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National Observance of 80th Anniversary of the Holodomor Launched With "March of Remembrance" and Ecumenical Service at St Patrick's Cathedral

21 November 2012

New York, NY (UCCA) - On Saturday, November 17th, hundreds of Ukrainian Americans from around the tri-state and surrounding areas gathered on 7th Street before St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in the East Village to embark on the almost 3 mile "March of Remembrance" in memory of the 7-10 million victims of Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-33. Under banners reading "Ukraine Remembers – The World Recognizes!" and "Ukraine's Genocide – We Will Never Forget" the over 600 participants solemnly processed up Third Avenue to St. Patrick's Cathedral in midtown Manhattan where they joined the thousands already gathered there for the ecumenical requiem service to launch the 80th



(Photo: Kvitka Semanyshyn)

anniversary of Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933.

An enormous bell led the procession, tolling at every New York City block in memory of those who perished. Following the bell were members of the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Church hierarchies, Ukrainian

government officials, Ukrainian American veterans, Ukrainian students, the leadership and members of numerous national and local Ukrainian organizations as well as some non-Ukrainian supporters. Many participants carried wreaths or placards, and some held candles, while students of

St. George Academy together with members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association and PLAST youth organization distributed Holodomor commemorative buttons to participants and hundreds of brochures

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National Observance of 80th Anniversary of the Holodomor

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about the Holodomor to passers-by.

The ecumenical service at St. Patrick's cathedral began at 1pm with a solemn procession of Holodomor survivors accompanied by children from local Ukrainian Saturday Schools and the New York Chapter of the Ukrainian American Youth Association. Accompanied by the melodious voices of the Dumka choir of New York, under the direction of Vasyl Hrychynsky, the three Holodomor survivors and numerous children, donned in native Ukrainian embroidered shirts and carrying a traditional Ukrainian funeral bread along with stalks of wheat, candles and flowers, proceeded up the main aisle of the Cathedral to the alter where they reverently placed their symbolic offerings in memory of the countless victims of this tragedy.

His Excellency Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford commenced the requiem service by welcoming the faithful and recounting the reasons we gather each year at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The Bishop reminded everyone that the Holodomor was an act of genocide

committed against the Ukrainian nation, which we must never forget, and we must continue telling the world so that such tragedies never occur again.

Following the Bishop's eloquent remarks in both the English and Ukrainian languages, the requiem service, con-celebrated by the hierarchies of the Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic Churches, with the participation of the Dumka Choir of New York, commenced. Together, the over three thousand faithful prayed for the repose of the souls of the millions of innocent victims of the Holodomor.

Following the requiem service, UCCA President, Tamara Olexy, commenced the commemorative program with the definition of Genocide as the deliberate and systematic destruction, in whole or in part, of an ethnic, racial, religious, or national group. Stating that in the 20th century alone, the world has witnessed this most heinous of crimes too many times..."Yet one of the greatest mass killings of the 20th century, the Holodomor of 1932-1933, which claimed 7-10 million lives, 3 million of which



Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Archbishop Antony, Bishop-emeritus Basil Losten. *(Photo: Kvitka Semanyshyn)*

were children, is still not widely known today or recognized by all as an act of Genocide against the Ukrainian nation." She underscored that the "truth about the Holodomor – the whole truth – MUST be revealed to the world" and that this has been the mission of the Ukrainian American community. In closing Ms. Olexy stated that "During this year-long 80th anniversary commemoration, let us have faith that the world will finally understand the true nature and sheer magnitude of the Holodomor and will recognize it for the genocide that it was. The great danger of any society is having the arrogance to think that we cannot repeat history. "

Following her remarks, Ms Olexy introduced the first program's first speaker, New York's Senior Senator. In thanking Senator Charles Schumer for his cooperative efforts with the Ukrainian American community in promoting the truth about Ukraine's Genocide, she invited him to the podium. Senator Schumer expressed his heartfelt sentiments stating, "We stand here together to remember the victims of the Ukrainian genocide of 1932-1933 and never we will forget their sacrifice in the face of a brutal dictator Josef Stalin. It is our testament to say that Stalin failed in his attempts to eradicate the Ukrainian nation as witnessed by our

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presence here today, the fact that Ukraine is an independent country today, and by the fact that a memorial will rise in Washington DC next year."

