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ENGLISH VERSION

Our Newest Deacon

Father's Day this year was a joyous day of celebration. Not only did our faithful and families come together in prayer and worship to give thanks to God for His gift of our fathers in our lives, the Archeparchy of Philadelphia welcomed the newly ordained Reverend Deacon Roman Sverdan to the ranks of the Minor Orders of Acolyte, Lector, Cantor and Subdeacon, and also was ordained to the Major Order of Deacon. Rev. Deacon Roman was ordained to the minor orders and to the diaconate at the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in New Brunswick, New Jersey, on Sunday, June 17th, 2012, through the hands of Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka. In attendance at the ordination was Rev. Roman Pitula, pastor of the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in New Brunswick and

archdeacon for the ordination; Rev. Wasyl Kharuk, Spiritual Director of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington, D.C.; Very Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan, Chaplain to the Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Fox Chase Manor, P.A.; Very Rev. Roman Dubitsky, retired pastor of Assumption of the BVM Ukrainian Catholic Church in Perth Amboy, N.J.; and Rev. Paul J. Makar, Vocations Director of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia. Msgr. Peter Waslo, Chancellor of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, served as Master of Ceremonies, and Rev. Deacon Michael Waak served as deacon for the ordination liturgy.

Rev. Deacon Roman has worked very hard over the past seven years during his course of seminary study in preparation for ordination to the minor orders and to the diaconate. His story is one of much sacrifice and hard



The newly ordained Reverend Deacon Roman Sverdan.

work. He came to the United States as a migrant worker, who had worked in Ukraine as a laborer after serving for a short

while in the Ukrainian Army during the time of the Soviet Union. He was

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Our Newest Deacon

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raised as a pious and devout man, and his faith has never left him – if anything, his faith and love for God and Church only increased during his life, especially when he emigrated to the United States of America. He settled in New Jersey and while laboring as a painter, he became a parishioner at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Brunswick, N.J. Roman was very active in the New Brunswick parish and helped out the parish (and many other people) with various projects in addition to living a very active

prayer life. Rev. Andriy Rabi, his then-pastor, recognized that he had a potential vocation in him to serve God and the Church. Father Rabi encouraged Roman to consider seminary and with that, he entered into seminary studies, first at St. Basil's Seminary in Stamford, C.T., followed by a short period of English language study at St. Josaphat's in Washington, D.C. Following this, he was enrolled at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, C.T., a Roman Catholic institution that specializes in providing academic, pastoral,

spiritual, and human formation for those men who are late vocations and have little background in academic study. It should be noted that Roman had intense struggles during this time, especially in trying to master the English language, but his faith in God and long suffering patience paid off. God has sent His Holy Spirit upon Roman, changing him from the Ukrainian painter/contractor that everyone has known and loved into a competent and capable seminarian and deacon, who, God-willing, will soon become

a priest for the Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

We all know Rev. Deacon Roman to be a very hard worker who is intense in his prayer life and fervent in the faith. Let us all pray that Rev. Deacon Roman continues to work hard in humble service to our Church and to our Lord God in Heaven as "one who serves." Let us all raise our voices with one voice as we say "AXIOS!", that Roman is indeed worthy to serve God and Church with faith, love, and humility!

(Pictures courtesy of Mr. Charles Patulak)



Photo (l to r): Rev. Paul J. Makar, Rev. Wasyl Kharuk, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Rev. Deacon Roman Sverdun, Rev. Roman Pitula, Very Rev. Roman Dubitsky, Very Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan, Seminarian Walter Pasicznyk, Rev. Deacon Michael Waak, and altar servers.

Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka offered the Homily during the Ordination Liturgy for Rev. Deacon Roman Sverdan on June 17, 2012

Слава Ісусу Христу!

“No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or to be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (Mt 6:24)

Your presence today, the priests, deacons, religious, seminarians, and all of the good faithful affirms one man’s holy commitment to be entirely devoted to love and to serve God. You have come to pray together on the occasion of the ordination to the Minor Orders and to the Major Order of the Deaconate of Roman Sverdan.

Roman – you stand before the altar today to commit yourself – your entire being – to love and serve Our Lord, Jesus Christ. We all admire your complete freedom and willingness to respond to Jesus’ invitation to serve him in this more intimate way – as a Deacon in His holy Church. The qualifications for ordination were set in the first century of the early Church. They are no different today. The qualifications were three-fold – to be a man of good reputation – to be

full of Spirit – to be filled with wisdom.

I believe that you, Roman, are a worthy candidate for the deaconate. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ will continue to work with you and to mold you into the image of servant you are meant to be, hopefully as a priest.

I have witnessed your growth in these past seven years of seminary preparation. You were initially very fearful. You doubted yourself and your capability to learn English for studies for the priesthood. In the process of formation, you have learned to trust the Lord. You learned to listen to His will for you. You relied on the intercession of the Blessed Mother in your regular prayers to her to help you. You received strength to persevere. The call to serve God in holy ministry has prevailed. It has grown and matured. You have learned to let go of your own will and to surrender to God’s will for you. Your enthusiasm, Roman, in learning to let go and to say “yes” to God’s call gives me great confidence and hope in

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Metropolitan Stefan vests Roman Sverdan with a cantor's phelon (cape), signifying that Roman has been ordained and vested as a Cantor.



Homily during the Ordination Liturgy for Rev. Deacon Roman Sverdan on June 17, 2012

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how God will use you as His servant. I am excited about your potential for ministry within our Church.

Roman, you are a genuinely spiritual man. The primary qualifications of a deacon are your depth of personal commitment to Jesus Christ, your love for Sacred Scriptures, and the ability to communicate the faith with others. I have personally witnessed the manner in which you encourage others to pray, especially to our Blessed Mother. Roman, you are a man of prayer. You have inspired your peers at the seminary to greater prayer. You have inspired me by your steadfast life of prayer when you lived with me at the bishops' residence one summer. You are joyful in your being able to bring the faith to the patients whom you serve now in the special ten week clinical pastoral training at the hospital. You don't hesitate to go out of your way, sacrificing your time to pray with others and to bring them the good news of Jesus Christ.

Whenever and wherever you are asked to serve, you are reminded that you are to exercise your authority as service. You

ought not to serve with an attitude that you are in charge or in power. Your approach must be one of asking others to walk with you. You exercise leadership by your own modeling of sharing and caring behavior. You call others to do the same by example. Then it does not really matter if you can handle a challenge. It is not you in charge. The answers and resources will always be present with you in abundance when you invite others to join you in service. Entrust yourself to Jesus, asking for His help and guidance. Pray to our Blessed Mother for her intercession. You will never feel that you are walking alone. No task will be impossible.

