

THE WAY ШЛЯХ

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ENGLISH VERSION

ARCHEPARCHY HONORS WEDDING JUBILARIANS



On October 17, 2010, the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, (Philadelphia, PA) honored Wedding Jubilarians of the Archeparchy.

The graced event began with an 11:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy, which was concelebrated by Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka (main celebrant and homilist), assisted by Msgr. Peter

Waslo (Chancellor of the Archeparchy), Reverend Ivan Demkiv (Cathedral rector), and Subdeacon Roman Oprysk. The responses to the Liturgy were led by Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan and Lisa Oprysk (cantor).

In his homily Archbishop Stefan expressed a heartfelt welcome to the Jubilarian Couples and thanked them for coming. He began his homily with

a reference to the movie "Fiddler on the Roof" where Tevye asks his wife the question "Do you love me?" Tevye wanted to hear his wife tell him that she loved him. Archbishop Stefan said Jesus Christ after His resurrection asks Simon Peter the same Biblical question, "Do you love me?" Jesus asks the question three times in succession. Jesus pressed Peter to express his feelings of love. Speaking to the

Jubilarians, Archbishop Stefan said, "God has been generous in His love for you throughout your married life together. God expressed His love for you in the Mystery of Matrimony as you professed your love and you lived your love for one another in His name."

Just before the Dismissal, the Jubilarians, standing in

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ARCHEPARCHY HONORS WEDDING JUBILARIANS

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front of the first pew, renewed their marriage commitment of sacramental love and faithfulness to each other. What a wonderful witness to their families and to the faith community!

Next, a group photo was taken. Then, each jubilarian couple came by turn under the flowery arch. Archbishop Stefan imparted his special blessing and prayed over each one.

After the Divine Liturgy, a reception was held at the Archbishop's Residence. Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan welcomed the Jubilarians. The toast for "Many Happy Years" (*"Mnohaya Leeta"*) upon each celebrating couple was given by Archbishop Stefan.

Towards the end of the meal the cake was ceremoniously cut by two couples who represented the Jubilarians, Nicholas and Olga Hiriak who were celebrating their 70th Anniversary and Taras and Christina Zvir who were celebrating their 7th Anniversary.

As the celebration approached its conclusion, opportunity was given for the couples to share memories from their married lives together.

We pray that the Lord, our God, may continue to bless and grant to all the Archieparchial Jubilarians peace, good health and happiness!

-Teresa Siwak



Jubilarians renewing marriage vows.



Archbishop Stefan blesses the couples.



Jubilarians cutting the cake.

Watch videos and see pictures from the Anniversary Celebration on our blog at

www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com

ARCHEPARCHY HONORS WEDDING JUBILARIANS



Nicholas & Olga Hiriak
70th



John & Anna Drozd
52nd



Emil & Susanne Bobyock
45th



Ewgen & Stephanie Brenycz
46th



Miroslaw & Lubomila Capar
35th



Stefan & Maria Czynianski
50th



Roman & Eleanor Fedorak
50th



Ronald & Rosemarie Kachinko
50th



Andrew & Bridget Kovach
57th



Nicholas & Karon Kotchison
10th



Frances & Mary Nugent
30th



Peter & Bernadette Nush
40th



Basil & Maria Panczak
46th



Ihor & Olympia Pasicznyk
47th



Edward & Mariyln Patch
36th



Michael & Cheryl Raleigh
22nd



Deacon Charles & Mary Schultz
43rd



Taras & Christina Zvir
7th

Jubilarians not pictured: Samuel & Julia Soroko 60th; Orest & Viktoriya Dyak 25th

Metropolitan Stefan's Homily Wedding Anniversary Celebration

+ C.I.X.!

Welcome, my brothers and sisters in Christ, to this special Divine Liturgy in which we celebrate the wedding anniversaries of twenty-one couples. We give thanksgiving to almighty God for the precious gift of two people being united as one body in Christ. We celebrate your love for God, your love for one another, and your love for your children and for your loved ones.

As I prepared my homily for today, I couldn't help but recall a scene from the popular musical "Fiddler on the Roof". In one very emotional scene, Tevye asks his wife of over 35 years, if she LOVES him. She berates him for asking such a question, citing all that she had done for him – giving birth to and raising their children, cooking and preparing all the meals, doing the laundry and cleaning, caring for him and the household, and so on. She argues that her selfless acts obviously should show her love for him. But Tevye presses her – "But, do you LOVE me?"

Tevye needed to hear her say that she loves him. He himself also needed to



express his feeling of love for her.

I also recall how Jesus Christ, after His resurrection, asks Peter the same pivotal question, "Simon, son of John, do you LOVE me?" (Jn 21: 15-17) Jesus Christ asks Peter THREE times! Peter gets annoyed with the question. He tells Jesus that he knows everything about him and that he ought to know that he loves Jesus. Jesus Christ gently directs Peter to feed and to tend the sheep. Jesus pressed Peter to express his feeling of love for the resurrected Lord Jesus. He wanted Peter to realize that that love has to be the core belief behind all that he does in Jesus' Name.

Today's Gospel of the parable of the sower

reminds the married couples celebrating their wedding anniversary that you began your married life in a special covenant of love bound by God Himself. God was generous in His outpouring of His blessings upon you just like the sower with the seeds. God generously scattered His love for you in many ways throughout your married life together, sometimes even unknown to you. YOU became the fertile soil which received and nurtured God's generous bestowal of grace upon you. God Himself expressed His love for you in the Mystery of Matrimony, as you professed your love for one another in His name.

Your generous response of wanting to be a part of this celebration today is an expression of your love

and thanksgiving to God Himself. Your participation in the Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving celebrates that love – gives expression to it. An anniversary is an excellent opportunity to express our love for God, for one another and for those who share in our journey of life. An anniversary celebrates your steadfast love for one another, just as God is steadfast in His love for you and for me. Your lifelong and steadfast love for one another gives testimony to a world which THIRSTS for inspirational examples of faithful love in holy matrimony.

