

WAY ШЛЯХ

Official Publication of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

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SEPTEMBER 19, 2010

ENGLISH VERSION

Pilgrimage to the Mother of God Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great

This year's seventy-ninth annual pilgrimage honoring the Mother of God on the grounds of the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Fox Chase has as its theme "Let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). On Saturday October 2, 2010 this theme will be developed during the Akathist to the Mother of God celebrated at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pochaiv. The homilist will be Rev. Father Robert Hitchens, Rector of the Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington, DC in his homily he will urge us to be open to God's call.

On Sunday, October 3, 2010 during the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, celebrated by Archbishop Stefan Soroka, the Very Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Eparch of Stamford, CT will speak on what it means to live out God's call. This theme will be further enhanced at the Moleben to the Mother of God as Archbishop Stefan speaks to us about Mystical changes in our lives as we open ourselves to God's word.

The Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available both days. Traditional Ukrainian food will be served on Sunday. A special feature of the weekend will be an opportunity to venerate the replica of the Shroud of Turin in the Holy Trinity Chapel of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great. This is one of nine replicas that was touched by the actual Shroud of Turin and blessed by the Holy Father.



For further information go to the website of the Sisters www.stbasils.com.





Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great Seventy-ninth Pilgrimage under the Protection of the Mother of God

Saturday – Sunday, Oct. 2 – 3, 2010

Theme: “Let it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38)

Special Features

Veneration of the Shroud of Turin

Holy Trinity Chapel

Saturday, 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Sunday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

*Sunday, 2:00 pm - Presentation on
the Shroud (Ukrainian and English)*

Youth Program, Spiritual Enrichment

Basilian Spirituality Center

Saturday, 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Mystery of Reconciliation

Monastery Grounds

Saturday, 6:00 pm

Sunday, 9:30 am

Food Service

Parking Lot Food Court

Sunday, 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Schedule of Events

Saturday, October 2nd

Open to God’s Call

Our Lady of Pochaiv Shrine

7:15 pm Akathist to the Mother of God (bi-lingual)

Celebrant – Archbishop Stefan Soroka

Homilist – Father Robert Hitchens

Sunday, October 3rd

Living God’s Call

Faculty House Auditorium

11:00 am – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (bi-lingual)

Celebrant – Archbishop Stefan Soroka

Homilist – Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM

Mystical Changes

Our Lady of Pochaiv Shrine

*3:00 pm – Moleben (bi-lingual) along with the Mystery
of Holy Anointing*

Celebrant and Homilist – Archbishop Stefan Soroka

*We invite you to feel free to walk to the Sister’s
cemetery to reflect and pray at the gravesite of our
Foundress, Mother Helena Langevych, OSBM.*

Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great
710 Fox Chase Road
Fox Chase Manor, PA 19046

Phone: 215.379.3998 *Fax:* 215.780.1743

Email: development@stbasils.com

Web: www.stbasils.com

Is There Something Missing In Your Life?



Ever wrestle with the question, “I am spiritual but not religious?” Ever find that something is missing in your life, especially when trying to find ways of making yourself spiritually whole? Questions like this appear all the time and profoundly affect young people in so many ways, especially when trying to make sense of things in a chaotic world. Are you interested in exploring these questions with fellow young adults who share your faith if it would deepen and enrichen your spiritual life?

If so, we invite you to come to the Youth Gathering (ages 16-35) at the Seventy-Ninth Annual Pilgrimage under the Protection of the Mother of God at the Basilian Spirituality Center in Fox Chase, PA on Saturday, October 2, 2010. For more information, call Sr. Dia Zahurska, OSBM at 215-379-3998 (sdiaosbm@yahoo.com) or Sr. Ann Laszok, OSBM at 412-260-1607 (email srannl@aol.com).



*If this is the case,
then perhaps we can help!*

Come to our Young Adult Gathering (ages 16-35) at the Seventy-Ninth Annual Pilgrimage under the Protection of the Mother of God at the Basilian Spirituality Center in Fox Chase, PA, on Saturday, October 2, 2010.

