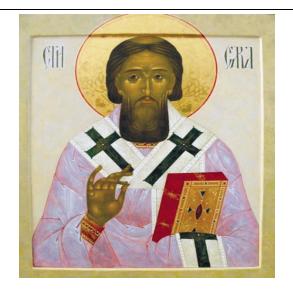
## THE WAY + JEДИНИ ПУТ

JUNE 2016 BULLETIN
ST. SAVA

#### SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

P.O. Box 2366 14916 239TH PLACE SE ISSAQUAH, WA 98027 REV. PREDRAG BOJOVIC MOBILE PHONE: 224/388-2605



# The Ascension of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Forty Days after Pascha

"He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud that took Him from their sight."

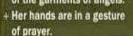
- + Christ is shown ascending in His glory in a mandorla, a round or almondshaped design that signifies His divinity and glorified state.
- H. OHA
- He is being carried by one angel on either side.
- With His right hand, Christ gives His blessing as He departs from His beloved people.
- We, the Church, receive His blessing in countless ways every day.
- The icon of the Ascension includes some who did not witness the Ascension.
- + St. Paul is shown to the left of the Theotokos, but we know that at that time, St. Paul did not yet believe in Jesus.
- + We, like St. Paul, are called to participate in Christ's Ascension and experience our own ascension, with our hearts and minds focused on Him.





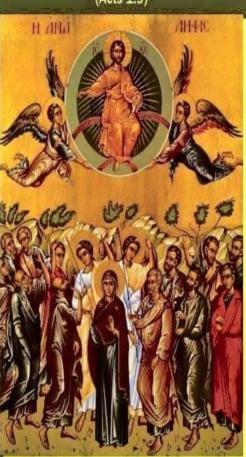
- In His left hand is a scroll, symbolizing that He fulfills the Old Testament.
- A scroll is a symbol of teaching. The icon affirms that Christ is the source of all knowledge.





- Her very calm pose is quite different from the appearance of the Disciples, who are moving about, talking to one another and looking and pointing towards heaven.
- The entire group of people, the Theotokos and the disciples, represent the Church.

Just as their gaze is riveted upon their beloved Christ, so we are called in every Divine Liturgy to "lift up our hearts to the Lord."



## ORTHODOX BISHOP OF WESTERN AMERICA ПРАВОСЛАВНИ ЕПИСКОП ЗАПАДНОАМЕРИЧКИ SERBIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF WESTERN AMERICA

Еп. бр. 116/2016

Драга у Христу чада, возљубљени синови и кћери Свете Цркве,

Поздрављам Вас у ове чудесне и тајанствене дане, када са Господом усходимо ка Голготи, и даље ка Небеском Јерусалиму, нашој крајњем Циљу.

Ево, већ се иза Голготе назире ново Сунце, "Пасха тајанствена, Пасха свечасна, Пасха Христос Избавитељ", те се искрено молим да Вам дани Великог пасхалног поста буду кретање ка Вечно долазећем Васкрсу – Новој Пасхи!

Пре само седам недеља, у Вашој благословеној Заједници у Исакви, заједнички смо стајали на прагу Великог поста, певајући "једним устима и једним срцем" покајне и разбуђујуће речи: "Отвори ми двери покајања, Животодавче, јер дух се мој рано подиже ка Твоме светоме Храму... но, као милостив очисти ме Твојом милосрдном милошћу". Том приликом сам, поред дивног гостопримства за које сам вам благодаран, са радошћу приметио и велики духовни напредак, коме сте, свакако, сви допринели, вредно радећи на себи у жртвеној љубави за Цркву, под духовним вођством Вашег свештеника, протојереја Предрага Бојовића.

