

THINK ABOUT IT ... Word Scramble:

1. The word "Orthodox" means:

RRCCOTE PWSORHI
4 5

2. The teachings of Christ were passed forward to us by the:

SSPATOLE
1 5

3. St. Job was born in Galicia, which is now part of Ukraine and:

DOLPNA
2

4. St. Job became the Igumen (leader) of what famous monastery?

OVEPCH
7

5. St. Job helped the Orthodox people from giving up their faith by:

GPNRITNI KOB SO
3 6

Find the numbered letters above to fill in the blanks for the word that fits the following sentence:

St. Job became a monk of the highest rank, a Schema Monk, which is called the _____ rank.
1 2 3 4 3 5 6

PRAY

Listen during the Liturgy and you will hear one very short prayer said many times. It is a prayer that we can say any time we feel weak, sick, frightened, or need help from God. The prayer is:
"Lord have mercy."

St. Job of Pochaev Defender of the Faith



"O, Holy Theotokos, pray for us and protect us from physical and spiritual enemies."

What does it mean to be a “Defender of the Faith”?

We know that not everyone we meet is an Orthodox Christian. Sometimes people we meet will criticize those of us who are. They may even make fun of us or try to make us feel ashamed of being Orthodox. Some persons do not understand. We must forgive them, but at the same time never apologize for our Faith.

The word “Orthodox” comes from two Greek words -- “orthos” which means right or correct, and the word “doxa” which means to worship or glorify.

To be an Orthodox Christian is to worship God correctly according to the teachings passed on through centuries since the time of the Apostles who walked with Christ and learned from Him.

One saint who is very dear to us is **Saint Job of Pochaev**. He was an example of a Defender of the Faith. When we studied about the icon of the Theotokos of Pochaev, we learned that she appeared over the city to protect it. In 1675, the monastery was besieged by the Ottoman Turks. According to tradition, the army fled from the city when they saw a vision over it of the Theotokos accompanied by St. Job and angels.

St. Job was born with the name Ivan Zhelezo around 1551 in Pokutia in Galicia; (Galicia is now part of Poland and Ukraine). At age ten he went to a monastery, and at age twelve he became a monk with the name Job. That seems a very young age for anyone to become a monk! But life was very different during his time and place than it is now. In some ways it was easier to be Orthodox and in some ways it was much more difficult.

Around the year 1580, St. Job was appointed to be the head of the Exaltation of the Cross monastery near the city of Dubno. This was during a time when there was **persecution** of Orthodox persons in that part of the world.

At the beginning of the 17th century, St. Job went to Pochaev and lived alone in a cave near the Dormition monastery, the location of the Pochaev Icon of the Theotokos.

The other monks loved St. Job for his kindness and his willingness to do the daily work with them; (he worked in the garden and planted trees). They chose him to be their **monastery leader (Igumen)**.

Sometimes he stayed alone in the cave for three days or even a whole week. **The Jesus Prayer** (“Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner”) was an unceasing prayer in his gentle heart.

According to Dositheus, his disciple and author of the Life of St. Job, once while praying in his cave, the saint was **illuminated** by a heavenly light. After 1642, he accepted the **Great Schema (the highest rank of an Orthodox monk)** with the name John. The Great Schema is called the **“angelic”** rank because those who achieve it have become close to God.

St. Job was a Defender of the Orthodox Faith against the persecution by those who were not Orthodox. At that time, many Orthodox living in **Galicia and Poland** were deprived of their rights. They were refused jobs because they were Orthodox. Some people threw stones at them when they walked along the streets. They were forced to live in only certain towns and sometimes they were forced from their homes or their houses were burned down. And attempts were made to force them to give up their Orthodox faith. Some of the people became afraid and stopped going to Orthodox churches. But St. Job and others defended Orthodoxy by copying and distributing Orthodox books to the people, to encourage them to **never allow anyone to frighten them or persuade them to give up their Faith**.

St. Job reposed in the year 1651. He was more than 100 years old, and had directed the Pochaev monastery for more than fifty years.

We are encouraged in our Faith when we follow the example of Defenders of the Faith such as St. Job of Pochaev. In our lives, we might meet persons who do not believe in God or Christ as we believe in Him. What should we do? We pray for them.

What if someone bullies you because of your Orthodox faith? We want to get along with our friends. But just as we don’t change our clothes or study habits or hobbies because of what a bully says, we never should apologize for our Faith, or pretend that we agree with anyone who makes fun of it or tries to convince us that going to church is “not cool” or a waste of time.