

THE WAY ШЛЯХ

Official Publication of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

VOL. 71 - No. 13

AUGUST 8, 2010

ENGLISH VERSION

Blessing of Iconostas and Iconography at St. Anne's, Warrington, PA



Metropolitan Stefan's Homily



Iconographer Christina Dochwat



Photos: Teresa Siwak
July 24, 2010

See more pictures and watch videos from St. Anne's on our Blog at www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com

From the Archbishop's Desk

APPOINTMENTS OF CLERGY BY METROPOLITAN STEFAN

Effective July 1st, 2010, Rev. Paul Makar is appointed Director of Vocations for the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

Effective July 1st, 2010, Very Rev. Archpriest John Fields is appointed Director of the Diaconate Program for the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

Effective August 1st, 2010, Rev. Thaddeus Krawchuk is released from parochial assignments for retirement to his religious community, the Redemptorist Fathers of the Yorkton Province, Canada.

Effective August 1st, 2010, Very Rev. Archpriest Michael Hutsko is appointed Pastor of Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Mount Carmel and Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Centralia, PA.

Effective August 1st, 2010, Rev. Stepan Bilyk is appointed Administrator of Patronage of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church, Marion Heights, PA.

Effective September 1st, 2010, Rev. Edward Levandusky is released from parochial assignments and placed on retirement. He is eligible for substitution at parishes.

Effective September 1st, 2010, Rev. Paul Wolensky is appointed as Administrator of Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Simpson, PA.

Effective September 1st, 2010, Rev. Roman Dubitsky is released from his pastoral assignments in response for his request for retirement. He is eligible for substitution at parishes.

Effective September 1st, 2010, Rev. Ivan Turyk is appointed as Pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Perth Amboy, NJ.

Effective September 1st, 2010, Rev. Oleksandr Dumenko is appointed as Administrator of St. Stephen Ukrainian Catholic Church, Toms River, NJ, and St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Millville, NJ.

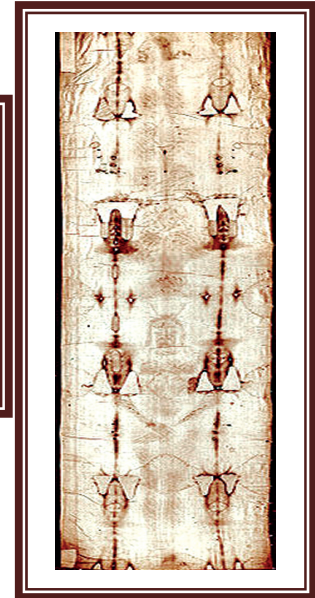
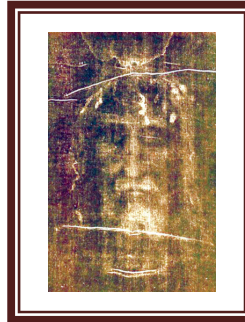
Effective September 1st, 2010, Rev. Msgr. Myron Grabowsky is appointed as Administrator of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Shenandoah, PA, and St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, St. Clair, PA.

56th HOLY DORMITION (ASSUMPTION) PILGRIMAGE - AUGUST 13 – 15, 2010
ST. MARY'S VILLA / SLOATSBURG, NEW YORK
SISTERS SERVANTS OF MARY IMMACULATE

Theme: “Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate serving the People of God throughout generations”

- * *historical aspect of 75 years of service*
- * *migration spirit by serving People of God today*
- * *attachment to those who for the last 56 years come to the Dormition pilgrimage*

SHROUD OF TURIN ON DISPLAY THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND WITH HISTORICAL PRESENTATION (VILLA GALLERY)



Friday, August 13

6:00 p.m. Moleben to the Mother of God – (grotto)
Most Rev. Stefan Soroka - Main celebrant / homilist

Barbecue of back terrace of Villa where first pilgrimage was held

Saturday, August 14

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy celebrated by Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM (chapel)

Followed by Panahyda remembering deceased clergy, religious, pilgrims

10:45 a.m. Workshop – SSMI: Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow, Sr. Thomas Hrynewich, SSMI

11:45 a.m. Workshop – Mary, Mother of God In Liturgical Services, Rev. Bohdan Danylo
FOOD OFFEREND AT PAVILIAN

2:00 p.m. Workshop – Marian Devotions in the New World, Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky

3:00 p.m. Workshop – The Catholic Church and Propaganda, Rev. Ivan Kaszczak

4:00 p.m. Workshop -The Blessed Virgin in the Early Church Writings, Rev. Max Kobasuk

5:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy, Rev. James Spera, main celebrant / homilist (grotto)
Choir of St. Michael the Archangel Cathedral, Passaic, NJ.
Blessing of Water (front of Villa)

8:00 p.m. Moleben to the Mother of God with candlelight procession (grotto)
Most Rev. William Skurla, main celebrant / homilist Eparch of Passaic

EVENING CLOSSES WITH FIREWORKS ON BACK TERRACE

Sunday, August 15

8:00 a.m. Lamentations to the Mother of God – Rev. Edward Young, celebrant (chapel)

10:00 a.m. Pontifical Divine Liturgy with procession to grotto followed by blessing of flowers
Most Rev. Richard Seminack, Diocese of Chicago, main celebrant / homilist
Most Rev. Stefan Soroka, Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia
Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, Eparch of Stamford
Most Rev. Basil Losten, Bishop Emeritus Stamford

12:00 p.m. Youth Liturgy, Rev. Daniel Troyan main celebrant / homilist (villa chapel)

1:30 p.m. Healing Service with Akathist (Villa chapel, grotto steps)
Blessing of Religious Articles (front St. Joseph's)

2:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

3:00 p.m. Moleben to the Mother of God (Ukrainian –grotto)
Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM main celebrant / homilist

Blessing of cars and buses

CONFESSION OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE WEEKEND



St. Stephen Ukrainian Catholic Church

1344 White Oak Bottom Road
Toms River, New Jersey 08755
732-505-6053



Ukrainian Festival

Third Annual Cultural Festival



Saturday,
August 21, 2010
12 noon – 7 p.m.



Sponsored by

St. Stephen Ukrainian
Catholic Church
1344 White Oak Bottom Road,
Toms River, NJ 08755

(Two streets north of Church Rd, Between New Hampshire & Old Freehold)

Ukrainian Food and Beverages,



*Holubtsi
(Stuffed Cabbage)*



*Borsch
(Beet Vegetable Soup)*



*Kovbasa (Sausage)
and Sauerkraut*



*Varenyky-Pierogies
(Dumplings)*

BASILIAN SISTERS ELECT NEW LEADERSHIP

During the week of June 21 – 25, 2010, the Sisters of St. Basil the Great (Lover of Humanity Province, Fox Chase Manor, PA) held their Provincial Chapter in the Basilian Spirituality Center and elected new leadership for the coming five years. *“A Chapter is an essential instrument of collegiality, calling each Sister to participate in the decision-making process either directly or indirectly. While in session, it is the highest authority in the Province.”* *The Kenotic Way – Constitutions*

The following Sisters were elected into leadership for the next five years: Sr. Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, Provincial Superior, Sr. Joanne Sosler, OSBM, Vice Provincial, Sr. Lydia Anna Sawka, OSBM, Councilor, Sr. Maria Rosmarynowycz, OSBM Councilor and Sr. Ann Laszok, OSBM, Councilor.

