

THE WAY ШЛЯХ

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ENGLISH VERSION

Pope Benedict XVI poses with U.S. leaders of Eastern Catholic churches May 18 during their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican.



Pope Benedict XVI poses with U.S. leaders of Eastern Catholic churches May 18 during their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican. From left are: Father Edward G. Cimbala, administrator of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic; Ukrainian Catholic Auxiliary Bishop John Bura of Philadelphia; Byzantine Catholic Bishop Gerald N. Dino of Phoenix; Chaldean Bishop Ibrahim N. Ibrahim of St. Thomas the Apostle, based in Southfield, Mich.; Maronite Bishop Gregory J. Mansour of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Armenian Bishop Mikael Mouradian of New York; Melkite Catholic Bishop Nicholas J. Samra of Newton, Mass.; Ukrainian Catholic Archbishop Stefan Soroka of Philadelphia; Pope Benedict; Byzantine Catholic Archbishop William C. Skurla of Pittsburgh; Syriac Bishop Yousif Habash of Newark, N.J.; Romanian Bishop John M. Botean of Canton, Ohio; Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Paul P. Chomnycky of Stamford, Conn.; Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Richard S. Seminack of Chicago; Byzantine Bishop John M. Kudrick of Parma, Ohio; and Chaldean Bishop Sarhad Y. Jammo of the Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle, based in El Cajon, Calif. (Photo caption: <http://www.catholicsun.org>)

Greetings to His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI

Praise Be Jesus Christ!

We, the Hierarchs of the Eastern Catholic Churches in the United States of America, members of the recently formed Region XV of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, joyfully greet you, Holy Father on this historic occasion. We represent twelve Eastern Catholic Churches, with seventeen hierarchs currently as members. Our brother Latin Bishops generously supported our initiative to more intensively collaborate as Eastern Catholic Bishops, and assisted our formation as a separate region within our Catholic Conference of Bishops. This has enabled significant growth in mutual understanding amidst us and with our Hierarchical brothers of the Latin Church.

In the Apostolic Letter *Orientalis lumen*, Blessed Pope John Paul invites one to listen to the Churches of the East whom he calls "living interpreters of the treasure of tradition they preserve". He observed that "in contemplating it, before my eyes appear elements of great significance for a fuller and more thorough understanding of the Christian experience". We



strive, with the Grace of God, to fulfill this unique and privileged role in the Catholic Church and in society. We are privileged to fulfill our mission within a very positive, nurturing and supportive environment which exists with our brother Bishops of the Latin Church in the United States of America.

We especially thank you, Holy Father, for your prayers and for your consistent efforts to nurture the growth of the Eastern Catholic Churches throughout the world. Our collaboration with various Congregations of the Catholic Church in these past days has assisted in our discernment of our efforts to minister to our

faithful. We share in the commitment to undertake aggressive initiatives for the evangelization of all people. We recognize the need to more expressively inform and teach others about the traditions of our respective Churches so as to enhance the understanding of the Christian experience. We are grateful for your teachings, Holy Father, which inspire a greater understanding of the value and traditions of the Eastern Catholic Churches.

May we especially express our gratitude for your heartfelt concern and voice of advocacy on behalf of the Christians in the Middle East facing persecution and

oppression due to civil unrest. Many of the faithful we serve in the United States of America are people who have sought refuge from oppression, tyranny, civil strife, and economic hardships in countries around the world. Our efforts to serve them are greatly enhanced and inspired by your immense compassion for these people. The spiritual and material needs of these faithful often demand much resourcefulness by our Churches so that we may effectively assist them.

I conclude these brief remarks with our profound and heartfelt

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Greetings to His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI

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expression of esteem and respect for you, Holy Father, and our deep gratitude for the fraternal love and support you offer to each of us with such generosity of spirit and goodness. We are inspired by your selfless example of Christ-like service. Know of our love for you and of our steadfast remembrance of you, Holy Father, in our prayers.



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka addresses Pope Benedict XVI.

Delivered in May, 2012 on behalf of the Eastern Catholic Hierarchs of Region XV of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops by the Most

Reverend Stefan Soroka, Ukrainian Catholic Church Philadelphia for
Metropolitan of the in USA and Archbishop of Ukrainians.

Pope: Eastern Churches embody “spiritual richness”

Pope Benedict XVI met with the final group of bishops from the United States coming to Rome on their *ad limina* visits. The 15 bishops were from the various Eastern Churches present in the United States.

In his remarks, the Pope pointed out the Eastern Churches, “embody in a unique way the ethnic, cultural and spiritual richness of the American Catholic community, past and present.”

He added that historically “the Church in America has struggled to recognize and incorporate this diversity, and has succeeded, not without difficulty, in forging a communion in Christ and in the apostolic faith which mirrors the catholicity which is an indefectible mark of the Church.”

Pope Benedict also said “the Church in America is called to embrace, incorporate and cultivate the rich patrimony of faith and culture present in America’s many immigrant groups, including not only those of your own rites, but also the swelling numbers of Hispanic, Asian and African Catholics.”



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Pope: Eastern Churches embody “spiritual richness”

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Below is the full text of Pope Benedict XVI’s full remarks:

Dear Brother Bishops,

I greet all of you with fraternal affection in the Lord. Our meeting today concludes the series of quinquennial visits of the Bishops of the United States of America *ad limina Apostolorum*. As you know, over these past six months I have wished to reflect with you and your Brother Bishops on a number of pressing spiritual and cultural challenges facing the Church in your country as it takes up the task of the new evangelization.