The next to speak was William Pope, Senior Advisor for Europe to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. Mr. Pope delivered a statement from the White House Press Secretary, which reads:

"At this time of commemoration, Americans join with the people of Ukraine and with Ukrainians around the world in remembering those who died in the tragic events of the "Holodomor" —or "death by hunger"—in 1932 and 1933. We honor the millions who lost their lives during this man-made catastrophe, in which Ukrainian farms and crops were seized in a deliberate attempt to break the will of the Ukrainian people. It is a tribute to the courage and resilience of the Ukrainian people that, even in the face of this unconscionable cruelty, they did not abandon their pursuit of dignity, universal rights, and sovereignty. The struggles of Ukrainians today to build a

democracy that upholds those enduring values honors their memory.

On this solemn occasion, as we remember and honor the victims of the Holodomor, we reiterate our call for universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and renew our commitment to preventing similar atrocities from ever happening again."

Prior to introducing the next speaker, Ms. Olexy read an excerpt from a letter received by New York's Mayor, Michael Bloomberg, which stated in part:

"It is an honor to send greetings to the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and all those gathered in commemoration of the 79th anniversary of Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933.

Today, as New Yorkers unite to remember the victims of the atrocious famine which claimed millions of lives, we also affirm our commitment to ensuring that such tragedies are never enacted again..."

H.E. Oleksandr Motsyk, Ukraine's Ambassador to

the United States then took to the podium to deliver brief remarks. Ambassador M o t s y k s p o k e about the Holodomor as one the great crimes against humanity, stating that "Unfortunately, for many years the Ukrainian people were denied the right to know their history and honor the memory of the victims of this cynical crime against humanity." But "...the Ukrainian State will do all its best to reveal the truth about the Holodomor to every last detail, and to honor [the] innocent victims of that crime." As part of this pledge, Ambassador Motsyk concluded his remarks asserting that the Holodomor memorial in Washington, DC will be erected next fall to culminate the 80th anniversary year, stating "I am convinced that due to joint efforts of the Ukrainian state and Ukrainian-American community, we will open this memorial, which would become the symbol of the immortality and courage of the Ukrainian nation, and facilitate the farther



(Photo: Kvitka Semanyshyn)

convergence of the Ukrainian and American peoples on the basis of shared values. This is our sacred duty and our responsibility for the future generations."

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. concluded the requiem service with a word of sincere gratitude to His Excellency Archbishop Timothy Dolan, for graciously allowing our community to commemorate the Holodomor at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The November 17th National Observance was co-sponsored by the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Genocide-Holodomor Awareness 1933-33 and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

<http://www.ucca.org>

The Head of the UGCC prays for the victims of Holodomor together with the Eastern Catholic bishops of Europe

25.11.12

Bishops from 14 European countries pray together for the healing of the wounds of the Ukrainian people, which resulted from the Genocide of 1932-1933, and also for the tragedies of a kind never to happen again.

The day before, Patriarch Sviatoslav, in an interview with the editorial "Nash Sobor", while answering the questions whether the wounds of the Ukrainian people managed to heal, he declared that when such an enormous human tragedy is kept in silence, there is no chance that the wounds will heal.

According to his viewpoint, this tragedy has left Ukrainian people with such

a deep wounds, that it will take a number of years to heal". "We should still come to the point, - says the Head of the Church, - when everyone, who denies the fact of the Genocide in Ukraine, starts to be considered both in our country as well as all around the world, as an accomplice or a person who justifies the crime - the crime to which no excuses can be found!".

The Primate maintains the opinion that the famine - it was the cheapest weapons of mass destruction, which did not take into consideration neither the age, not the gender or the class, "but was directed primarily against Ukrainians whose population dominated in those lands".

"Humanity today unequivocally condemned the crimes of the Nazi regime. Thus, the victims of Holocaust are honored to a certain extent by the very fact of recognition of the crime committed by their murderers. However, when we talk about the Genocide over Ukrainian people during the Great Famine of 1932-1933, this has not happened yet. It is even not the whole Ukrainian society that clearly perceives those events today. And unless the crime of the communist regime is unequivocally condemned by the world community, the victims of Holodomor will not be honored with dignity", - persuades the Head of the UGCC.

Patriarch Sviatoslav thanks God that days of remembrance of the victims of the Holodomor have become a tradition. "We already have Memorial to the victims of famines in Ukraine, to which the descendants of those families, who have suffered from Holodomor, may come and commemorate the ancestors who perished. However, I think that today we should take a step further – Ukrainians need not only the Museum of Holodomor, but also they require the research and development center in order to study Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide", emphasized Patriarch Sviatoslav.

