



for
from



Walter
Ciszek S.J.

www.ciszek.org

2013 Issue III

fwccenter@verizon.net



Rev. Walter J. Ciszek, S.J.

**PRAYER FOR A FAVOR
THROUGH THE
INTERCESSION OF
FATHER WALTER CISZEK, S.J.**

Almighty God, we love, adore and praise You as our Creator and Loving Father. Look with compassion and mercy upon us. Hear our prayer in this time of special need and through the intercession of Father Walter Ciszek, grant the following favor if it is Your Holy Will.

(Mention the Request)

Most loving God, accept our gratitude for hearing this prayer. May the knowledge of the virtues and holiness of Father Walter be recognized and known to provide a lasting example to draw sinners to reconciliation and to lead souls to sanctity.

For You are our God and we are Your people and we glorify You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Please inform the Prayer League of any special favors from Father Walter Ciszek.

Father Ciszek Day Special 50th Anniversary Celebration of his return to United States

To be mindful of the Year of Faith, there will be a time of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament preceding the Mass on Sunday afternoon of October 13. A quiet time of adoration will add to the spirit of the day.



Father Ciszek Day Special Anniversary Celebration

October 13, 2013

Mass at 2:00 pm

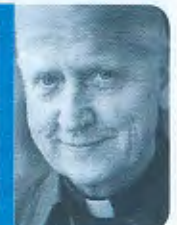
St. Casimirs Church, 231 N. Jardin Street, Shenandoah, PA 17976

CELEBRANT & HOMILIST

Bishop John Barres, Bishop of Allentown

Annual Fundraiser
Raffle Tickets Enclosed

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2013



REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The meeting began with the prayer for the cause of Fr. Walter Ciszek.

Msgr. Bocian brought up the subject of special activities for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Fr. Ciszek's release from Russia, and referred to ideas brought forward at the last meeting. He felt that visiting Fr. Ciszek's grave was best left up to individuals themselves, rather than planning a bus trip to the site on October 12. With reference to having a procession, and heeding the advice of Fr. Marc to beware of anything that would reflect cult behavior, Msgr. Bocian suggested instead to be mindful of the Year of Faith, and preferably to choose to have a time of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament preceding the Mass on Sunday afternoon of October 13. Members agreed on that idea as being of greater merit, and that "quiet time" of adoration would please Fr. Ciszek more.

The Board agreed that inviting more press coverage would help, and to try to spread the word in neighboring dioceses, as well as in our own diocesan parishes. To that effect, Fr. Sable agreed to prepare an insert for diocesan parish bulletins in late September or early October; and Sr. Doris volunteered to draw up a list of Diocesan public relations representatives to seek permissions for such exposure. Planning for a "Panakhyda" following the Mass on Fr. Ciszek day is already promised by Monsignor Grabowski of St. Michael's Church. Likewise, Monsignor would like to have a likeness of the "Blue Madonna" displayed on a side altar of St. Casimir Church on that day.

Sister Doris thought it might be a worthy idea to contact Marvin Makinen to see if he could be present for the 50th anniversary celebration. Everyone agreed that it would be a splendid idea, and Msgr. Bocian asked Sr. Doris to arrange the contact through John Dejak.

All agreed that there should be a reception downstairs following the Mass, and that the ladies Guild of the parish should be contacted to provide the "goodies". Msgr. Bocian will ask Sr. Maria Rose and Sr. Jean to prepare materials from the Ciszek Center to be displayed on tables down in the hall, and Sr. Mary Ann would be contacted to provide help for carrying the materials down to the hall. He will also ask Sr. Marietta to get helpers to prepare the tables and decorations.

Elaine Cusat then gave a report on finances for the past three months.

"For/From the Friends of Walter Ciszek, S.J."

A Publication of the Father Walter Ciszek Prayer League
Official Organization for the Promotion of the Cause of
Canonization of Father Walter Ciszek, S.J.
231 N. Jardin Street
Shenandoah, PA 17976

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By Rev. Thomas J. Sable, S.J.

It was a short interval of time on the CBS evening news, a short clip of film of a man returning from Russia. It was fifty years ago and we were blessed with the presence of Father Walter Ciszek on our continent. It is an anniversary worth celebrating because of all the changes that took place in this interval of past time, because of the love that we have in the present, and because of the hope we have for the future.

The Soviet Union that had seemed to be an impregnable fortress began to change after the death of Stalin. In the revolt of the prison camp in which Father Ciszek lived, there was a sign of the things yet to come. Throughout the 1980s, the Soviet Union fought an increasingly frustrating war in Afghanistan. At the same time, the Soviet economy faced the continuously escalating costs of the arms race. Dissent at home grew while the stagnant economy faltered under the combined burden. Attempted reforms at home left the Soviet Union unwilling to rebuff challenges to its control in Eastern Europe. During 1989 and 1990, the Berlin Wall came down, borders opened, and free elections ousted Communist regimes everywhere in eastern Europe. In late 1991 the Soviet Union itself dissolved into its component republics. With stunning speed, the Iron Curtain was lifted and the Cold War came to an end. Though Father Ciszek did not live long enough to see the end of the Soviet Union, he prayed for the people of Russia as we believe he continues to do today.

