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ENGLISH VERSION

Providence Association Celebrates Centennial Jubilee

Leo Iwaskiw

Philadelphia. On Sunday, October 21, the Ukrainian American community in the Philadelphia metropolitan area marked the 100th anniversary of the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Jubilee Concert in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The main celebrant of the Divine Liturgy was the Most Rev. Stefan Soroka, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States of America. The concelebrants were: the Most Rev. Richard Seminack, Bishop of St. Nicholas Eparchy in Chicago; the Most Rev. John Bura, Apostolic Administrator of St. Josaphat Eparchy in Parma, Ohio; the Most Rev. Basil Losten, Bishop-Emeritus of the Stamford (Connecticut) Eparchy,



Photo (l to r): Msgr. Peter Waslo, Rev. Taras Lonchyna, Msgr. Martin Canavan, Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Ihor Midzak, Bishop Richard Seminack, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Bishop John Bura, Bishop-Emeritus Basil Losten, Rev. Ivan Demkiv, and Rev. Ihor Royik. (Photo: T. Siwak)

Providence President Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Ihor Midzak, Rev. Ihor Royik, pastor of Annunciation BVM Church in Melrose Park, Pennsylvania; cathedral pastor Rev. Ivan Demkiv; Msgr. Peter Waslo, Providence Spiritual Advisor; Rev. Taras Lonchyna, pastor of St. Josaphat Church in Trenton, former Providence

President Msgr. Martin Canavan, and Subdeacon Roman Oprysk. The responses were sung by the "Accolada" Chamber Choir, directed by Lesia Kolesnyk.

Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan welcomed the bishops, clergy and

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numerous guests, who gathered for this religious celebration. In his bilingual sermon, His Grace drew a parallel between the Gospel reading about the beggar Lazarus (which fell on that day) and the difficult times of the Ukrainian people in America 100 years ago, when the Most Rev. Soter Ortynsky, our first Bishop in the USA, suffered like Lazarus. But Bishop Soter heard God's call, and created the Providence Association and placed it under the patronage of the Mother of God. The purpose of Providence was to meet the spiritual and material needs of Ukrainian Catholics, who were in an unenviable state, similar to the biblical Lazarus. Thanks to Providence Association, many Ukrainian Catholic churches and parish schools were built in America. Additionally, Providence assisted orphans, and also participated in Ukrainian American community life, being one of the founders of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and a member of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC). Metropolitan Stefan emphasized the tremendous debt of gratitude to all the founders

and all those who later served Providence Association and its newspaper *America*. His Grace noted that today we must focus on the current needs of our Church and society. May Almighty God bless all Providence members for many happy and blessed years — *Mnohaya Lita!*

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the traditional *Mnohaya Lita* was sung for all our Church hierarchs, clergy, members of Providence and guests. The Liturgy ended with the prayer for Ukraine, *Bozhe velykyy, yedynyj* ("O Great God") sung by "Accolada."

The Jubilee Concert that followed took place inside the cathedral. Providence President Rev. Ihor Midzak greeted the bishops, clergy and guests. He reminded everyone that Bishop Soter established Providence Association by placing his fervent hope on the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The President expressed his deep admiration to all who labored throughout the last 100 years for Providence Association and the *America* newspaper. Bishop Soter's

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"Accolada" Chamber Choir



**Watch videos from
the Liturgy on our blog at
www.thewaykrainian.blogspot.com**

(Photos: T. Siwak)



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goal was for Providence to function as a lay apostolate for the glory of God and for the benefit of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and our people. Father Ihor ended his remarks with the prayer to the Mother of God, *Pid Tvoyu mylist* ("Under your m e r c y ") .

The Master of Ceremonies at the Jubilee Concert was Ihor Kuszniir. In his greetings, he emphasized that Providence Association was founded on the highest religious and national principles, and remains a valued treasure of our Church and Diaspora. It is worth remembering that over the last century Providence financed the construction of over 160 Ukrainian Catholic Churches, parish schools and many other Church projects. Providence provides financial support annually to Ukrainian Catholic seminaries and also designates major contributions for various community institutions and youth organizations.

The concert began with the "Prometheus" Ukrainian Male Chorus of Philadelphia, which will mark its 50th anniversary with a Golden Jubilee Concert on Nov. 4. The

30-member choir was directed by Roman Kucharsky with piano accompaniment by Irene Pelech-Zwarych. Its repertoire included such favorites as *Vstaye khmara z-za lymanu* ("A Cloud rises above the Gulf") and *Oy nashcho zh vy slavni braty haydamaky* ("O why, glorious Brother Rebels").

The MC introduced Oresta Starak, Fist Secretary of the Embassy of Ukraine to the USA in Washington. Also present were the representatives of monastic orders: Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great, Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate, and Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God. The keynote address was delivered by former Providence President Msgr. Martin Canavan.

Soprano Marta Zaliznyak, accompanied by pianist Chrystyna Yurkevych, sang several religious songs, including *Ave Maria* and *Vladyko neba i zemli* ("O Master of Heaven and Earth"); the audience stood up for the latter, a moving aria from the opera *Zaporozhets za Dunayem* ("Zaporozhets [Kozak] beyond the Danube").

The last performance was by the "Accolada"

Chamber Choir, directed by Dmytro Terleckyj. The 19-member choir's repertoire included *Bohorodytse Divo* ("Hail Mary") and *Ne pora* ("It is not the time"); again, the audience stood for the latter, one of the best known political poems by the great Ukrainian writer Ivan Franko.

Father Ihor Midzak thanked everyone and wished them an abundance of God's blessings. This was followed by the traditional *Mnohaya Lita* sung by "Accolada." MC Ihor Kushniir also thanked all who enriched this unique celebration — bishops, clergy, performers and guests — and invited everyone to a brief reception in the school auditorium.

The reception was opened by Metropolitan Stefan, who intoned the Lord's Prayer (*Otche nash*) which was sung by everyone present. During the ceremony, a short ceremony was held for the awarding of honorary certificates by Providence Association. As noted by Providence President Rev. Ihor Midzak, these certificates honor those who dedicated their spirit for the organization, for

our Church and our nation. The first two certificates, in the words of Father Ihor, were for two pillars of Providence Association, longtime members of the Executive Board, who could not be present due to their advanced age and distance: Stephanie Wochok and Bohdan Kazaniwsky. The next two certificates went to two longtime members of the Executive Board (and current honorary members): Bohdan Todoriv and Ihor Smolij. The final two honorary certificates were awarded to two men who have spent many years of dedicated services in the sphere of Ukrainian religious literature and writings: Dr. Alexander Lushnycky (well-known for his interesting jubilee pages in the newspaper *America*) and longtime *America* editor Osip Roshka.