I am particularly pleased that this, our final meeting, takes place in the presence of the Bishops of the various Eastern Churches present in the United States, since you and your faithful embody in a unique way the ethnic, cultural and spiritual richness of the American Catholic community, past and present. Historically, the Church in America has struggled to recognize and incorporate this diversity, and has succeeded, not without difficulty, in forging a communion in Christ and in the apostolic faith which mirrors the catholicity which is an indefectible mark of the Church. In this communion, which finds its source and model in the mystery of the Triune God (*cf. Lumen Gentium, 4*), unity and diversity are constantly reconciled and enhanced, as a sign and sacrament of the ultimate vocation and destiny of the entire human family.

Throughout our meetings, you and your Brother Bishops have spoken insistently of the importance of preserving, fostering and advancing this gift of Catholic unity as an essential condition for the fulfilment of the Church’s mission in your country. In this concluding talk, I would like simply to touch on two specific points which have recurred in our discussions and which, with you, I consider crucial for the exercise of your ministry of guiding Christ’s flock forward amid the difficulties and opportunities of the present moment.

I would begin by praising your unremitting efforts, in the best traditions of the Church in America, to respond to the ongoing phenomenon of immigration in your country. The Catholic community in the United States continues, with great generosity, to welcome waves of new immigrants, to provide them with pastoral care and charitable assistance, and to support ways of regularizing their situation, especially with regard to the unification of families. A particular sign of this is the long-standing commitment of the American Bishops to immigration reform. This is clearly a difficult and complex issue from the civil and political, as well as the social and economic, but above all from the human point of view. It is thus of profound concern to the Church, since it involves ensuring the just treatment and the defence of the human dignity of immigrants.

In our day too, the Church in America is called to embrace, incorporate and cultivate the rich patrimony of faith and culture present in America’s many immigrant groups, including not only those of your own rites, but also the swelling numbers of Hispanic, Asian and African Catholics. The demanding pastoral task of fostering a communion of cultures within your local Churches must be considered of particular importance in the exercise of your ministry at the service of unity (*cf. Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops, 63*). This diaconia of communion entails more than simply respecting linguistic diversity, promoting sound traditions, and providing much-needed social programs and services. It also calls for a commitment to ongoing preaching, catechesis and pastoral activity aimed at inspiring in all the faithful a deeper sense of their communion in the apostolic faith and their responsibility for the Church’s mission in the United States. Nor can the significance of this challenge be underestimated: the immense promise and the vibrant energies of a new generation of Catholics

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Pope: Eastern Churches embody “spiritual richness”

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are waiting to be tapped for the renewal of the Church’s life and the rebuilding of the fabric of American society.

This commitment to fostering Catholic unity is necessary not only for meeting the positive challenges of the new evangelization but also countering the forces of disgregation within the Church which increasingly represent a grave obstacle to her mission in the United States. I appreciate the efforts being made to encourage the faithful, individually and in the variety of ecclesial associations, to move forward together, speaking with one voice in addressing the urgent problems of the present moment. Here I would repeat the heartfelt plea that I made to America’s Catholics during my Pastoral Visit: “We can only move forward if we turn our gaze together to Christ” and thus embrace “that true spiritual renewal desired by the Council, a renewal which can only strengthen the Church in that holiness and unity indispensable for the effective proclamation of the Gospel in today’s world” (*Homily in Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, New York, 19 April 2008*).

In our conversations, many of you have spoken of your concern to build ever stronger relationships of friendship, cooperation and trust with your priests. At the present time, too, I urge you to remain particularly close to the men and women in your local Churches who are committed to following Christ ever more perfectly by generously embracing the evangelical counsels. I wish to reaffirm my deep gratitude for the example of fidelity and self-sacrifice given by many consecrated women in your country, and to join them in praying that this moment of discernment will bear abundant spiritual fruit for the revitalization and strengthening of their communities in fidelity to Christ and the Church, as well as to their founding charisms. The urgent need in our own time for credible and attractive witnesses to the redemptive and transformative power of the Gospel makes it essential to recapture a sense of the sublime dignity and beauty of the consecrated life, to pray for religious vocations and to promote them actively, while strengthening existing channels for communication and cooperation, especially through the work of the Vicar or Delegate for Religious in each Diocese.

Dear Brother Bishops, it is my hope that the Year of Faith which will open on 12 October this year, the fiftieth anniversary of the convening of the Second Vatican Council, will awaken a desire on the part of the entire Catholic community in America to reappropriate with joy and gratitude the priceless treasure of our faith. With the progressive weakening of traditional Christian values, and the threat of a season in which our fidelity to the Gospel may cost us dearly, the truth of Christ needs not only to be understood, articulated and defended, but to be proposed joyfully and confidently as the key to authentic human fulfilment and to the welfare of society as a whole.

Now, at the conclusion of these meetings, I willingly join all of you in thanking Almighty God for the signs of new vitality and hope with which he has blessed the Church in the United States of America. At the same time I ask him to confirm you and your Brother Bishops in your delicate mission of guiding the Catholic community in your country in the ways of unity, truth and charity as it faces the challenges of the future. In the words of the ancient prayer, let us ask the Lord to direct our hearts and those of our people, that the flock may never fail in obedience to its shepherds, nor the shepherds in the care of the flock (*cf. Sacramentarium Veronense, Missa de natale Episcoporum*). With great affection I commend you, and the clergy, religious and lay faithful entrusted to your pastoral care, to the loving intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of the United States, and I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of joy and peace in the Lord.

<http://www.radiovaticana.org/en1/articolo.asp?c=588966>

Note: There will be more information on the “ad limina” visit in the next issue of “The Way.”



