

THE WAY ШЛЯХ

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ENGLISH VERSION

HABEMUS PAPAM! We have a Pope! Маємо Папу!

CARDINAL JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO ELECTED POPE, TAKES FRANCIS AS NAME

Vatican City, 13 March 2013 (VIS) - Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J., has been elected as Supreme Pontiff, the 265th successor of Peter, and has chosen the name Francis. He is the first Latin American Pope, the first Jesuit Pope, and the first "Francis" in the pontificate.



HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

At 8:12pm—54 minutes after the appearance of the white "fumata" at 7:06pm—the Cardinal proto-deacon Jean-Louis Tauran made the solemn announcement to the people from the external Loggia of the Hall of Blessings of the Vatican Basilica.

Following are the words pronounced by Cardinal Tauran:

Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum; habemus Papam; Eminentissimum ac Reverendissimum Dominum, Dominum Georgium Mariam Sanctae Romanae Ecclesiae Cardinalem Bergoglio Qui sibi nomen imposuit Franciscum.

[I announce to you with great joy; We have a Pope; The most eminent and most reverend Lord

Lord Jorge Mario Cardinal of Holy Roman Church Bergoglio Who has taken the name Francis.]

Conclave Notes

The conclave that led to the election of Pope Francis began on Tuesday, 12 March 2013 in the Sistine Chapel of the Vatican Apostolic Palace, with the "Extra omnes" pronounced at

5:33pm by Msgr. Guido Marini, master of the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff, following the taking of the oath by the 115 cardinal electors.

The first black "fumata" took place at 7:42pm the same day.

On Wednesday, 13

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CARDINAL JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO ELECTED POPE

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March, there was black smoke at 11:40am.

On Wednesday, 13 March, there was white smoke at 7:06pm.

First "Urbi et Orbi" Blessing of the New Holy Father Francis

Before the new Pope appeared at the balcony, an honour guard of Swiss Guards in full military regalia and bearing the pontifical standard marched into the square and took their places under the Loggia followed by a representation of the various Italian armed forces that, since 1929, have paid homage to the Pope on important occasions as a sign of the reconciliation between the Holy See and the Italian State. The Holy See marching band accompanied the wait. As soon as they heard the name of the new pontiff, the crowd began to chant together: "Francesco, Francesco".

At 8:24pm, the Holy Father Francis, preceded by the Cross, appeared at the Loggia of the brightly lit Vatican Basilica. Before imparting the "Urbi et Orbi" ("to the city and the world) apostolic blessing, he

greeted the enormous crowd that had been gathering all afternoon in cold and rainy St. Peter's Square saying:

"Dear brothers and sisters,

Good evening. You know that the duty of the Conclave was to give Rome a bishop. It seems that my brother cardinals picked him from almost the ends of the earth. But here we are! I thank you for the warm welcome. The diocesan community of Rome has its bishop. Thank you! First and foremost I would like to say a prayer for our Bishop Emeritus Benedict XVI. Let us pray together for him, that the Lord bless him and the Virgin keep him."

After leading the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Gloria, Pope Francis again addressed the crowd saying:

"And now let us begin this journey, bishop and people, this journey of the Church of Rome, which is the one that leads all the churches in charity. A journey of fraternity, of trust between us. Let us always pray for one another. Let us pray for the world so that this might be a great brotherhood. I hope that this journey of the Church that we begin today, and in which my Cardinal Vicar here present will assist me, will be fruitful for the evangelization of this beautiful city."

"Now I would like to impart the blessing, but

first, first I ask a favour of you. Before the bishop blesses the people, I ask that you pray to the Lord that He bless me: the prayer of the people asking a blessing for their bishop. Let us pray in silence, this your prayer for me."

"Now I will impart the blessing to you and all the world, to all men and women of good will."

After imparting the apostolic blessing Pope Francis added: "Brothers and sisters, I take my leave. Thank you for your warm welcome. Pray for me and we will meet again soon. Tomorrow I'm going to pray to the Virgin that she will safeguard all of Rome. Good night and rest well."



POPE FRANCIS SURROUNDED BY CARDINALS WHO ELECTED HIM.

BIOGRAPHY: WHO IS JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO?

Vatican City, 13 March 2013 (VIS) – Following is the official biography, published on the occasion of the Conclave by the Holy See Press Office with the information provided by the cardinals themselves.

Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J.

Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J., Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Ordinary for Eastern-rite faithful in Argentina who lack an Ordinary of their own rite, was born on 17 December 1936 in Buenos Aires. He studied as and holds a degree as a chemical technician, but then chose the priesthood and entered the seminary of Villa Devoto. On 11 March 1958 he moved to the novitiate of the Company of Jesus where he finished studies in the humanities in Chile. In 1963, on returning to Buenos Aires, he obtained a degree in philosophy at the St. Joseph major seminary of San Miguel.

Between 1964 and 1965 he taught literature and psychology at the Immacolata College in Santa Fe and then in 1966 he taught the same subjects at the University of El Salvador, in Buenos Aires.

From 1967 to 1970 he studied theology at the St. Joseph major seminary of San Miguel where he obtained a degree. On 13 December 1969 he was ordained a priest. From 1970 to 1971 he completed the third probation at Alcala de Henares, Spain, and on 22 April 1973, pronounced his perpetual vows.

He was novice master at Villa Varilari in San Miguel from 1972 to 1973, where he also taught theology. On 31 July 1973 he was elected as Provincial for Argentina, a role he served as for six years.

From 1980 to 1986 he was rector of the Philosophical and Theological Faculty of San Miguel as well as pastor of the Patriarca San Jose parish in the Diocese of San Miguel. In March of 1986 he went to Germany to finish his doctoral thesis. The superiors then sent him to the University of El Salvador and then to Cordoba where he served as a confessor and spiritual director.

On 20 May 1992, John Paul II appointed him titular Bishop of Auca and Auxiliary of Buenos Aires, He received episcopal consecration in the Cathedral of Buenos Aires from Cardinal Antonio Quarracino, Apostolic Nunzio Ubaldo Calabresi, and Bishop Emilio Ognenovich. of Mercedes-Lujan on 27 June of that year.

On 3 June 1997 he was appointed Coadjutor Archbishop of Buenos Aires and succeeded Cardinal Antonio Quarracino on 28 February 1998.

He was Adjunct Relator General of the 10th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, October 2001.

He served as President of the Bishops' Conference of Argentina from 8 November 2005 until 8 November 2011.

He was created and proclaimed Cardinal by Blessed John Paul II in the consistory of 21 February 2001, of the Title of S. Roberto Bellarmino (St. Robert Bellarmine).

He was a member of: The Congregations for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments; for the Clergy; and for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life; the Pontifical Council for the Family; and the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.



METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA

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No. 227/2013 O

This Number Should be Prefixed to Your Reply

Office of the Metropolitan

Statement of Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia On the Election of His Holiness, Pope Francis

The hierarchy, clergy, religious and faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States of America joyfully greet the news of the election of His Holiness, Pope Francis as the 266th successor to the See of Peter. We praise and give thanks to Almighty God for the presence of the Holy Spirit in the conclave held in these recent days at The Vatican.

We are especially pleased to learn of the Holy Father's personal knowledge and experience with Eastern Catholics while ministering as Cardinal Archbishop in Argentina. As members of the largest Eastern Catholic Church in union with Rome, we look forward to Pope Francis' continued close relationship with Eastern Catholics throughout the world, and particularly in the United States of America and in our native Ukraine. The vision of the Catholic Church breathing with two lungs, both East and West, advocated by Blessed Pope John Paul II will undoubtedly be fostered by the Holy Father.

The hierarchy, clergy, religious and faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States of America pledge our love and our loyalty to the new Holy Father. We pray that His Holiness, Pope Francis will be blessed with a long and blessed life as he fulfills the awesome responsibilities entrusted to Peter and his successors by Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Many blessed and happy years to our Holy Father!

**+Most Reverend Stefan Soroka
Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States
Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians**

March 13, 2013

Pastoral Message for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Mother of God

To the Reverend Clergy, Religious and Our God-loving Faithful: Peace in the Lord and our Archbishopal Blessing!

And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. . . . (Jn 1:14)

“Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.” How many times throughout our lives have we prayed these familiar words? We may remember being taught this prayer by our mother, as a child kneeling before our bed at night. Or perhaps it was on the lap of our Baba as she shared her faith with us and echoed the words that the angel Gabriel proclaimed to a young virgin named Mary over two thousand years ago. *And coming to her, he said, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you (Lk 1:28).*

On March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Mother of God, our church celebrates the beginning of the journey of Almighty God as a human being in the world He created. Jesus Christ becomes incarnate in the womb of Mary through the power of the Holy

Spirit. *And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. . . . (Jn 1:14).* Imagine the emotions this young woman experienced. Alone, facing an uncertain future, she placed her complete trust in the Lord. Her “yes” should become our “yes” to the will of God. Her life should be a source of inspiration and encouragement to all of us.

When Mary proclaimed *“I am the handmaid of the Lord May it be done to me according to your word,” (Lk 1:38)* she became the representative of the whole human race through whom God would become man.

The incarnation of Almighty God was necessary for the salvation of humankind. In the Epistle to the Hebrews we read *“Now since the children share in blood and flesh, he likewise shared in them, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil. . . . therefore, he had to become like his brothers in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God*



Icon: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Melrose Park, PA

to expiate the sins of the people.” (Heb. 2:15, 17)

Today, we rejoice, for today the Divine plan for our salvation begins with the Annunciation of God’s Word to Mary.

From this feast, we also learn a basic truth of human existence. Human life begins at conception. Each of

us began our human journey in the womb of our mother. It is a fact of life, that a child once conceived, will naturally mature to birth when he or she will no longer need the sanctuary of a mother’s womb.

That all human life begins at conception is not only a teaching

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Pastoral Message for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Mother of God

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of the Church but it is also a known reality from human experience.

This reality is beautifully expressed in the word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah the prophet: *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you."* (Jer. 1:5)

And in our Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, we hear this truth expressed in the Commemoration

prayer after the invocation of the Holy Spirit upon the Gifts: *"O God, Who know the age and name of each, Who know each from their mother's womb."*

Sadly, in our present day and age, we often hear distortions of human reality to deny that human life begins at conception. These false and erroneous teachings have become part of our culture and

wrongly accepted by many in our society.

As people of faith, may this Feast of the Annunciation become our pro-life feast day and may we always defend and nurture as sacred all human life from the moment of conception, recalling another verse our mothers and Babas taught us *"Blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus."*

May the grace of our

Lord Jesus Christ and the maternal protection of the Most Holy Mother of God always be with you and your families.

+Most Reverend Stefan Soroka

Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians, Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States

March 2013

Holy Thursday "Washing of the Feet" ceremony to be held in Olyphant, PA

The Most Rev. Stefan Soroka, the Metropolitan-Archbishop of Philadelphia of the Ukrainian Catholic Church will be visiting the parish of SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, Pa (135 River Street). The Archbishop Soroka will be celebrating the Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at St. Cyril's on Holy Thursday, March 28th at 10:30 a.m. During the Divine Liturgy, the Archbishop will bless the Chrism which is used during the administration of the Holy Mysteries of Chrismation (Confirmation). Also, the ceremony of the "Washing of the Feet" will take place. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information please contact Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor (570-489-2271) Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary (1888-2013) in October 2013. Website: www.stcyrils.maslar-online.com



Metropolitan Soroka washes Msgr. Myron Grabowsky's feet during 2012 Service in Frackville, PA.

Consul General of Ukraine in New York visits Metropolitan Stefan

Mr. Igor Sybiga, the recently appointed Consul General of Ukraine in New York took the initiative to visit with Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka in Philadelphia. He was accompanied by the Vice Consul, Mr. Kostyantyn Vorona. The luncheon visit held in the Archbishop's Residence allowed for an informal discussion of many topics of interest to Ukrainians in the United States of America and for Ukraine. The Consul General was particularly interested in the celebrations of the 1025th anniversary of baptism of Ukraine, and the common celebrations planned by the Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA. The visit concluded with a visit to the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and a tour of the "Treasury of Faith" Ukrainian Catholic Museum. The genuine interest and fraternal love shown by the Consul General, Mr. Igor Sybiga, and the Vice Consul, Mr. Kostyantyn Vorona, was appreciated by Metropolitan Stefan Soroka. Such bonds of genuine fraternity assist to develop a positive culture of Ukrainian life in the USA, and strengthen bonds with our beloved Ukraine.



Pictured (l to r): Mr. Igor Sybiga, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, and Mr. Kostyantyn Vorona at the Chancery in Philadelphia on March 1, 2013.

Schedule of Upcoming Exhibit for Replica of Shroud of Turin

The Replica of the Shroud of Turin is on display at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Wilmington, DE from March 10-22, 2013.

Please visit St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church website for more information
<http://www.st-nicholas-church.org>

After Wilmington, DE, the Replica of the Shroud of Turin will be on exhibition:

March 24–April 6, 2013: Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Bristol, PA (215-788-7117)

April 7–21, 2013: St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church, Jenkintown, PA (215-576-5827)



Photo: Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan, Director of Evangelization at the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, speaks about the Shroud at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Wilmington, DE on March 10, 2013. <https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasUkrainianChurch>



The Saturday of Lazarus - March 23, 2013

The joy that permeates and enlightens the service of Lazarus Saturday stresses one major theme: the forthcoming victory of Christ over Hades. "Hades" is the Biblical term for Death and its universal power, for inescapable darkness that swallows all life and with its shadow poisons the whole world. But now — with Lazarus' resurrection — "death begins to tremble." A decisive duel between Life and Death begins giving us the key to the entire liturgical mystery of Pascha. Already in the fourth century Lazarus' Saturday was called the "announcement of Pascha." For, indeed, it announces and anticipates the wonderful light and peace of the next — The Great — Saturday, the day of life-giving Tomb.

