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ENGLISH VERSION

Easter Sunday - April 8, 2012 Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA

(Photos: T. Siwak)



Deacon Michael Waak, Rev. Paul J. Makar, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Rev. Ivan Demkiv, and Subdeacon Roman Oprysk. *(Photo: T. Bilyj)*



Watch Videos from Easter on our blog.

www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com



Easter Sunday - April 8, 2012 Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA

(Photos: Lisa Oprysk)



Basket Blessing

April 15, 2012

Holy Saturday - Basket Blessing - April 7, 2012 Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA

(Photos: T. Siwak)



Holy Saturday Cathedral, Philadelphia

Venerating the Replica of the
Shroud of Turin



Watch a video on our blog at
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Blessing of Easter foods a very symbolic and tasty custom

BY JOHN E. USALIS (STAFF WRITER jusalis@republicanherald.com) Published: Sunday, April 8, 2012

FRACKVILLE, PA - The most joyous and holiest day on the Christian calendar - Easter Sunday (Holy Pascha) - began Saturday in many churches in the area, with the earliest liturgies being celebrated at 4 p.m. at Eastern Rite Catholic churches, such as St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Frackville.

The celebration of Christ's Resurrection in Ukrainian Catholic church brings the people to declare in Ukrainian, "Khrestos Voskres!" as the initial greeting, followed by the response "Voyistinnu Voskres!" ("Christ is Risen!" "Indeed He is Risen!")

While all Roman Catholic churches cannot celebrate the Vigil Mass before 8 p.m. on Saturday, the liturgical guidelines in the Eastern church are allowed to begin the vigil at the earlier time. Today on Easter Sunday, Protestant and Catholic (Eastern and Western rites) will hold services throughout the morning. Due to a difference in the liturgical calendars, the Eastern Orthodox faithful will celebrate Easter next Sunday.

After Saturday's Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at Saint Michael's, which was preceded by vespers, or evening prayer, the traditional blessing of the foods served for Holy Pascha was held in the parish hall of St. Michael. During the liturgical services, the dark vestments of the clergy, as well as the altar linens were changed to white, the Holy Shroud which reposed in the tomb since Good Friday was placed upon the altar, and the Good News, the Gospel message was proclaimed for the first time: *"He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. (Mt. 28:6).*

The Very Rev. Archpriest John M. Fields, pastor, conducted the blessing ceremony. Other churches also bless the foods that will be served on the holiday table today.

Fields explained that many of the foods that were blessed and served were those that could not be eaten during the Great Fast or Lent.

"I will bless those foods that could not be eaten traditionally during the time of fast," he said.

"Remember, when we began the journey of the Great Fast, we had Meatfare Sunday, which is really a farewell to meat and meat products, and Cheese Fare Sunday, which is the final day to eat cheese and dairy products," Fields said. "And now as it (Great Fast) ends with the celebration of the Resurrection, we once return to eating these meats, cheese, butter and eggs. They take on a new significance as you refer to Scripture when you hear about the fatted calf, the lamb, butter, eggs and cheese. And so, we take on a new meaning, a Paschal meaning, a meaning for Easter."

The tables were filled with ham, kielbasi, cheeses, dyed eggs, butter and much more. The families brought their foods in baskets - usually reserved to be used to carry to foods to be blessed - and placed on the tables or left in the baskets. Each family had a lit candle at their location, another symbol

of the radiance of the Resurrected Christ.

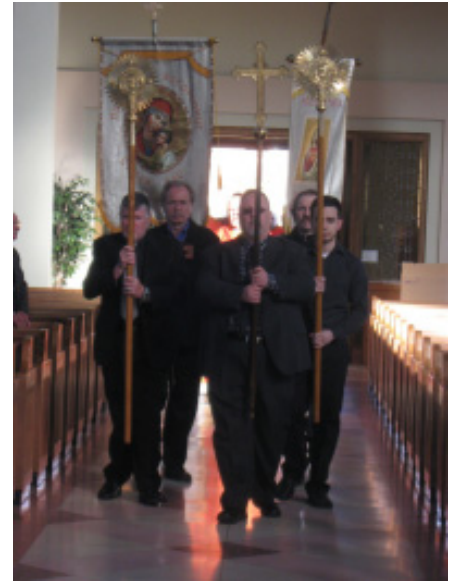
After Deacon Paul Spotts walked around the tables incensing the food and prayers by Fields speaking of the different foods being blessed, the pastor also walking along the tables, blessing the foods and parishioners with holy water and having family members kiss a cross he held in his other hand, while exchanging the traditional Pascha greeting: "Khrestos Voskres!" followed by the response "Voyistinnu Voskres!" ("Christ is Risen!" "Indeed He is Risen!").



Nicholas Meridionale, 6, of Frackville, carries the holy water as the Very Rev. Archpriest John M. Fields blesses Easter food on Saturday after the Vigil Paschal Divine Liturgy at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Frackville, Pa. (Andy Matsko, photo)

Good Friday at the Cathedral

(Photos: Lisa Oprysk)



April 15, 2012

Holy Thursday - Frackville, PA

Metropolitan Stefan Celebrates Holy Thursday Liturgy in Frackville; Consecrates the Sacred Chrism and Washes the Feet of 12 Priests

FRACKVILLE, PA—On Holy Thursday, April 5, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka was the main celebrant and homilist during the Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, West Oak Street, Frackville (Schuylkill County), Pa. Concelebrating clergy were priests of the Philadelphia Archeparchy. Rev. Mr. Paul M. Spotts, Frackville served as deacon. Rev. Msgr. Peter Waslo, Chancellor, served as the master of ceremonies. Mr. Matthew Kenenitz led the congregational singing of the liturgical responses.

The procession was led into the church by altar servers of St. Michael's parish and a Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Honor Guard of the Schuylkill Assembly.

The Holy Thursday service commemorates the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the priesthood of Jesus Christ at the Last Supper.

During his homily, Metropolitan Stefan emphasized the great gift of the Holy Eucharist that



(Photos: Sr. Lydia Anna Sawka, OSBM.)

Jesus gave to us at the Last Supper. He also encouraged the faithful to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, noting that Jesus instituted the holy priesthood when he gave us His Body and His Blood at the Last Supper and instructed His disciples to "do this in memory of Me."

Metropolitan Stefan also consecrated the Holy Myron (Chrism) during the service and performed the traditional Washing of the Feet of 12 priests reenacting the washing of the feet of His apostles by Jesus as recounted in the Gospel of John.

In Christian antiquity it was customary to baptize the catechumens on the feast of Pascha. The oils of Chrism, used for the

anointing of the neophytes or newly-baptized persons, were consecrated in advance, on Great Thursday. This practice continued through the late middle ages. The service of consecration of the Chrism was conducted annually.

