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ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Metropolitan Savas, Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Father George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John & Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father Steve Hutnick [COVID-19], Father Victor Wronskyj [COVID-19], Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Fr. Volodymyr Muzychka [COVID-19], Father Harry Linsinbigler [COVID-19], Archimandrite Raphael [COVID-19], Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Joseph Sliwinsky, Gary & Linda Mechtly, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Archbishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Esther Holupka, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—young man with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciow, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Yvonne Christy, Father Deacon Myron & Barbara Spak, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel,

Carl & Margaret Reed, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Stroz [young lady with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Susan Lucas, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Mira Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Sherri Walewski, Marika Zeliszczuk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaugenhaupt, Louis & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Sarah Dorning, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Denis Strittmatter, Nancy, Ian Brick, Cecilia Barnhart, Logan Magorien, Pam & Gordon Grant, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Sandra Dillard, Danielle McCann, Barry [Father Jim Orr's cousin], Tim Joyce, Mike Pawlyshyn-Jeannie Stutchell's brother, Joe Samchuck—vocations, Albert Heckman, Brianna Stumpf, Stanley Porembka, David & Terry Coyne Hartnett, Mike C., Jennifer Scheirer [Nick Behun's daughter], Catherine Beecham [Father Bob's cousin], JoAnne & Dave Andrews, Rev. Peg Bowman, Pat Jennings, Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy,

Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Joe Veto, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Cathy Lotinsky, Monk Andrew, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Steven—Harry Batch’s cousin, Rose Mary Pavlovich—Mary Anne Kuznik’s Cousin, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Dollie Irvin, Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Micky Delans [COVID-19], Pastor Terry Polen, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Denis Strittmatter, Father Joe Uzar—newly ordained, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—young girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko [triple by-pass], John, Kris & Kait, Jeff & Mary Jane Double [COVID-19], Terri Crosby-Vega [COVID-19], Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Mike, Amy, Nathan, & Ben Forbeck [COVID-19], David Salazar, Ann Zurasky [knee replacement], James Mary, Barb Bookser, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Carolyn Strittmatter, Barbara Shegat & Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Candace Irvin, Dollie Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr. [newborn], Elizabeth [5-year-old], Lillian Skowvron, Pani Cathy Danczak, Sue & Greg Heinen, Paul Simpson [Father Bob’s cousin, car accident], Sharon Curtis Rivas, Kathy Milcic, Lisa Bolan, David G. [cancer], Donna [dementia] & Darla, Linda Snow, Zack Blair [Pani Gina’s nephew], Greg & Mary Lou Sheakley [Pani Gina’s cousins—COVID], the McKenna family, and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini’s mom. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline and Walter Sakol. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

The truth of God has to be comprehended not by the mind alone but with all one's strength; by the mind and the will and the heart; one has to live according to the truth in order to come to know the truth. *Blessed Archbishop John (Maximovitch)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is NOTHING to keep us from praying...for each other, for our family and friends, and most of all for the first responders—EMTs, nurses, doctors, firefighters, police officers, and members of our military who keep us safe. Be well and be SAFE!!! God Bless!

Please remember ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and ALL American service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please ask Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.

SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE

SUNDAY, October 24 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; HOLY APOSTLE PHILIP OF THE 70; VENERABLE THEOPHANES THE CONFESSOR & HYMNOGRAPHER-BISHOP OF NICAEA; MARTYRS ZENAIDA & PHILONILLA OF TARSUS IN CILICIA; VENERABLE THEOPHANES THE FASTER OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 1

2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Acts 8:26-39; Hebrews 13:7-16
Luke 7:11-16; Luke 10:1-21; John 17:1-13

Litany in Blessed Memory of Stancy Popichak & Ernest Phillips, Sr.—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, October 31 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HOLY APOSTLE & EVANGELIST LUKE; MARTYR MARINUS THE ELDER AT ANAZARBUS; VENERABLE JULIAN THE HERMIT OF MESOPOTAMIA

Tone 2

2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9; Colossians 4:5-9, 14, 18
Luke 8:5-15; Luke 10:16-21

SUNDAY, November 07 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYRS MARCIAN & MARTYRIUS; SAINT TABITHA; MARTYR ANASTASIUS; VENERABLE MARTYRIUS THE DEACON & SAINT MARTYRIUS THE RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 3

Galatians 1:11-19
Luke 16:19-31

Litany in Blessed Memory of John Lopushanski, Samuel Kerr, Helen Likar, Harry Bunio, Mary Pekich, Constantine Hanczar, Anna Lotinsky, Julia Golofski, & Paul Popichak—Fr. Bob

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 24 OCTOBER 2021

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; HOLY APOSTLE PHILIP OF THE 70; VENERABLE THEOPHANES

**THE CONFESSOR & HYMNOGRAPHER-BISHOP OF NICAEA; MARTYRS
ZENAIDA & PHILONILLA OF TARSUS IN CILICIA; VENERABLE THEOPHAN
THE FASTER OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

TROPARION—TONE 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;
While the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
Granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life:
Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!
Glory to Thy Dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,
and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with
Thyself.
Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished!
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:
Thou are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 1

READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on
Thee.
PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on
Thee.
READER: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!
PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on
Thee.
READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.
PEOPLE: As we have set our hope on Thee.