Thank you, Roman, for your readiness to serve God as a deacon. Thank you for your commitment to continue your formation for the holy priesthood. You gentle nature, your demonstrated care and compassion for people, your open heart to love and to serve, your readiness to serve for life – these are the beautiful qualities that will grow as you serve as Christ's deacon, and God-willing, as a priest. Be generous

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Metropolitan Stefan Soroka delivers the homily. Roman Sverdan, vested as a subdeacon, is seated in front of him with the towel used to dry the Metropolitan's hands draped over his head as a sign of humility in service to the Church.



Homily during the Ordination Liturgy for Rev. Deacon Roman Sverdan on June 17, 2012

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in sharing these gifts and abilities, especially love and forgiveness. You will be rich in the eyes of those you serve and in the eyes of Jesus Christ. Many people especially admire your cheerful and joyful disposition in life. You are a man filled with hope. You are positive in your outlook. This richly reflects the presence of Jesus within your heart. I pray that you will not let the cares and burdens of the world to overwhelm you and to change your character. We are all called to be people of hope – Easter people!

Roman is one of a number of seminarians studying for the priesthood. I ask for your prayers for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. God loves you, His people, and wants you to be close to Him. He needs dedicated priests and devoted Sisters to be His instrument in this earthly life, so that His people may be drawn into closer intimacy with Him. If you feel a call to serve God, don't hold back. Don't let any self doubts or inhibitions deter you from exploring this precious gift – God's gift to serve Him as a priest, deacon, or as a religious Sister. I assure you that there is no more satisfying

way to celebrate life than to be His servant.

Thank you to all who have shared their giftedness in special ways to assist in preparing Roman for this holy day. Thank you to Fr. Roman Pitula, Pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Brunswick, and to the parishioners for your preparations for today's ordination. I thank all of the concelebrants who have participated, Fr. Daniel Troyan, Fr. Wasyl Kharuk, Fr. Roman Dubitsky, Fr. Paul Makar, and Deacon Michael Waak. I especially thank you our Master of Ceremonies, Msgr. Peter Waslo, and to all of the seminarians and to the altar servers who have so beautifully assisted at the altar. We are all especially thankful to the choir leader and to the choir members for raising our prayers to heaven. Your sharing of giftedness is especially appreciated, as is your flexibility for today's ordination. My heartfelt gratitude is offered to all who have gathered today in this holy Church, the parishioners of this parish, the many friends and visitors who have together participated in



Metropolitan Stefan vests the newly ordained Rev. Deacon Roman with the sticharion; Monsignor Peter Waslo, master of ceremonies, assists in vesting Rev. Deacon Roman.

holy prayer for Roman Sverdan.

Please continue to pray for Roman. Offer your words of encouragement to him. We all need it. Our world around us tends to focus on the negativism on what may be lacking in any individual. Help him. Love him. Pray for him. Pray

for all of our seminarians. Then, leave the rest in the hands of God. It is His will that Roman Sverdan should be ordained to the Deaconate, and hopefully to the priesthood. God will look after all that He has initiated. I am sure of that.

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Homily during the Ordination Liturgy for Rev. Deacon Roman Sverdan on June 17, 2012

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Let me assure you that our heavenly Father knows what you and I need in life. We heard this in today's Gospel message. Jesus reminds you and me to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given

you besides" (Mt 7: 33). God knows what Roman needs, what this parish and its parishioners need, what its pastor needs, and what I need. He calls on each of us to trust in Him and to seek to follow His ways. All that we need will be provided for us. So, let us

not worry about tomorrow. Trust in God. Pray to our Blessed Mother to help us understand and to accept God's ways for our life.

Know that I love you and that I pray for all of you. God bless our candidate for the diaconate, Roman,

and all of you in ways only He can!

Слава Ісусу Христу!

(Pictures courtesy of Mr. Charles Patulak)



Metropolitan Stefan and Monsignor Peter complete the vesting of Rev. Deacon Roman by placing the orarion (deacon's sash) on his shoulder while singing "Axios!" (He is worthy!) along with the concelebrating clergy.



Rev. Deacon Roman poses for a picture with his relatives, his niece Irene Dnistrian and nephew Alex Yarmoliouk.



FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM

Prayer for Religious Liberty

GOD OUR CREATOR, from Your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as Your people and given us the right and the duty to worship You, the only true God, and Your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of Your Holy Spirit, You call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.



We ask You to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of Your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all Your sons and daughters gathered in Your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome—for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—this great land will always be “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

For You are good, O our God, and You love mankind, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Ecumenic Prayer

To be inserted after the second petition on 17 June, 24 June, and 1 July.

Have mercy, O God, upon America and all its people, that it may be ever vigilant in defending and protecting religious freedom, we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

Lord, have mercy (thrice).

Again and again, we pray for our President and all our elected leaders, that they may respect our God-given freedom of conscience and religion.

Lord, have mercy (thrice).

Again, we pray for the Church in America, and all religious institutions, that they may stand firm in resisting all who seek to compel them to violate their religious beliefs.

Lord, have mercy (thrice).

The US Bishops have set up a period for prayer, awareness and action for religious freedom from June 21 until July 4. It is entitled Fortnight for Freedom. Information and resources for this may be found on the USCCB website at www.usccb.org.

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A Bridge For The People

In the ancient Christian Church, deacons were seen as the bridge between the bishop and the people, going back and forth by proclaiming the Gospel to the people, helping them with their various needs, and helping the bishop with various administrative matters. Over time, the role of the deacon has changed in our church but there is one constant – the deacon still is a bridge for the people.

He is a bridge for the people for he assists the parish priest and the bishop during the Divine Liturgy, going out of the sanctuary to incense the people and icons, to lead the people in petitionary prayer and to proclaim the gospel to the assembly. Eventually he returns to the sanctuary to assist the bishop, who is surrounded by his priests, or to assist the priest, with the liturgical tasks at hand at the altar. He also goes forth to the people and helps them with whatever they may need, from visiting the sick and shut ins, to instructing the people in living their faith. The deacon travels back and forth between the bishop/priest and the faithful as he did during the ancient days of Christianity, being the link between the mystical head (i.e., the bishop) and the mystical body (the faithful) of Christ our Lord.

In short, the deacon is like an angel who travels forth from God carrying out various tasks on behalf of Him. This is why the deacon, and the attending sub-deacons, wear their orar (sash) crossed during the Liturgy from the Our Father to the Thanksgiving Hymn after communion. Just as the angels go forth to the people from the sanctuary aloft on heavenly wings, so the deacons carry the Eucharist to the people, mystically and symbolically borne on the “wings” of the crossed orar. The deacon is a messenger and angelic servant for all the Church.

