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Ukrainian Catholic Hierarchs Meet in Synod in Winnipeg; Mark Centennial of First Ukrainian Catholic Bishop in Canada



Photo of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church (and clergy and guest Archbishops from the Ukrainian Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches) standing before the Ss. Volodymyr & Olha Metropolitan Cathedral in Winnipeg, Canada, just prior to the opening Divine Liturgy by which the Synod formally began. (Photo by Norbert Iwan.)

From the 9th to the 16th of September in the city of Winnipeg, Canada, the 2012 Synod of Bishops¹ of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church² took place in which participated 38 bishops from Ukraine,³ USA, Canada, Australia, countries of central and western Europe and South America – including emeritus bishops from Europe, the US, Canada and Argentina.

The occasion to hold the Synod in Canada was the celebration this year of the centenary of the arrival to this country of the first Ukrainian Bishop – Blessed Nykyta Budka. The hierarchy of the UGCC from around the world came to Canada to celebrate this special jubilee together with the Archeparchy of Winnipeg and to give thanks to God for His guidance over this entire period. The Synod

Fathers, having participated in the celebrations and having met with many of the Faithful in parishes throughout the province of Manitoba, joyfully noted that regardless of the time that has past and the circumstances in which they find themselves, Ukrainian Catholics in Canada have found a way to maintain ecclesial and even cultural identity. A key role in the preservation of this identity,

in the opinion of the observers, was played by the local Ukrainian Catholic Church itself, but also by Ukrainian organizations and education institutions. At the same time, it was also observed that today it is necessary to adapt new pastoral approaches, in order to support and develop the ecclesio-cultural consciousness of

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our Faithful – especially the young.

women religious and many lay-faithful.

The Beginning of the Synod

On 8 September 2012, the Bishops of the UGCC visited the church of St. Joseph at which is also located the shrine of the Hieromartyr Blessed Vasył Velychkovsky.⁴ His relics were transferred here shortly after his beatification by Pope John Paul II in 2001. The Synod Fathers, as is their custom, prayed a Moleben' to the Holy Spirit and also prayed at the tomb of the blessed bishop and martyr. It is here that they took an oath for the fulfilment of their duties and to maintain due confidentiality about the synodal proceedings.

The official act of the opening of the Episcopal Synod took place the following day on 9 September 2012 in Winnipeg at the solemn celebration of the **Hierarchical Divine Liturgy** in the Metropolitan Cathedral of the *Equals-to-the-Apostles* Ss. Volodymyr and Olha. In this inspiring liturgy, the Synod Fathers were joined by guest bishops, many priests and deacons,

During his homily, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the *Father and Head* of the UGCC, greeted everyone on the occasion of the 100-year jubilee of the appointment and arrival of Blessed Hieromartyr Nykyta (Budka), the first bishop of the UGCC in Canada. The Head of the UGCC noted that with the arrival of the first bishop to Canada we can speak of the establishment in this country of a Ukrainian Catholic hierarchy with its own structure and its own eastern Christian identity. Referring to the text of the Gospel for the 14th Sunday after Pentecost, where it speaks of the invitation to the wedding feast (Mt. 22:1:14), His Beatitude Sviatoslav made a comparison of the servants of the parable and the bishops of the UGCC who were, for the first time, gathering in Synod in Canada. The Bishops, like the servants of the heavenly Father are sent to invite everyone to take part in the banquet of the Kingdom of God. "Today, as we celebrate this Divine Banquet and

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His Beatitude Sviatoslav at Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Cathedral on Sunday, September 9, 2012. Photo by N. Iwan



Photo: <http://ugcc.tv/ua/media/54705.html>



Photo: <http://ugcc.tv/ua/media/54710.html>

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remember the 100-years of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada, our Church renews the invitation to the table of God's love and calls upon everyone in this country – Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians alike – those of Ukrainian heritage and all people of goodwill, to become sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father". The Head of the UGCC also invited everyone present to be conscious of the unity of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, remembering that they are members of "a great family of God, a family that remembers you, loves you, wants to support you and asks for your support".

At the opening of the Holy Synod, there were also **guest bishops**: the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Winnipeg, James Weisgerber, representing the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops; and His Eminence Yuriy (Kalishchuk), the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada in Communion with Patriarch of Constantinople. The guests brought words of greeting, expressing their happiness that the Synod of Bishops would take place here on Canadian

soil, and their offered their prayers and wishes that the Holy Spirit would guide the synod through successful work. His Beatitude Sviatoslav thanked the guests for their kind wishes and expressed his desire for an ever deeper cooperation between the Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Roman Catholic Church and Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada as well as between the many Ukrainian lay organizations active in Canada.

The working sessions of the Synod began on Monday 10 September 2012. In his addresses on the first day of the synod, His Beatitude Sviatoslav analysed the past and present state of development of the UGCC, actual tasks that the UGCC must take up, as well as internal and external challenges that can pose as obstacles to the Church in the fulfilment of its sacred mission in the world.

Main Theme of the Synod: "The Role of the Laity in the Life and Mission of the Church"

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His Beatitude Sviatoslav at Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Cathedral on Sunday, September 9, 2012.

Photo: <http://ugcc.tv/ua/media/54705.html>



Photo by N. Iwan

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On Tuesday, 11 September 2012, the Synod of Bishops of the UGCC focused their attention on the principal theme of “The Role of the Laity in the Life and Mission of the Church”. A number of talks and joint presentations were made that shed light on the biblical and theological foundation of the vocation and mission of laity in the Church (Fr. Taras Barschevsky, UCU);⁵ the historical context for the development of lay movements in the UGCC (Dr. Oleh Behen, UCU); the activity of the laity in the parishes of the UGCC today (Rev. Dr. Andrew Onuferko, MASI).⁶ The results of surveys of the laity with regard to their views on their role in the life and mission of the Church were also presented (Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak). The theme of the liturgical life of a parish was also presented to the Synod Fathers by Bishop Benedict (Aleksichuk), the head of the Patriarchal Commission on Liturgy.