ALLELUIA VERSES

God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me.
He magnifies the salvation of the king, and deals mercifully with His Christ,
with David and his seed forever!

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Christ said to His disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34)

What does it mean to deny ourselves? When you deny yourself of something, you keep yourself from having it.

Examples could be fasting from a burger on a fasting day, not buying something frivolous after receiving a bonus at work (something you know you do not need) or holding back a mean comment to someone (when you know it is harsh and could hurt their feelings).

Whenever we deny ourselves to help another person instead, then we are doing what our Lord tells us to do.

May our Lord guide us to sacrifice pleasures for ourselves, but rather take these opportunities to help our neighbors.

+ + +

With love in Christ,

Fr Dave Urban, Pastor, Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Pittsburgh, Pa

Beautiful Icons Bear Good Fruit: Sunday of the Holy Fathers of Seventh Ecumenical Council and the Fourth Sunday of Luke in the Orthodox Church October 16, 2021 · [Fr. Philip LeMasters](#)



Titus 3:8-15; Luke 8:5-15

Icons certainly beautify the church, but not simply in the conventional sense of being aesthetically pleasing. Instead, they manifest visually that the Son of God has called and enabled us to become His beautiful living icons. They show that the Savior has made us participants by grace in His deified humanity so that we may shine brightly with the divine glory. Today we commemorate the 367 Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council, which met in Nicaea in 787. The council rejected the false teaching that to honor icons is to commit idolatry, for it distinguished between the worship that is due to God alone and the veneration that is appropriate for images of Christ, the Theotokos, and the Saints. The council's teaching highlighted the importance of the Savior's incarnation, for only a truly human Savior with a physical body could restore human persons to the dignity and beauty of the living icons of God.

The 7th Ecumenical Council addressed matters that strike at the very heart of our salvation, and which call us to embrace our fundamental vocation to become like God in holiness. Too often, however, we think that iconography simply has to do with wood and paint, and ignore the question of whether we are becoming more beautiful icons of Christ. The icons are not merely religious art, but reminders that to become truly human is to become like Jesus Christ, for He has healed the corruption of the human person that begin with the first Adam.

Like it or not, we are going to grow in the image of something or someone every day of our lives. It is easy to become an icon of some aspect of the fallen world, such as pleasure, possessions, or power, without even noticing what we are doing. Regardless of whether we burn incense before the altar of another lord, we can easily fall into the idolatry of thinking, speaking, and acting as those who serve something or someone other than Jesus Christ. No matter how appealing that may be, it inevitably mars the beauty of our souls and keeps us from sharing more fully in His life.

Today's gospel reading addresses these same questions with different imagery. Christ used the parable of the sower to call His disciples to become like plants that grew from the seed that "fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." He wanted them to become "those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." Unfortunately, not all who hear the Word of God will do so. Some never even believe, while others seem to make a good start and then fall away due to temptation or "are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature." They do not fulfill their potential as plants, for they fail to grow to the point of bearing fruit.

This parable warns us about what occurs when we fail to fulfill our potential as those who bear the image of God. Since our vocation is to become more beautiful living icons of the Savior, we diminish and distort ourselves when we make something else the ultimate standard or model for our lives. Plants must grow and flourish as the kinds of plants that they are in order to become healthy and bear fruit. Farmers must care for them accordingly. The sun, soil, moisture, and nutrients must be appropriate for that particular type of plant in order for there to be good hope of success. In order for us to bear good fruit for the Kingdom, we must attend to the health of our souls with the conscientiousness of a careful farmer or gardener. If we do not, we will have little chance of becoming more fully who we are as living icons of Christ.

In today's epistle lesson, St. Paul urged St. Titus to tell the people to invest themselves in doing good deeds and helping others in great need. He wanted them to avoid foolish arguments and divisions, "for they are

unprofitable and vain.” St. Paul did not want the people to waste their time and energy on matters that would simply inflame their passions and hinder them from attaining spiritual health and maturity. He called them to care for their spiritual wellbeing with the conscientiousness of farmers who are single-mindedly dedicated to bringing in a bumper crop. If they let down their guard to the point of being so consumed by pointless controversies that they ignored basic disciplines like helping others in need, they would risk dying spiritually like a neglected plant overtaken by weeds.

If we are to become “those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience,” we must mindfully cultivate the gardens of our souls by keeping a close watch on what we allow to take root in our hearts and minds. We must water our parched souls with prayer and do the hard, daily work of denying ourselves and serving others in order to gain the strength necessary to recognize and rip out the weeds as soon as they begin to appear. The more health and strength we gain, the less room there will be in our lives for anything that keeps us from bearing good fruit for the Kingdom.