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:

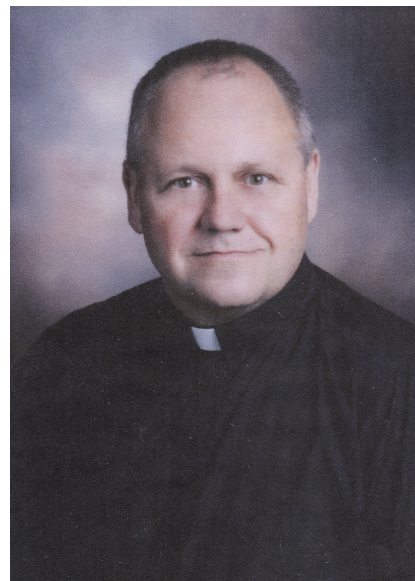
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Director of Vocations
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
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Religious Men and Women!*



Rev. Deacon Paul Spotts

St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic
Church, Frackville, PA, and St. John the Baptist
Ukrainian Catholic Church, Maizeville, PA

Sister Germaine Senita, OSBM, Celebrates 50 Years in Religious Life

Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, and a gaiety and life to everything. It is the essence of order and leads to all that is good, true and beautiful, of which it is the invisible, but nevertheless dazzling, passionate and eternal form. – Plato

On Pentecost Sunday, May 27, 2013, the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great gathered to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Sister Germaine Senita, OSBM. The celebration began with a procession in Holy Trinity Chapel. Surrounded by the Provincial Council and chaplain, Very Reverend Daniel Troyan, the Jubilerian was escorted by her grandnephew Nicholas Grage and grandnieces Kathryn and Elinor Grage, who proudly served as cross-bearer and candle bearers for the joyous occasion.

As the theme for the day, Sister Germaine had chosen “*Worship the Lord with gladness, come into his presence with singing*” from Psalm 100. Father Daniel expanded upon this theme in his homily, reminding all present about Sister’s wonderful ability to use her beautiful voice and her love of music as an instrument of her vocation, happily sharing this giftedness with her sisters in the community, her students at Saint Basil Academy, her family, and her many friends.



Sister Germaine Senita, OSBM with Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, Provincial

Following the service in the Holy Trinity Chapel, friends, family members, Sisters, and Father Troyan gathered for a celebratory dinner in the Sisters’ dining room. Serving as toastmaster, Sister Mary Cecilia Jurasinski, OSBM focused on the happiness of the day, emphasizing that Sister Germaine’s kind and generous spirit has touched both those who know her well and those who know her only through anonymous gifts received in times of need. Congratulatory letters from His Grace, Most Reverend Stefan Soroka, and General Superior Sister Miriam Claire Kowal, OSBM were read by Sister Lydia Anna Sawka, OSBM.



In her tribute to Sister Germaine, Provincial Superior Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM created a musical history of Sister’s life citing numerous songs from Broadway musicals and pop songs from the 1960s and 1970s. Her musical story began with brief comments about Sister Germaine’s childhood and continued with the years Sister began to recognize her vocation when she was “Sixteen, Going on Seventeen,” entered the Novitiate in Fox Chase in 1962 “With a Song in Your Heart,” and finally how being “In Love With a Wonderful Guy,” “Happy Talk,” and the “Music of the Night” had kept Sister “Younger Than Springtime,” even as she prepared to celebrate 50 years in religious life.

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Sister Germaine Senita, OSBM,

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The Provincial Superior then spoke about Sister Germaine's teaching ministry, which took her from St. Josaphat and Saint Nicholas schools in Philadelphia back to the Motherhouse to teach at St. Basil Academy. It is at the Academy, where she has lovingly served for forty years, that Sister Germaine's song became the songs of many hundreds of students who have performed in the numerous concerts and musicals she produced—students mesmerized and unobtrusively disciplined by her skills in conducting, teaching, singing, and above all, her gentle way of imbuing in them a love of God through a love of music.

In concluding her tribute, Sister Dorothy Ann shared, "Sister's ministry is like a fine tune that she softly and lovingly hums. . . . You pray through your singing . . . drawing closer to the Divine Composer through your exploring of lyrics and music. May God continue to surround you with holy stillness and peace in your music and in your life. May your music continue to be centered on God. . . . And, by the way, "The Beat Goes On."



Jubilarian Sister Germaine Senita, OSBM (in middle) with Basilian Council (L-R) Sister Maria Rozmarynowych, OSBM, Sister Lydia Anna Sawka, OSBM, Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, Sister Joann Sosler, OSBM, Sister Ann Laszok, OSBM, and Chaplain Very Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan.

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Ukrainian Days in Baltimore-A Month of Activities

St. Michael the Archangel Parish and the entire community in Baltimore Maryland have completed a month of whirlwind activities culminating with a "Spring Fling- Pyrohu Festival" on June 9-10th 2012. The event included all types of pyrohu and pyrishku, holubtsi, borsch, shashlik, sausage and sweets prepared by parishioners that contributed countless days of hard work. An interesting sensation of the event was the children's game " Feed the Hungry Kozak-Pyrohu" The humorous rendition of the kozak was made by Orest Poliszczuk and the canvas pyrohu were made by Luba Chornodolsky.

The month of May was proclaimed "Ukrainian Days in Baltimore" by the Mayor, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and started with a multifaceted kick-off in City Hall. Highlighting the month was an exhibition by renowned Ukrainian Photographer, Andriy Portyanko, with the entire central rotunda of City Hall covered with photographs of Ukrainian dancers and beautiful embroidered costumes. In addition for the entire month there was an exhibit of Ukrainian Easter Eggs- Pysanku by Halyna Mydryj. The opening ceremony was well attended with the entire Rotunda filled with guests.



Choir under the direction of Dr Nazar Kalivoshko.

The opening ceremonies included a series of dances by the Lyman Dance Company under the direction of Orest Lasiuk, a choral presentation by the chorus under the direction of Dr. Nazar Kalivoshko, opening remarks by the Mayor and an overview of the months activities by Andriy Chornodolsky. It was also noted that in the cultural arts district of Baltimore two entire block dioramas were painted by Ukrainians invited by the City of Baltimore. At the Charles Theater, Maya Hayuk gave her rendering and "Interesni Kazku" was painted by muralists from Ukraine. A reception featuring Ukrainian foods was prepared by St Michael Church Council Committee.

On May 12th at St. Michael Church Hall the "Art under the Domes" exhibition, sale and auction was conducted with great success benefiting the restoration fund. The art project was initiated and brought to fruition by Andrew and Tania Charchalis , Lara Traska and Irene Baranyk who succeeded in making a delightful cultural event for the Baltimore community with a great website and program book. Flautist Katria Kuzmowycz provided melodious background music adding to the pleasant atmosphere. Andrew Charchalis proved to be an auctioneer of great wit and sophistication astounding everyone. The church restoration work was recently completed and funds will help cover the expenditures. Additional enhancements are planned for the upper hall including the installation of an elevator by the scheduled centennial celebration in November of 2012.

The Dnipro Sports Club hosted an open house and social networking evening on May 17, 2012. Ukrainian food and drinks were shared by all attendees, especially the medivka. The Dnipro Sports Club, formerly the Ukrainian National Home in east Baltimore is a well known landmark.