The main thought of the presentations was that laypersons belong to the consecrated people of God, and they are heirs of the Covenant and are the beneficiaries of the

promise of Salvation. At the same time, it was also very clear, that the question now was not so much about the identity of the laity, but about their mission as members of the one People of God to be “living stones” (1 Pt. 2:5) for the building up of the Church and to be witnesses of God’s holiness in the world. The Church needs such men and women that are capable of being active and creative collaborators with the pastors in Church life, while remaining protagonists in various spheres of life in the world, bringing Christian witness to the family, to places of work, where they live. The Laity must be collaborators with the bishops and priests in pastoral work and with their giftedness and by their talents contribute toward the building up of the Body of Christ, which is the Church, and in the proclamation of the Kingdom of God in the world.

During discussions of the presentations the Bishops with gratitude acknowledged the dedication and sacrifice of the Laity of the UGCC, their role in the preservation of the Faith in the difficult s o c i o - p o l i t i c a l circumstances of the 20th

Century. The holiness of the Laity of the UGCC was recognized by the whole Catholic Church, in particular through the beatifications of the Pratulyn Martyrs and of Blessed Volodymyr Pryjma.⁷ The Bishops emphasized the importance of the role of the laity and, therefore, the importance that must be given to the spiritual care and pastoral care of the family as well as the catechization of children, youth and adults.

Following the plenary sessions, the Fathers of the Synod **worked in thematic groups:** “The Role and Vocation of the Laity in the Realization of the Missionary Role of the Church in the Light of the Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav on Theme of a Vibrant Parish”, also, “An Analysis of the Internal Agents and External Circumstances that can Promote or Impair the Fulfilment of the Lay Mission in the Church and in the World”. In conclusion, after studying the main theme, the members of the Synod made a series of decisions designed to help the Laity to better appreciate their mission in the Church, to grow in faith and charity

and to become ever more capable of sharing their faith with others. To give the Laity a living example of the service of God and neighbour in the Church, the Bishops proclaimed Blessed Volodymyr Pryjma as the patron of Laity of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and encourages all the Faithful to promote the veneration of the lay Saints of the Ukrainian Church. The Synod Fathers directed a separate Pastoral Letter to the Laity of the UGCC, in which the Bishops gave thanks to God for the gift of holy Baptism, through which the Lord blessed our people, and they expressed their gratitude to the laity for preserving the holy faith, especially in the challenging circumstances of immigration and during the times of Communist persecution in Ukraine. They also stressed the continued importance of the role of the laity in the building up of the Body of Christ and for the fulfilment of the mission of the Church. The special importance of the family was also emphasized as to how it must be a “true school of prayer and Christian love”. The bishops as well invited the laity to an active

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participation in the life of the parish, taking into account the program for the development of the UGCC “a vibrant parish – a place of encounter with the living Christ”.

Other Themes of the Synod

An important part of the strategy of the UGCC from now until 2020 is the adaptation of the ancient practice of the Catechumenate for the Church’s contemporary pastoral needs, which will consist of gradual and systematic introduction into the mystery of the Christian Faith for adults who desire to become part of the UGCC. This will be accomplished through the Holy Sacraments of Christian initiation, and also by a deepening of the faith of Baptized members of the Church, who have not had the opportunity to experience an appropriate catechesis.

The Members of the Synod also deliberated about individual questions regarding canon law and matters of an administrative nature. In particular, they discussed the **project of the new revision of Particular Law of the UGCC**; they heard reports about the

activity of the Patriarchal Curia and other commissions and departments on the patriarchal level of administration. The report from the Chair of Working Group for the implementation of the strategy of “The Vibrant Parish – the Place of Encounter with the Living Christ” was also heard. Also reports were presented by the General Director of the Administration for Justice as well as **reports from individual Synodal committees**. This year very comprehensive reports were made by the Committee on Youth, the Committee on Migrants and Refugees, the Canonical-Legal Committee and the Committee on Catechesis and Christian Education. On the basis of these reports, a number of decisions were made for the betterment of the activity of the Church in various spheres of pastoral and social ministry.

Analysing the phenomenon of **migration** in today’s world, the situation of Ukrainian migrants and the activity of the Church with regard to the provision of appropriate care for them, the members of the Synod

of Bishops of the UGCC expressed their worry over the now extended and massive exodus of people from Ukraine. A succession of decisions were made to support them in foreign lands and so that their religious and cultural identity would not be allowed to be lost.

Discussing the matter of **Catechesis**, the Synod decided to include the study of the “Catechism of the UGCC” in educational and formation programs for both clergy and laity; to develop new catechism programs based on the Catechism of the UGCC and in the spirit of the Christian tradition of the Volodymyran Baptism,⁸ and to better the catechism effort in countries where the structures of the UGCC still need to be established.

An important event of this year’s synod was the election of **a new composition of the permanent synod**. The members of the permanent synod for the next five years will be: Volodymyr (Vijtyshyn), Archbishop Metropolitan of Ivano-Frankivsk, Ken (Nowakowski), Eparch of New Westminster, Yaroslav (Pryriz), Eparch of Sambir-Drohobych,

Borys (Gudziak), newly appointed Apostolic Exarch for Ukrainian Catholics in France, Switzerland and the Benelux countries.

The work of the Synod Fathers was guided throughout by **personal and liturgical prayer**. On the day of spiritual renewal, 13 September, which was conducted by Rev. Dr. Andrew Onuferko, the members of the Synod meditated on the Word of God and also explored the biblical and spiritual significance of a Synod. In prayer they asked for the grace of the Holy Spirit that their decisions would conform perfectly to the Will of the Lord. Besides their personal prayer schedule, the Bishops daily prayed the Divine Office and celebrated the Divine Liturgy, during which a designated preacher from among the participants of the Synod was invited to preach on a spiritual theme.

The Synod of Bishops of the UGCC sent **greetings** to the Holy Father Benedict XVI. Responding to the initiative of the Universal Pontiff, the Synod of Bishops declared

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2013 to be the Year of Faith in the UGCC, and established a separate committee responsible for the planning of appropriate spiritual events for the whole church in the context of the 1025th anniversary of the baptism of Rus'-Ukraine. Synodal letters were directed also to Archbishop Richard Smith, the president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops; Ukrainian Orthodox hierarchy of North America; the Governor General and Prime Minister of Canada; Ukrainian community organizations active in Canadian territory, and to the Knights of Columbus of Canada.