It is important that we stretch ourselves in our expression of our love for God, for your spouse, for your children and for your

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Metropolitan Stefan's Homily

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loved ones. Say it! Express it! Jesus, I Love you! My dear wife or husband, I LOVE you! My children, I LOVE you! My precious friends, I LOVE you! We all feel it! Many of us have difficulty to say it, and to say it aloud and often!

My sisters and brothers in Christ, we need to express our feelings of love often. And we ought to freely do it in front of others over whom we exercise great example. I recall how when I prayed with a man in the last hours of life, and heard how he admired his sons. He spoke of them so beautifully. He died before the sons could arrive. I shared with the sons what their father had expressed. They broke down in tears. They expressed their regrets at not having been able to hear it said to them by their father, as opposed as hearing it through someone else. I suggested to them that they make sure that the same thing does not happen with their own children.

Express your love for Jesus Christ. Express your love for one another and with others, particularly your children. Share with them what is most important in your life. Say it. Express

it. You will give a powerful witness to your faith in God Himself. You will inspire others to follow your example. You will give great joy and inner peace and comfort to so many who are meaningful in your life.

Congratulations to our jubilarians, Nicholas & Olga Hiriak celebrating their 70th anniversary; Samuel & Julia Soroko celebrating their 60th anniversary; Andrew & Bridget Kovach celebrating their 57th anniversary; John & Anna Drozd celebrating their 52nd anniversary; Roman & Eleanor Fedorak celebrating their 50th anniversary; Stefan & Maria Czynianski celebrating their 50th anniversary; Ronald & Rosemarie Kachinko celebrating their 50th anniversary; Ihor & Olympia Pasicznyk celebrating their 47th anniversary; Basil & Maria Panczak celebrating their 46th anniversary; Ewgen & Stephanie Brenycz celebrating their 46th anniversary; Emil & Susanne Bobyock celebrating their 45th anniversary; Deacon Charles and Mary Schultz celebrating their 43rd anniversary; Peter & Bernadette Nush

celebrating their 40th anniversary; Edward & Marilyn Patch celebrating their 36th anniversary; Miroslaw & Lubomila Capar celebrating their 35th anniversary; Francis & Mary Nugent celebrating their 30th anniversary; Orest & Viktoriya Dyak celebrating their 25th anniversary; Michael & Cheryl Raleigh celebrating their 22nd anniversary; Brian & Rita Keeley celebrating their 20th anniversary; Nicholas & Karon Kotchision celebrating their 10th anniversary; and, Taras & Christina Zvir celebrating their 7th anniversary.

Today, you will shortly renew your solemn vows with one another. We pray that it will be for you yet another holy

opportunity for you to express your love for one another in the holy presence of God. We pray that you will allow yourself to express that love loudly and without hesitation with one another, and before others who are meaningful to you in your journey of life. Let us all resolve to always fully and joyously CELEBRATE our love for God, for one another and for those whom God gives us to share the journey of life with. Thank you my dear jubilarians for your lived-out example of God's love for His people.

God bless you richly in your continued years of married life together.



Pilgrimage at Fox Chase

Early in October, the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, Jesus, Lover of Humanity Province, hosted their 79th Annual Pilgrimage. As in previous years, the pilgrimage centered on a theme: “Let it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). On surface, the words of this theme are humbling and submissive. But as the events of the weekend unfolded, it was the meaning behind the words that became manifest to the more than 700 pilgrims attending—that humbling oneself before God invites God’s presence, God’s goodness, and God’s grace.



The Pilgrimage officially opened with a gathering of young adults in the Basilian Spirituality Center, an opportunity for getting reacquainted or making new friendships in a location and circumstances conducive to openness, friendliness, and kindness. The young people then joined the other pilgrims already waiting to partake in other traditional features of the pilgrimage—the Pilgrimage to the Mother of God at Fox Chase. Mystery of Reconciliation, followed by the Candlelight Procession to the Shrine of Our Lady of Pochaiv, and the bilingual Akathist to the Mother of God, celebrated by Archbishop

Stefan Soroka. The Very Rev. Robert Hitchens’ homily underscored the pilgrimage theme urging all to be open to God’s call. This was followed with the ceremony of blessing of water which underscored the serene beauty of a tradition rooted in centuries past, revived in spirit while reviving the spirit of modern-day pilgrims.



Rev. Paul Makar

Later in the evening, the young people again gathered at the Spirituality Center for a spirited and thoughtful Young Adult Dialogue on spiritual enrichment under the guidance of Rev. Paul Makar, Sister Ann Laszok, OSBM; and Sister Dia Zahurska, OSBM.

The pilgrimage continued on Sunday, October 3, with the faithful again partaking in the Mystery of Reconciliation and gathering on the grounds of the monastery for the procession to the Basilian Spirituality Center where a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Archbishop Stefan Soroka. Concelebrating was Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM who stressed the theme of God’s call in the world today. Enhancing the liturgical solemnities were the beautiful voices of the Annunciation BVM Choir and Immaculate Conception Choir.



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Pilgrimage at Fox Chase

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Rev. Troyan

That afternoon, pilgrims gathered at the Holy Trinity Chapel where the Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan and the Very Rev. Ivan Demkiv gave a presentation on the Shroud of Turin. Gracing the Chapel was one of nine replicas of the actual Shroud of Turin, a replica blessed by the Holy Father and given to the Sisters by the Immaculate Conception Cathedral for veneration during the pilgrimage.



Shroud of Turin Replica was on display.

Another wonderful and awe-inspiring feature of this year's pilgrimage was a "Prayer Candle," which burned brightly in the Holy Trinity Chapel, drawing solemn and respectful crowds throughout the weekend. The candle, sent to the Sisters of St. Basil by the Ukrainian World Congress in cooperation with the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance is being sent to 32 countries where it will burn in memory of the victims of Ukraine's Great Famine—the Holodomor of 1932–1933.