UGCC Department of Information

Bishops of 14 European Countries Pray Together for Victims of Genocidal Holodomor

24 November 2012

The head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) Patriarch Sviatoslav (Shevchuk) prayed for the victims of the Genocidal Holodomor together with the Catholic bishops of the Eastern Rite in Zagreb (Croatia), where they had an annual meeting.

The bishops from 14 countries prayed for the healing of the wounds of the Ukrainian nation inflicted by the Genocide of 1932-1933 and against the reoccurrence of similar tragedies.

On the eve of the event, in answer to the question whether the wounds of Ukrainians have healed, Patriarch Sviatoslav stated in an interview to the

publication "Our Sobor" that when such a tremendous human tragedy is silenced, it is not conducive to healing the wounds.

"We still have to become mature enough for everyone, who denies the fact of the Genocide in Ukraine, to be considered both in Ukraine and worldwide as an accomplice or person

justifying this crime which cannot be justified!" said the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, reported the Information Department of UGCC.

<http://risu.org.ua>



Famine-Genocide (Holodomor) Commemoration

We live in blessed times. Most of us do not know what it is like to go to bed hungry. Prosperity abounds. Tragically, others are not always as fortunate. Indeed, in living memory, by the end of 1933, millions of people in Ukraine died from starvation, perhaps as many as one-quarter of the population.

On Sunday, November 18th, 2012, Assumption Catholic Parish commemorated the Holodomor, the famine-genocide in Ukraine orchestrated by Josef Stalin during the years 1932-33.

The morning Divine Liturgy was followed by a Panachyda, at which the pastor Rev. Ivan Turyk prayed for the victims of this horrible event and asked the Lord to prevent such an atrocity from ever happening again.



St. Nicholas the Wonderworker – December 6th

“Jesus went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. Looking at his disciples, he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.” (Lk. 6, 17-23)

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St. Nicholas the Wonderworker – December 6th

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Among the various feasts of the saints whose memory we commemorate during the church year, St. Nicholas merits special consideration. From earliest times our holy Father, St. Nicholas, enjoyed great veneration and universal respect among our people. Not a single home in our native land was without an icon of St. Nicholas and his icon is almost always seen among the icons on the iconostases in our churches. Our people venerate him as though he were a native saint.

We do not know very much about the life of St. Nicholas, and what we do know is somewhat embellished with various legends. We know for certain that St. Nicholas was a bishop for many years in Myra, a city in the province of Lycia, in Asia Minor; that he took part in the First Ecumenical Council in 325 in Nicea; and that he died around the year 345. His whole life was dedicated to works of mercy, both corporal and spiritual. Even during his lifetime he was called the father of orphans, widows, and the poor. After his death, the Lord glorified him with the gift of working miracles, for which he received the title

“Great Wonder-worker.” His celebrated miracles were the chief reason for the rapid spread of his cult.

The cult of St. Nicholas began to grow when the Emperor Justinian I (527-565) built a church in his honor in Constantinople. In the Jerusalem Canonarium of the seventh century, under the day of December 6, it stated “Commemoration of Nicholas, Bishop of a great city.” All the Greek menologies of the 9th century have his feast. Emperor Manuel Comnen (1143-1181) prescribed by civil legislation that the feast of St. Nicholas be celebrated on the 6th of December. From Byzantium his cult spread throughout the entire world. The oldest biography of St. Nicholas comes from the 9th century.

In the West, Pope Nicholas (858-867)-the first Pope bearing his name-erected a church in Rome in honor of St. Nicholas around the year 860. His cult was introduced into Germany by the princess Theophano, wife of Emperor Otto II (73-983). The Latin Church also celebrates the feast of St. Nicholas on December 6. In France and Germany over 2,000

churches are dedicated to his name; an additional 400 such churches are found in England.

The cult of St. Nicholas came to our native Ukraine along with the Christian faith. In the second half of the eleventh century, a church was built in Kiev in honor of St. Nicholas, over the grave of Askold. In Kiev there was a convent under the patronage of St. Nicholas, founded by the wife of Prince Iziaslav Sviatoslavych. The mother of St. Theodosius Pechersky received the monastic tonsure in that monastery. In our native land, there were numerous churches in honor of St. Nicholas. The Church of St. Nicholas in L'viv, which dates back to the 13th century, is one of the oldest.

A very significant factor which contributed to the spread of the cult of St. Nicholas especially in Italy and the West, as well as among our people, was the translation of the relics of St. Nicholas, from Myra in Lycia, Asia Minor, to the city of Bari in southern Italy toward the end of the eleventh century.

