

POPE FRANCIS GREETSS UKRAINIAN PILGRIMS

Friday, 29 November 2013

“Dear Brothers and Sisters! The best way to honor St. Josaphat is to love one another, to love the Church and to serve its unity,” stated the Holy Father in his greeting to the Ukrainian pilgrims who gathered in Saint Peter’s Basilica.

On Monday, November 25, 2013, on the day of the liturgical remembrance of St. Josaphat according to the old calendar, the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church under the leadership of its Father and Head, His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk marked the 50th anniversary of the placing of the relics of their brother in bone and blood, a martyr for the unity of the Church, in the



Pope Francis greets Ukrainian pilgrims on Monday, November 25, 2013 at St. Peter’s Basilica. (Photo: Anton Krushelnytskyi, <http://ugcc.tv/ua/media/68294.html>)

main Catholic Basilica, near the grave of Saint Peter.

After the Pontifical Divine Liturgy which His Beatitude Sviatoslav led at the Main Altar of the

Vatican Basilica, Pope Francis came to greet the Ukrainian pilgrims. His coming was greeted by the faithful by the singing of the hymn “May the name of the Lord be blessed.” and thunderous

applause. After a welcome by His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Pope Francis addressed those present.

“Dear Pilgrims, who have

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POPE FRANCIS GREETS UKRAINIAN PILGRIMS

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arrived from Ukraine, Slava Isusu Khrystu ! [Glory to Jesus Christ]

I gladly accepted the invitation of His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk), the Major Archbishop of Kyiv-Halych and the UGCC Synod of Bishops, to join your pilgrimage to the grave of Saint Priest Martyr Josaphat on the 50th anniversary of the transfer of his relics to this Vatican Basilica. I am also happy to greet the delegation of the faithful of the Byzantine Rite from Belarus.

On November 22, 1963, Pope Paul VI decided to place the remains of St. Josaphat under the altar of Saint Basil the Great, near the grave of Saint Peter. This holy Ukrainian martyr truly accepted the monastic life according to the Basilian statute. And he did it thoroughly, also taking care of reforming his Order, a reform which led to the founding of the Basilian Order of St. Josaphat. Simultaneously, as a simple faithful, later as a monk and finally as Archbishop of Polotsk, he put all his efforts to the union of the Church under Peter, the King of Apostles.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, the memory of this holy martyr reminds

us of the confession of the communion of saints, of the community life among all who belong to Christ. This is a reality which permits us to have a foretaste of eternal life, since one of the aspects of eternal life lies exactly in the joyful fraternity of all the saints. "Everyone shall love one another as himself," teaches Saint Thomas Aquinas – thereby rejoicing in the well-being of someone else as if were his/her own. In this way the joy of one shall be so much greater, as will be greater the joy of all the blessed."

If this is the communion in the Church, then every aspect of our Christian life can be inspired by the desire to build together, cooperate and learn from one another, together to bear witness to faith. On this road we are guided by the one who is the center of this journey, Jesus Christ, the Resurrected Lord. This search for a community moves us to understand our neighbor, to respect him/her and also to accept him and fraternally redeem him/her.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, the best way to honor Saint Josaphat is to love one another and to love the Church and serve its unity. In this we are

supported by the brave testimonies of many martyrs of recent times who form a great wealth and are a source of great joy for your Church.

I hope that the deep communion which you yearn to deepen every day within the Catholic Church will assist you in being the bridge of fraternity also with other Churches and church communities on Ukrainian land and everywhere where your citizens live. May we always be led and blessed by the Lord under the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Josaphat!"

Then the Pope imparted his Apostolic Blessing and asked not to be forgotten in everyone's prayers. Then the present hierarchs had a chance to greet the

Bishop of Rome.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav presented the Pope with an icon of Saint Josaphat, painted in the native place of Saint Josaphat, the city of Volodymr-Volynskyi, which was brought by Bishop Josaphat (Hovera), the Exarch of Lutsk.