Side view of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church
Wilmington, DE

Small But Growing

Over the courses of my travels, I as a vocations director have the pleasure to come across young adults that often inquire about our Church and our faith. While their numbers are not great, such small numbers should give us hope that there are some who are still interested in our Ukrainian Catholic Church. It is very easy for a young adult man or woman to fall away from Church, absorbed by the seductive cares and riches of the secular world. It is all too easy to let one's job, or one's hobbies, or simply one's problems to take priority in one's life rather than God and their spiritual development.

What can we do to keep this small but growing number of young adults interested in our faith? Love and live your faith in every part of your life, for you are their example to follow! Encourage them to take an active part in the life of the Church. Impress on them that our faith is unique, that we have a one-of-a-kind spiritual treasure that can be found nowhere else. Let them know how the Church has spiritually benefited you. And above all else, be welcoming! Many people often see us as being a "Baba and Dido Club." Don't let this happen – encourage those young men to take an active role, whether it be serving at the altar, helping with collections, singing services, and pinching varenyky along with you! Encourage your young women to help with singing, catechizing the youth, rolling holubtsi, and so on! Make them feel as if they have a part in the parish life, that there IS something for them to take ownership and responsible stewardship in the parish. Be accepting of them, listen to them, and work with them, especially in living the faith, for they are seeking spiritual nourishment and can see right through petty pretenses and will seek instant spiritual gratification elsewhere if our faith is not lived and shared.

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!



Rev. Gregory Maslak

Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Bristol, PA

Turning East in the Eastern Region



(Photo: Teresa Siwak)

During the days of May 8th – 10th, the Eastern Region of the Canon Law Society met in Philadelphia for its annual Spring Conference with approximately 40 canonists attending. The Archeparchy of

Philadelphia of the Ukrainian Church *sui iuris* hosted the three day conference at the Marriott Downtown Hotel in Philadelphia. The first presentation was given by Most Rev. David

Motiuk of the Eparchy of Edmonton. His power point talk focused on *Eastern Catholics in a Western World: Challenges and Opportunities*. It was an overview of Eastern Catholics in the world outside of their territories

and the challenges faced by them today. Specific attention was given to the Christians of the Middle East and the migration from their homelands. He also pointed out the
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Turning East in the Eastern Region

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differences of sacramental and liturgical celebrations of the Faith and their impact in the local communities and even in families.

The second presenter was Msgr. Thomas Green, Professor of Canon Law at the Catholic University of America. His talk, *Penal Law: An Eastern Perspective*, gave an overview of Penal Law dealing with crimes and offenses perpetrated in the Church. Msgr. Green stressed the pastoral nature of the Eastern Code and its simplicity of structure. This is due to the CCEO being written for the twenty-one Churches *sui iuris* as opposed to the CIC just for the Latin Church *sui iuris*.

The third presenter was Rev. Jobe Abbass, OFM Conv., Professor of Canon Law at St. Paul University in Ottawa. His presentation was *Canonical Studies: Making the Case for a Course on Conflict of Laws*. His presentation looked at the two Codes of the Church and how they are written for each particular Church and not for the other. He



examined the problems of inter-ecclesial conflicts or problems which arise due to the situations people find themselves in. In particular, Father Abbass talked of his own situation of being raised in the Latin Church and entering the Conventional Franciscans to find that he was a member of the Maronite Church *sui iuris*. He proposed that as Civil Law examines "conflict of laws", Canon Law also should do the same.

The highlight of the three days was an excursion to the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the

Immaculate Conception for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and a luncheon afterwards. In his homily to the attendees, Metropolitan Stefan Soroka stated, *It is your passionate living out of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which will in turn provide for the miracles of faith which so often are searched for by you and your peers, and the Holy Church in the valued work you do.* He stated,

Canonists become known and valued for their expertise in response to challenges facing the Church. To further the work of Canon Law, he encouraged the canonists to utilize social media to better educate the faithful.

Having concluded this year's conference, next year's conference will be South, in the Diocese of Savannah.

Watch a video and see pictures from the Liturgy on our Blog at

www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com

Eastern Region Canon Law Society Homily – May 9, 2012

Homily offered by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka

+ Christ is Risen! Христос Воскрес!

My heartfelt welcome to all of the participants of the Eastern Region of the Canon Law Society of America! Welcome to our magnificent Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, the Metropolitan See of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America. I thank you for your concelebrating the Divine Liturgy and for the prayerful participation of all who are present and who are assisting.



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka's Homily

Today, our Church commemorates the translation of the Relic of St. Nicholas of Myra, a holy Bishop whose immense

humility, tremendous acts of charity shown to the poor and to the disadvantaged, and a passionate love and desire to follow in the footsteps for Jesus Christ - all serve as an inspiring example for each of us to emulate. He is known and turned to in prayer by faithful throughout the world. His holy relics have been the focus of a passionate desire by succeeding generations of faithful followers to preserve his presence amidst us, so that we may pray to St. Nicholas for his intercession.

It is that passionate example we, perhaps, have shed in today's time, or at least, we are not being as fervent and passionate in our expression of our faith.



Lisa Oprysk and Fr. Paul J. Makar led the responses to the Liturgy.

I also recall the translation of relics of the Holy Bishop-Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky, a Redemptorist Priest and Bishop from Ukraine who was released to the West by the oppressive soviet and communist regime prior to his death. They did not want him to die on their territory. After his death, his body lay in excess of ten years in a cemetery receiving barely more than an annual memorial service and prayer. When the Holy Father recognized him as "Blessed", his body was exhumed, found to have suffered almost no decay, and then placed in a specially built shrine where worshipers today from across the world continuously come to visit and pray for his intercessions. There have been many miracles attributed to the intercession of Blessed Velychkovsky, even some recorded in far

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Eastern Region Canon Law Society Homily – May 9, 2012

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northern Eskimo communities, thanks to the evangelization efforts of Redemptorist Fathers of the Latin Rite ministering in northern Canada. Did these miracles begin to occur because Bishop Velychkovsky was recognized as “Blessed” by the Holy Father? I suggest that the miracles would have occurred much earlier had we been passionate in our love and admiration of this holy priest/bishop servant of Jesus Christ. We did not ask and we did not receive the miracles we hoped for.