As the weekend drew to a close, solemnities continued with a procession from the Basilian Spirituality Center to the Shrine of Our Lady of Pochaiv for a bilingual moleben celebrated by Archbishop Stefan Soroka, with responses sung by the choir of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church of Elizabeth, New Jersey. In his homily Archbishop Soroka spoke of the mystical change that occurs as one turns his/her life over to God. Following the Moleben, pilgrims partook in the traditional Mystery of Holy Anointing and Healing, with a bilingual service concelebrated by attending priests and bishops.

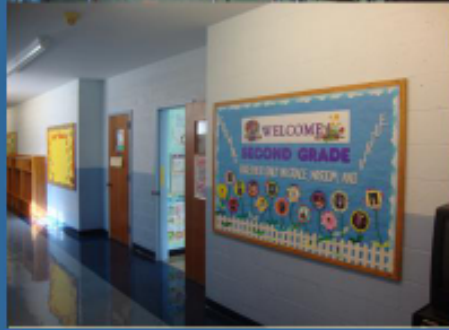


Pilgrims were invited to bring their religious articles for blessing by Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan at the side lawn of the Basilian Spirituality, a peaceful site surrounded by God's wondrous natural beauty. As in past years, pilgrims ventured homeward in cars and buses blessed by attending clergy.



It is hoped that all of those attending this year's pilgrimage will return in October of 2011 and that many other faithful join the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great for a special pilgrimage that celebrates the 80th anniversary of the pilgrimage and the 100th year of the arrival of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great to the United States of America.

Celebrating 100 Years in America as a praying, healing, life-giving presence. www.stbasils.com



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If you would like to receive more information about our school, you may call our office at 732- 826- 8721



English Classes Begin in Perth Amboy Parish

English classes for those who wish to improve their English language started on Sunday, October 3, 2010. The classes with Anna Lawrence will begin at 1:00 PM every Sunday in the church hall. You are always welcome. English classes are offered for new immigrants and for all who are interested in learning the language. And "Sunday Coffee Hour" provides an after-church forum where parishioners may openly discuss social and church issues and have the opportunity to get together.



**Sts Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church
Corner of Fairview & St. Mary's Street-
Phoenixville**

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



NOVEMBER 13TH

9AM – 3PM

**Ethnic Food, Baked Goods,
Nut Rolls, Gift Raffles**

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH, PASSAIC, NJ CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION UKRAINIAN HERITAGE TOUR

Article submitted by: Marion C. Hrubec

After many months of planning, a group of parishioners from St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic, NJ embarked on a Ukrainian Heritage Tour as part of their Centennial Jubilee celebrations. This tour was intended to enlighten its members about the origins of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America.

Thursday morning, July 22, found a group of twenty-nine parishioners standing curbside awaiting the arrival of the tour bus for their trip to the South Anthracite Coal region of Pennsylvania, to see first hand where Ukrainian immigrants settled and established the first Ukrainian Catholic parish in America.

Many of the parishioners of St. Nicholas are from Lemkivchyna as were the early Ukrainian settlers of Pennsylvania. The ties to their villages were spoken about as they traveled to Frackville, the first stop on their tour. Mrs. Helena Chalupa was interested in seeing if she could find the burial site of her uncle, Mykola Ulczak. Mr. Peter Rusynko wanted to go to Shenandoah, the town where the first Ukrainian Church was built in 1884, and where his father had lived and worked. Others knew of family members that had come to work in the coal mines of Pennsylvania but were not certain in which town they settled. Each of the parishioners had a reason and a curiosity to learn more about these Ukrainians across the Delaware River.

The group arrived in Frackville early enough to check into the hotel and rest. Early that evening, they departed for St. Michael Church where they were joined by Rev. John Fields, the South Anthracite Protopresbyter (Dean). Their first stop was at the parish cemetery where Rev. Fields led the group in a Panachyda service for the early pioneer Ukrainian settlers who had lived, worked, and established their churches in the area. Following the service, the group walked the cemetery grounds, searching the tombstones from the early years; some for relatives, others just curious to see and learn about the generations that passed. Afterwards, the group returned to St. Michaels for dinner, and to hear Rev. Fields and Rev. Deacon Paul Spotts give an overview of the history of the Ukrainian settlements in the region.



Early the next morning, after a hearty breakfast, the group was up and anxious to begin their tour, one that would give them an insight into the Ukrainian history, the work and the faith of those immigrants, through the beauty of their churches. First stop on the tour was St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Shenandoah, the oldest Ukrainian parish of our Eastern Rite in America. This parish was established 125 years ago and still maintains the traditions of its founding fathers. The current structure is the third edifice for that parish. The

second had been destroyed by a fire on Easter Monday in 1984. Rev. Fields invited the group into the sanctuary where he explained in detail those essential items for the celebration of Divine Liturgy found on the Holy Altar, not usually seen by the congregants from their pews. Rev. Fields gave a history of the parish. "When the Ukrainian immigrants came, they didn't have their own church, first of all, they weren't accepted by the Latin Rite Catholics. Second, they had their own ideas and their own way of worship, their own customs, and their own liturgical calendar." The original church edifice is still standing a few blocks away; no longer used for prayer; it has been relegated to secular use.



The tour continued down the road to St. John the Baptist Church, Maizeville, established in 1908. Rev. Fields is pastor of this church in addition to St. Michael's.

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UKRAINIAN HERITAGE TOUR

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Rev. Fields described the interior of this edifice as parishioners gazed around its interior, pointing out the differences in the Iconostas and the existence of a 'baldachino' or canopy over the altar.



Next stop on the tour was the Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine and Steam Train. The early immigrants were known to have worked very hard in the coal mines. Rev. Fields noted that "at the turn of the century, our immigrants did not have an easy life when they came here. According to history, three miners were killed every two days on average in the mines. Most had injuries, whether it be lost fingers or a foot, breathing problems, scars.