Holy Chrism, also called Holy Myron, is a mixture

of olive oil, balsam, wine and some forty aromatic substances symbolizing the fullness of sacramental grace, the sweetness of the Christian life, and the manifold and diverse gifts of the Holy Spirit. In the Book of Exodus, Chapter 30, verses 22-33, the composition and uses of the Sacred Anointing Oil in the Old Testament are described.

The Holy Chrism that was consecrated on Holy Thursday will be distributed to all the churches in the archeparchy and is used for the anointing during the Holy Mystery of Chrismation during the reception of the Mysteries of Initiation—Baptism, Chrismation, and Holy Eucharist.

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Metropolitan Stefan consecrated the Holy Myron (Chrism)

Holy Thursday - Frackville, PA

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The Church also had a ceremony of the Washing of the Feet annually on Great Thursday in imitation of the event at the Last Supper. For the most part, it was limited to cathedral churches and certain monasteries. For a time, the service fell into disuse except in certain areas. However the service has been recovered by many dioceses throughout the world and results in an elaborate, dramatic and moving service.

In commenting on the traditional foot washing, Metropolitan Stefan said "this service teaches humility—in humbling oneself in friendship and intimacy with His apostles, Jesus gives us a model of service. We are called to serve one another; to help one another."

During this service, conducted at the end of the Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Stefan washed the feet of the following priests: **Rev. Stepan Bilyk**, Shamokin and Marion Heights, Pa.; **Very Rev. Ivan Demkiw**, Philadelphia Cathedral; **Rev. Mark Fesniak**, Minersville and Middleport, Pa.; **Rev. Archpriest John Fields**, Frackville and Maizeville, Pa.; **Rev. Msgr. Myron**

G r a b o w s k y, Shenandoah and St. Clair, Pa., who also portrayed the role of Peter, who resisted having his feet washed; **Rev. Archpriest Michael Hutsko**, Mt. Carmel and Centralia, Pa.; **Rev. Orest Kunderevych**, Wilkes-Barre and Edwardsville, Pa.; **Rev. Paul Makar**, Archieparchial Vocation Director; **Msgr. James Melnic**, McAdoo and Hazleton, Pa.; **Rev. Roman Petryshak**, Plymouth and Nanticoke, Pa.; **Rev. Ruslan Romanyuk**, Cherry Hill and Williamstown, N.J.; **Very Rev. John Seniw**, Berwick and Glen Lyon, Pa.

Since he became Metropolitan-Archbishop, Archbishop Stefan has conducted these Holy Thursday services in various deaneries of this expansive archdiocese, which covers eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. "Each year, we celebrate this Holy Thursday services in a different deanery to allow more faithful to attend and participate in these very special and deeply spiritual and prayerful services," observed Metropolitan Stefan.



Ceremony of the Washing of the Feet.

See more photos from Holy Thursday on our Blog at www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com

Soroka recalled that in coming to this South Anthracite Deanery, we come "to this area that is really the roots of our church. This is where our first immigrants came to this area—Shenandoah, Pa. being the location of the first Eastern Catholic Church in the United States. It is of special significance to come here where we have many priests and parishes. And what better time is there than spring, when new life begins to blossom forth all around us."

The Frackville parish is one of the 12 parishes that comprise the South Anthracite Deanery of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of

Philadelphia, which was the host deanery for this year's Holy Thursday services. The pastor, Father Fields, also serves as Protopresbyter (Dean) of the South Anthracite Deanery.

Metropolitan Soroka has served as Metropolitan-Archbishop of the Philadelphia Archeparchy since his installation on February 27, 2001. He was named to be the spiritual leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States by His Holiness Pope John Paul II on November 29, 2000 upon the recommendation of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Pussy willows blessed for Flowery Sunday

BY **JOHN E. USALIS** (STAFF WRITER jusalis@republicanherald)

April 2, 2012 **Republican Herald**, Pottsville, Pa.

MAIZEVILLE, PA - While the tradition in western Christian churches - including the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran - is to bless and distribute palm leaves on Palm Sunday, the tradition in the Eastern Christian churches substitute branches from native trees, such as the branches from the willow tree.

The pussy willow branches, an early show of life in nature after winter, were blessed on Sunday, April 1 for Flowery Sunday (Palm Sunday) in Eastern churches, such as St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Maizeville at the 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy. The Rev. Archpriest John M. Fields, pastor, blessed the branches at the conclusion of the service, with parishioners taking them home to display.

"Take these blessed willows to your homes, to adorn your icons, to decorate your crosses, and may they always be a reminder of your faith

in the Risen Lord," Fields said.

As described in the parish bulletin, "On the Sunday before the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha (Easter Sunday) and at the beginning of Holy Week, the Church celebrates one of its most joyous feasts of the year. Flowery/Palm Sunday is the commemoration of the entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people when out to meet the Lord and welcomed Him with displays of honor and shouts of praise."

During his homily, Fields spoke of the beginning of Holy Week.

"In a sense this week, we're all going up to Jerusalem," he said. "This Sunday in Jerusalem, we witness the Hebrew children take the palm fronds and branches and calling out 'Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Fields spoke of how many of the people who cheered

Jesus Christ during His entrance into Jerusalem called for His crucifixion later in the week.

He blessed two tables with pussy willow branches.

After the Divine Liturgy, Fields spoke of getting the pussy willow branches, which are usually collected by parishioners from local trees. The warm weather caused some inconvenience this year.

"Most are collected from around here, though I do get some from out of the area," he said. "With this warm spring, we had to

check early, because if you wait too long, they turn yellow. We told people to just watch and keep an eye on them."

Fields explained that the use of pussy willow branches in Ukraine was because of the great cost of obtaining palms.

The branches were distributed to the faithful as they came forward after the Divine Liturgy, kissed the handcross of the priest, were anointed with holy oil and received blessed bread, a liturgical rite known as *myrovaniye*.



The Rev. Archpriest John M. Fields, right, assisted by Deacon Paul Spotts, blesses pussy willow branches Sunday in St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Maizeville, Pa. (John Usalis)

Palm Sunday 2012 at the Cathedral in Philadelphia



Egg Hunt at the Cathedral in Philadelphia on April 1, 2012.



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



Easter Message of His Beatitude Sviatoslav To the Reverend Clergy and Faithful of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Christ is Risen!

“Let heavens rejoice in a worthy manner, the earth be glad,
and the whole world, visible and the invisible, keep the Feast.
For Christ our eternal joy has risen!”
The Paschal Canon

On this festive day of the Resurrection of Christ His Church, full of heavenly light, we praise the Lord, who triumphantly emerges from the sealed tomb. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” the Evangelist John (John 1:5) declares on this Paschal night. As darkness cannot stop or limit the light, death and the tomb could not hold back the Source of life – our Savior, who fills the universe today with his light and his grace.



“Let heavens rejoice in a worthy manner, the earth be glad!”