In awaiting the arrival of the Holy Father, during the singing of Mnohaya Lita [Many years], UGCC Head introduced the present hierarchs, clergy, coworkers of the diplomatic corps, and thanked the pilgrims for their numerous presence. Then an Akathist to Saint Martyr Josaphat was held.

Radio Vatican

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



Pope Francis and Major-Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk (Photo: Anton Krushelnytskyi)

ST. JOSAPHAT, EXAMPLE OF BROTHERLY LOVE AND UNITY IN THE CHURCH

Vatican City, 25 November 2013 (VIS) – “St. Thomas Aquinas teaches us that each person will love his neighbour as he loves himself, and will therefore enjoy his neighbour’s goods as if they were his own. Thus, the joy of one will increase inasmuch as the joy of others increases”. With these words, this morning Pope Francis received three thousand Greek Catholic pilgrims from Ukraine and Belarus, in Rome to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the translation of the relics of St. Josaphat to the Vatican Basilica. In the morning Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, celebrated the Divine Liturgy along with the major archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk.

At midday, the Holy Father went to the Basilica to greet the pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square, and said that “the best way to commemorate St. Josaphat is to love each other and to love and serve the unity of the Church. We are supported in this by the courageous witness of the many more recent martyrs, who constitute a great richness and great comfort for your Church”. Francis expressed his hope that “the intense communion that you wish to deepen every day within the Catholic Church may help you also to build bridges of fraternity with other Churches and ecclesial communities in Ukraine and in other countries where your communities are present”.

Vatican Information Service (VIS)



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka is seen on the left side of the photo during the Divine Liturgy at the Vatican Basilica. (Photo: Anton Krushelnytskyi)



Icon of St. Josaphat. (Photo: Anton Krushelnytskyi)



(Photo: Anton Krushelnytskyi)



(Photo: Anton Krushelnytskyi)

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker - December 6th



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

This saint, famed throughout the entire world today, was the only son of his eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, citizens of Patara in Lycia. They dedicated to God the only son He gave them. St Nicholas was instructed in the spiritual life by his uncle Nicholas, Bishop of Patara (see below), and became a monk at 'New Sion', a monastery founded by his uncle. On the death of his parents, Nicholas distributed all the property he inherited to the poor and kept nothing back for himself. As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charitable works, fulfilling the Lord's words: 'Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth' (Matt. 6:3). When he embraced a life of solitude and silence, thinking to live in that way until his death, a voice from on high came to him: 'Nicholas, set about your work among the people if you desire to receive a crown from Me.' Immediately after that, by God's wondrous providence, he was chosen as archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia. Merciful, wise and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. He was cast into prison during the persecutions of Diocletian and Maximian, but even there continued to instruct the people in the Law of God. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325, and, in his zeal, struck Arius with his hand. For this act, he was removed from the Council and from his episcopal duties, until some of the chief hierarchs had a vision of our Lord Christ and His most holy Mother showing their sympathy with Nicholas.

This wonderful saint was a defender of the truth of God, and was ever a spirited champion of justice among the people. On two occasions, he saved three men from undeserved sentences of death. Merciful, trustworthy and loving right, he walked among the people like an angel of God. People considered him a saint even during his lifetime, and invoked his aid when in torment or distress. He would appear both in dreams and in reality to those who called upon him for help, responding speedily to them, whether close at hand or far away. His face would shine with light as Moses' did aforesaid, and his mere presence among people would bring solace, peace and goodwill. In old age, he sickened of a slight illness, and went to his rest in the Lord after a life full of labor and fruitful toil. He now enjoys eternal happiness in the Kingdom of heaven, continuing to help the faithful on earth by his miracles, and to spread the glory of God. He entered into rest on December 6th, 343.