At the conclusion of the reception, Father Ihor Midzak thanked the Providence Executive Board for their cooperation, all the performers, guests and clergy who contributed toward the dignified celebration of this once-in-a-lifetime jubilee. He reminded everyone that

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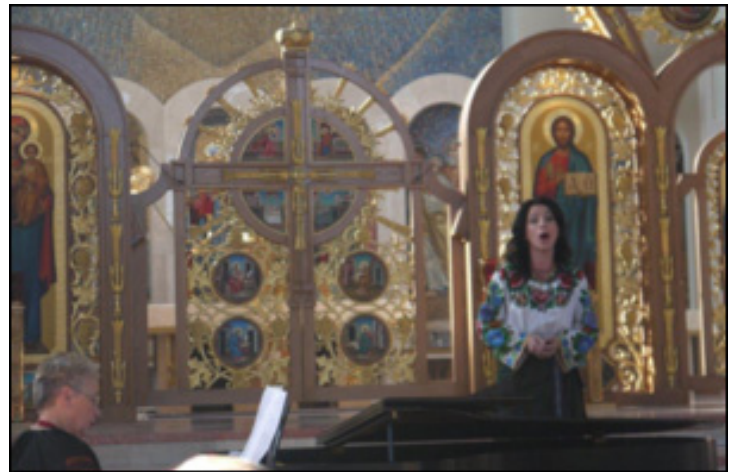
Providence Association Celebrates Centennial Jubilee

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the centennial of this worthy organization is not an ending, but a continuation of our efforts to preserve our faith and Church in this country.

This was the final of a two-part series of jubilee celebrations marking 100

years since the establishment of the Providence Association by Bishop Soter Ortynsky in 1912. The first part took place in New York on October 14.



Soprano Marta Zaliznyak, accompanied by pianist Chrystyna Yurkevych

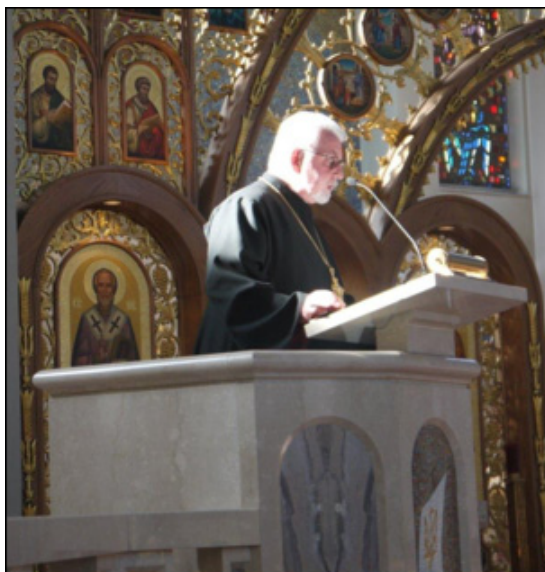
(Photos on this page: Leo Iwaskiw)



"Prometheus"



"Accolada."



Msgr. Martin Canavan



Father Ihor Midzak, Dr. Alexander Lushnycky, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka.

The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia Department of
Vocations Invites All Able-Bodied Men For A

Vocations Day of Reflection



**Saturday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
November 17th, 2012**

At:

***Soter Ortynsky Spirituality Center
830 North Franklin Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123***

(Located conveniently in the
Northern Liberties neighborhood
of Philadelphia, right next door to
the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral
of the Immaculate Conception)



Have you ever thought about service to the Church and your fellow brothers and sisters as a priest or deacon? If so, come and spend a day of prayer and reflection with your fellow brothers in Christ. There will be presentations and opportunities for confession and spiritual direction. Lunch will be provided. There is no cost to attend, just come with an open heart and mind!

For more information, call 1-856-482-0938 or e-mail Fr. Paul at ukrvocations@catholic.org.

*Check us out on Facebook!!
(scan QR code below)*



Come join us, and may God bless you always!

Encounter 2012 – Together in Christ Continues on East Coast

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ –

When the disciples encountered the Risen Lord on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24), their lives were changed forever. Our encounters with the Risen Lord, through liturgical, catechetical, and spiritual gatherings, can deeply impact our own lives as well as the lives of those with whom we have contact. Our renewed relationship with Christ, and the sharing of that relationship with others, is at the heart of Encounter 2012.

Held across the United States in Cleveland, OH, Hillsborough, NJ, and El Segundo, CA from September to November, 2012, the groundwork for the Encounter 2012 actually began more than a decade ago. In 1999, in Boston, the first Encounter was planned by



Encounter 2012 on October 11-14, 2012 at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church & Center in Hillsborough, NJ.

(Photo provided by Eastern Catholic Life)

Rome. Hierarchs of all American Eastern Catholic eparchies, as well as heads of monastic communities, and one or two guests of each bishop, were invited to attend. Later, in Chicago, in 2006, a second Encounter was planned by the Eastern Catholic bishops. This, too, was “by invitation only” and included a wider range of attendees, primarily those clerics and

laity involved in religious education. However, Encounter 2012 became a project entrusted to the members of the Eastern Conference of Eparchial Directors of Religious Education (ECED) and was open to all interested Eastern Catholic clergy, religious or faithful. On September 21-22, the first of these three programs was held at a Holiday Inn near Cleveland, OH. More than 80 priests, deacons and their wives attended the inaugural event, with over 200 faithful attending the program on the following days.

The Second Encounter, which is the focus of this article, continued during the week of October 11-14 at Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, NJ where

Father Edward Cimbala, Administrator of the Eparchy of Passaic, is pastor. The Second Encounter welcomed 80 priests and deacons, spouses, vendors and support staff who were in attendance for the Clergy Conference on October 11-12, with an additional 185 faithful present for the Main Conference from October 12-14.

Following the opening prayer service, Melkite Bishop Nicholas Samra, Chairperson, welcomed the participants the Encounter. Bishop Nicholas outlined the evolution of the previous Encounters from the initial invitation, in 1999, from Cardinal Silivstrini for Eastern Catholic hierarchs

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St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

(Photo provided by Eastern Catholic Life)

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to “get together,” to subsequent meetings with hierarchs and designated clergy and laity, to the present format of an encounter, open to all faithful focusing on the leadership of the laity. He then went on to acknowledge the Encounter 2012 National Committee members: Father Gregory Noga and Dr. Barbara Yastishock Lutz, both of the Eparchy of Passaic, and Father John Lucas of the Ukrainian Eparchy of St. Nicholas in Chicago. Bishop Samra then commended the organizational efforts of the Regional Committee Members which included: Father Edward Cimbala, of the Eparchy of Passaic, Coordinator and host pastor; Father Vasile Colopenic of the Eparchy of Stamford; Father George David of the Eparchy of St. George in Canton; Dr. Barbara Lutz of the Eparchy of Passaic; Father Gregory Noga of the Eparchy of Passaic; Archimandrite Kenneth Sherman of the Eparchy of Newton; and Msgr. Peter Waslo of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

The First Session began with a presentation by

Father Damon Geiger on “Who is Church?” A convert from Lutheranism to Eastern Catholicism, Father Geiger reflected on the sacramental nature of Christ’s Church. “Is the Church a Sacrament that takes on institutional forms, or an institution that has sacraments?” he posited, citing Bishop Kallistos Ware. Because the Church is a sacrament, we must not allow ourselves to become distracted by the solely human element of the Church so as to overlook the divine, he said. He went on to say that the source of our unity as Church is the Eucharist. Yet, in American culture today, the sense of the sacramental nature of the Church is becoming more obscured. There is less and less a concept of “acts of the church,” while more and more faith and spirituality are seen as personal expressions. In this regard, we are experiencing a “privatization” of sacraments and religion, he noted, yet the whole purpose of the Church is communion with God, the Church, and one another.