Prior to the elections on Friday, all the Sisters participated in many engaging discussions that surfaced three main areas of interest that the Sisters wanted to focus their energy on for the next five years: promoting Eastern Christian Spirituality, caring for the sacredness of God’s creation, and personal transformation. Using the theme **“What you need to know is on your lips and in your heart; you have only to carry it out.”** (Deut. 30: 11-14) the Sisters, along with the different clergy who celebrated the Liturgies daily and several Basilian Associates prayed for the Spirit’s guidance and wisdom in their discussions. The Chapter’s facilitator, Sr. Carol Marozzi, SSJ along with Sr. Connie Gilder, SSJ gave inspiring and informative presentations on various types of leadership.

Divine Liturgies on each of their Chapter days were celebrated by Most Reverend Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Msgr. Peter Waslo, Rev. Daniel Trojan, Rev. Joseph Loya, and Rev. Robert Hitchens. After much prayer and reflection, the Chapter body unanimously committed itself to: becoming a hub of Eastern Christian Spirituality, reverencing the sacredness of all God’s creation and working on personal deification.

The Sisters of St. Basil are grateful to all who held them in prayer and support during this week of deliberations. We continue to pray that the Holy Spirit reward and bless all those who support us in our prayer and ministry.



Provincial Chapter Steering Committee (L-R) Sisters: Clement Bartholomew, OSBM, Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, Carole Marozzi, SSJ, Lydia Anna Sawka, OSBM, Joann Sosler, OSBM



Newly elected Provincial Council (L-R) Sisters: Lydia Anna Sawka, Joann Sosler, Dorothy Ann Busowski, Maria Rozmarynowycz, Ann Laszok



Discussion group (L-R) Sisters: Bernarda Arkatyn, Mary Michael Bayda, Genevieve Kotyk, Dorothy Ann Busowski, Maria Rozmarynowycz, Susanne Matwijiw, Lydia Anna Sawka

UKRAINIAN FOLK FESTIVAL

Celebrating the 19th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence



August 24, 1991

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

12:00 noon

"TRYZUB"

UKRAINIAN - AMERICAN SPORT CENTER
County Line & Lower State Roads ~ Horsham, PA
WWW.TRYZUB.ORG



STAGE SHOW FEATURING:



Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble
(New York City)



Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble
(Philadelphia, PA)



Inessa (Lviv, Ukraine)



(New York)



Svitanya East European Ensemble
(Philadelphia, PA)

12:00 - 1:30 Music and Dancing - "KARPATY" ORCHESTRA

1:30 - 4:00 Festival Stage Show

12:00 - 5:00 P.M. - Folk Arts and Crafts Vendors - Displays and "Bazaar"
1:00 - 4:00 P.M. - Children's Fun Area: Amusements, Fun & Games



4:00 - "Zabava" Dance: THE SVITANOK BAND

Ukrainian Ethnic Foods and Baked Goods

BBQ ~ Picnic Food ~ Cool Drinks & Refreshments

ADMISSION: \$15.00 ~ STUDENTS - \$10 ~ KIDS 14 & UNDER FREE ~
FREE PARKING

The Importance of Courage, Forgiveness, and Authority in Life

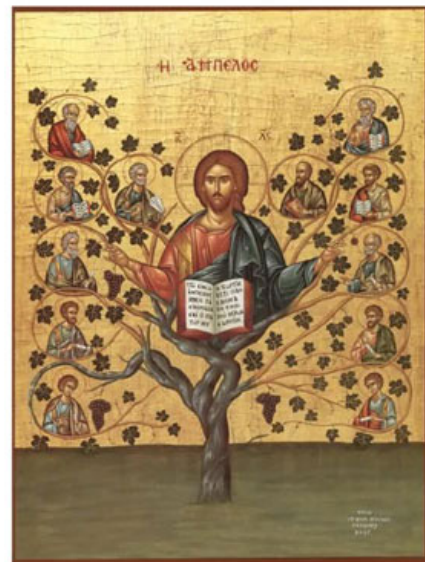
"Courage...your sins are forgiven" – These are words often rarely said in today's day and age, except perhaps in the rarest of circumstances, such as in a confessional, or perhaps on someone's deathbed. Courage and forgiveness – these two words are so often misunderstood in today's secular society. We often equate courage as that quality that we must possess when engaged in performing heroic feats. Forgiveness is something that is often self explanatory. Yet, today, even we misunderstand and confuse these words.

Ever since the days of old, philosophers have pondered these words. Courage and forgiveness were highly sought qualities that were placed as virtues that needed to be ingrained so that they became habits of the men and women of a truly cultured society. To the ancient philosophers, such as Aristotle, who wrote great books on virtues and ethics, courage was that virtue that enabled one to act boldly and decisively in any given situation. The man who possessed courage did not shrink back with cowardly fear,

nor did he recklessly rush headlong into situations, blinded by a false sense of security. One good example can be found in a prudent commodities trader or stock broker – he is a person who when sensing a good opportunity to make money will do the right research on a given stock or commodity and boldly places a trade in the hopes that it will earn him money. He does not recklessly spend his client's money on hot stock "tips." But he also does not heedlessly shy away from making trades, hiding behind endless research waiting for that one trade that will yield him a 10,000 percent gain. He does not cower from making trades when the Wall Street crowd is leaving in terror, but he also does not foolishly spend money in false hopes either.

Even though forgiveness is something that was not widely discussed among the philosophers, it nonetheless did have some prominence. While itself not a virtue, it did factor in discussions concerning justice. This was because vengeance or retribution exacted in anger could become a vice. Yes, if one

violated a just law, or perhaps outraged someone, compensation was due, but only in a proper proportion. Everyone was entitled to their just deserts but forgiveness was equally important for it allowed one to get past old transgressions and society could then move along in peace without engaging in needless conflict. The just man knew precisely when to prosecute, but also knew precisely when to forgive. One way to look at this is through a frivolous lawsuit, whereby a woman who buys a cup of coffee from a shop spills it on herself and gets a burn. Instead of approaching the store manager to ask him to reduce the temperature of the coffee and leaving it at that, the woman, angry at the store, decides to sue for 5 million dollars for pain and suffering incurred by one's own accident. The true woman of justice would simply acknowledge the accident, perhaps tell the management of the unusually high temperature of the coffee, and then simply leave it at that, forgiving all, including



herself for the accident, and moving on in life. The vengeful man or woman who has no thought of forgiveness will seek out ways of demanding compensation without regard to the dignity of the opposing party.

Courage and forgiveness are two of those virtuous things that Jesus embodies. As God, He is the example of everything that is good. And in the Gospel that we just heard, he boldly heals a sick person, in front of a whole crowd, just by saying, "Take courage, your sins are forgiven." This was a scandal, especially to the Pharisees who thought that only God could forgive sins. As it was, for a man like Jesus to take direct authority that belonged to God was something unthinkable. Yet, as Jesus reminds us, this is an authority that belongs to

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The Importance of Courage, Forgiveness, and Authority in Life

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all of us and is something that we need to courageously take hold of.