Today joy and gladness unite the sky and land in one Paschal Liturgy, in which sound our Easter hymns. In his resurrection, the Savior, who overcomes death, restores the unity of the body and soul of the human being, gathers together all visible and invisible creatures that have been alienated from each other because of the sins of man. Sin is the greatest misfortune of man, for it deprives his friendship with God, brings division and discord in society, causes suffering for all creations. This is confirmed by St. Paul in his message to the Romans: “Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God... For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now” (Romans 8:21-22). The Risen Christ today brings the children of God the awaited freedom, and with them unites the entire universe. That is why this day the heavens and earth rejoice together with dignity and are glad! The Lord’s triumphant exit from the tomb removes all obstacles to the unity of the universe with its Creator. Leaving Hades, he breaks the gate of death – that which separated man from the Source of life, its Creator, and fills it with immortality.

Today, “let the whole world, visible and invisible, keep the Feast” with us! The meaning and deep foundation of Easter celebrations are common experiences of unity around the world in Christ. During this year’s celebration of the Pascha of the Lord, we, the faithful of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, are called again and again to discover the Risen Christ as the unbreakable stone of unity of our people. Celebrating today the Savior’s victory over death, we, with the light of His resurrection, break all divisions and hatred, visible and

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Easter Message of His Beatitude Sviatoslav To the Reverend Clergy and Faithful of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

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invisible, that destroy our society in its social and church life. The Divine Savior warns us: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation" (Mt. 12:25). The Risen Christ in his body overcame the opposition, disagreement, and conflict that threaten individuals, peoples, and all humanity. He seeks to bring peace and unification to our Ukrainian people. However, we must open our arms to accept this gift from the hands of the Risen Savior. To open our hands means: to do away with personal ambitions, selfishness, greed; to put the good of the people over personal interests or the interests of political parties; to be ready to meet neighbors where there is talk of the common good. In the torch of Christ's resurrection the believer cannot look at another person through the prism of hatred or revenge; he is ready to forgive even the enemy and reconcile with him. Who is not capable of forgiveness, does not understand the great message that the Savior brings us from the tomb – the message of unity and peace. The entire visible and invisible world today teaches us that we cannot live the full joy of Easter by living in the captivity of our own division: personal, national, or even political. Only together, by destroying all that separates us with the Savior's strength, can we fully celebrate the Pascha of the Lord and feel the overall joy of a meeting with the Risen. As the Apostle Paul says: "For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall ... so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace" (Eph. 2:14-15). Our Paschal wish is that in the unity and peace of Christ the whole world, visible and invisible, keeps the Feast, and so that in peace and unity the entire Ukrainian world is strengthened with the grace and life of the Risen!

"For Christ our eternal joy has risen!" While we celebrate this year's Easter, we remember the immortal figure of the servant of God Patriarch Josyf (Slipyj). He, as the adamant ethnarch – the father of our nation – did not compromise with evil and so united different environments of the Ukrainian world: the prisoners of Stalin's concentration camps, the faithful of the persecuted "silent" Church and all the dispersed Ukrainians who, by God's strange ways, brought our Church to various continents of the world. His release from prison nearly half a century ago, like the victorious exit of the Risen Christ from the deathly dungeon, with the rays of Easter joy, lit, awakened, and gathered together the whole Ukrainian world. In his figure we see today that no human barriers and military boundaries can contain the all-embracing and unifying power of the eternal joy of Christ, with which His resurrected Church lives and grows.

Dearly beloved in Christ! On this Feast of the Resurrection of Christ I want to greet each of you with the Paschal greeting. Let the words of the ancient Paschal greeting "Christ is Risen!" echo today wherever a Ukrainian heart beats, and call him to joy and unity with his brother and sister. Today we will share the message with all those in need, and bring this joy to all who mourn. Let the light of Christ that is triumphantly released from the tomb enlighten each of us, give strength and confidence, strengthen faith, hope, and love, and give its peace.

Christ is Risen!

+ SVIATOSLAV

*Given in Kyiv,
at the Patriarchal Cathedral of Christ's Resurrection,
7 April 2012*

<http://www.ugcc.org.ua>

Greek Catholic Head Addresses Young People

2 April 2012

The Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Patriarch Sviatoslav issued an address to the youth on occasion of the Day of Youth marked by UGCC on April 8. "Do not be ashamed to put off like clothes the chains of your doubts and searches and to put them at the feet of the Saviour thereby paving for him the way to yourselves," reads the address.



Patriarch Sviatoslav stressed that young people are known to be able to feel the truth intuitively. When anyone passes the desirable for reality or their external image is used to cover up his or her internal emptiness, the young people immediately recognize such people.

According to the hierarchy, clothes is of a considerable importance for modern young people. "It is often a way to express themselves that is a way to express one's personality. Those who pay special attention to the colour and smallest details of their cloths are people showing their affiliation with certain youth subcultures, groups or societies. In reality, the accent on the clothes is often an indication of a deep aspiration of young people to be noticed for their uniqueness, originality and beauty," said the hierarchy.

"The clothes in the Old Testament were to signify passing things. Man as a being created for the eternal things used to have clothes made by God after the fall. It was a sign of a contradiction: though created for great things he lives in things miserable, though created for the eternity, he lives in the perishable, though created for glory, he has to cover up his shame. On the other hand, clothes were considered a manifestation of things invisible, such as one's dignity, one's place in the society or religious community, one's inner condition, etc. A change of clothes could not be made without an internal change of the person and was only a manifestation of that change."

Therefore, the Head of UGCC called the young people to put off the "old clothes" and use them to pave the way for the Lord as "only Christ can grant a person the fullness of life, freedom from the passing things and internal beauty and purity."

The address was published by the Information Department of UGCC.

<http://risu.org.ua>

Patriarch Sviatoslav: 'Christ's priesthood has its source not in man, but in the divine person and ministry of the Son of God'

"Christ's priesthood has its source not in man, but in the divine person and ministry of the Son of God. The priest is called to be a light ray of eternity in the interim, a living icon of the Savior's presence among the people of God, the presence that throughout history the Church was a source of strength and invincibility for the Ukrainian believer," His Beatitude Sviatoslav stated in his Epistle to the UGCC clergy on Holy Thursday on March 29, 2012.

The head of the UGCC calls the hierarchs to "reflect together on a common task: to make all people partakers in eternal life." He cites examples of famous priests. He said Metropolitan Andrey, using Father Markian Sashkevych as an example, emphasized that the content of his work was 'to go to the people,'" and Blessed Bishop Omelyan Kovch wanted to be among the people even in death camps.



In his opinion, "a priest can perform his mission only if he will be with his people always and everywhere." "Only then is he able to nourish the faithful with his preaching of the word of God, using it to show specific life circumstances of modern life and bring people closer to the holy sacraments," he says. The priest should know his faithful, share with them all aspects of their lives, to be with them and follow their life paths.

