

THE SHEPHERDS WALKING STICK

I would like to draw your attention to a newly published apostolic letter by Pope Francis. On the occasion of the 16th centennial of the death of St. Jerome last September 30, he issued *Scripturae Sacrae Affectus* dedicated, of course, to the saint who is one of the great doctors of the Church. It is not very often that a pope writes an apostolic letter with a single saint in focus. However, St. Jerome is special because of his immense love for Scripture. As we all know, his greatest achievement is the Latin Vulgate or the Latin translation of the Bible from the original languages. St. Jerome then is synonymous with devotion to Bible study. I would like to encourage you all to read the pope's letter, which can easily be found in the internet, and consequently be inspired to study the Bible..... For myself, I found this passage from pope's letter pretty noteworthy, "[T]he word of the priest must be flavoured by the reading of Scripture. I do not wish that you be a disclaimer or charlatan of many words, but one who understands the sacred doctrine (*mysterii*) and knows deeply the teachings (*sacramentorum*) of your God. It is typical of the ignorant to play around with words and to garner the admiration of inexperienced people by speaking quickly. Those who are shameless often explain that which they do not know and pretend to be a great expert only because they succeed in persuading others"..... For this month, our Ukrainian Catholic brothers and sisters will celebrate the Holy Eucharist in our parish church in the Byzantine rite with Fr. Michael (or in Ukrainian, Fr. Mykhaylo Khomitskyy) on October 4 (this Sunday) and on October 18. Both services will be held at 2 PM..... Since October is the month of the Holy Rosary, we will be praying the beads 15 minutes before the start of all our Sunday Masses. Again, I would like to exhort all Catholic households in our parish to pray the Rosary within this month and beyond especially for protection against the pandemic.