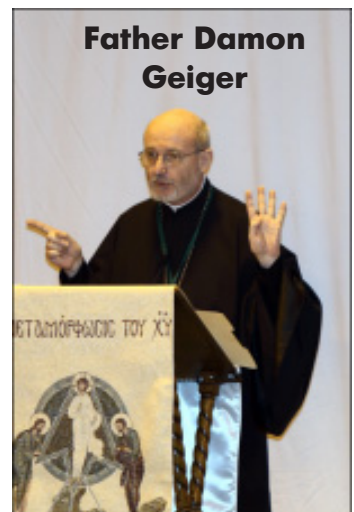
The Second Session was delivered by Dr. Maureen Daddona, a Professor Emeritus of Human

Genetics with a Doctorate in Neuroendocrinology, spoke on the topic of the “Activity of the Royal Priesthood.” Dr. Daddona noted that through the Mysteries of Initiation (Baptism, Chrismation, and Eucharist), laity and clergy alike are anointed and given the mandate to go forth and “make the will of God resound in the communities of the world.” Baptism, the reception of Eucharist, and Chrismation, unite all members of the Church into the royal priesthood by our sharing of the Divine Nature and our call to be sent out as apostles of the sacred truth. In this regard, she shared her professional and personal experiences of the transforming power of the Eucharist. She also stressed the importance of sharing this reality of faith with an increasing number of young people who have no affiliation with religion, but consider themselves to be spiritual. “If we are the Church,” she said, “and if we are the Royal Priesthood, then our responsibility is to bring the light to young people” because “we are as vital to their salvation as they are to ours.”

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Bishop Nicholas Samra



Father Damon Geiger



Dr. Daddona

(Photos provided by Eastern Catholic Life)

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The Third Session was delivered by Sister Marla Marie Lucas, a Maronite Sister of Christ the Light, who spoke on the “Blueprint for Church Growth.” Sister Marla observed that in America today, “we are in a crisis of faith,” and used the model of Christian community found in Acts 2: 42-47 as the basis for her reflections. Sister reminded her listeners that in every encounter with the Risen Christ, our “faith can be renewed in wholeness and splendor.” She also noted that, during the forthcoming *Year of Faith* proclaimed by the Holy Father, we can all respond to our call to be “credible, joy-filled witnesses,” and “re-learn” how to share and profess our Faith. As missionaries of the New Evangelization, we are all called to reach out to lapsed Catholics, recalling that the Church exists to evangelize. This, she stressed, is not the work of the clergy alone; rather, it is the urgent and awesome responsibility of the laity who are “co-responsible” for the Church along with the clergy. Change “begins from within,” she said, and by deepening our intimacy

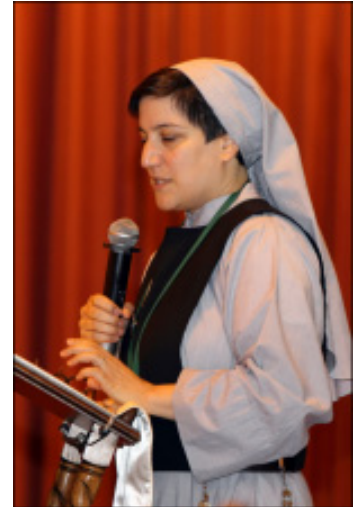
with Christ, “we change the Church.”

The Main Session was delivered by Bishop Peter Labasci, Bishop of Manchester, New Hampshire. His main address was very well received and some even commented that it was reminiscent of the preaching of Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. Bishop Labasci, who is bi-ritual and celebrates the Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Catholic Ruthenian Church, spoke on “The ‘How’ and the ‘What’ of Lay Leadership.” He touched his audience with his recitation of the prayers of vesting for Byzantine clergy. He then stated that “being clothed in Christ is the vestment common to us all.” He said that the faithful should wear their faith on their sleeve, for “if it’s in the heart, it’s going to show” and lay ministry is about sharing a “message of hope.” He reminded people to pray publically. “Say your prayers at McDonald’s,” he said, and be willing to share your faith with your neighbors because “you don’t have to be a theologian” to do such things. He said lay ministry is about reminding people that “beyond civil law,

there is God’s law: of charity, forgiveness, and mercy” and about sharing a faith “that reminds there is a tomorrow” and brings “a message of hope.” Bishop Peter displayed a passionate love for his role as shepherd, but he closed with the reminder that even the shepherd-bishop begins as one who is baptized. “All you who have been baptized into Christ have been clothed in Christ...”

The Final Session was delivered by Bishop Nicholas Samra, Bishop of the Melkite Greek Catholic Eparchy of Newton who addressed the participants just prior to their departure. His presentation was appropriately entitled, “Servant Leadership - Be All You Can Be; *we are not finished yet.*” Bishop Nicholas began his presentation with an outline of the development of the three structural offices of the church – bishop, priest, deacon – and noted their connection to the purpose of service to God’s people. Bishop Nicholas also challenged his listeners to reflect on what are God’s desires for the Church. Then, drawing from 1 Peter, Chapter 2, the Bishop reflected on the Church as a spiritual house

(Photos provided by Eastern Catholic Life)



Sister Marla Marie Lucas



Bishop Peter Labasci

built with “living stones.” He then offered the reflection: “what kind of stone are we?” Are we living stones or inactive stones when it comes to servant leadership in the Church? In this regard, he also stressed the

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Encounter 2012 – Together in Christ Continues on East Coast

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importance of stewardship, as “the heart of being human,” and the “bottom line principal of being Christian.” As Christian stewards we will care for the Church, strategically plan for the future of the parish, not just live week by week, and continually ask “what does God want?” In this regard, the Bishop said, we are “not yet finished,” rather, the work of Servant Leadership is “continued when you go home.”

The hospitality of the volunteers of the host parish, Saint Mary Byzantine Church of Hillsborough, NJ was appreciated by all in attendance. The modern and ample facilities allowed for vendor displays, dining facilities, liturgical celebrations, and session presentations all in one convenient and centrally located place. Moreover, the location of a Ukrainian Catholic church next door, allowed for liturgical diversity within walking distance. The homilists for the services and Divine Liturgies echoed the themes of the Session speakers. During Morning Prayers, Maronite Bishop Gregory Mansour noted that the church “exists to



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka celebrated the Divine Liturgy and offered the Homily at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hillsborough, NJ, during Encounter 2012. *(Photo by Rev. Ihor Royik)*

evangelize,” including to those already baptized through the New Evangelization. Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Church likewise challenged all to reach out to the “lost and lapsed” of the faith; and Father Edward Cimbala, Administrator of the Eparchy of Passaic, encouraged everyone to share their faith by “passing it on” from one generation to the next.

This message was visually enhanced by the passing on of scrolls of faith which Father Edward distributed and asked to be passed from one person to the next.

That, indeed, is the message of the Encounter – to encounter our Lord in a new and dramatic way and pass on the treasure of faith to all around us. The third and final session of Encounter 2012 was held in El

Segundo, CA from November 2-4.

