

THE WAY ШЛЯХ

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ENGLISH VERSION

Vibrant Parishes Places of Encounter with the Living Christ

Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia Clergy Conference
on March 6, 2012 at the Cathedral Hall in Philadelphia, PA



Rev. Stepan Bilyk spoke about the expectations and goals for the *Vision 2020* and presented the workshop.



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka began the Clergy Conference with a welcome and introduction about *Vision 2020* "Vibrant Parishes Places of Encounter with Living Christ."



Rev. Robert Hitchens (seated) and Rev. Stepan Bilyk (standing) led the *Instrumentum Laboris* - Group Presentation discussion.

Vibrant Parishes Places of Encounter with the Living Christ

On March 6, 2012 a Clergy Conference was held for the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. The main topic of the meeting focused on the theme *Vision 2020*. Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka began the meeting with the opening prayer, Царю небесний (O heavenly King), and spoke about *Vision 2020, Vibrant Parishes Places of Encounter with the Living Christ*.

Metropolitan Stefan explained the history of *Vision 2020* and how it started under the direction of Patriarch Emeritus Lubomyr Cardinal Husar a few years ago. *Vision 2020* is a process of looking at our church today and identifying who we are; and determining where do we see ourselves in 5 years, 10 years, 20 years from now.

Rev. Stepan Bilyk was the main speaker at the Clergy Conference. He spoke about the expectations and goals for *Vision 2020* and presented the workshop. Rev. Bilyk explained how the main point of their project was to revitalize our parish.

Also during the Conference, Rev. Stepan Bilyk and Rev. Robert Hitchens led the *Instrumentum Laboris* – Group Presentation discussion.

The Clergy Conference was successful in introducing *Vision 2020* to our Archeparchy of Philadelphia. The various segments in *Vision 2020* will also be focused on at the next Clergy meeting in Hershey, PA.



Rev. Stepan Bilyk

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



Pictures from the Clergy Conference on March 6, 2012 in Philadelphia, PA.





PENNSYLVANIA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

223 North Street • Box 2835 • Harrisburg, PA 17105 • (717)238-9613 • FAX 238-1473

March 7, 2012

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The assault by the federal government on constitutionally guaranteed religious liberty continues. Our concern and alarm flows from a mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) which punishes the Church for its firmly held beliefs and consistent teaching. This mandate – published in the federal register without change, despite claims of “accommodations” – would force Catholic employers to pay for abortion-causing drugs, sterilization and contraception.

Some falsely suggest that the HHS mandate is about contraception. This is primarily about religious liberty and our First Amendment rights to the free exercise of our religion. Make no mistake about it – this government mandate is a step which will inevitably lead to other mandates that continue to strike at the heart of our Faith and the constitutional liberties we have been guaranteed. The mandate cannot stand – it must not stand!

This same mandate also, alarmingly, purports to tell churches what type of activities the government thinks are religious. Catholic schools, hospitals, nursing homes and Catholic charities do not qualify for a religious exemption. Why? Because they serve non-Catholics. Under the government’s view, Jesus and his disciples would have been deemed not religious enough. We have entered dangerous territory – the government is defining religion and limiting its practice. This is an unprecedented and gross infringement on our religious freedom. We did not pick this fight, but neither will we run from it.

Religious liberty does not belong to the Democrats or Republicans, it belongs to all Americans. Long before these mandates were issued, the bishops in the United States worked for health care reform and universal coverage that respects all human life from conception to natural death and includes language to protect religious conscience and practice of all citizens. Our fervent entreaties were answered with promises that we had nothing to fear. We cannot now sit idly by and let this happen. We cannot, as a Church, be silent because some have sought to politicize our plight. Please visit www.pacatholic.org to send a message to your legislators in support of conscience rights. Our voices and yours must be heard. The mandate must be rescinded. Our freedom and liberty must be preserved. And in this effort, we must remain steadfast.

Throughout history, Catholics in times of need have turned to God through prayer and fasting, as these practices allow us to grow closer to the Lord, inspire us to do His will and invoke His protection in answer to our prayers. During the Fridays of Lent, the faithful are obliged to abstain from eating meat. As Eastern Rite Catholics, on Monday, the First Day of Lent, and Good Friday, we are also asked to fast from meat, eggs and dairy products to aid our spiritual life. Recognizing the efficacy of prayer and fasting as well as the challenges we face in overcoming the recent attack on our religious freedom, we, the Bishops of Pennsylvania, request that all Catholics dedicate the regular Lenten Friday practice of prayer and abstinence as well as the additional practice of fasting on **Friday, March 30**, to the preservation of religious liberty. On that day, offer your sacrifice for the cause of religious

The Public Affairs Agency of the Catholic Dioceses of Pennsylvania Since 1960
www.pacatholic.org

(continued on next page)

HHS Mandate

(continued from previous page)

liberty, that the Church may be granted the basic right to practice what she preaches, and for our political leaders, that their eyes may be opened to the rights of all Americans, including those of faith. We will join with the over 3 million Catholics in Pennsylvania to mark this day of prayer, fasting and abstinence for religious liberty.

As we continue on our Lenten journey, we know the Lord walks with us during times of trial and concern. Let us do all that we are able – prayer, fasting, abstinence and the exercise of faithful citizenship – to uphold the freedoms of Christ’s Church and to grow closer to Him.