In the second half of the eleventh century, the Mohammedans occupied

Asia Minor and the city where the relics of St. Nicholas were preserved. The Italian merchants of Bari regarded St. Nicholas as a great saint and protector of seamen. While trading with Asia Minor, they decided they would steal the relics of St. Nicholas and carry them off to Italy. The stolen relics of the saint reached Bari on the 9th of May, 1087. As a result, great miracles began to take place immediately. For this reason, in 1089, Pope Urban II instituted the feast of the translation of the relics of St. Nicholas and ordered it to be celebrated on the 9th of May. Three years later a magnificent church was built there and his relics were deposited in it. The city of Bari became a great and famous place for pilgrimages.

Not long after the relics were transferred to Bari, the feast of the translation of the relics of St. Nicholas was also established on the 9th of May in Rus-Ukraine. Hence, our people speak of the cold and warm Nicholas. The institution of this feast has been ascribed to the Metropolitan of Pereyaslav, Ephrem. He is

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St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

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also said to have described the event of the translation of the relics and to have composed the service of the translation and an akathistos in honor of St. Nicholas.

In our Church, St. Nicholas not only has two separate

feasts in his honor, but every Thursday is also dedicated to his name. Like the church services of the two feasts, the weekly service is a faithful reflection of the cult of St. Nicholas in the Eastern Church and among our people.

Our Holy Father Nicholas gives us a beautiful example of a living, active, and sacrificial love of God and neighbor. His love of neighbor is universal, all-embracing, full of mercy and ready to assist in every necessity of soul and body.

St. Nicholas saw Jesus Christ in his neighbor and that is why he quickly and generously hastened to help him in every need.

(A Byzantine Rite Liturgical Year)



FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF ST. ANN - DECEMBER 9TH

The Lord said: "No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him." Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you." He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice." (Lk. 8, 16-21)

The Feast of the Conception of St. Ann is celebrated in the Eastern Church on December 9 and commemorates Saint Ann's miraculous conception of Mary, the Mother of God. In the Western Church this Feast became known as the Immaculate Conception and is celebrated on December 8.

The writings of the early Church tell us that Mary's

parents, Joachim and Ann, had lived devoutly in marriage for fifty years and had prayed earnestly for a child. The Lord God answered their prayers by allowing Ann to conceive a child who would be the mother of God's own Son, Jesus Christ.

The Ukrainian Catholic liturgical tradition venerates the Most Holy Mother of God as "All-Immaculate" and "Most

Immaculate". We say that she was immaculately conceived in the sense that, from the moment of her conception, she was free of all sin and had no propensity to sin. (Mankind's propensity to sin was one of the legacies of Adam and Eve's fall from grace.) The Western Church, on the other hand, defined the Virgin Mary's "Immaculate Conception" to say that she was, from the first moment of her

conception, preserved free from the "stain of original sin."

The difference between the Western and Eastern traditions in this regard lies precisely in the nature of Original Sin itself. The West follows St. Augustine's view that we inherit not only the effects of Original Sin (illness, pain, death, propensity to sin), but also the "stain" of the sin itself.

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FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF ST. ANN - DECEMBER 9TH

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The Eastern Church places its attention on the process by which God shares His divine nature with human beings. In choosing disobedience, Adam broke his union with God, making it impossible to fulfill his nature. This was the Original Sin: Adam's rejection of the only true life given to him by God. (It was only through Christ that humanity could be reunited with the Father.) The Eastern Fathers understood Original Sin only in terms of the inherited impact of this sin upon humanity. They

would see it as impossible for someone to inherit the actual stain or guilt of a sin committed by another, even if it was the forefather Adam.

We are therefore not born with any stain of a sin committed by someone else, but only with the effects of that sin. Adam's personal sin resulted in death for all his descendants, the experience of concupiscence and the propensity to be tempted and to sin. According to the faith of the Eastern

Church, the Mother of God never had any sin, original or actual, on her soul. The Church has always believed that Mary was preserved from original sin by a "singular grace and privilege" given her by God "in view of the merits of Jesus Christ" as Redeemer of the human race. Mary, like every other human being, needed the redemptive benefits of Christ; but, in anticipation of what God did for all through Christ, she alone was preserved from original sin "from the first moment of her

conception," and sanctifying grace was given to her before sin could have taken effect in her soul.

The Virgin Mary was always filled with every blessing and gift of the Holy Spirit in whose grace she certainly grew throughout her life. Though born without original sin, according to the view of the Eastern Fathers, she was not made exempt from the temporal penalties of Adam — from sorrow, bodily infirmities, and death.

