

# Velika Gospa Newsletter

St. Jerome Croatian Church - Chicago August 15, 2017; Vol. 16

## Welcome – Dobro došli !

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

*Dobro došli 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 put.*



*Svečano misno slavlje ove godine predvodi fra Mario Knezović, koji je u svibnju 2000. godine u ovoj crkvi zaređen za svećenika... (Više o fra Mariju na 2. stranici)*

Main celebrant for the high Mass this year is fr. Mario Knezovic, who was ordained priest in this church in May of 2000.  
(More about fr. Mario on page 2.)

We welcome Fr. Joe Grbeš, Custos of the Croatian Franciscans; Sanja Laković, Consul General of the Republic of Croatia, Berislav Vujeva, Consul General of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and all other honorable guests!

## Grand Marshall - Josip Novak



This year marks 302nd 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 began in Bridgeport in 1906, and the replica of the image of Our Lady of Sinj was brought 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 26.  
Bus leaves at 7:30 AM

### Croatian School Picnic

Saturday September 9,  
At Croatian Franciscans

### Velika Gospa Charity Golf Outing

Sunday, August 27, White Pines, Bensenville

### Croatian Soccer Tournament in Milwaukee

Weekend of September 2 – 3

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

Friday, October 6, at 2:30pm  
at 29<sup>th</sup> Street Parking Lot

### Croatian Woman Fashion Show - Sunday, October 22

### Marian Society 20th Anniversary - October 1

Marian Society Bake sale  
Sunday, November 19

### Hrvatska Bastina Annual Concert - November 25

*Fr. Mario served with great success in many parishes in Hercegovina in these past years, especially with youth.*

*He also served as Director of Information Center Mir in Medjugorje. He still anchors a special broadcast named „Agape“ on Radio Medjugore every Friday, and participates in several broadcasts on religious Television and Radio stations.*

*He holds retreats, seminars, and talks throughout local parishes and in Croatian Missions in Europe. His reflections on condition in society and the Church he publishes in various newspapers. Those reflections have been published as a book under the title „I was not silent“. At present he is Pastor of St. Peter and Paul Church in Kocerin, Herzegovina.*

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year that Josip Novak became a parishioner of St. Jerome Croatian Catholic Parish. Josip found his spiritual home in our parish back in November, 1966.

Josip was born in Donja Dubrava, a village along the river Drava, in the most beautiful hinterland of Croatian Međimurje, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, 1940. His father was Mijo and his mother was Margareta, nee Blagović. Josip is the fifth child in his family of eleven children. He had six brothers and four sisters. One of his brothers is his twin. He completed his schooling in the area where he was born and was trained as a tailor.

Sadly, as was the case in many parts of Croatia, and because of poor management, even his native Međimurje was unable to offer him a future that was secure. As was the case in large families of the time, the children began to scatter to various cities in Croatia and across the world...even as far as distant Australia.

In similar fashion, in 1959, Josip departed from his home for the city of Rijeka following his sister. He was able to find his first employment there, and from there he was able to emigrate to Rome in 1963. In Rome, he met up with his other sister who is a nun. In the intervening time, Josip had to report to the emigre camp in Trieste so as to continue his further journey. Josip unsuccessfully attempted to obtain a visa for Australia or Germany. In the end, he crossed over into France - walking across the border. Once in Paris, he had multiple opportunities to work at his trade as a tailor. After a few years in France, Josip's friends in America sent him a *Letter of Guarantee* so that he could legally enter the U.S. He arrived in America near the end of 1966.

Soon after arriving, he joined our church choir and frequently served as lector at Masses in our parish. With great enthusiasm, Josip joined many cultural societies such as that of the *Croatian Cultural Society, Zrinski*. Josip served as President of that society. He also was a member of the *Croatian-American Radio Club*. Josip was also a member of the *Croatian Catholic Union, fra Didak Buntić Lodge* as well. Josip was also active in various political societies: he was a member of the *Croatian National Resistance*, and in the 90's, he was actively engaged with the *Croatian Democratic Union*. Josip's activities extended to the field of sports as well. Josip brought his brother Ivan to Chicago so that he could play soccer for the *Croatian Homeland Defense Club, "Hrvat."*

In 1972, Josip returned to Europe...but only as far as Vienna. After the passage of many decades of being scattered across the world, Josip's entire family once again found themselves together.

By way of letter, he came to know Anđa Lijović, from Prisap, the parish of Ljubunčić, Livno. Anđa comes from a family that also suffered during the Second World War. Her father, who was the only one in her family to survive. Her uncles died as Croatian soldiers. There simply was no room in Communist Yugoslavia for the family members of Croatian soldiers. The vast majority of them had to leave their homeland. The majority of them left home for Australia.