In Christ,

+ *Charles J. Chaput, of. cap.*

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia
Metropolitan of Philadelphia

+ *John O. Barres*

The Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Allentown

+ *Mark L. Bartchak*

The Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown

+ *Donald W. Trautman*

The Most Reverend Donald W. Trautman
Bishop of Erie

+ *Lawrence E. Brandt*

The Most Reverend Lawrence E. Brandt
Bishop of Greensburg

+ *Joseph P. McFadden*

The Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden
Bishop of Harrisburg

+ *David A. Zubik*

The Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

+ *Joseph C. Bambera*

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera
Bishop of Scranton

+ *Stefan Soroka*

The Most Reverend Stefan Soroka
Metropolitan Archbishop for
Ukrainians in the USA

+ *Very Rev. Eugene P. Yackanich*

The Very Reverend Eugene P. Yackanich
Administrator of the Byzantine
Catholic Archdiocese of Pittsburgh

5 new Altar Boys (3 are triplet brothers) for SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA

SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA has inducted 5 Altar Boys into the "Society of Altar Boys of St. Cyril's". Senior Altar Boy is Joseph Garafalo, Left to right: Joseph Skirpan, Brian Radle, Samuel Sczesniak, Jordan Radle, and Thomas Radle. Pastor: Father Nestor Iwasiw. They will be attending the Liturgy on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. They will be serving Good Friday Services and Procession on April 6th and attending the Blessing of the Easter Baskets on Holy Saturday, April 7th, 2012. Submitted by: Lauren Telep



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St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church
Shenandoah, PA

Denying One's Self

Our Lord Jesus Christ famously said that in order to follow Him, we must deny our very selves and take up our cross and follow Him (Mark 8:34). When it comes to our basic Christian calling in life, we must always follow Christ in everything that we do. This means putting aside our own vain desires and wants and doing the right thing in following Christ's commandments and the teachings of the Holy Church.

To deny one's self means not to ignore ourselves and see ourselves as worthless and insignificant. True, compared to God's majesty, we are but specks of dust, no matter how poor or how powerful and rich we are. But God's Grace can fill us and lift us up to the highest heights, so long as we place God first in our lives with a good dose of humility and temperance.

Monastics (and clergy too) strive for perfection in their lives by radically denying one's self through their ascetic practices and living out the virtues of obedience, chastity and poverty. However, all Christians can benefit from practicing the virtues of obedience, chastity, and poverty too. By eschewing luxury and not living ostentatiously, by not giving in to sexual licentiousness and other passions (i.e., gluttony, anger, etc.), and by submitting with humble obedience to superiors and the teachings of the Church, the everyday Catholic Christian can successfully deny his own self and carry his own daily cross with faith, fervor, and love. When a Catholic Christian does this, he or she essentially opens his or her heart to God's graces and allows God to lead them through life's highs and lows. To deny one's self is not to reject the world but rather to acknowledge God as King, Creator, and Father who lovingly guides us in all things.

Rev. Paul J. Makar

*Perhaps you feel that God may be calling
you to service in His Church?*

If you would like to discuss God's call to a
vocation in your life, do not hesitate to contact:

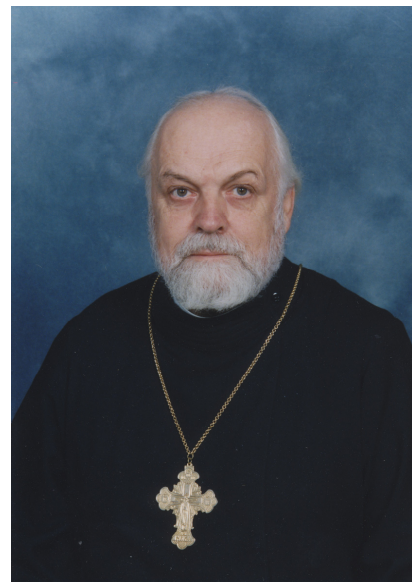
Rev. Paul J. Makar
Director of Vocations
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
827 North Franklin Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123-2097

Phone: 1-215-627-0143
Fax: 1-215-627-0377

E-mail: ukrvocations@catholic.org



*Come and Get to Know Your Clergy And
Religious Men and Women!*



Very Rev. Archpriest David Clooney

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church,
Northampton, PA

Sister Cecelia Sworin, SSMI - "Called by Name"

Well, what is the context of my early life? I am the first born of four children. I grew-up in the richness of "breathing with both lungs of the Church" as Blessed Pope John Paul II would encourage. My father was of the Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Church and my mother was of the Roman Catholic Church.

I attended public school, which at that time included: public prayer; Scripture reading; faith sharing and family/teacher-supported character development, along with the usual school academics and activities. It was a typical 1950's-1960's ethnic-based hardworking "coal cracker's" milieu.

Growing-up, I camped with my family, played volley ball, swam and became qualified to be a life-guard - was a Brownie and a Girl Scout, a member of the Future Nurses of America, - a Marian Sodalist, volunteer kindergarten catechist, church choir member, and volunteer hospital candy-striper. My teen-age jobs

were as a baby-sitter, a bus girl at a country club, and a waitress in a pizza parlor.