SISTERS OF THE ORDER OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT
710 Fox Chase Road
Jenkintown, PA 19046
412-260-1607
Sr. Ann Laszok OSBM

srannl@aol.com



SISTERS OF THE ORDER OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

Are You Seeking Spiritual Enrichment?



Our program schedule includes:

- 5:00 pm** – Young Adult Gathering / Registration (Basilian Spirituality Center)
- 5:30 pm** – Presentation – Hearing God’s Voice by Father Paul Makar (English – Basilian Spirituality Center)
- 6:30 pm** – Break/Gather for Candlelight Procession
- 7:00 pm** – Candlelight Procession to the Grotto of the Mother of God
- 7:15 pm** – Akathist to the Mother of God (Bilingual)
- 8:00 pm** – Young Adult Dialogue with Father Paul Makar and Sister Diya Zahurska OSBM (Basilian Spirituality Center – two groups: English and Ukrainian)



We invite you to come and explore how God looks at us, because God truly sees us differently than we see ourselves. God wants us to spread the Good News about His Kingdom which He prepared not only for us, but for all of the world.



Shroud of Turin

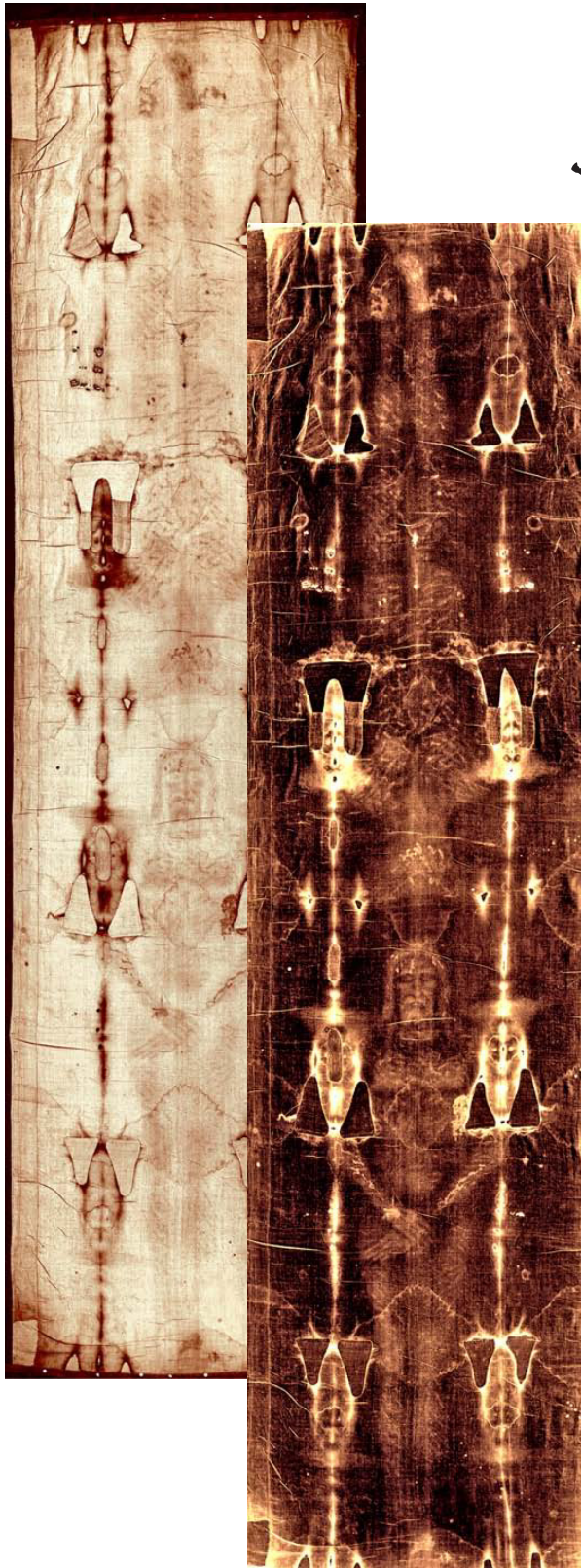
Saturday, October 2, 5 pm – 9 pm
Sunday, October 3, 9 am – 5 pm

Presentation on the Shroud
Sunday, October 3, 2 pm

You are invited to view a replica of the Shroud of Turin, on display for veneration.

