

## America Needs Hrushiv

America is proceeding into a tumultuous election with fanatics on both sides, claiming that the election will not decide the Presidency. We had the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a hero to many and a villain to others. We sit here amid a pandemic where hundreds of thousands have died worldwide, and the arguments of how to end this have no common agreement. There are peaceful protests for some and violent riots for others, leading to deaths from coast to coast. Police Officers are treated as heroes and enemies. When and how will peace come to the American homeland?

Ukrainians have not found peace at home because of Russia's desire to maintain the old Soviet controls over people and places. Ukraine suffered the world's worst nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church suffered persecution, which gave rise to many martyrs and saints. Remembering this brought a Polish Pontiff into Ukraine to celebrate. The previous visit of a Pope was to die in exile.

In 2017, His Beatitude Sviatoslav led a Patriarchal Pilgrimage to Hrushiv, telling those gathered, "We would like to remind you, that on April 26, 1987 AD in the village of Hrushiv, Lviv region, on the balcony of the local church the Mother of God appeared to a 12-year-old girl, Maria Kizym. The news quickly spread among people. Tens of thousands of people from various corners of the then-Soviet Union began arriving at Hrushiv. The miracle in Hrushiv manifested the UGCC coming out from the catacombs, collapse of the Soviet Union, and independence of the Ukrainian State." Atheistic communist military officers documented this apparition. What brought about this miraculous event?

The Church recognizes apparitions but does not demand that people hold them as a matter of faith. They are worthy of our consideration, though.

The relationship with the Holy Theotokos is logical. If we love Jesus, we would love His Mother. Our Lord created the relationship when He told John to "Behold your mother." Mary became, by Jesus' command the Mother of the Church and, therefore, our Mother. The relationship is then over two thousand years old. There come times when people like to celebrate their relationship or renew it in their names. Prince Yaroslav the Wise, during the consecration of the "Golden Gate" and the Church of the Annunciation beside this Gate built in 1037, solemnly dedicated the whole Ukrainian nation to the protection of the Most Holy Mother of God and at the same time proclaimed her as the Queen of the Ukrainian people.

In 1792, Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore consecrated the United States to Mary under the Immaculate Conception title. In 1846, the American bishops at the Sixth Provincial Council chose Mary under the same title as the country's patroness. On May 1,

2020, Bishop Benedict and the clergy of the Eparchy of St Nicholas in Chicago, as well as other Ukrainian eparchies in the United States and Canada, reconsecrated themselves to Mary, under the title of "Mary, Mother of the Church." Acknowledging Mary's maternity during the pandemic, we are in the pattern of asking her to intercede with her Son on our behalf.

It is fitting then that as our country is in turmoil, to turn to our heavenly Mother in prayer. As Ukrainian Catholics, since Our Lady has helped our homeland, it is fitting to turn to Our Lady of Hrushiv to take care of our adopted land.

It is fitting then we should listen to the words of Our Lady to Maria and those gathered.

*The wicked world is feasting on depravity and impurity. Many lies are proclaimed against the truth. The innocent are condemned. Many come as false messiahs and false prophets. Be diligent. Be on your guard.*



*Happy are they whose lives are blameless and who walk in the fear of the Lord.*

*My children, all of you are dear to me. I make no distinction of race or religion. You here in Ukraine have received knowledge of the One, True, Apostolic Church. You have been shown the door to Heaven. You must follow this path even though it may be painful.*

*The eternal God is calling you. That is why I have been sent to you.*

As Christ, our true God, has sent His Mother to bring Good News to Ukraine; it would be fitting for Ukrainian Catholics to raise many prayers to Our Lady to intercede with her Son for the United States, especially now. As we pray, let us use our prayers to evangelize this nation. May Americans find the Truth in the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

*Fr Jonathan Morse*