Keeping Cool at St. Nicks

Two warm and sunny afternoons in late September turned out to be profitable days. With the permission of the principal, Sr. Eliane Ilnitski, S.S.M.I., the altar servers from St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Passaic, NJ held an ice pop sale. The one day sale turned into a two day one due to the extreme generosity of the participants. The boys raised \$114. The money was allocated to buy two oscillating fans for the church's altar. Although the church has air conditioning, at times the servers and priest cannot feel it especially when dressed in church vestments. The fans help to keep everyone cool and comfortable.



September was also the month that 5 younger boys from St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School began preparing for the privilege of serving at God's holy altar. They gave up their free time at recess in order to practice. On Friday, October 5, 2012, an induction ceremony for the commissioning of altar servers was celebrated by Fr. Andriy Dudkevych, pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Passaic, NJ. Upon the conclusion of this ceremony, the boys vested in their dalmatics, took their spots at the altar, and served the Divine Liturgy for the very first time. Fr. Andriy, Sr. Eliane, Mrs. Lecia Stec-Peltyszyn, altar servers' advisor, and the boys' parents and families are very proud of all the dedicated altar servers who continue to faithfully serve St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church.

METROPOLITAN STEFAN'S SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2012

December

- 2 50th Anniversary of Consecrated Life, Sister Josaphata, Missionary Sister of Mother of God, Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church, Perth Amboy, NJ.
- 4 Meeting of Consultors, Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.
- 5 Meeting of Archieparchial Finance Council.
- 9 Praznyk/Feast Day Celebration, Feast of the Conception of St. Ann, Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia, PA.
- 13 Pre-Feastday Celebration with Sisters of St. Basil the Great, Fox Chase, PA.
- 16 Ordination to minor orders of seminarian Walter Pasicznyk, St. Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church, Warrington, PA.
- 24, 25 Christmas Divine Liturgies, Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia, PA.
- 27 Clergy Family celebratory gathering on Feast of St. Stephen.
- 28 Feastday Celebration with Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate, Sloatsburg, NY.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2012

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN PHILADELPHIA, PA
INVITES ALL THE FAITHFUL TO CELEBRATE 50-TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BUILDING OF THE NEW CATHEDRAL AND THE PATRON FEAST DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10:00 AM - HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY
MAIN CELEBRANT: METROPOLITAN-ARCHBISHOP STEFAN SOROKA

RESPONSES BY MALE CHOIR "DZVIN"

DINNER AND FESTIVE PROGRAM FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY

Admissions for Dinner: Adult - \$15, children 4 - 12 years - \$7, up to 4 years - free

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830 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123
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Pastor: Fr. Ivan Demkiv

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Archeparchial Children's Choir



This is an invitation to:

What: Join a children's Choir for the Ukrainian
Archeeparchy of Philadelphia

Who: Children ages 9 - 12

Where: Sisters of St. Basil the Great Motherhouse
710 Fox Chase Road
Fox Chase Manor, PA 19046

Why: To learn Ukrainian Liturgical and
Ukrainian Folk Singing.

When: Every Saturday afternoon @ 3:00 p.m.

Highlights

- Learn to sing responses to the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.
- Learn traditional Ukrainian Christmas Carols.
- Learn traditional Ukrainian folk Songs.
- Enjoy meeting new friends as you learn Ukrainian.
- Share your love of music with friends, family and your Church community.

Register Below

Name: _____ Age _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

Parish: _____

Describe your location by landmark or area of town.

Contact person: Sister Joackima Dvernytska, OSBM
Telephone: 1-215-379-3998 Ext. 522
e-mail: D.anna77hotmail.com



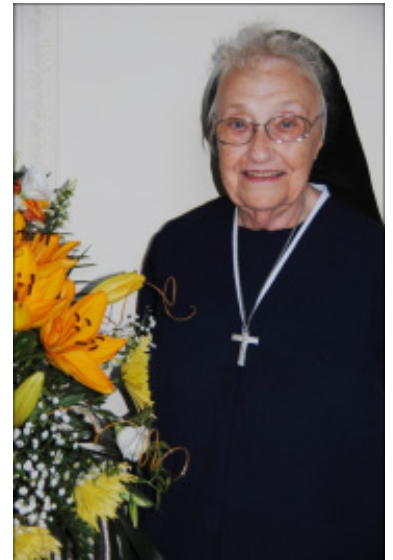
Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great



Called by Name - Vocation Article

Sister Thomas (Dorothea) Hrynewich, S.S.M.I. Joy, Peace & Love Found in Serving

The call to follow Our Lord, Jesus Christ is as complicated as it is simple. I came from a good Catholic family. I am the oldest of four children born, June 2, 1924, to Tessie and Michael Hrynewich. My grandparents (Theodore and Rosalie Kulczycki) and parents were very active in the parish and attended church services regularly, which meant that we children did also. We attended catechism lessons given by the parish priest, Reverend Kopachuk. When the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate arrived in our parish in 1940, their enormous impact on the parish and on my family was plainly seen.