Lazarus, the friend of Jesus, personifies the whole of mankind and also each man, as Bethany — the home of Lazarus, — stands for the whole world — the home of man. For each man was created as a friend of God and was called to this friendship: the knowledge of God, the communion with Him, the sharing of life with Him: "in Him was Life and the Life was the light of men" (John 1:4). And yet this Friend, whom Jesus loves, whom He has created in love, is destroyed, annihilated by a power which God has not created: death. In His own world, the fruit of His love, wisdom and beauty, God encounters a power that destroys His work and annihilates His design. The world is but lamentation and sorrow, complaint and revolt. How is this possible? How did this happen? These are the questions implied in John's slow and detailed narrative of Jesus' progression towards the grave of His friend. And once there, Jesus wept, says the Gospel (John 11:35). Why did He weep if He knew that moments later He would call Lazarus back to life? Byzantine hymnographers fail to grasp the true meaning of these tears. "As man Thou weepst, and as God Thou raisest the one in the grave..." They arrange the actions of Christ according to His two natures: the Divine and the human. But the Orthodox Church teaches that all the actions of Christ are both Divine and human, are actions of the one and same person, the Incarnate Son of God. He who weeps is not only man but also God, and He who calls Lazarus out of the grave is not God alone but also man. And He weeps because He contemplates the miserable state of the world, created by God, and the miserable state of man, the king of creation... "It stinketh," say the Jews trying to prevent Jesus from approaching the corpse, and this "it stinketh" can be applied to the whole of creation. God is Life and He called the man into this Divine reality of life and "he stinketh." At the grave of Lazarus Jesus encounters Death — the power of sin and destruction, of hatred and despair. He meets the enemy of God. And we who follow Him are now introduced into the very heart of this hour of Jesus, the hour, which He so often mentioned. The forthcoming darkness of the Cross, its necessity, its universal meaning, all this is given in the shortest verse of the Gospel — "and Jesus wept."

We understand now that it is because He wept, i.e., loved His friend Lazarus and had pity on him, that He had the power of restoring life to him. The power of Resurrection is not a Divine "power in itself," but the power of love, or rather, love as power. God is Love, and it is love that creates life; it is love that weeps at the grave and it is, therefore, love that restores life... This is the meaning of these Divine tears. They are tears of love and, therefore, in them is the power of life. Love, which is the foundation of life and its source, is at work again recreating, redeeming, restoring the darkened life of man: "Lazarus, come forth!" And this is why Lazarus Saturday is the real beginning of both: the Cross, as the supreme sacrifice of love, and the Common Resurrection, as the ultimate triumph of love.

"Christ — the Joy, Truth, Light and the Life of all and the resurrection of the world, in His love appeared to those on earth and was the image of Resurrection, granting to all Divine forgiveness."

Archpriest Alexander Schmemmann 1961

MARCH 17, 2013

8

THE WAY

Opening of Our Mission in Lancaster

On a beautiful yet chilly Sunday afternoon of February 24, 2013, a Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom was celebrated for the first time at St. John Neumann Roman Catholic Church in Lancaster, to mark the opening of our Ukrainian Catholic mission in the area.

In his initial remarks before celebrating the Liturgy, Fr. Andriy Rabyi shared a story about a young woman who came to his parish church one day. "A few years ago, a young woman came to our parish bazaar and asked me if she could possibly go upstairs and see our church. 'Most certainly', I replied to her delight. So I went and showed her the church. And this was the moment when I noticed how her demeanor changed once she was there. She blessed herself, said a short prayer, and then she started to walk along the walls of the church, look at the Stations of the Cross on the wall, touch every pew, and she started to cry... 'You know I was baptized and raised in this church. As a child I loved it so much, and I missed it very much when our family had to move away. So, this is my first time in so many years that I am back here. And nothing really changed, everything is as I remembered'. And I thought to myself, 'She came home... again'. And this might be true for many of you who came to the Liturgy this afternoon – to revisit your spiritual 'home' again – the services, traditions and customs – you grew up and familiar with, but could not do so because of the distance, unavailability or other reasons. And this mission is started here for this very reason. Also, we will have our 'home' open to anyone who wants to learn about our Byzantine and Ukrainian traditions, experience the worship in an Eastern Catholic Church and how it is same and different. As there are many differences, there are many things that we share and they are very essential to being 'Catholic' in a true sense of the word – our belief in the Lord,



teachings and tradition of the Church, partaking of the Sacraments and being all united with the Holy Father, the bishop of Rome and successor of the Apostle Peter. And now, I invite you to join me in prayer of the Divine Liturgy..."

All of about 80 people in attendance participated actively in singing responses in English

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Opening of Our Mission in Lancaster

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and Ukrainian led by Debbie Marco, Debbie Kazmierczak and Milan Dinich.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Fr. Andriy invited all to come on Sundays, March 10 and 24, and mentioned that the services will be celebrated regularly and every Sunday starting on Sunday after Easter. Many received the announcement with

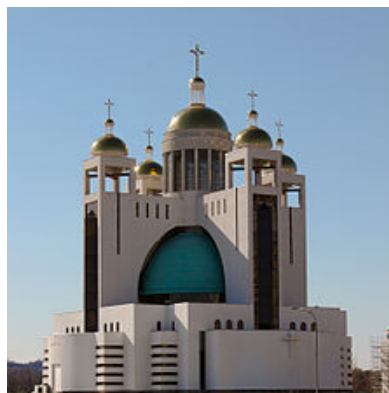
delight and gratitude. "We will see you again in two weeks, Fr. Andriy", they said upon leaving the church.

Our mission in Lancaster is off to an excellent start thanks to much effort, support and especially prayers of all our faithful, priests and Archbishop Stefan when they heard about founding of a new mission. A special and heartfelt "thank you" and

deep appreciation are extended to the pastor of St. John Neumann church, Msgr. Richard Youtz and his faithful assistant pastor, Rev. Michael Letteer for allowing us to use their church for services and assistance to a successful organization of the mission.

