

Understanding death con't

Orthodox Christian thinking at its purest resists and rejects this way of approaching death, but rather it drives home with a powerful realism the tragedy of human death. Again, in Father Schmemmann's words:

Christianity proclaims, confirms and teaches, that this separation of the soul from the body, which we call death, is evil.

It is not part of God's creation. It is that which entered the world, making it subject to itself, but opposed to God and violating His design, His desire for the world, for mankind and for life. It is that which Christ came to destroy.

Man, as created by God, is an animate body and an incarnate spirit, and for that reason any separation of them, and not only the final separation, in death, but even before death, any violation of that union is evil. It is a spiritual catastrophe. From this we receive our belief in the salvation of the world through the incarnate God, i.e. again, above all, our belief in His acceptance of flesh and body, not "body-like," but a body in the fullest sense of the word: a body that needs food, that tires and that suffers.

In a relatively short essay, Father Schmemmann presents us with the distortions of Christian thinking on death which have twisted our whole conception of the meaning of the Gospel, and which, more specifically, undermine the great power contained within the Resurrection of Christ. Yet, if Father Schmemmann was anything, he was a life-affirming person and thinker who, in his expressive manner, always spoke and wrote of the "Good News" proclaimed throughout the New Testament and liturgical life of the Church. He thus pointed out defects that have entered our way of thinking so that we could recover the Gospel in all of its power:

He alone rose from the dead, but He has destroyed our death, destroying its dominion, its despair, its finality.

Christ does not promise us Nirvana or some sort of misty life beyond the grave, but the resurrection of life, a new heaven and a new earth, the joy of universal resurrection. Christ is risen, and life abides, life lives ...

That is the meaning; that is the unending joy of this truly central and fundamental confirmation of the Symbol of Faith: "And the third day, He rose again according to the Scriptures."

According to the Scriptures, i.e. in accordance with that knowledge of life, with that design for the world and humanity, for the soul and body, for the spirit and matter, for life and death, which has been revealed to us in the holy Scriptures.

This is the entire faith, the entire love, and the entire hope of Christianity. And this is why the Apostle Paul says, "If Christ is not risen, then your faith is in vain."

As a kind of appendix affirmation to the above, I would like to include, and thus conclude, with a passage from one of the most prominent Orthodox theologians of the twentieth century, the Romanian-born Dumitru Staniloae.

Attempting to capture the essence of the Orthodox Church's absorption of, and appreciation for, the gift of Christ's Resurrection, Father Staniloae chose the word "salvation" as the best to summarize the Church's interior knowledge of ultimate reality:

Salvation expresses the deepest, most comprehensive and many-sided meaning of the work which Jesus Christ accomplished. In this last dimension, that is to say, understood as the destruction of man's death in all of its forms and the assurance of full and eternal life, the word "salvation" produces in the Orthodox faithful a feeling of absolute gratitude towards Christ to whom they owe the deliverance of their existence and the prospect of eternal life and happiness.



Prophet Micah Commemorated on August 14



The Prophet Micah, the sixth of the Twelve Minor Prophets, was descended from the Tribe of Judah and was a native of the city of Moresheth, to the south of Jerusalem. His prophetic service began around the year 778 before Christ and continued for almost 50 years under the kings of Judah: Jotham, Ahaz, and Righteous Hezekiah (721-691 B.C., August 28).

He was a contemporary of the Prophet Isaiah. His denunciations and predictions were in regard to the separate kingdoms of Judah and Israel. He foresaw the misfortunes threatening the kingdom of Israel before its destruction, and the sufferings of Judah during the incursions under the Assyrian emperor Sennacherib.

To him belongs a prophecy about the birth of the Savior of the world: "And thou, Bethlehem, house of Ephratha, art too few in number to be reckoned with the thousands of Judah; yet out of thee shall come forth to Me, one who is to be a ruler in Israel, and His goings forth were from the beginning, even from eternity" (Mic. 5: 2). From the words of the Prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 26: 18-19), the Jews evidently were afraid to kill the Prophet Micah. His relics were discovered in the fourth century after the Birth of Christ at Baraphsatia, through a revelation to the Bishop of Eleutheropolis, Zeuinos.

PATRONAL FEAST DAY LAMB ROAST



Left: Fr. Andrew strikes a pose serving food for local paper photographer.



Becky Eggers, Helen Hruban and Fr. Andrew distribute food to the Lamb Roast guests.



Our two fearless cooks, Duke Joanovich & Mark Hruban, taking time to pose for our local paper's photographer. (Picture appeared in local paper.)