They died young." The group experienced riding in a real coal car deep into this mine, which took them 400 feet below ground. Miners labored long hours in the dim light using simple hand tools. Coal cars loaded with chunks were drawn out of the tunnels with mules housed in stables in those very same mine tunnels. After disembarking from the coal car, the visitors experienced the dark, cold and wet interior of the mine tunnels as a guide led them by bottomless mine shafts and creaky timber supports. Many a miner, mule, and canary succumbed to toxic fumes and "the black lung" disease. Surfacing back into daylight, the visitors heaved a collective sigh of relief, humbled by the experience as first-hand witnesses to the hazards encountered by these immigrant laborers.

They then boarded an old fashioned narrow gauge steam train, the Henry Clay, and rode out to a scenic area to view strip mining operations.



Having experienced the coal miner's life, the group traveled next to Centralia, and the location of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish, founded in 1911. Rev. Stefan Bilyk, pastor at BVM, greeted them and explained a bit of the history of this church and the town itself. At one time, Centralia had a population of over 2,000, with seven churches, five hotels, twenty seven saloons, a bank, a post office and fourteen general and grocery stores. In 1962, a fire broke out in one of the coal veins running beneath the town and the fires still burn today. In 1984 the US Congress allocated over \$42 million for the relocation of the residents of Centralia. Today all that remains of the town are the footprints of houses with paved streets running through. Very few families reside there. However, the Ukrainian parish remains active as it sits atop a hill, unaffected by the fire, overlooking the abandoned town. The eventful day ended with dinner at St. Michael's parish hall and a stop at the home of Paul and Marie Hancher, parishioners of St. Michael's where the visitors enjoyed singing Ukrainian folk songs with their hosts.



Saturday found the group heading to Pottsville, to visit the Yuengling Brewery, America's oldest operating family-owned brewery, established in 1829. All twenty-nine hearty souls ventured down into the cooling caves, up to the brewing vats, past the packaging/bottling lines, and finally ending at the house bar for a sampling of the fine beers. After a stop in the gift shop, it was off to lunch at a local sports bar and grill.

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UKRAINIAN HERITAGE TOUR

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Having consumed a delicious lunch, it was time to board the bus for a short ride to St. Nicholas in St. Clair. The town of St. Clair with a population of about 4,000 people is home to five Eastern Rite churches, each one established from the original church, St. Nicholas, which was founded in 1906. The tour then continued on to St. Nicholas, Minersville, founded 1896, Ss. Peter and Paul, Mt. Carmel, founded 1891, and lastly, Transfiguration of Our Lord Church, Shamokin, founded 1886. Each church has its own unique history, architecture and iconography. Each church in its history experienced hardship - a fire that destroyed the original structure, hard times, or division in the community over various issues that brought about the establishment of other parishes, Catholic or Orthodox.

However, the parishioners of the Anthracite Coal region remain faithful to their Eastern Church traditions. More than four generations removed from their original settlers, no longer fluent in the language of their fatherland, and yet continuing to sing and pray in one voice to our Lord.

Although there are twelve parishes in the South Anthracite Protopresbytery, the visitors were only able to visit eight on their brief journey before it was time to head for home. Sunday, they arrived at St. Nicholas picnic grove, Primrose, to attend the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated by Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka and the clergy of the Protopresbytery assisted by Rev. Deacons Paul Spotts and Theodore Spotts.

Following the Liturgy, the group sampled the scrumptious food prepared for the 76th Annual Ukrainian Seminary Day picnic and socialized with the local parishioners. Seminary Day is an annual event intended to raise money for St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington, D.C.



Even rain showers could not dampen the enthusiasm of the picnickers. After enjoying the performance of the Kazka dancers and singers, and a final trip to the food booths, the visitors boarded the bus for home. Rev. John Fields and Archbishop Stefan Soroka boarded the bus to bless and thank the parishioners from St. Nicholas, Passaic, for choosing to visit the parishes of the area, to witness how our Ukrainian Catholic Rite still flourishes, and to see where our forefathers settled. Archbishop Stefan also remarked that "this visit was very good for the parishioners here to know that you are interested in them and share with them the same love of your Ukrainian Catholic Church".

The group responded with a heartfelt rendition of "Mnohaya Lita" and many thanks to both Rev. Fields and His Excellency.

Alas, the tour had come to an end. Even heavy Pocono traffic couldn't ruin the traveler's mood. Reflecting on their journey on the ride back home, some had discovered long lost family, and others had made new friends. All had learned of the hardships our ancestors had endured in their efforts to make a new life in America, where they worked, how they lived, where they worshipped; their sorrows and their joys. They ate, they prayed, they cried, they laughed and they sang and sang and sang.... God bless their souls!

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC), the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. This article is one of a series highlighting PCC's interesting history of Catholic advocacy in Harrisburg. 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.

50 years of marriage advocacy

By A. B. Hill

Same sex marriage dominates the headlines these days. A judge in Massachusetts declared the federal Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional. The federal DOMA defines marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman for purposes of all federal laws, and says that states do not need to recognize a marriage from another state if it is between persons of the same sex.

In California, a federal judge struck down Proposition 8, the referendum passed by the citizens that amended that state's constitution to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Gay marriage is at the center of this debate; but what is really at stake is the authority of the government to set policy concerning marriage.

For centuries, governments have set policies regarding marriage. These policies have been tested and debated many times, especially in recent history.

In its 50 years, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference has often participated in marriage

policy debate. For the past three legislative sessions, the PCC has been part of the Pennsylvania For Marriage coalition's attempt to adopt a state constitutional amendment to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Thirty-one states have already amended their constitutions this way. In other states where marriage is not constitutionally protected, the fundamental understanding of marriage has been forcibly redefined by the courts or by action in the legislature. The PCC believes a marriage protection amendment is the way to safeguard this essential relationship.

More than a decade earlier, the PCC was instrumental in passing Pennsylvania's Defense of Marriage Act. Pennsylvania's DOMA defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman and does not recognize any marriage between same-sex partners entered into in another state or foreign jurisdiction. The PCC took the position that, "Government has a responsibility to promote marriage between a man and a woman because of its inherent benefits to society."