Courage and forgiveness are those two qualities that are God demands in all of us as Catholic Christians, but are particularly required of those who are priests, deacons, and monastics. These are two qualities that are particularly sought out in those who are considering vocations to religious life. This is because, by the grace of God, we were all created in the image and likeness of God. As is said in the Psalms, "I have created you to be like God." Even though we are not God, we are the image of our Creator and through this, we possess qualities like God, even though these qualities are limited because we are not infinitely perfect beings (only God is perfect, and even then, He is so perfect that we cannot even begin to imagine the greatness of His perfection). Even though we are not God, we can and should strive to imitate His love and His virtues in everything we do in life. We all live in a secular world that loves to dictate to us what we can and cannot do. May people revel in a godless world that elevates man

as the highest pinnacle of achievement in an impersonal universe that is hopelessly subject to the dictates of physical nature and laws created by a few men that enslave all. Yet God gives us the grace to break free of this, to go beyond and be elevated with God's grace.

As Catholic Christians, by virtue of the sacraments, we all share communion with God as one Church. And we are empowered by God to fearlessly live our lives without fear or shame. Fear comes from the Devil, who does NOT want us to live Godly lives. He wants us to sin, to not forgive, to be afraid, to surrender our authority to him and to others who seek authority over us.

But we should all know that God in His goodness DOES give us authority to forgive each other. Forgiveness is much more than a virtue; it is that thing that allows us to truly love each other as God loves each of us. Forgiveness is the great tool that cleanses all past transgressions. Forgiveness is that one thing that gives us TRUE freedom, freedom not only from sin, but also freedom to LOVE. Forgiveness embodies justice; for with forgiveness, we do not

seek mindless retribution. Instead, forgiveness enables us to seek justice that is proper and true, for it shows respect and love for all parties involved.

Yet to forgive, we need two things – courage and authority. It takes courage to forgive, for forgiveness is not for the squeamish, nor is it done on a mere whim. It takes guts, fortitude, and a healthy dose of reason to take charge of a situation and forgive someone who has hurt you badly. Our society often frowns on forgiveness – it is derided as something that is weak or that only our courts and government can legislate. Yet we have the authority to forgive, for this is an authority that is not drawn up in mere human laws, but is an authority that comes from God and is given to all of us by our Creator. God in His infinite love for us forgives us of our transgressions, and He, in His infinite wisdom, has given us the capability and authority to freely forgive each other of our transgressions just as He forgives us of our transgressions.

As Christian people created in the image and likeness of our Creator, we

all must ask ourselves a very important question every now and then: DO YOU HAVE THE COURAGE AND FORTITUDE TO HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE GOD AND TAKE THE AUTHORITY GIVEN TO YOU TO FORGIVE EACH OTHER? Never forget that we must continually ask God for the grace to have the strength and fortitude to forgive. But we must also boldly take that authority to forgive. We can always choose not to. But if we choose not to, then we choose not to love. And love is what is sorely needed in a broken world of today. May God grant all of you the grace to boldly love as He loves us, to fearlessly choose forgiveness and bravely love one another as He loves all of us. For this authority to love cannot come from any court of law or legislature, but only from God that is deep within us. And it is this love that has the power to heal anything in our world today, a world that suffers from a paralysis of sin.

One additional thing: for those who are pondering and discerning their vocations in life, DO YOU

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The Importance of Courage, Forgiveness, and Authority in Life

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HAVE THE COURAGE TO SEEK OUT AND SERVE GOD? Do you have the fortitude and courage to take the authority given to you by God to serve Him, His Church, and His People? Do you have the

capacity to love just as God loves us by reaching out to others in a spirit of humility and forgiveness, a spirit that this world seems to lack? If so, do not be afraid, have courage, and speak to your pastor

about your call in life. Your priest will be more than happy to talk to you in a spirit of love and encouragement about what God may have planned for you in life, even if it is to a simple life

of marriage, raising children and training them to be good Christians! May God grant you the grace to humbly take His authority given to you to discern His plan in your life!

Be sure to look for us on Facebook and Twitter!



Look for our facebook Page, Ukrainian Catholic Vocations - Archeparchy of Philadelphia



Follow us on Twitter, add UkieVocations to your Twitter account!

FAR-AWAY RELATIVES MEET

On Saturday, June 12, 2010, Most Rev. Brian Bayda, C.Ss.R., Bishop of Saskatoon, SK, Canada, accompanied by Most Rev. Stefan Soroka, Metropolitan-Archbishop of Philadelphia, came to the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Jenkintown, PA to meet his cousin, twice-removed, Sister Mary Michael Bayda, OSBM. The long-awaited meeting was enjoyed by all the Sisters as well as by the Metropolitan.



Sister Michael's father and Bishop Brian's grandfather were first cousins. Bishop Brian, who is attending a conference in Philadelphia during the month of June, extended an invitation to Sister Mary Michael to join his family reunion of over 300 family members in Canada this summer in Saskatoon.

Sister Mary Michael, who served in the Generalate in Rome, Italy and taught catechists in both Ukraine and Brazil, also taught in many parish schools in the U.S. She is presently ministering at St. George School in NYC, NY.

St. John's - St. Michael's
**ANNUAL PARISH
PICNIC**

St. John's Grove
MAIZEVILLE-GILBERTON

SAT. SUN. AUG. 14-15

SAT. 1 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. SUN. 12 NOON - 8 p.m.

*Pyrohy (Pierogies) Halushki Bleenies Holubtsi (Halupki)
Kobasa (Kielbasi) Bean Soup Baked Goods Beverages
Hand-dipped Ice Cream Theme Baskets Bingo*

**Sat. 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Pa. Good-Times
Sun. 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Pa. Villagers**

FREE ADMISSION

FREE PARKING

*Located approximately one mile west of the
Gilberton exit off Route 924 in Schuylkill County, Pa.*

Liturgy in Wildwood



When you are away on your vacation, you're not away from your obligation to attend Sunday Liturgy. Remember to take Jesus along! If you're vacationing at Wildwood, Rev. Ruslan Romanyuk and the Ukrainian community welcomes you to participate at The Divine Liturgy in Ukrainian Catholic Church, starting from July 4th. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. in The Christ Community Church, located at the corner of Crocus Road and Pacific Avenue. For more information, please call: 856-482-0938.

30 year Fixed Mortgage

4.50%

APR 4.514%
0% Origination Fee/ No Points



As of July 05, 2010
Rates are subject to change without notice.
Please contact us for more details.



UKRAINIAN SELF-RELIANCE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
1729 Cottman Ave, Philadelphia, PA, 19111 1-800-POLTAVA
For more information please contact USFCU or www.usfcu.com



Pennsylvania Knights of Columbus Support Vocations

Mr. Michael O'Connor of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, and Mr. George Koch (State Deputy) and Mr. Gordon A. Jefferes (Master) of the Pennsylvania Knights of Columbus met with Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka on July 16th, 2010 at the Chancery of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. They presented a check in support of the Archieparchial Vocations Program.

The Archieparchial Vocations Program will be conducted full-time by Rev. Paul Makar. Young people throughout the archeparchy will have various opportunities to explore their interest in serving God as a priest or in consecrated life. Please pray for success in this endeavor. Your prayers and your anticipated active support of this initiative is needed and appreciated.