My parents were open-minded and supportive as I considered various vocations and careers. But I frequently kept feeling Jesus tugging at my heart to become a Sister - even during dates.

During my senior high school years I came to know the Sisters Servants through a welcoming (but not pressuring) good-natured correspondence that answered my many, many questions.

After the struggle of much soul searching and encouragement of my parents to "make-up my mind" about how I want to live my life, I was ready to enter the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate by the time I graduated from high school.

I entered the SSMI's first all-American novitiate in 1966 at the Villa of Divine Providence Nursing Home in Lansdale, PA. My 40-some years as a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate have been filled with the richness of life's joys and challenges. "For Whom and through Whom I am and do" is far more important, than where I am on the

hierarchy of worldly status in ministry. I love variety, and so God has blessed me with a variety of ways to glorify and serve Him, as I live the mystery of Mary's Magnificat 'My being magnifies the Lord, Who works through the lowliness of His simple handmaiden!'

Presently, I am the Principal of a small parish school. I have served in various ways and on various levels in care of the elderly, geriatric nursing and catechetics. Other ministries have been: parish pastoral ministry, especially for the sick and bereaved; vocation and formation ministry; provincial secretary; provincial councilor; parish school religion teacher and; various types of management or administration.

I most enjoy living the Mary-Martha paradox of prayerful leisure free space - and the active ministry of "going forth in the name of the Lord" as a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate.

I believe that each life vocation is a special and intimate invitation from God. So, it is vital to discern at the depths of who you are, in order to give an authentic life-long "Yes!" commitment.



As a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate I have had the opportunities to: experience God ever so deeply; live with other vowed women who share in the same thirst for and dedication to God; develop talents that I did not realize that I had; travel to many places in the United States, Canada and Europe and; meet so many wonderful people. I hope to spend my entire life consecrated to God through Our Mother, Mary - following in the sacred legacy founded by Blessed Josaphata Hordashevka SSMI, Rev. Jeremiah Lomnitsky OSBM and Rev. Kyrilo Seletsky to joyfully "serve where the need is the greatest" and "wherever there beats a human heart."

For more information about the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in the U.S., please visit our website: www.ssmi-us.org or call Sr. Kathleen, Provincial Superior, at 845-753-2840.



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ICON LECTURE SERIES 2012

PRESENTER: REV. DAMIAN HIGGINS



Known to many of you, Father Damian is a Ukrainian Catholic priest of the Eparchy of Chicago, who has served as an Iconographer for the last 20 years. Father will be joining us again this year to share his insights and to provide time for private reflection and sharing.

In a precise and yet simple language, Father Damian manages to capture the attention of his listeners with a gentle humor and colorful examples that leave participants inspired to look ever more closely at the icon and the mysteries which seek to be revealed.

TOPIC: BLESSINGS IN CHAOS

We will seek to examine the mystery of a God who brings order, beauty and peace into a chaotic void as is expressed in the first verses of Genesis.

We will relate this reality to the experience of traditional approaches to Byzantine Iconography. The process of beginning to bring forth a holy icon always begins with the embrace of chaos. Before the iconographer begins to add the lines and colors s/he floods the board to be painted with a watery flood of muddy, transparent color,

"And the Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters" Gen.1:2.

We will look at each step of the iconographic development and relate these to our own prayer and the development of Christian Spirituality i.e. moving from Chaos into Order/Beauty and moving from Darkness into Light and so on.



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The Shroud of Turin (replica) in Perth Amboy, NJ

A Vatican replica of the Shroud of Turin was on display at the Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church in Perth Amboy, NJ for the first two weeks of the Great Lent. The parishioners and visitors were all moved and profoundly blessed, because the shroud demonstrates that Christianity is not a myth or wishful thinking, not just faith — it is fact rooted deep in history. It is objectively true and demands our obedience. After seeing the shroud, no one doubts for one second that it is the authentic burial cloth of Jesus Christ who died painfully on the cross in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago for our sins and rose again for our Salvation.

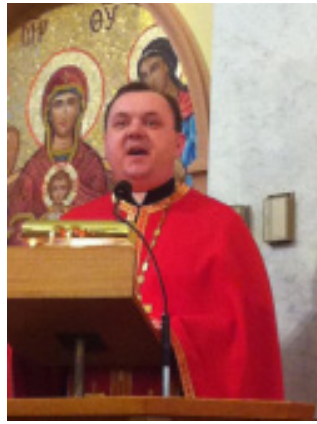


NJ Deanery Lenten Service

On the first Sunday of Lent, clergy and 250 faithful from NJ Deanery Parishes gathered at the Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church in Perth Amboy, NJ for the veneration the Shroud of Turin - Authentic Replica sanctioned by the Vatican and for praying the Akathist to the Divine Passion of Christ. The service marked the beginning of the 2012 Lenten Season.



Rev. Joseph Szupa



Rev. Andriy Dudkevych

After the service, two sermons were given by Rev. Joseph Szupa, Dean of Clergy for New Jersey and Rev. Andriy Dudkevych, Pastor of St. Nicholas Parish in Passaic, NJ.

"No way! This isn't happening at our school!"