Ово наше Архипастирско обраћање Вама се и тиче оца Предрага. После дугог, озбиљног и молитвеног размишљања, благоизволели смо и одлучили да га поставимо за пароха при Храму Светог Саве у Сан Габријелу, Калифорнија, који је друга највећа Парохија у нашој Епархији. Овај Храм и Парохија су од огромног значаја за нашу Епископију те, стога, захтевају свештеника који је од Бога благословен способностима и квалитетима неопходним за успешно вођење Народа Божијег у сложеним околностима великог града Лос Анђелеса. Ове потребне особине нисмо могли пронаћи код других свештеника колико у оцу Предрагу.

Свесни смо, наравно, да ће ова наша одлука ражалостити многе међу Вама, али се молимо и надамо да ће вас Дух Свети окрепити и надахнути у правилном поимању Цркве Божије као Невесте Христове и Богочовечанског организма, у коме смо, као чланови истог, по речима Достојевског "сви одговорни за све". Такође верујемо да ћете надићи парцијално схватање Цркве и са радошћу принети ову жртву, све у славу Оца нашег Небеског, а за напредак наше Цркве Српске на Северноамеричком континенту.

Истовремено, уверавам Вас да ћемо са особитом пажњом изабрати и поставити Вам достојног и одговарајућег пастира, под чијим руковођењем ћете наставити започето богоугодно дело сведочења и ширења Благе вести о Васкрсењу.

С љубављу у Христу Спаситељу,

Jew Makeum

У Лос Анђелесу, О Пасхи 2016. године <u>Below is the translation of the Official Letter sent by His Grace our Bishop Maxim to the Synaxis of the faithful in Seattle, regarding his recent decision to transfer Fr. Predrag to Los Angeles, CA.</u>

Dear children in Christ, beloved sons and daughters of our Holy Church,

I greet you in these wonderful and mystical days, when we are ascending to the Golgotha along with our Lord, and further towards the Heavenly Jerusalem – our final goal and desired destination.

Already a new Sun is looming behind the Golgotha, "Mystical Pascha, All-Venerable Pascha, Pascha which is Christ Redeemer" and I sincerely pray that your days of the Great Lent may be spent in a constant movement to Eternally arriving Resurrection – the New Pascha!

Only seven weeks ago, at your blessed parish in Issaquah, we stood together at the threshold of the Great Lent singing "with one mouth and one heart" the repentant and awakening words: "Open to me the doors of repentance, O Giver of Life, because my spirit raises early towards Your holy temple..., but as the All-Compassionate One cleanse me with Your merciful grace." On that occasion, and in addition to your great hospitality for which I am very grateful, I noticed with great joy the great spiritual growth, to which all of you contributed by your hard work on yourselves and sacrificial love for the Church, under the spiritual leadership of your priest, Very Reverend Predrag Bojovic.

This Archpastoral letter to you is, actually, in regards to Fr. Predrag. After a long, serious and prayerful contemplation, we have decided to appoint Fr. Predrag as a priest at the Church of Saint Sava in San Gabriel, California, which is the second largest parish in our Diocese. This temple and parish are of an utmost importance for our Episcopate, and therefore, there is a great need for a Priest who has been blessed with the capabilities and the qualities necessary for successful guiding of the People of God in very complex circumstances surrounding the area of Los Angeles. We were not able to find these necessary traits I any other priest as much as we saw them in Fr. Predrag.

We are aware, of course, that this decision will sadden many of you, but we pray and hope that the Holy Spirit will invigorate and inspire you in proper understanding of The Church of God as the Bride of Christa and as the Organism of God-man, in which we all, as the members of the same, "are responsible for all", according to Dostoyevsky. We, also, have faith that you will rise above the partial understanding of the Church and offer this sacrifice with joy, all for the glory of our Heavenly Father and for the progress and growth of our Serbian Church on the North American continent.

At the same time, I assure you that we will, with a special care, choose and appoint a worthy and appropriate shepherd, under whose leadership you will continue your God-pleasing work of witnessing and spreading the Joyful News of Resurrection.

