

Fr. LJUBOMIR KRSTIĆ

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. Jn. 10:11

The reverend priest, Father Ljubomir Krstić, became our priest this fall on September 22, by the decision of His Eminence Metropolitan Longin. From now on, together with Father Radomir, he will cultivate the spiritual vineyard (parish), weeding it from everything that would hinder its growth and yield.

Being an experienced priest, who has been in the position for eighteen years, he understood the seriousness of the priestly service, as well as the commandment of Christ, which reads: “No one who puts his hand in the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God,” (Lk.9:62). Father Ljubomir took these words of Christ to heart and he literally fulfills everything that is expected and demanded from him as a good shepherd.

Biography of priest Ljubomir: Fr. Ljubomir Krstić was born in Sarajevo in 1979 to Momir and Mira. The Krstić family has its roots in the municipality of Hadžići, near Sarajevo. The Sarajevo region is known for the famous Serbian songs Sevdalinka, to whose beautiful melody and picturesque stories the young boy Ljubomir grew up. And when he had to leave his native town, he took with him in his heart the melodious songs of his home land and his cheerful spirit, with which he still makes us happy today. He finished elementary school in his native Hadžići, and immediately, in the fall of 1994, he enrolled in the Theological Seminary of St. Arsenija Sremac in Sremski Karlovci, which he successfully completed in June 1999.

Due to the events of the war, his parents moved to America in 1997. And, in September 2000, Ljubomir enrolled at the Faculty of Theology in Libertyville, which he finished in 2004. During his third year of study, he met his then girlfriend and now beloved Popadija Stana. They married in 2005, in the Monastery of St. Sava in Libertyville.

On May 1, 2006, he joined the parish of Holy Trinity in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he served for five years. In that short period, he managed to reconcile and unite two Serbian parishes into one. After that, he went to St. Louis, Missouri, on his birthday, October 25, 2011.

There he began work in the new vineyard of the Lord, the new parish, with the families entrusted to him by God. He served them faithfully and sincerely for thirteen years. They worked together as shepherd and flock, all for the joy of



the heavenly Father, who watches and blesses them from heaven. He managed to organize stewardship in the parish, which helped them stand on firm spiritual and financial feet. Fr. Ljubomir, with God’s help and the help of parishioners, succeeded in helping 34 Serbian families who came for cerebral palsy treatment from Serbia and Republika Srpska.

His wonderful Popadija Stana was born in Livno, to the late Jovo father and Sava mother. Their place of residence was Crni Lug, municipality of Bosansko (Principovo) Grahovo. Young Stana completed elementary school in her hometown, and when the Serbs were expelled from Krajina with the Storm, her parents moved to Serbia. In Belgrade, she completed high school, after which in 2003 they all moved to Rockford, Illinois. In Minnesota, she gave birth to her two older children, Angela in 2007 and Jovan in 2009. After moving to Saint Louis, she enrolled in and completed her college degree, a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Through all of this, she took care of her family and its growth, giving birth to two more sons, Lazar in 2013 and Pavel in 2019.

Now, Father Ljubomir and Popadija Stana work hard in our parish-vineyard, watching their angelically beautiful children play around them, until they are joined in the game by other children of our beloved parish. May all our children grow into healthy spiritual grapes in the new Lord’s vineyard, and may we enjoy those sweet fruits with the Lord.

On behalf of the Church administration, my family, and our parishioners, I welcome Father Ljubomir, Popadija Stana, and their children Anđela, Jovan, Lazar, and Pavle! WE ARE ALL WITH YOU! May we live in mutual love and spiritual growth, as God commands us, saying: “This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I love you,” (Jn. 15:12).

—FR. RADOMIR M. CUTILO