But same-sex marriage has not been the only concern. In the 1970s, divorce

reform was the subject of fierce debate. The PCC testified on the issue on several occasions. Interestingly, the Church was not unilaterally opposed to divorce reform. The PCC took a neutral position, because of the mandated reconciliation procedure proposed in the bill. In December 1973, the PCC explained to the Senate Judiciary Committee that, "Our neutrality regarding (proposed divorce reform) in no way indicates an official change in the teaching of the Catholic Church regarding marriage...The state's first objective in any divorce legislation should be to save the marriage and grant only those divorces which are demonstrably unavoidable. There is no way the state can achieve this objective without some reconciliation procedure built into the law."

The debate lasted for many years. The PCC steadfastly asserted that in any divorce reform, the state must help to preserve and stabilize family life and protect those who would suffer most - dependent spouses and children.

The Conference did not oppose adding a no-fault ground for divorce that required the mutual consent of both spouses, but did not endorse that approach either. The PCC

strongly opposed a unilateral no-fault ground where one spouse could obtain a divorce without the consent of the other.

Unfortunately, divorce "reform" was enacted in the late 1970s that includes a unilateral no-fault ground. It is not hard to draw the conclusion that this part of the law has imposed a terrible emotional and economic toll on many families. The rate of divorce has dramatically increased in those 30 years. But, the reconciliation procedure which PCC endorsed is part of the law and can account for some saved marriages.

Marriage between one man and one woman remains the best foundation for a healthy society. As our nation struggles with the latest discussion about the nature of marriage, PCC will continue to advocate for policies that safeguard, uphold and strengthen this time-honored institution.

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.

BLESSED BISHOP-MARTYR THEODORE ROMZHA (November 1)

As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation. The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here. No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light" (Lk. 11, 29-33).

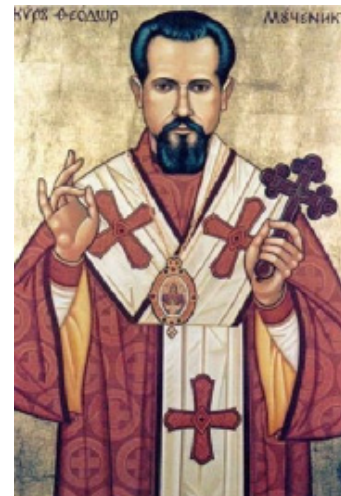
I love you, O Lord, my strength; You are my stronghold and my refuge! (Psalm 18:2-3)

These were the words which Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, the Apostolic Administrator of the Mukachevo Eparchy (1944-1947), chose as the motto for his episcopal ministry. At the age of 33, he faced the one of the most brutal and bloody persecutions of a Christian community in modern times, ultimately making the ultimate sacrifice for his flock and his faith. Bishop Theodore G. Romzha was born of humble parentage on April 14, 1911 in Velikij Bychkiv, in the heart of the colorful district of Maramorosh, Subcarpathian Ruthenia. He was a pious and gifted young boy, and his only ambition was to become a priest. He received his secondary education at the gymnasium (high school) in Chust. Due to his friendly disposition and scholastic achievements he became one of the most popular

students. His popularity increased even more when he proved himself as an all-around athlete, excelling in soccer. At his graduation, he took everybody by surprise when he announced his intention of becoming a priest; and was sent to Rome for his priestly formation. He lived at the German-Hungarian College in Rome for the first two years of his studies; then, in 1932, he moved to the Russian Pontifical Seminary, known as the "Russicum," in order to prepare himself for missionary work in Soviet Russia. It was indeed a providential step, since at the "Russicum" he was expected to study communist atheism and its ideology; unwittingly preparing himself for the Soviet occupation of his native land. He was ordained to the priesthood in Rome on Christmas Day, December 25, 1936. In the summer of the following year he came home to celebrate his first Divine Liturgy in his own

country with the intention of returning to finish his doctoral dissertation. But instead of returning to Rome, he was drafted into military service and sent to protect his country against the German invasion. To his friend in Rome he confided: "I am going to the front with a deep conviction of doing the will of God. Therefore, I do not fear what will happen to me."

After Father Romzha's discharge from the army in August, 1938, the danger of another approaching war remained. For this reason Bishop Alexander Stojka (1932-1943) did not permit him to leave the country, but appointed him to a forgotten parish in Berezovo, Maramorosh District, where the young Father Romzha became a poor pastor among poor people. There were times when he could afford only one meal a day while donating from his own purse to help his needy parishioners. To a curious friend in Rome he wrote: "I live here as a pauper



and yet I feel happy and satisfied." Father Romzha was a good and dedicated priest, teaching his parishioners to know and live their Faith by his own example.

In March, 1939, the Hungarians occupied Subcarpathian Ruthenia by force, precipitating both political and ecclesiastical changes. Bishop Stojka was forced by the Hungarian government to reorganize the seminary; and in the fall of 1939, Father Romzha was appointed Spiritual Director and Professor of

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BLESSED BISHOP-MARTYR THEODORE ROMZHA

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Philosophy at the Eparchial Seminary in Uzhorod. One of his students later recalled: "He was strict and demanding as a Professor, but as a Spiritual Director he was fatherly and kind. He knew how to inspire us and to bring out the best in us. Staying in close contact with us, his students, he was able to transplant into our hearts the main features of his strong priestly character: his dedication, genuine piety and generosity of heart." Even at the seminary, Father Romzha found time for pastoral work by assisting in neighboring parishes, and conducting missions and retreats for young students. Every penny he earned he generously distributed to the poor. To the mentioned friend in Rome he wrote: "I am living very unpretentiously, and yet my pockets are always empty. But I am not discouraged, since I am working not for the money but to please God." Bishop Stojka greatly appreciated the dedicated work of Father Romzha, and in 1942 obtained for him Papal honors. Even so, he remained a humble and dedicated priest, inspiring and winning the admiration and respect of all those who met him. On May 31, 1943, during