While other schools are struggling to provide the most basic school supplies due to increasingly tighter budgets, **Assumption Ukrainian Catholic School in Perth Amboy, NJ** has figured it out. Through frugal spending and applying for grants, the school has provided its educators and 172 students with high technology tools to enhance education at ACS. According to school principle Mr. Michael Szpyhulsky, gaining more and better technology for ACS has been in the works for the past two years.



Today we are in possession of updated technology for the students and teachers: laptops for each teacher, Smartboards in 7 of the 10 classrooms, Document cameras (Elmos) in all classrooms, 20 laptops shared by grades 4 and 5. In addition to desktops in most classrooms and a computer lab with 14 desktops. The entire school uses a program called PowerSchool for grades, attendance and communication with parents.



Our eighth grade uses a program called Acellus for supplementary math, the entire school has a subscription to a program called IXL for supplementary math practice and a subscription to Discovery Education (access to over 50,000 film clips on various topics), and the fourth and seventh grades must take a mandatory writing assessment online.

Recently 4 teachers received brand new iPads, which can be used for audio and visual media consumption like books, movies, music, games and Internet programs that help students with reading, math, history, geography and much more. We can truly say, "those who give the gift of learning received the gift of technology".

Meatless Meal for LENT

"BAKED HADDOCK" FISH DINNER

Sponsored by Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church
Olyphant, Pa.

FRIDAY MARCH 30, 2012

5:00 – 7:00 p.m

At the **REGAL ROOM** (Ballroom/side entrance)

216 Lackawanna Avenue

Olyphant, Pa.

Sit Down or Take Out!!

\$10.00 per ticket/dinner

Baked haddock, potato, vegetable, cole slaw, roll and dessert

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Deadline for Tickets is Monday, March 26, 2012

South Anthracite Deanery Lenten Confession Schedule

During the Great Fast, the priests of the South Anthracite Deanery visit neighboring churches to offer the Holy Mystery of Penance. It provides an excellent opportunity for the faithful to receive the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation as they spiritually prepare for the celebration of Pascha.

The following is the visiting priests' confession schedule for the parishes of the South Anthracite Deanery. Confessions will be heard on the listed dates from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Monday, March 26
St. Mary-Centralia
St. Michael-Frackville
St. Mary-Middleport
Transfiguration of Our Lord-Shamokin

Tuesday, March 27
St. Nicholas-Minersville
St. Michael-Shenandoah
St. Mary-Marion Heights
St. John-Maizeville

Thursday, March 29
St. Mary-McAdoo
Ss. Peter & Paul-Mt. Carmel
St. Michael-Hazleton
St. Nicholas-St. Clair



Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church
315 4th Street
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Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday, March 25, 2012

Two Seatings: 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.



\$8 adults
\$5 children 12 and under



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Replica of 'Shroud' to be on display in Minersville

BY STEPHEN J. PYTAK (STAFF WRITER SPYTAK@REPUBLICANHERALD.COM)

Published: March 11, 2012

MINERSVILLE - A replica of the Shroud of Turin, the famous linen which believers say Joseph of Arimathea used to wrap the body of the crucified Jesus Christ more than 1,970 years ago, will soon be on display in a church in the borough.

It will be on display at St. Nicholas Parish, a Ukrainian-Catholic church at 415 Front St., from March 21 to April 1, according to the Rev. Mark Fesniak, pastor.

"It's beautiful," Fesniak said Thursday.

Archbishop Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Archdiocese of Philadelphia has arranged for the replica to be on display in Minersville, according to Fesniak.

"The transportation to bring it here was our only cost," said Connie Brophy, church secretary.

"He enjoys sending it to churches which have schools," Fesniak said.

Some area students have already seen this particular replica.

In April 2010, students from St. Nicholas School in Minersville saw it at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, according to Fesniak.

"My nephew was there," Brophy said. His name is Lucas Rinaldo, 13. And she said he'll be looking forward to seeing it again. "He said he thought it was 'so neat,'" Brophy said.

The actual shroud is a 14-foot long, 3 1/2-foot wide linen cloth bearing the front and back image of a scourged, crucified man, according to shroud.com, the website for the Shroud of Turin Education and Research Association, Florissant, Colo.

The shroud became the property of the Catholic Church in the late 1980s and has been kept in Turin, Italy, since 1578, according to shroud.com.

This replica is exact, Fesniak said. "The cloth is made of hand-twisted flax, a very expensive, fine linen cloth which would support the prescriptions for traditional Jewish burial," Fesniak said.

"It bears the faint front and back image of a 5-foot, 10-inch tall bearded, crucified man with apparent wounds and bloodstains that match the crucifixion account as recorded in the Bible. Millions of people over the centuries have believed it to be the actual burial shroud of Jesus of Nazareth," Fesniak said.

The replica will be unveiled at the church at the Stations of the Cross scheduled for 6:30 p.m. March 21.

The church will be open every day until April 1, allowing the public to see

the replica free of charge. The hours will be from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., unless there is a service in the evening. Then the church will remain open until the end of the service, Brophy said.

"I feel like it's part of our Lord that will be with us," Brophy said.

For more information, call the church at 570-544-6807.

<http://republicanherald.com>



(Photo: Some of the students from Minersville, PA, saw the replica of the Shroud of Turin in 2010 when it was on display at the Cathedral in Philadelphia.)

ST. MARY'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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POSITIVE TRANSFORMATIONS AS WE AGE

As you move through the various stages of you life, what is important to you?