Philadelphia Archeparchy Hosts Meeting of Vibrant Parish Coordinators from North America and Australia

Philadelphia, Pa.—During the week of November 19 through November 21, 2013, coordinators for the implementation of the Vibrant Parish pastoral plan, representing Ukrainian Catholic eparchies in Canada, the United States and Australia met here, hosted by Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka and the Archeparchy of Philadelphia. For three days, they participated in 12 planning sessions, presenting reports on the Vibrant Parish implementation in their respective eparchies during the past year and discussing strategies for ongoing implementation in the parishes and future Sobors.

Bishop Ken Nowakowski, of New Westminster Eparchy, BC, Canada, and Head of the Implementation Team for the Strategic Pastoral Plan of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church until 2020, along with the Coordinators discussed the Directions of Development of the Church, Church Structures, and Eparchial Sobors leading up to the Patriarchal Sobor in 2015 on the Theme of the Vibrant Parish.



Bishop Ken Nowakowski leads discussion during coordinators meeting in Philadelphia Chancery. (Photo: Teresa Siwak)

In commenting on the Vibrant Parish initiative, Bishop Ken noted “Over the last two years we have been able to reach out and provide information and training seminars to more than 3,000 Ukrainian Catholic clergy (priests, men in consecrated life and seminarians) throughout the world based on the Vibrant Parish. This Pastoral plan is providing inspiration and tools to assist those involved in pastoral ministry to better serve our parishioners and assist their own bishop in their

eparchies.” Bishop Peter Stasiuk, from the Eparchy of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, calls Vibrant Parishes “one of the most important pastoral initiatives of our church. I pray that it grows in every parish of our church.” Father Basil Salkovski, OSBM, the Coordinator from the Chicago Eparchy, believes, “the Vibrant Parish is the place to meet the living Christ. The first impact this approach will have

upon our church is awareness that the Church communicates to all Her members the living Christ Himself - not just His blessings and graces derived from our good deeds.” Father Danylo Kuc, from the Edmonton Eparchy, commented “I foresee the impact not so much in quantity (of parishioners) as in quality (of strong parish communities). I don’t believe the goal of the program is to fill our pews so much as

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Philadelphia Archeparchy Hosts Meeting of Vibrant Parish Coordinators from North America and Australia

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it is to strengthen our parishes so that they eventually (each one according to its abilities) may be able to minister as comprehensively as possible to the needs of those – whether new or old – who seek a relationship with Jesus Christ within the “bosom” of a Ukrainian Greek-Catholic parish.”

Father Ivan Nahachewsky, the Coordinator from the Saskatoon Eparchy, hopes the Vibrant Parish implementation will result in a “revitalization of clergy and through them the laity as we seek continued maturity of our global Ukrainian Catholic Church.”

On December 2, 2011, His Beatitude Sviatoslav issued a pastoral letter for the Ukrainian Catholic Church, which was the result of years of study and preparation by the Synod of Bishops. The Holy Synod approved a program entitled “A Vibrant Parish—A Place to Encounter the Living Christ.” In his letter, His Beatitude Sviatoslav states “the goal of this pastoral program is to help all the faithful of our Church to learn “to live in

order to please God” (1 Th 4:1), and thus to grow in holiness and unity in Christ Jesus.”

These annual meetings allow the Implementation Team, which I head, to work with our Coordinators on their pastoral planning and programs in the local eparchies. We are working on Eparchial Sobors for 2014 which will lead up to the Patriarchal Sobor to be held in Ivano-Frankivsk in 2105,” Bishop Ken noted.

This was the first of three planned meetings of the Eparchial Coordinators from throughout the world. The second Coordinators’ meeting was held November 25-29 in Rome for Central and Eastern Europe and South America. During the first week of December, coordinators from Ukraine and the East will meet in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine.

The Coordinators celebrated daily Divine Liturgy in the Chancery Chapel.