a critical time during the war, Bishop Alexander Stojka suddenly died. In view of the uncertainties of the time, the Holy See appointed Bishop Nicholas Dudash, OSBM, of Hajdudorog, as the temporary administrator of the Mukachevo Eparchy. While the Soviet army was rapidly approaching the Carpathian Mountains, the Holy See promptly appointed Archpriest Theodore G. Romzha to succeed Bishop Dudash as the Apostolic Administrator of Mukachevo; and his episcopal consecration took place in Uzhorod, September 24, 1944. A month later, the entire territory of the Mukachevo Eparchy was occupied by the Red Army. Bishop Romzha was informed that Subcarpathian Ruthenia would be incorporated into postwar Czechoslovakia as an autonomous province; however, it soon became evident that the Soviets would not relinquish this politically strategic region. Consequently, on June 29, 1945, Subcarpathian Ruthenia was officially incorporated into Soviet Ukraine; and the young and inexperienced Bishop Romzha found himself and his flock under Soviet rule. At first, Bishop Romzha tried not to antagonize the

Soviet authorities, in spite of abusive and violent actions committed by the Soviet soldiers against the clergy; but when the Soviet authorities started to expel priests from their parishes at random and confiscate church property, he was forced to protest. The Soviets had a ready answer: to ensure the continuance of his ministry and the safety of his clergy, Bishop Romzha must renounce all allegiance to the Holy See, place himself under the jurisdiction of the Patriarch of Moscow and encourage his flock to do the same. Bishop Romzha immediately replied: "I would rather die than betray my Church!" Thus began the open persecution of the Byzantine Catholic Church in Subcarpathia. In the fall of 1945, Patriarch Alexis of Moscow appointed Bishop Nestor Sydoruk of Umany to head the Orthodox Eparchy of Mukachevo. Nestor was announced by the Soviet press to be the only legally appointed bishop, and received full support from the Soviet authorities. Intimidation and imprisonment of Byzantine Catholic priests followed; and the official liquidation of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo was underway.

Rather than flee, Bishop Romzha decided to fight. Although the Soviet authorities confiscated his car, he traveled long distances by horse and buggy, just to reassure his faithful and to encourage them to persevere until death, saying, "They are taking from us our own priests and churches, but they will never be able to take away our faith from us." During these extensive and dangerous visitations, Bishop Romzha tried to sustain the faith of the weak, to reassure the wavering, and to plead with those intimidated: "Faith is our greatest treasure on this earth. To preserve our faith we must even be ready to lay down our life. If we must die, then let us die as true martyrs, defending our faith. One thing is sure: that we never will abandon our faith nor betray our Church." The faithful, supported by dedicated clergy, responded enthusiastically, and stood united behind their fearless shepherd. Even some Orthodox parishes, seeing the violence and injustice perpetrated by the Soviets, asked Bishop Romzha to accept them back into the Catholic fold. During these days of

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BLESSED BISHOP-MARTYR THEODORE ROMZHA

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violence and open persecution Bishop Romzha offered his prayers and sufferings for the perseverance of his clergy and the faithful he risked so much to serve. He was sustained by his unshakable confidence in God's Providence; and down deep in his courageous heart he vividly felt the protection of the Theotokos, the Mother of God. There was no power that could shake his loyalty to the Holy See; in his mind there was only

"one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church," established by our Lord on the rock of Peter and governed by His Vicar on the earth. For this truth Bishop Romzha was ready to sacrifice his own life. Unable to intimidate Bishop Romzha, the Soviets decided to liquidate him, and staged a highway accident. The horse drawn carriage in which the Bishop was returning home from the rededication of the parish church of Lavki, near

Mukachevo, was rammed by a military truck. Bishop Romzha was badly injured, but survived; and passersby took him to the hospital in Mukachevo where, after a few days, he began to regain his strength. Then suddenly, early on the morning of November 1, 1947, he was found dead. The night before Bishop Romzha's death, the director of the hospital and a strange nurse, who had disappeared the next day, were seen entering

the Bishop's room about midnight. The Soviet authorities announced that Bishop Romzha died from injuries suffered in his highway accident; but a later investigation showed that he had, in fact, been p o i s o n e d . Bishop Romzha was beatified by Pope John Paul II on June 27, 2001. His relics are enshrined in Holy Cross Cathedral in Uzhorod, Transcarpathia.

www.eparchyofpassaic.com

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 20, 2010

***To commemorate the
77th Anniversary of Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933***

The now annual national observance to commemorate Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933 will take place at St. Patrick's Cathedral (51 Street and 5th Avenue) in New York City on Saturday, November 20, 2010 at 2PM. This year marks the 77th anniversary of one of the worst cases of man's inhumanity towards man, and perhaps the most extreme example of the use of food as a weapon, and we urge the Ukrainian American community to attend the ecumenical service and honor the millions of innocent victims who perished as a result of the Soviet policy of forced collectivization.

For more information, please contact the UCCA National Office either by email at ucca@ucca.org or by phone at (212) 228-6840.

*The Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine
of the Holy Family
welcomes you to the
*Annual Christmas Bazaar**

November 20th and 21st 2010

10:00 am – 4:00 pm Saturday

10:00 am – 4:00 pm Sunday

Fabulous Ukrainian
and other
and pysanka kits!

Entertainment!
Fine Ukrainian
Collectable Books!



Traditional Ukrainian treats
food, crafts, gifts, sweets!

U.S. Park Police Horse!

Icons and Other
Religious Artifacts!

Enjoy a delicious Ukrainian lunch while you browse for books, music, specialty items, and more! We will be serving traditional borscht, varenyky, holubtsi, and kovbasa – all for a reasonable price – piroghy to take home!

4250 Harewood Road, NE
Washington, DC 20017
202-526-3737

Accessible from the Brookland-CUA Metro Stop
Half-Price Meals for Students Who Show a Valid ID
Wheelchair Accessible

Slava Isusu Khrystu!

Slava na Viky!