I was a senior in Ambridge High when I had this thought of being close to God and serving others. The feeling of wanting to serve the church by teaching our Ukrainian people, of being close to Jesus and spend more time in prayer really bothered me. In order to get rid of this thought, (because I was having grand time with the "teenage gang" I was hanging out with), I prayed a number of novenas to rid myself of this thought. However, to no avail, the more I prayed against the thought, the stronger it got. Then, during a Great Fast mission given by Father Markiw, OSBM, I finally gave in and decided to belong to our Lord. Since my sister Irene and I were always at the convent helping the sisters, they thought we were interested in joining. One day Sister Lawrence said she was writing to the Provincial Superior in Canada and wondered if she could ask the Provincial Superior to accept us to the novitiate. I quickly answered, "Sure." My sister said, "No," and scolded me for not asking my mother first. At first, mother said I could not go. It was too far away, and she did not think I knew what I wanted. After much discussion and my constant crying at home, my mother finally gave in. I found out that the day before my announcing I was going to the convent, my dad made the remark that "God gave them such good children, if He wanted one he would give one of them to Him."

I entered the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate on June 21, 1942. After the blessing of the buildings and property in Sloatsburg, New York, I traveled 3,000 miles to Mundare, Alberta, Canada, with Sister Athanasia (one of the first seven girls to enter the Community). After two and a half years in the novitiate, I pronounced my first vows and was missioner to Detroit, Michigan. I then taught at St. Mary's Villa Academy in Sloatsburg, NY and St. Mary's Academy in Ancaster, Ontario, Canada. My studies took me to University of Detroit; Fordham University in New York; St. Paul's University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada; Regina Mundi in Rome, Italy and Catholic University of America in Washington. I spent six years in Rome, Italy, studying and in the General Curia. During the days of the "Iron Curtain," I was privileged to accompany our Superior General to Germany, Austria, Poland, Ukraine, and Russia to visit our Sisters there. (My Mother used to laugh and say that I joined to see the world!)

I returned to the United States as Provincial Superior, serving a five-year term. I was the Chancellor of the Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Archeparchy of Philadelphia for twenty-five years. My mission today has me in Minersville, PA, at St. Nicholas School as the Principal.

All this was great but, the joy, peace, and love that are found in the complete surrender to God and serving others as Our Lord Jesus did is the most satisfying.

<http://ssmi-us.org>

The Ukrainian Catholic Metropolia in USA ***under the spiritual guidance of*** ***Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka*** ***and the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of USA***

invite you to renew your spiritual and cultural roots in a Pilgrimage celebrating the "Year of Faith" and 1025 years of Christianity in Ukraine

UKRAINIAN FAITH & HERITAGE TOURS



Tour A: August 13 - 29, 2013. 17 days \$3500 Twin (land tour)

Kyiv, Poltava. Lviv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky, Iv. Frankivsk, Bukovel, Chernivtsi, Sanok, Peremyshl, Krakow. ***Special Highlights:*** Pilgrimage to Holy Resurrection Sobor in Kyiv and Mother of God Sobor in Zarvanytsia near Ternopil; Sorochynsky Yarmarok; Ukraine's Independence Day Celebrations in Lviv

Tour B: August 13 - 26, 2013. 14 days \$2850 Twin (land tour)

Kyiv, Poltava. Lviv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky, Iv. Frankivsk, Bukovel, Chernivtsi ***Special Highlights:*** Pilgrimage Holy Resurrection Sobor in Kyiv and Mother of God Sobor in Zarvanytsia near Ternopil; Sorochynsky Yarmarok; Ukraine's Independence Day Celebrations in Lviv

Tour C: August 14 - 22, 2013. 9 days \$2200 Twin (land tour)

Kyiv and Lviv: Includes Celebrations of the 1025th Anniversary of Christianity in Kyiv

Registration and deposit deadline is March 01, 2013

Organizer: **Zenia's Travel Club** LLC - **732-928-3792**

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While a 50th anniversary is quite an event for any family, the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption and Assumption Catholic School have special cause to celebrate. Sister Yosaphata Litvenczuk, MSMG, will commemorate fifty years of religious service at a 10:00 am Divine Liturgy on December 2nd. What makes this 50th Anniversary unique is that Sister has been in the same school and parish for all fifty years! Archbishop-Metropolitan Stefan Soroka will be the main celebrant at the Liturgy after which Sister will renew her religious vows.