Is it the years in your life or the LIFE in your years?

What has meaning for you?

Are you seeking a sense of community - a new way to connect?

What do you need to add to your life? What do you need to downsize?

How are you dealing with separation / loss of all kinds?

Aging doesn't mean stopping – we continue to grow until we die.

What about Balance - Mind /Body /Spirit?

We will explore how our peers are moving through life issues, and discuss inspirational stories from Dr. Reese's blog - www.elderchicks.com.

So many questions. Come join us and ask more and receive each others wisdom.

Interactive breakout sessions and workgroups will add to the fun!

Men and women of all ages are welcome!

PRESENTER: DR. THELMA REESE

Dr. Reese is a nationally known educator who was executive director of the Mayor's Commission on Literacy in Philadelphia; she hosted a local cable TV show on literacy, appeared on local radio programs and spoke at statewide conferences.

As part of the development team for *Hooked on Phonics*, she made numerous appearances on local, regional, and national radio and TV, including *Dateline* and *The Right Side*, and testified before State Legislatures. She also organized and addressed the first international Family Literacy Symposium for UNESCO in Paris in 1994.

Currently she writes a Family column for www.rightsidewire.com and created and hosts the blog for and about senior women www.elderchicks.com with her writing partner, Dr. Barbara Fleisher.

They are working on a book called ***Mastering the Art of a Senior Life.***

POSITIVE TRANSFORMATIONS AS WE AGE

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Easter Pierogie/Kielbasa/Easter Lamb Butter Sale - Orders Now Being Taken! (Clifton Heights, PA)

Due to a continued huge demand, we are back with offering three traditional Easter-time favorite foods - Kielbasa, Pierogies and Lamb Butters. Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Clifton Heights proudly announces the offering of mouth-watering, high quality kielbasa for the unbelievably low price of only \$11.00 per ring (each ring is approximately 2 pounds) or 3 rings for \$30.00. Remember, this may be the last sale before Summer and you may want to stock up your freezer for those weekend BBQs.

We are also offering our very own homemade, mouth-watering, flavorful, potato-cheese pierogies for the unbelievably low price of only \$7.00 per dozen or 3 dozen for \$20.00! In order to maintain the highest quality standard for our pierogies, we will have them made fresh for you and they will not be

frozen. We are already almost up to our pierogie-making capacity, so be sure to order yours early!

Remember last Easter when you couldn't find a Lamb-shaped Butter for your table, well for the 1st time ever, we are offering Lamb-shaped Butters for only \$5.00 each.

For your convenience, email your pierogie, kielbasa or Lamb Butter orders to us at SSPeterandPaul@verizon.net or you can call Kathy at (610) 328-4731 before Monday March 25th. Pickup will be at noon on Sunday, April 1st, at our Church which is located at 100 South Penn Street in Clifton Heights, PA. Please 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.

Songs of the Heart

On Sunday, June 3, 2012, The Office of Religious Education is organizing the 2nd Festival of Religious Songs, **"Songs of the Heart"**. Last year, we had many children from parishes participate in a wonderful children's concert of songs, and we would like to build on this success. Each parish is asked to present two age groups of children: 8-14 years old and 15-19 years old. Each parish group is asked to limit their groups to sing a total of 2-3 songs, which can either be traditional hymns or modern religious songs. In addition, participants can be accompanied by musical instruments. The presentation of original music compositions is encouraged. This Festival will take place in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 3:00 pm, located at: 833 North Franklin St., Philadelphia, PA 19123.

Participants will need to register with their parish priest, by e-mail to: ukrcatecheticaloffice@catholic.org, or by telephone at 1-215-627-0143. Please register no later than May 22, 2012.

Rev. Volodymyr Popyk, Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry

3-го червня, 2012 р., Архиєпархіяльний Офіс Релігійного Навчання проводить 2-й щорічний Фестиваль релігійних пісень: «Пісні серця». Фестиваль відбудеться в Українській Католицькій Катедрі Непорочного Зачаття Діви Марії міста Філадельфія, ПА о 3 год.по полудні. Пісні представлятимуть діти і молодь від парафій Філадельфійської Архиєпархії. о. Володимир Попик, Директор Релігійного Навчання

Sister Mary Vincent Starosta, OSBM

1918 – 2012

Sister Mary Vincent Starosta, OSBM, passed from this life on Thursday, March 1, 2012, at Holy Redeemer Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A viewing was held on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, in the Holy Trinity Chapel at the Basilian Motherhouse in Fox Chase Manor. Officiating during Parastas were the Sisters' chaplain, the Very Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan, and the Rev. Edward Higgins. Sister's funeral was held on Wednesday with Requiem Liturgy celebrated by Father Troyan. She was laid to rest at the Cemetery of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great. Mourned by many, she will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

Born in Philadelphia on May 5, 1918, Sister was the daughter of the late Samuel and Catherine Plisak Starosta. She and her family were parishioners at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Entering the convent of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great on September 6, 1933, she professed her final vows on August 24, 1943.