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Ukrainian Days in Baltimore-A Month of Activities

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The Ukrainian National Women's League of Baltimore hosted a brunch and program of "Mamyni Kazku" on May 20, 2012 which featured a diorama presentation of six kazku by Luba Chornodolsky at St. Michael Church Hall. The children attentively listened to each kazka and everyone marveled at the intricacy of the dioramas and the Ukrainian characters. Dr. Irka Kostrubiak gave an introductory statement and the chorus under the direction of Dr. Nazar Kalivoshko entertained with a series of beautiful songs.

Events at City Hall included on May 24, 2012, a lecture and presentation by Halyna Mudryj of pysanka decorating and design which was warmly appreciated by the audience of primarily City Hall employees. On May 30, 2012 Andrij Chornodolsky gave a seminar on the history of Ukrainian immigration to Baltimore and the milestones of community development. The 130 year history with its four phases of Ukrainians coming to Baltimore and establishing parishes, building churches and community infrastructure and contributing to the economic well being of Maryland was examined. Also presented was an overview of the bibliography of literature related to Ukrainians in Maryland.

On June 7, 2012 Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake hosted a luncheon with Rev. Wasyl Sivinskyj and Stephan Chorney representing St. Michael the Archangel Church. The Mayor again underscored her warm feelings about the Ukrainian community and the wonderful month of activities that had transpired. Anna White-Yankova of the Mayor's staff must be credited with the initiative to assemble an entire month of activities showcasing the Ukrainian community. Gratitude was expressed for her work.



Lyman Dance Company



ECF STUDENTS COMPLETE SUNDAY CATECHISM STUDIES OPEN REGISTRATION BEGINS FOR 2012-2013 YEAR

On Sunday June 10th, the students of the Sunday Eastern Christian Formation Catechism Program at St. Nicholas, Passaic, NJ, held their final class of the 2011-2012 school year. During the 8:30am Divine Liturgy homily, Fr. Andriy Dudkevych, pastor, spoke of the need to provide children with a solid faith foundation, rooted in the principles and traditions of our Ukrainian Catholic rite. This foundation is key in the moral and spiritual development of our youth in the face of today's liberal society. Afterwards, students, family members, and guests adjourned to the school cafeteria to celebrate their accomplishments and to enjoy refreshments.



Sr. Eliana, SSMI, religious education program director, welcomed all parents and students, as well as children who completed First Penance this year, to the celebration and gave an overview of the program offerings for grades 3 through high school.

On display were study materials, books, and special projects completed by students. Also, teachers were on hand to answer questions about grade-specific curricula. Students in upper grades were especially excited to show off their special projects to parents and guests.



First Solemn Penance preparation will begin again in the fall and is a 2-year program. All classes are conveniently held on Sunday mornings between the Divine Liturgies, thus enabling parents and children to attend either the English or Ukrainian Liturgies. Interested parents may register their children for either program at this time by calling the Rectory directly at 973-471-9727.

ST. NICHOLAS STUDENTS BID FOND FAREWELL TO PRINCIPAL, SR. ANNE, SSMI, AND BEGIN SUMMER VACATION

It's not often that the weather cooperates with our plans, however, such was the case this 2011-2012 school year. After a totally unseasonable snowfall in October of 2011, little if any snowflakes during winter prevented the students of St. Nicholas School, Passaic, from attending classes. Thus the school year has concluded several days sooner.



During this last week of classes, students honored Sr. Anne Roman, SSMI, for her five years of dedicated service to St. Nicholas School. The PTA expressed thanks for Sr. Anne's experience and thrifty stewardship during her tenure at the school. Students from each grade demonstrated their gratitude with handmade cards and gifts, and sincere wishes for God's continued Blessings for Sr. Anne. Afterwards, all were treated to delicious chocolate cake!



2012 GRADUATION WEEKEND AT ST. NICHOLAS, PASSAIC, NJ

Graduates were plentiful at St. Nicholas School here in Passaic during the June 1-3 weekend. Kindergarteners completed their school year on Friday, June 1st with a graduation program and celebration. Ten students taught by Mrs. Anna Diduch took to the stage to show off their skills and knowledge by performing recitations and songs in both English and Ukrainian, and a skit entitled, *The Giant Turnip*, to thunderous applause from an enthusiastic audience. During intermission, while the Kindergarteners were whisked away to don their caps and gowns, Mrs. Lydia Loukachouk's pre-K girls serenaded the crowd with their repertoire of song and dance.

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2012 GRADUATION WEEKEND AT ST. NICHOLAS, PASSAIC, NJ

(continued from previous page)

Finally the moment had arrived and the graduates ascended the stairs to the stage. Fr. Andriy Dudkevych, pastor, blessed each of the graduates as he distributed the diplomas, wishing them much success as they continue their education at St. Nicholas School. At the conclusion of the program, all were invited for refreshments and cake.



On Sunday, June 3rd, Grade 8 graduates took center stage. The morning Divine Liturgy was celebrated for the intentions of all graduates, and teachers and parents who had made this moment possible. Fr. Andriy, pastor, and Sr. Anne, SSMI, principal of St. Nicholas School, bestowed blessings and distributed diplomas to 9 graduates.

Fr. Andriy thanked the parents, grandparents, and extended families for their nurturing and support of the students over the years at St. Nicholas School. Further, Fr. Andriy reminded parishioners and guests that St Nicholas Ukrainian

Catholic School is the last remaining parochial school in the city of Passaic; a city that once boasted 10 catholic elementary schools and 2 catholic high schools. Fr. Andriy credited the school's survival in these tough economic times to the desire of parents for the educational, spiritual and moral development of their children in the wholesome environment of St. Nicholas School, the unwavering support of parishioners, and the skillful, prolific, and never-tiring hands of our dedicated pyrohy workers. A week earlier, the pyrohy workers were honored at a special luncheon hosted by the PTA and grateful students and parents to acknowledge their contribution of time and effort in fundraising for the school.

During the graduation ceremony, Ms. Marion Hrubec, president of the Garden State Council, made a special presentation to Sr. Anne and St. Nicholas School on behalf of the National Board of the League of Ukrainian Catholics (LUC). The school was the recipient of a check for \$500.00, representing the Sr. John Paskevich, SSMI, Memorial School Endowment Award. The award was established by the LUC in recognition of the work of our Ukrainian catholic schools, and of Sr. John's contribution as a dedicated educator in our Ukrainian Catholic schools. The award recipients are selected from the pool of parochial schools representing all Ukrainian Catholic eparchys across the USA.

At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony, each student had an opportunity publically to express their thanks to all who had made their success possible.