In Los Angeles, At Pascha, 2016 With Love in Christ the Savior, Bp. Maxim

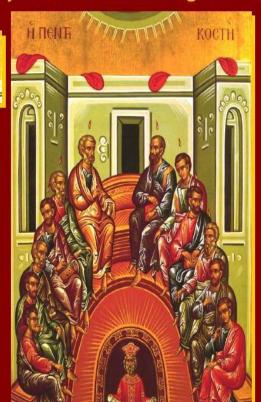
## **Fifty Days After Pascha**

"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38-39)

- + Pentecost is known as "the Descent of the Holy Spirit," and by Holy Tradition, is celebrated as the first day of the life of the Church.
- + It is an icon of bold colors of red and gold signifying the greatness of the event, and

celebrating the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church, then, today, and always.

- + As Christ promised before He ascended, the Holy Spirit is being sent, making the Holy Apostles members of the Risen Lord.
- + Tongues of fire are seen descending upon each of the Apostles, signifying the descent of the Holy Spirit.
- + This event occurred on the Jewish feast of Pentecost. This is when the first-fruits of harvest were brought to the Lord.
- + In our lives, we first receive the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of Holy Chrismation (for most of us, this is right after we are baptized).
- + The Holy Spirit gives us many gifts in our lives: He comforts us as we struggle against sin, He makes us one with God through His energy, and He bestows upon us many individual gifts, each useful for our salvation.



- + The icon of Pentecost includes some who were not present on that day in the Upper Room.
- The gathering is a representation of the Church rather than a historical depiction.
- + The Apostle Paul, who had not yet had his conversion on the road to Damascus is seated across from
- St. Peter. The evangelists St. Mark and St. Luke, each holding a Gospel book, are also shown.
- We, like they, are called to receive the Holy Spirit, and to seek to use the gifts He gives us for God's glory and for our own salvation.
- + In the center of the icon below the Apostles sits a figure enshrouded in darkness.
- + Although crowned with earthly glory, this symbolic figure,
   Cosmos, represents all the people of the world living in darkness, sin, and ignorance of God.
- + The figure is shown in the act of receiving the teaching of the Apostles, signified by 12 scrolls upon an outstretched cloth.
- After Pentecost, the Apostles carried the message of the Gospel to all parts of the world.

ДУХОВИ, Тројица, Силазак Светог Духа на Апостоле, празник који представља рођендан хришћанске Цркве; а празнује се 50. дан после хришћанске Пасхе (Васкрса), па се зове и Педесетница (грч. Пεντηκοστή). Овај хришћански празник одговара јеврејском празнику Педесетнице, који се светковао као Празник седмица (недеља) или Празник жетви (2 Мој 34,32), исто у 50. дан после Пасхе. У хришћанској Цркви на Педесетницу светкује се спомен на Силазак Светог Духа на Апостоле.

У педесети дан по Васкрсењу и десети дан по Вазнесењу, излила се обилата благодат Светог Духа на ученике Христове, и напунила их снагом да Христов закон на земљи утврде: "И кад се наврши педесет дана бијаху сви апостоли једнодушно на окупу. И уједанпут настаде шум са неба као хујање силнога вјетра, и напуни сав дом гдје они сјеђаху; И показаше им се раздијељени језици као огњени, и сиђе по један на свакога од њих. И испунише се сви Духа Светога и стадоше говорити другим језицима, као што им Дух даваше да казују." (Дап 2,1-4) Тако се испуни оно што је Исус Христос својим ученицима пред одлазак на Небо обећао. Сила Светога духа одмах је почела да дејствује јер је Св. Петар након тога ватреном речју придобио три хиљаде људи за Христову науку.

Као што је јављање Бога на Синају био рођендан јеврејског народа, тако је и Силазак Светог Духа на Апостоле рођендан хришћанске Цркве.

У Црквеној иконографији, Силазак Светог Духа представљен је верном сликом како Апостоли седе са стране, са упражњеним местом на челу (то место је за Господа Христа, који се десет дана раније вазнео на небо).

