



Living the Liturgy: Daily Life

Source: [The Orthodox Liturgy in the Daily Life](#)

*"I read some Russian liturgy for me
 I am convinced about it too!"
 Robert Burns*



The prayer of God's love is a gift to us. It is a better sense of how we appear in other people's eyes - in one in which all Orthodox Christians can join. That doesn't mean, of course, that we should be obsessively concerned with our "image" in the world. On the contrary, there are times when we are positively obliged to believe in ways that most other people may find idiosyncratic or downright wrong. But it is also generally true that for any small, and in most people's mind, very, very limited awareness of public perception is a necessary condition for spiritual. As individuals and as a whole, the participants in such a group have to make careful judgments about how much, and precisely how, both habits and practices should be shared with the rest of the world. That doesn't imply cynicism about discerning ourselves, but a simple, clear statement of the best starting point in our interaction with people who belong to other groups, or no particular group. That is precisely the challenge facing every Orthodox Christian who lives in the "West" - and, as a consequence, for the majority of their waking hours. To work more, more aware, and more confident of their mission to share Orthodox Christianity in their lives.

Sometimes we are brought face to face in a context we wish with other people engaged in. Let me tell a couple of stories from my work as a journalist. A few years ago, I found myself in Jerusalem, spending the evening of Orthodox Easter Sunday with three colleagues: one a divorcee but publicly evocative, one, another an Englishman who specializes in Palestinian affairs, and finally, a very distinguished English lady who has spent a lifetime writing and editing texts from the Middle East. Perhaps because it was the most casual night of conversation, the three of them spent much of the evening asking me about the Paschal celebration I had just experienced. Their first question about "how do your colleagues react to the fact that you're an Orthodox Christian?" Seeing my slight discomfort, the lady then London last year. "The fact is that we're all pretty odd..."

Old friends, but we are in the digital and mobile, one-point, of our personal abilities. Let me tell about a husband but maybe something from my work which I found recently. Early on a Thursday morning, the editorial team of our magazine assembled and we read one another's copy. A correspondent had made the conventional mistake that the CBC.com, in July or June, was reported as a non-Soviet symbol. So the city year-end - is that something we can agree on? And I immediately piped up that I was a CBC.com, and certainly didn't regard myself as a non-Soviet. A colleague asked: "This, Bruce, we think of you as an old-time Soviet, a public figure..." "Well, it's always nice to be appreciated."

