

# THE WAY ШЛЯХ

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ENGLISH VERSION

## Axios! Rev. Roman Sverdan

(Photo: T. Siwak)

Amidst the joyous exclamation of "Axios!" (He is Worthy!) by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, and to the acclamation of "Axios! Axios! Axios!" from the congregation, Rev. Roman Sverdan began his journey as a minister to the flock of Jesus Christ!

The ordination of Rev. Roman Sverdan by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan was held at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, PA, on June 23, 2013.

The entire clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia offer our joyous wishes and greetings to Rev. Roman Sverdan as he continues his journey of service to our Lord and to all of our people.

Na Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!



**Newly ordained Rev. Roman Sverdan poses for a picture with Carlo Santa Teresa (Seminarist at Diocese of Camden) and Kairo Chorne (Seminarist at St. Josaphat Seminary, Washington, DC.)**

**See photos and videos from Rev. Roman Sverdan's Ordination on our Blog and Facebook page.**

[www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com](http://www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Archeparchy-of-Philadelphia/197564070297001>

# Metropolitan - Archbishop Stefan Soroka's Homily at the Ordination of Roman Sverdjan to the Priesthood

(Photos: T. Siwak)

June 23, 2013

+ C.I.X.!

I recently heard a story of a man who went out for a walk in the woods. He met a holy monk who is part of a community of wandering monks. Those monks understand that the whole world is their home, the sky is their roof, and God will look after them.

When the man met the monk, he told him of a dream he had the previous night. He dreamt that God said to him, "Tomorrow you will meet a holy monk who will give you a precious stone, and you will become a rich man".

The monk reached into his sack and then gave the man a large precious stone. The man could

not believe it. It was the largest diamond he had ever seen or even heard of. The monk then said, "I found this in the forest. You are welcome to it. He gave it to the man and then walked away.

The man took the diamond home filled with excitement. He sat with it and enjoyed it all day. He did a lot of thinking. When evening came, the man got up, walked out into the woods where the monk was and gave him back the diamond. The man said to the monk, "Instead of this, I want something else from you that will make me even richer".

The monk asked in amazement, "What is it you want?"

The man answered, "I want you to give me the



**Archbishop Stefan lays his hand upon the head of Deacon Roman Sverdjan in the apostolic tradition and says the prayer of Priestly Ordination.**

treasure that makes it possible for you to give this diamond away".

My brother clergy, religious sisters, and faithful people – thank you for gathering today in this holy Church dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God for the occasion of the ordination to the holy priesthood of Rev. Deacon Roman Sverdjan. We come to celebrate

the precious treasure revealed to us so richly by the Mother of God, by the holy apostles, by the holy martyrs, and by the holy martyr Saint Roman under whose patronage our newly ordained priest began his earthly life with the Sacraments of Initiation. We are witnessing Roman Sverdjan celebrating his free choice to set aside personal preferences.

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**Deacon Roman proclaims the Gospel as a deacon for the final time.**

JUNE 30, 2013



# Metropolitan - Archbishop Stefan Soroka's Homily at the Ordination of Roman Sverdian to the Priesthood

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We are witnessing the grace of God descending upon Roman in his surrender to be the spiritual shepherd who follows in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

A young energetic man filled with hope comes to this new land from his motherland Ukraine. He quickly settles himself in the heart of a parish community, the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Brunswick. The pastor and the good people welcome the young Roman into their midst warmly. Roman is so appreciative of their welcoming that in the following years, he could not do enough charitable work for the benefit of the parish. Yet, there is something even more special apparent in this young man, something different from so many others. Roman was often found in the church praying, long hours of closeness with the Lord Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother. He found great strength from steadfast prayer. Roman bounced with joy and enthusiasm as he spoke of his faith in Jesus and His Blessed Mother.

The pastor of the parish, Fr. Andriy Rabi, himself a newly ordained priest at the time, offered support and encouragement to the struggling Roman. Roman had tremendous doubts about his ability to study, especially given his very limited abilities in the English language at that time. It became apparent to many that Roman possessed a precious treasure, a special grace, an inner calling to let go and follow Jesus Christ. It was not an easy journey for Roman. One time he came to me and begged me to send him to a monastery where he could live a holy life of prayer, because he felt that he could not learn the English language well enough. We all kept gently encouraging him. We all could see that Roman was destined to serve God as His priest. He already was rich in the precious ability to let go of material things to seek heavenly things. His life spoke loudly of the value of trusting in God through prayer and service. We needed to help Roman to realize that God was working through him, and to allow for God to form him in His image.

Our Roman is a genuinely spiritual man. He is a man of prayer. He is a man filled with hope. Roman is optimistic. He is positive in his outlook and does not give in to despair and negativism. We all admire his cheerful and joyful disposition in life. Roman is always ready to help others, taking initiative to reach out to people with needs. All of us gathered in this holy Cathedral today can see that Roman possesses the precious treasure which so many seek.

Pope Francis recently spoke of how a heart regenerated by God, can create a new world. He encouraged us to covet a heart 'of flesh' that loves, suffers, and rejoices with others; a heart filled with tenderness of those who feel themselves to be on the outskirts of society. Pope Francis stated that love is the greatest force for transforming reality because it breaks down the walls of selfishness. He invited "all disciples of Jesus not to be wrapped up in ourselves but to be open to others in order to help them, in order to bring them to Christ".

This is who all of us are

called to be. Our newly ordained Fr. Roman is called to help people to come to recognize the treasure which gives eternal life in Jesus Christ. I am confident that he will do it with zeal and enthusiasm, guided by the Holy Spirit. His regenerated heart, filled with love for Jesus Christ and for the Blessed Mother will be a challenge to each of us to renew our faith. Fr. Roman's enthusiasm for prayer will hopefully be infectious amidst the clergy, religious, and amidst all of the faithful he will be called to serve as a priest. Let each of us embrace the special message and blessings that God wants to reveal to each of us through Fr. Roman's ministry. Let us always offer words of encouragement to him. Let us pray for him as Fr. Roman prays for us.

We heard Jesus' words in today's Gospel, "I am the good shepherd...My sheep listen to my voice, I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never die...What my Father has given me is greater than everything". Our newly ordained

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# Metropolitan - Archbishop Stefan Soroka's Homily at the Ordination of Roman Sverdan to the Priesthood

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(Photo: T. Siwak)

priest candidate, Roman Sverdan, has developed a very intimate relationship of prayer and trust with Jesus Christ. Roman knows and listens to His voice, and he follows Jesus Christ. Roman LOVES the Lord! He reveals this deep LOVE in his steadfast prayer, and in his constantly inviting others to come to know the Good Shepherd. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis recently spoke of the consequences of a priest or a bishop loving the Lord. He said "it is giving everything – absolutely everything, even up to our very lives – for him". Pope Francis advised that this is something which must be continually nourished. If we are not vigilant, the shepherd becomes "lukewarm, distracted, forgetful, and even impatient". Not nourishing one's love for the Lord can make a cleric "lazy, transforming him into a functionary, a cleric more worried about self, about organization and structures than the true good of the People of God. It runs the risk of denying the Lord, like the Apostle Peter did".

The entire Archeparchy, the hierarchy, clergy,

religious sisters, and the faithful share in the responsibilities of nurturing the newly ordained priest throughout his years of priesthood. We share in that joyful responsibility of ensuring Fr. Roman's vibrancy in his love for the Lord and for His Church. It means being positive and encouraging in our words and in the many ways we can reach out of ourselves to nurture him. It means being silent and coveting the art of listening to his inner voices. Sometimes, all that is needed are people who are willing to really and sincerely listen to someone. I also believe that our Heavenly Father has a special message for each of us to be shared with us through the newly ordained. There may be something special we need to hear – a whisper from the Lord. Being truly attentive can result in receiving a special gift of growth from our Lord through His newly ordained priest. This may especially be true for his brother priests and for his archbishop! Our newly ordained may reveal something to us of the eternal gifts, similar to what the monk in the



**Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka helps vest newly ordained Rev. Roman Sverdan.**

woods did in the story I told at the beginning of the homily.

