

SERVANT LEADERS



CCC ORDINATION: SEPTEMBER 2007

By Sara Tusek

The September 2007 ordination of candidates to the clergy of the CCC (Communion of Convergence



From the left, facing the camera: Bishop Bill Mikler, Archbishop Daniel Williams and Canon Robin Sheffield. Kneeling, back to camera, is Reverend Jarda Tusek

Churches) at Christ the Redeemer National Cathedral in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, was a time to renew friendships, share visions and—in a beautiful ceremony combining the traditional with the innovative—ordain new presbyters and deacons into the communion’s world-wide family.

ORDINATION TO THE CLERGY

Among the candidates for ordination was one who, I must admit, captured my attention, as he has for the past 22 years. My husband Jarda was ordained to the office of presbyter, which is the equivalent of “minister” or “priest” in other Christian traditions. The word “presbyter” is from the New Testament description of the Church offices; it’s a Greek word, meaning “mature person” or “elder,” with no disrespect implied. The early Church believed that age conferred wisdom, so those who are older have more authoritative roles than the “youngsters” of the Church.

Jarda was one of ten candidates presented to the three attending bishops (Archbishop Daniel Williams, Bishop Sean Yost and Bishop Bill Mikler) to be “examined” for ordination. This examination was somewhat ceremonial, following ancient traditions and practices of the Church, as the candidates had already successfully completed at least two years of study in a proscribed curriculum in order to be qualified for their office. In addition, each candidate had been mentored on a continual basis by an experienced member of the clergy, and had recently been interviewed in depth by a panel of Church officials, in an effort to be sure that each candidate was ready for ordination.

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CESTA TAM

In Jarda's case, the panel asked him (among other topics) for an update on our ministry plans in the Czech Republic. Members of the CCC have been enthusiastic supporters of our ministry since we began to envision it in 2000.

Jarda and I plan to launch our full-time ministry "Cesta Tam" ("there is a way") in June 2010, moving the International Leadership Institute headquarters to the Czech Republic. We will live and work with the Czechs, offering English language lessons and using the Alpha series of talks on basic Christianity by Nicky Gumble of Trinity Church, Brompton (in London) as a way to introduce our new Czech friends to Christianity.

We are excited at the prospect of moving to the Czech Republic and can see the Lord's hand in our preparations. During Jarda's trip to Prague this month, he finalized several real estate and business transactions that will pave the way for our move.

OUR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

This was one of many ordinations we've attended at Christ the Re-

deemer, and each time we are even more impressed with the strength and energy of the people involved. With so many fine witnesses for Christ, the evangelization of the entire world is a real possibility. After all, when we evangelize, we simply tell the "good news" of Christ's victory over the grave. Then the Holy Spirit takes over for the actual conversion ("heart change") needed for salvation. We do the easy part; God does the hard part.



Sara and Jarda Tusek at Christ the Redeemer Church in Ponte Vedra, Florida



Newly-ordained presbyter Jarda Tusek

Jarda and I are still getting used to Jarda's new office, and we appreciate the prayers of so many of our friends and family which have brought him to this new role. We pray that God will help us to richly repay the confidence that the CCC has expressed in Jarda by ordaining him as presbyter.