After the close of the Synod of Bishops of the UGCC on Sunday 16 September 2012 the hierarchs celebrated the **Divine Liturgy in various Ukrainian Catholic parishes in the city of Winnipeg and other parishes throughout the province of Manitoba.** In these pastoral visits, arranged by Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, they thanked God for His care for the people, especially over the 120 years of Ukrainian immigration to Canada and for the 100-**September 23, 2012**

year jubilee of the arrival in Canada of the first Ukrainian Catholic Bishop – Blessed Hieromartyr Nykyta Budka.

Next year the Synod of Bishops of the UGCC will take place in Kyiv-Ukraine from the 11th to the 13th of August, 2013. The main theme chosen for the 2013 Synod of Bishops is, "The UGCC and the New Evangelization". At that time, the Synod Fathers will also take part in the solemnities in Kyiv to commemorate the 1025 years since the Baptism of Rus'-Ukraine. The Synod has decided to organize an **all-church pilgrimage to the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Kyiv**, and has called upon the clergy, the religious, and laity of the whole Church to take an active part in it.

The Synod expressed their thanks to Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, and the Synod Organization Committee for their extensive preparation and exemplary organization of the Synod proceedings. The Synod Fathers expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all the People

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Photo from the Meeting of the Synod of Bishops. (Photo: <http://ugcc.tv/ua/media/54711.html>)



Photo: <http://ugcc.tv/ua/media/54711.html>



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of God of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church for their prayerful support of their synodal work and call upon them for further collaboration in the building up of the Church in Ukraine and in the diaspora.

(Endnotes)

Some notes added by the English translator...

¹ Presently the Synod is held annually

² In this translation the titles "Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church" and "Ukrainian Catholic Church" are used interchangeably. The former is a pre WWII name used for the Church and still used in Central Europe, while the latter is the common name used in North America at least since the Second Vatican Council.

³ Due to health issues, not all 49 bishops were able to travel to Canada at this time

⁴ "Hieromartyr" a priest (ierei) who becomes a martyr. In this case: a bishop-martyr. Bishop Vasyly Velychkovsky was an underground Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, He was arrested and spent many years in



(Photo by Norbert Iwan.)

Soviet prisons. He was 'exiled' in 1972 and made his way to Canada, but since he was so severely abused, he died within a year. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2001 in Ukraine.

⁵ UCU = Ukrainian Catholic University, the first Catholic university in the territory of the former USSR, located in the city of Lviv, Ukraine.

⁶ MASI = Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky Institute / of Eastern Christian Studies, located at the University of St Paul in Ottawa, Canada.

⁷ Pratulyn Martyrs, In 1874 a group of Eastern Catholic lay faithful who stood in front of their church singing hymns to

defend it from Russian Tsarist troops who came to 'transfer' it to the another denomination. They were fired upon. 13 died. In 1941 Bolshevik NKVD agents took Volodymyr Pryjma, a church cantor and husband and father of two young children, and the parish priest (Fr. Konrad) out into the forest near

the village. They literally tortured them to death. Volodymyr's body was found a week later.

⁸ The Baptism of the people of his real decreed by St. Volodymyr the Great in 988.

**Article submitted by
Fr. Michael
Kwiatkowski**



Ss. Volodymyr & Olha Metropolitan Cathedral. (Photo by Norbert Iwan.)

HOMILY of His Beatitude SVIATOSLAV

9 September, 14th Sunday (Julian Calendar) Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
Metropolitan Cathedral of Ss. Volodymyr & Olha, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Slava Isusu Khrystu!
Glory to Jesus Christ!

Your Grace, Metropolitan Lawrence, thank you for welcoming me to your Cathedral of Saints Volodymyr and Olha. It is a pleasure to be with you today.

My Dear Brother Bishops, those of you from Eparchies across Canada, as well as those who have traveled from afar to be here today.

Your Graces, Archbishop James and Archbishop Albert of the Roman Catholic Church.

Dear Metropolitan Yuriy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, thank you for your fraternal presence.

Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Venerable Sisters, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

On behalf of all the members of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, I would like to express to you our greetings, congratulations and best wishes on the celebration of the centennial of the appointment and arrival of Blessed Martyr Nykyta Budka, the first bishop for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada!

I would like to emphasize three very important reasons why this celebration is so important.

First, with the arrival of Blessed Nykyta as bishop, we celebrate the formal establishment of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada under its own hierarchy, with its own pastoral structure and Eastern Christian identity. In the person of its first bishop, our Church was able to be fully present for those faithful, who until then were deprived of their own Pastor.

Secondly, Blessed Nykyta was able, as bishop, to defend and speak on behalf of the Ukrainian people in Canada. Our people did not have any formal representation at that time. His was a unique social and political voice at the beginning of the last century.

Thirdly, as our first bishop in Canada, Blessed Nykyta became a unifying figure among Ukrainians in Canada, separated as they were by the great geographical distances of this magnificent land, which became their new home.

In today's Gospel reading we heard Jesus tell the parable story of the wedding banquet prepared by the King.

It was the common practice of the prophets of old to explain the relationship between God and humankind in terms of family relations and social events. The prophet Isaiah exclaimed:

"For as a young man marries a virgin, ... and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you." (**Isaiah 62, 4-5**). Through the wedding banquet of a king our Lord illustrated for us the meaning of God's revelation. A wedding feast is not just about eating and drinking, or sharing in the riches of the king. Participation in a wedding banquet represents friendship, a sharing of heart and mind with the king, a sharing of his very life.

We understand that the King who prepared the banquet is our Heavenly Father, who

is willing to **share** with humankind his one heavenly kingdom. The son for whom the King prepared the wedding banquet is the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. It is Jesus, who came into our world in order to take unto himself the Church as His Bride, so that all humankind might participate in the joy of God the Father and in His love for us. Christ, by taking a Church as his mystical Bride, made us part of an immortal and heavenly family (quote 1 Cor 15,49 *"Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven."*)



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In every Divine Liturgy, which is the Sign of a New Covenant, in the Sacrament of Eucharist He shares His own eternal life with us, so that we might find the happiness of those who are able to inherit His heavenly kingdom. As we read in the Book of Revelations: "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Rev 19:9). Blessed and chosen are those who do not disregard the invitation, but come and receive their inheritance in Christ.