Article was provided by "Eastern Catholic Life".

SAINT ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND THE ANGELIC POWERS (November 8th)



The Lord said to his disciples: "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me." The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure". (Luke 10:16-21)

At the start of the liturgical year, the Church has brought us into the presence of the Cross, that is to say, of the mystery of our salvation through the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. It has brought us into the presence of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, who is the height of all human holiness. It is now going to bring us into the presence of a third aspect of spiritual life: the ministry of the angels. It is this aspect that she now invites us to contemplate on the feast of St. Michael and all the holy angels (November 8th). The angels are pure spirits, but created spirits who are destined to adore and reflect the infinite divine beauty, and secondarily, who are 'sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation' (Heb.1:14). The Old Testament shows us how frequently they intervened with the patriarchs and prophets; the Hebrews considered angels as the visible manifestation of

God, as the bearers of his image and of his power. The gospels show them to us announcing the birth of Jesus, ministering to him in the desert and in his agony, and as witnesses of his resurrection. They are intimately involved in the life of the apostles and in the beginnings of the Church. The belief that a guardian angel is appointed as a guide and protector to each individual soul has never been defined as an article of faith; but this concept, already outlined in the Bible and developed by the Fathers, is certainly in keeping with the spirit of the Church and can be of great assistance in our spiritual life. The Holy Scriptures name only three angels: Gabriel, Raphael, and Michael, whose feast we celebrate today and round whom the Church groups the whole 'body' of angels. The Hebrew name Michael means: 'Who is like unto God'. Michael is mentioned several times in the

prophet Daniel, in the epistle of St. Jude, where he is called 'archangel', and in Revelation. The veneration of St. Michael began perhaps in Phrygia and was particularly developed in Constantinople.

Christian tradition above all thinks of Michael as the one who is successful in combating Satan. The gospel for this day (Luke 10:16-21) describes the joy of the seventy sent out by our Lord who, on their return said to him: 'Even the devils are subject unto us through thy name'. And Jesus tells them that he himself had seen 'Satan as lightning fall from heaven'. The disciples had an experience of the power that the angels exercise continuously, and to an incomparably greater degree. Perhaps, too, this gospel was chosen because of Jesus' saying to them: "Rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven". These words mean that after their

earthly life, Jesus' disciples will enter into heaven, which is the dwelling place of the angels, and into the joy of heaven, which is the joy of the angels; and that then human life will become nearer to angelic life. Lastly, this portion of the gospel begins with the words: 'He that hears you hears me...'. It is not only through the preaching of the disciples and through the apostolic tradition, but also through the secret message of the angels in our soul that we shall be able to hear the word of the Savior. If we know how to listen to the angels, it is to Jesus himself that we listen.

Today we sing an antiphon of biblical origin, which proclaims that God has made his angels winds and his messengers, a flaming fire. Wind and fire: thus the angels are closely connected both with Pentecost and the Holy Spirit.



Sr. Yosaphata's



Sr. Yosaphata Litvenczuk, MSMG celebrates 50th Anniversary of Religious Life at Assumption Catholic Church, Perth Amboy, NJ

Please join us as we celebrate Sr. Yosaphata's 50th Anniversary of Religious Life as a Missionary Sister of the Mother of God at the 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 2, 2012 followed by a luncheon in the school hall. Sr. Yosaphata will renew her vows of poverty, chastity and obedience at the Liturgy celebrated by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka. Sister Yosaphata has been working with students at Assumption Catholic School for 50 years as an educator and administrator. Our church and school community is looking forward to recognizing and celebrating this milestone with Sr. Yosaphata and invites you to take part in the Liturgy and the luncheon.

For additional information please call 732-826-0767 or visit our school site at: www.assumptioncatholicschool.net

"Democracy Depends on People of Conviction Fighting for What They Believe in the Public Square"

PENNSYLVANIA'S CATHOLIC BISHOPS ISSUE STATEMENT ON THE 2012 ELECTIONS

HARRISBURG (Nov. 1) – In a statement issued today, the Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania said Election Day offers "a critical opportunity for Catholics ... to exercise our civic duty and fulfill our social responsibility in a way that becomes us as aspiring saints."

"Because politics is the place where competing moral visions of a society meet and struggle," the statement continues, "Our democracy depends on people of conviction fighting for what they believe in the public square, yet doing so with an abiding respect for one another."

The Bishops express concern that many, "simply no longer believe in the idea of inalienable natural rights guaranteed by a Creator higher than the state – one of the cornerstone principles of the American experiment." This trend has serious implications because urgent political issues like the economy, immigration, abortion, and global security have serious moral questions that "cannot be resolved without a common understanding of right and wrong." The Bishops cite efforts to redefine marriage, to exclude parental choice in education, and to mandate the violation of religious liberty as striking examples.

The statement reminds Catholics that, "the task of building a good society makes our Catholic civic engagement vitally important ... At election time, charity and truth are expressed through the votes we cast in favor of the inherent dignity of every human person and the common good of all ... Ideas have consequences. Beliefs shape our culture ... let us bring our faith to bear on how we vote this Election Day."

The Statement of the Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania follows:

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A Statement of the Pennsylvania Catholic Bishops on the 2012 Elections

(NOVEMBER 1, 2012) – Each year on this day the Catholic Church, (primarily of the Latin tradition; the Ukrainian Catholic Church celebrates the Sunday of All Saints on the Sunday after Pentecost - ed.note), celebrates “All Saints Day.” This solemnity remembers those who have fulfilled their earthly vocation and now enjoy eternal happiness in the presence of God. These saints may be unnamed, but they certainly are not unknown. Their lives are characterized by steadfast faith and charitable works. They exemplify what it means to love God and love one’s neighbor.

We celebrate these unnamed saints because all of us share a universal call to holiness. God the Father calls us, through Jesus, to be perfected (cf. Matt 5:48) and to live “as becomes saints” (Eph 5:3). As aspiring saints, we, too, must meet the challenges of our own time in history with boldness and humility, with courage and gentleness, and with an attentive docility to the Holy Spirit at work in our world.

We, the bishops of Pennsylvania, see next Tuesday (November 6),

Election Day, as a day of historical challenge for our time. We propose this statement now because the upcoming elections, at every level, offer a critical opportunity for Catholics – i.e., all of us who are believers: clergy, religious, and lay alike – to exercise our civic duty and fulfill our social responsibility in a way that becomes us as aspiring saints.

Because politics is the place where competing moral visions of a society meet and struggle, our democracy depends on people of conviction fighting for what they believe in the public square, yet doing so with an abiding respect for one another. That struggle includes and depends on all of us, precisely as Catholics. For if we believe that a particular issue is gravely evil or that it will result in serious damage to society, then we have a duty, both as Catholics and as Americans, to hold political candidates accountable.