News/Events at Clifton Heights

Pierogie Sale at Ss. Peter & Paul

Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Clifton Heights proudly announces the opening of our Holiday Pierogie Sale. We are offering mouth-watering, flavorful, freshly-made potato-cheese pierogies for the unbelievably low price of only \$8.00 per dozen, 2 dozen for \$15.00! We use only fresh ingredients and all the work is performed by parish volunteers. Stock up now for Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Years or to satisfy those winter-time cravings. To place your orders, please call Kathy at (610) 328-4731. Orders are being taken now through Monday, November 15th and pickup will be at noon on Sunday, November 21st, at the church which is located at 100 South Penn Street in Clifton Heights, PA. Place your orders early since high demand and our desire to fully satisfy all orders may require us to limit quantities and stop taking orders before Monday, November 15th.

November 1st thru December 12th - "Holiday Food Collection for the Needy" at Ss. Peter & Paul Church

When you are hungry today, what will you do? Look in the fridge or pantry for something to eat? As you do that, remember somewhere in our neighborhood, there is someone who is also hungry and may not have any food in their fridge or pantry. Once again, we are called to help those in need who are hungry. The parish of Ss. Peter & Paul will hold its annual Holiday Food Collection for the hungry in the community from November 1st thru December 12th. Anyone wishing to donate any canned or boxed, non-perishable food items should bring them to the church on any Sunday before/or after the 11:00 am. English Divine Liturgy. Donations can also be dropped off at the rectory at any other time. The church and rectory are located at 100 South Penn Street in Clifton Heights. On Sunday, December 12th, we plan to provide a local community food bank the fruits of our collection. Given the harsh economic conditions currently being experienced, we appreciate anyone's help in this worthwhile effort.



Christmas/New Year's Holiday Kielbasa Sale at SS. Peter & Paul Church

Due to the huge popular demand, we're back with offering a traditional Holiday-time favorite food - Kielbasa. Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Clifton Heights, in conjunction with one of the area's well-known kielbasa makers, proudly announces the opening of the 2010 Christmas/New Year's Holiday Kielbasa Ring Sale. We are offering mouth-watering, high quality kielbasa for the unbelievably low price of only \$10.00 per ring! Stock up now for Christmas, New Years Day or for your freezer to satisfy those winter cravings. To go along with your kielbasa, we are also offering a loaf of home-made Artisan bread at \$4.00 per loaf. To place your orders, please call Kathy at (610) 328-4731 before Wednesday, December 1st. Orders are being taken now and pickup will be at noon on Sunday, December 5th, at the church which is located at 100 South Penn Street in Clifton Heights, PA.

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CATHOLIC BISHOPS
ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOSTOLIC LETTER (*MOTU PROPRIO*) OF
POPE JOHN PAUL II PROCLAIMING

**ST. THOMAS MORE AS THE PATRON OF STATESMEN,
POLITICIANS AND LAWYERS**

OCTOBER 31, 2010

Today we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Apostolic Letter (*Motu Proprio*) of Pope John Paul II proclaiming Saint Thomas More as the patron of statesmen, politicians and lawyers. Together with the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we call to mind the significance of this great saint of the 16th Century for us today.

St. Thomas More lived—and gave his life—for truth. He provides a powerful example that not only shows that objective truth exists, but that we have the God-given ability to discern it. He stands as an example showing all statesmen, politicians and lawyers—and indeed all of us—that we have an obligation to find and to serve the truth and to work to protect the lives and fundamental dignity of all human beings.

In 1929, the great Catholic writer, G.K. Chesterton, wrote that: “*Thomas More is more important at this moment than at any moment since his death, even perhaps the great moment of his dying. But*

he is not quite so important as he will be in about a hundred years’ time.”

Chesterton’s assertion of St. Thomas More’s importance to our times was soon vindicated. Six years later, in 1935 Pope Pius XI canonized More and proclaimed him to be the patron saint of lawyers. We celebrated the 75th anniversary of St. Thomas’ canonization on May 19th of this year. The canonization of St. Thomas More, of course, did not occur in a vacuum. The 1930’s were a decade in which totalitarianism was on the march with Nazis, Communists and Fascists all arguing that people owed their highest loyalty to the state and its beliefs. Pope Pius XI was an outspoken foe of totalitarian ideologies, which he recognized as being wholly incompatible with Gospel values.

In canonizing St. Thomas More and proclaiming him to be the patron saint of lawyers, Pope Pius XI rejected the totalitarian concept of society and emphasized the importance of law and lawyers in ensuring that

governments worked for people and did not seek to crush them. More had been executed because he had refused to place the demands of the state before the requirements of his conscience and had insisted that there were objective truths that governments could not legitimately seek to override. In the very dark decade of the 1930’s, St. Thomas More provided a powerful beacon of hope and inspiration. He was a light in the darkness precisely because he had devoted his life to, and sacrificed it for, Christ, the true light in the darkness.

In 1966, thirty-one years after St. Thomas More was canonized, the motion picture, *A Man for All Seasons*, which was based upon the play by Robert Bolt, won six academy awards, including best picture, thus placing St. Thomas More’s heroic virtue in the public consciousness and conscience. The movie focused upon the conflict between conscience and institutional loyalty and its resonance with the public showed how that conflict

was becoming a significant issue in our world. By his example, St. Thomas showed that even the most powerful and determined governments cannot eliminate the command of our consciences.

On October 31, 2000, Pope John Paul II issued an Apostolic Letter in which he proclaimed Saint Thomas More to be the patron of statesmen, politicians and lawyers. In that letter, the Pope proclaimed:

“The life and martyrdom of Saint Thomas More have been the source of a message which spans the centuries and which speaks to people everywhere of the inalienable dignity of the human conscience, which, as the Second Vatican Council reminds us, is ‘the most intimate centre and sanctuary of a person, in which he or she is alone with God, whose voice

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ST. THOMAS MORE

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echoes within them.' (Gaudium et Spes, 16).