(l to r) Gordon A. Jefferes, George Koch, Metropolitan Stefan, Michael O'Connor

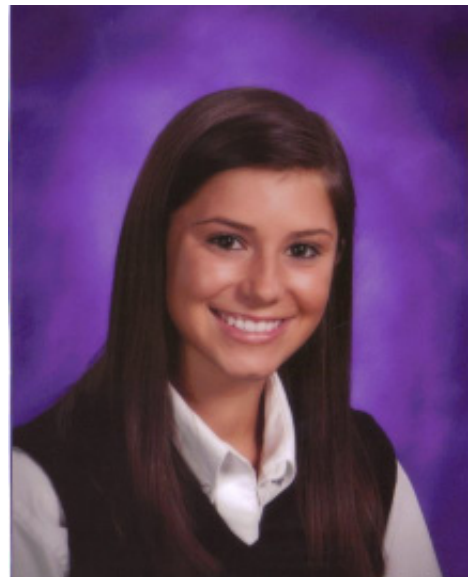
Rev. Archpriest Michael Hutsko's niece, Emily Hutsko, was featured in the July 16, 2010 issue of "The Catholic Witness"

*(Permission was granted by "The Catholic Witness" to reprint the article.)
"The Catholic Witness" is the newspaper of the Diocese of Harrisburg.*

Youth Leadership

Emily Hutsko, a student at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, and a 2009 graduate of St. Margaret Mary Grade School, was recently nominated by the teaching staff to be a participant in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine at Georgetown University. The forum was held June 27 - July 6.

Emily has served as Class President, Mission Representative, and a Member of the Future Business Leaders of America for which she represented her school at the Regional and State Leadership Conference in the discipline of Network Engineering. Additionally, she is a member of the Student Council, Christian Service Club, Pro-Life Club, St. Margaret Mary Youth Ministry and serves as a teaching assistant for the Pre School Religious Education Program at Holy Name of Jesus Parish.



Emily was a member of the Lady Crusaders basketball and soccer teams. She led the junior

varsity soccer team in goals scored. She has been a dancer for over thirteen years and currently studies classical ballet and jazz at The Richie School of Dance.



In addition to serving on the Middle States Accreditation Committee at Bishop McDevitt, Ms. Hutsko developed and implemented a recycling program that enabled her to provide a scholarship to St. Margaret Mary School in honor of retired Principal Joyce Haug. She was recognized by the Students in Free Enterprise program at Susquehanna University for an essay in which she chronicled her recycling efforts.

Through participation in the National Youth Leadership Forum, Emily hopes to gain a greater understanding into the numerous facets of the medical profession. At this time she would like to pursue a career in pediatric cardiology.

ANNUAL PARISH
FESTIVAL



**TRANSFIGURATION
UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

129 North Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA

Saturday, August 7th * 4 PM to 10 PM

Sunday, August 8th * 12 Noon to 10 PM

DIVINE LITURGY (MASS) SATURDAY 3:00 PM- SUNDAY 9:00 AM

HOMEMADE ETHNIC FOOD

*BEVERAGES****NOVELTIES****GAMES*

*ARTS AND CRAFTS****BAKED GOODS*

THEME BASKETS

MUSIC BY

"THE NEW INDIVIDUALS"- SAT. 7 - 10 PM

" SOUNDWAVE" - SUN. 2 - 5 PM

"THE SHORELINERS"- SUN. 7 - 10 PM

Ukrainian Day goes on in the rain

BY JOHN E. USALIS
STAFF WRITER, Republican Herald
jusalis@republicanherald.com
<http://republicanherald.com>

PRIMROSE — Rain was certainly not going to stop one of the longest running ethnic festivals in Schuylkill County and the region on Sunday as Ukrainian Seminary Day drew a crowd at St. Nicholas Grove in Primrose.

The 76th annual edition of the festival is more than just a celebration of Ukrainian culture, with its primary mission being the raising of funds for the only Ukrainian Catholic seminary in the United States and the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life.

Its importance to St. Josaphat Ukrainian

Catholic Seminary in Washington, D.C. is important, having raised more than \$500,000 since 1985. For those who attend, the event is a great time for ethnic Ukrainians to get together to enjoy their Eastern European culture annually with ethnic entertainment, food and a celebration of their religious faith.

“Ukrainian Catholic Seminary Day” began in 1934 in Lakewood Park, Barnesville, one of a number of ethnic celebrations that began in the 1900s by ethnic groups in the anthracite coal region. When Lakewood Park closed in 1983, there was one year without such

an event. However, in 1985 “Ukrainian Seminary Day” was revived and moved to St. Nicholas Picnic Grove. The ethnic celebration is sponsored by the 12 parishes in the South Anthracite Protopresbytery (Deanery) of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. The parishes are located in Schuylkill, Northumberland, Columbia and Luzerne counties. On average, each annual event raises about \$35,000.

As per tradition, the festival began with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in the picnic grove’s hall. The main celebrant was Metropolitan Stefan Soroka, archbishop of the archeparchy and spiritual leader for all Ukrainian Catholics in the United States. Priests from the deanery and beyond were concelebrants, assisted by Deacon Ted Spotts and Deacon Paul Spotts.

The procession into the hall was led by members of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Schuylkill Assembly 0923, with Metropolitan Stefan welcoming everyone.

“We welcome all of you. As in today’s epistle, we are all God’s co-workers in building the Kingdom of God,” he said. “We share in that building on the foundation of Jesus Christ. Once again, all of you here have gathered from the different parishes in this deanery to support our seminary, as you so visibly do during Ukrainian Seminary Days.”

Metropolitan Soroka added that the fruits of the support over the years would be seen by everyone with the homily being provided by a former seminarian and recently-ordained priest, the Rev. Paul J. Makar, who was appointed as vocations director for the archeparchy.

He also welcomed the approximately 30 visitors from St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Passaic, N.J., who were visiting the area this past weekend.

“We welcome the parishioners of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church who have traveled these

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Making bleenies. (Photo: John E. Usalis)

August 8, 2010

Ukrainian Day goes on in the rain

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past few days to come to know the roots of our Church in this deanery. It is so beautiful that they are among us and come to appreciate the beginnings of our Church in this country, and also it is an era that gives us hope because this is the fourth and fifth generations and the churches are strong and continue to give us good example and great hope to all the churches in the United States of America. We also welcome the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, who are among us and have been a part of the foundation of this deanery in all the schools they have served in. Let us pray that God will provide us the strength and the perseverance that we need to continue to be most worthy and be generous co-workers in building God's Kingdom here on earth. Slava Isusu Christu (Glory to Jesus Christ)."

Father Makar spoke about vocations during his homily, noting that doubt prevents people from taking on challenges, or in some cases, avoid the call to a vocation to the religious life.

"Doubt. This is something that is often seen as innate

and intrinsic to the human person. It can have a useful edge to it, for sometimes there is a healthy level of doubt in our dealings in everyday life, especially when dealing with a crooked salesman or perhaps we have a natural amount of fear that causes us to look at things," said Father Makar. "But doubt, more often than not, is something that is the death of many things in life. It is something that often creeps in without us ever realizing it until it is too late. By the time we see it, the damage is already done."

As an example, Father Makar used a contender boxer readying for a fight to win the champion. He trains and trains for the fight, but then becomes doubtful of his abilities to beat the champion. To win, the contender must put aside doubts he has in beating the champions and go into the ring with confidence.