I have a deep conviction that our newly ordained priest's life of prayer will be constantly renewed. Why? How? Through his steadfast reaching out and trust in prayer to the Mother of God. Fr. Roman's steadfast prayerful walking with the Mother of God will keep his priesthood life-giving for him and for those he endeavors to serve. As long as Fr. Roman surrenders his will in prayer to the Mother of God, he will grow in humility and in the grace of the holy priesthood which he receives today. Today is a very special day in a long journey

of preparation for ordination to the holy priesthood. Today, our Deacon Roman Sverdan receives a crown on his already daily abandonment to God's will. He is allowing the holiness that the Church confers through the Holy Mystery of Ordination to emerge. You will recall Jesus' words, "Whoever loses their life for my sake will save it". Deacon Roman Sverdan is allowing himself to be fully led by the Holy Spirit. Laying my hands humbly on Roman's head, we will ask God to fill him with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, so that he may stand worthily and blamelessly before God's altar, preach the Gospel

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# Metropolitan - Archbishop Stefan Soroka's Homily at the Ordination of Roman Sverdian to the Priesthood

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of God's Kingdom, sanctify the Word of God's truth, offer the spiritual sacrifices, and renew His people in the path of rebirth. These are awesome gifts of the Holy Spirit conferred on the newly ordained priest.

The journey of preparation was long and challenging. It was also immensely gifted with dedicated people who offered much support, instruction, guidance and spiritual direction. We are immensely grateful to the Rector and Formation Staff of the Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut. Fr. Douglas Mosey, the Rector, has honored us with his participation today, and a number of people from the seminary, and some of Fr. Roman's peers are present today. We thank you for your tremendous life-giving formative efforts with



Roman. You have taken a diamond-in-the-rough so to speak, and have polished it with prayerful vigor, enthusiasm, with holiness and with much dedication. The result is readily apparent in the young priest candidate that we are privileged to ordain this day. We are very thankful for the exceptional formation provided at Holy Apostles Seminary.

Many of our clergy exercised significant influence on Fr. Roman's journey of preparation,

among them those who generously received him during the summer months for pastoral experience; also the Rector of our St. Josaphat Seminary, Fr. Robert Hitchens and the Spiritual Director, Fr. Vasyl Kharuk, and the current Vocations Director, Fr. Paul Makar. We are grateful for the prayerful direction you provided and the time and efforts you dedicated so generously for Roman's formation.

In a very special way, I want to acknowledge

and thank the efforts of Fr. Andriy Rabyi, our present Vice-Chancellor. Fr. Rabyi was a newly ordained pastor of the parish where Roman lived, helped and prayed. Fr. Rabyi offered steadfast counsel to Roman in helping him to come to recognize his vocation and to take the courageous steps to respond. Thank you Fr. Rabyi for your steadfast guidance and support you have offered and will continue to offer our newly ordained priest Roman. Let me say that if there is anyone here today considering a vocation to serve our Lord as His priest or as a religious Sister, please just ask to speak with someone. Our Archeparchy is gifted with many good and caring

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# Metropolitan - Archbishop Stefan Soroka's Homily at the Ordination of Roman Sverdian to the Priesthood

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souls who will patiently listen and advise you in your discernment of your vocation, with no pressure!

The presence of so many of our priests today attests to the strong bond of fraternity which is enjoyed amidst our priests. Thank you for extending yourself this afternoon, sacrificing additional travel and efforts to honor our newly ordained. Thank you to our Reverend Religious Sisters present with us this day. Thank you, Reverend Sisters, for enriching this occasion with your powerful and prayerful presence, and for your many acts of nurture for our newly ordained throughout his years of formation.

Fr. Roman values and celebrates his very special family relationship he has with extended family in Ukraine and here in the United States of America. Particularly, he is very close with his niece, Irene and nephew, Alex, who have enjoyed a very supportive relationship together. It is very important to have family nearby, as it is a great source of nurture to all of us as human

beings. God wants us to celebrate family with those whom He gives us to love and to journey with in life.

We are grateful to the participation of those who



have lifted our prayers in beautiful singing and leading the responses. Rev. Paul Wolensky and Mrs. Lisa Oprysk are a choir to themselves in their giftedness in talent and voice. Thank you also to those who have joined them to assist today. We are also grateful to all who have assisted this day, our Rector of our Cathedral, Very Rev. Ivan Demkiv, the concelebrating priests and deacons, the

assistance offered by our Sub-Deacon Roman Oprysk, the seminarians, and the altar servers. We are also very grateful to all who have assisted in the many preparations for this special day, in

the preparations at the Cathedral and for the testimonial banquet which will follow in our Cathedral Hall.

Most importantly, I want to thank all of the faithful who have gathered today in this magnificent Cathedral. Thank you for the love you have for our newly ordained priest Fr. Roman Sverdian, and for all of our priests. Thank you for the love and support you reveal

to them steadfastly throughout the year. You and I rejoice this day on the occasion of the ordination of a holy and prayerful priest to serve the Church. We welcome Fr. Roman into our family with open hearts and with much joy and happiness. I am confident that we will all be blessed with God's presence amidst us as we together journey to grow in holiness and closeness to God with our newly ordained priest, Fr. Roman. We need one another in this challenging but joyful journey. Know of my prayer and support for you, and of my love for you.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, you may approach the newly ordained in an orderly fashion to receive his first priestly blessing. It is considered to be a special grace to receive the blessing of a newly ordained priest. I encourage everyone to come forward. When you approach him, just bow your head slightly, and extend your hands cupped together to receive the blessing.

+ God bless all of you in ways only He can!  
+ C.I.X.!

(Photos: T. Siwak)

# Pictures from the Priestly Ordination – June 23, 2013

(Photos: Mr. Charles Patulak)



## Considering a vocation?

If you think that you might be being called, take a chance and also answer the invitation to “Follow Me (John 1:43)” as Father Roman Sverdian did and many more before him did; then contact Father Paul Makar, Vocation Director, Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia at 215-627-0143 or email him at [ukrvocations@catholic.org](mailto:ukrvocations@catholic.org).



**Archbishop Stefan lays his hand upon the head of Deacon Roman Sverdian in the apostolic tradition and says the prayer of Priestly Ordination.**



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



# 79th Annual Ukrainian Seminary Day Set for Sunday, July 28 in Minersville, Pa.

**Minerville, Pa.**—A celebration of Ukrainian faith, heritage and culture will characterize the 79th Annual Ukrainian Day, which will be held Sunday, July 28, 2013 at St. Nicholas Picnic Grove, Route 901 Primrose, Minersville, Schuylkill County, PA. The Most Reverend Stefan Soroka, Archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States, and the clergy of the South Anthracite Deanery at 11 a.m. will celebrate the Divine Liturgy.

Entertainment will be provided by Kazka, the Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Paul Konkus of WPPA AM 1360 hosting a Live Polka Broadcast from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. from the picnic grove, and the "John Stevens Doubleshot Polka Band" with polka and dance music from 4:00 until 8:00 p.m.

Home-made Ukrainian and Slavic foods, including holubtsi-halupki, halushki, pyrohy, kobasa-kielbasi, bleepies, sausage, Lemko platters,



**Kazka Dance Ensemble**

and hand-dipped ice cream, open-kettle bean soup, desserts will be sold throughout the day. Ukrainian arts and crafts will be on display and for sale. A "Theme Basket Auction" featuring over 30 baskets created by each of the 12 sponsoring parishes, church organizations and individual parishioners will be conducted throughout the day.

Admission and parking are free. Buses are welcome.

**First Ukrainian Seminary Day Held in 1934, 79 Years Ago in Lakewood Park, Barnesville**

"Ukrainian Catholic Seminary Day" began in 1934 in Lakewood Park, Barnesville, and continued through the 50th anniversary held in July, 1983. Seminary Day was a "Coming-Home Event" for many of descendants of Ukrainian immigrants who the coal region to work in the larger cities. The Seminary Day tradition at Lakewood Park ended in 1983, the year the park was permanently closed.

In 1985 "Ukrainian Seminary Day" was revived and moved to St. Nicholas Picnic Grove in Primrose, just outside the Borough of Minersville.

The South Anthracite Deanery Ukrainian Catholic parishes have been among the strongest supporters of the Seminary Appeal since the seminary was founded in the United States to the present day. From 1985 through 2012, Ukrainian Seminary Day has raised more than \$580,000.00 for St. Josaphat's Seminary Fund, which provides financial support for St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary, adjacent to the campus of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

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# 79th Annual Ukrainian Seminary Day Set for Sunday, July 28 in Minersville, Pa.