Sister Vincent attended Catholic University in Washington, D.C.; Fordham University in New

York City; and Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J. Armed with a B.S. in Education, she served as a teacher in numerous Ukrainian parish schools as well as in other ministries in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan, touching the lives of many thousands of pupils and students and their families. Upon her return to the Motherhouse she assisted at the Basileiad Library at Manor College for five years. The numerous schools and parishes listed on her extensive resume are a reflection of a personal history dedicated to service; they are also a reflection of the history of the Province that she served with so much dedication for so many decades.

In her eulogy, Provincial Superior Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, remembered Sister Mary Vincent as a dynamic force, always active and every ready to take up any task that needed attention. After many decades of teaching, she returned to the Motherhouse in Fox Chase, nominally retired but still devoted to serving the community she had joyfully entered as a young woman. An avid reader and lover of books, it was she who became grand

custodian of the Sisters' Reading Room. But she was wise enough to know that feasts for the mind must sometimes be tempered by treats for the palate. Each year, on the feast of St. Nicholas, it was Sister Vincent who made certain that each of her Sisters in Christ received a present of fruits and other goodies to enjoy.

The Provincial Superior also reminded those present about a gentle, humble nun, one who served without ever asking for or expecting recognition. Hers was a gentle and caring spirit that embraced others, be it students, family, friends, or the cats and dogs she cared for with an indiscriminate tenderness.

In the last six months of her life, Sister Vincent knew that she was leaving the life she had known, and she would not emerge until her soul took its leave of this world, rising to meet the Lord. She was at peace with this challenge, as she had been with other hardships in her long life. For Sister Vincent, it was but another small step on a journey begun long ago, a journey that led to her Creator. During many steps of this final journey she was accompanied by people whose lives she had touched, especially the



Sisters she had lived with for so many years and a family she loved with all her heart.

Sister Vincent is survived by her brothers John Starosta (Helen) and James Starosta (the late Mary) and is predeceased by her sister Ann Cwiek (the late Steve). She is also survived by nieces and nephews Christine, Daniel (Dawn), Thomas, Daria Pierce (Wayne), Joseph (Kathleen), Nancy Seroka (Ken), Suzanne Hoffman (Kurt), Connie Cannis (Jerome), Andrea, Ellen, and Timothy, and many great nieces and nephews. In her final months, the love that Sister shared with her siblings and their children and grandchildren flowed back to her in the form of friendly, caring visitors who came bearing gifts and kind words and hearts filled with joy in knowing her as sister, aunt, great aunt, and friend.

She will also be remembered with much love by the community of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great with whom she lived and worked and prayed for 79 years.

HHS Mandate: The More It Changes, The More It Stays the Same

Since the announcement of the Department of Health and Human Services mandate that would force religious employers to violate their consciences and pay for abortion-causing drugs, sterilization and contraception, much misinformation has been bantered about regarding health care, Catholic Church teaching and the impact this new regulation will ultimately have.

On February 10, the Obama Administration announced some “accommodations” to the original rule, but, by the end of the day, the original rule was published without change. Promises were made that more regulations *might* be developed, but the “accommodations,” if made, will still force religious employers to pay for abortion-causing drugs, sterilization and contraception – either directly or through money paid to an insurance company.

Further, the vast majority of Pennsylvania’s dioceses and Catholic Charities agencies are self-insured, meaning they are both the employer and insurer. Despite the fact that the Church raised this issue throughout the debate dating back to July 2011, the clear violation of

conscience for self-insured religious institutions was not addressed in the “accommodations.” Therefore, most of Pennsylvania’s dioceses and Catholic Charities agencies will be required to directly pay for medications and procedures that violate their religious beliefs. The “accommodations” have changed nothing for them.

Fixes for this problem could come in the form of legislative correction via The Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (S 1467 and HR 1179), litigation that overturns the mandate or a change in the rule by HHS.

On March 1, a vote was taken on the “Blunt Amendment,” which contained the text of the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act. Both Senator Toomey and Senator Casey voted to uphold religious liberty. However, with a final vote of 51-48, the amendment did not pass. Next, HR 1179 will be considered in the House, and it already has nearly 220 cosponsors. A strong vote in the House will help advance the cause of religious liberty. Please consider contacting Senator Casey and Senator Toomey to thank them for their vote, and

contact your congressmen and women to ask for their support and co-sponsorship of HR 1179.

You can contact your legislator via www.pacatholic.org or by calling the capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121.

Do not be confused: religious liberty now and for the future is at stake in this debate. Will you stand up for our first amendment right to exercise freely our religion – both on Sundays at Mass AND the rest of the week?

Shea is Outreach Director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference – the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.

SIDEBAR: Update on Legislation

Both Senator Toomey and Senator Casey voted in favor of the Blunt Amendment, which mirrored the language in SB 1467. The final vote was 51-48. However, the amendment was ultimately tabled. The next vote will take place in the House of Representatives.