We heard in today’s Gospel reading of the miracle of the multiplication of five loaves of barley bread and two fish and the feeding of a crowd in excess of 5,000. When Jesus asked the apostles how to feed them, they responded with their logical reasoning of how to at least minimally feed the people. Jesus responds with a miracle of faith. The holy and saintly give us the example of pushing beyond logical approaches to needs. They push us into the dimension of believing in the miracle of faith. They are PASSIONATE in their love for Jesus Christ and in their desire to follow in His footsteps. That passion is such that it pushes us beyond our reasoning.

In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we heard how Paul and his friends went to the synagogue. After the lesson from the Law and the Prophets had been read, the presidents of the synagogue invited them to address some words of encouragement to the congregation. (Acts 13:15) Paul addressed them fervently with the message for their salvation in the Messiah, Jesus Christ.



I address you today, my brothers and sisters in Christ – the canonists of our holy Church - offering the heartfelt gratitude of the Church for your dedication and commitment to counsel and advise all in the journey of our evangelizing, helping all of us to remain faithful to the Grace of God given to us. I commend you for your readiness to respond to demanding situations and challenges facing the Church today. I encourage you to continue to emulate the example given to us by Bishop Nicholas of Myra, addressing the challenges set before you with great humility as servants of the Risen Christ; raising the Church and its

ministers to always reflect great charity to persons exhibited in many forms by Bishop Nicholas and by all of the “Blesseds” and “Saints” of the Church; and to be passionate in your expression of your love and desire to serve Jesus Christ. It is your passionate living out of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which will in turn provide for the miracles of faith which so often are searched for by you and your peers, and the Holy Church in the

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Eastern Region Canon Law Society Homily – May 9, 2012

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valued work you do. I especially urge you to respond generously as Paul did in offering your words of encouragement and teaching as canonists to the faithful. Your expertise becomes known and valued in response to challenges facing the Church. Foremost, make the opportunities to inform and educate the faithful of the place and value of canon law in a pro-active manner. My Chancellor and Chairman of our Tribunal, Msgr. Peter Waslo, so rightly continually advocates the dissemination of information on matters of faith on the various social media sites. How about giving thought to organizing among you a series of educational insights on canon law issues applicable to faithful and clergy at the parish level and disseminating it via social media sites accessible to many clergy and faithful? Ongoing education and formation is something which I am confident that you will agree is lacking. I urge you to address the congregation of the Church with such words of information and encouragement. Do it with humility, with charity, and with much passion. I am confident that we will all come to witness miracles of advancement within our Church beyond our expectations.



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka and Bishop David Motiuk during the Liturgy.



After the Liturgy, participants viewed the replica of the Shroud of Turin at the Cathedral.

Know that you are valued and appreciated for your work, and are held in high esteem for your contributions to the Church.

I want to thank Msgr. Peter Waslo for his dedicated efforts in organizing and facilitating this meeting, accomplished with the assistance of the other canonists of our archeparchy, Very Rev. Archpriest Daniel Gurovich, Very Rev. Andriy Rabyi, and Rev. Mykola Ivanov. It is a real pleasure and honor to share this prayer and time together.

God bless you richly in ways only He can!

+ Christ is Risen! Христос Воскрес!



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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR GRADUATES

From Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka



As you graduate, a hope-filled prayer is offered for you by your parish priest, the religious sisters, your family members and all of your brothers and sisters in Christ in your parish – and mine – that you realize in your lifetime Jesus’ invitation to enjoy *abundant life!* In the Gospel of St. John, Jesus tells us that he came so that you and I might have life and have it “*to the full*” (Jn 10:10). You have worked hard and dedicated yourself to accomplishing your educational goals. You are graduating to yet another challenge in life. We pray that you will pursue the abundant life offered by Jesus Christ in all that you choose to do in your life!

The Blessed Mother reveals to us the joy of steadfast faith in following the will of our heavenly Father. She accepted invitations to serve God and responded to successive challenges with much courage and compassion. When you and I emulate her in our own life by being steadfast in our faith as we respond to life’s daily challenges, we come to realize the presence of Jesus Christ. When we embrace our challenges and respond with conviction and courage as the Blessed Mother did, we come to realize the enabling presence of Jesus Christ. We come to taste and celebrate the gifts of abundant life promised to you and to me by Jesus Christ. Reach out in prayer to our Blessed Mother. She will help you to journey closer with Jesus Christ to enjoy the abundant life in which you are invited to share. You may feel a strong call to serve Jesus Christ as his priest, religious monk or sister, or in some special ministry. Seek the counsel of those who can help you to explore such a happy invitation. Whatever journey of life you choose, ensure that it helps you to realize the abundant life offered by Jesus Christ.

Many have assisted in helping you to achieve the success of your graduation. Make it a point to especially visit your Church and to offer thanksgiving to God for those who cared and assisted you in achieving this graduation. Express your gratitude to those who guided and taught you. Pray for them. Your celebration of gratitude will bring joy to others and to you.

We join the many people who will rejoice and celebrate with you this happy and meaningful event in your life. We offer our prayers of thanksgiving for you and for your continued success!