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The South Anthracite Deanery of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia is comprised of 12 parishes in Schuylkill (Frackville, Maizeville, McAdoo, Middleport, Minersville, Saint Clair and Shenandoah), Luzerne (Hazleton), Northumberland (Marion Heights, Mount Carmel and Shamokin) and Columbia (Centralia) counties. All the foods are homemade and donated by the various parishes — pyrohy-pierogies, holubtsi-halupki, halushki, nut rolls and pastries. The present South Anthracite Deanery clergy are: Rev. Archpriest Michael Hutsko, protopresbyter; Rev. Msgr. Myron J. Grabowsky, Rev. Msgr. James T. Melnic, Rev. Roman Pitula, Rev. Mark Fesniak, Rev. Ruslan Romanyuk, Deacon Ted Spotts, and Deacon Paul Spotts.

## Kazka Dance Ensemble Calls Schuylkill County Home

Kazka consists of a vocal quartet, composed of Paula Holoviak (soprano), Sandra Duda (alto), Joseph Zucofski (tenor), and Michael

Duda (baritone) and a twenty-five member dance ensemble. The group's vocal repertoire encompasses contemporary as well as traditional Ukrainian folk music. Most of this repertoire is arranged by Zucofski and Michael Duda, who also accompany the group on guitar and accordion.

Ukrainian folk dance adds an additional dimension to Kazka's performances. The group presently performs dances from the Poltava, Hutsul, Boyko, Lemko, and Transcarpathian regions of Ukraine. Choreographers for the ensemble include David Woznak of Parma, OH,

Andrij Dobriansky of NYC and group members Paula Holoviak, Joseph Zucofski and Sandra Duda. Authenticity in both choreography and costume of each region is essential.

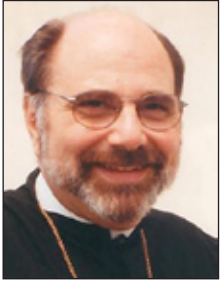
Kazka has received numerous state and local grants to assist with choreography, costuming, and music, including grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Schuylkill County Commissioners through the Schuylkill County Council for the Arts. Kazka was awarded a prestigious Apprenticeship in Folk and Traditional Arts grant by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and

the Institute for Cultural Partnerships to study folk dance technique and to produce two new choreographic works with Master Folk Artist, Andrij Dobriansky. Kazka and group member Paula Holoviak are Pennsylvania Humanities Council Speakers for 2009-2011, presenting a program on the history of Ukrainian immigration to the anthracite regions.

Since 1987, the group has performed throughout the eastern United States and beyond. The group performed at Walt Disney World in Orlando Florida in January of 2004. In 1992, the ensemble traveled and performed in the newly independent nation of Ukraine as part of a tour benefiting the Children of Chernobyl Fund. Kazka has appeared on the nationally televised program "The Wedding Story," produced for The Learning Channel and locally on WVIA, public television. The group has also graced the stages at Bethlehem Musikfest, Ellis Island National Park, Soyuzivka Ukrainian National Resort and the Pennsylvania State University Slavic Festival.



**Kazka Dance Ensemble**



## Rev. Leonard J. Sinatra Falls Asleep in the Lord

March 31, 1941 in Buffalo, N.Y., he was the son of the late Leonard J. Sr. and Victoria (nee Solazzo) Sinatra.

parishes in Northampton, Reading and Pottstown, Pa.

Cheektowaga, NY.

The Rev. Leonard J. Sinatra fell asleep in the Lord June 11, 2013 in Kenmore, N.Y. Born

During his years of priestly ministry in the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, he served

Funeral services were held June 17, 2013 in Holy Cross Church, Buffalo, N.Y. followed by interment in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery,

May he be granted rest in the bosom of Abraham, numbered among the saints and may his memory be eternal. Vichnaya pamyat.

# 79<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL UKRAINIAN SEMINARY DAY



Sun. July 28 - 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.



## St. Nicholas Picnic Grove

Route 901 Primrose

## MINERSVILLE PENNSYLVANIA

*(RAIN OR SHINE)*

### Hierarchical Divine Liturgy—11 a.m.

*ENTERTAINMENT*

### Kazka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

### John Stevens Doubleshot Polka Band

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

**FREE PARKING    FREE ADMISSION**

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

## Domestic Disaster Recovery Fund

Слава Ісусу Христу!

Recent disasters in various parts of the U.S.A. remind us all of the fragile nature of our livelihood. Many fellow Americans have suffered great losses as a result of devastating tornadoes, floods, fires and other environmental events. Metropolitan Stefan Soroka has established a Domestic Disaster Recovery Fund, for the aid of victims recovering from such disasters in the U.S.A.

If you would like to make a donation for humanitarian needs of victims of disasters, please send your gift to the attention of this fund.

Domestic Disaster Recovery Fund  
c/o Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia  
827 N. Franklin Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Income tax receipts will be issued. You may choose to make such donations at any time following learning of such tragic events in the U.S.A.

God bless you.



## Prime Apostles Saints Peter and Paul - June 29th

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

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The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul came to be observed early in the history of the Church. Although they died at different times and places, their commemoration has universally been kept on the same day to highlight the central role they had in the foundation of the early Church. It is for the same reason that they are called the "Leaders of the Apostles" in the Liturgy.

St. Peter, whose original name was Simon, was a fisherman in Galilee when Jesus called him to be a Disciple. "Come after me and I will make you fishers of men." (Mt. 4: 19). After Jesus' Ascension, Peter was the spokesman of the Apostles, and a witness of Christ's divinity. He delivered the first sermon on Pentecost and received the first Gentiles into the church. From Jerusalem He went to preach the gospel in Asia at Antioch (Ga. 2:11), then to Cappadocia, Galatia, Pontus, and finally Rome. He was crucified, head downward, most probably in 67 A.D.

St. Paul, known as Saul before his conversion, was born at Tarsus in the Roman province of Cilicia. As a youth, he went to Jerusalem to receive his education in Judaism from the celebrated rabbi, Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). At the time of Jesus' ministry he had already left Jerusalem. Saul did not see the Lord during His earthly ministry. By the grace of God, Saul was miraculously converted on the way to Damascus around the year 34 A.D. After receiving baptism Paul left for a long retreat in Arabia to prepare himself for his future mission. He was most zealous to preach the gospel of Christ to the world. He established many churches and visited many other churches. To these he wrote numerous letters which form a significant part of the New Testament canonical writings.

The Icon of Peter and Paul is simple and direct, striving only to represent the holiness and wisdom of the two Apostles whose lives were totally devoted to witnessing the Good News of Jesus Christ and our salvation. They stand majestically, as pillars of the Church and teachers of the Lord Jesus. The liturgy hails the chief Apostles with beautifully composed hymns. Peter is called the "rock of faith" and Paul "pride of the universe." Together they are celebrated as "luminaries of those in darkness, two rays of the sun and pillars of divine doctrines, and friends of Christ."

(adapted from God With Us Icon Series)

## Ukrainian American Sport Center – Tryzub

Sunday, August 25 ~ 12:00 noon to 8:00 P.M.

### UKRAINIAN FOLK FESTIVAL



#### OUTDOOR STAGE CONCERT

“Voloshky” Ukrainian Dance Ensemble  
(Jenkintown, PA)

“ISKRA” Ukrainian Dance Ensemble  
(Whippany, NJ)

Violinist **Innesa Tymochko Dekajlo**  
(Lviv, Ukraine – New York)

**Vox Ethnika Orchestra** (New York)

**Fourth Wave Ensemble** (Phila.)

**Zabava:** Ukrainian Social Dancing ~ **Vox Ethnika Orchestra**

**Admission: \$15; Students: \$10; Kids 14 and under: Free; Free Parking**

**Lower State & County Line Roads, Horsham, PA ~ 267-664-3857**

**[www.tryzub.org](http://www.tryzub.org)**

### **BUS TRIP to “TRYZUB” 22nd ANNUAL UKRAINIAN FOLK FESTIVAL**

North Anthracite Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics is sponsoring a bus trip to the 22nd Annual Ukrainian Folk Festival at the Ukrainian American Sport Center – “Tryzub” - in Horsham, PA on Sunday, August 25, 2013. The event which begins at 12 noon and ends at 8:00pm will highlight a stage concert of colorful Ukrainian folk dancers as well as musicians from Ukraine and the United States. Ukrainian ethnic foods, standard picnic fare, baked goods, cool refreshments, Ukrainian arts /crafts bazaar and children’s fun area will be available.