The mission is located at St. John Neumann Roman Catholic church (601 East

Delp Road, Lancaster). The Divine Liturgies will be celebrated at 1:30PM on March 24 (Palm Sunday) and every Sunday starting on April 7. If you would like to follow the news from our mission, please visit our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/>



Tours to Ukraine for the blessing in Kyiv of the **Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ**

*Under the spiritual guidance of Metropolitan Archbishop
Stefan Soroka and the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of USA*

Tour A: August 13 - 29, 2013 17 days \$3500 Twin (land tour) + \$1285 (airfare)

Kyiv, Poltava, Lviv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky, Iv. Frankivsk, Bukovel, Chernivtsi, Sanok, Peremyshl, Krakow.
Special Highlights: Blessing of the Patriarchal Cathedral and concert in Kyiv; Sorochynsky Yarmarok (Poltava); Zarvanytsia (Ternopil) and Ukraine's Independence Day Celebrations in Lviv

Tour B: August 13 - 26, 2013 14 days \$2850 Twin (land tour) + \$1385 (airfare)

Kyiv, Poltava, Lviv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky, Iv. Frankivsk, Bukovel, Chernivtsi **Special Highlights:** Blessing of the Patriarchal Cathedral and concert in Kyiv; Sorochynsky Yarmarok (Poltava); Zarvanytsia (Ternopil) and Ukraine's Independence Day Celebrations in Lviv

Tour C: August 14 - 25, 2013 12 days \$1750 Twin (land tour)

Kyiv and Lviv: **Special Highlights:** Blessing of the Patriarchal Cathedral and concert in Kyiv + Zarvanytsia

Registration and deposit deadline April 15, 2013

Zenia's Travel Club LLC 732-928-3792 ztc@earthlink.net Fax: 732-730-5792
Scope Travel Inc. www.scopetravel.com 973-378-8998 scope@scopetravel.com

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt March 17, 2013

St. Mary of Egypt was a desert ascetic who repented of a life of prostitution. She lived during the sixth century, and passed away in a remarkable manner in 522. The Church celebrates her feast day on the day of her repose, April 1; additionally, she is commemorated on the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, the fifth Sunday in Great Lent.

She began her life as a young woman who followed the passions of the body, running away from her parents at age twelve for Alexandria. There she lived as a harlot for seventeen years, refusing money from the men that she copulated with, instead living by begging and spinning flax.

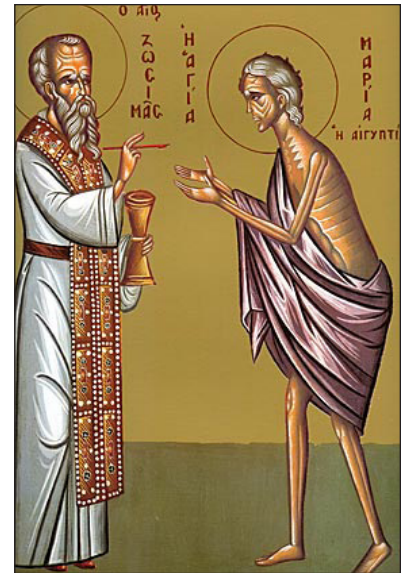
One day, however, she met a group of young men heading toward the sea to sail to Jerusalem for the veneration of the Holy Cross. Mary went along for the ride, seducing the men as they traveled for the fun of it. But when the group reached Jerusalem and actually went towards the church, Mary was prohibited from entering by an unseen force. After three such attempts, she remained outside on the church patio, where she looked up and saw an icon of the Theotokos. She began to weep and prayed with all her might that the Theotokos might allow her to see the True Cross; afterwards, she promised, she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Theotokos may lead her.

After this heart-felt conversion at the doors of the church, she fled into the desert to live as an ascetic. She survived for years on only three loaves of bread and thereafter on scarce herbs of the land. For another seventeen years, Mary was tormented by “wild beasts—mad desires and passions.” After these years of temptation, however, she overcame the passions and was led by the Theotokos in all things.

Following 47 years in solitude, she met the priest St. Zosima in the desert, who pleaded with her to tell him of her life. She recounted her story with great humility while also demonstrating her gift of clairvoyance; she knew who Zosima was and his life story despite never having met him before. Finally, she asked Zosima to meet her again the following year at sunset on Holy Thursday by the banks of the Jordan.

Zosima did exactly this, though he began to doubt his experience as the sun began to go that night. Then Mary appeared on the opposite side of the Jordan; crossing herself, she miraculously walked across the water and met Zosima. When he attempted to bow, she rebuked him, saying that as a priest he was far superior, and furthermore, he was holding the Holy Mysteries. Mary then received communion and walked back across the Jordan after giving Zosima instructions about his monastery and that he should return to where they first met exactly a year later. When he did so, he found Mary’s body with a message written on the sand asking him for burial and revealing that she had died immediately after receiving the Holy Mysteries the year before (and thus had been miraculously transported to the spot where she now lay). So Zosima, amazed, began to dig, but soon tired; then a lion approached and began to help him, that is, after Zosima had recovered from his fear of the creature. Thus St. Mary of Egypt was buried. Zosima returned to the monastery, told all he had seen, and improved the faults of the monks and abbot there. He died at almost a hundred years old in the same monastery.

Later, the story of Mary’s life was written down by St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.



Forgiveness Vespers at St. Nicholas Parish, Passaic

Forgiveness Vespers is the traditional preparation for the Great Fast for Ukrainian Catholics. On Sunday, February 10th, Fr. Andriy Dudkevych, pastor at St. Nicholas, Fr. Roman Mirchuk, homilist, Fr. George Worschak, Fr. Ivan Turyk, Fr. Vasyl Vladyka, and Fr. Jody Baron of St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church, as well as religious and the faithful from surrounding parishes gathered together in prayer to prepare their hearts for reconciliation with God and neighbor.



In his homily, Fr. Roman spoke of forgiving and forgetting - the letting go of old anger and hurts.

“What would it be like,” he asked, “if God forgave but did not forget? There would be no one in heaven!” Old anger and hurts prevent us from growing as Christians and from renewing ourselves in God.

Praying our Lord’s Prayer daily reminds us that we ask God to forgive us our trespasses, as we in turn, are to forgive others who trespass against us. During Vespers we offer up to the Lord this burden of hurt, anger and pain for His forgiveness. In turn, we exchange peace and reconciliation with one another and open our hearts to His love.



Following the service, all adjourned to the church hall to share a meager meal together, and knowing that the next day we would begin the 40 day journey to the most glorious feast day, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Photo at left (l to r): Fr. Jody Baron, Fr. Vasyl Vladyka, Fr. Andriy Dudkevych, Fr. Roman Mirchuk, Fr. Ivan Turyk, Fr. George Worschak.

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER ALIVE AGAIN IN READING, PA!

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Reading, PA once again has an Apostleship of Prayer chapter! The chapter was originally established in 1931, but has not been active for several decades. Pastor Father Andriy Rabyi inducted 18 members into the chapter on March 2, 2013. There are also several other new members awaiting their official induction.

The Apostleship of Prayer is a worldwide Catholic organization that was instituted to have its members pray for the salvation of all people and for the intentions of the Holy Father. The Apostleship also helps its members strengthen their own spiritual lives. The members dedicate themselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and show great devotion to Our Blessed Mother. Blessed Pope John Paul II once said that the Apostleship of Prayer is “a precious treasure from the Pope’s heart and the Heart of Christ.”

In addition to the members’ daily individual prayers, the Reading church’s Apostleship will also lead the parish in public prayer and will perform charitable works in the parish community in accordance with the Corporal Works of Mercy.