*Holy Trinity Chapel
Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great
710 Fox Chase Road
Fox Chase Manor, PA 19046*

This is one of nine replicas that was touched to the actual Shroud of Turin and blessed by the Holy Father.



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A RELAXING SUNDAY AFTERNOON WITH THE L.U.C.

Berwick, Pa. – Sunday, August 29, 2010, the North Anthracite Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America held their annual Summer Meeting and Family Picnic at Ezzyk's Farm in Berwick.

The afternoon opened with an outdoor Moleben Prayer Service to the Mother of God, led by Council Spiritual Director, Father Paul Wolensky, Pastor of St. Vladimir Parish, Scranton, together with Father John Seniw, Pastor of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Berwick, and Dean of the North Anthracite Deanery. Other Clergy in attendance were Father Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Olyphant, and Father John Wysochansky, Retired, Blakely, Pa.

Council Officers are: Dorothy Jamula, President; Michael Trusz, Vice-President & Social Director; Treasurer, Anna Wolensky; Recording Secretary, Kathleen Izak; Corresponding Secretary & Publicity, Paul Ewasko; Membership, Janina "Yanka" Everett; and Religious Director, John Naradko.

The Berwick Parish L.U.C. members were the hosts for the August meeting. Joe & Mary Ezzyk warmly welcomed everyone to the beautiful rolling hills and peaceful setting of their expansive farm nestled in Columbia County. The backdrop for the meeting included the picturesque and bountiful green fields of the Ezzyk's famous sweet corn, produce, and colorful summer flowers, making for a truly relaxing and rejuvenating retreat for the more than 50 members and guests in attendance. The next gathering of the North Anthracite Council will be Sunday, October 17, 2 p.m., at St. Vladimir Parish in Edwardsville. Guests are always warmly welcomed and well fed.



St. Stephen Parish Festival in Toms River, NJ



The bright sunshine and the aroma of pyrohy and other treats drew more than a thousand people to the Third Annual Ukrainian Festival at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Toms River, NJ. For one day, Ukrainians, American Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians feasted, danced, were entertained and savored the best of Ukrainian culture in our parish. Throughout the day the festival featured live music by "Cheremosh" - Ukrainian Band from Passaic, NJ, Ukrainian Dance Ensemble "Lyman" from Baltimore, MD, Ukrainian crafts, Ukrainian foods and beverages, attractions for children and much more. Guests traveled from all over the U.S. to shop among the wide variety of vendors showing woodcarvings, jewelry and other crafts designed by Ukrainian artists. The festival was celebrating Ukrainian culture, showcasing authentic food, music, and dance, while also raising funds for the church building fund. We wish to thank everyone that had a part in making our Parish Festival a success. Thank you for your time, talent, hard work and generosity. Thank you to all who attended and helped us celebrate. NEXT YEAR FESTIVAL will be on Saturday, August 20, 2011.



"Dumka" Concert at Ukrainian National Shrine of the Holy Family

4250 Harewood Rd. NE, Washington, DC 20017

October 10, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided after the concert.

Tickets: \$25 -- Please make checks out to: "TWG Cultural Fund" and mail to:

Dumka Concert, c/o C. Kinal, 3303 Upland Terrace NW, Washington, DC 20015



Vasyl Hrechynsky – Artistic Director and Conductor

Dumka was originally formed in New York City in 1949 as a male chorus. The founders sought to preserve and cultivate the rich secular and religious musical heritage of Ukraine. In 1959, Dumka became a mixed chorus. In the years since, the chorus has performed concerts in Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Town Hall, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Garden State Arts Center in New Jersey, the J. F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and St. Patrick's Cathedral, as well as other churches. Concerts were also performed in Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia, Toronto, and Montreal. In October of 1985, Dumka observed its 35th anniversary with a European concert tour, appearing before cheering audiences in England, Austria, Germany, and France. In 1988, in honor of the celebration of the Millennium of Ukrainian Christianity, Dumka again toured Europe with performances of Ukrainian religious music at Royal Albert Hall in London, Karlsruhe and Munich, Germany and Strasbourg, France.