"He has the attitude that the once-famous professional wrestler Rick Flair used to say: 'If you want to be the man, you have to beat the man.' That is the attitude needed to cast away doubt," said Father Makar. "Doubt can



The Very Rev. Archpriest John M. Fields, left, and Deacon Paul Spotts present the bread and wine to be used during the consecration to Metropolitan Stefan Soroka at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday in St. Nicholas Hall, Primrose. The liturgy was held in conjunction with the 76th annual Ukrainian Seminary Day. (Photo: John E. Usalis)

be something that stalks us. It constantly sits on our shoulders, forcing us to second guess any decision we make. It can especially cause us to forget God and His Word in our daily lives, especially if God is calling us to a particular state in life or to a vocation. Our Lord calls every single one of us to believe in Him, to trust in Him, and to follow Him with our whole body, our whole mind and our whole soul — every aspect of our being. God especially calls us to serve Him to use all of the unique gifts that he has given to each and every one of us in service to one another in the Church."

He explained that God has a special call for some people.

"A calling to the priesthood, the diaconate, or monastic life is a special call," said Father Makar. "It is one that requires faith and courage."

Father Makar spoke of the Gospel for the day and how the Apostles were tossed about in the board on the Sea of Galilee and how Jesus came to them, walking on the water. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Father Makar said storms on the sea can be dangerous and deadly, and each member of the
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Ukrainian Day goes on in the rain

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crew must be confident in their ability to do the proper things to save the ship and fellow crew members and passengers.

"The secular world and the demands of daily life toss us about, too, causing us not to heed God's call in our lives," said Father Makar. "Peter answered God's call and stepped out of the boat and onto the water, walking towards Jesus. But then he too doubted when he saw the winds and waves about him. He lost sight of Jesus and began to sink into the water. In the same way, someone who has the call to the priesthood, the diaconate or monastic life can too lose sight of God's call. Even the everyday person beset by problems in the world can lose sight of God's word in their daily lives and begin to sink into a violent ocean of despair, worldly cares and depression. And furthermore, if we allow it, this violent ocean can silence God's call in our lives and lead us into sin."

Everyone person has a vocation in life, and all need to focus on Jesus to discern it, but those who may have the call to serve the Church in a consecrated way need prayer all the more.

"Every person's vocation in life is special, but even more so for those God is calling to religious life. They need your care, your understanding, your support, your encouragement, and especially your prayers," said Father Makar. "My friends, doubt is something that can cause real damage, especially when it comes to prayer. Prayer is a powerful thing. We may not realize its power, but it is certainly is manifested and we cannot doubt that. If you know of anyone considering a call to the priesthood, diaconate or in the religious life as a sister or a monk. Pray for them, encourage them, and support them. If you feel that God is calling you to a particular state in life, especially if you believe God is calling you to the religious life, know that we, the clergy here, are all praying for you and invite you to explore that call. As Jesus had said, 'Come and see.' Do not be afraid. Take courage, have faith and boldly take that step into the water just as Peter did.

"My dear friends, without faith and prayer, and especially without priests, deacons, sisters and monks, and you, the faithful, we cannot survive

as a Church. We are all called by God to work in some capacity in His vineyard. We all are called by God to come together and be one, true body of Christ. Let us all today offer up our prayers to God to grant an increase in vocations to serve our Church," said Father Makar.

He concluded, "Most of all, let us all take courage that God is indeed with us, for without God, we can do nothing. But with faith in God, all things are possible. Peter walked on the water, and when he began to sink, Jesus reached out to him and picked him up. Let God in your lives and let Him pick you up, especially those who are being called to the priesthood, diaconate, or as a nun or as a monk."

The Very Rev. Archpriest John M. Fields, dean and pastor of St. Michael and St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic churches in Frackville and Maizeville, respectively, spoke of the seeds sown in the region in the 19th century that grew over the years.

"When you drive from Saint Clair to Frackville, you see a little stream along that way. That seems small in this little mountain village,

but when you go down to Philadelphia, it's a mighty river called the Schuylkill," said Father Fields. "The same thing is true of our Church. It was founded in this region in 1884 in Shenandoah, and it is the home of the Ruthenian churches, the Ukrainian churches, and even many of our sister churches of the Orthodox faith. And just as that little stream begins in these mountains, that faith that was sown here over the centuries in time has grown into our Ukrainian church in the United States in for one archeparchy and three eparchies. It is the same for the Ruthenian church. Why? Because it was built on firm faith. They also heeded the word that we hear in the Gospel. They were not afraid. They faced an uncertain future, leaving their homeland, but even though they left mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters behind, many never even saw the ground again, they faced the future believing in God and putting their trust, and literally their hands, in Jesus Christ."

Father Fields explained that the Ukrainian heritage and culture is strong in the area because of the

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Ukrainian Day goes on in the rain

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percentage of Ukrainian-Americans who make up the population of the many borough and township. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. communities with high percentages of people of Ukrainian ancestry (2000 Census) are:

- *** 1. Cass Township, Pennsylvania (Schuylkill County) 14.30%
- *** 2. Belfield, North Dakota 13.60%
- *** 3. Gulich Township, Pennsylvania 12.70%
- *** 4. Gilberton, Pennsylvania (Schuylkill County) 12.40%
- *** 5. Wilton, North Dakota 10.30%
- *** 6. Lumberland, New York 9.90%
- *** 7. Saint Clair, Pennsylvania (Schuylkill County) 8.80%
- *** 8. Soap Lake, Washington 8.10%
- *** 9. Frackville, Pennsylvania (Schuylkill County) 7.60%
- *** 10. Olyphant, Pennsylvania and Norwegian Township, Pennsylvania (Schuylkill County) 7.00%
- *** 11. Houtzdale, Pennsylvania 6.90%
- *** 12. Harmony Township, Pennsylvania (Beaver County, Pennsylvania) and Kerhonkson, New York 6.70%
- *** 13. Baden,

- Pennsylvania and McAdoo, Pennsylvania (Schuylkill County) 5.90%
- *** 14. Branch Township, Pennsylvania (Schuylkill County) and Postville, Iowa 5.70%
- *** 15. Woodward Township, Pennsylvania (Clearfield County, Pennsylvania) and Northampton, Pennsylvania 5.60%
- *** 16. Warren, New York 5.50%
- *** 17. West Leechburg, Pennsylvania 5.40%
- *** 18. Ambridge, Pennsylvania and Mount Carmel Township, Pennsylvania 5.30%
- *** 19. Ford City, Pennsylvania 5.20%
- *** 20. Bigler Township, Pennsylvania and Kline Township, Pennsylvania (Schuylkill County) 5.10%

"As we gather here today, we are building on what our ancestors built as we celebrate our culture, our heritage and, most importantly, our faith," said Father Fields. "Let us go into the future with confidence in Jesus Christ."

After the Divine Liturgy, a few sprinkles of rain fall, which led to stronger showers, which continued for a few hours. It didn't stop people from standing in line to get their bleanies, pyrohy, sausage or kielbasi sandwiches,

kielbasa platters, bean soup, holubsti (halupki), halushki, funnel cakes, ice cream and more. Theme baskets were raffled, and ethnic shirts and other items were available from Uniquely Ukrainian, a local company.

Following a live outdoor polka broadcast by WPPA-AM with Paul Konkus and J.Z., the Kazka Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble had planned to perform outdoors. Due to the rain, the program was moved into the hall, and after a 40-minute delay to move equipment and set up, people enjoyed the Ukrainian folk songs and dancing.

Kazka consists of a vocal quartet, composed of Paula Holoviyak (soprano), Sandra Duda (alto), Joseph Zucofski (tenor), and Michael Duda (baritone) and a 25-member dance ensemble. Many of the dancers were younger members of the

ensemble, who showed their talent in dancing to the traditional songs.