Pennsylvania Cosponsors on the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act:

SB 1467
· Sen. Pat Toomey

HR 1179

· Rep. Jason Altmire (D - Allegheny, Butler, Beaver, Lawrence, Mercer, Westmoreland)

· Rep. Lou Barletta (R - Columbia, Carbon, Monroe, Luzerne, Lackawanna)

· Rep. Mark Critz (D - Allegheny, Armstrong, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland)

· Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick (R - Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia)

· Rep. Jim Gerlach (R - Berks, Chester, Lehigh, Montgomery)

· Rep. Mike Kelly (R - Armstrong, Butler, Crawford, Erie, Mercer, Venango, Warren)

· Rep. Tom Marino (R - Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, Wyoming)

· Rep. Patrick Meehan (R - Delaware, Chester, Berks)

· Rep. Tim Murphy (R - Allegheny, Beaver, Washington, Westmoreland)

· Rep. Todd Platts (R - Adams, Cumberland, York)

· Rep. Bill Shuster (R - Bedford, Blair, Huntingdon, Fayette, Indiana, Perry, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Summerset, Cambria, Mifflin, Juniata)

· Rep. Glenn Thompson (R - Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, Juniata, McKean, Mifflin, Potter, Clearfield, Crawford, Lycoming, Tioga, Warren, Venango)

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Stamford Eparchy Invites you on a Tour to Rome and Kyiv October 10-19, 2012 With Msgr John Terlecky



Tour Program Arranged by

Dunwoodie Travel Bureau

Rome-Kyiv Tour October 10-19, 2012

- 10 October** Flight departs Newark on LOT Polish Airlines flight 12 at 6:50P
- 11 October** Arrive Warsaw at 9:45A. Connect on LOT flight 313 at 1:10p to Rome, arriving 3:30P. Transfer to hotel by motor coach. Remainder of the day at leisure.
- 12 October** Full day sightseeing of Sorrento and Pompeii.
- 13 October** Meet with Patriarch. Religious services to be announced.
- 14 October** Meet with Patriarch and ½ day sightseeing.
- 15 October** Transfer to airport for Ukraine International Air (PS) flight 306 At 12:55P to Kyiv arriving at 4:50P. Transfer to hotel Rus.
- 16 October** 9:30A bus departs for visit to St. Sophia, Sviato Mykhailivsky Sobor, and Patriarshyj Sobor on the left bank, 2pm lunch at Tsarke Selo. 3:00pm visit to Kyevo Pechersky Lavry. Back to the hotel is on your own.

- 17 October** 9:00A bus trip to Kaniv (150km) including a visit to the Museum and monument of Taras Shevchenko. Includes lunch. Return 5:30pm and arriving back to the hotel by 8:00P.
- 18 October** Free day to enjoy Kyiv.
- 19 October** Depart for airport for LOT flight 752 departing at 2:30P and Arriving Warsaw at 3:05P and continuing on LOT flight 15 Departing at 5:30P and arriving Newark at 9:15P

\$3,550.00 per person based on twin share.
Single supplement is \$450.00.

Includes airfare on LOT and Ukraine Int'l Airlines; Hotels including breakfast; Sightseeing per itinerary; meals per itinerary; entrance fees, taxes, tips and gratuities included. Not included: items of a personal nature, and incidentals.

For more information, contact Dunwoodie Travel Bureau
(914) 969-4200
dunwoodie@vacation.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2012 AT THE CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

Holy Thursday, April 5

6:30 p.m. CATHEDRAL. Matins of the Passion (12 Gospels) "Strasti" (UKR/ENG)

Good Friday, April 6

4:00 p.m. CATHEDRAL. Vespers, Procession, Entombment of Jesus Christ (UKR/ENG)

Holy Saturday, April 7

1:00 p.m. Blessing of Easter Food - CATHEDRAL HALL
Confession - CATHEDRAL

3:00 p.m. Blessing of Easter Food - CATHEDRAL HALL
Confession - CATHEDRAL

5:00 p.m. Blessing of Easter Food - CATHEDRAL HALL
Confession - CATHEDRAL

5.30 p.m. CATHEDRAL. Service at the Grave. Nadhrobne. (UKR/ENG)

Easter Sunday, April 8

8:00 a.m. CATHEDRAL. Procession, Resurrection Matins

9:00 a.m. CATHEDRAL. Hierarchical Easter Divine Liturgy (UKR)
Blessing of Easter Food - in Church.

11:30 a.m. CATHEDRAL. Easter Divine Liturgy (ENG)



METROPOLITAN STEFAN'S MEDITATION FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF GREAT FAST

The surest way to avoid pessimism and despair is to take what immediate action we can to assist others in need. Jesus cures a sick boy telling his father, "To him who believes, all things are possible". To approach anything in the spirit of hopelessness is to make it hopeless. To approach anything in the spirit of faith is to make it a possibility. Many people limit themselves with a sense of the impossible and that's why miracles cannot happen.

We are all given gifts by God. Nurture your gifts with prayer and striving to be close to God. Use your gifts for the glory of God and His people. You will have the effect of calling others to a higher order of thinking and living. You will bring yourself closer to God. You will bring others closer to God. Join others in your parish to exclaim the prayer of the father in today's Gospel, "I believe... If there is still some discouragement in me, some doubts, take them away and fill me with an unquestioning faith"(St. Mark 9:17-31). Prayer in a parish community is powerful and can cause miracles to happen!



METROPOLITAN STEFAN'S MEDITATION FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT FAST

Our Great Fast meditations simply draw us to a simple Christian option of saying "yes" to life. Pope Benedict says that "this "yes" only takes place with a God who is known, with a God with a human face. It takes place by following God in the communion of love". The Holy Father also teaches that "God's Face took on a human face, letting itself be seen and recognized in the Son of the Virgin Mary, who for this reason we venerate with the loftiest title of 'Mother of God'. On this Feast of the Annunciation of the Mother of God, let each of us pray to her to "Show us Jesus!" Let us make this prayer today with our whole heart. Let us ask her to sharpen our perception so that we may recognize in the face of every human person, the face of Christ, the heart of peace!