A crowning glory for the Dumka Chorus was its first ever visit to Ukraine in 1990 where triumphant concerts were performed in Kyiv, Lviv, and Poltava.

Dumka's first musical director was L. Krushelnycky. His work was continued by A. Bernyk, O. Mykytiuk, I. Sonevycky, R. Stepaniak, I. Zadorozny, I. Zukowsky and S. Komirny, who led the chorus for 17 years. Since 1991, Dumka has performed under the direction of Vasyl Hrechynsky, who was choirmaster of the Lviv Theatre of Opera and Ballet, and instructor of conducting at the Lviv Conservatory, and conductor of several choirs before coming to New York, where he conducted performances at Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral and other concert venues.

The Ukrainian Chorus Dumka celebrated its 60th Anniversary on March 28, 2010 with a concert at Merkin Hall in New York City.

SISTER IRENEA ROZALIA PIASEK, SSMI

May 1, 1917 – July 25, 2010

Through the years, I have been privileged to speak at a sister's funeral, similar to the one today for Sr. Irenea Rozalia Piasek.

Each has been quite unique as is their birth, their journey of life and their moment of passing into their eternal rest with our Heavenly Father. Their common thread weaving them together is each was a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate called to serve God's people on the road where few have travelled!

The unusual circumstances of Sr. Irenea's last days, her sufferings and extensive hospitalization, allowed many of us to say our final goodbyes – something that is not always possible when a sister dies. Quietly and peacefully early Sunday morning, July 25th the Lord welcomed her home.



As quietly as she left this world, I believe she also entered this world on May 1, 1917. World War I had broken out, and her father and grandfather went off to war. Sr. Irenea's grandmother moved in with the family, her mother, older sister Mary and older brother, Alexander. Within a year's time, her mother died. Little Rozalia was two years old when her father returned from the war and first laid eyes on his daughter. Within a few years, her father remarried and she had four stepsisters. Living arrangements in an overcrowded home, forced Sr. Irenea's father to move out with his new family, leaving her, her sister and brother to live with the grandparents.

Thus began the life of a little girl growing up in the war torn country of Ukraine, experiencing the loss of first love amidst the daily struggles of survival.

Upon completion of her education, Rozalia worked at the Vincentian Sister's hospital in Lviv. While working there, she was a candidate for the Vincentian sister's community awaiting her transfer to the Novitiate in Belgium. War broke out September 1, 1939. The communists came in and sent the Vincentian sisters away leaving the candidates (including Rozalia) to work in the hospital. The communists put one of their own as a spy in the kitchen to work among the others. June 14, 1940 everyone was imprisoned in the hospital for one year. Germans came into the country and all were released. Another saga of Sr. Irenea's life of hardship had ended. Such a young age to be imprisoned and to experience the hardship of war!

Upon her release from house arrest in the hospital, Rozalia went to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Their home in Lviv as well as Kristonopil was still standing. Mother Veronica Gargil accepted Sr. Irenea on August 12, 1942. Once again hardship came upon Sr. Irenea and the others. 1945, the novitiate in Kristonopil was bombed, the forty acres of land was confiscated as the Soviet's built a factory and apartments for the workers. It was also at this time, that Sr. Tarsykia Matskiw, a novice with Sr. Irenea was shot at the hands of the communists.

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SISTER IRENEA ROZALIA PIASEK, SSMI

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Forced evacuation caused the sisters to move to the west, Polish territory. From 1945 until 1969, Sr. Ireneau used her skills as a nurse to minister to terminally ill children. She was able to complete her nursing, practice nursing in a state hospital and receive her nursing diploma in 1951.

It is here that we come to understand how a young girl born and raised in Ukraine, enters a religious community of sisters from Ukraine, only to establish roots with the Polish province of that same community of Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate.

Hearing her story, one can only imagine what life must have been like for this small, petite, young woman. God indeed was her stronghold, her comforter, her Savior! From the somewhat familiar and safe surroundings of her childhood God led her to freedom ...

a freedom to practice her religion, a freedom to walk freely the streets of a new country.. the freedom to be living among similar sisters who she had come to know and depend her life upon!