***God grant you many blessed and happy years,
“na mnohaya lita!”***

May, 2012

Divine Liturgy & Healing Service



Sunday, June 10, 2012 3 PM

*Saint Michael the Archangel
Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church*

*114 South Chestnut Street, Shenandoah, PA 17976
Rectory 570-462-0809, stmichaelsukrainian@verizon.net*

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Celebrant: Msgr. Myron Grabowsky- Parish Priest

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ST. NICHOLAS SCHOOL, PASSAIC, NJ HONORS OUR LADY



Submitted by Rev. Andriy Dudkevych

Hillside, NJ Parish Celebrates end of Religious Ed season with May Crowning

Hillside (Union County), NJ - On Sunday, May 6, 2012, the children of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic parish celebrated the end of the Religious Education season with a procession and crowning of the Blessed Mother.

The Religious Education program at the parish is designed for children from age 3 through their senior year of high school - thus allowing up to 15 years of religious instruction. Classes are held on Sunday mornings shortly prior to the 10:45am Divine Liturgy.

Photo Caption: The Hillside, NJ parish children pose after processing and crowning the statue of the Blessed Mother (shown in the left of the photo). Fr. George Worchak was visiting the parish and is seen in the back of the photo.



First Solemn Holy Confession - Perth Amboy, NJ

Twelve children of Assumption Catholic School and Parish made their First Confession on Friday, May 4, and received Holy Communion on Saturday, May 5, 2012. Our sincerest congratulations and best wishes are extended to: Tanya, Adrian, Dylan, Cinthia, Lina, Samantha, Daniel, Aldan, Angelika, Emmanuel, Vitaliy and Lukian.

We are grateful to all who have assisted these children on their journey of faith. Thank you for helping to prepare our children for the greatest gift they will ever receive. May the Most Sacred Body and Precious Blood of Jesus be nourishment for their souls from now until eternal life. Many thanks to the Missionary Sisters of Mother of God, Sr. Yosaphata and Sr. Maria, for instructing our children in Catechism class every Sunday.



Rev. Ivan Turyk, Sr. Yosaphata, MSMG, and Sr. Maria, MSMG, with children from Perth Amboy, NJ

1st Confessions at St. John's Church - Northampton PA Palm Sunday 2012



Ten students completed their 1st Confession requirements this year.

From Left to Right:

Back Row: Alekszandria Lee Beil, Isabella Sophia Macsisak, Andrew Paul Sharga, Elizabeth Anne Neagle

Front Row: Maksym Pawel Komperda, Noah Matthew Emmanuel Ford, Randy Paul Macsisak Jr., Jennifer Rose Mary Ivory, Therese Marie Agatha Ford

Priest: V. Rev. Archbishop David Clooney

Missing Student from Photo: Christian Michael Holmes

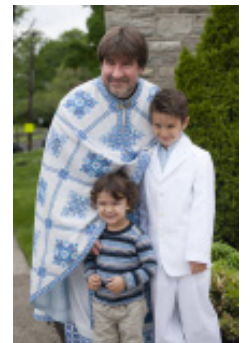
1st Confession Class 2012 Teachers:
Marcia Vincler and Lisa Madeira

First Confession at the Annunciation of the BVM Ukrainian Catholic Church in Melrose Park, PA

After completing their First Confession the day before, eight children received the Holy Eucharist at the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Melrose Park, PA, on May 6th, 2012. Under the tutelage of Sr. Rosa Anna Bukaczyk, OSBM and the guidance of Fr. Ihor Royik, the eight children were prepared for the both the solemnity and the jubilation of the occasion. The eight children were: Orysyia Khmil, Adriana Soltys, Cynthia Klingensmith, Gabriel Loza, Joseph Stefurak, Bohdan Harasymowych Doyle, Evanna Kujdych and Sonya Mykytyn. The children were given religious instruction by Sister Rosa Anna every Saturday afternoon at the St. Basil Spirituality Center in Fox Chase, PA.



The Liturgy was concelebrated by the Godfather of one of the communicants, Fr. Michael Loza, pastor of St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Oakdale, Ontario. The parish choir sang the responses in the presence of many parishioners, family and friends. It was a beautiful service and a beautiful day for all.



PENTECOST SUNDAY

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet." Others said, "He is the Christ." Still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee? Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him. Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?" "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards declared. "You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted. "Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them."

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PENTECOST SUNDAY

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Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, "Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee." When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (Jn. 7, 37-52; 8, 12)

We are familiar with our great Christian celebration of Pentecost but perhaps unaware that Pentecost is second only to Passover in importance of the Jewish feasts. The name "Pentecost" adopted from the Greek-speaking Jews, was originally known as the "Feast of Harvest of the First fruits." It fell on the 50th day from "the next day after the Sabbath" of Passover, thus Pentecost, meaning 50. It is also called the "first day of the unleavened bread" or the "Feast of Loaves."

It is important to today's Christian celebration of Pentecost to know that, over time, Pentecost took on a religious significance for the Jews. Pentecost also became a celebration of the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai, which, according to Exodus 19:1, took place on the 50th day after the departure from Egypt. In the day of Jesus, Jerusalem's population swelled as every male Jew over a certain age living within 25 miles of Jerusalem was expected to make a pilgrimage to the holy city for the feast.

This is the setting for today's reading from Acts.

Jerusalem was packed with pilgrims. After the Ascension the disciples and some of the women "went to the upper room where they were staying.... All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer." They remained in their upper room, still hiding and pondering Jesus' departure at the Ascension and His promise that "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Into this assembly of the faithful, in the midst of prayer, "suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim."