The 55 passenger AJ Limo Coach bus will pick up in Berwick at 9:00am, Edwardsville at 9:45am and Scranton at 10:15am. Cost is \$35.00 per person which includes admission ticket to the Festival. Full advance nonrefundable payment reserves a seat. For reservations contact Janina Everett in Berwick at 570 759-2824; Andrew Jamula in the Wilkes-Barre area at 570 822-5354; Paul Ewasko in the Scranton area at 570 563-2275.





**59th ANNUAL HOLY DORMITION (ASSUMPTION) PILGRIMAGE  
AUGUST 10 – 11, 2013**

**ST. MARY'S VILLA / SLOATSBURG, NY  
SISTERS SERVANTS OF MARY IMMACULATE**

**Theme: *One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism***

**Saturday, August 10**

**12:00 noon FOOD AVAILABLE AT PAVILION  
THROUGHOUT WEEKEND**

**2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Workshops – (See below)**

**5:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy –**

Rev. Jack Custer, main celebrant (grotto – English)

Eparchy of Passaic

Choir – Cantor Joseph Durko and Chanters from the Byzantine Catholic Church of the  
Resurrection, Smithtown, NY



**Blessing of Water** (front of Villa)

**8:00 p.m. Moleben to the Mother of God with candlelight procession** (grotto – English)

Rev. Edward Cimbala - main celebrant / homilist – Administrator of the Eparchy of Passaic

**Panahyda – St. Mary's Villa chapel**

**Sunday, August 11**

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

**10:00 a.m. Pontifical Divine Liturgy and procession with icons of the Mother of God, and  
the martyrs Blessed Josaphata and Blessed Tarsykia  
followed by blessing of flowers**

Most Rev. Basil Losten, Bishop Emeritus of Stamford – Celebrant / Homilist

Most Rev. Stephen Sulyk, Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia

Choir: St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic, NJ

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

**1:00 – 1:40 p.m. Ukrainian Workshops** – (See below)

**1:00 p.m. Procession for children/youth**

**1:30 p.m. Healing Service with Akathist** (St. Mary's Villa chapel & grotto steps)

**Blessing of Religious Articles** (front of St. Joseph's) - Rev. Edward Young

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

**Activity for children** – Sr. Eliane, Sr. Tekla

**3:00 p.m. Moleben to the Mother of God** (Ukrainian –grotto)

Rev. Ihor Midzak – main celebrant / homilist

**Blessing of cars and buses** – Rev. Ivan Tyhovych

**CONFESSION AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE WEEKEND**

***Workshops - "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism"***

**Saturday (English) all presentations will be in the gallery**

**2:00** Rev. Jack Custer – "One Lord"

**2:45** Sr. Michele Yakmovitch, SSMI – "One Faith"

**3:30** V. Rev. Archpriest Bohdan Danylo – "One Baptism"

**Sunday (Ukrainian)**

**1:00** Rev. Leo Goldade, OSBM – "One Lord & One Faith"

**1:40** V. Rev. Archpriest Bohdan Danylo – "One Baptism"

**\*\*\*Youth Campout – Sr. Natalya, SSMI \*\*\***

V. Rev. Archpriest Bohdan Danylo, Pilgrimage Spiritual Moderator

# HOLY DORMITION PILGRIMAGE AFTERNOON CONFERENCES

**2:00 - One Lord**

**Rev. Jack Custer**



*Fr. Jack Custer is a native of Jersey City and a Byzantine Catholic by choice. He earned degrees in Biblical Studies and Theology in Rome and was ordained to the priesthood for the Eparchy of Passaic in 1983. He has pastored parishes in Connecticut and Pennsylvania and served for 13 years as Dean and Professor of Scripture at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh. He has published four books and a number of articles focusing especially on the interplay between the Scriptures and the Liturgy in the Byzantine Tradition. He has been especially active in ministry to teens in the Ruthenian Metropolia and currently serves as pastor of the Byzantine Catholic communities of Long Island, St. Andrew the Apostle parish in Westbury and Resurrection parish in Smithtown.*

**Saturday  
English  
Conferences**



**3:30- One Baptism**

**Very Rev. Archpriest  
Bohdan Danylo**

*Very Rev. Archpriest Bohdan Danylo is the Rector/President of St. Basil College Seminary, Vocations Director for the Eparchy of Stamford. He is the Eparchial Representative for the Working Group for the Strategic Development of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and the Patriarchal Commission for Priestly Formation. Fr. Bohdan also serves as the Spiritual Moderator for the Holy Dormition Pilgrimage.*

**2:45 - One Faith**

**Sister Michele Yakymovitch, SSML**



*Sr. Michele Yakymovitch, SSML is the Administrator of St. Joseph's Adult Care Home, which is owned and operated by the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in Sloatsburg, NY. Sr. Michele was the Provincial Superior for 15 years from 1996 - 2011. She has served on various committees within the village of Sloatsburg and Town of Ramapo. Presently, she serves on the Pastoral Planning Committee with the Diocese of Stamford.*

**One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism**

**Один Господь, одна віра, одне Хрещення**

**Sunday - Ukrainian Conferences**

**1:00 - One Lord & One Faith**

**Rev. Leo Lawrence Goldade, OSBM**



*Fr. Leo Lawrence Goldade, OSBM is Provincial Vicar, Superior and Master of Novices at St. Josaphat's Monastery in Glen Cove, Long Island, NY for the past 2 years. He was formerly Consulter General for the Basilian Order and Spiritual Director for Graduate Students from Ukraine at the Istituto Della Patrocinio BVM in Rome from 1976 to 2011. He was formerly a Spiritual Director for St. Basil's Prep (1973 - 1982) and St. Basil's College (circa 1987 - 1996) as well as Catechist at St. George Academy (1980 - 1990) and Parochial Assistant at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church (1980 - 1986).*



**1:40 - One Baptism**

**Very Rev. Archpriest  
Bohdan Danylo**

**Pilgrimage weekend August 10-11, 2013 Sloatsburg, NY**



## Assumption Catholic School, Perth Amboy, NJ Graduation Ceremonies for 8th grade, Pre-K and Kindergarten

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2013.

May God bless each of them as they leave Assumption School and enter high school. We congratulate their parents as well and we thank them for their dedication and support of our school over these many years.

We also congratulate our Pre-K and Kindergarten students and hope to see all of them in September.



**Kindergarten**



**8th Grade**



**Pre-Kindergarten**

### Lancaster Mission Parish

A Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom will be celebrated at St. John Neumann Roman Catholic Church (601 East Delp Road, Lancaster, PA) every Sunday at 1:30PM. Officiating celebrant – Very Rev. Andriy Rabi, pastor of Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Reading. The services are bilingual, in Ukrainian and English. For more information, please call 610.376.0586, send email [nativitybvmucc@mail.com](mailto:nativitybvmucc@mail.com), or find us on FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/ukrainianmissionlancasterpa>

### Rehoboth Beach, DE

Rev. Volodymyr Klanichka will celebrate Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at St. Edmund's Roman Catholic Church, Rehoboth Beach, DE, at 6:00 PM on Sundays: June 30, July 28 and August 25, 2013. (Last Sunday of the month during June, July, and August.) St. Edmund's Roman Catholic Church is located on the Intersection of King Charles Avenue and Laurel Street, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

## George Weigel to Speak at Commencement Ceremonies of Ukrainian Catholic University

Noted columnist and papal biographer George Weigel will be the commencement speaker at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine, on Saturday July 6. The university will host a symposium on July 5 "The Church in the 21st Century: Serving People in the Globalized World," which will include a presentation of Weigel's new book, *Evangelical Catholicism*. Weigel mentions the university in the book, praising its "flourishing" campus ministry.

The Ukrainian Catholic University is the only Catholic university on

the entire territory of the former Soviet Union. It has undergraduate and graduate programs, in theology, history, and social pedagogy; a business school that has been featured in *The Financial Times* and *The Economist*; and, among other things, in August 2012 it opened a residence hall in which students live in community with nuns and the developmentally disabled.

In *Evangelical Catholicism*, Weigel writes:

Catholic parishes in the unlikeliest places... and campus ministries around

**"The Ukrainian Catholic University is the only Catholic university on the entire territory of the former Soviet Union."**

the world (at Texas A&M, at Princeton and at a Catholic university in L'viv organized by the formerly illegal and underground Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church) are flourishing because pastors are preaching the Gospel without compromise, celebrating the sacramental mysteries with dignity and grace, serving the marginalized, and thereby "equipping the saints" for mission. (page 23)

Earlier this year, the

Ukrainian translation of Weigel's *Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II*, published by the Ukrainian Catholic University Press, was honored by the 14th All-Ukrainian Book of the Year Rating. The translation of the book was part of the celebration in 2011 of the 10th anniversary of the Pope's pastoral visit to Ukraine. Weigel wrote a special introduction for the Ukrainian edition of the book.