The 2012 elections take place during the Year of Faith. As Pope Benedict XVI explains, this year is necessary because, while many people continue “to think of the faith as a self-

evident presupposition for life in society,” nevertheless “in reality, not only can this presupposition no longer be taken for granted, ... it is often openly denied” (*Porta Fidei*, no. 2). Today it is no longer the case, as it was for our country’s Founders, that religion can provide a shared moral framework and vocabulary for a pluralistic democracy. In fact, Americans would do well to realize that many of our country’s leading thinkers in law, higher education, and the social sciences simply no longer believe in the idea of inalienable natural rights guaranteed by a Creator higher than the State – one of the cornerstone principles of the American experiment.

This has serious implications because many of our most urgent political issues – ranging from the economy, immigration, and abortion to global security – raise profoundly moral questions. These questions cannot be resolved without a common understanding of right and wrong. Consider today’s aggressive efforts to redefine the nature of marriage, to exclude parental authority in the choice of the best education for their children,

and to force Catholic healthcare and social services to end their ministries unless they violate their religious identities through mandated support of practices contrary to the very sanctity of human life.

Religious liberty itself – “our first, most cherished freedom” – is no longer secure. At first glance, this may seem otherwise because religious freedom is so deeply ingrained in our national history. But democracy has no special immunity to losing its soul by little steps. As Alexis de Tocqueville, the great chronicler of early American democracy, observed more than 150 years ago, “it is especially dangerous to enslave men in the minor details of life” – because the more the state provides, the more it inevitably controls.

Events have proven this true. In recent years a pattern of legislative and judicial actions has emerged in our country that undermines religious liberty and jeopardizes the contributions of religious bodies in the public realm. Government policies that seek to impose morally

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A Statement of the Pennsylvania Catholic Bishops on the 2012 Elections

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repugnant services on religiously affiliated medical providers, or to limit the freedom of religion to the private realm or to places of worship, or to reduce religious liberty to just another subset of freedom of speech and association, get it backwards; under the Constitution, it is government power that is limited and subject to regulation, not the conscience rights of Americans – whether acting singly, or in organized communities, or through their institutions.

Today Catholics face a growing and deeply troubling effort that seeks to extend the reach of government into every aspect of social life. In turn, this generates a demand for exclusive allegiance of individuals and groups to the requirements of the State. This demand denies the primacy of associations that exist prior to the State, such as the family, church or synagogue, and even fraternal and charitable agencies. These groups enjoy a priority both chronologically, in terms of historical development, and practically, inasmuch as they engage the vast

majority of activity in our everyday lives.

As Christians we do owe an appropriate loyalty to the State. We strive to maintain good relations with civil authority. But our primary allegiance must always be to God and to God alone. As St. Thomas More once said so eloquently, we are God's good servants first. That is the nature of our personal mission; and that is something we cannot forsake without betraying our baptism. Moreover, our calling and mission as Catholics remain fully consonant with the historic American understanding of law and justice.

Our allegiance to God and our reverence for religious liberty are not sectarian interests; rather, they render testimony to ideals of truth and charity that serve all people. As Pope Benedict XVI states, "In the present social and cultural context, where there is a widespread tendency to relativize truth, practicing charity in truth helps people to understand that adhering to the values of Christianity is not merely useful but essential for building a good society ...

" (*Caritas in Veritate*, no. 4).

The task of building a good society makes our Catholic civic engagement vitally important. But as Christians, we also have the religious duty of making the message of salvation known to all people. Impelled by the love of God, we draw others to Jesus Christ by doing good for our neighbor. And we fulfill this baptismal mission by conforming our lives to our faith so that we become the light of the world.

At election time, charity and truth are expressed through the votes we cast in favor of the inherent dignity of every human person and the common good of all. In this respect, faith must inform our electoral decisions. The Catholic faith is always personal but never private. If our faith is real, then it will naturally and necessarily guide our public decisions and behaviors, including our political choices.

And so, we, the bishops of Pennsylvania, urge citizens to vote this year, and we encourage Catholics to learn what our



faith believes about the issues at stake in the 2012 election. To do this, we recommend a review of *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* and *Living the Gospel of Life*, both available online at www.usccb.org.

Ideas have consequences. Beliefs shape our culture. We revere the best ideals of our American democracy. We embrace the truths of our Catholic faith. In this mutuality of politics and religious conviction – as informed citizens and as steadfast believers – we strive to fulfill the human vocation in our own day, just as all the saints have done in past ages.

In this Year of Faith, let us bring our faith to bear on how we vote this Election Day.

And may God, in His goodness, continue to bless America.

The head of the UGCC offers condolences to Americans affected by Hurricane Sandy

2 November 2012

In condolence letters to Metropolitan of Philadelphia Stefan Soroka, Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan, and Ambassador to Ukraine John Tefft, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) Sviatoslav Shevchuk offered his deep condolences to the people of the United States, including Greek Catholics, who were affected by Hurricane Sandy, the UGCC website reports.

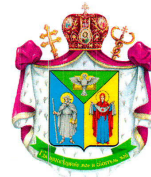
Patriarch Sviatoslav says he personally prays for the American victims.

“We pray for the merciful Lord to protect you from all the distress associated with natural disasters, and to give you the strength needed to recover from the devastation,” reads the letter.

Addressing Ambassador John Tefft, Patriarch Sviatoslav said: “We unite our prayers with those around the world, which ask the Lord to comfort those affected by the devastation and destruction of their homes, businesses, towns and villages as a result of Hurricane Sandy.”

The patriarch asked God for His blessing and protection for all who provide support to victims and help the recovery.

<http://risu.org.ua>



УКРАЇНСЬКА ГРЕКО-КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА
Верховний Архієпископ Києво-Галицький

Київ,

Вих: ВА 12/430

1 листопада 2012 року Божого

Високопреосвященному Владиці
Стефанові (Сороці),
Митрополитові-Архієпископові
Філадельфійському

Високопреосвященний Митрополите!

У той час коли східне узбережжя США переживає руйнівні наслідки урагану Сенді, хочемо висловити Вам та всім нашим вірним на Американській землі нашу солідарність та підтримку.

Запевняю вас в своїй особистій молитві та в молитовній підтримці вірних нашої Церкви в Україні та на поселеннях. Молимося, щоб Милосердний Господь оберіг вас від усякого лиха пов'язаного з природними катаклізмами та додав вам сили до відновлення після руйнувань.

Нехай Пресвята Богородиця покриє всіх вас своїм материнським омофором.

Щиро відданий в Христі-Господі



+ Святослав
+ СВЯТОСЛАВ

а/с В-125, Київ, 01001, Україна тел/факс: +38 (044) 278-61-84 E-mail: Ver_Arch@ugcc.org.ua

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & GIFT AUCTION

**Assumption Catholic School Auditorium
Meredith & Jacques Sts., Perth Amboy, NJ**

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2012
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

GREAT PRIZES!

