. To nas ne treba obeshrabriti, nego naprotiv u nama izazvati još veću zauzetost i povjerenje u Boga. Ujedno može rasti naša poniznost, budući da smo iskusili slabost naših vlastitih snaga.

I konačno iz prispodobe Isusove o rastu kraljevstva Božjega također možemo jasno spoznati da svi mi zajedno idemo našim životnim putem: svatko treba drugoga, sami smo bespomoćni i posustajemo. Samo smo zajedno jaki, i to ne iz vlastite snage, nego u povezanosti s Isusom Kristom, istinskim trsom. On nas nosi i daruje nam život u svojoj riječi i u svojim sakramentima. Tko traži taj izvor života, bit će u duši nahranjen, neće trpjeti od gladi i žeđi, budući je sam Bog naša istinska duhovna hrana.

Tako molimo svetu Djevicu i Bogorodicu Mariju za njezin zagovor kod Boga u svemu onome što je potrebno, da uspijemo na dobrom putu kraljevstva Božjeg.

Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed



In addition to the parable of the sower (vv.26-29) and its lesson that the reign of God will develop and flourish (even without our knowing how it happens) because God gives and sustains its growth, Mark has offered his readers as second parable today. When he compared the reign of God to a mustard seed that grows into a large shrub, Jesus borrowed

an example from the everyday lives of his contemporaries. Mustard seeds were small seeds and, when planted, could grow into a healthy shrub standing six to ten feet tall. Botanists may argue, and correctly so, that mustard seeds are not the smallest of all seeds, nor do they grow into the largest of shrubs. Moreover birds probably would not build nests in a shrub, but they are fond of perching momentarily in the shade of the mustard plant so as to pluck and eat its seeds. As Daniel Harrington ("Mark", The New Jerome Biblical Commentary, Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs: 1990) has suggested, "Concern for literalism should not obscure the basic point" of the parable. With the images of the mustard seed and large shrub, Jesus assured his followers that even though the reign of God among them seemed to have a small and insignificant beginning, it would surely and steadily be fully developed and realized.

The reference to the birds of the sky building nests (v. 32) is reminiscent of the first reading from Ezekiel and a similar text in Daniel (4:20-22). As C. H. Dodd (op. cit.) once explained, such images signified the universal scope of the kingdom, in that all of humankind, saints and sinners, Jews and gentiles, are embraced by God's saving reign. Therefore, this parable could be likened to that of the great banquet (Matthew 22:1-13, Luke 14:16-24) to which absolutely every person is invited.

At its first level of development, during the ministry of Jesus, the mustard seed parable probably served to encourage the disciples in their efforts for the reign of God and to defend the fact that Jesus chose to associate with sinners and outcasts. At its second level of development, the parable assured the Marcan community of the sixties that even persecution by an antagonistic power (Rome, during Nero's reign) could not squelch the realization of God's reign and, that gentiles, as well as Jews, would find a welcome (build their nest) therein.

Like all parables, the mustard seed continues to speak to the contemporary church, reminding us that the reign of God, proleptically present (here, but not yet finalized) will one day be definitively and universally realized in every believing heart and acclaimed by every faithful voice. . . because it is God's reign, and God, who calls all things into being, gives the growth. . . "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. . ."

THANK YOU

On behalf of all Croatian franciscans, we wish to thank everyone who came to our Frascinscan Monastery in Hyde Park for the feast of St. Anthony. We are grateful for your donations and prayers.

Also thanks to the 7:30 a.m. Mass attendees for the novena flowers.

FROM ST. JEROME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

We are currently holding open registration for Preschool. If your child is 3 or 4 and you would like to enroll your child for our 2015-16 preschool program, please, call School Office (312-842-7668) for more info.



MEDJUGORJE ANNIVERSARY

On Thursday June 25, we will mark the 34th Anniversary of Medjugorje Apparitions. The Rosary will start at 6:30 PM. The preacher at the Mass will be deacon Alex C. Jones, who will also witness his great conversion story in the hall afterwards.

I am in my early seventies, born in 1941, and married to Donna Camille. Donna and I have three grown sons: Joseph, Benjamin, and Marc, eleven lovely grandchildren, and two great-grandsons. I graduated from Wayne State University in 1965 with a Bachelor's Degree in Art Education, and received a MAPS Degree (Masters in Pastoral Studies) from Sacred Heart Major Seminary in 2007. I taught in the Detroit school system for twenty-eight years.



