

# Velika Gospa Newsletter

St. Jerome Croatian Church, Chicago, Vol. 14 August 15, 2015

## Welcome – Dobrodošli

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 here for the first time!



We are especially honored that our new Archbishop Blase Cupich is this year with us to preside the High Mass. Welcome to your Croatian home here in Chicago!

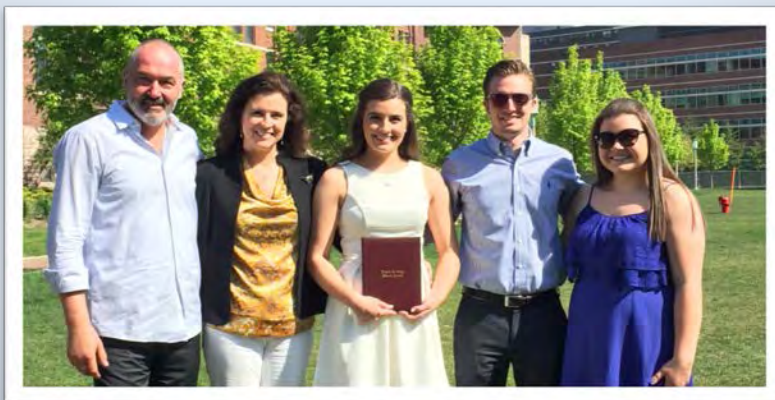
We welcome Fr. Joe Grbeš, Custos of the Croatian Franciscans; and Sanja Laković, Consul Gerant of the Republic of Croatia and other honorable guests!

Dobrodošli svi; vi koji ste nazočni svake godine, kako bi sudjelovali u našoj svečanoj procesiji i svetoj Misi, kao i vi koji ste s nama po prvi puta. **Posebno smo počašćeni što će ovogodišnjju svečanu sv. Misu predvoditi naš novi nadbiskup Blase Cupich. Dobrodošli u svoj hrvatski dom u Chicagu.**

Izražavamo dobrodošlicu fra Jozi Grbešu, kustosu hrvatskih franjevacu; te Sanji Laković, konzulici Republike Hrvatske i ostalim uvaženim gostima.



## Grand Marshall – Mate Kovačević



This year marks 300th Anniversary of the glorious victory and honoring our heavenly patroness and rescuer, the Miraculous Madonna of Sinj, who protected Sinj from the Ottoman invasion in 1715. Ever since that day, Croatians have maintained a unique love and devotion to Mary. Thousands still make the annual pilgrimage to Sinj. Many more around the world seek Our Lady of Sinj's miraculous intervention.

The religious tradition of a Velika Gospa Procession and Mass was brought to Bridgeport in 1906 by Croatian immigrants from Sinj, the Bradarich brothers. St. Jerome's Velika Gospa tradition secured permanent and deep roots in Chicago.

## Upcoming Events

### Pilgrimage to Holy Hill

**Saturday, August 22.**

Bus leaves at 7:30 AM

### Croatian School Picnic

**Saturday August 29,**

At Croatian Franciscans

### Velika Gospa Charity Golf Outing

**Sunday, August 30,** at Links at

Carillon in Plainfield

### Croatian Soccer Tournament

**Weekend of September 4 – 6**

### Grandparents Day at St. Jerome School

**September 1** at 8:05 am

### Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis' Feast

**Friday, September 2,** at 2:30pm

at 29<sup>th</sup> Street Parking Lot

### Croatian Woman Fashion Show

**Sunday, October 25,**

Ashton Place in Darien, IL

### Marian Society Bake Sale

**Sunday, November 22**

Mate Kovacevic was born and raised in Croatia in a beautiful, coastal village in Dalmacija called Zvecanje, which is part of history-rich Poljica. Son of Ante and Franka, Mate has five siblings, Danka, Marija, Ivo, Zdravko and Zoran. At 24, he moved to Chicago at the invitation of his cousin, Neda Mihaljevic, nee Mindoljevic and was also welcomed by his extended family: Bozich and Grzetich. Here he began his new life and career. Mate was the second person to visit Chicago from his family as this grandfather, Iko Kovacevic came to Chicago in 1913!

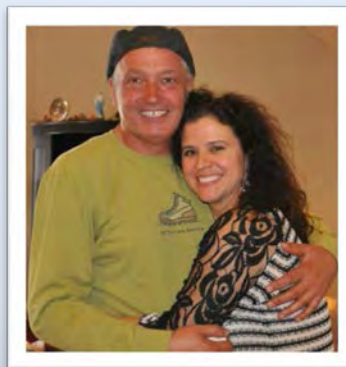
As a skilled craftsman with a strong work-ethic, no job was too small or too large for Mate and he worked tirelessly to build a life for himself, never forgetting his family and his heritage back in Croatia.

In 1991, Mate married the love of his life, Maryann Renko and is the proud father of three amazing children: Ante 22, Medena 18 and Michaela 15. Ante is studying Patent Law at Chicago Kent Law School, Medena is studying biology and psychology at Loyola University and Michaela is sophomore at Loyola Academy. Maryann is a Recruiting Manager for a software company and is also active in the community as Board President for Croatian Vines Folklore and Board Secretary for Croatian-American Club Poljica.

Always giving back to his community, Mate continues to be an active supporter and leader. Highlights of his roles include Vice President of the parish board at Blessed Alojzije Stepinac church, Board Member of the Croatian Cultural Center of Chicago and active member and advisor to the Board of Directors for Croatian-American Club Poljica.