Some of our guests enjoying the Patronal Lamb Roast. Record 147 tickets sold. There were many people outside as well.

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“On behalf of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon of All America and Canada and the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, I am honored to be with you today,” Bishop Paul said at the conclusion of the Liturgy. “Today the Lord has made it possible for me to celebrate the Divine Liturgy with you, which is a cause for me to rejoice. This is my first visit to Russia. Returning to America, I will always remember you and your sincere faith, and in turn, I ask your holy prayers.”





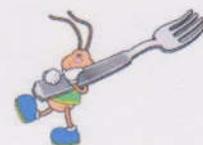
2nd Annual Community Picnic

1st Annual Block Party

Saturday, August 27

1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!



**Ethnic Dancers
Local DJ-Music
Raffles**

Beer Tent ~~~ Bake Sale

Slip 'n Slide: Slide all day for \$1.00 (age doesn't matter!)
Dunkin' Booth: 3 throws-\$1.00
Dunk the Mayor, Padre & other local officials



Foods

Hot Dog, Chips	\$2.00
Hamburger, Chips (Cheese available)	\$3.00
Beverages	\$1.00

Tours of the church!
Fire Truck / Firemen visit
Volleyball

WHERE?

St. Panteleimon Orthodox Church
 7549 West 61st Place / Summit, IL. 60501
 Fr. Andrew Bartek: 708-552-5276

<http://saintpanteleimon.org/>

Games For Big & Little Kids
\$1.00 / game

Bean-Bag Toss

Other games

Face Painting



Irish High Court judge rules: ‘Unborn’ is ‘clearly a child’ with ‘significant’ rights

DUBLIN, Ireland, August 4, 2016 ([LifeSiteNews](#))

An Irish High Court judge has ruled that unborn children have all the rights of “born” children under the Irish constitution and law.

Justice Richard Humphries made the ruling during a tangled deportation case made more complex by the unborn child fathered by the Nigerian man whom the Irish government is seeking to expel.

“The ruling is vitally important at a time when the status of unborn babies in Ireland is once again under grave threat from pro-abortion organizations and the media,” Patrick Buckley of the Dublin office of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children said.

The state secured a deportation order in 2008, but the Nigerian, who was claiming refugee status, delayed implementation with various appeals and then sought a judicial review of the original order on the basis of having fathered the child, unborn at the time of his application, by an Irish woman with whom he is still partnered.

The Nigerian wanted the child to be factored into the request for a judicial hearing because the baby’s rights would strengthen his case to stay in the country. But the government resisted on the grounds the child was unborn and had only one right — to be born.

Humphries ruled differently, stating that the controversial Eighth Amendment to the constitution protecting “the unborn” meant that an “unborn child” was a child whose full rights under the constitution once born “must be taken seriously.” These rights under both statutory and common law were “significant” and went “well beyond the right to life alone.”

The Irish government, the judge found, had a duty to consider the best interests of the Nigerian’s unborn child while deliberating on his deportation. The judge, therefore, ordered the government to give the case a judicial review.

The ruling comes at a crucial time. A foreign-funded drive to repeal the Eighth Amendment has led the government to create a Citizens Conference on loosening Ireland’s abortion restrictions, which, under the Protection of Life during Pregnancy Act 2013, is permitted only to save the life of the mother but includes the risk of suicide as a threat to her life.

“In the light of the High Court’s ruling, we call upon the Government to move to repeal the pro-abortion Protection of Life during Pregnancy Act 2013,” SPUC’s Buckley said, “and to oppose any moves to repeal the Eighth Amendment. The killing of unborn children is both unconstitutional and unethical and therefore must not be allowed in Ireland.”



OCCHY QUIZ

Lollapalooza-Chicago. Unfortunately, some aren’t there to enjoy the music, but to abuse alcohol and drugs. How many people were sent to hospitals during the music festival?

- A. 107
- B. 542
- C. 268
- D. 189
- E. 238



Answer C! An Advocate IL Masonic Medical spokeswoman reported that most of the concertgoers they treated suffered from alcohol-related ailments. Dr. Mangold from pediatric ER at Lurie Children’s Hospital said many of the patients she saw Saturday and Sunday were 15- and 16-year-olds who were intoxicated. “We seemed to see a lot more drug ingestions on top of the alcohol,” Mangold said. She said some patients reported taking LSD and some suffered from drug-related seizures.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/chicagoinc/ct-lollapalooza-2016-arrests-citations-medical-20160801-story.html>

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by Mark Parisi
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