God breathed life into the world. Jesus

breathed a new life into His disciples. This breath, perceived as a "noise like a strong driving wind" in Acts, is the "spiratio," the Breath of God entering the world, the Life of God entering the disciples. With this breath, this new life, comes "tongues as of fire." A "tongue of fire," representing the burning bush that Moses confronted and from which he received the Law, came to be the symbol of the Torah. The Torah, the first five books of the Bible, is also called "The Law."

On Pentecost came a new law and with it came a new understanding of the Risen Christ. Such an understanding could not be contained, so the prophecy of Jesus that the disciples would become His witnesses to the ends of the earth began at Pentecost to be fulfilled.

When a bishop blesses Chrism, the holy oil used to administer the sacrament of Confirmation, he is called to breathe on the oil. Just as a bishop received the Holy Spirit at ordination, he passes that gift of the Breath of God

onto the oil and thus onto all its recipients.

We celebrate Pentecost as the birth of the Church. The Breath of God, the Holy Spirit, is God's gift to the Church. It was within an assembled community of faith while in prayer that this gift was given. Luke is telling his readers—us—that we must pay attention. The Holy Spirit still exists in every assembly of the faithful gathered in prayer. For those who deny the necessity of participation in a church, this is difficult if not impossible to ignore. For those of us who might not be as regular in our Liturgy attendance at the Sunday assembly as we should, we need to take our motivation from today's feast.

God has breathed new life into the world. This gift of the Holy Spirit is present and promised to all to gather with fellow disciples. It is here at our altar that we present our unleavened bread and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we receive Jesus Christ.



Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate



Steeped in tradition, yet progressive, SSMI has carried out its humble, yet distinguished, role to make this a better world through a broad-scoped view of its ministries.



We, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, like Blessed Josaphata, our foundress, are called to be women of deep faith nourished by an intimate personal relationship with God, striving to live out our community life lovingly and simply, responsive to the needs of all, in the spirit of the Gospel, offering service in a compassionate, joyful and hospitable manner.



Never bound by a singly-defined ministry, SSMI has always taken a flexible view, remaining faithful to its charism and the founders' words, "Serve where the need is the greatest."

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Sister Barbara A. Stefaniak, S.S.M.I. **"One thing I ask of the Lord..."**

"One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life." Ps.27: 4

Unknown to me, these words would take on meaning at a young age. I recall playing a nun, with a cloth on my head as a veil, moving quickly to see it fly. I also played priest, with my baby doll's blanket safety pinned on as a phelon (chasuble) and a long sock, filled with crayons and anything that would jingle, as I incensed my altar, which was my baby doll's table.

Fascination with Church, especially the sanctuary and those who ministered and worked around the altar, kept my attention. I could see much when I sat in the choir loft.

This fascination with Church would have had no meaning if my loving parents, Nicholas and Anna (Wronosky) Stefaniak did not instill this love of God and Church into their three children; my loving brother, Nicholas, three years older than I, and my loving sister, Mary Katherine (Mary Kay), seven years younger than I.

Since we had no car, we walked to and from Church, about six blocks, unless someone offered us a ride home from Church. Sundays and Holydays were important days of obligation in our family. Attendance at Church services/functions was also very important, along with our traditions, especially during Christmas, Lent and Easter.

We were fortunate to have the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate missioned at our Parish, SS. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, during the school year. Since I attended the Ambridge Public School System, the evenings were spent at the Church Hall, studying catechism and the Ukrainian language. Also, included in these, "Night School" sessions, the Sisters would prepare the classes to perform programs for all to come and see.

As a Junior Sodalist and later as a Senior Sodalist, I participated in the various Church processions and was present and participated in the Marian Devotions. As a Sodalist, I helped the Sisters in cleaning the vigils

in Church, decorating the side Altars and dusting within the Sanctuary.

Home life was a close knit family, where we learned our prayers, faith in God, love of the Blessed Mother, and the traditions of our Church.

My father was a Steel Worker who worked at Bethlehem Steel Company in Leetsdale, Pennsylvania and my mother was a housewife. With their togetherness, they took care of our needs and were present to us. Their care extended to my uncle, Harry Wronosky, who came to live with us after his mother, my grandmother, Eva Wronosky, died.

For entertainment and relaxation, we went for walks, whether the walks took us to visit family and friends or a trip through the woods and paths in our area, guided by my father.

Listening to some of the mystery stories on the radio was entertainment for my brother and I. Roller skating in our back yard was a safe place for me to roller skate, with the

walls and poles nearby. Riding our tricycle, playing ping pong on the concrete with a crack in the concrete as our imaginary net, swinging on the swing added to our activities, along with swimming at our Ambridge Borough Park Swimming Pool.

In the house, we enjoyed playing games and cards, later, watching television, especially football and musical programs. Piano lessons were also on our schedule.

Amidst all of these experiences, the call to Religious Life was still alive. Towards my senior year in school, I thought: "What would happen if I wanted to take on a different life style?" I began to inquire about studying to be a lab technician. As I received



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Sister Barbara A. Stefaniak, S.S.M.I. "One thing I ask of the Lord..."

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responses, I noticed uneasiness over taking me. As time went on, I knew that the only peace of soul I could receive was to enter the Convent.

On November 4th, 1957, the day after our Parish's 50th Anniversary, my parents, my sister and I boarded a train in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, which was bound for Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. We arrived in

Hamilton on the morning of November 5th. The Sisters came from Ancaster, Ontario by car to drive us to the Novitiate in Ancaster. My Religious Life began as I was received into the Community on that November evening.

Spiritual growth, love of family, relatives, Community members and friends helped me to grow deeper in the love of God,

especially to know and experience the love that God has for me, those dear to me, and those who surround me. Deeper love of our Blessed Mother also attributed to my spiritual growth, along with greater knowledge of our Community's beginnings with the lives and inspired words of Blessed Josaphata Hordashevska, SSMI, Father Jeremiah Lomnitsky, OSBM and Father Cyril Seletsky.