Anđa, like many of the young women from the area of Livno would walk on pilgrimage all the way to our Lady of Sinj. Anđa did not manage to come to Paris immediately, but Josip waited for her nonetheless. They married in Paris in 1975. Shortly after, they arrived in Chicago. Both Josip and Anđa attend Mass in our parish church on a regular basis. Meanwhile, Anđa became a member of the Croati-

*Fra Mario se proteklih godina istakao u radu u različitim službama po hercegovačkim župama, osobito s mladima u FRAM-i, a posebno možemo istaknuti njegov rad kao Raonatelj Informativnog Centra Mir u Međugorju.*

*Još uvijek redovito sudjeluje u nekoliko vjerskih radijskih i televizijskih emisija (urednik je veoma slušane emisije Agape na Radio Mir Međugorje petkom). Svoje osvrte na situaciji u domovini i u Crkvi koje je redovito objavljivao u raznim novinama objedinio je u knjizi pod naslovom „Nisam šutio“. Povremeno održava seminare predavanja i duhovne obnove u domovini i iseljeništvu.*

*Trenutno je župnik župe sv. Petra i Pavla na Kočerinu kod Širokog Brijega u Hercegovini.*

*Ove godine napunilo se 50 godina otkada je Josip Novak postao član naše Hrvatske župe sv. Jeronima. Od mjeseca studenoga 1966. godine, kad je stigao u Chicago tu je našao svoj duhovni dom.*

*Josip je rođen 26. kolovoza 1940. godine od oca Mije i majke Margarete r. Blagović, u Donjoj Dubravi, selu pokraj rijeke Drave u prekrasnom i bogatom hrvatskom Međimurju. Peti je po redu u zanatskoj obitelji od jedanaestero djece, od toga šestero braće i četiri sestre. Ima također i brata blizanca. Tu je završio osnovnu školu i krojački zanat.*

*Nažalost, kao i mnogi krajevi naše domovine, zbog lošeg upravljanja ni Međimurje nije moglo pružiti sigurnu budućnost u to vrijeme tako brojnoj obitelji, pa su se djeca jedno za drugim počeli osipati po hrvatskim gradovima, ali i po svijetu, sve do daleke Australije.*

*Tako i Josip godine 1959. odlazi za sestrom u Rijeku i tu nalazi prvi posao, da bi već 1963. otišao za Rim, gdje ga je dočekala njegova druga sestra, koja je časna sestra. Međutim morao se javiti u logor u Trstu, da bi dalje odatle nastavio put dalje. Pokušavao je dobiti vizu za Australiju i Njemačku, ali je ipak na kraju prešao u Francusku, pješice preko granica.*

*U Parizu je bilo dosta mogućnosti za pronaći posao sa krojačkim zanatom. Nakon nekoliko godina prijatelj mu šalje garantno pismo za Ameriku u koju Josip stiže koncem 1966. godine.*

*Najprije se uključio u crkveni zbor, a i već tada je često čitao čitanja pod misom. Veoma rado se učlanio i u mnoga kulturna društva kao što su Hrvatsko Kulturno Društvo Zrinski, kojemu je jedno vrijeme bio i predsjednik, i u Hrvatsko-Američki Radio klub, te Hrvatsku Katoličku Zajednicu ogranak "fra Didak Buntić". Od političkih društava bio je aktivan u Hrvatskom Narodnom Otporu, a kasnije devedesetih u Hrvatskoj Demokratskoj Zajednici. Bio je također aktivan i u sportskim društvima.*

*U Chicago dovodi svoga brata Ivana koji dolazi igrati nogomet za Hrvatski Domobranski klub "Hrvat".*

*U Europu odlazi 1972. godine, ali samo do Beča, gdje se nakon više od desetljeća rasutosti po svijetu, cijela obitelj još jednom našla na okupu.*

*Preko pisama upoznaje Anđu Ljović iz Prisapa, župa Ljubunčić, Livno. I Anđa dolazi iz obitelji koja je stradala u Drugom svjetskom ratu. Jedino je njezin otac preživio, a stričevi su stradali kao hrvatski vojnici. Za članove obitelji hrvatskih vojnika u komunističkoj Jugoslaviji nije bilo života, pa se većina njezine rodbine raselila po svijetu, većina u Australiju. Anđa je poput mnogih djevojaka iz Livanjskog kraja često išla pješice na hodočašće Gospi u Sinj.*



## Nadolazeći događaji

### Hodočašće na Holy Hill

Subota, 26. kolovoza,  
Autobus polazi ispred crkve u  
7:30

### Piknik Hrvatske škol

Subota, 29. kolovoza, kod franjevac na Drexelu

### Velika Gospa Dobrotvorni Golf Turnir -

Nedjelja, 27. kolovoza  
White Pines, Bensenville

### Hrvatski nogometni turnir u Milwaukee: 2-3 rujna

### Modna Revija Društva Hrvatska žena

Nedjelja, 25. listopada

### Prodaja kolača Marijinog Društva - Nedjelja, 22. studenoga

### 20ta obljetnica Marijinog Društva - 1. listopada

### Godišnji koncert HKUDA Hrvatska Baština

25. studenoga

### Božićna priredba Hrvatske škole - Subota, 16. prosinca



an benevolent society *Croatian Woman, Branch 1*. Anđa is a very active member of the St. Jerome Marian Society baking goods for Velika Gospa.