The Apostleship held its first meeting on March 9, 2013, where the first order of business was to elect officers to help organize the group. Debbie Marco was elected president and Stephanie Hodawanec was named secretary. Anyone at the Reading parish who would like to join this chapter of the Apostleship of Prayer should contact Father Andriy or one of the officers.



“Sing Praise to the Lord, You Faithful, Give Thanks to God’s Holy Name.” (ps. 30.5)

St. Michael’s Ukrainian Catholic Church of Pottstown, PA is doing just that. This past December, St. Michael’s Pastor, Rev. Mykola Ivanov, along with many eager parishioners, formed a new choir.

The last official choir was established in 1948 and was directed by Professor Martyniuk, who came from the Bridgeport parish. Many of the current choir members’ grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles were members of the original choir. With the help and guidance of their dedicated Pastor Fr. Mykola, the choir and congregation continue to celebrate traditional liturgical services and beautiful hymns of our Ukrainian Catholic faith.

St. Michael’s continues to flourish. In addition to its many parishioners, they have been blessed with five new families that have joined the church within the past several months.

May God Grant Fr. Mykola, the choir, and all of St. Michael’s faithful and hardworking parishioners “Many Years”!



One in Spirit Basilian Associate Program

“One in Spirit” is a Basilian Associate Program that offers adult Christians of varied circumstances the shared experience of coming together and engaging in the spirit and mission of the Basilian Sisters for a mutually enriching relationship. Associates are committed to a life of prayer that includes devoting time daily to Scripture reading, meditation, spiritual reading and/or Psalm recitation, frequent participation in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and Liturgical services in the local parish churches, praying the divine Office during group gatherings, and joining the local Basilian community in Liturgical Worship and Days of Prayer. They are encouraged to use their gifts and talents in service to their parish ministries, to Basilian ministries, and to all people in need. To accomplish these activities Associates are urged to pursue continuing education and other growth activities in addition to the enrichment agenda offered through the Basilian Associate Program.

A commitment is made for one year. At the end of each year, under the direction of the Associate Directors Sister Rita Stremba and Sister Germaine Senita, Associates evaluate their experiences and may choose to renew membership. Once this decision is made, a recommitment ceremony takes place where the Sisters and the Associates renew their commitment one to the other. The most recent of these recommitment programs took place during Vespers on February 26, 2013 in the Holy Trinity Chapel at the Basilian Motherhouse. Mary Quinn, Danuta Sawicky, Joseph Notarfrancesco, Kathy Notarfrancesco, Helen Reiche, and Nancy Claflin renewed their commitment for one year.

Provincial, Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, congratulated the Associates on their dedication and continued desire to be of service to the Church, to the Basilian Community and to one another. She specifically thanked them for their participation and involvement at the Pilgrimage to the Mother of God, their presence and assistance at the various events sponsored by the Basilian Spirituality Center, their contribution to the celebration of the centennial year, their assistance with the community Facebook page, attendance and help with Women’s Day, volunteering to enhance the motherhouse grounds, and the to be established Basil’s Bargain Center, and the notable and numerous ways they bring to life their commitment to be “One in Spirit”.



Photo Caption:

Front Row L-R:

Sister Rita Stremba, OSBM, Joseph Notarfrancesco, Kathy Notarfrancesco, Nancy Claflin

Back Row L-R:

Sister Germaine Senita, OSBM, Mary Quinn, Danuta Sawicky



THE
FASHION SHOW

St. Stephens' presents

*Fashions by Karen's Boutique of Spring Lake
Buffet lunch and basket raffles*

fashion show

April 20, 2013 at Noon

***Join for this unique fundraising event, which will benefit the
St. Stephen Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toms River, NJ!
St. Stephen's parish is in the process of building a new church
and all proceeds from the Fashion Show
will go into the New Church Building Fund.***

\$25 per person

RSVP - 732-928-3792 - by April 13th

***St. Stephen's Church Hall, 1344 White Oak Bottom Rd.,
Toms River, NJ 08755***

Easter Bazaar to be held in Reading, PA

EASTER BAZAAR is almost here! On Saturday, March 23, we will have our Easter Bazaar from 12 to 4PM! We invite and welcome everyone to come and pick up our incredible delicious pyrohy (pierogies), bread, rolls, holubtsi, pastries, soups, crafts, raffles, and a lot more. And everything was prepared according to the old and time proven recipes, with lots of love and care! Come over and invite your friends. You will find us at 630 Laurel Street in Reading. In case you have questions, please call us 610.376.0586. No pre-orders - we have enough and plenty!

Saint Basil Academy's Honors Physics Class Holds Bridge-Building Competition

Jenkintown, PA – On March 1 of this year, the Saint Basil Academy Honors Physics Class, taught by Mrs. Kimberly Naucodie, competed in a bridge-building competition for the building of the strongest bridge constructed out of popsicle sticks.

Mrs. Naucodie, who has been teaching at Saint Basil Academy for six years and is also a mechanical engineer, created this competition to resemble other bridge-building competitions held in area schools. The bridge had to be built to specifications, including dimensions, maximum weight, volume, and use of non-toxic glue. The bridge was to span from 24 inches to 36 inches.

Six teams of Saint Basil Academy students participated. First Place winners were the team of Kiersten Barbieri, Chissy Dacri, and Maeve Kenny, whose bridge supported a grand total of 125 pounds! Second Place went to the team of Maura Angiolillo, Colleen Martin and Valerie Santangelo, with a bridge holding a total of 36 pounds. Following very closely behind were