From April 1975 to December 2000 I was the senior minister of two churches in the city of Detroit: *Zion Congregational Church of God in Christ* (1975-1982), the second oldest Pentecostal church in Michigan, and *Maranatha Christian Church* (1982-2000), an Evangelical/Charismatic church.

In March of 1998, while reading the apostolic fathers and subsequent church history in preparation for a Wednesday evening bible study, I discovered the Church to be charismatic/ liturgical, hierarchical, and Eucharistic-centered. In light of that discovery, Donna and I began a two-year journey into the Catholic Church that culminated in fifty-four members of my previous congregation, including fourteen members of my family, entering the Catholic Church. We entered R.C.I.A. at St. Suzanne Catholic Community on September 10, 2000, and were welcomed into the Catholic Church through confirmation during Easter Vigil on April 14, 2001.

I was ordained a Permanent Deacon in the Archdiocese of Detroit on October 1, 2005. On May 31, 2007 I retired from the position of evangelization coordinator for the Archdiocese of Detroit. As of July 1, 2013 I have retired from both my positions as deacon at St. Suzanne/OLGH and as Pastoral Associate at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church. My Archbishop is Allen Vigneron. I am a member of Prince of Peace Catholic Church, and my pastor is Fr. Ronald Jozwiak.

PICNICS AND FESTIVALS AT CHICAGO CROATIAN PARISHES

On Sunday, June 21, BL. ALOJZIJE STEPINAC CROATIAN CATHOLIC MISSION will have their annual picnic on Bunker Hill Park in Niles, IL (Touhy, Devon and Caldewll Ave.). Croatian Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. There will be plenty of food, drinks and fun.

On Sunday, June 28, SACRED HEART CROATIAN PARISH will have their annual parish festival on church grounds at 2864 E. 96th Street. In the morning after all the Masses, there will be coffee and homemade baked goods in the Hall. By 10:30 a.m. there will be BBQ Lamb, pork and chicken. In the afternoon there will be American, Croatian and Mexican delicious food, and cold drinks. There will also be a lot of games, booths, raffles, games for all and Moon Walk for kids. A band will be playing for entertainment and dancing.

ROSARY EVENINGS IN GERARD'S GARDEN

Praying of the Rosary for the Souls in Purgatory in Gerard Fratto's garden, located at 2716 S. Princeton, every Wednesday will start on June 17th at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to come and pray rosary together!

FEAST OF VELIKA GOSPA APPROACHES

- NOVENA STARTS ON THURSDAY AUGUST 6TH

- THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY -VELIKA GOSPA - WILL BE CELEBRATED SOON FOR THE 109TH TIME. We invite all parishioners and friends to join us in honoring Our Lady with our devotions, prayers, procession, liturgical celebra-tions and festivities. Welcome to all who return year after year, as well as those who will come for the first time.

The raffle tickets will soon be mailed. They are \$100, as they were years before.

The first early bird prize will be drawn **July 19th**, and second, **August 2nd**. They will be **\$1,000** each. The first prize to be drawn August 15 will be **\$ 20,000**, second prize **\$ 5,000**, and 3rd to 7th prizes will be **\$ 1,000 each**. The two early bird winner's stubs will go back to the drum for the August 15 drawing.

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SAVE THE DATE

• Thursday, **June 25** Medjugorje Anniversary

ZAHVALA

U ime svih naših hrvatskih franjevaca, zahvaljujemo svima koji ste u tako velikom broju došli na proslavu sv. Ante na Drexelu.

Hvala za vaše darove i molitve i hvala svima koji su na bilo koji način doprinijeli da ova, svima nama draga svečanost, bude uspješna.

PIKNICI NAŠIH ŽUPA

U slijedeću nedjelju, 21. lipnja poslije sv. mise, održava se tradicionalni godišnji piknik župe BI. Alojzija Stepinca, u parku na Caldwell i Touhy u Skokie.

Godišnji piknik **župe Srca Isusova** održat će se u **nedjelju 28. lipnja.** Očekuje nas obilje hrane, pića, sport, lutrija i zabava. Svi ste dobro došli.

PROSLAVA OBLJETNICE GOSPINIH UKAZANJA U MEĐUGORJU



U četvrtak 25. lipnja slavimo 34. obljetnicu Gospinih ukazanja u Međugorju. Večernji molitveni program započinje u 6:30 sati navečer s molitvom krunice. U 7 sati slavimo sv. Misu, na kojoj će

propovijedati đakon Alex C. Jones. Nakon sv. Mise bit će kava i kolači u velikoj dvorani, te ćete moći čuti njegovu zanimljivu priču obraćenja, kako je cijela njegova obitelj i crkvena zajednica prešla na katoličku vjeru.