The parable ends with a final meeting between the king and the invited person who appeared at the feast without a wedding robe. Those who neglect the invitation not only offend our Heavenly Father, rejecting and neglecting His love, but in doing this, they deprive themselves of eternal life.

* * *

We as the Synod of Bishops have come to Canada for the first time. We are like those servants whom the heavenly Father sent out to call everyone to participate in the banquet of the heavenly kingdom. We proclaim to you that the Heavenly

banquet of our Father celebrating the wedding of the Son with his Bride, the Church, has been prepared today and is being given to us by the Holy Spirit in this a special centennial celebration. Come and receive the gift of eternal joy and life!

As we are gathered here today for the celebration of this Divine Liturgy, we are, in fact, participating in the banquet of the heavenly kingdom. We will receive spiritual nourishment in the heavenly food offered here, the Word of God just proclaimed, and the Eucharistic feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

As St. Augustine explains, the banquet represents the reality of the Church. In the Church not only saints and those who are perfect are brought before God, but also sinners and deeply flawed people, who through baptism receive their wedding garment, and through reconciliation are given the grace to keep their garment clean and pure. The wedding garment represents holiness. Being members of the Church means to respond to that call to Holiness. Although none are worthy, nevertheless,

by Divine grace we become inheritors of the heavenly kingdom, sons and daughters of the heavenly Father. All this takes place through the mystery of the Incarnation, Death and Resurrection – the Son of God becomes one of us, so that through the Holy Spirit we might become children of God.

* * *

As we celebrate this Divine banquet today and remember the hundred years of Ukrainian Catholic Episcopal service in Canada, our Church would like to renew that banquet invitation, calling upon everyone in this country: Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians, those who are of Ukrainian ancestry and all people of good will, welcoming them as sons and daughters of the Heavenly Father.

If those among us in the Ukrainian community disregard this invitation, we can be sure the banquet hall will not be empty. Someone one else will come and sit at the Lord's table and prove themselves worthy of that invitation.

But it is our sincere hope that through our presence here today, as your bishops from around

the world, you will respond in a positive way to this invitation to renew your faith, to rediscover the spiritual treasure of the Ukrainian Church especially in Canada, to live a good Christian life, to grow in holiness, and to pass on to the future generations a faith that is truly vibrant and life-giving.

* * *

Today, I feel especially embraced by the brotherly affection of His Grace Metropolitan Lawrence, together with all of the clergy, religious and laity who have prepared and are participating in these celebrations. Your invitation to come here was received with great joy.

We bring greetings to you from the whole Ukrainian Catholic Church worldwide. Today the eyes of the millions of faithful are turning to Winnipeg and joining us in prayer. And all are united with us on this day, gathered at the same messianic banquet of our Lord in countless cities, towns and villages, wherever our Church is found.

In this special

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moment of fellowship and communion, we invite you to experience the unity of our Church. You are members of a great family of God, a family which remembers you, loves you, is willing to support you and asks for your support. May the Holy Spirit be the gentle wind filling the sails of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada, as she journeys through seas both stormy and calm. And may that same Spirit, who renews and restores the Christian faithful, bring renewal to each Ukrainian parish community and religious community here in this country.

Through the prayers of the blessed martyr Nykyta Budka and all the saints of Canada and Rus'-Ukraine, ...may the Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you!

Amen

N.B. During his homily His Beatitude, of course, also spoke in Ukrainian. The principal theme which he shared in Ukrainian consisted of significant quotes from the historic message of the saintly

Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky of Lviv, who wrote a lengthy pastoral letter to the Ukrainian Catholic faithful in Canada in 1911, a year before Blessed Nykyta was appointed. The extensively quoted part of the letter was from the concluding section, sub-headed as: "Be Good Citizens". The original Ukrainian text used by His Beatitude (with some at-the-moment adaptations) is given below,¹ as well as an English translation...

Будьте Добрими Горожанами
Митрополит Андрей, Пасторальне Послання «Канадським Русинам» 1911.

Будьте також вдячними для краю, котрий Вас прийняв і дав Вам можливість нового, ширшого і лучшого, життя. Будьте добрими горожанами Канади, будьте правдивими, щирими і добрими Канадійчиками. Не забувайте бесіди, яку Вас діди і прадіди передали в спадщині. Держіться всіх добрих старих руських звичаїв. Не встидайтеся ані руської мови, ані руського обряду, голосно признавайтесь до того, що Ви русинами, лиш

с т а р а й т е с я поступованнем своїм з'єднати і собі, народови поважанне і славу у людей. Ані наш обряд, наша бесіда не перешкаджає Вам в нічім бути добрими, прив'язаними до краю і о добро краю дбалими горожанами Канади.

Жиєте під панаваннем короля Англії, будьте ж для него щирими і добрими підданими. Жиєте під свобідною і мудрою управою краєвого і провінціональних правительств. Шануйте ж управу і устави Канади. Виконуйте також всі права свобідних горожан; беріть уділ в життю публічним і політичним. Розвагою, солідарністю, сильними пересвідченнями і прив'язаннем до святої віри можете з'єднати руському народови і славу, і силу. Не лишень для себе, але і для цілої Канади можете примнажати дочасного добра, бо чесна праця кожного горожанина є добром цілого краю, а праця публічна і політична має на оці передовсім загальне добро всіх, а на другім місці - добро кожного з окрема.

А у всіх працях і змаганнях перед всім старайтеся о поміч з неба, не забувайте, що "всяко даяніє благо й всяк дар соверен свише єсть, сходяй от Отца світов" (Як. 1,17). В Божих руках ціла наша будучність, в Божих руках наше щастє і наше життя. З Божим благословеннем і Божою ласкою можемо всьо осягнути, а без Бога ніколи до нічого не дійдемо. Любим Єго, служимо Єму вірно, щобиśmy колись могли оглядати безконечну красоту Єго лица і могли з ангелами і святими Єму славу, честь і поклоненне возсилати, Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духу, нині, і присно, і во віки віков. Амінь.