A treat was provided by ensemble member Marysa Milinichik of Allentown, who played a traditional Ukrainian instrument called a bandura, which is a cross between a zither and lute. The dances were from the Poltava, Hutsul, Boyko, Lemko, and Transcarpathian regions of Ukraine.

With the rain ended, the Pennsylvania Villagers Polka Band provide polka and dance music outdoors until the closing of the festival. The deanery is comprised of 12 parishes in Schuylkill (Frackville, Maizeville, McAdoo, Middleport, Minersville, Saint Clair and Shenandoah), Luzerne (Hazleton), Northumberland (Marion Heights, Mount Carmel and Shamokin) and Columbia (Centralia Heights) counties.



*Kazka
Ukrainian
Folk Dance
Ensemble*

*(Photo:
John E.
Usalis)*

Nick Horvath Receives an Award

Saint Mary Church and Pokrova Council of the Knights of Columbus recognize the participation of Nicholas Horvath as an active parishioner. Nick is a seventeen year-old eleventh grader. He is ambitious and hard working. He is building a landscaping empire and would like to help maintain your property. Still, Nick finds time to be an incredibly active parishioner. He serves as an altar boy on Sundays and Holy Days. Every Sunday before the eleven o'clock Divine Liturgy, Nick prepares the censor for use at the next Divine Liturgy. Nick is an active participant in Religious Education. He provided some of the most profound lines used in the Purim skit. Whenever Nick is asked to do something by someone, he does not ask, "Why?" Nick complies. For this and so much more, members of Pokrova Council #13561 Knights of Columbus purchased four tickets to a Camden Riversharks baseball game and presented them and a certificate of appreciation to Nick after the eleven o'clock Divine Liturgy on Sunday, May 30. In the photo (left to right) are Pokrova Council Grand Knight Steve Schaeber, Nick, his brother Peter, and Father Gregory Maslak, pastor of St. Mary Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Bristol, PA.



St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Trenton, NJ, visited the Shroud at the Cathedral on June 27, 2010

Watch a video on our Blog at www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com



North Anthracite Deanery visited Shroud

On Sunday, May 23rd, 2010, parishioners from the North Anthracite Deanery in PA enjoyed a group trip to visit the Shroud of Turin Exhibit at the Cathedral in Philadelphia. The churches from the Deanery included Ss. Cyril & Methodius in Berwick, St. Nicholas Church in Glen Lyon, Holy Transfiguration Church in the Hanover section of Nanticoke, and Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Plymouth. The parishioners were accompanied by their pastors, Fr. John Seniw, Protopresbyter, and Fr. Roman Petryshak and his family. The presentation was given by Fr. Daniel Troyan. (Photo: Barbara Nagy)



Youth from Ukraine visited Shroud at Cathedral.

Three members from SUM Youth Group in Ukraine, visited the Shroud at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia, PA, on July 19, 2010.

First Row Youth (l to r): Ivanna Holubyuk, Ira Lysa, and Maryana Marets

Second Row (l to r): Eugene Luciw, Msgr. Myron Grabowsky, and Yury Nakonechny.



Metropolitan Stefan's Homily from the Closing of Shroud Exhibition on June 29, 2010

+ C.I.X.!

The Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul always challenge me to try and understand our human nature. I look at the apostle Peter and recall how he was asked three times by Jesus if he loved him. Three times he insists that he loves Jesus. Jesus simply tells him to "feed my sheep". It was Peter who was told by Jesus not to be afraid. We heard in today's Gospel reading how Peter was asked by Jesus, "Who do you say I am?" Peter recognized Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus declared Peter the rock upon which Jesus would build His Church. Later after denying Jesus three times, Peter follows behind the soldiers taking Jesus, wanting to stay close with the one for whom he professed his love. Peter then is confronted by allegations that he is one of Jesus' men. He denies it three times, only to recall Jesus' prediction of his denial. Later, it is Peter who runs to the grave when he hears that Jesus' body is not there. It is Peter who is mentioned by name by Jesus after His resurrection. Most of the other apostles did not go to the tomb. They waited in the upper room.



Photo (l to r): Rev. Archpriest Michael Hutsko, Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan, Msgr. Peter Waslo, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Rev. Ivan Demkiv, Msgr. Myron Grabowsky, Rev. Yaroslav Kurpel, Rev. Paul Makar

Saint Paul was struck down from his pride of persecuting Christians. He came to know God through sufferings and hardships he personally experienced. The way he did it convinced many to believe Him and to follow the Christ he proclaimed. Saint Paul could not do enough to proclaim Jesus Christ to the world around him. He suffered immense persecutions. He also longed for deliverance from his 'thorn in the flesh', a handicap he had. He prayed to evade it. Paul lived with his limitation and overcame it with his positive attitude and with his hope in Christ. He teaches us that our handicaps are our unique opportunities to come to know God and to serve others. God never judges us by the talents and

achievement of others. He only looks at what we are doing in our special situation.

How pleasing it is to see the clergy, religious sisters, and faithful gather today for the closing of the exhibition of the replica of the Shroud of Turin. We began a very special spiritual journey months before the first Sunday of Lent. This copy of the Shroud of Turin was procured from Ukraine with the blessings of our Patriarch Lubomyr Husar. Our Cathedral Rector, Rev. Ivan Demkiv went to receive it and to escort it here. Then many caring souls began the process of preparing the display of the Shroud so that the faithful may venerate it in the manner we as Ukrainians are

accustomed to on Good Friday. We are especially grateful to our beloved iconographer, Christine Dochwat, for her design and supervision of the building of the tomb for the shroud, which was built by Oleh Kovalsky.

A planning committee made up of clergy, sisters and faithful set about to plan the promotion of the exhibition. They were imaginative and creative in their proposals. Promotion included the use of banners, posters, leaflets, and advertising and video displays at the Philadelphia Tourist Center. All the parishes were informed a number of times, and bulletins included information inviting people to make a pilgrimage to the shroud. (continued on next page)

Closing of Shroud Exhibition

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The internet site was magnificent! It was designed and kept current by Ken Hutchens. People from many different nations from around the world visited the site, and learned more about our Ukrainian Catholic Church and our Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia.

The opening of the Shroud Exhibition came on the First Sunday of Lent when we celebrated the Sunday of Orthodoxy. It was a very spiritually uplifting experience in which people from various parishes participated by processing with icons and shrouds from their respective parishes. Thereafter began the steady veneration of the Shroud of Turin on specially designated days.

When I look at the response of the clergy and faithful to the exhibition of the shroud, I recall the response of the apostles. Some ran to see for themselves like Peter did. Others waited. Saint Paul energetically proclaimed Christ, risking ridicule and persecutions. Others were more passive. There were the many who responded to Peter's and Paul's exhortations to the people. There were many more

people who heard it, but chose not to respond.

The same can be said of the response to the Shroud. There were those clergy and faithful who excitedly responded, making the opportunity to venerate the Shroud. Most pastors encouraged their faithful to visit and venerate the Shroud. Some even arranged parish bus trips. A few others barely even mentioned it in their parishes, as evidenced by faithful who related not even hearing about the shroud exhibition in their parish.