Patriarch Sviatoslav argues that modern culture "creates new ways to separate the clergy from the faithful, to steal from our community the living and active presence of the Good Shepherd, to separate them from God." According to the Primate of the Church, "by becoming close to his people, a zealous pastor brings them closer to Christ, shares the joy and grief, burdens and victories."

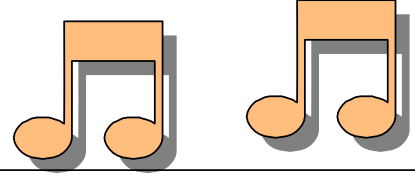
UGCC Information Department

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HOW MANY UKRAINIANS DOES IT TAKE TO PACK A BOX?

Thursday, March 29th, 2012 was an eventful day at the Ukrainian Catholic Chancery. Metropolitan Stefan Soroka, together with Rev. Msgr. Peter Waslo (Chancellor), Rev. Andriy Rabiya (Vice-Chancellor), Sister Lydia Anna Sawka, OSBM (Archbishop's Personal Secretary), and Mr. Taras Hankewycz (Office Receptionist) packed a box sent by express mail to the Apostolic Nuncio in Washington, DC, containing the bound copies of the completed Quinquennial Report for the Archeparchy, submitted in advance for the upcoming 'Ad Limina Apostolorum' visit by Archbishop Stefan Soroka with the Holy Father. Metropolitan Stefan will visit with the Bishops of Region XV, the Eastern Catholic Bishops of USA, scheduled for the week of May 14th to 20th in Rome. This will be the first such visit by a region of Eastern Catholic Bishops of USA.



The report offers an evaluation and review of all of the pastoral and evangelization activities of the Archeparchy in the period of January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2011. The report includes statistical data gathered on the Archeparchy and the annual audited financial reports of the Archeparchy. The preparation of the report was a collaborative effort involving Metropolitan Stefan Soroka, Rev. Msgr. Peter Waslo (Chancellor), Very Rev. Andriy Rabiya (Vice-Chancellor), Very Rev. Robert Hitchens (Rector of St. Josaphat Seminary), Rev. Paul Makar (Director of Vocations), Sister Lydia Anna Sawka, OSBM (Archbishop's Secretary).

News from...

Ss. Cyril's and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church Choir, Olyphant, PA



Photo: Choir from Olyphant at the Festival of Carols 2012

Ss. Cyril's and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church Choir has just released their Easter album in the CD format, (Lenten Hymns and Easter Hymns sung in church slavonic) as a fund raiser. Previously this had only been available as a cassette. The price for the (Easter) CD is \$15.00 each. Patrick J. Marcinko II, Choir Director and over 25 choir members can be heard on the CD's. Also released in a new format is the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, celebrated by Monsignor Stephen Hyrnuck as sung by the St. Cyril's Choir. This historical (Divine Liturgy) DVD is available for \$20.00 each. They also have available a Christmas Music CD available for \$15.00 each. If you are interested in obtaining any, or all of these recordings, please contact Glenda Marcinko at 570-876-2888 and any choir member or contact the Rectory at 570-489-2271, Father Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor. www.stcyrils.maslar-online.com

EASTER DINNER "SVIACHENE" CELEBRATION

The parish family of Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of Scranton will hold its annual traditional Easter Dinner "Sviachene" celebration on Sunday, April 29, 2012, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Center at 428 North Seventh Avenue. Traditional Ukrainian Easter foods will be served, along with a hot dinner buffet. Tickets are \$15 adults; \$7.50 children age 6-12; under age 6 free. For tickets or information, contact Kathleen Izak at 570 346-2414. Advance reservations only—no tickets at the door. Reservation deadline is Sunday, April 22.



Scranton, PA

Awarding of a variety of attractive theme baskets will be featured.

Everyone is welcome at our table!

Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 29th is at 11:00 am.

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Melrose Park, PA

Our Lenten Mission was held March 29th through April 1st. The Mission was preached by Rev. Andriy Olijnyk, C.Ss.R., a visiting missionary from Ukraine. (Photos: Russell Cooke)



Rev. Andriy Olijnyk, C.Ss.R.
and Rev. Ihor Royik

Congratulations Deacon Paul Makar on your 25th Anniversary of Ordination!

On March 25th, 2012 the Fr. Deacon Paul Makar from the Assumption Parish in Perth Amboy, NJ celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Diaconate. The parish family celebrated this occasion with Divine Liturgy that was celebrated by His Grace Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka. In the presence were also former pastors Metropolitan Archbishop Emeritus Stephen Sulyk and Father Roman Dubitsky, pastor Father Ivan Turyk and parish vocations Father Paul Makar and Deacon Michael Waak. Following the Divine Liturgy there was a reception in the parish hall, so all could extend their congratulations and best wishes, individually, to Fr. Deacon Paul and his family on this wonderful occasion.



Deacon Paul Makar was ordained to diaconate on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 1987. Deacon Paul was the first to answer the archeparchial call to the married diaconate, a ministry introduced in our time by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk. With the recommendation and blessings of his pastor, Fr. Roman Dubitsky, Paul Makar Jr., a graduate of Rutgers University, began his theology studies with the Jesuits at St. Peter's College in Jersey City. After completing a course in contemporary theology, he enrolled in St. John's University, Jamaica, New York, to begin graduate studies. When St. John's University awarded him his Master's degree in Theology, he requested and received a call to ordination. On March 25, 1987, in his home parish, a Pontifical Liturgy was celebrated on the occasion of his ordination by Metropolitan Stephen. The assisting clergy consisted of concelebrants, Fathers Roman Dubitsky, Roman Mirchuk, John Zeyack, Joseph Korinchock (deacon) and Msgr. Leon Mosko. Deacon Paul was assigned to both the Assumption (Perth Amboy), and St. Stephen (Toms River), parishes.

He currently remains assigned to Assumption parish. Deacon Paul also studied chemistry at New York University, holds an MBA from Wagner College, and has taken post-graduate courses at Seton Hall (Immaculate Conception Seminary). Deacon Paul and his wife Anna are blessed with three children, Fr. Paul J. Makar, Nicholas and his wife Stephanie, Michael, and grandson Nicholas D. Makar.



Photo (l to r): Rev. Paul J. Makar, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Deacon Paul Makar, Metropolitan-Archbishop Emeritus Stephen Sulyk, Mrs. Anna Makar, and altar boys.



Photo (l to r): Rev. Ivan Turyk, Deacon Paul Makar, and Deacon Michael Waak.

May 2012 - Травня 2012

Happy Birthday!
З Днем народження!