**iPad * Large LCD HDTV
American Girl Dolls * Boys & Girls Bike
Coach Bag ... and much more!**

HOMEMADE TRADITIONAL ETHNIC FOODS

**50/50 Raffle * Wheels of Chance
Games * Vendors * Crafts
Fun ... Fun ... Fun ... for Everyone!**

❖ FREE ADMISSION ❖

assumptioncatholicschool.net



St. Stephen's Presents

A

Ukrainian Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 1, 2012

10 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Unique gift ideas:

*Jewelry, embroidery, ceramics, pysanky (decorated eggs),
wood carvings, ornaments & crafts!*

1344 White Oak Bottom Road

Toms River, NJ 08753

*Featuring our
delicious
Ukrainian
Country Kitchen*



***(Please note: St. Stephens Polka Party scheduled for November 10th
has been postponed due to Hurricane Sandy.)***



St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church, Baltimore, Maryland Celebrating its Centennial

On November 11, 2012 at 1:00 PM a hierarchical liturgy celebrated by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka assisted by Rev. Vasyl Sivinskyj will highlight this year's celebrations. Afterwards in the church banquet hall, the Centennial Banquet will be held with greetings, a historic slide show presentation and performances by the Church Choir and the Capella singing group under the baton of Dr. Nazar Kalivoshko. Background music will be provided by flutist Katria Kuzmowicz and pianist Chad Bowles. The program will also include Ukrainian dance performances under the choreographic leadership of Lev Iwashko. During the banquet there will be a special honoring of early pioneers of the parish and all seniors. In the foyer of the hall there will be available for purchase exquisite photographs of the church.

For further information please contact Andriy W. Chornodolsky 410-241-9037.

St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church

2401 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21224 410.675.7557

Centennial Celebration 1912-2012

November 11, 2012 -- Hierarchical Liturgy (1:00pm)

Banquet -- Tickets \$50 pp

Reservations accepted until October 28, 2012

Pastor: Rev. Vasyl Sivinskyi, Financial Officers: Orest Poliszczuk, Stephen Chorney

For ticket information call Centennial Co-chairs

Andriy Chornodolsky 410.241.9037 or John Wojtowycz 410.647.5558

Christmas Pierogie/Kielbasa Sale - Orders Now Being Taken! Clifton Heights, PA

Due to a continued huge demand, we are back with offering two traditional Christmas/New Year's favorite foods - Kielbasa & Pierogies. Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Clifton Heights, in conjunction with one of the area's well-known kielbasa makers, proudly announces the opening of the 2012 "Christmas/New year's Kielbasa Ring Sale". We are offering mouth-watering, high quality kielbasa for the unbelievably low price of only \$11.00 per ring or 3 rings for \$30.00. We are also offering our homemade, mouth-watering, flavorful, potato-cheese pierogies for the unbelievably low price of only \$7.00 per dozen or 3 dozen for \$20.00! Stock up for Christmas and New Year's (or for your freezer to satisfy those special winter cravings). For your convenience, we now are able to accept your orders via email. To place your pierogie and/or kielbasa orders, please email us at SSPeterandPaul@verizon.net or call Kathy at (610) 328-4731. Pickup will be at noon on Sunday, November 18th, at our Church which is located at 100 South Penn Street in Clifton Heights, PA. Please place your orders early since high demand and our desire to fully satisfy all orders may require us to limit quantities and stop taking orders.

ADVENT AFTERNOON OF REFLECTION

BASILIAN SPIRITUALITY CENTER

SISTERS OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT
710 Fox Chase Road Fox Chase Manor, PA 19046
215-780-1227

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 2
2012**

2:00 – 5:00 PM

DONATION: \$ 25

**Respond by
November 26, 2012**

TOPIC- *JOURNEY TO THE INCARNATION: DREAMS, PROPHETS AND VISIONS*

See what vision God has for you as you journey to the celebration of the Incarnation: God becoming man.

A look at the prophecies concerning the Messiah during the time of the 40 day fast of St. Phillip, in preparation for Christmas.

Learn about our Savior from the perspective of those who predicted his arrival, and the Light which would enter the world.



PRESENTER: **ARCHPRIEST DANIEL TROYAN**
Chaplain for the Sisters of St. Basil the Great and their Ministries
Director for Evangelization at the Archeparchy of Philadelphia



Send to: **Sister Marina, OSBM**
BASILIAN SPIRITUALITY CENTER
710 Fox Chase Road
Fox Chase Manor, PA 19046

DONATION: \$25
Please register by: November 26, 2012
215.780.1227

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

METROPOLITAN STEFAN'S TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND OF OUR COMMUNITY, THE LATE SENATOR ARLEN SPECTER

As Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA, I express sadness on the news of the death of a valued friend of our Ukrainian community in the USA, the late U.S. Senator Arlen Specter. The Senator died of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma at age 82. Senator Specter served for 30 years representing Pennsylvania.

Shortly after my arrival in Philadelphia in 2001, Congressman Charles Dougherty arranged an appointment for me to meet Senator Arlen Specter in his office in Washington, D.C. I was impressed with the Senator's knowledge of Ukrainian affairs in the US and in Ukraine, and his appreciation of the contributions of Ukrainians in American society. He spoke about his grandfather being from Ukraine and of hardships experienced by him. Senator Arlen Specter was very friendly, being fully focused on the discussion and his guest. A number of subsequent visits occurred in his office in Philadelphia, often at the Senator's own initiative to come, visit and talk. He wanted to keep informed of matters of importance to Ukrainian Americans. I am particularly grateful for the Senator's intervention on behalf of a couple of families with urgent immigration issues. He quietly and without drawing attention to his own importance provided critical help.

On behalf of our Ukrainian community, I express gratitude for the service and dedication of Senator Arlen Specter. He has our utmost appreciation and tribute for his life of dedicated enhancement of the quality of life of so many. May God reward him richly for his love and service of others during his lifetime.



SENATOR ARLEN SPECTER
(Photo <http://commons.wikimedia.org>)

Annual Slavic Christmas Luncheon - Sunday December 9th Clifton Heights, PA

On Sunday, December 9th, Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, 100 South Penn Street, in Clifton Heights, will hold a traditional "Slavic Christmas Luncheon". Lunch will be served at noon, immediately after the regular 11:00 am. Sunday English Divine Liturgy. We welcome all who wish to enjoy traditional Slavic culinary delights such as; kielbasa and sauerkraut, pierogies and stuffed cabbage. Beverages and a large assortment of homemade desserts are included. As has become our custom, expect a large variety of door prizes. Due to the popularity of this annual event, we recommend getting your reservations in early. A nominal donation of \$15.00 is requested for adults and children 7 to 12 years of age are only \$5.00! Children 6 years and younger are free. To make your reservations, please email us at SSPeterandPaul@verizon.net or call Kathy at (610) 328-4731 before Monday, December 3rd, to reserve your seat for this special event. Tables can be reserved for parties of 8 or more. In the spirit of helping others in the community who may be experiencing hard economic times, we also ask that each person attending bring a non-perishable food item for our Annual Christmas Food Drive. (Anyone wishing to donate any canned or boxed, non-perishable food items should bring them to the Church on any Sunday before/after the 11:00 am. English Divine Liturgy from now through December 16th..)

Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine
of the Holy Family

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

November 17 and 18

10:00 am – 4:00 pm Saturday 10:30 am – 3:30 pm Sunday

Holiday Crafts
and other Crafts
Pysanka kits!

Entertainment!

Fine Ukrainian
Collectable Books!



Traditional Ukrainian treats
food, crafts, gifts, sweets!

U.S. Park Police Horse on
Saturday!

Icons and Other
Religious Items!