Her story does not end here. We may think it should, for one person to survive all that she had and still live to speak about it, would be enough. Yet, God who called her from among the rubbles of Ukraine, called her once again to leave the familiar and go to the unknown. Only someone as strong as she who had come to know life and death at an early age and survive, could once again say Yes, and become a Missionary Sister Servant!

Sr. Ireneau, as one sister, accepted the invitation of then Provincial Superior, Sr. Thomas to come to the United States.. to help where the need was the greatest. Little did she know that this would be the final journey she would make, for in 1981 Sr. Ireneau Rozalia Piasek became an American citizen.

Sr. Ireneau's ministry of nursing and caring for the infirmed took her to our homes in Lansdale, PA. Villa of Divine Providence, Chestnut Hill, Home of Divine Providence and St. Joseph's Home here in Sloatsburg, New York. She welcomed more as she learned to sew priestly vestments while living and serving at St. Mary's Villa. She always had time to bake her specialty cookies, paskas and babkas.

Kahlil Gibran wrote, "When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight". Today there is a bit of sadness among us, all of us who came to know and love Sr. Ireneau Piasek. Her smile warmed our hearts and brought a bit of sunshine to our difficult moments in life. Her kind words of "thank you, God bless you" vibrated a quiet room and let you know she cared. Her quiet moments of suffering and times of silent prayer gave peace to all those who passed. Yes, she was our delight, but first and foremost she was the delight of God. God carried her throughout her life of suffering only to raise her to His altar of sacrifice.

His delight was Sr. Ireneau's constant yes to the Will of God.

May we always delight in knowing we are far richer on this earth because Sr. Ireneau has been a part of our life, the life of our American province and her memory will be eternal.

LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS OF AMERICA

72nd ANNUAL CONVENTION

October 8, 9, 10, 2010



The Garden State Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics will be hosting the 72nd Annual Convention of the League of Ukrainian Catholics, Columbus Day week end, October 8, 9,10, 2010.

The Convention Committee with Sr. Michele Yakymovitch, SSMI, as the Council and Convention Spiritual Director, and the membership of the Garden State Council are looking forward to hosting the Hierarchy, clergy, membership, and guests at this convention. The Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, Suffern, NY, has been selected as the convention headquarters, a location convenient to all.

As in the past years, the membership comes together to deliberate organizational matters, discuss issues that concern their understanding of their faith and the changes occurring, as well as working jointly on a project that will benefit the members and the faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic community. This committee work will be conducted at the General Business session on Friday, October 8. The day will end with a *Welcome Party* in the Grille Room. A *Country Harvest Fest* theme has been set, so come dressed for the occasion and be ready to swing your partners!

This year the Convention Committee will be sponsoring a new and exciting program entitled, *Generations of Faith (GOF)*, newly introduced to parishes in the Metropolia. The *Generations of Faith* program is a comprehensive resource for the entire parish, a new approach to lifelong faith formation. It is a simple program that brings people of all ages in the parish together to learn and participate in all aspects of their faith, together through the Divine Liturgy, Church Year feasts and seasons, the Mysteries, Morality and Social Justice. It promotes a better understanding of the Byzantine traditions, and it equips and supports families and especially parents, to create a pattern of family faith sharing and a Christian way of life. The interactive training program that will be presented is on "Observing and Celebrating the Philip's Fast". In the Byzantine tradition, this pre-Nativity fast is known as "Pylypiwka". In Latin rite churches it is known as Advent.

This training session is interactive and will help prepare individuals to return to their respective parishes ready to present and implement this program on a parish basis. This program session is open to anyone from any of the parishes in the Metropolia. Make plans to attend and participate in this event on Saturday, October 9 beginning at 9:30 AM and ending at 3:30 PM. On Sunday morning the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:00 am, at St. Mary's Villa Chapel, Sloatsburg, NY. Following the Liturgy will be a Communion Brunch and the convention closing ceremonies at the Holiday Inn.