Especially with the media and technology available to us today, it is hard not to become distracted by pointless worry about matters that will never help us become more beautiful icons of Christ. The problems and divisions of the world can easily become obsessions which tempt us to view ourselves as creatures defined merely by our place in it. People who believe that there is no hope, truth, or meaning beyond our present life will understandably obsess about such matters, for they think that that is all there is. Profound worry and fear are inevitable for those who believe that the measure of their lives extends no further than the inevitability of the grave.

Since we confess that Christ is risen triumphantly over death, we must not allow ourselves to be distracted from uniting ourselves to Him in holiness by obsessive worry rooted in fear about anything. He has made even the tomb itself an entryway to eternal life. Instead, we must become more truly ourselves by becoming more truly like Him as we orient ourselves to His Kingdom even as we live faithfully in this world of corruption. The Savior Himself was not distracted from free obedience to the point of death on the Cross. He rejected the temptation to take up arms as an earthly king against the Roman army of occupation. He refused to treat Gentiles, Samaritans, notorious sinners, and people debilitated by terrible diseases as anything less than the beloved children of God. He never equated serving an earthly reign with loyalty to His Kingdom.

If we are to become better living icons of Christ, then we must refuse to define ourselves according to worldly sensibilities that will simply distract us from growing to spiritual maturity and bearing good fruit. We must live

in His image, not in the image of false gods that threaten to choke the life out of our souls. We must remember Whose icons we are and refuse to make anything or anyone other than the God-Man the true measure of our lives. That is ultimately why we have icons in the Orthodox Church, for they proclaim who Jesus Christ is and who He enables us to become as those who share in His life to the point that we bear good fruit for His Kingdom.

GENERAL COLIN POWELL'S RULES:

- 1. It ain't as bad as you think. It will look better in the morning.**
- 2. Get mad, then get over it.**
- 3. Avoid having your ego so close to your position that when your position falls, your ego goes with it.**
- 4. It can be done!**
- 5. Be careful what you choose. You may get it.**
- 6. Don't let adverse facts stand in the way of a good decision.**
- 7. You can't make someone else's choices. You shouldn't let someone else make yours.**
- 8. Check small things.**
- 9. Share credit.**
- 10. Remain calm. Be kind.**
- 11. Have a vision. Be demanding.**
- 12. Don't take counsel of your fears or naysayers.**
- 13. Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.**



PURPLE RAIN (Tuesday, October 19) **Sister Vassa Larin**

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. And on my servants and on my handmaids in those days will I pour out of my Spirit. And I will shew wonders in heaven and upon the earth; blood, fire, and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord come." (Joel 2: 28-31)

This passage from the Book of the Prophet Joel, celebrated today on the New Calendar, talks about "wonders in heaven and upon the earth," including "blood" and a moon turned into blood, "before the great and glorious day of the Lord come." Here the Prophet is talking about the revelation of our Triune God both in the "first" coming of His Son, which entailed "the sun turning into darkness" at His crucifixion, and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit "upon all flesh" at Pentecost; and in His "second" coming, when similar "wonders in heaven and upon the earth" will be revealed. Fun fact: this latter understanding of the prophecy inspires Prince's famous references to a purple sky (in "1999") and to "Purple Rain." As Prince himself explained, when asked what "purple rain" meant: "When there's blood in the sky – red and blue equals purple... Purple rain pertains

to the end of the world and being with the one you love and letting your faith/God guide you through the purple rain.”

It’s helpful, I think, in our polarizing time, when almost nothing is un-controversial, and almost every topic seems to divide us, to look toward “the great and glorious day of the Lord come” not as impending doom and gloom, but as one we strive to greet “with” those we love, and not in self-isolated resentment or fear or neglect of them; and also in faith, in the loving God Who will indeed guide us through the “purple rain,” just as He’s guided us through so many rains already, into the sunny days that followed. Let us hold on to our love for one another, despite our differing opinions on this and that, and let us let God guide us through all our storms, holding on to faith in Him.


Chinese Prosfhora from Debhora Berlinger



**Quit looking for
a better church.
Make the church you're
at better by being a
better church member!
#YouAreTheChurch**

**My friend Jack claims
that he can communicate
with vegetables.**

Jack and the beans talk.



“You will lose someone you can’t live without, and your heart will be badly broken, and the bad news is that you never completely get over the loss of your beloved. But this is also the good news. They live forever in your broken heart that doesn’t seal back up. And you come through. It’s like having a broken leg that never heals perfectly—that still hurts when the weather gets cold, but you learn to dance with the limp.”

— Anne Lamott



EVEN THOSE WHO ARE IN HELL...

“The Liturgy is our family, our gathering, our house. And what a spacious house it is! Together with us are those who are absent, along with sinners, and the wicked, and the dead, indeed, **EVEN THOSE WHO ARE IN HELL**, but who may yet remember something about God. And who knows how many of these will find relief, be drawn out of Hades, and even dragged up from the depths of hell, thanks to the prayers of the Church, her memorial services, and Divine Liturgies.” ~Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra, *Θεία Λατρεία [Divine Worship]*, pp. 214, 222-224.