Proceeding to a celebration luncheon and program, Sr. Yosaphata and attendees will walk down the same steps that Sister did fifty years earlier when Ukrainian Assumption School first opened. Among those paying tribute will be Archbishop Emeritus Stephen Sulyk, the pastor who opened the school fifty years ago. Students and teachers, both past and present, parishioners, and friends will be on hand to reminisce and rejoice. The school's glee club, junior drama, and chimmetteer groups will use their performing talents to honor and entertain Sr. Yosaphata.

From a village in Brazil to a 21st century parish school, Sister has successfully met and overcome many challenges. Having taught most grade levels, she has also been the school's librarian and art teacher. Currently she manages the school office including a tuition management program via computer. As vice-principal, Sr. Yosaphata's many duties include disciplinarian, counselor, and dispenser of band-aids. Through the years, her dedication has been vital in the Ukrainian Assumption community. And, even after all these years, Sister can still navigate the school's hallways faster than anyone else!

LUC Meeting – Sunday, December 2, 2012

North Anthracite Council – League of Ukrainian Catholics will hold a general meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2012 at 2:00pm at Konefal's Restaurant, 458 Main Street, Edwardsville. Main agenda item will be review of National Convention recently held in Wilkes-Barre. For additional information contact: Dorothy Jamula, President at 570 822-5354

SS Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, Pa will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary 1888-2013. In commemoration of the anniversary they are sponsoring a Fundraiser: "Favorite Recipes from our Best Cooks" Cookbooks. The Hardcover Set of Cookbooks (volume I & II) are \$25.00 (set) (compiled by the Sisterhood of St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Church) Single hardcover volume is \$15.00 each. Contact Lauren at 570-383-0319 or any of the committee members for the cookbooks. Add \$10.00 for USPS Mailing the hardcover set. Send check to St. Cyrils Church at 135 River Street, Olyphant, Pa 18447. Cookbooks can be mailed out until December 12th, in time for Christmas. Web sites: <http://www.stcyrils.maslar-online.com> E-mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor (570-489-2271)



Photo: SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA. 125th Anniversary Cook Book Fundraiser Committee: Left to right: Jeanie Stange, Glenda Marcinko, Lauren Telep, Julie Hunt, Rosemary Martynuk, Cheryl Matuszewski.

Patriarch Sviatoslav Stresses Priority of Ecumenical Dialogue

15 November 2012

Patriarch Sviatoslav of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) stated that the priority objective and main mission for his church is the ecumenical dialogue and that cooperation with the Orthodox Church is a necessity. The head of the UGCC expressed this opinion during a plenary session of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome, reported Radio Vatican.

"The main difficulty in building a fruitful dialogue with the Orthodox world in Ukraine is the fact of the painful division within Ukrainian Orthodoxy itself. In fact, there are three Orthodox communities in our country today."

The patriarch reminded that there are still unreconciled contradictions on the ecclesiological basis as each of the churches denies the right of existence of the other two. Only the U O C - M o s c o w Patriarchate is viewed by the Orthodox world as a "canonical church."

According to the hierarchy, the division of the Ukrainian Orthodoxy complicates the ecumenical dialogue, but the experience of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious

Organizations shows that the churches in Ukraine have learned to cooperate and settle the difficulties in a brotherly and peaceful way.

The Primate, in particular, stressed the progress in the relations between the UGCC and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate. However, he noted that the past misunderstandings can still be felt. He used the example of accusations being made by UOC-MP priests saying that Ukrainian Greek Catholics allegedly took away from them nearly 500 "Orthodox churches" in the 1990s. However, he stressed that the adherents of this theory for some reason do not take into account the fact that the mentioned churches were built by Greek Catholics and Roman Catholics and were passed to the UOC-MP only in the Soviet times.

According to Patriarch Sviatoslav, in order to plan new ways for reconciliation between the churches, to which UGCC has always been open, it is necessary to state the whole truth first.