May 12: Rev. Joseph Szupa
May 22: Rev. Msgr. Ronald Popivchak
May 23: Rev. Oleksandr Dumenko

**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!

May 5: Rev. Vasyl Putera (16th Anniversary)
May 11: Very Rev. Archpr. John M. Fields (26th Anniversary)
May 12: Very Rev. Archpr. Daniel Gurovich (38th
Anniversary)
May 14: Rev. John Ciurpita (23rd Anniversary)
May 14: Msgr. James Melnic (34th Anniversary)
May 16: Rev. Paul J. Makar (2nd Anniversary)
May 16: Rev. John Seniw (30th Anniversary)
May 16: V. Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan (30th Anniversary)
May 20: Very Rev. Archpr. Michael Hutsko (28th Anniversary)
May 22: Rev. Robert Hitchens (18th Anniversary)
May 25: Rev. Msgr. Myron Grabowsky (45th Anniversary)
May 25: Rev. Msgr. Ronald Popivchak (45th Anniversary)

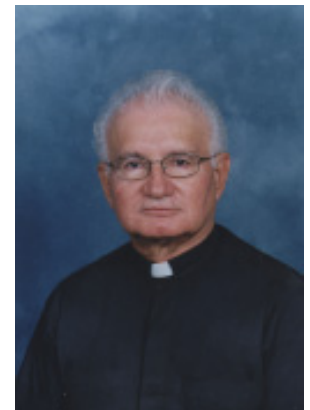
**May God Grant You Many Happy and
Blessed Years of Service in the Vineyard of
Our Lord!**

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



Holy Land Pilgrimage 2012 **Sept. 27 - Oct 8**

A spiritual trip of a lifetime is being offered by the Franciscan Friars of Washington, D.C. This very exciting and totally Catholic trip includes visits to where Our Lord and His Blessed Mother lived and died. Nazareth, Cana of Galilee, Capernaum, Mt. Carmel, Mt. Sinai, Jericho, and Jerusalem are just some of the places of spiritual significance. The group will be led from Perth Amboy by Fr. Roman Dubitsky. For brochures, applications and information, contact Melanie Fedynyshyn (the local coordinator) at (732) 442-4632.



Fr. Roman Dubitsky

Pysanky Workshop in Warrington, PA



St Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church, Warrington, PA - On March 11, 2012 we held a Pysanky Workshop for the children and parents of our Parish family. Our instructor, Natalie Pasicznyk Smith, worked diligently and patiently with our group and shared her knowledge of this beautiful tradition of spring passed down from our ancestors.

Everyone had a wonderful time and everyone went home with a homemade, decorated egg that they learned to make that day.

On March 25, 2012 we held another Pysanky Workshop for adults which was well attended by Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians alike. Everyone was excited to learn to make these beautiful, decorated eggs. Our instructor, Chris Izak, slowly and patiently took us through the step by step process and had us all surprised at how much better our eggs turned out than we ever expected. She also presented a video showing a master artist making her pysanky which also gave some historical information about the legends, meaning of the various designs, and the beauty of her own pysanky. A great time was had by all and I know some of those eggs we made that day were added to the Easter basket that we took to church for blessing this year.



Submitted by: Helene Zadworniak Michalko

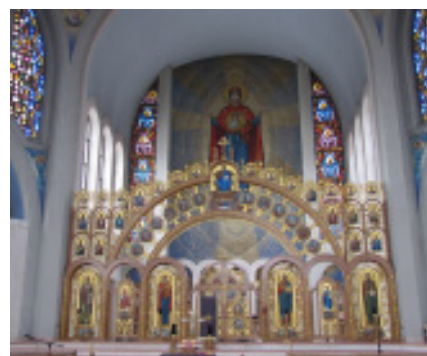
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of General Counsel's Managers' Meeting.



On March 28, 2012 Representatives from HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) took a tour of the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, PA, after visiting Ascension Manor. This visit was part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of General Counsel's Manager's Meeting. In the photo with them are Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka and Msgr. Peter Waslo.



Msgr. Peter Waslo gave a tour of the Cathedral.



Primary Election 2012 - What's at Stake?

by A. B. Hill

Both Democrats and Republicans use the Primary Election to designate who their party delegates will support at the national conventions and who will face off in statewide contests in November. This year, voters cast ballots for President of the United States, U.S. Senator, Congressional Representatives, Pennsylvania Attorney General, Auditor General and Treasurer, one half of the Pennsylvania Senate and all of the House of Representatives.

The men and women who occupy these offices have a great deal of influence over our future; but what exactly do they do and why should Catholics care?

Let's look at a few offices:

President of the United States

Most Americans recognize the president as someone important, but we may not realize how his decisions affect our daily lives.

The president is the head of state and commander in chief, but he is also responsible for implementing and enforcing the laws passed

by Congress. He appoints a cabinet to run the agencies that make this happen and has the authority to issue executive orders that clarify or further existing laws.

Executive orders and government agency regulations tell us what we have to do to comply with the laws. For example, the law says Americans must pay federal income taxes; regulations say they are due by April 15.

Pennsylvania Attorney General

The attorney general is Pennsylvania's chief law enforcement officer responsible for prosecuting organized crime and public corruption. The AG also defends the Commonwealth in legal proceedings, should one of its statutes be challenged in court, and reviews the legality of proposed regulations of state government agencies. The attorney general is in a position to defend religious liberty and other constitutional concerns.

Pennsylvania Auditor General

The auditor general is

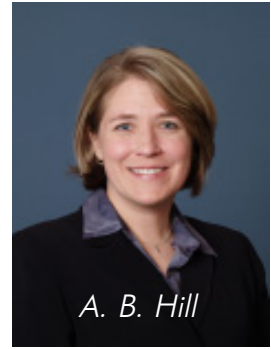
elected to oversee how our tax dollars are spent and to ensure that government programs operate efficiently and effectively, sort of a fiscal "watchdog" for the state's taxpayers.

Pennsylvania Treasurer

The state treasurer is the steward of Pennsylvania's financial resources. It is his or her job to responsibly invest our tax dollars.

The issues facing Pennsylvania present serious moral, ethical and social justice questions. Each of these elected offices, in their own way, plays a role in how Pennsylvania addresses those issues.

As faithful citizens it is important to ask ourselves, how do we protect human life and dignity? How do we fairly share our blessings and confront the challenges we face? What kind of nation or Commonwealth do we want? What kind of world do we want to shape? The simple answer is we must elect leaders who share these values. Catholic voters must form their conscience around these questions before casting their ballot.



A. B. Hill

NOTE: PCC will have a presidential voter guide for the General Election in November, but will not provide one for the Primary Election. The guide will look at positions of candidates on issues like abortion, conscience protection and religious liberty, the death penalty, education, access to health care, immigration, marriage, economic policy and global poverty, stem cell research, and international peace and justice. A voter guide for statewide candidates is available at www.pacatholic.org.

A. B. Hill is Communications Director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference – the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. Stay up-to-date with Catholic news and issues at www.pacatholic.org, www.facebook.com/pacatholic, and www.twitter.com/pacatholic.