As we continue the work of our forefathers who came together as the Ukrainian Catholic Youth League in 1933, with a focus on their Church, their Faith and their God, we invite you to join with the members of the League of Ukrainian Catholics to deliberate and celebrate our Faith.

For information regarding the upcoming LUC Convention and the GOF Training session, please contact John Kost, 973-471-1874, Marion C. Hrubec, at email mc.hrubec@att.net, or phone 201-843-3960 or Helen Fedoriw at helenf125@yahoo.com. Information will be provided to you at that time. We look forward to seeing everyone at Convention, in the spirit of Faith and fellowship.

Homemade Pyrohy Sale in Scranton, PA



Sponsored by St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Completely made from scratch - all fresh ingredients, not frozen.

Saturday, October 2, 2010, pickup beginning at 1:00pm

\$7.00 per dozen

St. Vladimir Parish Center
428 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton

Advance orders please: call 570 346-4164
Order deadline: Monday, September 27th

St. Vladimir Parish Annual Flea Market and Basket Raffle in Scranton, PA

To benefit the Children's Religious Education Class

Saturday, September 18, 2010 – 8:30am to 2:30pm

St. Vladimir Parish Center – 429 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503

Lunch available including Ukrainian ethnic foods

For additional information contact Daria at 570 963-1580



Annual, Shop for the Holidays Craft Sale in Berwick, PA

Saturday, October 23rd, 9am to 3pm.

SS. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church,
706 Warren St & First Ave, Berwick PA

Handicap accessible.

Lunch will be served from 11am, ethnic food and baked goods.

Interested Vendors: \$15/8' tables, to reserve call Janina 570-759-2824 after 5pm.

St. Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church

1545 Easton Road - Warrington, PA

Upcoming Events:

September 19 - 9 am - Religious Education Program begins with Children's Divine Liturgy, Parent's Meeting, and Registration

September 20 - Deadline to reserve space for Annual Flea Market - \$15/space - Info? Fran 215-795-2539

October 2 - 8a-2p - Annual Flea Market – many vendors, White Elephant Table, Food will be served in the Hall



Orders for Fruit & Nut Roll Sale \$11/roll (Pick-up on 12/11 during our Cookie Walk (holiday cookie sale))

Celebrating 50 years of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

By A. B. Hill

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2010. PCC is the official agency of Pennsylvania's Catholic Bishops in Harrisburg. Its mission is to give witness to spiritual values in public affairs and to serve the statewide community by providing a Catholic presence in state government.

Sifting through dusty file cabinets, thick binders of old newsletters and stacks of paper from a time when the typewriter was state-of-the-art technology, reveals a remarkable history of the influence of the Catholics in Pennsylvania. Bus transportation for Catholic school students, the Seasonal Farm Labor Act, the Abortion Control Act, the Defense of Marriage Act, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, the Religious Freedom Protection Act; the PCC had a hand in achieving these and many other public policy success stories.

In 1917, letters between Bishops revealed their desire to hire an experienced Harrisburg-area attorney "to look

after all bills and to take proper steps to prevent unfair and unjust legislation." They were interested in issues similar to some of PCC's present concerns – adoption, care of crippled children, reimbursement for Catholic hospitals, tax exemption of Church property, and school code issues affecting Catholic education. In 1923, the Bishops proposed an amendment to a Prohibition bill to exempt sacramental wines.

This practice continued for many years, but action on legislation was not always uniform. In the 1950s, Bishop George L. Leech of the Diocese of Harrisburg realized that the Bishops needed some help to keep track of pending legislation. He shared his concerns with Cardinal John O'Hara, Archbishop of Philadelphia who agreed. Bishop Leech asked then-Father Martin N. Lohmuller, a canon lawyer in Harrisburg on loan from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, to take on the task. In 1959, the Bishops decided they needed a statewide agency to officially review, form positions, and take action on Pennsylvania legislation on behalf of the

Church. On September 1, 1960, the Pennsylvania Catholic Welfare Committee began. Father Lohmuller moved back to Philadelphia where he was ordained Auxiliary Bishop. In 1968, the name was changed to the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. Through this organization, the Bishops of Pennsylvania agreed to speak with one voice about state government programs, legislation, and policies that affect the common good and the interests of the Church.