Although Mate has made a life for himself in Chicago, he has close ties to his family in Croatia and visits frequently, most recently this summer.

Mate and his family are truly honored and humbled with the opportunity to be Grand Marshall at the 2015 Velika Gospa celebration. Love and blessings to all!

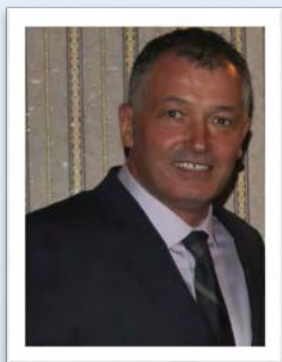


Mate Kovačević je rođen i odrastao u malom lijepom dalmatinskom selu Zvečanju koje spada u povijesnu Poljičku Republiku kod Omiša. Sin Ante i Franke ima također dvije sestre i tri brata: Danka, Marija, Ivo, Zdravko i Zoran. U dvadeset i četvrtoj godini života došao je u Chicago na poziv svoje rodice Nede Mihaljević, rođ. Mindoljević, a lijepo su ga dočekali i rođaci iz obitelji Bozich i Grzetich. Tu je počeo svoj novi život i karijeru. Mate nije prvi iz svoje obitelji koji je došao u Chicago; njegov djed Iko Kovačević bio je jedno vrijeme ovdje još davne 1913. godine.

Kao vrijednom i sposobnom radniku sa čvrstom radnom etikom, ni jedan posao mu nije bio premalen niti prevelik. Radio je neumorno da bi izgradio pristojan život za sebe i svoju obitelj, nikad ne zaboravivši i one koji su ostali za njim u Domovini.

Godine 1991. oženio je ljubav svog života Maryannu Renko, s kojom je s ponosom podigao troje krasne djece: Ante ima 22 godine, studira „Patent Law“ na Chicago Kent Law School, Medena ima 18 godina i studira biologiju i psihologiju na Loyoli, i Mihaela ima 15 godina i završava Loyola Academy. Maryann je „Recruiting Manager“ za tvrtku koja se bavi softwareom, te je aktivan član u zajednici: trenutno je Predsjednica Odbora Hrvatske Folklorne Skupine Hrvatsla Loza, te tajnica Hrvatsko-Američkog kluba „Poljica“.

Mate je aktivan član Hrvatske zajednice ovdje u Chicagu, te je rado viđen i poznat od juga do sjevera, zadivljujući sve oko sebe toplinom, smislom za humor i zaraznim osmjehom kojeg nikada ne skida sa lica.



Navest ćemo samo neke od njegovih uloga u zajednici: Zamjenik Predsjednika Odbora Hrvatske katoličke Misije Bl. Alojzija Stepinca, član odbora Hrvatskog Kulturnog Centra, član i savjetnik Upravnog Odbora Hrvatsko-Američkog kluba Poljica, koji ima značajnu ulogu u našoj Hrvatskoj župi sv. Jeronima.

## Nadolazeći događaji

### Hodočašće na Holy Hill

**Subota, 22. kolovoza**, Autobus polazi ispred crkve u 7:30

### Piknik Hrvatske škole

**Subota, 29. kolovoza**, kod franjevaca na Drexelu

### Velika Gospa Dobrotvorni Golf Turnir

**Nedjelja, 30. kolovoza**  
Links at Carillon, Plainfield, IL

### Hrvatski nogometni turnir

**4. – 6. rujna**

### Modna Revija Društva Hrvatska žena

**Nedjelja, 25. listopada**  
Ashton Place, Darien, IL

### Prodaja kolača Marijinog Društva

**Nedjelja, 22. studenoga**

### Božićna priredba Hrvatske škole

**Subota, 19. prosinca**

## Hrvatska škola i klub Stepinac

Nastavljamo ove jeseni sa subotnjom Hrvatskom školom, gdje naši najmlađi uče jezik i kulturnu baštinu svojih predaka. Naši mladi srednjoškolci nastaviti će uvježbavati hrvatske pjesme i kola pripremajući se za turneju po domovini u ljeto 2016. godine.

## St. Jerome Catholic School

We are excited to start the new school year. At St. Jerome Catholic School in Chicago, your child will be immersed in a culture of learning. In addition to our excellent reading, writing, and arithmetic curricula, your child will excel with our unique technology-oriented approach. We utilize the latest technology in every classroom. *White-boards with touch-screens, the latest desktop computers, industry-standard software, iPads in each class and technologically-literate teachers* prepare your child for the rapidly advancing modern world.

## Parish Family Album

This fall we will again start producing our new Parish Family Album. Please be a part of our new family directory program—we need YOU to make our new parish family album complete!

Let's put names with faces. We have chosen to partner with Lifetouch for professional photography that will connect our members and tell our parish story. Each family will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory for participating. We will start with signups for photography right after Velika Gospa Feast. Photographing will start on September 24.

## Velika hvala

svima koji ustrajno pomažete u organizaciji i za svaku vašu pomoć. Bez vas ne bi bilo moguće imati ovakvu lijepu proslavu po 109-ti put!

## Big Thank You

to all of you who help in organizing and work tirelessly. Without your effort it would be impossible to have such a great festival for 109th time.



Big Thank you to all the bands who entertain us every year for free!

## In Memoriam



Remembering our long time parishioners who proudly attended every Velika Gospa Celebration.

JULIA BALICH PALJETAK

(January 9, 1928 – March 2, 2015)



DANIEL DUJE BAKOVICH

(May 15, 1927 – August 1, 2015)