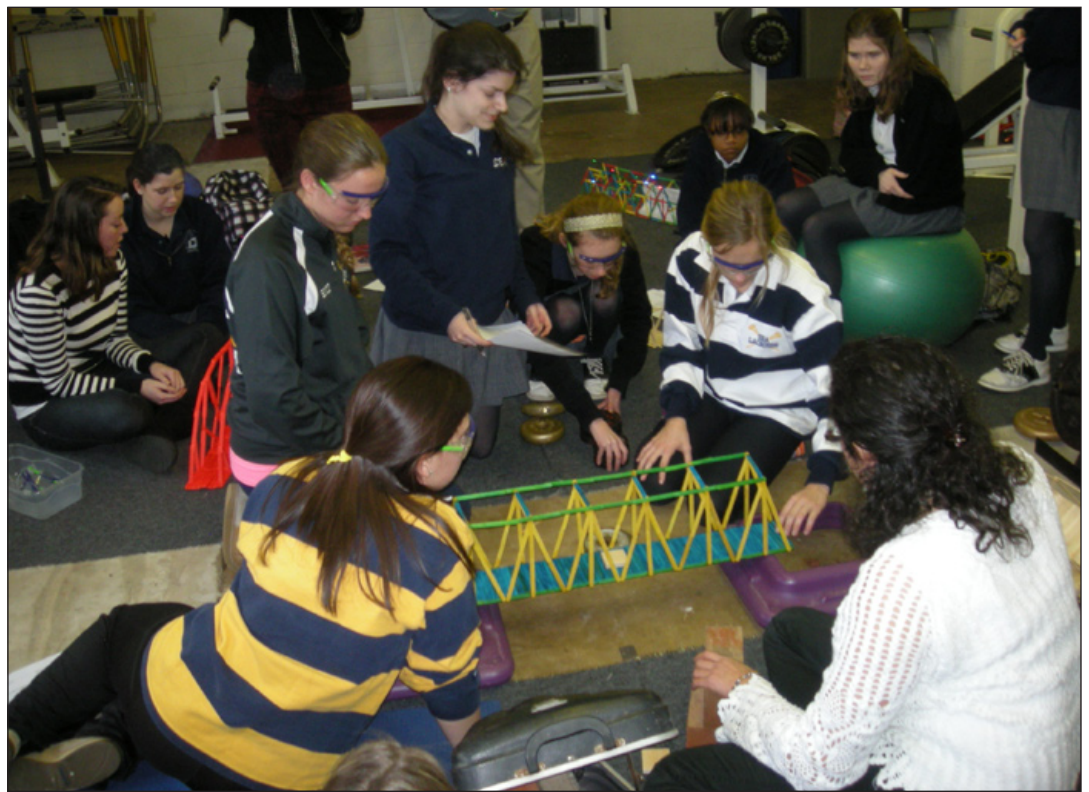
Third Place winners Maggie Shotzbarger, Jess Stefanowicz and Mallory Tadley with a bridge supporting 35 pounds.

Other teams included Maria Cipolla and Emily McCloskey, Maureen Burnside and Lauren Smith, and Caitlin Buttari, Molly Kennedy and Jenn Locke.

Mrs. Naucodie congratulated her students, and commented that they have "set the bar very high for next year."



1st Place Winners Kiersten Barbieri, Maeve Kenny and Chrissy Dacri



SBA's Honors Physics analyzing the weight supports of their bridges.

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No cost.

**This Retreat is for any young women who wants to
follow Jesus closer however she is being called...**

Take Action: HHS Mandate Violates Religious Liberty

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) and the Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association (PCHA) have sent a joint letter to Catholic colleges, universities and religious orders in the state urging them to submit comments to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Congress and the White House in protest of the mandate that violates our religious liberty. The PCC also asked its Catholic Advocacy Network to submit comments; you can become a member by visiting www.pacatholic.org and clicking on "Take Action: HHS Mandate"

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Affordable Care Act, continues to demand coverage of sterilization, contraception and abortion-causing drugs as women's preventative services. Religious ministries of service - such as charities, schools, health care facilities and institutions of higher education - are given, at best, second-class status under the law in the form of a still-murky "accommodation."

As it stands the HHS mandate ignores our nation's foundational freedoms of conscience and religion. The Church and its ministries have been told that we can call ourselves Catholic; we just can't act like we are. The mission of all religious employers is threatened by these regulations, so every Catholic organization and individual should consider submitting comments to HHS, the White House and Congress. A unified response will send a clear message that we will not abandon our religious freedom.

Congress is currently considering legislation that would address this issue and HHS is holding an open comment period about its mandate until April 8, 2013. Your comments are needed. Even if you submitted comments in the past, you should do so again. Click on this link and forward this message to your family and friends <<http://www.votervoice.net/groups/PACC/advocacy/?IssueID=30694&AdminPreview=True&SiteID=-1>> and visit www.pacatholic.org for more information.

Joelle Shea
Director of Outreach
Pennsylvania Catholic Conference
223 North Street, PO Box 2835
Harrisburg, PA 17105
717-238-9613
www.pacatholic.org



COMMUNIQUE

UWC President promotes Ukraine's Euro-integration during Belgium visit

The EU-Ukraine Association Agreement is of great strategic importance to Europe, Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora, whose interests are represented by the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC). Its signing will undoubtedly provide a strong stimulus to democracy and social progress in Ukraine. Alternatively, Ukraine will drift further into the Russian sphere of influence, significantly undermining Ukraine's sovereignty, cause further deterioration of its human rights record and pose the threat of a

new Soviet Union.

This was the strong message delivered by UWC President Eugene Czolij to high-ranking European Union (EU) officials during a five-day working visit to Brussels, Belgium from 25 February – 1 March 2013. The visit, which coincided with the 16th EU-Ukraine Summit on 25 February, included meetings with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), including Vice Presidents of the European Parliament (EP) Rainer Wieland and Miguel

Martinez, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Elmar Brok, former President of the EP Jerzy Buzek, President of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats Hannes Swoboda, Co-Chair of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance Rebecca Harms and Vice-Chair of the EP Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee Viliija Blinkeviciute.

Members of the European Parliament reaffirm commitment to Ukraine

The 16th EU-Ukraine Summit concluded with a joint statement that clearly set out the critical path for the EU and Ukraine to sign the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement later this year at the Third Summit of the Eastern Partnership in Vilnius, Lithuania. The EU demonstrated its commitment to signing the document with concrete actions. The onus is now on Ukraine's governing authorities to similarly demonstrate

their commitment by taking concrete steps in addressing the issues prioritized by the EU. This includes necessary reforms of the legal and judicial systems, adherence to the principles of democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the elimination of selective justice. Ukraine's governing authorities must demonstrate movement on these issues no later than May 2013.

German MEP Elmar Brok, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, stated that "the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement would only be signed if Ukraine's authorities comply with such questions as selective justice (including against leaders of the opposition), judicial reform and electoral law set out by the EU."

Over the course of five days, the UWC President met with 18 MEPs from Austria, Estonia, Germany,

(continued on next page)



From left: Vice President of the European Parliament Rainer Wieland and UWC President Eugene Czolij

UWC President promotes Ukraine's Euro-integration during Belgium visit

(continued from previous page)

Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia and Spain, who expressed support for Ukraine's European aspirations, but emphasized the importance of Ukraine's authorities showing their will to move ahead with reforms.

Eugene Czolij stressed that the decision to sign the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement should be made, not on the basis of the actions of Ukraine's current governing authorities, but rather, according to the long term best interests of Europe, Ukraine and regional security, stability and prosperity.

Estonian MEP Kristiina Ojuland, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, concurred with the UWC position that the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement should be evaluated on the basis of its long-term strategic importance.

Eugene Czolij emphasized the need to engage civil society in the advancement of Euro-integration goals. This concept was supported by Austrian MEP Hannes

Swoboda, President of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. He expressed the readiness to involve the views of the UWC in future debates on the European level.

Also very supportive of this issue was German MEP Rebecca Harms, Co-Chair of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance and Member of the EP Delegation to the EU Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee. She confirmed that, "engaging civil society is critical to furthering the process of Euro integration."