In 1963 the Church opened up a new era of reforming itself. The Second Vatican Council, through the Holy See, formally opened under the pontificate of Pope John XXIII on 11 October 1962 and closed under Pope Paul VI on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1965. The world's bishops faced tremendous challenges driven by political, social, economic, and technological changes. Some of these bishops sought new ways of addressing those challenges.

The four purposes for the council were to define more fully the nature of the Church and the role of the bishop; to renew the Church; to restore unity among all Christians, including seeking pardon for Catholic contributions to separation; and to start a dialogue with the contemporary world. And so the Russian Center into which Father Ciszek had moved after his return was renamed the John XXIII Ecumenical Center and Father Ciszek had to deal with not only the changes within American society that had taken place before his return, but also the sweeping changes within the Church that began to happen at his return. In the midst of all of this he continued to help and counsel people and give directed retreats.

By abandoning himself to God's will, Walter's journey across two continents echoed other spiritual journeys of many saints in the past. It was in the silence of his heart that he came to realize that the peak of human freedom is unselfish love. And yet there was a uniqueness in Walter's journey and certainly in his cross that made him a model for many Christians today, especially in these troubled times. And so our love for him in the present is expressed in our faith-filled struggles to reach human hearts today and bring them the messages of Jesus' love for them.

Fr. Daniel L. Flaherty, S.J., who assisted Fr. Ciszek in writing *With God in Russia* and *He Leadeth Me*, summed up Fr. Ciszek's spirituality with this pithy phrase: "Get up in the morning."

With every new day there is hope. With life, there is hope. With every newly conceived child the universe is changed forever. That hope will come when a providential number of people in a society acknowledge and defend the truth. Matters of truth first and foremost require a personal decision and commitment. The whole truth includes the fact that we cannot solve these problems by ourselves. We must be in conversation with God in that same silence of heart that enabled Father Ciszek to embark on his journey of unselfish love.

Marvin W. Makinen attending Father Cizek Day

written by M. W. Makinen

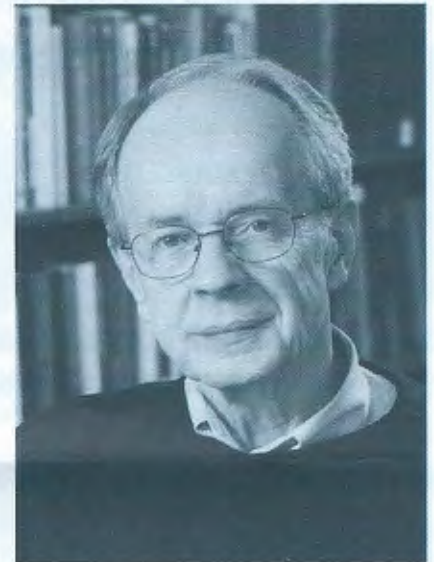
Shortly after returning to the United States on Columbus Day, October 13, 1963, with Father Cizek, Marvin Makinen resumed his studies at the University of Pennsylvania, where he had earlier been a student. After completing the second year of medical school, he and Michele de Groot were married on July 30, 1966. He completed medical studies in 1968 and then completed a one-year, straight internship in pathology at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center of New York over 1968 – 1969. Thereafter he carried out two years of research at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, as a medical officer and research associate in the United States Public Health Service. In 1971 he was awarded a Special Fellowship of the National Institutes of Health to study in the Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics at Oxford University in England. He completed research and studies in 1974, for which he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Makinen joined the Department of Biophysics and Theoretical Biology at the University of Chicago as an assistant professor in September, 1974, where he has remained ever since. He is presently Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, having also served as chairman of the department from 1988 to 1993. Throughout this time his main research interests have been directed towards the structural basis of enzyme function. His present research is focused on enhancing the sensitivity of detection of breast cancer by positron emission tomography imaging.