### "The Way" is going on a Summer Break in July.

Our first issue after the Summer Break will be August 11th. Thank you.

**Visit our Website for any news during the Break.**  
**[www.ukrarcheparchy.us](http://www.ukrarcheparchy.us)**

**Online:**

<http://www.ukrarcheparchy.us>

**Blog:**

<http://www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com>

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Archeparchy-of-Philadelphia/197564070297001>

**YouTube Channel:**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/thewayukrainian>



## CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES OF 2013

Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church in Perth Amboy, NJ, gave special recognition to the graduates of the parish, who graduated this spring from high school, college, or graduate school. We are proud of you! Our prayers go with you as you move onto higher levels of education or seek gainful employment. May our Lord surround you with His wisdom and deep peace always. Congratulations on your achievements and remember that Assumption Catholic Church is your spiritual home and always here for you!



Our congratulations and blessings go to: Joe Leandro - Graduating from Middlesex High School. Kaitlyn Mascenik - Graduating from Monmouth University. Stephanie Karanevskii - Graduating from Middlesex County Academy High School. Robert Matthew Cheloc - Graduating from Villanova University. Kathryn Eckert - Graduating Tufts University.

## Come and Worship With Us During Your Vacation At Wildwood Crest!!

The Ukrainian Catholic Summer Mission in Wildwood Crest, NJ, will have Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom in Ukrainian (homily in both English and Ukrainian) every Sunday evening at 6:30 pm from Sunday, July 7th, through Sunday, September 1st, 2013 at:

Crest Community Church  
5901 Pacific Avenue  
Wildwood Crest, NJ 08260

Crest Community Church is located on the corner of Pacific Avenue and Crocus Road. For more information, please contact Father Paul Makar at 856-482-0938 or Marusha Cyhan at 609-522-2811. We look forward to having you spiritually refresh yourselves with us during your vacation at Wildwood Crest!



# Ukrainian Catholic Parish featured in Hillside, NJ Township's Centennial publication

In celebration of its 100th Anniversary (1913-2013), the township of Hillside (Union County), NJ commissioned a Centennial Publication that was mailed to 10,000 households and businesses during May 2013. Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, located at Liberty Ave & Bloy St, was featured prominently within this publication.

Recipients were introduced to terms such as: Ukrainian Catholic, Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine, Kyivan Rus', Grand Prince Vladimir the Great of Kyiv, the "Underground Church" in Ukraine, Rev. Nestor Dmytriw, Koliady and Hahilky. Undoubtedly, this was the first time the vast majority of those 10,000 households and businesses became familiar with those terms.

Although the beginnings of the parish occurred in 1946 when a group of parishioners living in Union County from St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, NJ met with Father Vladimir Krayewsky to express their desire for their own parish, the Ukrainian

presence in Hillside dates much farther back.

The Ukrainian-American Community has been active in Hillside, NJ throughout the township's 100 years and had its own Ukrainian Club facility. Ukrainian-Americans served in numerous Hillside community roles, including Mayor (William Gural), Police leadership (George Helock), Municipal Employees (Theodore Shatynski, Harry Szpyhulsky), community organization leaders and many owned local businesses (e.g. Kyzyma Hardware, Mike Bubniak's Barber shop, several attorneys and physicians). Some Ukrainian families have lived on the same street in Hillside for over 85 years and continue to do so.

The Rev. Nestor Dmytriw was buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Hillside in 1925. Rev. Dmytriw was the first priest to celebrate a Ukrainian Catholic Liturgy in Canada (1897) and is considered a great pioneer of Ukrainians in western Canada. He was also an author, editor of the newspaper Svoboda and Supreme



**Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, located at the intersection of Liberty Ave & Bloy St, Hillside, NJ was incorporated in 1957.**

Secretary and auditor of the Ukrainian National Association. His grave in Hillside was unmarked (and essentially unknown) for 60 years until Immaculate Conception parish led efforts to erect a gravesite monument honoring Father Dmytriw in 1985.

The parish was incorporated in 1957 and Rev. Myron Sozanski was named the first pastor. In the early 1960's, the basement of the church was completed. The local residents called the Hillside church the "Underground Church" since Liturgies were held in the basement prior

to the completion of the upstairs sanctuary. Ironically, the entire Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine was known, at that time, as the "Underground Church" because it was banned by the Soviet government.

The publication highlighted that "The parish has focused heavily on supporting various charitable causes, including orphanages in Ukraine and South America, disaster relief, Appalachian causes, children's charities, Catholic school support

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# Ukrainian Catholic Parish featured in Hillside, NJ Township's Centennial publication

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and local charitable agencies."

Special attention was also given to the parish's very strong children's programs. Immaculate Conception has a very effective Religious Education program that is designed for children ages 3 to 18 years old. The children also participate in Hahilky, Koliady, visiting elderly and sick parishioners, charitable programs, St. Nicholas program, religious pilgrimages and learning about the similarities and unique aspects of the Ukrainian Catholic Rite and the Roman Catholic Rite.

It was noted that the anniversaries of the Township of Hillside and Christianity in Ukraine (Kyivan Rus') are linked forever. During 1988, as Ukrainians celebrated the Millennium of Christianity, the township of Hillside celebrated its 75th Anniversary.

Immaculate Conception is led by Rev. Joseph Szupa (pastor) and Rev. Vasyl Vladyka (parochial vicar). Further information can be found on the parish's website [www.byzcath.org/ImmaculateConception](http://www.byzcath.org/ImmaculateConception)



**Children of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church perform Hahilky (ancient Ukrainian spring ritual dances and songs) in celebration of Easter.**



**In 1988, a parade float celebrating 1000 years of Christianity in Ukraine passes the Hillside Township Pool. The same year marked the Township of Hillside's 75th Anniversary.**



## Metropolitan Stefan Visits Parishes in Virginia

On Sunday, June 2, 2013 Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka visited the parishes of the Annunciation of the Blessed virgin Mary in Manassas and St. John the Baptist in Richmond, Virginia.



In **Manassas**, the 9 am Divine Liturgy began with procession. At the tetrapod the Archbishop was greeted by children of different age groups with flowers in their hands. There were approximately seventy people present in the church, among those many children. The Liturgy was followed by a warm reception during which people had the opportunity to talk with Archbishop Stefan. All were uplifted spiritually and many took pictures with the Archbishop.

Before the 1PM Divine Liturgy in **Richmond**, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka was welcomed with flowers by the ladies of the parish. Approximately sixty parishioners, mostly young couples with small children attended the service and listened attentively to the Archbishop's sermon both in English and Ukrainian. After the Liturgy a warm reception was held filled with conversations and discussions.







## A Sunny Picnic in Williamstown, NJ

A break in the unusual series of summer rain storms gave the parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Williamstown, NJ a much needed break to take some time and break bread at the parish's first Family Potluck Day. The cool weather and shady picnic grove provided a great place for parishioners and family to sit down and enjoy some good food and fellowship after the Saturday, 4:00 pm Divine Liturgy. 25 parishioners and family members came by to worship and to bring various food items and drink to share with each other, while Father Paul worked the grill cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone. Good food, good company, good weather, and of course, the presence of the Holy Spirit, made for a fantastic time for everyone to get to know each other and also to bring back family members who have been away from the tiny, but steadily re-growing, community of Sts. Peter and Paul parish.



**Parishioners and family members relax under the shade of Sts. Peter and Paul Picnic Grove.**



**Father Paul cooks hamburgers while enjoying dinner with the parishioners.**



**All hands pitching in to clean up after the potluck. Even the children present had a good time helping out!**



# St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School, Passaic, NJ Celebrates Graduations

On June 7, 2013, the entire school gathered in the auditorium to enjoy the Kindergarten Graduation program, prepared by Kindergarten teacher Ms. Olena Kugnat and Music teacher Mrs. Olesya Hryvnak. After the Kindergarteners led the audience with the singing of "God Bless America" and the Ukrainian National anthem, the show began with their delightful reenactment of the Ukrainian folk-tale "Kolobok", in which many individual animals unsuccessfully try to get a bite of the tasty kolobok-roll, until the wily fox succeeds by using flattery. After the little play, the Kindergarteners showed off their counting skills by fives and tens, as well as the days of the week. They also performed "Around the World with the Ways to Say 'Hello'", "Jesus Loves Me", and "Kindergarten Song".