Lithuanian MEPs Vilija Blinkeviciute, Vice-Chair of the EP Delegation to the EU Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, Algirdas Saudargas and Justas Paleckis assured the UWC President that, during Lithuania's presidency of the EU, Lithuania will work toward the goal of signing the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in Vilnius in November 2013.

They also agreed that civil society has an important

(continued on next page)



From left: UWC President Eugene Czolij and Elmar Brok, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, European Parliament



UWC President Eugene Czolij with Rebecca Harms, Co-Chair of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

UWC President promotes Ukraine's Euro-integration during Belgium visit

(continued from previous page)

role to play in furthering Ukraine's European aspirations. As a result, on the request of UWC President Eugene Czolij, they indicated that they would look into ways of involving Ukrainian NGOs in the Third Summit of the Eastern Partnership scheduled for 28-29 November 2013.

Another priority issue was visa liberalisation. The UWC has repeatedly called for the EU to adopt a visa free regime for the citizens of Ukraine in order to foster travel by Ukrainians to Europe, enhance ties between Europe and the Ukrainian people, and promote Ukraine's Euro-integration.

In meeting with the UWC President, German MEP Michael Gahler of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) expressed his support for easing visa requirements for Ukrainian citizens travelling to EU countries. He confirmed, "I believe that visa liberalisation for Ukrainian citizens will broaden the knowledge of what Europe is all about and what Ukraine's

future should preferably be."

Belgian officials acknowledge Ukraine's European aspirations

Eugene Czolij met with the President of the Senate of Belgium, Sabine de Bethune, the Chair of the Belgium Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group, Senator Rik Daems, and Member of Parliament and Member of the Belgium-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group Georges Dallemagne. The parties discussed the recent EU-Ukraine Summit and the will of both the EU and Ukraine to remain engaged on the basis of respect for common values. The Belgian officials recognized the importance of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and acknowledged their support of Ukraine's Euro-integration process.

Ukraine's governing authorities must act immediately

Eugene Czolij also met with the Head of Ukraine's Mission to

the EU, Ambassador Kostiantyn Yelisieiev. The UWC President focused on the importance of Ukraine's authorities demonstrating their commitment to European values with concrete actions and called upon them to end the selective application of justice. He also emphasized that failure to act immediately will compromise the signing of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and that Ukraine's governing authorities will have to answer for this to the Ukrainian people.

UWC President meets with local community

UWC President met the local Ukrainian community on 1 March 2013 at the centre of the Association of Ukrainians in Belgium. Eugene Czolij spoke about the activities of the UWC, with particular emphasis on the current campaign in support of Ukraine's Euro-integration. He also highlighted the need for continued cooperation with the UWC and familiarized himself with Ukrainian community life. The meetings with Belgian officials and

the community were organized by the President of the Association of Ukrainians in Belgium, Vitali Vengrynovych.

Note:

A list of individuals with whom UWC President Eugene Czolij met during his Brussels visit, as well as photos, are posted on the UWC web site.

The UWC is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has member organizations in 33 countries and ties with Ukrainians in 14 additional countries. Founded in 1967 as a non-profit corporation, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status.

Photos:

http://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/photo_album.php/photo_album_id/164/lang/en

30th Annual PYSANKA WORKSHOP
& EASTER BAZAAR

Sunday, March 17th, 2013



PYSANKA WORKSHOP: 2 pm - 5 pm (Registration 1 pm - 2 pm)

Learn to decorate Easter Eggs the traditional Ukrainian way. Detailed A/V presentation, personalized instruction, materials & supplies included.

Workshop Fee: Adults: \$20 | Children under 12: \$12

BUFFET LUNCHEON "Traditional Ukrainian": 11 a.m. until the food is gone.

EASTER BAZAAR: 11 am - 4 pm. Traditional Ukrainian arts and crafts, pysanka kits, how-to books, videos, traditional foods & baked goods, smoked meats: kovbasa (smoked sausage), kabanos, bochok (rib bacon), pashtet (liver pate), poliadvytisia (lean Canadian bacon).

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE

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(across from the Catholic University of America)

<http://www.ucns-holyfamily.org> or call Parish (202) 526-3737

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St. Mary's Spring Fling & Svyachene Dinner Dance

Sunday, April 21, 2013

1 PM until 5 PM

\$25.00 per person

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Featuring

"DENNY'O AND HIS POLKA BAND"



Includes: Full Ukrainian luncheon, set ups, beverages and desserts.
And of course good food, good company, toe tapping dancing pleasure, and fun!

For ticket information please call Joan Kravchak at 215-946-1214 or Linda Buchanan 215-945-6661

His Beatitude Sviatoslav during the funeral of Bishop Yulian – from the Diocese Sambir-Drohobych: “Bishop Yulian, we thank you for all the years of prayer, service and suffering”

With these words on March 5th, in the chapel in the yard of the *Sviato Uspenska Univska Lavra* [monastery] His Beatitude Sviatoslav bid farewell to the first bishop of Sambir-Drohobych Eparchy and the Father Superior of the Studite Order, Bishop Yulian (Voronovsky).

On that day UGCC Head celebrated a Memorial Liturgy for the soul of the late hierarch. Concelebrants were: Bishop Yaroslav (Pryriz), Sambir–Drohobych Eparch, Bishop Bohdan (Dziurakh), UGCC Synod of Bishops Secretary; Bishop Joseph (Milan), Auxiliary Bishop of Kyiv Archeparchy; Bishop Taras (Senkiv), Apostolic Administrator of Stryi Eparchy; Bishop Leon (Malyi), Auxiliary Bishop of the Lviv Archdiocese of the Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine. Some 200 priests and several thousand faithful came to Univ to accompany their spiritual father with prayers on his final trip. The liturgy was attended by Petro Kolodiy, Head of the Lviv Region Council, accompanied by some deputies, according to the Sambir-Drohobych Eparchy Press Service

“The life of His Grace was the life of a committed

and caring shepherd who gives his life for his sheep,” emphasized Bishop Yaroslav in his sermon. According to the bishop’s words, Bishop Yulian was always a good shepherd: he did not fear and run away from those who wanted to destroy Christ’s herd. The fact that he became a priest, and moreover, a bishop in the midst of the realities of the underground existence and the ongoing persecution of that period, already testified to his readiness to sacrifice everything for Christ and his Church, even his own life (view: full sermon).

At the end of the Divine Liturgy his Beatitude Sviatoslav thanked all the faithful who took part in the funeral services. In the name of the whole church, UGCC Head thanked Bishop Yaroslav, the current Sambir-Drohobych Eparch for his many years of dedicated service to Bishop Yulian by fulfilling the duties of auxiliary-bishop, then becoming his successor on the bishop’s throne. With him he could share all his joys and sorrows, all his pains and victories.