Since 1990 Professor Makinen has worked on three international committees as a consultant to the Swedish Foreign Ministry regarding the fate of Raoul Wallenberg, who, sent to Budapest as a diplomat in July, 1944, is credited with having saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from annihilation. Although the Soviet and Russian governments have claimed that Wallenberg died in July, 1947, there has been a large number of reports from former prisoners-of-war and inmates of the Soviet prison system attesting to his presence in Soviet prisons, labor camps, or psychiatric hospitals up to the 1980s. A large portion of these reports emanated from the Vladimir Prison where Makinen was incarcerated for two years. One of Makinen's cellmates in the Vladimir Prison was Zygyurds Kruminsh, the only cellmate of Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 pilot whose plane was shot down over Soviet territory. Kruminsh admitted to Makinen that he had met a Swedish prisoner in the Prison, but claimed that he had not been a cellmate of the Swedish prisoner. However, when Makinen was transferred to labor camp in July, 1963, a prisoner who had previously been in Vladimir informed Makinen that Kruminsh had been a cellmate of the "Swedish prisoner Vandenberg."

Working as a permanent consultant to the Swedish-Russian Working Group on the Fate of Raoul Wallenberg, a bilateral committee appointed through the foreign ministries of both countries, Makinen in 1993 found a former employee of the Vladimir Prison, Varvara Ivanovna Larina, who identified Wallenberg from unpublished photographs as having been a prisoner in solitary confinement in Building 2 of the Prison. She related the time to the death of a prisoner on the opposite side of the 3rd floor of Building 2, Kiril Osmak. Prison records showed that Osmak died on May 15, 1960! With a colleague, Ari Kaplan, Makinen carried out a cell occupancy analysis of Korpus 2. The results of the analysis showed that records identifying the occupant of the cell opposite Osmak's cell had been removed from the prison archives. Makinen concluded that the absence of the documents meant that Soviet authorities had wanted to conceal the identity of the prisoner in solitary confinement.

Since 2009 Makinen has served as President of the Independent Investigation into Raoul Wallenberg's Fate, Inc. (www.raoulsfate.org), a tax-exempt organization dedicated to uncovering the truth behind Raoul Wallenberg's arrest by Soviet authorities and his fate as a prisoner in the Soviet Union and Russia.



*Photographs of Marvin W. Makinen.
Top a week after returning to the United
States in October, 1963.
Bottom, a recent photograph.*



Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Arrival of Father Walter Ciszek back in the USA

In October 1963 Polish-American Jesuit, Fr. Walter Ciszek, SJ, returned to the United States after 23 years in Russian prisons and prison work camps, five of those in solitary confinement in Moscow's dreaded Lubyanka prison. In 1955, Father Ciszek's sentence ended

early since he had surpassed his work quotas, and he was freed from the labor camps, but forced to live in the city of Norilsk, where he worked in a chemical factory.

Father Ciszek was met at JFK Airport by his sisters Helen and Sister Evangeline.

Happily, after decades of being presumed dead, Father Ciszek was finally allowed to write to family members in the United States. In Norilsk, Father Ciszek and other priests ministered to a growing parish but, before long, the KGB threatened to arrest him if he continued his ministry. Missioned to another city, the KGB quickly shut him down again. Then, in 1963, Father Ciszek learned he was going home. In a release negotiated by President

John F. Kennedy, he and an American student were returned to the United States in exchange for two Soviet

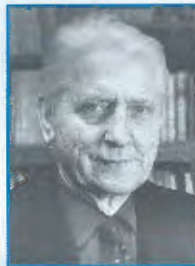
agents. His return was a small news item on the CBS evening news. Following his return, Father Ciszek worked at the John XXIII Center at Fordham University, until his death in 1984. He wrote two books about his experiences. *With God in Russia* is the book in which he tells the gripping, astounding story of his twenty-three years in Russian prison camps in Siberia, how he was falsely imprisoned as an "American spy," the incredible rigors of daily life as a prisoner, and his extraordinary faith in God and commitment to his priestly vows and vocation. He said Mass under cover, in constant danger of death. He heard confession of hundreds who could have betrayed him; he aided spiritually many who could have gained by exposing him. His second book was *He Leadeth Me*, a deeply moving personal story of his spiritual odyssey and the unflagging faith which enabled him to survive the horrendous ordeal that wrenched his body and spirit to near collapse. He narrates how it was only through an utter reliance on God's will that he managed to endure.

Almost immediately after his death, a petition to recognize his heroic virtues and outstanding holiness was circulated by Mother Marija, the superior of the Byzantine Carmelite monastery Father Ciszek had helped to found. Five years later Bishop Michael J. Dudick began the official diocesan process of investigation for the Eparchy of Passaic and the Father Walter Ciszek Prayer League was formally incorporated as the Official Organization for the Promotion of the Cause of Canonization of Father Walter Ciszek. With the arrival of Bishop Andrew Pataki as the head of the eparchy of Passaic, the cause was transferred to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Allentown.