Enjoy a delicious Ukrainian style lunch while you browse for books, music, holiday and specialty items, and more! We will be serving traditional borscht, varenyky, holubtsi, and kovbasa – piroggy to take home!

4250 Harewood Road, NE
Washington, DC 20017
202-526-3737 www.ucns-holyfamily.org

Accessible from the Brookland-CUA Red line Metro Stop
Wheelchair Accessible

Sunday Divine Liturgies

9:00 a.m. English

11:30 a.m. Ukrainian

4:30 p.m. English (Vigil-Liturgy Saturday) Bazaar weekend only

Palmerton Parish Needs Replacement Dough ROLLER

St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church in Palmerton, Pa. meets its repair and renovation costs through the sale of pyrohy made faithfully by parishioners as is done in many of our parishes. They are in need of a replacement DOUGH ROLLER to enable their continued fundraising efforts but their available funds cannot cover the cost of a new one. If there is a parish with a surplus or currently unused dough roller available, kindly contact the pastor, Rev. Evhen Moniuk (610-826-2359)! Thank you.



News from Olyphant, PA

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, Pa (near Scranton) is sponsoring a fund raiser.....**"The 3rd Annual Hometown Bake Sale"**. It will be held two days: Saturday, November 17, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday November 18, 2012 from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at 135 River Street, Olyphant, Pa (the School Gym). Additional fund raiser items: The Cookbooks "Favorite Recipes from our Best Cooks" Volume I and Volume II are available for \$25.00 (set). The Choir will have available their Christmas CD for \$15.00 and the Divine Liturgy DVD for \$20.00. Orders will be taken for the Embroidered Placket Polo Shirt with "Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church" with the Byzantine Catholic 3-bar Cross from \$12.00 to \$18.00 each. For additional information on the Bake sale contact Marlene at 570-876-1008 or the Rectory at 570-489-2271, Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor <http://www.stcyrils.maslar-online.com>

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

**UKRAINIAN
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
& FOOD FAIR**

Immaculate Conception Cathedral Hall
Corner of Franklin & Brown Streets, Northern Liberties,
Philadelphia, PA
(North of Spring Garden St., South of Girard Ave.)

Homemade Ukrainian foods & pastries, gifts, vendors, crafts, music, flea market. Cathedral visits every hour.

Free turkey drawing every hour.
New this year! Raffle tickets for one year pyrohy supply.
Fresh, homemade Pyrohy (Varenyky) available for takeout by the dozen.
To order, please call at 215-829-4350

**ADMISSION:
ADULTS \$1.00
STUDENTS 6-13: \$.50**

Come to our Christmas Bazaar for a great Christmas shopping experience!

DAY OF HEALING AND RENEWAL

Submitted by Msgr. Myron Grabowsky

A richly blessed "Day of Healing and Renewal" was held at St Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Shenandoah on Saturday, October 13th. In addition to the local parishioners, participants came from as far away as Bucks County, Media and Philadelphia. Saint Michael's is the first Ukrainian Catholic Church in America. The sunny Fall day started and finished with sacred Divine Liturgy. The program began with a blessing by Father Johnson. "Praise and Worship" music throughout the day was provided by Joe Coyne and Ed Barber. The theme of the day was "Broken to Blessed". Tom Parsons acted as "MC" for the event. Mayor Andrew Szczyglak also spoke brief words of welcome at the event.

There were three dynamic guest speakers who provided messages of hope and love.

Monsignor Ralph Chieffo, Pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Church in Media spoke on the "Year of Faith". He began pointing out that We begin our Profession of Faith by saying "I Believe", we must first ask what "to Believe" means. Faith is man's response to God." as stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This belief is reflected in Roman's 10:9 " Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved". He continued that everything we need to evangelize and succeed in this "Year of Faith" was provided for us in these truths. His message strong and true was a wonderful way to open our day.

Marie Joseph, Author of Faith on Fire, www.firedupcatholics.com spoke on the Book of Ruth, Chapter 1. Quoting " Your people will be my people" and talking about SOS- Sacrifice – Obedience and Surrender. Her moving words spoke to women as well as men on the devotion of being a Christian.

Deacon Bob Skawinski, Saint Ignatius of Antioch in Yardley PA. gave a very powerful witness. Sharing the conversion of his life , how he did not believe himself ready to open up to God for a long time .. but when he did the changes in his life were extraordinary. He also explained that everyone has the same opportunity he had, that you just needed to take it .

One highlight was a sidewalk blessing of 55 wooden crosses in memory of the 55 million children who lost their lives in abortions since the 1973 "Roe vs Wade" Supreme court decision. Each pink or blue cross represents 1 million children . The crosses were graciously provided by the Knights of Columbus Francis Cardinal Brennen Council 618 and the Catholic Daughters of Americas Court Annunciation 175, Shenandoah. A second highlight was the participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation which was made available throughout the day.



A public recitation of the rosary for "America needs Fatima" was also conducted with prayers for the Borough of Shenandoah and America. Our Lady of Fatima's picture graced the outside of the church. Ninety five years ago on October 13 in Portugal Our Lady appeared for the 6th apparition to three children and with over seventy thousand other people with a sign of the sun dancing in the sky. She said she was the Lady of the Rosary and called people to her Son, Jesus.

A perfect ending to the day was a Healing Service led by the Parish Priest Msgr. Myron Grabowsky and Msgr. Ralph Chieffo.

UGCC Head introduced his Church to journalists accredited by the Vatican Press Center

19.10.12

UGCC Head noted that although in Ukraine there are many Catholic communities, and the number of Greek-Catholics comprises about 10 percent, there are still about 40 percent of inhabitants who do not consider themselves as members of any religious community. Therefore, the necessity of a new evangelization seems clear, as well as the need of this evangelization within the Church, only twenty years out of the underground.

As the main means of the new evangelization, capable to answer the challenges of our times, His Beatitude Sviatoslav named the family and the parish, once more emphasizing what he had said during his presentation at the Synod. The significant and unchangeable input into the new evangelization within Ukraine's social context, in his words, emerges from the social doctrine of the Church. "Even if many people do not consider themselves part of the Church they listen to its voice because it speaks about concrete things concerning

community life. It is this that grants us respect also from the side of the Orthodox, Protestants and Jews," noted UGCC Head.

The hierarch also described the interest in Christian faith expressed by young Muslims. The aspect which is mostly attractive to them is "Christian joy which emerges from the discovery that God is not a tyrant who demands obedience, but a Father." This, according to him, is the "powerful sign of the Resurrected Christ."

Journalists touched on the issue of married clergy which according to His Beatitude Sviatoslav comprises more than 90 percent in Ukraine. He noted, that this ancient tradition of the Eastern Church is acknowledged, for example, by brethren of the Latin Rite in the United States and Canada, expressing their understanding and support for married Greek-Catholic priests in these territories. However, especially in Italy, the presence of married priests is still "painful to accept," so much so, that the Conference of Bishops rejected the proposal to allow them to come to Italy

to provide pastoral care to the immigrants.