Communique of the Holy Assembly of Bishops



## Communique of the Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church held in Belgrade May 14-25, 2016

The regular meeting of the Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church began at the Patriarchate of Pec monastery with the joint serving of the holy hierarchical Divine Liturgy and the invocation of the Holy Spirit and continued in Prizren with the rite of consecration of the renovated Prizren Seminary. Afterward, all regular meetings, under the presidency of His Holiness Serbian Patriarch Irinej, were held in Belgrade. Participating in the Assembly were all diocesan hierarchs of the Serbian Orthodox Church with the exception of Bishop Lavrentije of Sabac who, out of justifiable reasons, was not able to attend.

The most important theme of this year's Assembly was preparation of the Serbian Orthodox Church to take part in the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, to meet this June in Crete. Regarding this forthcoming pan Orthodox Council, the Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church, adopted a document expressing their principle position on all major issues to be discussed and decided upon at the Great Council.

Also of importance was the decision of the Assembly that in good time – meaning soon – preparation begin for the celebration of the 800th anniversary of the independence of the Serbian Orthodox Church (1219-2019), in cooperation with the authorities of Serbia and Republika Srpska and all relative and cultural institutions of the Serbian people. At the same time, the Assembly was pleased to learn from Metropolitan Amphilohije of Montenegro and the Coastlands, of the successful preparations already in place for the 1,000th anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Jovan Vladimir, King of Serbia, which will take place in September of this year in the city of Bar and besides the Patriarch and hierarchs of the Serbian Orthodox Church invitations will be sent to high delegations of all Orthodox Churches. The Order of King Jovan Vladimir has been established, to be awarded to confessors of faith and sufferers in the faith.

As in previous years, the Assembly took into consideration church education, as well as the mission of the Church in general, both internal and external. Protopresbyter Gojko Perovic, the current acting rector of the St. Petar of Cetinje Seminary in Cetinje, was elected Rector of the aforementioned Seminary. The Library of the Serbian Orthodox Patriarchate in Belgrade was given status of the main library in the entire region of the Serbian Orthodox Church. With sadness it was noted that there are still, here and there, schools where religious education is unlawfully discriminated against, even though in general the situation is favorable.

It was noted that the relations between the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Sister Orthodox Churches are exceptionally good, fully in the spirit of the Church's unity and conciliarity, with one unfortunate exception – the Romanian Patriarchate, whose bishops and clergy for years now - in a non-canonical manner and not in the spirit of brotherly love - enter in the jurisdiction of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Eastern Serbia, particularly in the Timok region. After many past addresses and appeals, unfortunately unsuccessful thus far, the Assembly has once more called upon the Romanian Church to immediately cease this practice which is destructive for the church; otherwise, the problem will be addressed at the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, and in the event that this anti-canonical practice continue even after the Council – the Serbian Orthodox Church, with sincere pain but for the good of the Church – will be forced to cut all liturgical and canonical relations with the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Relations with other Christian churches and communities as well as the Jewish and Islamic communities of Serbia, are traditionally good, which, unfortunately, cannot be said of relations with the extreme circles in the Roman Catholic Church in Croatia and in Bosnia and Hercegovina, as well as relations with similar circles in the Islamic communities in Bosnia and Hercegovina and the Islamic communities in Serbia.

Relations between the Church and state is developing with signs of good will and cooperation in terms of the separation of Church and state. Of particular importance is the support from the Committee for cooperation between churches and religious institutions at the Ministry of Justice towards both the Serbian Orthodox Church and all other traditional churches and religious institutions. The Assembly awaits this body be returned the status of Ministry of religious affairs. It was noted that the religious service in the Serbian Army, as well as the armed forces in Bosnia and Hercegovina, is on the rise.

There are, unfortunately, problems and unresolved issues. Therefore, the Assembly expected that the process of restitution of unjustly confiscated church property in Serbia to be accelerated and fully completed. The Assembly once again calls on the competent authorities to return to the Church parish books of records confiscated in 1946, allegedly for the reason of copying them. Similarly, the Assembly, for the umpteenth time, reiterates its position that the remains of the Serbian and world giant, Nikola Tesla, you do not deserve to be a museum piece but that they be decently buried in a suitable place near the Temple of Saint Sava, as Vuk and Dositej are buried in front of the Cathedral church in Belgrade.