God blessed Anđa and Josip with two daughters, Dubravka and Davorka. From the time their children were little, they enrolled them in our *Cardinal Stepinac Croatian School* where they continued to learn Croatian along with Croatian songs and dances. At one point, Josip also served as President of *Cardinal Stepinac Croatian School*. Both daughters came to love the culture of their ancestors and have preserved their Croatian heritage and language. Once they completed their Croatian schooling, they

continued to assist the Croatian School by teaching and caring for the national costumes used by the school. Of course, both of them speak Croatian exceptionally well.



Now their families come our church regularly and many of them either are readers or altar servers. Their children also attend Croatian school. They enrolled them in various sport societies—actually, one of them, Davorka's son Luka Ivancic tried out as a Junior for the *Hrvat, Zagreb Dinamo* and for *Chicago Fire*.

We are grateful to God for Josip and Anđa and their family, and for the fact that they are such good and loyal members of our Parish. It is a pleasure to deal with Josip since he is always gentle and patient with everyone. Anđa always seems to have overflowing love for everyone—she wishes to embrace everyone and to joyfully share her expertly-made "pita."

*Anđa nije odmah stigla do Pariza, ali ju je Josip čekao i dočekao. Vjenčali su se 1975. u Parizu. Nakon toga su stigli u Chicago, te zajedno redovito dolazili u svoju crkvu sv. Jeronima. Anđa se učlanila u dobrotvorno društvo Hrvatska žena grana br. 1. Također kao članica Marijinog društva godinama pomaže u pripremi peciva za Veliku Gospu*

*Gospodin je blagoslovio njihov brak sa dvije kćeri, Dubravkom i Davorkom. Od malih nogu su ih učlanili u Hrvatsku školu da uče jezik, pjesmu i ples. Josip je jedno vrijeme bio predsjednik i Hrvatske škole. One su, pak to veoma dobro prihvatile, sačuvalle jezik i zavolile kulturu svojih predaka. Obje su bile članovi kolo grupe Kardinal Stepinac, a i kad su završile članstvo u klubu Stepinac, nastavile su pomagati, učiti, brinuti se za nošnje. Sada one dovode redovito svoje obitelji nu našu crkvu, neki od njih čitaju a neki su ministranti. Također pohađaju i Hrvatsku školu, te i oni veoma dobro govore hrvatski. Aktivni su i u hrvatskim sportskim društvima.*

*Jedan od njih – Dubravkin sin Luka Ivancić se okušao i u juniorima Hrvata, zagrebački Dinamo ga je zamjetio i pozvao u svoj ljetni kamp, te je također pozvan u juniore Chicago Fire.*



*Zahvalni smo Bogu za Josipa i Anđu i cijelu njihovu obitelj, tako dobre članove naše zajednice. S Josipom je ugodno surađivati, jer je prema svima blag i strpljiv, a Anđa uvijek ima dovoljno ljubavi za sve, da sve želi zagrliti ili svojom pitom počastiti.*

### BIG THANK YOU

We are very grateful for all your help. Without it, it would be impossible to hold such a great festival for more than a century!

Special thanks goes to the few who dedicate many days even throughout the year for Velika Gospa.

Thank you all who come and help. Thank you for your every gift and donation.

Big thank you to all the entertainers, who entertain us every year for free.

### VELIKO HVALA

Iskreno cijnimo svaku vašu pomoć, jer bez nje ne bismo mogli održavati ovako svečani dan više od jednoga stoljeća, a posebna hvala nekolicini koja daruje više dana tijekom godine za ovu proslavu.

Hvala svima koji su pomogli u organizaciji i radu. Hvala za svaki vaš dar i doprinos.

Velika hvala i svim našim zabavljačima koji nas iz godine u godinu besplatno zabavljaju.

### In Memoriam



**Vera (Cerina) Bozich** served for many years as a co-chair person of Velika Gospa festival. She was very well organized and dedicated.

†Catherine Ferro

†Steve Bilandic

†Mate Kovačević

†Ante Vulich

†Ivan Max Sivric

†Theresa Nagy



*Thank you - Rest in God's peace!*