Next, the Pre-K class, prepared by Pre-K teacher Mrs. Lydia Loukachouk and Mrs. Maria Dudkevych, entertained the crowd with the poem "My Wonderful Body", and the songs "God is so Good", "Who Made the World" (in Ukrainian), "Seasons", and "Kindergarten Here We Come." Finally, the Kindergarteners entered the hall, arrayed in their blue caps and gowns, while their parents snapped pictures and wiped

away a tear. The "graduating class" consisted of Lily Adams, Artem Derkach, Adriana Hutsal, Maksym Ivanishiv, Maksym Kotsiaba, Maria Lebid, Melania Perebzak, and Anastasia Smetankin. Father Andriy Dudkevych presented each with their Kindergarten Diploma, and then led them in moving their tassels, officially declaring them First Graders. The children demonstrated their enthusiasm by singing "First Grade-First Grade" to the melody from "New York, New York" as their grand finale.

One week later, the Eighth-graders, almost all of whom have been students of the school since Pre-K, made a similar journey, this time down the aisle of the church at 5:00 Liturgy on Saturday, June 15, 2013. Honors Student Daniel Loukachouk welcomed everybody to the ceremony, and after Opening Remarks by Principal Eliane Ilnitski, SSMI, the graduates entered the church, carrying symbols of their faith and of the past 8 years in the school: Brian DeLeon, the cross; Michael Harhaj, a candle for Jesus, the Light of the World; Stefan



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# St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School, Passaic, NJ Celebrates Graduations

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Klics, bread and wine; Zachary Najda, the Bible; Daniel Loukachouk, a stack of schoolbooks; and Maksym Lazirko, flowers. During Liturgy, the Epistle was read by Maksym Lazirko in Ukrainian, and by Zachary Najda in English. After Liturgy, which was concelebrated by Father Andriy Dudkevych, Pastor, and Father George Worschak, Father Andriy presented the graduates with their diplomas, and Sister Eliane led them in moving their tassels. Next, Eighth-grade teacher Mrs. Sonia Lechicky presented Stefan Klics and Daniel Loukachouk with the President's Award for Educational Excellence, an award presented by the White House to students who have maintained a 90 average throughout middle-school, who have earned exceptional scores on state or nationally-normed tests, and who have demonstrated initiative, integrity, and responsibility as individuals. After this, Michael Harhaj and Brian DeLeon read poems celebrating the role-modeling and sacrifices made by parents, and as the schoolchildren sang "I Thank My God for You", the graduates presented their parents with yellow roses. Finally, Honors Student Stefan Klics delivered his speech of thank you and farewell, and the ceremony concluded with remarks about the power of persistence and hope from Mrs. Lechicky and Principal Sister Eliane. Father Andriy gave a blessing to the graduates, and intoned the "Mnohaya Lita", wishing them and their families all God's blessings for many, many years!

**-Sonia Lechicky**

## During the Pilgrimage to Stradch, Blessed Volodymyr Pryima will be pronounced the Patron of UGCC Laity

On June 26, 2013 during the Pilgrimage to Stradch sacred place, located in Lviv region, His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk), UGCC Head, will officially declare Blessed Martyr Volodymyr Pryima as the Patron of UGCC Laity. Also the Head of the Church will bless the cornerstone for the building of the UGCC Lviv Archeparchy Pilgrimage Center. This information was reported during the press conference held on June 19, 2013 in the Lviv Press Club.

Already for several years after the visit to Ukraine of Pope John Paul II, the Lviv UGCC Archeparchy has celebrated the Day of the Laity, and remembers on this day the Stradch martyrs – Rev. Mykola Konrad and deacon Volodymyr Pryima," stated Rev. Vasyl Bilash, head of UGCC Commission on Issues of Laity, noting that deacon Volodymyr Pryima was the only lay person among all the new martyrs of UGCC.

The priest explained also the meaning of the laity



in the life of the Church. According to him, laity is God's people and therefore they should spread the Kingdom of God on earth. "God had planned the earth in such a way that they become God's children, His Church. Therefore, the laity has a mission – to

bless this world which is meant to praise God," he explained.

UGCC Department of Information

*Adapted from the article on <http://www.ugcc.org.ua/>*

# A "Laboratory of Ecumenism": Cardinal Koch Visits Ukraine

**Ecumenical trip marked by candor and optimism**

**by: Michael J. Miller**

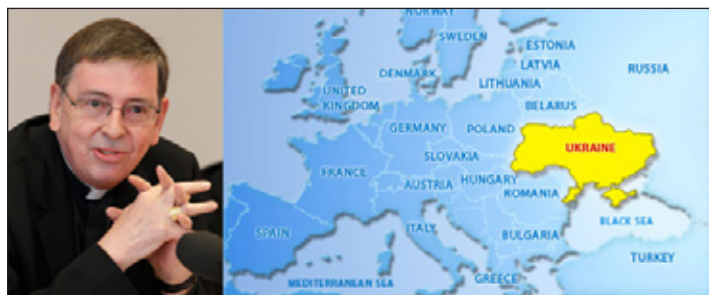
**"The Catholic World Report"**

**June 21, 2013**

The president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Cardinal Kurt Koch, visited Ukraine from June 5 to 12, 2013. Upon his arrival the curial official was welcomed at Borispol Airport by the primate of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC), His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk), and by Archbishop Thomas Edward Gullickson, apostolic nuncio for Ukraine. Since it was the first journey of the honored guest to Ukraine, his chief purpose was to meet with the Greek, Latin, and Armenian Catholic communities and their respective leaders in a country that Bl. John Paul II had called "a laboratory of ecumenism" during his pastoral visit in June 2001. Cardinal Koch spent two days in Kyiv, the capital, then traveled on Saturday to Lviv in Galicia (Western Ukraine), a Catholic stronghold, and finally on Monday to Uzhorod and Mukachevo, near the border with Slovakia and Hungary.

Cardinal Koch is also the co-chairman of the

Mixed Commission for Theological Dialogue between Catholic and Orthodox Churches. In that capacity he held talks, during his visit, with the Ukrainian Orthodox Church leader, Metropolitan Volodymyr, of the Moscow Patriarchate (UOC MP), and other representatives of that Church. He also learned about the inter-confessional fellowship that takes place within the framework of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations, and about the work of Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv. Past documents of the official Catholic-Orthodox ecumenical dialogue have typically ignored or papered over crucial differences in how the two sides understand Church and authority. The keynote of Cardinal Koch's visit, however, was a refreshing candor on the part of the Catholic speakers. On June 10, in a lecture at Ukrainian Catholic University, he explained that: from the Orthodox point of view, the Church is present in every local



**(Left) Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (CNS photo)**

church that celebrates the Eucharist, so each Eucharistic community is a complete church. Instead, from the Catholic point of view, a separate Eucharistic community is not a complete church. Therefore, a basis of the Catholic Church is the unity of separate Eucharistic communities with each other and the bishop of Rome. That is, the Catholic Church lives in the mutual intersection of local churches in one Universal Church.

Earlier, on June 7, during a round-table discussion in Kyiv entitled "Ukraine in the Orthodox-Catholic Dialogue," the Primate of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church boldly argued that both theological and historical reasons compel Ukrainian Christians to seek unity. Anyone who considers himself a faithful

Christian has no right not to remember the Commandment that Christ gave to the apostles at the Last Supper, saying: "Father, that all may be one, as You are in Me and I in You, so that they be united in Us, so that the world may come to believe that You sent Me." The Head of the Church Himself says that evangelization can be successful only when there is a deep-felt unity among Christians.