SWEET SUPPORT FOR ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

Warm spring afternoons are the perfect time to sell sweet cold treats. The altar servers of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Passaic, NJ sponsored a two day ice pop sale to raise money for the dry cleaning of the dalmatics that are worn by them during liturgies. Although the weather did not cooperate on these two days, the students of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School eagerly supported the sale nonetheless. Following the Divine Liturgy on June 1, 2012, the altar servers bestowed Fr. Andriy Dudkevych, Pastor of St. Nicholas, with a check for \$131, the proceeds from their sale. Fr. Andriy was pleased and thankful for the boys' thoughtfulness and generosity. In return, Fr. Andriy presented each altar server with a certificate of appreciation for their dedication in serving at God's holy altar during the 2011-2012 school year. Immediately following the end of the school year, Fr. Andriy treated the altar servers to an afternoon at the movies. The boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were ever so grateful to their pastor for being so kind to them.



God Bless Those Receiving First Penance



Warrington, PA - St. Anne's Religious Education Students received their First Confession on Sunday, May 6, 2012. Denise Gingoloski, Program Director, is pictured with her students, Mia Chuma, Samuel Drob, Gabrielle Gingolaski, Roma Lonkevych, Kenzie & Kya Matyszczak, William Pawlak, Brian Spak, and Charlotte Thompson.

**St. Anne Ukrainian
Catholic Church**

58th ANNUAL HOLY DORMITION (ASSUMPTION) PILGRIMAGE

AUGUST 11 – 12, 2012

ST. MARY'S VILLA / SLOATSBURG, NEW YORK
SISTERS SERVANTS OF MARY IMMACULATE

**Theme: "The Vibrant Parish –
a place to encounter the Living Christ"**

Saturday, August 11

12:00 noon FOOD AVAILABLE AT PAVILION
THROUGHOUT WEEKEND

1:00 – 3:15 p.m. Workshops – (See below)

5:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy –
Rev. Edward Cimbala, main celebrant (grotto – English)
Administrator of the Eparchy of Passaic
Rev. James Spera – homilist
Choir – St. Mary's, Hillsborough, NJ



Blessing of Water (front of Villa)

8:00 p.m. Moleben to the Mother of God with candlelight procession (grotto – English)
Rev. Edward Cimbala, main celebrant / homilist

Panahyda – St. Mary's Villa chapel

Sunday, August 12

8:00 a.m. Lamentations to the Mother of God – Rev. Edward Young, celebrant (chapel-English)

10:00 a.m. Pontifical Divine Liturgy with procession to grotto
followed by blessing of flowers

Most Rev. Stefan Soroka, Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia

Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Eparch of Stamford

Most Rev. Richard Stephen Seminack, Eparch of St. Nicholas Eparchy, Chicago - *homilist*

Most Rev. Basil Losten, Bishop Emeritus of Stamford

Choir: St. John the Baptist Church, Syracuse, New York

12:00 p.m. Youth Liturgy - Rev. Peter Shyshka, main celebrant / homilist (chapel – English)

1:30 p.m. Healing Service with Akathist (St. Mary's Villa chapel & grotto steps)
Blessing of Religious Articles (front of St. Joseph's)

2:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross - Rev. Maxim Kobasuk, OSBM

3:00 p.m. Moleben to the Mother of God (Ukrainian –grotto)
V. Rev. Archpriest Kiril Angelov – main celebrant / homilist

Blessing of cars and buses

CONFESSION AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE WEEKEND

The Vibrant Parish – a place to encounter the living Christ Workshops

1:00 – 1:30 Word of God – Sr. Natalya Stoczany, SSMI

1:35 – 2:05 The Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) and Prayer – Rev. Edward Young

2:10 – 2:40 Serving One's Neighbor & Leadership – Rev. Robert Hitchens

2:45 – 3:15 Fostering & Serving Unity and A Missionary Spirit – Rev. Bohdan Danylo

3:20 – 4:20 Panel Discussion with Bishops, Presenters, and Marion Hrubec

3:30 Fr. Ivan Kaszczak presentation only for the youth

V. Rev. Archpriest Bohdan Danylo, Pilgrimage Spiritual Moderator

HOLY DORMITION PILGRIMAGE AFTERNOON CONFERENCES



1:00 - The Word of God

Sister Natalya Stoczaryn, SSMI

Sister Natalya Stoczaryn, SSMI is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. She has served as a teacher, youth minister, director of the Office of Child Protection, and is currently serving as Editor in Chief the diocesan newspaper, The SOWER.



**1:35 - The Holy Mysteries
and Prayer**

Very Rev. Archpriest Edward Canon Young

Rev. Canon Edward Young is currently the pastor of SS Peter and Paul Parish in Ludlow, MA and of Holy Trinity Parish in South Deerfield, MA. He has served in the seminaries in Stamford, CT and Rudno, Ukraine.

The Vibrant Parish - A Place to Encounter the Living Christ



**2:10 - Leadership &
Serving One's Neighbor**

Rev. Robert Hitchens

Fr. Robert Hitchens is a priest of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia. He is currently serving as the Rector of St. Josaphat Seminary, Washington, DC, and the co-pastor of the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, Washington, DC. He has been ordained a priest for 18 years and has a BA and M.Div. from the Catholic University of America.



**2:45 - Fostering & Serving
Unity and a Missionary Spirit**

Rev. Archpriest Bohdan Darylo

Rev. Archpriest Bohdan Darylo is the Rector/President of St. Basil College Seminary, Vocations Director for the Eparchy of Stamford.

**3:20 - 4:20 - Panel Discussion
with Our Bishops, Presenters and Marion Hrubec**

3:30 - For Youth Only

Very Rev. Archpriest Dr. Ivan Kaszczak

Rev. Dr. Bohdan Ivan Kaszczak is the pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Kerhonkson, NY. He holds a Doctorate in Religious Education from Fordham University.

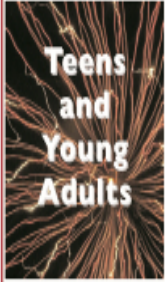


Saturday August 11, 2012 Sloatsburg, NY

**ANNUAL HOLY DORMITION PILGRIMAGE
CAMP-OUT 2012**

**Saturday - Sunday August 11-12
Sloatsburg, NY**

**Youth: Vital to a Vibrant Parish
YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!**



- * Desire justice and equality
- * Challenge assumptions
- * Open yourself to the world outside your community
- * Are concerned about the environment
- * Want to be part of something important
- * Uncover new possibilities from information
- * Question
- * Create energy and fun

**YOU BRING LIFE
TO YOUR PARISH!**

EXPLORE YOUR ROLE IN THE PARISH
through:
PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS
PRAYER & FUN



**Weekend Facilitators:
Sr. Natalya, SSMI
and Elena Worlinsky**

**BEGINS 3:30 p.m.
SATURDAY**

Questions? More information? Contact: Sr. Natalya at (845) 709-0769
thesowen@optonline.net or Sr. Kathleen at (845) 753-2840 ssminy@aol.com
Or send this to: SSMI Camp-Out, P.O. Box 9, Sloatsburg, NY 10974
Registration Forms and Additional Information will be sent to you.