Be Good Citizens
From the 1911 Pastoral Letter of Metropolitan Andre "To Canadian [Ukrainians]"

Be also grateful to the country that received you and gave you new and broader opportunities and a better life. Be good citizens of Canada, be true, sincere and good Canadians. Do not forget the counsel that your grandfathers and

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ancestors gave you in patrimony. Preserve all good old [Ukrainian] practices. Be ashamed neither of the [Ukrainian] language nor of [Ukrainian] customs. Boldly acknowledge that you are [Ukrainian], but try by your comportment to bring to yourself and your people respect and admiration among the populace. Neither our observance nor our counsel hinder you in any way from being good and devoted to the country or of being citizens concerned for the good of Canada.

Live under the rule of the King of England; be for

him sincere and good subjects. Live under the free and wise administration of federal and provincial governments. Respect the rules and regulations of Canada. Also, fulfil all the rights of free citizens; take part in public and political life. By your recreation, your solidarity, by your strong witness and adherence to the holy faith, you can bring to the [Ukrainian] people acclaim and strength. Not only for yourself, but for all of Canada you can increase the temporal good, because the honest work of every citizen is a benefit for the whole

country, while public and political work has as its aim above all, the general good of all and, secondarily, the good of each individual.

In all works and endeavours seek, above all, help from heaven and do not forget that, "every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17) Our entire future is in God's hands. In the hands of God are our happiness and our life. By God's blessing and by the grace of God we can achieve everything, but without God we will never

accomplish anything. Let us love Him, let us faithfully serve Him, that one day we will be able to gaze upon the eternal beauty of His face, and, together with the Angels and Saints render Him glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now, always and in the ages of ages. Amen.

(Endnotes)

¹ Translator's note. See: Mytropolyt Andrej Sheptytskyj, *Pastyr's'ki Poslannja 1899-1914* (Lviv: Artos, 2007), pp. 722-767, esp. pp. 766-767,

Read more articles related to the Synod in Canada

Here is a list of a few articles:

1. "Ukrainian Catholic leader shares favorites, faith in Winnipeg"

<http://cnsblog.wordpress.com/2012/09/08/ukrainian-catholic-leader-shares-favorites-faith-in-winnipeg/>

2. "Orthodox leader: North America's churches can be example for Ukraine"

<http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1203788.htm>

3. "Ukrainian Catholic bishops discuss next steps in vibrant-parish plan"

<http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1203774.htm>

(Note: Article references Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka).

4. "Ukrainian or English"

<http://www.cnewa.org/default.aspx?ID=1932&pagetypeID=8&sitecode=HQ&pageno=1>

(Note: Article references Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka.)

5. "An oath by the relics of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky began the work of this year's UGCC Synod of Bishops"

Posted on <http://www.ugcc.org.ua> on September 10, 2012

(Note: Article references Bishop-Emeritus Basil Losten reading the oath of the Synod)

Ss. Volodymyr & Olha Metropolitan Cathedral.

(Photos UGCC)





Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great Eighty-First Annual Pilgrimage

THEME:
"A TIME TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST"

Sunday, September 30, 2012

- | | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession) | <i>Monastery Grounds</i> |
| 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm | Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
with Healing Prayer & Anointing
Celebrant: Most Rev. Archbishop Stefan Soroka
Homilist: Rev. Msgr. Mitrat Martin Canavan
Concelebrants:
Most Rev. Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM
Most Rev. Bishop Emeritus Basil Losten
Very Rev. Phillip Sandrick, OSBM
Very Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan
Very Rev. Ivan Demkiv
Choir:
Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church
Chester, PA | <i>Auditorium</i> |
| 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Food Service | <i>Parking Lot Food Court</i> |
| 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm | Women in Prayer Group | <i>Former Chapel</i> |
| | Penance Video & Discussion
with Sister Ann Laszok, OSBM | <i>Basilian Spirituality Center</i> |
| 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm | Moleben
Celebrant: Archbishop Stefan Soroka
Homilist: Rev. Joseph Szupa
Choir:
Sisters of Saint Basil the Great
with Women in Prayer | <i>Auditorium</i> |
| 5:00 pm | Blessing of Cars and Buses | <i>Parking Lot</i> |



Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great
710 Fox Chase Road
Fox Chase Manor, PA 19046
Phone: 215.379.3998 Fax: 215.780.1743
E-mail: development@stbasils.com Web: www.stbasils.com



Front view of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, Palmerton, PA

Search for the Good

I would say that every person who has ever lived, always tried to strive to seek the good in their lives. Granted, what one person may see as good, might not, in fact, BE the good. In spite of this, there is an internal striving that every person has to seek out what they see as good.

We try to actualize the good in everything that we do, from building a simple table or cooking a meal to reaching out to others in need. This would be proof enough for me that we are created in the image and likeness of God, for just as children instinctively imitate their parents, we all imitate our Lord and Creator in our lives. However, to search for the good is not enough. We must open our hearts to the reality that God is the ultimate good who can fill our hearts, souls and lives with what we lack.

As a priest, I seek the good that is within God, but I also try my utmost to help others in their search for God and what is good. Priests are there to enable others to search for God and find solace in Him, especially when the chips are down and it seems that nothing is ever right or good.

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. Volodymyr Popyk

Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Plymouth, PA and Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Catholic Church, Nanticoke, PA

METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA

Ukrainian Catholic

827 North Franklin Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123-2097

Phone (215) 627-0143 Fax (215) 627-0377

ukrmet@catholic.org

No. 540/2012 ORE

This Number Should be Prefixed to Your Reply

09/07/2012

Office of Religious Education of Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

Revered and Dear Fathers:

Every year the Ukrainian Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia observes “**Catechetical Sunday**” on the last Sunday of September. In order to facilitate this commemoration we are sending you some suggestive prayers, for catechists and students, to be used during **Catechetical Sunday** Divine Liturgy. Please make this event memorable for your catechists, students and parish by organizing a special event following the Divine Liturgy; for example: recognition of catechists for their work with special reception, lunch, coffee and cake etc. Please use this event to stress the importance of the need of educating ourselves and our children in the Gospel message.

Our Catechetical Sunday program for 2012 is directed to the idea of “**Catechists and Teachers as Agents of the New Evangelization.**” Our “Eastern” program's theme has been structured to focus on the commission each Christian has, as stated in Matthew 28:19: “Go, teach all nations.” We are not to “keep the Faith”, but spread it!