This year together with our Orthodox brethren we will celebrate the 1,025th anniversary of the Baptism of Ukraine-Rus. If we look into the spiritual mystic memory of the Kyiv Church, then we will find the recollection of an undivided Christianity of the first millennium. Therefore, every time that we speak of the necessity

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# A “Laboratory of Ecumenism”: Cardinal Koch Visits Ukraine

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of one apostolic Church in Ukraine, a search for unity among us, the Holy Spirit speaks in our hearts and reminds us of this commandment of Christ and that experience which the Kyiv Church had. Possibly, other Churches—daughter Churches of Kyiv Christianity, which emerged after the Great Schism [of 1054]—do not possess this church memory that the inheritors of Kyiv Christianity have.... And today, we should thank the Holy Spirit, that He reminds us of this shared profound inheritance.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav went on to say, in effect, that ecumenism is too important to be left to “diplomats and politicians.” On another occasion, during an ecumenical prayer service in the Armenian Apostolic Cathedral of the Dormition in Lviv, he reminded his listeners that unity in Ukraine can be fostered by spiritual ecumenism (prayer), by “the ecumenism of martyrs” (the recognition that both Orthodox and Catholics gave their lives for Christ during the Communist persecution), and by “the ecumenism of the sacrament of Baptism”

(the acknowledgment of baptismal grace at work in all Christian Churches and ecclesial communities). He went on to recommend another possibility that he called “the ecumenism of meeting” whereby people who may have different histories and perspectives can learn from one another and be enriched.

Ever since the emergence of the UGCC from the underground in 1990, the Moscow Patriarchate has complained of Catholic “proselytism” in its “canonical territory.” When asked about this by a journalist in Lviv on June 10, Cardinal Koch replied: “Such accusations are not heard as often right now as they were in the past.” He emphasized that the issue of proselytism is very complicated because not every accusation of proselytism has a basis in fact. “Behind this issue stands the issue of the freedom of choice of every individual. Each person has a right to choose that confession and Church to which one wants to belong.” These remarks were particularly striking in light of a public statement made on May 27 by Boryslav

Metropolitan Antonyi (Pakanych) of the UOC MP, after consultation with Bishop Filaret of the UGCC Eparchy of Lviv, that “in Western Ukraine there are no misunderstandings between the Orthodox and the Greek Catholics and relations between the two Churches in this region are stable.”

In his lecture at the UCU in Lviv on “Prospects of the Ecumenical Dialogue” on June 10, Cardinal Koch insisted that “the Catholic Church should strengthen the argument for the importance of the primacy of the pope in the life and work of the Church.” He also called for the Orthodox Church to “boldly examine its main ecclesiological problem, namely autocephaly of national churches and their inclination toward nationalism.”

Perhaps the greatest reason for hope that the Church in Ukraine may one day again be united was mentioned by His Beatitude Sviatoslav during the round table discussion in Kyiv. “Today all the confessions in Ukraine are undergoing rejuvenation. There is a new generation of monks and nuns, clergy, bishops

and even Church Heads. All Churches without exception have borne the brunt of wounds from the Communist totalitarian system, and the youth are to a certain degree free of these wounds. Therefore I am truly optimistic.”

*(Based on reports by Vatican Radio, UGCC, and Religious Information Service of Ukraine)*

## About the Author

Michael J. Miller

Michael J. Miller translated *Joseph Ratzinger: Life in the Church and Living Theology: Fundamentals of Ecclesiology with Reference to Lumen Gentium*, by Maximilian Heinrich Heim for Ignatius Press.

[http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Item/2350/a\\_laboratory\\_of\\_ecumenism\\_cardinal\\_koch\\_visits\\_ukraine.aspx#.Ucgv6dKsh8F](http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Item/2350/a_laboratory_of_ecumenism_cardinal_koch_visits_ukraine.aspx#.Ucgv6dKsh8F)

**Michael Miller is a parishioner of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Melrose Park, PA.**

## **Patriarch Shevchuk: Moscow Must Hear Metropolitan Anthony's Words about the Stable Relations between the Greek Catholics and Orthodox in Galicia**

11 June 2013

Cardinal Kurt Koch, the president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, noted that in recent times the number of accusations of proselytism against Greek Catholics in western Ukraine from the Orthodox has significantly decreased.



**Cardinal Kurt Koch**

He stated this on June 10 in Lviv during a visit to the Ukrainian Catholic University in response to a question by a RISU correspondent on whether the Vatican can stop Moscow from accusing the Greek Catholics of proselytism, as the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) believes that it is currently on good terms with the Greek Catholics.

"These allegations by the Orthodox today are not heard as often as they were in the past," said the cardinal.

Cardinal Kurt Koch said that the question of proselytism is very complex, because some accusations of proselytism are groundless.

"This issue is the problem of freedom of choice of the individual. Everyone has the right to choose the confession and church, which he wants to belong to. Therefore, these questions regarding the freedom of choice should be left to each individual," he said.

The head of the UGCC, Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk, who accompanied the distinguished guest at the Ukrainian Catholic University, expressed his wish for the allegations by the Russian Orthodox Church against the Greek Catholics to become a thing of the past.

"For 20 years we have been hearing the accusations, but the problems are only when there is a reluctance to have unity. The words of Metropolitan Anthony are extremely important and we hope that finally all the accusations against the Greek Catholics, which we hear from representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, become a thing of the past. We hope that this information, which is coming from a representative of the UOC-MP, will be heard in Moscow, by the Russian Orthodox Church. As for us, the Greek Catholics, we will always speak the truth, no matter how bitter it may be," said the patriarch.

The issue of "proselytism by the UGCC" and the conflict between Greek Catholics and the Orthodox of the Moscow Patriarchate in Western Ukraine has always been raised by the hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church before the Vatican when there is discussion about establishing the Orthodox-Catholic dialogue and the opportunity for the Patriarch of Moscow to meet with the pope. The favorite topic of the Russian Orthodox Church clergy is the "forced liquidation" of three Orthodox eparchies in Galicia in the early 1990s.

Meanwhile, on May 27, during the seventh Festival of Orthodox Media in Lviv, the administrator of the UOC-MP Metropolitan Anthony (Pakanych) of Boryspil said that in Galicia there is no tension between the Orthodox and the Greek Catholics and the relationship between the two churches in this region is stable.

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



## His Beatitude Sviatoslav Concelebrates Eucharistic Liturgy in Spanish with His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican

15.06.13

On June 13, 2013, Holy Father Francis, for the first time during his pontificate, said the Mass in Spanish, since representatives of embassies and consulates of Argentina in Italy and the international organization FAO participated in an Ecumenical Liturgy at St. Martha's Residence in the Vatican. On that day, one of the concelebrants with the Universal Pontiff was His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk), UGCC Head, who during this time was attending the meeting of the 13th Ordinary General Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops.



During the sermon, the Pope drew attention of those attending on an excerpt from the Gospel, which is assigned by the Roman Catholic Church for that day, in particular, the words of Jesus Christ which are recorded in the Gospel (Matthew, Chapter 5), in which the Savior encourages his students that in their righteousness they can surpass the Scribes and Pharisees. Through this the Messiah made it clear that he does not want to get rid of the Law and the Prophets, but only to supplement them, so to say, to make a reform, not breaking the tradition. According to Jesus, a person who enters Christian life does not receive more privileges but – even more responsibilities. Separately the obligation of good relations with neighbors, especially the fact that one demands from a Christian an appropriate stand towards others: he who curses his neighbor, deserves hell; he who carries anger towards his brethren in his heart, must change this.

In teaching his students Jesus the Lord emphasized that evil is the insult of our neighbors – it directs one on a road to death, that is something that kills our neighbor. Holy Father also pointed out the problem of casting aspersions or slandering of our brothers and sisters. “You don’t need to go to a psychiatrist,” continued Pope Francis, “in order to understand that that when one slanders another one, it is because one oneself cannot grow and in order to feel somewhat important, one needs to make sure the other is put down.” Therefore, according to the Bishop of Rome, Jesus Christ appeals that we do not say evil about others, do not slander others, for we are all walking the same path and are responsible for one another. “If someone is not capable of controlling one’s tongue, then one will destroy oneself,” emphasized the Universal Hierarchy. However, all of this does not mean that we are bad – rather it means that we are weak and sinful.

“I want to ask God that He grant us all the grace to pay more attention to our tongue, to consider what we say about others. This is a small penance but it brings forth a good harvest,” said the Roman Pope, adding that we should ask God for the grace to adapt our life to this New Law which is the Law of Gentleness, the Law of Love, the Law of Peace and at least bite our tongues a bit when commenting on our neighbors.

In conclusion, the Holy Father also thanked God also for the happy set of circumstances that his Beatitude Sviatoslav who before his present position, served as an auxiliary bishop, and eventually as Apostolic Administrator of UGCC Eparchy in Buenos Aires, due to being in Rome for a meeting these days, could join in this Eucharistic Liturgy. (Adapted from the article on <http://www.ugcc.org.ua>)

# His Beatitude Sviatoslav proposes that the next Papal Synod consider the nature and mission of Christ's Church

17.06.13

On June 13-14, His Beatitude Sviatoslav participated in the fourth meeting of the 13th Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops. The goal of this session was to choose three possible topics for the next, 14th General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops of the Catholic Church, to be held in October 2015. Its context will reflect the 50th anniversary of the conclusion of the acts of the Second Vatican Council.