One does not know what God will ask of us. Religious Life has taken me to different ministries in the Community: elementary school teaching, nursing home administration and Community finances.

All in all, our Community's Motto: "Glory to God, Honor to Mary and Peace to us." continues to have deep meaning in my life.

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

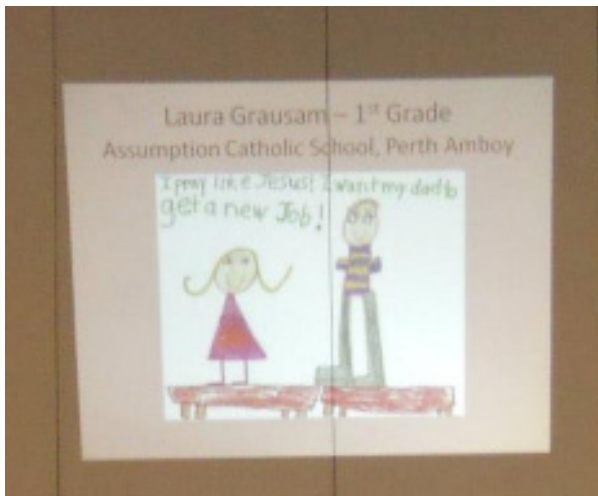
St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Northampton, PA, celebrated their Annual Easter Dinner on the Sunday of the Ointment-Bearers 2012.



Pictured (left to right) are Rev. Petro Zvarych, Rev. Mark Payne OSB, Rev. Luke Edelin OSB, and standing is V. Rev. Archpriest David Clooney, Pastor of St. John the Baptist, Northampton, PA.

Respect for Life Award

The Diocese of Metuchen Office of Respect for Life had a Mass and Awards Luncheon on May 1, 2012 at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center. This year's Theme was: "I came so that all might have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10) Students were asked to pick someone special in their life and to draw a picture which shows what they could do to be like Jesus and help that person to live life to the full. The Assumption Parish parishioner and the student of the parish school, the 1st grade student Laura Grausam was awarded 2nd place in the 2012 Respect for Life poster contest for elementary school children. She was honored at the Banquet and presented with a 2013 Pro-Life Student Calendar featuring her poster.



Congratulations to Laura and to the other ACS class winners who had their posters entered in the annual contest: Aleks-Gr.2, Daisy-Gr.3, Justin-Gr.4, Elena-Gr. 5, Jennifer-Gr.6, Thomas-Gr. 7, and Brianna-Gr. 8. The contest was judged by the Diocesan Commission for Pro-Life Action.



The Importunate Advocate

by A.B. Hill

I read the Catechism of the Catholic Church with a dictionary close at hand. The section about prayer (CCC 2613) uses the word "importunate" to describe two parable characters:

The first, "the importunate friend," invites us to urgent prayer: "Knock and it will be opened to you." (cf. Luke 11:5-13)

The second, "the importunate widow," is centered on one of the qualities of prayer: it is necessary to pray always without ceasing and with the patience of faith. (cf. Luke 18:1-8)

I looked it up. Importunate means troublesomely urgent or overly persistent.

These parables teach powerful lessons about persistence, patience and faith. Good tools for living our faith, but they are also good tools for Catholic advocacy.

Several issues in Washington, DC and Harrisburg right now are frustratingly unresolved:

HHS Contraceptive Mandate

A mandate issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would force all employers, including religious employers, to buy coverage

for sterilization, contraceptives and drugs that induce abortion, even if it goes against moral teachings. Lawsuits have been filed across the country to challenge this violation of religious liberty. We must pray that religious liberty will prevail.

The regulation was published in its final form, however HHS opened another public comment period to solicit input from citizens, and Congress is considering bills that would protect religious institutions and citizens from this conscience violation. You can submit comments to HHS at www.pacatholic.org.

School Choice

Legislation including vouchers and an increase to the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) is still working its way through the legislative process. EITC already helps Catholic schools; this legislation will allow even more families the opportunity to receive a Catholic education.

Legislators need to hear that their constituents support this issue. Pennsylvania cannot afford to put this off until later. Now is the time to pass school choice!

Pro-Life Legislation

Political controversy

postponed the debate over HB 1077, a bill that would give women the right to view an ultrasound of their babies before undergoing an abortion. Opponents have circulated confusing messages about what the bill entails; supporters must speak up with the facts.

An ultrasound examination is already standard practice in abortion clinics to determine gestational age or if the pregnancy is ectopic. Informing a woman that she has the right to view the ultrasound image and hear the heartbeat of her child gives her access to the same information available to her doctor. It is her right to choose for herself whether to view it or hear it; and she can make her decision to abort or not based on informed consent. Ultimately, no matter one's position on abortion, we can all agree that it is a serious issue that a woman cannot take back or undo.

Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 1977 would remove abortion funding from the state health care exchanges that will be created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The respective chambers are still negotiating how to achieve final passage.

We must urge the legislature to continue the

debate on these pro-life measures.

Take Action

It is tempting to give up when the wheels of government seemingly grind to a halt. It is easy to feel defeated when your issue no longer appears on the front page of the newspaper, but visits, calls, letters and emails to legislators about these issues are very effective in prompting action from elected officials. The Pennsylvania Catholic Advocacy Network at www.pacatholic.org makes it easy to take action on all of these issues.

We must heed the Gospel and be "importunate advocates" with persistence, patience and faith. Pray always, of course, but don't forget to email, call and visit your legislators, too!

