



Personal Note from Fr Zeljko

Many of you have heard by now, that my niece Ksenija had taken her life on Saturday, August 21st. She was a very important person in my life. Her father (my brother) died when she was 15 and I tried as much as I could to take care of her so she would not feel alone in this world. Three years later she ended up in mental institution having schizophrenia. That led me for years of daily visits to the hospital. Things changed drastically when she attempted suicide, God used this to bring me to the Church.

Anyway because of my prayers or not, she was healed from schizophrenia and she was okay for 27 years until recently when the lockdown induced fears and anxiety finally led to the new hospitalization, then too early release from hospital which ultimately led her to take her life.

Only reason you needed to know all of this is so that you may understand how much she meant to me and only in this light it becomes clear how much your support, which came suddenly from all sides, meant to me. I am writing this because I wanted to thank so many of our parishioners for your support by your prayers, messages, cards practical help to get organized for travel or even sometimes just quiet support. I guess I do not have words to express how much your support meant to me. This event helped me to see that I am not alone here - in the words of St Paul, "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." (1 Cor 12:26)

There were many other occasions when I missed giving thanks to the people of this parish for their kindness to me so now, one more time, thank you for all your support and love you have shown me - not only in the occasion of the death of my niece but through the years we have been together.

God Bless you, Fr Z