The central event of this meeting was the audience with Holy Father Francis, the Roman Pope. Archbishop Mykola Eterovych, General Secretary of the Papal Synod of Bishops presented the proposals formulated by the Heads of 13 Eastern Catholic Churches sui juris, presidents of 114 Bishop Conferences, superiors of 26 offices of the Roman Curia as well as the President of the Council of General Superiors of Monastic Rites and Congregations. Potential topics for the coming Papal Synod concerned ecology of a person, anthropology in a secularized world and the synodal Church.

In his presentation to the Holy Father, His Beatitude Sviatoslav proposed to focus on one of the most vital topics of the Second Vatican Council – its contemplations on the nature and mission of Christ's Church, the fruit of which is the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church: *Lumen gentium* [Light of Nations]. UGCC Head noted that it was exactly this renewed view of the Church as God's people and the universal sacrament of salvation that became the nucleus for understanding the nature and mission of Eastern Catholic Churches.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav emphasized that a fresh look on this topic some 50 years later would have great significance for contemplating today the connection between eastern and western ecclesiology, understanding the primacy of the Roman pontificate and the bishop collegiality, the nature of local and Churches sui juris regarding the universal character of the Catholic Church.

"This will also bear a significant ecumenical dimension, considering that the topic on which the Mixed Orthodox–Catholic Theological Commission is working on is precisely the relationship between the service of the Successor of Apostle Peter and the synodal nature of the Church," emphasized UGCC Primate.

At the end of the meeting Pope Francis encouraged members of the Council to actively work since the service of the Successor of Apostle Peter should remain in constant union with the synodal character of church existence, an expression of which is the work of the Synod of Bishops of the Catholic Church and its organs.

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



## **Pope Francis Appoints Special Envoy to Attend 1025th Anniversary of Baptism of Ukraine-Rus Celebrations**

16 June 2013

Pope Francis appointed Cardinal Audrys Juozas Backis, Archbishop Emeritus of Vilnius, as his special envoy to attend the celebrations marking the 1025th anniversary of the Baptism of Ukraine-Rus, scheduled for August 17-18 2013 in Kyiv, Radio Vatican reports.

The celebrations will include a meeting of the Synod of Bishops, a national pilgrimage, which will be attended by faithful of Ukraine and the diaspora, and the consecration of the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ.

As the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) Information Department reported earlier, Greek Catholics will celebrate the anniversary of the baptism in August, not July. This was explained at a press conference in Kyiv by Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk, who said the tradition of celebrating the two events together – the feast day of Prince Volodymyr and the anniversary of the Baptism of Rus-Ukraine – is a tradition of the Russian Church.

“Combining these two events was intended to emphasize the state nature of the state religion of Moscow Orthodoxy. We are heirs of Volodymyr’s baptism and the Church of Kyiv. And we kept the ancient Kyivan tradition, according to which the Baptism of Ukraine-Rus is celebrated every year on August 14 – the day of the Holy Maccabean Martyrs when Dormition Fast begins and the day of the so-called Augustivskyi water blessing. We honor the tradition of the Russian Church, but in our church we uphold the traditions of the Kyivan Church, so our celebrations coincide with this date,” said the head of the UGCC.

<http://risu.org.ua>

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## **His Beatitude Sviatoslav: In the Pope’s room there is a Ukrainian icon which I gave him as a gift in Argentina**

21.06.13

Holy Father Francis has in his room an icon, presented to him as a farewell gift by the Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church His Beatitude (Shevchuk) upon his leaving of Argentina. His Beatitude Sviatoslav recounted this during

an interview with Polish journalists, in answer to their question about 100 days of the service of Pope Francis. During a recent trip to the Vatican, UGCC Head had the opportunity to stay in the building where the Holy Father resides.

“When I came for dinner, the Pope saw me, got up

and greeted me with an embrace. Then he said: “I would like to invite you to my room and show you something.” The Pope led me to his room and showed me the icon which I had given him as a gift upon my leaving Argentina. Seems that for him it was meaningful enough since he brought it with him to Rome

and had a new frame done. The icon is in the Pope’s room where he prays. This exemplifies how deeply the Pope connects to all of us. I am very pleased that he considers me such a good friend” commented UGCC Primate on his

**(continued on next page)**

# His Beatitude Sviatoslav: In the Pope's room there is a Ukrainian icon which I gave him as a gift in Argentina

(continued from previous page)

latest impressions of Pope Francis.

Also UGCC Head said that he does not know when the Pope will come to Ukraine. "This depends on many factors, circumstances, which exist in the Catholic Church as

well as in the Ukrainian state," he said.

We remind our readers that on June 13-14 His Beatitude Sviatoslav participated in the Fourth conference of the 13th Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of

the Synod of Bishops. The goal of this regular meeting was to choose three possible topics for the following 14th General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops of the Catholic Church, to be held in October 2015.

Its context will be the noting of the 50th anniversary of the completion of the acts of the Second Vatican Council.

UGCC Department of Information <http://www.ugcc.org.ua/>

## Early Anniversary Celebration

On June 7, 2013 the student body of Assumption Catholic School, Perth Amboy, NJ, celebrated the last Divine Liturgy before summer break that the whole school, Pre K – 8th grade, would be together. When the liturgy was complete and Father Ivan Turyk thought everyone was going back to school, little did he know that the students had a little surprise waiting for him.

Sister Yosaphata went and told Father Ivan that he was needed in the church. He followed Sister Yosaphata back into the church to see why he was needed. There sat all of the students sitting quiet as mice. The 8th grade student council members shared that the number ten was an important number in our school. We had 10 classes with 10 teachers and students knew that 10 was a special number to him also. In July, Father Ivan would be celebrating his 10th anniversary as a priest.



Each class presented a flower, candy, and a card in honor of his special day. Then as Father Ivan reached the end of the line, there stood 2 eighth grade gentlemen holding what looked like a platter that might hold more candy. Instead, when he removed the cloth, he saw the special gift that the children had for him. In honor of his 10th anniversary the children presented Father Ivan with a complete chalice set.

The administration, faculty, and children, wish Father Ivan a happy 10th anniversary. We hope that he has many more wonderful years in the service of God.



**July 2013 - Липня 2013**  
**August 2013 - Серпня 2013**

**Happy Birthday!**

**З Днем народження!**

July 9: Rev. John Seniw  
July 10: Rev. John Wysochansky  
July 10: Rev. Deacon Paul Makar  
July 15: Very Rev. Archpr. Michael Hutsko  
July 17: Rev. Andriy Dudkevych  
July 27: Rev. John Ciurpita  
August 6: Subdeacon Mr. Roman Oprysk  
August 11: Rev. Roman Petryshak  
August 15: Rev. Ihor Bloschynskyy  
August 17: Very Rev. Archpr. David Clooney  
August 27: Rev. Paul Wolensky

**May the Good Lord Continue to Guide You and Shower You with His Great Blessings. Mnohaya Lita!**

**Нехай Добрий Господь Тримає Вас у Своїй Опіці та Щедро Благословить Вас. Многая Літа!**

**Congratulations on your Anniversary of Priesthood!**

**Вітаємо з Річницею Священства!**

July 9: Rev. Yaroslav Kurpel (20th Anniversary)  
July 10: Very Rev. Archpr. Mitrat Roman Mirchuk (37th Anniversary)  
July 13: Rev. Mark Fesniak (10th Anniversary)  
July 13: Rev. Ivan Turyk (10th Anniversary)  
July 20: Rev. Myron Myronyuk (10th Anniversary)  
July 31: Rev. Taras Lonchyna (36th Anniversary)

**May God Grant You Many Happy and Blessed Years of Service in the Vineyard of Our Lord!**

**Нехай Бог Обдарує Багатьма Благословенними Роками Служіння в Господньому Винограднику!**



**Editorial and Business Office:**

827 N. Franklin St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

**Telephone:** (215) 627-0143

**E-mail:** [theway@ukrarcheparchy.us](mailto:theway@ukrarcheparchy.us)



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**THE WAY Staff**

Very Rev. Archpriest John Fields, Director of Communication;

Ms. Teresa Siwak, Editor;

Rev. Ihor Royik, Assistant Editor

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