APRIL 2012

Know the Positions of Pennsylvania's U.S. Senate Candidates

Submitted by [AB_Hill](#) on Tuesday, April 3 2012

As part of a statewide effort to educate about candidates and their positions on issues important to Catholic voters, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) sent a questionnaire to Pennsylvania's candidates for U.S. Senator to give them the opportunity to make their positions known on key issues. The answers they provided are listed here for educational purposes only; the PCC does not endorse candidates for political office.

REPUBLICANS: [David Alan Christian](#), [Tom Smith](#), [Marc Scaringi](#), [Sam Rohrer](#), [Steven Welch](#)

DEMOCRATS: [Joseph Vodvarka](#), [Bob Casey, Jr.](#)

Do you support or oppose legislation to continue and expand current federal laws that provide educational benefits to students and teachers in private and religious schools on an equitable basis in comparison to the benefits received by public school students and teachers?

CHRISTIAN (R) **Support**
SCARINGI (R) **Support**
WELCH (R) **Support***

**I fully support legislation that would expand choice within our school system.*

SMITH (R) **Did Not Respond**

ROHRER (R) **Support**
VODVARKA (D) **Did Not Respond**

CASEY (D) **Oppose***
** I attended and taught at Catholic schools. We can't divert funding from public schools.*

What is your position on providing a federal tax credit to businesses that donate to scholarship organizations that provide scholarships for low-income students at private and religious schools in grades kindergarten through 12?

CHRISTIAN (R) **Support***
**I support merit scholarships.*

SCARINGI (R) **Support**
WELCH (R) **Did Not Indicate***

**I think such decisions should be made at the state level not at the federal level.*

SMITH (R) **Did Not Respond**

ROHRER (R) **Support***
**I would support this approach as it is quite similar to our EITC in PA.*

VODVARKA (D) **Did Not Respond**

CASEY (D) **Oppose**

Do you support or oppose legislation that would permit undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for a number of years, have worked and built equities in our country, and who do not have criminal records to register with the government and take steps to earn legal status?

CHRISTIAN (R) **Support***
**There should be a reasonable probation while working toward government registration. I support a path to residency status, but not citizenship for current undocumented immigrants.*

SCARINGI (R) **Oppose**
WELCH (R) **Oppose***

**I fully support legal immigration and believe it is something that has made this country what it is. We are also a country of laws that must be followed. I would not reward those who have broken these laws.*

SMITH (R) **Did Not Respond**

ROHRER (R) **Support***

**I oppose amnesty, but do support productive individuals who are holding down a job and willing to engage the*

lawful immigration system.
VODVARKA (D) **Did Not Respond**

CASEY (D) **Support***
**I have supported comprehensive immigration reform with increased enforcement.*

Do you support or oppose current levels of poverty-focused development assistance to reduce global poverty and increase the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) contributed in foreign aid?

CHRISTIAN (R) **Oppose***
**Foreign aid, including poverty assistance, should have performance requirements attached.*

SCARINGI (R) **Oppose**
WELCH (R) **Did Not Indicate***

**I support poverty-focused assistance. In these tough economic times we need to be evaluating the level of funding that all federal programs are receiving.*

SMITH (R) **Did Not Respond**

ROHRER (R) **Oppose***
**The distinction here is "federal government" financial aid. Aid and compassionate assistance for the poor & needy is a*

(continued on next page)

Know the Positions of Pennsylvania's U.S. Senate Candidates

(continued from previous page)

duty of all. Government should encourage assistance, but not forcibly take dollars from the citizens to do so.

VODVARKA (D) **Did Not Respond**
CASEY (D) **Support**

Do you support or oppose current levels of aid for refugees who are fleeing from persecution abroad and to provide adequate funding for the U.S. refugee admissions and resettlement programs?

CHRISTIAN (R) **Oppose**
SCARINGI (R) **Oppose**
WELCH (R) **Did Not Indicate***

**I support aid for refugees who are fleeing from persecution abroad. In these tough economic times we need to be evaluating the level of funding that all federal programs are receiving.*

SMITH (R) **Did Not Respond**
ROHRER (R) **Did Not Indicate***

**I am unable to answer this as I am not certain of the actual "current level." I do believe we should continue to assist those who are persecuted by oppressive governments in a number of ways.*

VODVARKA (D) **Did Not**

Respond
CASEY (D) **Support**

Do you support or oppose legislation to prevent federal agencies and states that receive federal funds from discriminating against health care providers who do not perform or participate in abortions (Hyde-Weldon Amendment)?

CHRISTIAN (R) **Support***
**I am pro-life.*

SCARINGI (R) **Support**
WELCH (R) **Support**
SMITH (R) **Did Not Respond**

ROHRER (R) **Support**
VODVARKA (D) **Did Not Respond**
CASEY (D) **Support**

Do you support or oppose embryonic stem cell research?

CHRISTIAN (R) **Oppose**
SCARINGI (R) **Oppose**
WELCH (R) **Support**
SMITH (R) **Did Not Respond**

ROHRER (R) **Oppose**
VODVARKA (D) **Did Not Respond**
CASEY (D) **Oppose**

Do you support or oppose legislation that would guarantee comprehensive freedom of conscience for health care

professionals, providers and institutions?

CHRISTIAN (R) **Support**
SCARINGI (R) **Support**
WELCH (R) **Support**
SMITH (R) **Did Not Respond**

ROHRER (R) **Support**
VODVARKA (D) **Did Not Respond**

CASEY (D) **Support***

**I voted for the Blunt amendment to protect religiously-affiliated institutions.*

Do you support or oppose efforts to pass legislation (i.e., the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act) that would make sexual orientation and gender identity or expression protected classes that are equivalent to other protected classes (e.g., race, religion, sex, etc.)?

CHRISTIAN (R) **Oppose**
SCARINGI (R) **Oppose**
WELCH (R) **Oppose**
SMITH (R) **Did Not Respond**
ROHRER (R) **Oppose**
VODVARKA (D) **Did Not Respond**
CASEY (D) **Support**

Do you support or oppose the overturning of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)?