The Assembly fathers noted that the position of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the southern Serbian region is still very difficult even though there are signs of hope and reasons to be optimistic, such as the trouble-free work of the Prizren Seminary and recognition of the property rights of Dechani Monastery. The state in the region, unfortunately, is equally filled with difficulties and sufferings: in Croatia the ustasha-minded chauvinists rant against the Serbian Orthodox Church and Serbian people; in the Bosnia-Hercegovina Federation constant pressure is in place, to the level of open discrimination; Montenegro is preparing a law which not only does not recognize the status of the Church and identity but is threaten with open persecution, while its government proclaims the Serbian Orthodox Church as public enemy number one, seemingly in the spirit of their "democratic and Euro-Atlantic orientation"; in the Republic of Macedonia show trials against Archbishop Jovan and the Ohrid Archbishopric are still active.

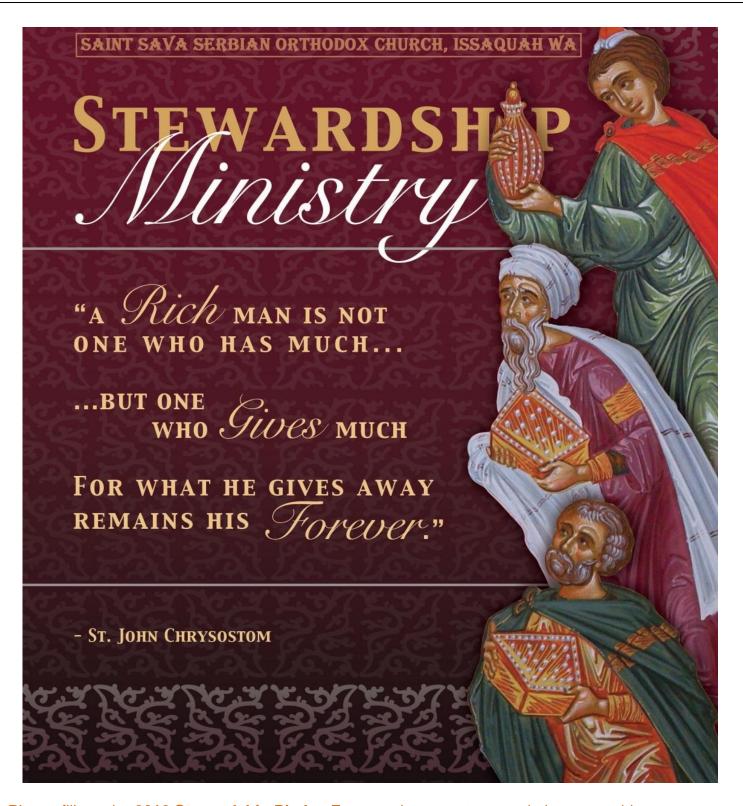
The Assembly, naturally, expressed its solidarity with all Orthodox and heterodox Christians, as well as Muslims, who are suffering and being killed in the Middle East. Also, the Assembly prayerfully calls for a quick end to the mindless conflict between brothers of one faith and one blood in the Ukraine.

The current Bishop of Eastern America, Bishop Mitrophan, is elected bishop of the vacant diocese of Canada, the current Bishop of Australia and New Zealand, Bishop Irinej, is elected as bishop of Eastern America and Protosindjel Siluan (Mrakic), of the Pustinje Monastery in the Diocese of Valjevo is elected Bishop of Australia.

Elected as vicar of the Diocese of Montenegro and the Coastlands, with the title, "Bishop of Diocletia", is Archimandrite Kirilo (Bojovic), currently engaged in the Diocese of Buenos Aires and South America. The current Bishop of Nis, Bishop Jovan, has been relieved of his duties as diocesan bishop per his request. Bishop Teodosije of Ras and Prizren will serve as administrator of the Diocese of Nis while the Diocese of Dabrobosna will continue to be administered by Bishop Grigorije of Zahum and Hercegovina, Bishop Joanikije of Budim and Niksic will administer the Diocese of Milesevo.