Name: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
Parish: _____

**78th
ANNUAL
UKRAINIAN
DAY PICNIC**



Sun. July 29 - 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**St. Nicholas
Picnic Grove
Route 901 Primrose
MINERSVILLE
PENNSYLVANIA**

(RAIN OR SHINE)

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy—11 a.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

Kazka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

The Pennsylvania Villagers Polka Band

*Ukrainian arts and crafts - Pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs) - Ceramics
Pyrohy - Halushki - Holubtsi - Kobasa - Kapusta - Bean Soup - Bleenies
Pastries - Baked Goods - Beverages - Games - Ice Cream - Theme Baskets*

FREE PARKING FREE ADMISSION

Located in Schuylkill County one mile from Minersville on Pa. 901

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

Rehoboth Beach, DE

St. Edmund's Roman Catholic Church will host the
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, a Byzantine Liturgy at

6:00 PM on Sundays: June 24, July 29 and August 26
(last Sunday of the month)

St. Edmunds Roman Catholic Church is located on the
Intersection of King Charles Avenue and Laurel Street
Rehoboth Beach DE 19971



Olyphant, PA

SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, Pa sponsored a Bingo Stand at the "Olyphant Queen City Days" by Eureka Volunteer Hose Co. , at the Fern Hill Grounds in Olyphant, Pa. 3 day event. (June 8-10th) Volunteers were parishioners of the church.

The next event for the Church is the Bingo Stand at the "Downtown Olyphant Queen City Nights" Picnic by the Olyphant Boro Building (Willow Street/Lackawanna Ave) July 12-14. (July 12: 5-10pm, July 13: 5-11pm, July 14: 4-11pm.)



Maria and Jack Martin of Olyphant are active parish members of SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church try their chances at BINGO!!!!



On Sunday the volunteers included (left to right) Marlene Zelno, The Bingocaller: John Sereditch, Nancy Trygalo, and Jean Stanky. 2nd Row, Joanne Berta, Cherly Matuszewski, Sandra Berta. In the back row: Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor.

EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES ENCOUNTER 2012



"Together In Christ"

"All you who have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. *Alleluia!*"

*One Theme
One Purpose
One Voice*

You are Cordially Invited

The Eastern Catholic Bishops of the U.S.A.
Region 15, U.S.C.C.B.

invite you to participate in
ENCOUNTER 2012
a conference of the
Eastern Catholic Churches of the U.S.A. and Canada

ONE THEME
"Together in Christ"

ONE PURPOSE
Clergy and Laity *Together* in the Vineyard of Christ...
"Unity in Mission; Diversity in Ministry"

ONE VOICE
Encountering God *Together* in Prayer

ONE CONFERENCE — THREE LOCATIONS
For more information & registration visit the website,
www.Encounter2012EasternCatholicChurches.org

† Armenian † Chaldean † Malankara † Malabar † Maronite † Melkite † Romanian † Russian † Ruthenian † Syriac † Ukrainian †

MID-WEST

September 20-23, 2012
Holiday Inn Cleveland South
Independence, Ohio

EAST

October 11-14, 2012
St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church & Center
Hillsborough, New Jersey

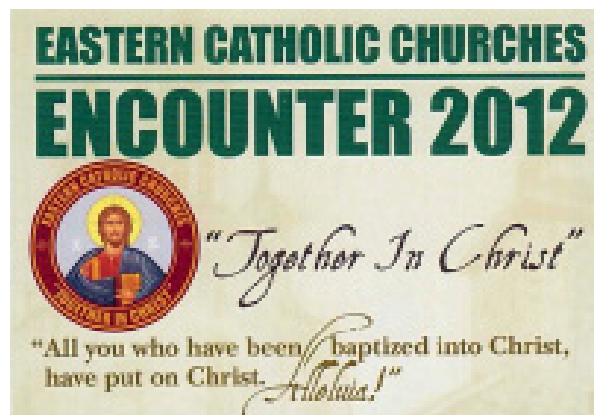
WEST

November 1-4, 2012
Hacienda Hotel
El Segundo, California

TOGETHER IN CHRIST – ENCOUNTER 2012

The Eastern Catholic Bishops of the USA are sponsoring three Encounters of our respective Churches this year which will take place in three locations: Cleveland, OH (September 20-23), Los Angeles, CA (November 1-4) and for the Eastern United States at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, NJ (October 11-14). These gatherings, and the one in Hillsborough in particular, are geared for the laity and clergy with the theme:

TOGETHER IN CHRIST – THE SPIRITUALITY OF DISCIPLESHIP: A CALL TO HOLINESS



An Encounter is a time for all Eastern Catholics to meet and to grow in the Lord, and to study themes that would assist them in fostering more spiritual and educational growth in their parishes. By having an Encounter in our region, it will be easier and convenient for more participation of the laity and clergy. Also, follow up meetings and programs within a certain region will provide more growth for our Churches since parishes of Eastern Traditions have so much in common.

A special day for clergy who have pastoral commitments in parishes will precede the weekend. The weekend Encounter (Friday evening through Sunday brunch) is mainly geared for the laity who are asked to arrive on Friday for a welcome and hospitality. The main focus will be on Saturday and Sunday. Four plenary sessions will be held.

The first session, entitled ***Who is the Church?***, will be led by Rev. Damon Geiger of the Eparchy of Newton. The second session, ***Activity of the Royal Priesthood***, will be led by Dr. Maureen Dadonna of the Eparchy of Passaic. The third session, ***Blueprint for Church Growth***, will be led by Sr. Marla Marie Lucas, MSCL, of the Eparchy of St. Maron. The main session entitled, ***The 'How' and 'What' of Lay Leadership: Action – Put on Christ!*** will be presented by Most Reverend Peter Libasci, Auxiliary Bishop of Rockville Centre.

On Sunday, Matins and the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated with a keynote address entitled, ***Servant Leadership: Be All That You Can Be!***

Registration is \$75.00 per person for the Encounter. A discount for early registration of five or more from one parish is available at \$50.00 per person. Hospitality and meals are included in the registration fee. Vendors of Eastern Catholic books and icons are being invited to complement the Encounter.

Previously, Encounters were held in 1999 in Boston and 2006 in Chicago. They were held mainly for bishops and invited clergy and laity. This year's Encounter is open to all who want to learn, pray and grow in Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ.

The Eastern Catholic Bishops have formed a national body or a region in the US Catholic Conference of Bishops. They represent the following traditions: Armenian, Byzantine – Melkite, Romanian, Ruthenian and Ukrainian; Syriac – Chaldean, Maronite, Syro-Malabar, and Syro-Malankara.

For more information & registration visit the website, www.Encounter2012EasternCatholicChurches.org .

Pope Benedict XVI names UGCC Primate a member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

On Tuesday, June 12, 2012, the Vatican announced that Pope Benedict XVI appointed His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk), Head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, a member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. Other appointees to this Apostolic See body are: Archbishop Zbigniew Stankevics of

Riga, Lithuania; Savio Hon Tai-Fai S.D.B., Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples; Bishop Gerhard Ludwig Muller of Regensburg, Germany; Bishop Donald Joseph Bolen of Saskatoon, Canada.