It was especially joyful to see the many school groups which visited, among them the children of all of our Ukrainian Catholic Schools. Children later wrote meaningful letters telling of what impacted them during their visit to

the Shroud. Many children shared that they came to a greater appreciation of Jesus' gift to us. Others were so appreciative of how much they learned about their Church. Their thirst to know more about God and about their faith was so pronounced. People and groups from many Roman Catholic parishes and schools also came to venerate the Shroud of Turin. People of many different faiths and backgrounds came to our magnificent Cathedral to visit the Shroud.

Of tremendous assistance in the spiritual journey of each visitor was the presentation on the history and meaning of the Shroud given by Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan, Rev. Msgr. Myron Grabowsky, and Rev. Deacon Charles Schultz. These clergy helped our

visitors enter into a spiritual pilgrimage with the reflection they offered. Visitors were offered spiritual counsel and the opportunity for Confession. Our visitors were welcomed to take their time to explore the meaning of the Shroud for them personally. They had opportunity to pose questions, even about our faith. This personal ministry given by these two priests and deacon was very significant for the pilgrims and appreciated.

The response of our visitors was nothing short of miraculous! It was interesting to observe the transformation of many of our visitors. Our presenters remarked how they witnessed a transformation on people's faces while they were

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Watch videos on our blog! www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com

Closing of Shroud Exhibition

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explaining the scourging, the crowning with thorns, the blood stains on the shroud, and other such details. Tears could be seen in the eyes of the pilgrims as the story of the crucifixion became real.

People seemed to be drawn to the shroud. I watched how high school students stood casually around the shroud with hands in their pockets. After some time standing before the shroud and upon hearing of its meaning, the students would be moved to kneel and kiss the shroud. People would venerate the Shroud, then kneel in the pews, and then return to venerate the shroud a few more times. It was as if they couldn't depart from the presence of the Shroud. Some people kept on returning for successive visits to the Shroud.

There were many who came afflicted with various diseases, including cancer. They came with their sick children, placing the children on top of the Shroud while praying for healing. People surrendered to the mercy of God in hope. The Shroud evoked stories of pain, fear, faith, trust and hope carried by many. They included the Vietnam Veteran who was the only

survivor of his platoon; the 'street kid' who stood and sobbed at the Shroud, returning three times and having the same reaction each time; the husbands who assisted their wife struggling with cancer, helping her to kneel and kiss the Shroud despite her physical limitations; the religious who came and being moved to tears by the overwhelming presence of God. Some have reported having been healed of afflictions, such as one woman who was healed of crippling back problems, enabling her to be of continued service of others in need. Some touched sacred items from their homes to the Shroud with hope for special blessings.

The visits to the Shroud also encouraged some to be more zealous evangelizers, as we saw in Saint Paul. Among them was a police captain whose experience before the Shroud stimulated within him a renewed power to proclaim Christ to others. People with various professional and academic backgrounds were moved by their experience of the visit with the Shroud. They felt moved to attest to the presence of Christ in their life and with others with



Photo: Teresa Siwak

whom they associate.

Many found great comfort and encouragement to meditate on the image of Christ's face on the Shroud. Artists who visited were inspired by the image. All of us came to a even deeper appreciation of the icons of Jesus Christ within our Churches. The gentleness and mercy of God to each of us is something I personally felt ever so much more deeply as I looked at the face of Christ in the Shroud. I came to see the face of Jesus who asked Peter if he loved Him. I felt Christ's encouragement for me personally in my daily challenges.

Pilgrims to the Shroud also had the opportunity to visit the Treasury of Faith Museum, conducted by Sister Evhenia and Sister Timothea of the Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God. The museum came to life in its intended

purpose. The Sisters so beautifully used the displays to teach the visitors about our faith and about our rich Ukrainian Catholic Church. Children particularly were impacted by the care and concern shown to them by the Sisters. Some posed questions about vocations to the religious life. For many, it was the first time they encountered religious Sisters in their life. The opportunity to avail themselves of beautiful religious items at the Byzantine Supply Store under the direction of Mrs. Myroslava Demkiv also added to the experience of our visitors. We are grateful to her for her sacrifices of personal time.

Gratitude is due to many who assisted in the reception of our visitors, among them Vinnie, and our seminarians Walter and Roman. The assistance of Lisa and Roman Oprysk, Daria (continued on next page)

Closing of Shroud Exhibition

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Zacharchyk, Harry and Pat Bittner with the presentation by Russ Breault was very much valued and appreciated. Rev. Msgr. Peter Waslo, Rev. Andriy Rabi, and Rev. Archpriest Michael Hutsko also assisted in the preparation of the Vespers program and in many other ways, for which we are thankful.

In a very special way, I want to thank the Coordinator of the Shroud Exhibition, Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan. He oversaw that the whole experience remained a spiritual journey for

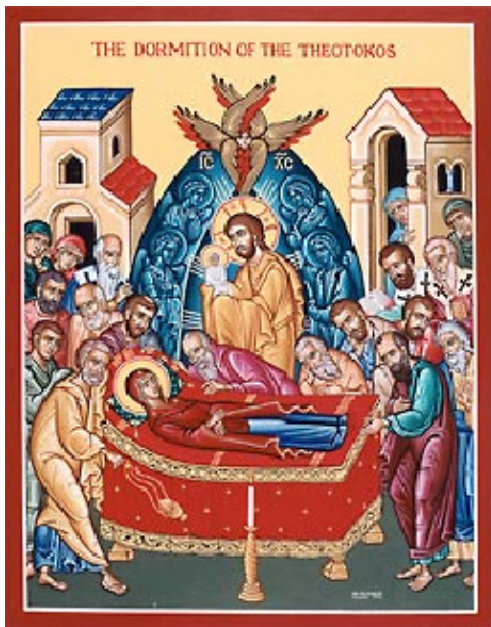
everyone who was involved and for our visitors. He was very personally involved in all aspects of the preparations and in the fulfillment of the exhibition. This responsibility of caring for the Lord in the tomb and raising the significance of the Shroud to pilgrims became a spiritual pilgrimage for Fr. Daniel personally. For each of us, our spiritual encounter with Jesus must become personal. Our whole self is challenged. This is something I witnessed in Fr. Daniel, and in every person who was in some way associated with this

whole spiritual journey with the Shroud. Each was personally challenged by Jesus. Each was personally invited to enter into a personal union with Jesus Christ Himself. We were invited to journey not unlike that experienced by Saints Peter and Paul. Sacrifice was asked of each of us. It is the measure of our surrender which helped us to come closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is the miracle I witnessed throughout this spiritual journey with the Shroud.

We will set aside the Shroud within our

Cathedral before the icon of the Resurrection to the right of the iconostas. The Shroud will remain with us continuously calling us to celebrate hope in Jesus Christ. The Shroud will also be taken for veneration in the various pilgrimages and in various churches throughout our Archeparchy and beyond. Know that you can always spend some quality time with the Lord Who seeks you, asking the same question Jesus asked Peter, "Who do YOU say I am?" (Mt. 16:15).

+ C.I.X.!



Dormition of the Mother of God

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Lk. 10: 38-42; 11: 27-28)

Feast of the Dormition

The feast of the Dormition is the last great feast in the Church calendar year. It is preceded by a two week fast. The glorious lot of the Ever Blessed Virgin in the role of God's salvation of the world made all her life wonderful and exemplary.