Members of the Holy Synod in its new composition are: Bishop Irinej of Backa, Bishop Justin of Zica, Bishop Fotije of Dalmatia and Bishop Teodosije of Ras and Prizren, alternate members are Metropolitan Amphilohije of Montenegro and the Coastlands and Bishop Lavrentije of Sabac.

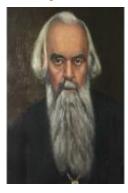
Submitted by Bishop Irinej of Backa, Spokesman for the Serbian Orthodox Church



Please fill out the **2016 Stewardship Pledge Form** we have sent you and please consider ways that you and your family could help our community grow by becoming active stewards of our parish.

Молимо Вас да испуните Заветне Донаторске Картице које смо вам доставили и да нам их вратите да би знали да подржавате наше напоре и стремљења. Поред новчаних прилога постоје различити начини на које нам ви и ваше породице можете помоћи, стога нам сама сума на картицама није толико битна колико сигурност да сте са нама, са нашом Мајком Црквом, која нас води у Живот Вечни!

### Свети Николај: О Видовдану у катедрали Светог Павла у Лондону 1916.г.



Господо и пријатељи!

Дошао сам из Србије, из европске поноћи. Тамо нигде ни зрачка светлости. Сва је светлост побегла са земље на небо и једино нам одозго светли. Па ипак, ми нејаки у свему, сада овако, јаки смо у нади и вери, у скоро свануће дана. Захвалан сам лорду Архиепископу кентерберијском, који ми је омогућио да на свети Видовдан, овог лета Господњег 1916. године, у овој прекрасној цркви Светог Павла, пред његовим Височанством краљем Џорџем

Петим и најугледнијим Енглезима могу да вам се обратим.

Господо и пријатељи! Цео дан јуче провео сам разгледајући овај величанствени храм, који је понос Енглеске и хришћанства. Ја сам видео да је он саграђен од најскупоценијег материјала, донесеног из разних крајева империје у којој сунце не залази. Видео сам да је саграђен од гранита и мермера које су испирали таласи стотине мора и океана. И да је украшен златом и драгим камењем, донетим из најскупоценијих рудника Европе и Азије. И уверио сам се да се овај храм с правом убраја у једно од архитектонских чуда света.

Но, господо и пријатељи! Ја долазим из једне мале земље на Балкану у којој има један храм, и већи, и лепши, и вреднији, и светији од овог храма. Тај храм се налази у српском граду Нишу и зове се ЋЕЛЕ КУЛА. Тај храм је сазидан од лобања и костију мог народа. Народа који пет векова стоји као стамена брана азијатском мору, на јужној капији Европе. А кад би све лобање и кости биле узидане, могао би се подићи храм триста метара висок, толико широк и дугачак, и сваки Србин би дана, могао подићи руку и показати: Ово је глава мога деде, мога оца, мога брата, мога комшије, мога пријатеља, кума. Пет векова Србија лобањама и костима својим брани Европу да би она живела срећно. Ми смо тупили нашим костима турске сабље и обарали дивље хорде, које су срљале као планински вихор на Европу. И то, не за једну деценију, нити за једно столеће, него за сва она столећа која леже између Рафаела и Ширера. За сва она бела и црвена столећа у којима је Европа вршила реформацију вере, реформацију науке, реформацију политике, реформацију рада, реформацију целокупног живота. Речју, када је Европа вршила смело кориговање, и богова и људи из прошлости, и када је пролазила кроз једно чистилиште, телесно и духовно.