Whenever men or women heed the call of truth, their conscience then guides their actions reliably towards good. *Precisely because of the witness which he bore, even at the price of his life, to the primacy of truth over power, Saint Thomas More is venerated as an imperishable example of moral integrity.*"

It is now 2010. We are now in the age of Chesterton's prophecy and there can be little question that Chesterton has been proven correct. As Pope John Paul II recognized, we live in an age in which our world needs examples of moral integrity, an age in which our consciences

should stand for objective truth and not bend and shift to fit the changing fashions of the day.

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has been thinking and writing on these issues for decades. Much of the profound moral discourse in his recent encyclical, *Charity in Truth*, finds expression in the life of St. Thomas More. Pope Benedict writes: "To defend the truth, to articulate it with humility and conviction, and to bear witness to it in life, are therefore exacting and indispensable forms of charity . . . Truth preserves and expresses charity's power to liberate in the ever-changing events of history."

St. Thomas More was an enormously successful lawyer, diplomat, statesman and writer on the European stage of the sixteenth century. But with

all his accomplishments and success in the world, he always realized the primacy of his vocation as a holy husband and a holy father – all the while, keeping his eyes on Heaven and Eternal Life.

In celebration of the recent 75th anniversary of St. Thomas More's canonization and the tenth anniversary of Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter, we the bishops of Pennsylvania propose St. Thomas More as a model for all citizens of the Commonwealth because of his outstanding virtues and his refusal to bend his conscience no matter what inducements were offered or threats were made. St. Thomas More's moral integrity truly made him a man for all seasons, and most especially for Americans in the 21st century.

To that end, we will support and encourage the

strengthening of St. Thomas More Societies in those dioceses in which they already operate and their creation in those in which they do not. These societies are organizations for judges and lawyers that support bringing the light of St. Thomas More to the profession of law. They have proven to be effective instruments for the ongoing spiritual, intellectual and legal formation of contemporary lawyers and judges, and they include not only Catholics but members of other faiths who share our admiration for St. Thomas More. To help them promote the common good in the name of their great patron, as bishops we will continue to work together to establish and expand communication and common efforts among the St. Thomas More Societies in Pennsylvania.

***For all news on the Synod of Bishops visit website
www.vatican.va***

The Bulletin of the Commission for information of the Special Assembly for the Middle East of the Synod of Bishops, entitled Synodus Episcoporum and published by the Holy See Press Office, is available online at the www.vatican.va website.

http://www.vatican.va/news_services/press/sinodo/documents/bollettino_24_speciale-medio-oriente-2010/bollettino_24_speciale-medio-oriente-2010_index_en.html

METROPOLITAN STEFAN'S NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

November

6 – 70th anniversary of celebration of Philadelphia Branch of Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

7 - Blessing of Church and Pontifical Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, Silver Spring, Maryland on occasion of 30th anniversary of parish

13 - Bishops' Workshop on Exorcism

14 - Board of Directors Meeting, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

15-18- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in Baltimore, MD

20 - 77th Anniversary National Commemoration of "Holodomor" at St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY

21 - Divine Liturgy celebrating beginning of 100th Anniversary of Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great in the USA

29 - Departure for Vision Planning Committee meetings of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, London, UK

**Українська Католицька Церква
Святого Архистратига Михаїла**

1950



2010



**St. Michael the Archangel
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Hillsborough, NJ**

*St. Michael the Archangel
Ukrainian Catholic Parish
and*

*Reverend Roman Pitula
cordially invite you
to celebrate the*

***Sixtieth Anniversary of
St. Michael the Archangel
Ukrainian Catholic Parish***

*on Sunday
December 5th, 2010*

***A Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
of Thanksgiving
will be celebrated by***

***His Grace the Most Rev. Stefan Soroka
at 12:00 PM***

***at St. Michael the Archangel
Ukrainian Catholic Church
1700 Brooks Boulevard, Hillsborough, NJ***

***The Jubilee Banquet and Program
will follow at 2:00 P.M. in the Church Hall.***

*For more information please contact:
Mrs. Anna Wasiko at 908-359-0971 or
Fr. Roman Pitula at 908-725-5089*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 5, 2010: Texas Hold'em Tournament - Annunciation of the BVM, 1206 Valley Rd, Elkins Park, PA. If you like to play poker, enjoy having a good time, and would like a chance to be a winner, please join us at the next Texas Hold'em Tournament at our church hall on Friday, November 5th at 7:30 p.m. The buy-in is \$50.00. Advanced registration is recommended, but walk-in participants will be welcomed. For further information or to pre-register, please call Tony Desderio at 215-233-0894.

November 14, 2010: Holiday Bazaar and Gift Auction, Assumption Catholic School Auditorium, Meredith & Jacques Streets, Perth Amboy, New Jersey. 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., assumptioncatholicsschool.net

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)

December 4, 2010: Christmas Bazaar at the Nativity of BVM Church (630 Laurel Street, Reading PA) from 12 to 4PM. Baked bread, rolls, pyrohy, holubtsi, halushki, soups, cakes & pastry, art & crafts, raffle and more. For more info, please call 610.376.0586 or e-mail nativitybvmucc@catholic.org.

January 14, 2011: Malanka (Dance), St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 N. Seventh Ave, Scranton, PA. For information call Paul at 570-563-2275

March 26, 2011: Archeparchial Women's Day



St. Josaphat Ukrainian
Catholic Church
4521 Longshore Ave.,
Philadelphia, PA 19135

Come and join us for

the Generations of Faith sessions on:
*Sundays, October 10, November 28, and
December 19*

following the 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy.

Generations of Faith (GOF) is:

- **Bringing** together all generations in lifelong learning
- **Experiencing** the joy of the liturgical year
- **Understanding** the Byzantine Tradition
- **Learning** the true meanings of the Church feasts through each month and season
- **Viewing** icons through a wondrous new prism

For more information please contact:

Rev. Ihor Bloschynskyy, Parish Administrator

at: 215-332-8488 or

Mrs. Lola Dubenko, GOF Coordinator

at: 215-673-0624

We kindly ask you to enroll for each session

at least TWO WEEKS in advance.

*October is
Respect Life Month*



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