



St. Vladimir's Easter Celebration but we need year and identities

April 6th, 2016

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

From the writings of Don Hughes (d. 1972), "the blind judge", comes the topic of vanity and vexation. He begins by stating one does not need to grow old to discover that all is vanity and vexation of spirit. Then he relays another judge's observation who once saw a

"rooster perched on a fence rail, crowing lustily. He looked the rooster over carefully and wondered to himself what on earth that bird had that was worth crowing about."

Judge Hughes goes on with this thought: "I remember snatches of Donald Brace's valedictory address: "In a world teeming with hypocrisy and greed . . . pretence . . . fraud." From my own abundant experience I might add "folly . . . intolerance and malice." Jeremiah sums it all up in these words, "The heart is deceitfully beyond all things and desperately wicked."

"Small wonder thee is vexation of spirit in a world where the strong, swift and the cunning are bound to prevail. In such a world the weak and truly honest would have little chance for survival, were it not for Moses, who gave the Law to protect them, and Christ who gave truth and grace to sustain them.

"How often as children have we heard and not heeded the teachings of church and school as to the griefs and sorrows that await us when we grow up. It is only when we plunge into the stream of life and are obliged to fight for existence that the truth of these teachings come home to us. We pray, "Forgive us our trespasses", and unless we are downright criminal, we seldom believe we trespass against others, such is the power of self deception. But we are quite keenly aware of the trespasses of others against ourselves. Forgetting, for a moment, that realizing our selfish desires in this world we cannot help but trespass against others."

Many such writings from various people are held within the museum's shelves but what we often find is that despite the decade or sometimes even century that they were written in – application can still be made for all ages; that's time and physical age.

For the photograph we've used this week, it was taken at a St. Vladimir's Easter Celebration. The back of the photo has a stamped photographers imprint with a line for the date which is unfortunately blank. The only identities we know are the man third from the right with his shirt collar unbuttoned is Mike Mushallo and the woman second from the left is Alice Durworsky. If anyone out there can identify any or all of the people and at least an approximate date we would be very grateful.