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.

MAY 2012

LUC Meeting – Sunday, June 10, 2012

North Anthracite Council – League of Ukrainian Catholics will hold a general meeting on Sunday, June 10, 2012 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, 706 North Warren Street, Berwick, PA. Moleben Prayer Service begins at 2:30pm with general session and fellowship social to follow. Members are urged to attend this important meeting, during which there will be discussion on the progress of our National Convention preparations for this October 12th to 14th at the Ramada Inn, Wilkes-Barre. We need everyone's participation!

For additional information contact: Dorothy Jamula,
President at 570 822-5354



SS. Cyril and Methodius
Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

BARN SALE

Sisters of Saint Basil the Great

*710 Fox Chase Road
Fox Chase Manor PA 19046*

*June 9, 2012
9:00 am - 4:00 pm*

*furniture, books, outdoor equipment, electronics,
clothes, sports equipment, and much more!*

For more information, please call 215-379-3998

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION:

**Director of Development
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
<http://www.ukrarcheparchy.us>**

The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia is seeking an accomplished, hands-on professional as its Director of Development, a new position reporting directly to the Metropolitan-Archbishop. The Director of Development will design and implement a comprehensive fund-raising strategy. This includes setting and achieving goals; cultivating and engaging donors within the Archeparchy, as well as, nationwide. Fundraising will support our seminary, vocations and deacon programs, youth ministry, religious education and evangelization programs, our Treasury of Faith Museum and our Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral.

Qualifications:

- A bachelor's degree and prior professional experience are required
- Candidates must demonstrate excellence in organizational, managerial, budgetary, and communications abilities
- Strong computer skills and hands-on experience with popular donor-relationship programs are essential
- Proven track record in achieving revenue targets
- Related experience in a mission-driven organization
- Ability to think strategically and apply strategic principles to analysis and problem-solving
- Demonstrated ability to prospect, cultivate, motivate, and manage new donors
- Experience in major gift fund-raising (\$25,000 and above)
- Experience in searching and applying for grants
- Skilled in the use of web-based and interactive media to promote donor relationships
- Proven management and leadership capabilities
- Experience working collaboratively with senior-level executives, staff, and volunteers
- Strong verbal skills and the ability to write clearly and persuasively

The Archeparchy of Philadelphia offers a competitive compensation package commensurate with a candidate's experience and qualifications. Our benefits package includes medical and dental plans.

Please send a letter of interest, a resume and names of three references to the attention of

Rev. Monsignor Peter Waslo, Chancellor
827 North Franklin Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123-2097

We will respond to all applications. Pre-employment background screening is required for this position.

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION:

**Archbishop's Secretary
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
<http://www.ukrarcheparchy.us>**

The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia is seeking an experienced and professional person to serve as personal secretary to the archbishop. This is a full-time position. Duties principally involve assisting the archbishop with all forms of correspondence, arranging appointments, assisting in preparation of meetings, maintaining information and files, reviewing translations, and general reception duties.

Applicant would preferably be an active and practicing Ukrainian Catholic; be proficient with information technology; possess strong computer/typing skills; have experience working collaboratively with staff and people; possess strong and effective communication skills; able to strictly adhere to confidentiality and being discreet; possess proficiency in English and Ukrainian languages.

The Archeparchy of Philadelphia offers a comprehensive compensation package commensurate with a candidate's experience and qualifications. Our benefits package includes excellent medical and dental benefits.

Please send a letter of interest, a resume and the names of three references to:

Rev. Monsignor Peter Waslo, Chancellor
827 North Franklin Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123-2097

Pre-employment background screening is required for this position.

Just a reminder...

"The Way" is the online newsletter of the
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.



- 1) Access the newsletter for free on the internet at **www.ukrarcheparchy.us**
- 2) Receive it electronically for free by e-mailing your e-mail address to **theway@ukrarcheparchy.us**
- 3) "Like Us" on our **Archeparchy of Philadelphia** Facebook page to receive "The Way" via Facebook.

June 2012 - Червня 2012

Happy Birthday!
З Днем народження!

June 6: Rev. Mark Fesniak
June 9: Rev. Volodymyr Klanichka
June 17: Rev. Deacon Charles Schultz
June 30: Rev. Yaroslav Kurpel

**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!

June 2: Rev. Roman Petryshak (10th Anniversary)
June 6: Rev. Nestor Iwasiw (19th Anniversary)
June 13: Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka
(30th Anniversary of being Ordained a Priest)
June 14: Rev. Stepan Bilyk (11th Anniversary)
June 14: Rev. Paul Labinsky (31st Anniversary)
June 14: Most Rev. Stephen Sulyk, Archbishop-Emeritus
(60th Anniversary of being Ordained a Priest)
June 17: Rev. Leonid Malkov, C.S.s.R. (22nd Anniversary)
June 24: Rev. Deacon Michael Waak (23rd Anniversary)
June 29: Rev. Msgr. Peter Waslo (26th Anniversary)
June 30: Rev. Volodymyr Baran, C.S.s.R. (27th 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!**

Songs of the Heart

The Office for Religious Education, at the request of the Archdiocese due to recent transfers, has **canceled** the Festival of Children's Songs scheduled for June 3, 2012 at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. We apologize for any inconvenience. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the office for Religious Education at ukrcatecheticaloffice@catholic.org.

May 27, 2012

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Articles and photos proposed for publication should be in the Editor's office at least two weeks before requested date of publication. For advance notice of the upcoming events, kindly send one month in advance. All articles must be submitted in both English and Ukrainian languages, THE WAY will not translate proposed articles. All materials submitted to THE WAY become the property of THE WAY.