After the Crucifixion of Christ, the Mother of God was taken to live in the house of her adopted son, the Apostle John. Tradition notes that even after the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, the Mother of God remained in Jerusalem, visiting those places where the Savior of the world preached, suffered and died. She did not want to leave the country that was dear and holy to her. When Caesar Herod Agrippa began to persecute the Church, both the pagans and the Jews, indignant at the respect the Mother of God was receiving from the Christians, wanted to kill her. It was during this time that she traveled with Apostle John to Ephesus. Church tradition has this as the time of her visit to Cyprus to Bishop Lazarus, who had been raised from the dead after four days, and to the Mount Athos. When the persecution ended, the Mother of God returned to Apostle John's house at Zion in Jerusalem.

Once when she went to the Mount of Olives to pray, Archangel Gabriel appeared and spoke of her approaching death. Upon returning home, she told Apostle John all that the Archangel spoke of and started preparing herself for her final day on earth. Friends and relatives gathered, and eleven of the apostles were miraculously transported from various parts of the world to her deathbed. They were all amazed seeing each other there. When the Apostle John explained that the Mother of God would soon be departing this world they understood why God had brought them together, and they became sad. But she comforted them saying: "Do not cry and darken my happiness with your sadness. I am going to my Son and your God, and you will bury my body and return each to your work." As the time of her death neared the room shone with a divine light, the roof disappeared, and a wondrous sight appeared before all. The Lord Jesus Christ descended from heaven surrounded by many angels. All looked upon this wondrous sight with awe and reverence, and when they approached her bed, the holy body of the Mother of God was radiant and a smell of incense pervaded the room.

The apostles carried the body of the Mother of God through the city to Gethsemane to be buried at her request in the tomb of her family and Joseph. They buried her body, closed the tomb with a stone and remained there at the site in prayer for three days. On the third day Apostle Thomas arrived and was very saddened he had been unable to take his leave of her when she had been alive. To make him feel better, the other apostles rolled away the stone to let him pay his respects to the body. But on entering the tomb, they found that the body was not there - only the winding sheet remained. They returned home to partake of a communal meal at which they always left a place for the Resurrected Lord. After the meal, they raised the bread left for Christ aloft and exclaimed "Lord, Jesus Christ, help us." And they heard a choir of angels, and when they looked up they saw the holy Ever-Virgin surrounded by angels. She hailed them, saying: "Rejoice, for I am always with you." Then the apostles were filled with joy, and instead of using the usual words, they exclaimed "Most holy Theotokos, help us." And now they understood and believed that upon the third day after her Dormition, the Mother of God had been resurrected.

Thus, the Dormition of the Mother of God is not a sad event, but a joyous one. Her death is but a short sleep, after which follows her resurrection and ascension to heaven.

From the very beginning, the Church saw in the Mother of God one who would pray for all of mankind. She is the haven of the mothers of the world. She teaches how to live in total faithfulness to the will of God. She, who kept in her heart the divine words, is an example of faithfulness, love and service.

Get yer red hots . . . cold soda . . . popcorn!

by Pete Letenauchyn

Talk about busy. We arrived at Campbell's Field, received training, and began working the third base concession stand. From my perch in the corner of the concession stand I did not see much except a long line of hungry and thirsty baseball fans. I relayed the customers' orders to my incredibly capable runner, Msgr. Peter Waslo – Chancellor of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. Monsignor brought the food items to the customers and even helped me fill the drink orders. Despite the long line, all of my customers seemed to be satisfied. One gentleman donated \$4.00 to the Knights. I guess he was really satisfied. I do not know how many people we served, but from about ten minutes before the first pitch until the seventh inning there were seven non-stop lines of people who wanted food and beverages. It seemed as though the whole crowd of 5,687 stopped by the third base concession stand, and our small group served them well. Another of our cashiers received a donation for the Knights of Columbus of one dollar. The last cash register drawer was being reconciled around ten-thirty, during the fabulous fireworks display, which followed the baseball game (won by the Riversharks, 3 to 2). The evening of hard work for our organizations was over.

I have not yet learned how much money we earned for Pokrova Council of the Knights of Columbus and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Philadelphia. I know how hard each of the 12 volunteers worked. Believe me when I tell you that 12 is the minimum number of volunteers needed to run the stand. We could have used another volunteer or two. One volunteer spent most of the evening serving up hot dogs. We needed to make more popcorn several times. Did you know they offer FREE refills of large popcorn and large soda at Campbell's Field? I know of at least three customers who waited in the long lines for free refills.

I only heard one complaint. There was no cream for one customer's coffee. The operators of the concession stand promptly refunded the gentleman's money.

I am looking forward to Friday, August 13, when we hope to operate both concession stands at Campbell's Field!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 7-8, 2010: Annual Parish Festival, Transfiguration Ukrainian Catholic Church, Shamokin, PA

August 13-15, 2010: Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate's Holy Dormition Pilgrimage, Sloatsburg, NY. www.ssmi-us.org

August 14-15, 2010: Annual Picnic hosted by St. John's (Maizeville) and St. Michael's (Frackville) Ukrainian Catholic churches, Saturday, August 14, from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, August 15, from 12 noon to 8 p.m., at St. John's Picnic Grove in Maizeville. Admission and parking is free. St. John's Grove is located on Route 54 approximately one mile west of the Gilberton exit off Route 924 in Schuylkill County, Pa. For info phone 570-874-1101 or e-mail ibah@aol.com.

August 20-21, 2010: Ukrainian Festival at the Ukrainian Homestead in Lehighton, PA.

August 21, 2010: St. Stephen Ukrainian Catholic Church at 1344 White Oak Bottom Road, Toms River, NJ will hold the 3rd Annual Ukrainian Festival between 12 noon and 7:00 p.m. Featuring: traditional Ukrainian food and beverages, live music all day by "Ukrainian Band Cheremosh", many vendors and 50/50 raffle. "LYMAN" - Ukrainian Dance Ensemble from Baltimore, MD will perform at 2:00 p.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Church Building Fund. Growing attendance over the years continues to create excitement as the word gets around, so bring your family, neighbors, friends and co-workers to enjoy the festive atmosphere! For more information call 732-505-6053 and for vendors call 732-928-3792

August 22, 2010: Ukrainian Folk Festival. "Tryzub" Ukrainian-American Sport Center, County Line & Lower State Rd, Horsham, PA. Festivities begin at 12:00 noon. www.tryzub.org

October 2-3, 2010: Annual Pilgrimage to the Mother of God, Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, Fox Chase Manor, PA.

August 8, 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 17, 2010: Wedding Anniversary Celebration at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia, PA. Divine Liturgy at 11am followed by a Banquet. (Deadline for registration is October 5th.)

November 7, 2010: Archieparchial Festival "Songs of the Soul" groups of children and youth from Ukrainian Catholic Parishes. For information call Fr. Popyk at 215-627-0143 or 609-695-3771.

November 21, 2010: Opening Divine Liturgy and Reception, Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, Centennial Celebration (for invited guests only)

March 26, 2011: Archeparchial Women's Day

Auxiliary bishop of the Archeparchy of Lviv of the Ukrainians

The Holy Father has given his consent to the canonical election made by the Synod of Bishops of the Greek-Catholic Ukrainian Church of the Reverend Father Venedykt Aleksiychuk, a Studite Monk of Univ, as auxiliary bishop of the Archeparchy of Lviv of the Ukrainians, assigning the titular see of Germanicana.

<http://press.catholica.va>

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