William Bentley Ball was the first executive director and legal counsel. In 1968, Howard J. Fetterhoff became executive director separate from legal counsel, a role retained by Mr. Ball and his law firm. Mr. Fetterhoff remained executive director until his death in 1996. Dr. Robert J. O'Hara, Jr., PCC's current executive director, succeeded him in 1997.

Today the PCC Board of Governors comprises the local diocesan bishops of Pennsylvania, that is, the ecclesiastical superiors of each Pennsylvania diocese. The board establishes the principles of the conference and determines its policies.

Each diocesan bishop appoints two members to the PCC Administrative Board, which is composed of both clergy and laity.

The Administrative Board conducts the affairs of the Conference by ratifying public policy positions within the guidelines set by the Board of Governors and offering guidance to the PCC staff.

Three departments provide research and consultation to the Administrative Board. Each diocesan bishop appoints two persons from his diocese to serve on each department. The Education Department represents the Church before the legislative and executive branches in behalf of students in both Catholic schools and public schools regarding issues of justice and morality. The Social Concerns Department monitors pro-life, social justice, and family life issues, and helps diocesan Catholic Charities agencies by monitoring legislation and regulations that affect them and the services they offer. It advocates in behalf of low-income and other needy

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Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

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population groups. The Communications Department helps to inform and educate the Catholic faithful and the general public about PCC and its issues.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association (PCHA), an associate of the PCC, comprises the Catholic hospitals, nursing homes, health systems and free-standing health care agencies in PA. The PCHA supports the Catholic

health care ministry in PA through witness to Gospel values, advocacy, communication, networking, education and united action. The PCHA monitors legislation and regulatory matters and participates in public policy development affecting Catholic health care ministry.

The achievements that the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference has witnessed in 50 years are nothing

short of remarkable; but the need for Catholic advocacy continues. Join the PCC and its efforts to influence public policy for the common good by joining the Pennsylvania Catholic Advocacy Network. Log on to www.pacatholic.org. Join us. Be heard. Make a difference.

Hill is Communications Director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference – the public

affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. To learn more about PCC's 50th Anniversary and other public policy issues, log on to the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Institute for Public Policy website at www.pacatholic.org.

Conception of St. John the Baptist (September 23)

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years. Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and

burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine

or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this

good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time." Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for

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Conception of St. John the Baptist (September 23)

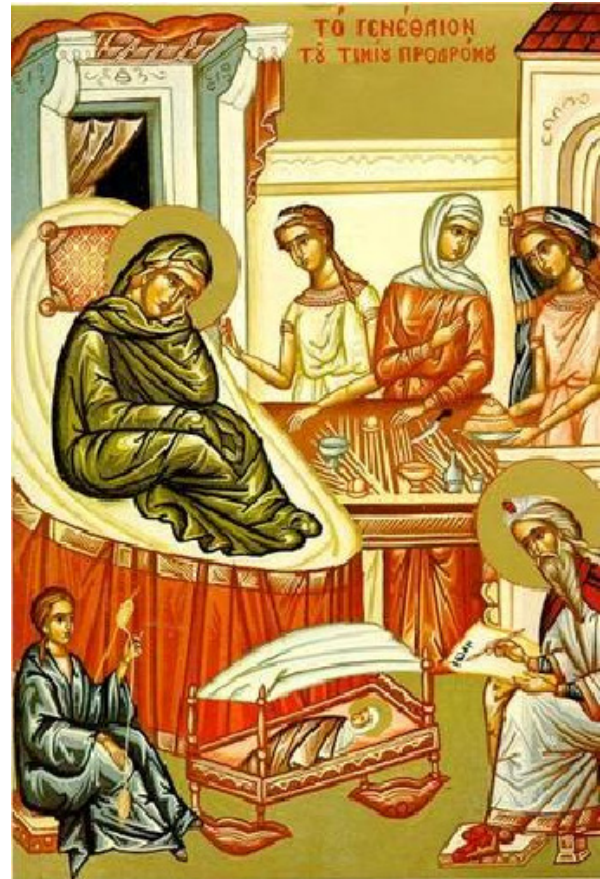
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five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people." (Lk. 1, 5-25)

St. John the Baptist has remained a beloved saint throughout the life of the Church, and many religious orders, institutions, churches, and shrines were established under his patronage. The Eastern Church especially venerates him and he is given a prominence in the Liturgy and Church art to a degree which is not seen in the West – an expression of Our Lord's words "Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there is none greater than John the Baptist."