SRIJEDOM - MOLITVA KRUNICE S NAŠIM ČASNIM SESTRAMĄ NA DREXELU

Želite li moliti krunicu? Želite li produbljivati svoju vjeru i meditirati o otajstvima Isusova života? Pridru-žite se našim časnim sestrama i molitvenoj grupi koji se okupljaju svake srijede u kapelici sv. Ante na Drexelu. Molitva traje od 7 do 7:45 sati navečer

MLADIFEST 2015

Mladifest - susret hrvatske katoličke mladeži Kanade i SAD-a će biti od 3. do 5. srpnja u Norvalu, ON. Voditelj: don Damir Stojić, studentski kapelan u Zagrebu. Sudjeluju mladi od 16 do 30 godina starosti. Dolaze i gosti iz Hrvatske, Kanade i SAD-a. Iz Chicaga polazimo u petak ujutro a vraćamo se u nedjelju navečer. Za prijavu i više informacija pogledajte na: norvalmladifest.com.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT TJEDNI NOVČANI IZVJEŠTAJ

May 7	Envelopes (174) Loose Donations	\$ 3,605 \$ 578
	TOTAL	\$ 4,183
(avei	age gift \$ 20.71)	

WEDDING BANNS NAJAVA VJENČANJA

III) Thomas Dzielawski & Dora Hernandez

U SUSRET GOSPI

Približava se još jedna proslava Marijina Uznesenja -Velike Gospe u našoj župi, koja više od stoljeća časti Mariju svečanom procesijom, sv. misom i proslavom na kojoj mnogi susretnu prijatelje koje ne vide tije-kom godine. Naš je hrvatski narod častio Mariju u svim dijelovima naše domovine, a ovdje u Chicagu na poseban način častimo kopiju slike Čudotvorne Gospe Sinjske, Majke od Milosti, koju su gotovo prije stotinu godina darovali braća Bradarich.

RAČUNAMO NA VAŠU POMOĆ: Tijekom godina ova župa je poznata po primjernom odazivu mnogih u pripremi i uspješnoj proslavi. Mi, vaši svećenici franjevci, očekujemo vašu podršku i ove godine. Unaprijed vam srdačno zahvaljujemo na tome.

Devetnica počinje 6. kolovoza sa sv. misama u 7 sati navečer, koje će i ove godine predvoditi različiti gosti svećenici. Krunica svaku večer počinje u 6:30 navečer.

BOGATA LUTRIJA: U pošti, koja će doći početkom srpnja naći ćete i po dvije karte za našu bogatu lutriju čija je prva nagrada \$20,000. Druga nagrada je \$5,000, te još tri nagrade po \$1000. Bit će dva ranija izvlačenja po \$1000, koje ćemo izvlačiti u nedjelje 20. srpnja i 3. kolovoza. Ove "Early bird" karte bit će vraćene u bubanj za izvlačenje velike nagrade 15. kolovoza. Cijena karte je \$100. Molimo vas da kupite ili prodate ove karte. Ako niste u stanju da to učinite, vratite ih u naš župni ured. Dobitak od proslave Velike Gospe i ove lutrije uvelike pomaže našu župu i našu katoličku školu. Hvala sudjelovanju

300. OBLJETNICA SLAVNE POBJEDE POD

SINJEM UZ GOSPIN ZAGOVOR (1715.-2015.)

U subotu 15. kolovoza slavi se 300. obljetnica pobjede nad turskom vojskom pod Sinjem uz čudotvornu Gospinu pomoć. Fra Petar Klapež, gvardijan i upravitelj svetišta Gospe Sinjske, poziva nas na sudjelovanje u toj velikoj proslavi. Ukoliko planirate biti u Hrvatskoj i Sinju za Veliku Gospu, molimo, javite nam se u župni ured da bismo organizirali službenu delegaciju iz naše župe.

"Već tri stotine godina Sinj i Cetinska krajina ponosi se tim Božjim darom", piše dalje gvardijan Klapež i ističe: "Zato su svi Cetinjani, a posebno mi fratri kao nosioci ove 300. obljetnice, pred Bogom i Gospom odgovorni da ovaj dar Neba na što dostojniji način proslavimo, u svakidašnjem životu svjedočimo i prenesemo ga na diku i ponos slijedećim pokoljenjima. Cetinske krajine i cijele Domovine Hrvatske".