Above picture:
*Dateline of the life of Father
 Walter Cizek made by
 Geraldine Palokas and presented
 to the League.*



*Father Cizek Day 2013 will be
 recorded and available on DVD.
 Place your orders now for a copy.
 \$15.00 plus shipping \$2.95.*

Father Walter and the Blue Russian Madonna

Blue Madonna was as much a Russian D.P. as was Father Walter! When he returned to the United States in 1963, after exile, imprisonment, and then “freedom” as a constantly “displaced” person, relocated over much of the (then)USSR, he found in the New York Russian Center the Blue Madonna he knew in student days at the Russicum. She, with the Jesuit community, had been expelled by the Chinese communists from the Russian Catholic Center in Shanghai. With the Jesuits she traveled to the Philippines, then on to San Francisco, and then to NYC to the renamed John XXII Center where Father lived and died. The Icons of Our Lord and Blue Madonna were part of the Iconostasis the Byzantine Chapel of the Center where Father Walter had Divine Liturgies and Masses from 1963 until 1984.



*The icon was used at the Mass of
 Blessed John Paul II at Yankee Stadium
 and comes from Cizek Hall at the
 University of Scranton*

The Icon will be present for the Father Cizek Day Liturgy.

Mary Kimlinger
St. Agnes School, St. Paul

Mary Kimlinger attends St. Agnes in St. Paul. Her parents are Mark and Denise Kimlinger. She plans to attend the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.



What is the greatest lesson you learned in high school?

The greatest lesson I learned in high school is that a life of selfless giving will bring about the greatest joy.

Name one thing you are proud of accomplishing in high school.

I am proud that I was able to take honors-level courses and consequently be named an AP scholar by College Board after my junior year.

What is the most meaningful way you have helped another student or students in your school?

I have been a member of the Pro-Life Club at St. Agnes during all four years of high school, and I love having the opportunity to help others become involved in the pro-life movement. By organizing events to raise awareness, educating my friends on human life issues or simply having conversations with others, I hope to encourage others to become active in the cause.

Describe the most significant faith experience you have had during high school.

This past fall, I was able to participate in the Vocations Club pilgrimage to Italy. Apart from my busy schedule and technology distractions, the pilgrimage allowed me to take extra time to pray and reflect on how God is calling me to live my life.

What book did you read in high school that most changed the way you think?

“He Leadeth Me” by Father Walter Ciszek, S.J. Father Ciszek was captured by the Russian army and spent 23 years in Soviet prisons and the labor camps in Siberia during World War II. During these years of struggle, he learned to surrender himself completely to God’s will and see suffering as a way to grow closer to God.

Who is a spiritual role model for your Catholic faith?

St. Gianna Beretta Molla; she was a pediatrician, a wife and a mother who gave up her life for her unborn child, refusing to have an abortion during her last and risky pregnancy. Her everyday holiness enabled her to make the greatest sacrifice of love.

What can the Catholic Church do to keep you and other young adults engaged in the life of the Church?

Many young Catholics are not fully educated in their faith, or the faith, through poor catechesis, has been misrepresented to them. There needs to be an emphasis on religious education, especially authentic Catholic social justice teaching and apologetics. High school students are particularly interested in social and political issues, such as the role of government, and they need answers that are relevant.

If you could have a conversation with a historical figure, who would it be?

Harriet Beecher Stowe. Her hauntingly brilliant novel, “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” inspired abolitionists across the nation to persevere in the fight against slavery in the years leading up to the Civil War.

What is your favorite prayer?

The Prayer of St. Francis.

What are the top three things that you hope to accomplish in your life?

I hope to graduate from the University of Minnesota, pursue a career in medicine and start a family of my own.

FATHER WALTER J. CISZEK PRAYER LEAGUE MEMBERS
Have you paid your 2013 dues????

FATHER WALTER J. CISZEK PRAYER LEAGUE
MEMBERSHIP REQUEST FORM 2014

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please complete and return this form, together with an annual offering of \$10.00 or more, to the Father Walter Ciszek Center 231 North Jardin Street, Shenandoah, PA 17976-1642

prayer hotline

We ask members of the Prayer League and/or the readers of this newsletter to pray for the success of a film project about the life of Father Walter Ciszek, that all the financial, legal, and technical difficulties may be overcome for the production of a successful and useful film.

DECEASED: -- Florence Wojcik, Patricia Laub

HEALTH: -- Patricia Starkey, Dr. Stanley Gorski, Gerry, John Lovase, Zorajda Bermejo, Tara and Kevin, Tom Anton

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: -- Bishop John Barres, Msgr. Ronald Bocian, Michael and Thomas Hresko, Staudenmeier Family

MEMORIAL DONATIONS: In Memory of Florence Wojcik req. by Pat Voscavage.

In Memory of Charles Thoman req. by Bill and Martha Bachman.

In Memory of Charles Thoman req. by Dave and Sandy Czerniakowski.

For all whose names were previously on our list, but who are still in need of our prayers; for all those who have requested prayers of the League; for all prayer league members, for all those who are praying through the intercession of Father Walter Ciszek; and for all who need our prayers.