CHRISTIAN (R) **Oppose**
SCARINGI (R) **Oppose**
WELCH (R) **Oppose**
SMITH (R) **Did Not Respond**

ROHRER (R) **Oppose**
VODVARKA (D) **Did Not Respond**

CASEY (D) **Did Not Indicate***

**I have not cosponsored legislation to repeal DOMA.*

<http://www.pacatholic.org>



Know the Positions of Pennsylvania Statewide Candidates

As part of a statewide effort to educate about candidates and their positions on issues important to Catholic voters, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) sent a questionnaire to candidates for state attorney general, auditor general, and treasurer to give them the opportunity to make their positions known on key issues. The answers they provided are listed here for educational purposes only; the PCC does not endorse candidates for political office.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

David Freed (R)
—
Kathleen Kane (D)
Patrick Murphy (D)
Don Bailey (D)

AUDITOR GENERAL

Frank Pinto (R)
John Maher (R)
—
Eugene DePasquale (D)

STATE TREASURER

Diana Irey Vaughan (R)
—
Robert McCord (D)

What is your position on legislation that would provide direct grants to parents to choose the schools that they believe are best suited for their children, including nonpublic schools?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R)	Support
KANE (D)	Did Not Respond
MURPHY (D)	Did Not Respond
BAILEY (D)	Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

PINTO (R)	Support
MAHER (R)	Support*
DEPASQUALE (D)	Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R)	Support*
MCCORD (D)	Did Not Respond

What is your position on amending the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R)	Support
KANE (D)	Did Not Respond
MURPHY (D)	Did Not Respond
BAILEY (D)	Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

PINTO (R)	Support
MAHER (R)	Support
DEPASQUALE (D)	Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R)	Support*
MCCORD (D)	Did Not Respond

What is your position on the death penalty?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R)	Support*
KANE (D)	Did Not Respond
MURPHY (D)	Did Not Respond
BAILEY (D)	Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

PINTO (R)	Support
MAHER (R)	Support
DEPASQUALE (D)	Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R)	Support*
MCCORD (D)	Did Not Respond

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

- I do not oppose legalized abortion.
- I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.
- I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger.
- I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R)	d.
KANE (D)	Did Not Respond
MURPHY (D)	Did Not Respond
BAILEY (D)	Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

PINTO (R)	Did Not Indicate
MAHER (R)	c.
DEPASQUALE (D)	Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R)	b.*
MCCORD (D)	Did Not Respond

Do you support or oppose legislation that would add state restrictions to existing federal prohibitions concerning the hiring of undocumented immigrants or the provision of healthcare or government services to the undocumented?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R)	Support
KANE (D)	Did Not Respond
MURPHY (D)	Did Not Respond
BAILEY (D)	Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

PINTO (R)	Support
MAHER (R)	Did Not Indicate*
DEPASQUALE (D)	Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R)	Support*
MCCORD (D)	Did Not Respond

- See reverse side for more candidate questions -

An asterisk (*) indicates the candidate submitted remarks that could not be printed due to space constraints. To review the complete responses and learn more about the upcoming election, log on to www.pacatholic.org



Published by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania's Catholic Bishops www.pacatholic.org.

4.4.2012

(continued on next page)

- See reverse side for more candidate questions -

What is your position on restoring state funding to the Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP) which provides low-interest loans to homeowners facing possible foreclosure through no fault of their own?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R)	Support
KANE (D)	Did Not Respond
MURPHY (D)	Did Not Respond
BAILEY (D)	Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

PINTO (R)	Support
MAHER (R)	Support
DEPASQUALE (D)	Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R)	Did Not Indicate*
MCCORD (D)	Did Not Respond

What is your position on legislation requiring employers to provide employee benefits to which they are morally opposed, for example, mandating coverage for contraceptives or benefits to same-sex partners of employees?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R)	Oppose
KANE (D)	Did Not Respond
MURPHY (D)	Did Not Respond
BAILEY (D)	Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

PINTO (R)	Oppose
MAHER (R)	Oppose
DEPASQUALE (D)	Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R)	Oppose*
MCCORD (D)	Did Not Respond

Do you support or oppose increased funding for Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) where the state budget includes an increase in public school funding?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R)	Support
KANE (D)	Did Not Respond
MURPHY (D)	Did Not Respond
BAILEY (D)	Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

PINTO (R)	Support
MAHER (R)	Support
DEPASQUALE (D)	Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R)	Support*
MCCORD (D)	Did Not Respond

Do you support or oppose embryonic stem cell research?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R)	Oppose
KANE (D)	Did Not Respond
MURPHY (D)	Did Not Respond
BAILEY (D)	Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

PINTO (R)	Oppose
MAHER (R)	Oppose
DEPASQUALE (D)	Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R)	Oppose*
MCCORD (D)	Did Not Respond

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

- a. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should be subject to government review of educational content.
- b. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should follow state standards for health and safety of children, but be free to determine their own educational content based on the teachings of their faith tradition.
- c. Religious childcare and pre-k providers should be free from government regulation.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R)	b.
KANE (D)	Did Not Respond
MURPHY (D)	Did Not Respond
BAILEY (D)	Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

PINTO (R)	b.
MAHER (R)	b.
DEPASQUALE (D)	Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R)	b.
MCCORD (D)	Did Not Respond

Do you support or oppose legislation that would restrict taxpayer funding of abortion in Pennsylvania's health insurance exchange created by the federal health care reform law?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R)	Support
KANE (D)	Did Not Respond
MURPHY (D)	Did Not Respond
BAILEY (D)	Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

PINTO (R)	Support
MAHER (R)	Support
DEPASQUALE (D)	Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R)	Support
MCCORD (D)	Did Not Respond

What is your position on legislation that forces health care providers to provide, pay for or refer for services contrary to their conscience for moral or religious reasons?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R)	Oppose
KANE (D)	Did Not Respond
MURPHY (D)	Did Not Respond
BAILEY (D)	Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

PINTO (R)	Oppose
MAHER (R)	Oppose
DEPASQUALE (D)	Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R)	Oppose
MCCORD (D)	Did Not Respond

An asterisk (*) indicates the candidate submitted remarks that could not be printed due to space constraints. To review the complete responses and learn more about the upcoming election, log on to www.pacatholic.org

One of Oldest Bishops of UGCC Dies

3 April 2012

Today, Bishop Yefrem (Kryvyi) of the Order of Saint Basil the Great, Bishop of the Curitiba Eparchy of St. John the Baptist (1978-2006) of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Brazil, died at the age of 84 after a long illness. Bishop Yefrem was one of the oldest bishops of the UGCC.

On December 13, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI accepted the abdication of Bishop Yefrem as the eparch of Curitiba. He was replaced by Bishop Volodymyr Kovbych.

http://risu.org.ua/en/index/all_news/catholics/ugcc/47595/



Archbishop Emeritus Michael Bzdel reposes in the Lord

5 April 2012

Most Reverend Michael Bzdel (CSsR) Archbishop Emeritus of Winnipeg, passed away late in the evening of Tuesday, 3 April, at his residence in Winnipeg.

Funeral Services will be held in Winnipeg beginning on Wednesday, 11 April 2012, at 7:00 pm at Sts. Vladimir & Olga Cathedral, with Hierarchical Parastas. Services will continue on Thursday, 12 April 2012, at 10:00 am at St. Joseph's Church, with the Divine Liturgy and concluding rites, followed by burial at Holy Family Cemetery.