Additionally the Holy Father appointed some new consultants to this Pontifical Council and new members to the

Congregation for Catholic Education.

The Pontifical Council, established in 1960 as a Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, plays an active role in the Roman Curia. It fulfills a double mission by spreading within the Catholic Church an authentic ecumenical spirit in accordance with the decree *Unitatis*

redintegratio of the Second Vatican Council and by developing dialogues and cooperation with other Christian churches. Cardinal Kurt Koch has headed this council since 2010.

Radio Vatican News

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

Sister Sozonta, SSMI Reposed in the Lord

Sister Sozonta was born in Innisfree, Alberta, Canada becoming a naturalized citizen of the US in 1967. Her mother, Annie Iwaniw, died when she was three years old, and she was raised by her father, Elias. Her father had acute emphysema and could only take care of his daughter for so long.

She was placed in the Mundare, Alberta orphanage with the Sisters Servants where she grew up. She entered the community in 1925.

Sister Sozonta came to Minneapolis, her first mission, in 1937. Many years were spent in parish ministry, teaching and administration. Later however, Sister Sozonta pursued her degree in nursing, becoming an LPN. She was very instrumental in the purchase of our Sloatsburg property and its development.

Her last mission was at Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Philadelphia where she was involved with the elderly and the weekly pyrohy makers. She was an advocate for the elderly and those less fortunate, she knew their needs and concerns!

Sister Sozonta was very interested and concerned with community events. Her life was very much involved with people she grew fond of throughout her journey of life. Her ministry was through letter writing and a life of prayer for others. (Adapted from the article on: <http://ssmi-us.org>)

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate



"I am the resurrection and the life, those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26

CELEBRATING THE ETERNAL MEMORY OF:

SISTER SOZONTA TEKLA ISKIW, SSMI

Born: March 5, 1911

In Community: 86 years

Died: June 16, 2012

Services will be held at St. Mary's Villa – Sloatsburg, NY



УКРАЇНЬСЬКА ГРЕКО-КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА

ВСЕНАРОДНА ПРОЩА З НАГОДИ БЛАГОСЛОВЕННЯ ВІДНОВЛЕНОГО СОБОРУ СВЯТОЇ СОФІЇ В РИМІ

13 – 15 ЖОВТНЯ 2012 РОКУ

СУБОТА,

13 жовтня 2012 р.

12:00 Приїзд прочан

17:00 Архиєрейська
Велика
Вечірня
і благословення
Собору.
Очюлює
Блаженніший
Патріарх
Святослав.

НЕДІЛЯ,

14 жовтня 2012 р.

10:00 Соборна Архиєрейська Служба Божа.

12:00 Зустріч Блаженнішого Патріарха
Святослава і Кардиналів
з паломниками.

18:00 Святковий Концерт в авлі Папи
Павла VI на честь Папи Венедикта XVI
та Отців Палського Синоду.

19:00 Удїлення Палського Благословення
для паломників.

ПОНЕДІЛОК,

15 жовтня 2012 р.

10:00 Соборна Архиєрейська
Служба Божа і Акафіст
перед мошами св. Йосафата
у базиліці св. Петра.

15:00 Наукова Конференція:
Півстолїття від скликання
Другого Ватиканського
Вселенського Собору.
(Via di Boccea 478,
00166 – Roma)



Більше інформації про Прощу та реєстрація прочанських груп – звертайтеся в організаційний комітет в Італії
тел.: +39/06-489-000-49, +39/06-624-02-03; тел. моб.: +39 327 151-44-55
факс: +39/06-95-22-77-33, +39/06-62-44-396
Via di Boccea, 478; ROMA - 00166, Italia <http://www.chiesaucraina.it>

Changes to October Rome-Kyiv Pilgrimage Trip under the leadership of Monsignor John Terlecky

Our originally planned trip from October 10 to October 19 has been **cancelled!**

In its place, the Stamford Eparchy is still planning a pilgrimage trip to Rome for the Solemn Rededication of our Sobor (Papal Basilica) of Saint Sophia by His Beatitude, Patriarch Sviatoslav and all attending hierarchs on Sunday, October 14, 2011.

This trip will last from **October 10-16th**. 7 days of travel with five nights in Rome. The additional features of this trip are:

- direct air via American Airlines from JFK Airport in New York to Rome and back
- a half-day sightseeing trip of the city of Rome
- a visit to St Peter's Basilica, the Sistine Chapel, and all the treasures of the Vatican Museum
- a one-day excursion trip outside of Rome - planned is a day trip to Capri, Sorrento and Pompeii (other one-day excursions to Assisi, Florence, or Siena are available)
- planned concert to Ukrainian sacral and classical music to be held at Pope Paul VI Memorial Hall (*the presence of Our Holy Father is anticipated*).
- one free day in Rome
- Accompanying the pilgrims as chaplains will be Monsignor and Archpriest Edward Young - Most Rev. Basil Losten, Eparch Emeritus, is also planning to be in Rome for the festivities.
- **The price for this trip is \$2492.** based on twin share. Single supplement is \$318. The price includes airfare, hotel, daily breakfast, sightseeing excursions (incl. meal for day-trip), entrance fees, concert tickets, taxes, tips, and gratuities. Travel insurance is additional and highly recommended.



Monsignor John Terlecky
(photo: www.stamforddio.org)

St. Peter's Basilica in Rome



Photo by: Wolfgang Stuck
<http://simple.wikipedia.org>

Deposit of \$250. per person is due by July 10, 2012 with balance due by August 10, 2012.

For registration form and other information, please contact **Dunwoodie Travel Bureau, Ltd** in Yonkers, NY by phone (914) 969-4200 or by e-mail dunwoodie@vacation.com. You may also contact Monsignor at (203-962-2296) or by e-mail jmterlecky@optonline.net



St. Stephen Ukrainian Catholic Church

1344 White Oak Bottom Road
Toms River, New Jersey 08755



5th Annual Ukrainian Festival

Saturday, August 25, 2012

12 noon – 6 p.m.

St. Stephen Ukrainian Catholic Church

1344 White Oak Bottom Road,
Toms River, NJ 08755

*(Two streets north of Church Rd, Between New
Hampshire Ave & Old Freehold Rd)*

Delicious Ukrainian Food and Beverages ,
Vendors, Baskets & 50/50 Raffles,
Arts & Crafts.

Live Music from

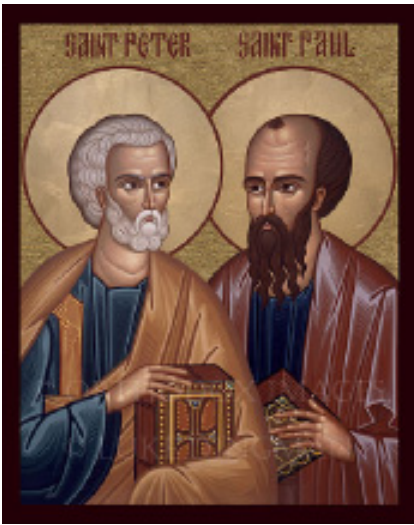
**"The Pavlishyn
Sisters"** and

"Somers and Steel"

Ukrainian Dance
Ensemble **"Iskra"**

will perform at
3:00 P.M.