Catechetical Sunday should be celebrated in your parish whether you have a catechetical program or not. This Sunday provides us an opportunity in our parish families to stress that each of us is “catechist” responsible to educate ourselves and our families in the faith. In a classroom setting we have but a small window of time to present basics of the faith but as church families and parents and grandparents there is even a greater opportunity to show by example, what our faith means to us by living it and supporting it and encouraging it. We stress the importance of secular education to achieve success. We support local sports activities to enhance our children’s lives. We also need to give a basis in faith and spirituality to be able to use everything they learn for their own sake and those around them in the world. So we encourage you to reach out to all your people in your sermons and church activities this Catechetical Sunday, and remind them that they too need to help evangelize and spread the Good News of Jesus to those around them.

However you may wish to celebrate “**Catechetical Sunday**” is in the range of your creative freedom. We ask your assistance in helping us at the office of Religious Education and Evangelization by sending us via email, photos and examples of what you & your parish did to bring attention to the need for continuing education of our children and adults in your parish community. It will help and encourage us in our task of providing you with programs and event which will help in spreading the Gospel.

Wishing you God’s Blessings,

Rev. Stepan Bilyk
Director of Religious Education.



PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATION
OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS
IN AMERICA
1912 - 2012

100th ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2012

1:00 p.m. - Divine Liturgy

Celebrated by Archbishop-Metropolitan Stefan Soroka

**CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
830 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19123**

To be immediately followed by a concert program featuring:

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MSGR. MARTIN CANAVAN
"ACCOLADA" CHAMBER CHOIR
MARTA ZALIZNYAK, Soprano
"PROMETHEUS" UKRAINIAN MALE CHORUS**

*Join us as we celebrate 100 years of service to the
Ukrainian Catholic Church and our community!*

**EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES
ENCOUNTER 2012**



"Together In Christ"

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

**ONE CONFERENCE IN THREE LOCATIONS!
ONE THEME! ONE PURPOSE! ONE VOICE!**

September 20-23, 2012
Mid-West - Cleveland, OH

October 11-14, 2012
East - Hillsborough, NJ

November 1-4, 2012
West - Los Angeles, CA

<http://easterncatholicencounter.org>

HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL PASSES FINAL DESIGN HURDLE IN WASHINGTON, DC

In a hearing at the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) on Thursday, September 6, 2012, the commissioners voted and approved the final design concept of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial in Washington, DC.

This is a significant breakthrough in our efforts to erect a memorial in the nation's capital to the victims of the Ukrainian Holodomor.

Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the Ukrainian National Information Service at 202 547-0018, or by e-mail at unis@ucca.org.

Michael Sawkiw, Jr.
Director
Ukrainian National Information Service
(Washington Bureau - Ukrainian Congress Committee of America)

Visit us on the web at: <http://www.ucca.org>



Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church TRICKY TRAY



Date: Sunday, October 21st, 2012

Time: Doors open at 12:30 PM
First drawing at 2:00 PM

Where: Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church
315 Fourth Street, West Easton, PA 18042

\$10 admission includes first sheet of tickets.

Many prizes valued at \$100+! Door prizes and 50/50 raffle!
All ages are welcome!

Refreshments including homemade pierogies, kielbasa, BBQ,
baked goods and more will be available to purchase.

**Top prizes include: NOOK Tablet, iPod Touch, Coach purse,
Keurig package, Vera Bradley, Kitchen Aid Mixer and more!**

www.HolyGhost-Ukrainian-Catholic.org

21st Ukrainian Independence Day Commemorated at Passaic Parish

On August 24th, St. Nicholas Parish, Passaic, NJ, commemorated the 21st Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence. The evening began with a prayerful Moleben service to the Blessed Virgin Mary in solidarity with family and friends in Ukraine, concelebrated by Rev. Andriy Dudkevych, pastor, and Rev. George Worschak.

In his homily, Fr. Andriy reminded participants - immigrants from long ago, the newly arrived, as well as the native born, and guests - of the many sacrifices made and hardships suffered by our Ukrainian people in their quest for freedom from communism, religious oppression, and the renewal of a Ukrainian identity. It was an unwavering faith in God, Fr. Andriy reminded all, that gave strength to the people endure the many obstacles. His theme was timely and significant in light of the political issues facing Ukraine today. Many who gathered that evening, from the youngest to the oldest, wore their national attire with pride.



After the service, all proceeded out of doors to witness the Ukrainian flag raising ceremony and the singing of the Ukrainian national anthem. Among those attending the prayer service and offering congratulatory words were Mr. Kenneth Wanio, Esq, and Mr. Ivan Burtyk, of Passaic-Bergen UCCA, the Honorable William Pascrell, US Representative to Congress from the local district, Passaic County Sheriff, Richard H. Berdnik, and Clifton Councilman Peter Eagler.

After the ceremony, the evening's festivities continued as the New Ukrainian Wave, under the direction of Ms. Haliya Seminiak, showcased the choral and musical talents of our local children and adults. The grand finale of the program was the unveiling of a huge Ukrainian flag that ran the length of the auditorium, enthusiastically carried by our New Wavers. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed refreshments and fellowship.



Отець Ігор Роїк та Ювілейний Комітет
Української Католицької Церкви
Благовіщення Пречистої Діви Марії
1206 Valley Road, Melrose Park, Pennsylvania

Reverend Ihor Royik and the Jubilee Committee of
Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Church
1206 Valley Road, Melrose Park, Pennsylvania

щиро запрошують Вас разом з ними відсвяткувати

cordially invite you to celebrate with them the

*50-ліття
заснування Парашії*

*50th Anniversary
of the founding of the Parish*

в неділю, двадцять восьмого жовтня
дві тисячі дванадцятого року

Sunday, the twenty-eighth day of October
two thousand twelve

Подячну Архиерейську Божественну Літургію
о першій годині пополудні
відслужить

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving
at one o'clock in the afternoon
celebrated by His Grace

Високопреосвященний Стефан Сорока
Митрополит-Архиєпископ
Української Католицької Церкви у США

Most Reverend Stefan Soroka
Metropolitan-Archbishop of the
Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA

Ювілейний Бенкет з Програмою
Spring Mill Manor
171 Jacksonville Road, Ivyland, Pennsylvania

Jubilee Banquet and Program
Spring Mill Manor
171 Jacksonville Road, Ivyland, Pennsylvania

Коктейль – 4:00 год. попол. Бенкет – 5:00 год. попол.
Вступ – \$100 від особи

4:00 PM – Cocktails 5:00 PM – Banquet
Cost – \$100 per person

Квитки при вступі не продаватимуться!