Bzdel, Michael (Mykhailo), born 21 July 1930 in Wishart, Saskatchewan. Ukrainian Catholic archbishop and metropolitan. Educated in Roblin, Manitoba at (the future) Saint Vladimir's College,

he began a novitiate with the Redemptorist Fathers in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. He completed his studies in theology and philosophy in Waterford and Meadowvale, Ontario (1948–55) and was ordained in 1954. His first major assignment was as a parish priest in Roblin (1955–67), where he also taught at Saint Vladimir's College. He subsequently served in Winnipeg (1967–71), Saskatoon (1972–81), and Yorkton and district (1981–4), with a sabbatical (1971–2) that allowed him to study pastoral counseling at Saint Paul's University in Ottawa. In 1983–92 he served as Provincial Superior for the Redemptorists' Yorkton province. Early in 1993 he was ordained as Archbishop of Winnipeg (and ipso facto Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan of Canada). He retired from this position early in 2006.

http://risu.org.ua/en/index/all_news/catholics/ugcc/47637/

St. Thomas Sunday



On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (Jn. 20, 19-31)

The Church dedicates this Sunday to the memory of St. Thomas the Apostle. There is no doubt St. Thomas loved Jesus very much, despite some doubts concerning His bodily resurrection. It was Thomas who courageously spoke out when the other Apostles tried to deter Jesus from going to Jerusalem because of the danger to His life. "Let us also go," he said, "that we may die with Him" (John 11:16).

Thomas was not present when Jesus first appeared to the Apostles. When informed of Jesus' appearance, the news was too good to be true. Being a pessimist by nature, he refused to believe it. "Unless I see the mark of the nails on His hands," he said, "unless I put my finger into the place where the nails were, and my hand into His side, I will not believe it" (John 20:25).

The Gospel today relates the story of Jesus' next appearance, when Thomas was present. Jesus knew Thomas' heart. Using his own words, Jesus invited Thomas to find out for himself. "Reach your finger here. See My hands! Reach your hand here and put it into My side. Be unbelieving no longer, but believe!" Overwhelmed by this evidence, Thomas could do nothing but fall at Jesus' feet and cry out: "My Lord and my God."

Jesus' response to Thomas' profession of faith in His resurrection has special meaning for all of us today. "Because you have seen Me," Jesus told Thomas, "you have found faith. Happy are they who never saw Me and yet believe." There have been times in the lives of many people when doubts arise concerning various aspects of their faith. The example of St. Thomas should be sufficient evidence to many of today's "doubting Thomases." St. John wrote His Gospel especially for doubters, those who are struggling for faith, who are looking for the gift of faith or an increase in faith. "Those words have been recorded that you may hold the faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this faith you may possess life by His name."

CANONICAL STATUS OF THE SO-CALLED BISHOPS OF PIDHIRCI

Vatican City, 29 March 2012 (VIS) - Given below is the text of a declaration issued today by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith concerning the canonical status of the "so-called Greek-Catholic bishops of Pidhirci": Fr. Elias A. Dohnal O.S.B.M., Fr. Markian V. Hitiuk O.S.B.M., Fr. Metodej R. Spirik O.S.B.M., and Fr. Robert Oberhauser. The text is dated 22 February and bears the signatures of Cardinal William Joseph Levada and Archbishop Luis Francisco Ladaria Ferrer S.J., respectively prefect and secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

(1) The Holy See has followed with great concern the activities of Fr. Elias A. Dohnal O.S.B.M., Fr. Markian V. Hitiuk O.S.B.M., Fr. Metodej R. Spirik O.S.B.M., and Fr. Robert Oberhauser who, having been expelled from the Basilian Order of St. Josaphat, subsequently proclaimed themselves as bishops of the Greek-Catholic Ukrainian Church. With their disobedience, these priests continue to challenge ecclesiastical authority, causing moral and spiritual damage, not only to the Basilian Order of St. Josaphat and the Greek-Catholic Ukrainian Church, but also to this Apostolic See and the Catholic Church as a whole. All this provokes division and bewilderment among the faithful. The aforementioned priests, having established a group of "bishops" of Pidhirci, have recently sought to have that group recognised and registered by the competent State authorities as the "Ukrainian Orthodox Greek-Catholic Church".

(2) Since the beginning of this painful episode, Church representatives of various ranks have sought to dissuade them from continuing a conduct which, among other things, could deceive the faithful, as has already happened in a number of cases.

(3) The Holy See, concerned to protect the unity and peace of Christ's flock, had hoped in the repentance and subsequent return of the aforementioned priests to full communion with the Catholic Church. Unfortunately the most recent developments - such as the unsuccessful attempt to acquire State registration for the "Pidhirci" group under the name of the "Ukrainian Orthodox Greek-Catholic Church" - demonstrates their continuing disobedience.

(4) Therefore, to safeguard the common good of the Church and the "salus animarum", and given that the so-called "bishops" of Pidhirci show no sign of repentance but continue to create confusion and disarray in the community of faithful, in particular by calumniating representatives of the Holy See and of the local Church, and asserting that the supreme authority of the Church is in possession of documentation testifying to the full validity of their episcopal ordination, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, accepting the request presented by the ecclesiastical authorities of the Greek-Catholic Ukrainian Church, and by other dicasteries of the Holy See, has decided, by this declaration, to inform the faithful, especially in the countries of origin of the so-called "bishops", about their current canonical status.

(5) This Congregation, disassociating itself entirely from the actions of the so-called "bishops" aforementioned, and from their aforesaid declarations, formally declares that it does not recognise the validity of their episcopal ordinations, or of any and all ordinations that have derived, or will derive therefrom. Moreover, the canonical status of the four so-called "bishops" is that of excommunication, pursuant to canon 1459 para. 1 of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches (CCEO), in view of the fact that an appeal sentence of the ordinary tribunal of the Major Archiepiscopal Ukrainian Church, issued on 10 September

(continued on next page)

CANONICAL STATUS OF THE SO-CALLED BISHOPS OF PIDHIRCI

(continued from previous page)

2008, recognised them as guilty of offences under canons 1462, 1447 and 1452 of the CCEO; i.e., the offences of illegitimate usurpation of office, inciting sedition and hatred towards certain hierarchs, provoking subjects to disobedience, and harming a third party's good name by calumny.

(6) Furthermore, the use of the name "Catholic" by groups which are not recognised by the competent ecclesiastical authority is to be considered as illegitimate, pursuant to canon 19 of the CCEO.

(7) The faithful are, then, enjoined not to adhere to the aforementioned group as, to all canonical effects, it is outside ecclesiastical communion. The faithful are invited to pray for the members of the group, that they may repent and return to full communion with the Catholic Church.

<http://www.news.va/en/news/canonical-status-of-the-so-called-bishops-of-pidhi>

(Photo: T. Bilyj)



(Photo: T. Siwak)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 3, 2012: The Archeparchial Office of Religious Education is sponsoring A Festival of Religious Songs "**Songs of the Heart**" at 3 PM at the Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA. Children and youth from parishes in the Archeparchy will perform in the Festival.

**For more information, please contact
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