What little we know of the life of John the Baptist and his mission is contained in the four gospels. John was a prophet, and is also called the forerunner, precursor, or harbinger, due to his role in heralding the coming of Jesus Christ. He began his ministry around the age of 27, going into the desert, living on locusts and honey and dressing in a tunic made

of camel hair. At the river Jordan, near Jericho, he announced that all men must be obligated to wash away their sins "with the tears of sincere penance." His baptizing in the river was mystically significant in a way the legal washings and purifications of Jewish law were not. This is where he earned his name as "The Baptist." Many priests and Levites were sent to ask John if he was the Christ; he confessed "I am not the Christ" and to his followers he preached, "I indeed baptize you with water; but there shall come one mightier than I, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to loose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: whose fan is in his hand and he will purge the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire". He had been preaching and baptizing for some time when Our Lord came to St. John to be baptized. John first refused, saying, "I ought to be baptized by you, and you come to me?" Out of obedience, John eventually did baptize Jesus. It was, as St. Ambrose has said, not for Jesus to be cleansed Himself, but to sanctify the waters, to give them the



virtue to cleanse the sins of man. John the Baptist continued his ministry, preaching and baptizing on the Jordan for sometime, before being jailed, and eventually beheaded, after he publicly spoke out against Herod's choice to set his wife aside and keep his brother's wife as his mistress.

Typically, the feast proper of saint is celebrated on the day of their death. While we do also honor the death and martyrdom of John the Baptist in August, the feast of his birth has long held a place

of honor in both the Greek and Latin liturgies, as the Gospels relate the birth of John the Baptist to the birth of Our Lord. John, the precursor, was filled with the Holy Spirit, as the angel Gabriel dictated he would be, even from his mother's womb, and this is reason for triumph and for honor. John was the very one of which the prophet wrote "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." In his nativity and in his adult life, St. John prepares the way for the Lord.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 20-23, 2010: Metropolitan Province Clergy Retreat, Hershey, PA.

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

October 8 - 10, 2010: The 72nd Annual League of Ukrainian Catholics Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn, Suffern, NY.

October 10, 2010: Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine in Washington, DC will host the "Dumka" Chorus.

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 5-7, 2010: Liturgical Music Workshop with Professor Joseph Roll at Presentation of Our Lord Ukrainian Church, Lansdale, PA. For information contact Fr. Troyan at 215-627-0143.

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

November 21, 2010: Cathedral Christmas Bazaar (Franklin & Brown St, Philadelphia, PA)

March 26, 2011: Archeparchial Women's Day

Date Change: *Archieparchial Festival "Songs of the Soul" that was scheduled for November 7, 2010 will be rescheduled for Spring 2011.*

Upcoming Events at:

Holy Dormition Byzantine Franciscan Friary

Sybertsville, Pennsylvania

Bible Study Course: Prophets for our Time

Lives of Old Testament prophets, their enduring testimony, & why their works are still relevant today. Five classes for \$20: September 20 - October 25 (skip Oct 4), with two times offered: Monday 7pm or Tuesday 11am. Led by Fr Jerome, OFM. Registration: email holydormition@gmail.com; or call 570-788-1212 x402.

Celebrating the Life of St Francis of Assisi & God's Gift of Creation

Blessing of Animals - St Francis was known for his love of God's creatures. We will bless animals in the friary parking lot on Sunday October 3 at 3pm.

The Transitus, a prayer service to commemorate the life and death of St Francis, will be in the chapel at 5pm, Sunday October 3.

Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St Francis will be Monday October 4 at 7pm.

For more information about the Byzantine Franciscans or the programs held at our friary, please email holydormition@gmail.com or call Fr Jerome at 570-788-1212 x 402. <http://hdbfm.com>

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