No tickets will be sold at the door!

For additional information and invitations please contact:

Suzanne Bobyock – 215-379-3390
Myrosia Hill – 856-829-3597



(FORMER) ST. NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PHILADELPHIA, PA, GRAND REUNION GRAND REUNION - Saturday, October 6, 2012

11 am - Divine Liturgy in memory of all who have passed at
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church - 24th & Poplar Streets -
Philadelphia, PA 19130

New time and location for the Reception...

12:30 to 5 pm - Mennonite High School, formerly St. Nicholas Elementary School,
860 North 24th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130

Please pass along the information to all former STUDENTS, PARENTS, & TEACHERS

**If you want to attend, please RSVP by
September 23, 2012 to:**

St.Nicholas.Skola.Reunion@gmail.com

For more info or to join the organizing committee
please contact:

Helene Zadworniak Michalko at halamich56@aol.com OR

Marc Zaharchuk at marczaharchuk@juno.com OR

Call Marc Z. at 215-497-2219.

Please note: the Wooden Statue, which welcomed you to
St. Nicholas School is now located in the church.



*St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church,
Philadelphia, PA*

(Photos: <http://ukrcathedral.com/stnicholas.html>)



Discernment Weekend: September 21-23 Sisters of Saint Basil the Great

Vocation Directors— Sr. Anne Laszok, Sr. Joann Sosler

There are many ways to answer God's call, one of the most challenging and noble ways is to choose a life consecrated to service to humanity in God's name. It is a journey of commitment and re-commitment to God's eternal love expressed through the deeds of those who have dedicated them selves to making the world a better place through prayer, through healing and by being a life-giving presence in the lives of others.

We invite you to walk, pray and explore the path we have chosen.
Might God be calling you to this path? **Come! Discern !**

To make arrangements call (215) 379-3998. For more information please visit the
Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great website at <http://www.stbasils.com> .

News from Olyphant, PA

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA is sponsoring a 2nd Annual **ROAST BEEF DINNER** "TAKE OUT ONLY" (prepared by Stirna's Catering of Scranton) on Sunday, September 30, 2012, at \$10.00 per ticket/dinner. Pick-up between 12 noon and 3:00 p.m. at 135 River Street, Olyphant, (School gym) Tickets (for the Roast Beef Dinner) will be available for sale at the Hometown Rummage Sale at the American Legion Hall, 101 Willow Street, Olyphant, Pa. on September 21, 22, 23th. Deadline for tickets is Monday, September 24th, 2012 Call for tickets; contact Marie at 570-489-6206. (There will be no tickets available at the door, all dinners are pre-sold.)

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor,
Telephone 570-489-2271

Websites: <http://www.stcyrils.maslar-online.com/> and www.parishesonline.com/sscyrilmethodiusblakely
Dinner will include: Roast Beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable, dinner roll and dessert. This is benefiting the 125th Anniversary of our Church (1888-2013)



Photo: 1st row: Victoria Nesevich, Svitlana Martynuk, Cheryl Matuszewski, Glenda Marcinko, Marie Martin (co-chairman) and Dorothy Zinsky; 2nd Row: John Nesevich, Marlene Zelno, Lauren Telep; 3rd Row: Rosemary Marytnuk, Stepha Martynuk, Ann Nesevich, (Not present for photo: John Turko, Co-chariman.)



Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA is sponsoring a 2nd Annual "**Hometown Rummage Sale**".... (Fund Raiser for the Celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Church, 1888-2013) held at the American Legion Hall, Raymond Henry Post #327 at 101 Willow Ave/Lackawanna Ave. Olyphant, PA (by the Bank) on SEPTEMBER 21, 22, 23, 2012 Friday, Saturday 8:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Refreshments will be available by the American Legion Women's Auxiliary).

Photo: Front Row: Church Parishioners Volunteers are Anna Mae Krisanda; 2nd Row: Lauren Telep, Paul Mohila, Melanie Mohila, Joyce Garofalo, Sandra Berta and Marie Martin

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church is sponsoring—Embroidered, solid Placket **Polo Shirts** featuring "Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church" with the Byzantine Catholic 3-bar Cross. Call 570-489-2271 or 570-383-0319 for more Info. Youth size S-M-L \$12.00 each, Adult Size S-M-L-XL \$15.00, XXLARGE \$17.00, XXXLARGE \$18.00 Color: white, ukrainian yellow, ukrainian blue, black, pink, navy. Fabric: 65% polyester/35% Cotton. **(Photo)** Wearing the Shirts are the Committee members: Front Row: Lauren Telep, Cheryl Matuszewski, 1st standing row: Jackie Hunt, Dorothy Zinsky, Loretta Kovalsky, Maria Martin, Marlene Zelno, Joan Turko, David Slachtish Jr.; 2nd Standing Row: James Matuszewski, Michael Roberts, Rev. Father Nestor Iwasiw and Tom Matkousky.



Why Should We Register to Vote?

by A. B. Hill

A long time ago I asked a fellow college student if she was excited to register to vote on her upcoming 18th birthday. My classmate replied, “why would I do that, I’m not a political science major?!”

I never forgot her words. She asks an important question – why should we register to vote?

In Pennsylvania, every citizen who wishes to cast a ballot to elect government leaders or respond to a referendum must first register to vote. On Election Day, registered voters choose which candidates they believe will represent their views and opinions and make the best decisions about how to run our municipality, county, state or the nation.

We should register to vote so we can lend our voices to the debate about how we want to be governed. Again, you might ask, why?

Because government affects us personally:

Every level of government makes laws that we must obey and creates policies connected with daily life. If you care about the

safety of our roads and bridges, the education of children, the pick-up of trash, the quality of your drinking water, and the amount of taxes you pay, you should care about who gets elected to public office.