"The Italian pastors still do not understand the dynamism of the Eastern Church," stated His Beatitude Sviatoslav, adding that the situation gets more complicated by the presence of a large number of faithful who lack pastoral care. However, he noted, "we recognize our responsibility to respect the feelings" of the local bishops since when "mutual respect is the starting point, there is always the possibility of a dialogue." Also, according to UGCC Head statement, it is exactly through the support of the Conferences of Bishops that "our presence is at all possible in Italy or Spain."

He also somewhat criticized the concept proposed in these countries of "ethnic chaplaincy," included in the social and cultural aspects which bring on the threat of assimilation. "We await the moment when the local Church will realize that the presence of Ukrainians is a strength for the new evangelization and we can fully live, exercising our traditions," noted His Beatitude Sviatoslav, sharing also the

testimony of many bishops about the kind of influence that the presence of Ukrainian migrants has on the local secularized society. It is enough to mention the women caretakers who lead the elderly to church or teach the children to pray.

A separate question emerges with the ecumenical dialogue and especially the relationship with the Moscow Patriarchate. UGCC Primate described the experience of the activity of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and religious organizations that are the schools for building peace. Referring to the relationship with the Russian Orthodox Church, he noted that "reconciliation between the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and the Russian Orthodox Church is inevitable. I am taking on the role of the spokesman in this reconciliation, since without it we cannot move forward and therefore we will not become discouraged and will always remain ready to extend our hand."

Radio Vatican

His Beatitude Lubomyr (Husar) encourages clergy and members of religious orders to collaborate with laity in nurturing vocations

20.10.12

“It is necessary to create mechanisms in monastic orders and communities that will help in nurturing and strengthen vocations. He related the experience of USA that, although in the 1960s-70s there was a great number of vocations, they developed a program to nurture vocations.

“At that time in every U.S. eparchy there was a person responsible for vocations to the priesthood and monastic life. It is important to note something specific to Americans: they had and continue to have — a well organized special lay organization that helps to find vocations,” related His Beatitude Lubomyr. “It is appropriate that in Ukraine we create a similar organization that would

employ lay people who acknowledge the significance of religious vocations for the Church and for the people.”

His Beatitude Lubomyr believes that it is important to consider this, since monastic life is not something hidden, but a vital part of general church life. “If we can find lay people who are ready to assist us in searching out and nurturing vocations, I think that it will prove to be of great benefit to UGCC,” emphasized the speaker.

Besides the presentation of the former UGCC Head, the presentation of Archbishop Joseph William Tobin, C.Ss.R., Secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, was of particular

significance. Since he could not attend the conference, his speech on an ideal religious life and its realization in monastic orders was read at the beginning of the conference.

In his presentation the author underlines the fact that for a better understanding of contemporary religious life, it is important to realize the changes which have occurred in the last 40 years. He believes that the Second Vatican Council inaugurated these changes, which then generated a renovation in religious orders and communities.

The Archbishop emphasizes that the most important event for religious life after the Second Vatican Council was the Synod of Bishops on religious life which took place in 1994 and resulted in the apostolic precept “Religious Life.”

“This apostolic precept, in describing religious life, emphasizes the aspect of ‘consecration’ since religious life is not one of being employed but of belong to Someone,” highlighted the presentation.

Finally, Archbishop Joseph stated that a religious life undergoes trials: through very severe indicators of life and death. “We believe that in all the trials and questioning, we recognize the Word of God which if it is gathered from wounds and doubts, in difficulties and uncertainties, will lead us to new fervency, and spur a new creativity.”

Research on motivations to religious life in UGCC was presented by Sister Khrystofora Bushtyn, head of UGCC Commission on Matters of Primary Education, and Mar’yana Mykolaychuk, a candidate in psychology. The participants of the study included 37 candidates for religious life: 54% men, 46% women. This research made it possible to define the basic elements of the psychological readiness to choose religious life (a satisfactory mental health status and personal maturity, the presence of stimulating motives and such) and criteria of personality maturity (responsibility, decency, depth of experience, life philosophy, autonomy, communicability, self-perception).

(continued on next page)



His Beatitude Lubomyr (Husar) encourages clergy and members of religious orders to collaborate with laity in nurturing vocations

(continued from previous page)

During the day there were also presentations by Rev. Volodymyr Hruts, CSSR, and Sr. Vasyliya Strutynska, OSBM, about difficulties which meet contemporary religious people, as well as Rev. Ionikiy Chverchuk, OSBM, on the dynamics of the development of vocations in the last 20 years.

The conference continued in group discussions and ended with Evening Vespers.

Bishop Bohdan (Dziurakh), Administrator of the UGCC Patriarchal Curia, attended the conference.

The work of the scholarly conference will continue on

October 20, 2012. Planned presentations include: Rev. Orest-Dmytro Vilchynskyi and Sr. Valentyna Riabushko, CSM St. Vincent, on the spiritual state of society as the background of forming vocations, as well as Rev. Andriy Platoshka, SDB, Rev. Ivan

Mazurkevych, SDB, Rev. Andriy Bodnar, SDB, Rev. Hryhoriy Shved, SDB, on the perspectives of pastoral work regarding vocations.

UGCC Department of information

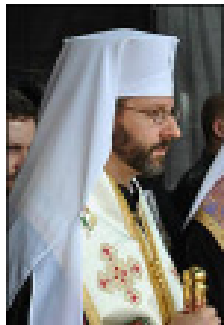
Every day the Lord reveals to us new needs, related to the presence of our faithful in the world," UGCC Head

27.10.12

His Beatitude Sviatoslav stated that today in Ukraine, close to 40% of the inhabitants are not evangelized. "They feel some craving for God but have yet reached a full understanding of a Christian life," noted the UGCC Primate. This mainly refers to non-baptized people. Sometimes it is difficult to discern whether this mission towards these people is a new evangelization or whether it is the primary evangelization, the original proclamation of faith." UGCC Head emphasized that the Church today feels its obligation to preach the Word of God everywhere where their faithful exist, and to all people who

today need the Word of God.

In reporting on his impressions from the XIII General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, UGCC Primate stated that this Synod is a beneficial event for the whole Catholic Church because it gathered bishops from the whole world to share their enthusiasm and experience in how to preach the Word of God in different countries and among different cultures. "Such an exchange of experience is a mutual enrichment for all," claimed he. His Beatitude Sviatoslav also reported that at present the UGCC



Church is experiencing its rebirth, that is, "its resurrection after a lasting period of persecution on the territory of the former Soviet Union."

"The presence of our faithful throughout the world gives us new impetus to revive UGCC parishes and eparchies. The Lord reveals to us every day new needs, related to the presence of our faithful throughout the world," emphasized UGCC Head.

In addition, the UGCC Primate stated that there are many Ukrainian Greek-Catholics in Russia, who have ended up there

due to historical circumstances. "So in Siberia as a result of deportation of Ukrainians during the Stalin repressions, there are many UGCC faithful, and their number is no less in the European parts of Russia, where many work there. They are spiritually tied with our Church and we understand our obligation to provide them with pastoral care," noted His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

Note that in the Vatican, on October 7-28, 2012, the XIII Assembly of the Synod of Bishops is taking place, focusing on the topic "New Evangelization of Transmitting Faith."

UGCC Department of information