Prime Apostles Saints Peter and Paul

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Mt. 16, 13-19)

Every rite of the Catholic Church celebrates the feast day of SS. Peter and Paul on June 29, a day which is still a holy day of obligation for Byzantine Catholics. The commemoration on this day is for two different Apostles, but both are seen as first among Apostles and were martyred in the city of Rome.

From the Gospel accounts, the Epistles and the Acts of the Apostles, we know the biographies of both these great saints and are quite familiar with them. In the Gospel accounts, Peter often stands out as the Apostle who most frequently took the initiative and therefore assumed the role of leader. It is upon Peter (the Rock), that Christ declared He would establish and entrust His Church giving him keys to the Kingdom. In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter is portrayed as the undisputed leader of the primitive church who underwent enormous hardship and persecution for the sake of Christ. It has traditionally been thought that he journeyed to the capital city of Rome and was the first pope. It was in Rome that he was crucified upside down by the Emperor Nero around the year 64 A.D. It is taught that he was crucified and buried outside the city gates of Rome where St. Peter's Basilica now stands in the Vatican.

Paul was a pharisee who belonged to the tribe of Benjamin. He was well versed in Jewish rabbinical teachings and before his conversion to Christianity was foremost among the persecutors of the early Christian Church. The known facts about his life are contained in the Acts of the apostles and his Epistles. On his way to arrest certain Christians in Damascus Acts 9:1-9), he had a vision of the risen Lord which immediately and totally changed the course of his life. After three years of living alone in the Arabian desert, he plunged into a life of intense missionary activity. He was the first apostle to spread the Gospel to the gentiles and is thus known as the Apostle of the Gentiles. A controversy arose over whether the early Christians should convert the gentiles directly to Christianity, or if they should become Jews, through circumcision), first. Paul directly opposed Peter on this point in a meeting of the Apostles and church elders in Jerusalem. After that Paul continued his missionary activity and underwent much persecution and imprisonment. Because Paul was a Roman citizen, he demanded to be tried in Rome where he was beheaded and buried outside the city gates of Rome in 67 A.D.

It is rather interesting how June 29 became the date on which we celebrate the memory of these two prime Apostles. The earliest source we have for this feast is the *Martyrologium Hieronymianum* of the year 354 A.D. "his manuscript speaks about a local commemorative service held in honor of SS. Peter and Paul on June 29, 258 A.D. It was during this year that the persecution of the Christian religion was most severe under the Roman Emperor Valerian. It has been speculated that the Christians, fearing that the resting places of these most honored Apostles would be violated and desecrated, carried the remains of the Apostle Peter from the Vatican

(continued on next page)

Prime Apostles Saints Peter and Paul

(continued from previous page)

Hills and Paul's remains from the road to Ostia and brought them to the catacombs of St. Sebastian on the Via Appia outside of Rome. Thus, the practice of remembering these two Apostles on June 29 dates back to a local Roman practice which spread to the whole of Christianity. This is one example of an ancient and acceptable practice of our rite which is directly due to Latin influence.

What does our Byzantine tradition say about the two saints? This can be gained from studying the liturgical texts from the vespers and matins for this feast day. Sadly enough, most of our parishes no longer avail themselves of the great catechetical possibilities which the mere celebration of vespers and matins affords.

These two apostles, seen to be of equal importance and greatness, are described together as doctors of the world, the two infallible preachers of divine truth and as leaders of the Apostles. There are other descriptions also, but the aspect that stands out most notably is that they were the greatest teachers and dispensers of the revelation received from Jesus Christ. They are also described as the two tablets of the New Covenant and two great luminaries of the Church, further emphasizing their place as the most important sources from which we have received teachings and ways of Jesus Christ.

The Church's teaching on divine revelation is that the Apostles received the full revelation of Christ as a result of their closeness to Him, knowing Him personally. This primary revelation ended with the death of the last Apostle and since then the Church has been expounding on it and clarifying it. Rightfully so, since these two Apostles were seen as the leaders: Peter is the rock upon which the Church was built and Paul is the Apostle to the Gentiles and writer of many magnificent Epistles which hold a large and important place in the New Testament.

Finally, this feast day is followed by the Synaxis of the 12 Apostles. A synaxis refers to a certain commemoration falling on the day immediately after a great feast which honors some person closely connected with the theme of the feast itself. This feast day commemorating all the Apostles concludes the celebration of SS. Peter and Paul by emphasizing their importance and their preeminence over the other Apostles. It is especially from these two, along with the other Apostles, that the deposit of faith has been handed down from them to the Church and to us today. *(Fr. Dennis B. Kristof)*



DECREE OF DISPENSATION

June 29th is the Feast of SS. Peter & Paul and is a Holy Day of Obligation in our Ukrainian Church *sui iuris*. This year, the Feast falls on a Friday. Due to the joyful nature of this Feast and in accord with canon 883, §1 CCEO, the obligation to fast from meat is dispensed for this year.

Given on this 6th day of June, 2012 in our Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, PA

+Stefan Soroka
Metropolitan-Archbishop

July 2012 - Липня 2012
August 2012 - Серпня 2012

Happy Birthday!
З Днем народження!

July 9: Rev. John Seniw
July 10: Rev. John Wysochansky
July 10: Rev. Deacon Paul Makar
July 15: Very Rev. Archpr. Michael Hutsko
July 17: Rev. Andriy Dudkevych
July 27: Rev. John Ciurpita

August 6: Subdeacon Mr. Roman Oprysk
August 11: Rev. Roman Petryshak
August 15: Rev. Ihor Bloschynskyy
August 17: Very Rev. Archpr. David Clooney
August 27: Rev. Paul Wolensky

**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!

July 9: Rev. Yaroslav Kurpel (19th Anniversary)
July 10: Very Rev. Archpr. Mitrat Roman
Mirchuk (36th Anniversary)
July 13: Rev. Mark Fesniak (9th Anniversary)
July 13: Rev. Ivan Turyk (9th Anniversary)
July 20: Rev. Myron Myronyuk (9th Anniversary)
July 31: Rev. Taras Lonchyna (35th 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!**

**"The Way" is going on a
Summer Break.**

The next issue of
"The Way" will be
August 12th.



Visit our Website and Blog for any
news during the Break.

www.ukrarcheparchy.us
www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com

Editorial and Business Office:

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

Online: www.ukrarcheparchy.us

E-MAIL: theway@ukrarcheparchy.us

Blog: www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com

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THE WAY Staff

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

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