Ми смо, као стрпљиви робови, ми смо се клали са непријатељима њеним, бранећи улаз у то чистилиште. И другом речју, док је Европа постајала Европом, ми смо били ограда њена, жива и непробојна ограда, дивље трње око питоме руже. На Видовдан 1389. године српски кнез Лазар, са својом храбром војском, стао је на Косову Пољу на браник хришћанске Европе, и дао живот за одбрану хришћанске културе. У то време Срба је било колико и вас Енглеза. Данас их је десет пута мање.

Где су? Изгинули бранећи Европу.

Сада је време да Европа Србији врати тај дуг!



## Vidovdan Address of Saint Nikolaj Velimirovic, 1916

On June 28th 1916, now Sainted Bishop Nikolaj Velimirović addressed a congregation gathered at St. Paul's Cathedral in London at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Gentlemen and friends,

I am coming from Serbia, from European "midnight". There is no ray of light, not a single trace. All the light went from the ground to the sky and the sky is the only place where the light is coming from. Nevertheless, we that are weak in everything are strong in faith and hope that dawn will soon arrive. I am grateful to Lord Archbishop, Randall Cantuar, that allowed me, on this holy day, Vidovdan, year of Our Lord 1916, in this beautiful church of Saint Paul, to address his majesty, King George V and the most prominent Englishmen.

Gentlemen and friends! I spent the whole day yesterday looking at this magnificent temple, which is the pride of England and Christianity. I have seen that it has been built by using the most expensive material, brought from various parts of the empire, where the sun never sets. I have seen that it has been built from granite and marble, that the waves of the hundreds of seas and oceans rinsed them to the shore. It is also decorated with the gold and precious stones, which were brought from the most valuable mines in Europe and Asia. I have convinced myself that this temple is accounted for the one of the architectural wonders of the world for a reason.

However, my friends, I am coming from a little country in the Balkans, and there is a temple that is bigger, holier, and more beautiful and precious than this one. That temple is located in Serbian town of Niš and its name is the Skull Tower. That temple is built from the skulls that belong to my people. They have been standing there for five centuries, like a stout dam for Asian sea, on the Eastern European gate. And if all the skulls and bones were used to build the temple, that temple would be three-hundred meters tall, with identical width and length, and every Serb could have come in today, raise his arm and point at each one of them "This is the skull of my grand-father, my father, my brother my neighbour, my friend, my God-father, my best man". For five centuries, Serbia has been defending Europe with it's bones and skulls, so Europe could live peacefully.

We made the Turkish sabres blunt with our bones; we threw down the savage hordes that were rushing down like a mountain whirl wind towards the Europe. Not for a decade, nor for a century, but for all those centuries between Rafael and Shearer. During all those "white and red centuries", while Europe was experiencing religious reformation, scientific revolution, political revolutions, work reformations, the reformation of the overall way of life, using words, we carried out our role with our lives. While Europe was heartily revising gods and people from the past, and while it was going through a purgatory both physically and spiritually, we, as patient slaves, were slaughtered by the European enemies, forbidding the entry into that same purgatory. In other words, while Europe was becoming Europe we know Today, we were its fence, the impenetrable wall, and the wild thorns around the gentle rose. On Vidovdan, year 1389, Serbian tsar Lazar came to Kosovo with his brave army, on the frontier of the Christian Europe, and in order to defend the Christian culture, he gave his life. At that time there were as many Serbs as Englishmen now. Today, there are ten time less Serbs than then.

Where are they? They died, protecting Europe. Now it's Europe's turn to pay back the debt.



JUNE 11, 2016 at 7 pm

NUMBER OF MEALS IS LIMITED, FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. Starting at \$12.

Деца су увек добродошла

Kids are always welcome

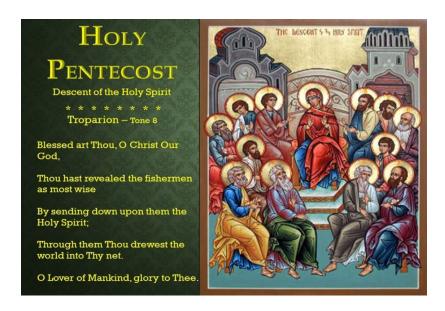
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