Photo Above: Photo of the Shroud of Turin Replica at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. (2010)



Photo Below: The negative of the photo above.

Photo taken
by T. Siwak



Fourth Sunday of the Great Lent

A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." "You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." "If you can?" said Jesus.

"Everything is possible for one who believes." Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer." They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." (Mk. 9, 17-31)

Under normal circumstances, a few human relationships are as special as that which exists when there is a strong bond between a father and his son. Yet, when the son is the helpless victim of an incurable disease and the parents must watch him suffer without being able to do anything to relieve his suffering, that is a scene that will break the hardest heart! Such is the case with this moving story Mark has recorded for us.

A father, hearing that Jesus could cast out demons, had just brought his demon-possessed son to the nine disciples. Instead of detaining the father and son until Jesus could return to deal with the problem, they proceeded to deal with the

matter themselves. They had watched Jesus perform many miracles, including the casting out of evil spirits. They had heard the words he had spoken, and they thought they "knew the formula." When Jesus appeared, the father of the demon-controlled boy related to Jesus what had happened. Jesus replied sadly, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you?" (Mark 9:19). When he said this, he was including not just the disciples who had failed, but the scribes who also were there, and this suffering father and his son. Jesus was saying that he lived in the midst of a faithless people.

Then, for a few moments, the situation

grew worse. We have seen that it was a scene of extremes a scene of tragedy. Do you remember what happened when Jesus and the disciples approached a wild man who lived in the region of Gadarenes? He came screaming down the cliffside, begging Jesus to go away and not torment him "before his time." The demons knew what was about to take place. So it was with the boy in this story. For while Jesus and the boy's father were talking, the evil spirit in the boy seized him, and he lapsed into what may have been the worst convulsion he had ever had.

"Lord, if you can, please help us!" Jesus saw a tiny flicker of faith in what the father said, and he seized upon it and replied,

"If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes". The father cried, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief."

And Jesus rebuked the foul spirit the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose" (Mark 9:25-27). Realizing that it was about to be disembodied, the evil spirit made one last, violent attempt to hurt the boy. Then the boy lay "as one dead." The experience was so utterly exhausting, both physically and spiritually, that the boy appeared to have no life in him at all. Then Jesus

(continued on next page)

April 2012 - Квітня 2012

Happy Birthday!
З Днем народження!

April 1: Rev. Deacon Mr. Theophil Staruch
April 7: Rev. Petro Zvarych
April 7: Rev. Deacon Mr. Paul Spotts
April 14: Rev. Taras Svirchuk, C.S.s.R.
April 28: Rev. Ihor Royik

**May the Good Lord Continue
to Guide You and Shower
You with His Great Blessings.
Многая Літа!**

**Нехай Добрий Господь
Тримає Вас у Своїй Опіці
та Щедро Благословить Вас.
Многая Літа!**



**Congratulations on your
Anniversary of Priesthood!**
Вітаємо з Річницею Священства!

April 3: Rev. Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck (74th Anniversary)
April 7: Rev. Taras Svirchuk, C.S.s.R. (6th Anniversary)
April 10: Rev. Roman Dubitsky (47th Anniversary)
April 10: Rev. Edward Levandusky (47th Anniversary)
April 10: Rev. Uriy Markewych (47th Anniversary)
April 14: Rev. Volodymyr Klanichka (11th Anniversary)
April 14: Rev. T. Frank Patrylak (50th Anniversary)
April 19: Rev. Evhen Moniuk (20th Anniversary)
April 27: Rev. Wasyl Bunik (19th Anniversary)

**May God Grant You Many Happy
and Blessed Years of Service in the
Vineyard of Our Lord!**

**Нехай Бог Обдарує Багатьма
Благословенними Роками
Служіння в Господньому
Винограднику!**

Fourth Sunday of the Great Lent

(continued from previous page)

took his hand and lifted him up. Luke, in his account of the incident, adds, "He gave him back to his father" (Luke 9:42).

Jesus' disciples were perplexed about why they had failed so miserably.

As they were leaving the scene, they asked Jesus, "Why could not we cast him out?" (Mark 9:28). Jesus answered them plainly: "This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting". In effect, he was saying, just as he would say to you and me when we fail in our

Christian witness and testimony, "You don't live close enough to God!" God's power was available for their use, but what activated that power was an intimate relationship with God. Paul once said, "I can do all things ..."; and if he had stopped there, we would be justified in calling him an egotist. But he said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). That's the secret. Like the father in the story, we "believe," but our belief is often weak, unsupported by

prayer and obedience toward God. The disciples became overconfident, and they failed. May God

help us to be certain that our confidence is always in him and not in ourselves.

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Editorial and Business Office:

827 N. Franklin St.
Philadelphia, PA 19123
Tel.: (215) 627-0143

Online: www.ukrarcheparchy.us

E-MAIL: theway@ukrarcheparchy.us

Blog: www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com

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THE WAY Staff

Msgr. Peter Waslo, Teresa Siwak, Fr. Ihor Royik

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