His Beatitude thanked all the clergy, monastic orders and faithful of the Sambir-

Drohobych Eparchy who collaborated with the hierarch to develop the eparchy and helped to bear the cross of the hierarch’s service during the establishment of this young church structure. UGCC Primate also thanked the rectorate and seminarians of Drohobych Spiritual Seminary for their service and love which they daily expressed to the departed. He also thanked the physicians who attended to his health. Finally UGCC Head underlined the service of Christian charity and love expressed by fathers and brothers of the Studite Order as well as the sisters Studites from the Holy Intercession Monastery.

Hierarch Teodor (Martyniak), Father Superior of the *Sviato-Uspenska Lavra* noted that during the five days of funeral services all had a chance to experience recollections since the hierarch “silently spoke to us the words of eternal life.” “Today to all, in the name of Bishop Yulian, one wants to say one word which he so often said in his life: “Thank you!” Today the bishop is embracing and kissing all of us, as he often did, saying “My child!” added the superior of the monastery where



+Bishop Yulian

Bishop Yulian spent the last part of his life.

During the farewell at the cemetery on *Chernecha Hora* [Hill of Monks] Bishop Joseph (Milan) became tearful as he spoke right before the internment. “We often are lost in our own issues: thoughts, honors, positions, ambitions, hierarchy; we spend so much useless efforts in proving to someone that we are worth something in this world,” said Bishop Joseph. “He managed to walk through life on a path of the perfect center between himself and God.” According to the speaker, Bishop Yulian did all that was possible for his Church and his people, thus becoming a real priest-servant as exemplified by Christ.

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

Bishops of the UGCC Against Political Manipulation of Volyn Tragedy

11 March 2013

The Synod of Bishops of the Kyiv and Halych Major Archbishopric of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) in an address to the faithful and all people of good will on the 70th anniversary of the Volyn tragedy called for an end to the political manipulation of the dramatic pages of history and to mutual forgiveness by the Ukrainian and Polish nations.

The bishops worry that “politically driven manipulation of the circumstances of this tragedy and the fanatical intransigence of hearts of isolated individuals or groups can only ignite the dwindling fire of ethnic hatred.”

The appeal states that historians still have much work to find out all the circumstances and details of the terrible course of the Polish-Ukrainian conflict and bloodshed, their bitter consequences, and to establish the names of those who suffered.

“The fratricide of 1942-1943 in Volyn requires first and foremost a Christian evaluation ... From a Christian point of view, the policies aimed at depriving Ukrainians the right to self-determination on their land and armed violence against the Polish population in Volyn are condemnable,” read the message.

The bishops stressed that the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church wants to “continue to work on the reconciliation of the two fraternal peoples – Polish and Ukrainian – for mutual forgiveness in the name of justice.” The document’s authors support the call of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations, mentioned in its Declaration “Knowledge of the Past - the Way to the Future” from October 3, 2012, which states that religious and ethnic conflict should be resisted.

“And we must do this as a testament of good examples of cooperation, mutual understanding and support between people of different nations and religions, and for the study, reflection, and spread of the truth about the past,” reads the address, which was disseminated by the Information Department of the UGCC .

The Volyn tragedy was the mutual ethnic cleansing of Ukrainian and Polish populations carried out by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the Polish Home Army with the participation of Polish battalions of the Schutzmannschaft and Soviet partisans in 1943 during World War II in Volyn.

It is part of the large-scale Polish-Ukrainian interethnic conflict of the 1940s. There are different versions of events in Volyn, which resulted in the death of tens of thousands of Poles and thousands of Ukrainians. In Poland, the quite powerful right-winged Kresowy movement uses the events of the 1940s to depict Ukrainians as cutthroats and instigators.

Recently in Lublin, Polish historians discussed the Volyn tragedy without the participation of Ukrainians. The director of the Institute of National Remembrance in Poland unilaterally places the blame for the Ukrainian-Polish ethnic conflict of the 1940s on the Ukrainians, calling the tragedy a “massacre” and “genocide.”

<http://risu.org.ua>

Patriarch Sviatoslav: Newly elected Pope knows Ukrainian Catholic Church, its Liturgy and Spirituality

13 March 2013

RISU correspondent in Rome Oksana Shkodziska took the commentary of Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk about newly elected Pope Francis.

"I would first like to say that the newly elected Pope Francis was mentored by one of our priests, Stepan Chmil who is now buried in the basilica of St. Sophia in Rome. Today's Pope, during his time as a student of the Salesian school, awoke many hours before his classmates to concelebrate at our Divine Liturgy with Fr. Stepan. He knows our Tradition very well, as well as our Liturgy.



The last time I had an opportunity to see him was as I was preparing to leave Argentina for Ukraine. I asked him to bear witness to the process of beatifying Fr. Stepan Chmil, to which, he gladly agreed. The Holy Father very well knows not only of our Church, but also our liturgy, our rites, and our spirituality.

Apart from this, Pope Francis, as archbishop of Buenos Aires, was assigned as ordinary for Eastern Catholics, specifically those who at the time did not have members of their own hierarchy. Our Eparchy in Argentina is, let's say, suffragan to the Archbishop's seat of Buenos Aires. In this way, Cardinal Bergoglio, always took care of our Church in Argentina; and as a young bishop, I took my first steps in episcopal ministry under his watchful eyes and help. Because of this, I am positive that the Holy Father will be a great help to our Church, and I expect that great things await our Church with this Pope.

In regards to the personality of the new Holy Father - he is an incredibly modest person. For example, as archbishop of Buenos Aires, he never relied on his own automobile, rather relying on public transportation, always in simple clothing. He mostly stands out in his enormous care for the less-fortunate, visiting the most impoverished neighborhoods. He is a person, I would say, of great pastoral foundation.

As a Jesuit, Pope Francis is an incredibly deep intellectual. I can attest to the fact that his homilies are quite short, sometimes no longer than five or six sentences, but he manages to fill them with such deep meaning, always leaving the faithful in silent contemplation upwards of five-to-seven minutes". (Translation by Julian Hayda)

<http://risu.org.ua/ua>

Ukrainian Woman from Lviv Region Sews Cassocks for New Pope

5 March 2013

Halyna Barshchovska of Horodok in the Lviv Oblast is one of the best tailors of an Italian tailors' shop in Rome. This is where new cassocks for the pope and cardinals are sewn, Religion in Ukraine reports.

Co-owner of the studio, Lorenzo Gammarelli, never regretted that he hired Halyna, because she, he says, is extremely hardworking. In 12 hours the tailor must sew a cassock and for this gets paid almost a thousand euros a month. For Rome it's not much, but the woman does not plan to return to Ukraine.

Halyna sewed clothes for Pope John Paul II, who had a special request for the cut. Benedict XVI, according to her, never requested anything particular for his clothes. "For the pontiff's cassock and cape wool fabric with silk lining is used," said the tailor.

In the studio three different sized Papal cassocks were prepared, in case the pope was a small, medium, or larger-sized man. Traditionally, the conclave cannot convene if the Vatican does not have three new cassocks.

Adapted from the article on <http://risu.org.ua>



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