"We are certain that we will be able find ways to

heel the wounds of the past by forgiving and asking for forgiveness... We are convinced that the way of reconciliation between the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and Russian Orthodox Church on the basis of

historic and pastoral realism is an effective way of renewal of the dialogue and formation of a new model of the ecumenical relations," stressed the Head of UGCC.

<http://risu.org.ua>

Patriarch Sviatoslav Presents UGCC Catechism at Meeting of Bishops in Zagreb

27 November 2012

During the meeting of Bishops of the Catholic Churches of the Eastern Rite in Zagreb on November 22-25, held on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the



Union of the Croatian Greek Catholic Church with Rome, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk presented to the participants the Catechism of the UGCC, "Christ is our Pascha."

According to the hierarchy, the catechism is aimed to help Ukrainian Greek Catholics to deepen the knowledge of the faith in Christ and to strengthen the faith, to protect and defend the Christian tradition of St. Volodymyr, testify to the connection between the Christian tradition of Kyiv and Catholic Christianity.

<http://risu.org.ua>

The Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption

NEW YEAR'S EVE

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Monday, December 31, 2012

8:00 PM. until ??

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After December 25 - \$85.00 per person

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Schedule of services at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for Christmas 2012

Monday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE.
9:00 p.m. Compline Lytia Service. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (UKR/ENG).

Tuesday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY.
9:00 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (UKR).
11.00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (ENG).



Wednesday, December 26 - SYNAXIS OF THEOTOKOS.
9.00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (UKR/ENG).

Thursday, December 27 - FEAST OF ST. STEFAN.
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (UKR/ENG).

Tuesday, January 1 – CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD.
FEAST OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT. NEW YEAR'S DAY.
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (UKR/ENG)

Saturday, January 5 - EVE OF THEOPHANY
4:30 p.m. Divine Liturgy. Blessing of Water (ENG).

Sunday, January 6 - THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD (JORDAN).
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy. Blessing of Water (UKR).
11.00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (ENG).

Monday, January 7 - CHRISTMAS (Julian Calendar)
10:00 a.m. Christmas' Divine Liturgy (UKR).

Sunday, January 13 – SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY
3 p.m. FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Christmas Bazaar

Базар РІЗДВЯНИЙ

DECEMBER 1-2, 2012

The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Old York & Valley Roads Elkins Park, PA

Saturday 10:00AM - 7:00PM Sunday 10:00AM - 2:00PM

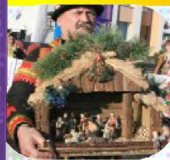
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- ◆ HOME-BAKED CAKES AND COOKIES
- ◆ UKRAINIAN TABLE: CDs, CHRISTMAS CARDS, EMBROIDERIES, CERAMICS
- ◆ FOOD COURT SERVING TRADITIONAL UKRAINIAN "PIEROGIES & HOLUBTSI"
- ◆ RAFFLE & REFRESHMENTS



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TASTE OF UKRAINE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
DECEMBER 8, 2012 11:00AM TO 5:00PM
DECEMBER 9, 2012 12:00PM TO 4:00PM



Ukrainian Decorated Christmas Ornaments



Tour of Church; which is modeled after the Hutzul design and the Ukrainian Gift Shop will be open to the public

Foods for sale



Sausage from New York

Holubtsi(Stuffed Cabbage)



Tortes(Cakes)



Varenyky (Perogies)



Borshch



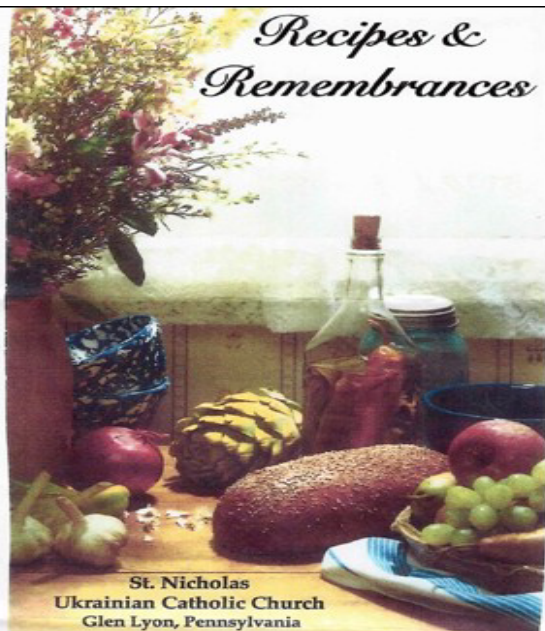
Cookies



Pastries



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