Because the government affects the common good:

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says the common good is to be understood as “the sum total of those conditions of social life which allow people as groups and as individuals to reach their proper fulfillment” (CCC, No. 1906). It also says that it is in the political community that the most complete realization of the common good is found. (CCC, No. 1910)

What are the concerns of the common good? You name it – a commitment to peace and justice, protection of the environment, civil rights, services that support basic human dignity like food, housing, work, education and access to health care, as well as free speech and religious liberty. The common good concerns the conditions we provide for the “least” of us: the poor, the vulnerable, the

elderly and the very young, those still in the womb and the dying. The government does not create these essential human rights, but it can and should safeguard them. We should support leaders who respect these values and work for policies that uphold human dignity.

Because the government affects the future:

The United States Bishops stress the importance of civic engagement in *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. They remind us, “How we organize our society—in economics and politics, in law and policy—directly affects the common good and the capacity of individuals to develop their full potential. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate actively in shaping society and to promote the well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.”

If we do not work to shape society now; if we do not

uphold the dignity of the human person and help everyone reach their full potential, we jeopardize our future.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2012. The deadline to register to vote is October 9, 2012. You do not have to be a political science major to be a good citizen, but if you care about the world around you, you should vote.

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.

SEPTEMBER 2012

For more information please visit:
<http://www.pacatholic.org/dont-let-your-voice-go-unheard-register-to-vote/>



The Patronage of the Mother of God - October 1

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Lk. 10, 38-42; 11, 27-28)

The Feast of the Patronage in Ukraine

In her services the Eastern Church fondly emphasizes the three most beautiful privileges of the Mother of God; the Divine Maternity, Perpetual Virginity and her Intercession for us before God. The latter privilege, above all, won the hearts of our people. Our princes, kings, armies, our Kozaks and Hetmans gladly chose the Most Pure Mother of God as their Protectress and Guardian. Here we shall mention some examples.

Prince Jaroslav Mudry (The Wise,) in 1036, defeated the nomadic Pechenegs and out of gratitude to God and His Most Holy Mother, he built the beautiful Cathedral of St. Sophia in Kiev and erected the Church of the Annunciation of our Blessed Mother on the Golden Gates.

In 1037, in the church of the Annunciation, he placed the whole nation under the protection or patronage of the Mother of God. Thus, by the will of our monarch, the Most

Holy Mother of God was proclaimed officially the Patroness, Defender and Queen of our nation.

In hard times our princes and their armies would hasten to her for assistance. The Grand Prince Mstyslaw who ruled in Tmutorokan, at a battle with the Cherkases promised to build a church in honor of the Mother of God, if she assisted him in defeating the enemy. He defeated the enemy and gladly kept his promise.

The Grand Prince Volodymyr Monomakh, in his memoirs, claimed that he owed his victory over the Polovtsians to God and the Most Pure Virgin Mary. He even composed a special prayer in her honor. Our princes and their armies, when marching against the Polovtsians in 1103, turned to God and to the Blessed Virgin for assistance, and utterly defeated the Polovtsians. Prince Ihor Sviatoslavych, the hero of the heroic epic "Song of Ihor's Campaign." After his escape from captivity, went to pay homage to the miraculous icon of the Mother of God in Pyrohoscha, to thank her

for her assistance in his escape. The Galician King Danylo, after a successful campaign against Bohemia, placed expensive gifts at her feet.

Some of our princes used icons of the Mother of God or prayers in her honor on the seals. In recent times in Ukraine very ancient gold, bronze and copper necklaces of icons were discovered, called "enkolpions" in Greek (round or oval medallions suspended from the neck, bearing a representation of our Lord or our Blessed Mother). One such enkolpion has the Greek inscription on it reading: "O Mother of God, be my Protection and Defense, amen."

Our renowned Zaporozhaian Kozaks built a church in honor of the Patronage of the Most Holy Mother of God with an icon representing her Patronage at the Sich, the center of Kozak power. Above the icon of the Blessed Mother were written the words: "I shall deliver and protect my people," and from the Zaporozhians, represented below the icon, there is a ribbon reaching up to the

Mother of God with the inscription on it: "We implore you, cover us with your holy veil (omophor) and deliver us from all evil." Before they began their campaigns against the enemy, the Kozaks assisted at the Moleben service in honor of their Protectress and fervently sang: "Under your patronage we fly, O Virgin Mother of God: do not despise our prayers in our afflictions, but deliver us from our miseries' you who alone are pure and blessed." After returning home safely, they would hasten to her in sincere gratitude. In their battle hymn: "Come now, Boys, to Arms!" they sang the words: "St. George will help us to rout the Turk and so will the Most Pure Mother".

Who does not know about the miraculous protection of the Pochaiv monastery during the Turkish siege in July of 1675? In response to the fervent prayers of the monks and the faithful, the Mother of God appeared over the monastery church and with her Omophor (veil), she protected the

(continued on next page)

October 2012 - Жовтня 2012

Happy Birthday! З Днем народження!

October 1: Rev. Andriy Rabiw
October 2: Most Rev. Stephen Sulyk,
Archbishop Emeritus
October 9: Rev. Ivan Demkiv
October 12: Rev. Paul J. Makar
October 12: Rev. Deacon Roman Sverdan
October 15: V. Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan
October 16: Rev. Nestor Iwasiw
October 28: Rev. Edward Levandusky
October 13: Rev. Volodymyr Popyk
October 31: Rev. Ruslan Romanyuk

**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!

October 17: Rev. Deacon Charles Schultz
(3rd Anniversary)
October 17: Rev. Deacon Paul Spotts
(3rd Anniversary)
October 17: Subdeacon Roman Oprysk
(3rd 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 Feast of the Patronage

(continued from previous page)

monastery. That
miraculous event was
immortalized by the
Ukrainian song in honor of
the Mother of God: "The
evening star appeared
and stood over Pochaiv."

Among the
Ukrainian people, the
veneration of the Blessed
Mother of God as
Intercessor and
Protectress is best
illustrated in the village
chronicle of Yazhiv Staryi
in Western Ukraine,

Recalling the frightful
incursions of the Tartar
hordes and the heavenly
protection of the Most
Blessed Mary, he writes:
"The people, terrified and
impoverished, fled to their
small church, threw
themselves down on their
knees before the icon of
the Mother of God, and
prayed fervently that they
would always be given
protection"

(Fr. Julian Katrij, OSBM)

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