PAPIN POSJET SARAJEVU

Sarajevo je u subotu (6.6.) bilo centar svijeta. Ocjena je to mnogih koji su tog dana imali priliku biti u glavnom gradu BiH i vidjeti vrhovnog poglavara Katoličke crkve papu Franju. Procjenjuje se da je Svetog Oca u Sarajevu dočekalo oko 100.000 ljudi. "Mir s vama" je osnovna poruka pape tijekom pastoralnog pohoda u BiH. To su riječi koje je poglavar Katoličke crkve više puta kazao bh. političarima, predstavnicima vjerskih zajednica te građanima Sarajeva, posebno mladima sa



kojima se i najduže zadržao u razgovoru. Njegove poruke o miru, zajedništvu, praštanju i zajedničkom životu svih u BiH odjeknule su širom svijeta. Bilo bi dobro, tvrde analitičari, ako one budu imale odjeka i kod onih koji određuju sudbinu ove zemlje.

Već sada se može reći da je posjet pape Franje Sarajevu najvažniji događaj u 2015. godini, tvrdi politički analitičar iz Sarajeva Almir Terzić. "Papa Franjo je u samo jednom danu uspio učiniti ono što političari u BiH godinama ne mogu - okupiti sve narode bez obzira na vjeru i naciju i sve generacije u jednom veoma važnom projektu, projektu mira i izgradnje bolje, zajedničke budućnosti. Papa nije samo deklarativno tijekom svog posjeta koristio riječ mir. On je pozvao na njegovu izgradniu u bratstvu i suživotu svih viera i nacija koje žive na prostorima BiH obraćajući se jednakim porukama kako katolicima, tako i muslimanima, pravoslavcima i židovima, kao i ostalim građanima. Njegove snažne poruke o zajedništvu, pomirenju i toleranciji osvjedočene su i u njegovom zaključku o Sarajevu kao 'europskom Jeruzalemu'. Time je papa jasno dao do znanja da samo u zajedničkoj, bratskoj ljubavi svih naroda i građana možemo doći do cilja prosperitetne države BiH".



Posjet pape Franje Sarajevu našao se П središtu medijske pažnje velikog broja zemalja. Tako je bilo i u susjednoj Hrvatskoj odakle je, prema procjenama, nekim u Sarajevo stiglo više od 20.000 vjernika kako bi Svetog vidjeli Oca prisustvovali misi na stadionu na Koševu.



THE POPE REFLECTS ON TRIP TO SARAJEVO "The Jerusalem of Europe"

Pope Francis lunched with Bosnia's bishops before traveling on in the popemobile, through streets lined with waving and cheering supporters, to the capital's imposing Sacred Heart Cathedral.

There he was greeted by the archbishop for Sarajevo, Cardinal Vinko Puljic, and other Roman Catholic figures, before



hearing accounts of wartime suffering from a priest and members of religious orders.

At the cathedral, Pope Francis abandoned his prepared speech and spoke of the importance of remembering the country's suffering to forge a lasting peace. He talked about forgiveness and the lessons of history.

"You have no right to forget your story," he said. "Do not take revenge, but make peace."

After two priests and a nun recalled the torture and abuses suffered in the war, Pope Francis urged the gathered priests and nuns to never lose sight of the cruelty of those years. "In your blood, in your vocation, there is the blood of these three martyrs," he said. "Think of how much they suffered."

Later, the Pope attended an interfaith gathering at the International Student Center in Sarajevo that he called a "sign of a common desire for fraternity and peace."

A city that was once a symbol of war and destruction has become a place where diversity no longer represents a menace but a sign of richness and opportunity, Pope Francis said.

Addressing political leaders at the presidential palace earlier, ahead of the Mass, Francis recognized the capital's difficult journey toward peace.

"I am pleased to be in this city which, although it has suffered so much in the bloody conflicts of the past century, has once again become a place of dialogue and peaceful coexistence," he said.

He highlighted the mix of distinct religious, ethnic and cultural groups that have led some to call Sarajevo "The Jerusalem of Europe," saying it "represents a crossroads of cultures, nations and religions, a status which requires the building of new bridges, while maintaining and restoring older ones."

And he said steps to extend peace and good relations among Croats, Serbs and Bosnians, as well as Muslims, Hebrews and Christians, took on a significance beyond the country's borders.

"These initiatives offer a witness to the entire world that such cooperation among varying ethnic groups and religions in view of the common good is possible; that a plurality of cultures and traditions can coexist and give rise to original and effective solutions to problems; that even the deepest wounds can be healed by purifying memories and firmly anchoring hopes in the future," he said.