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(First Row l. to r.) Bishop Peter Stasiuk, Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania Eparchy; Bishop Ken Nowakowski, New Westminster Eparchy; Metropolitan-Archeparchy; (Second Row:) Father Andrew Hanowsky, Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma; Father Bohdan Danylo, Stamford Eparchy; Father Andriy Onuferko, Toronto Eparchy; Father Yuriy Vyshnevskyy, New Westminster Eparchy; (Third Row:) Father Basil Salkovski, OSBM, Eparchy of St. Nicholas in Chicago; Father Michael Kwiatkowski, Winnipeg Archeparchy; Father Stepan Bilyk, Philadelphia Archeparchy; Father Kiril Angelov, Stamford Eparchy; (Fourth Row:) Father Daniel Kuc, Edmonton Eparchy; Father Ivan Nahachewsky, Saskatoon Eparchy, Father Volodymyr Yanishevsky, Eparchy of New Westminster.

Philadelphia Archeparchy Hosts Meeting of Vibrant Parish Coordinators from North America and Australia

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In addition to the daily meeting sessions, the coordinators visited the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral and viewed the replica of the Shroud of Turin, toured the Treasury of Faith Museum, and took a tour of various historic sites in the City of Brotherly Love, including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell.

Father Kuc after the Philadelphia tour said, "I don't think most Americans (and foreigners) are aware of how much history of the nation is indebted to the city of Philadelphia. From the brief tour that we had, it seems to me there is also much culture to tap into in the city - everything from enormous museums to sports teams from every major sport in the country."

The coordinators expressed appreciation for the warm welcome shown by Metropolitan Stefan and the Philadelphia Archeparchy. "His hospitality and support

has really inspired us during our working sessions," Bishop Ken noted.

Bishop Stasiuk enjoyed the "wonderful hospitality by an established, well organized Archeparchy."

"Metropolitan Stefan (and his staff) exhibited exemplary hospitality while hosting all of us coordinators. We literally wanted for nothing. While we were provided with everything we needed materially, it was also greatly encouraging to hear in the metropolitan's words

strong sentiments of support for this fledgling, but desperately needed, project. I personally was very impressed with the cathedral as well as with the ecclesiastical goods store," Father Kuc remarked.

In his pastoral letter, initiating this renewal of parish life in the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Patriarch Sviatoslav reflected on six components that should be characteristic of a vibrant parish: The Word of God, the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) and Prayer, Serving One's Neighbor,

Leadership, Fostering and Serving Unity, and the Missionary Spirit of the Parish Community.

Ukrainian Catholic clergy in all the eparchies throughout the world have had workshops to become acquainted with this program and to foster goals for developing vibrant parishes with our faithful in each of their parishes. Clergy have been asked to incorporate these themes into their homilies so that parish communities can be transformed into "vibrant, living parishes."



The Coordinators tour historic sites of Philadelphia on a Trolley.

View more pictures from the meeting including them on a tour of the Cathedral and Treasury of Faith Museum on our Facebook page.

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

SPECTACULAR MANIFESTATION BY LIBERTY BELL

Article: Ulana Mazurkevich



Group photo near Independence Hall in Center City Philadelphia. (Photo: Vera Pryszlak)

Spectacular, dignified, and very moving were some of the words heard to describe the two separate events in Philadelphia to commemorate the Famine genocide of 1932-1933. On Sunday November 17, 2013 the Philadelphia Community Committee to Commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Famine Genocide in Ukraine organized two separate events to mark this tragic anniversary.

A manifestation awareness program was held from 1:00-2:00 pm by the Liberty Bell in historic Philadelphia. The area by the Liberty Bell was bedecked with 3 huge banners informing the public about the famine genocide in Ukraine. National flags,

organizational flags and black flags were flown. Solemn music was played to set the tone for the event. During the program an exhibit on the Holodomor, which was provided by the Ukrainian Embassy, was displayed in the area. Informational brochures on the Holodomor were distributed by members of youth organizations Plast and SUM.

The president of the Community Committee to Commemorate the Famine Genocide in Ukraine, Ulana Mazurkevich welcomed the assembled to the commemoration and called upon the Archbishop Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholics in the United States Stefan Soroka to

lead the assembled in a prayer, a moment of silence for the 10 million victims of the famine genocide was observed. A proclamation issued by Mayor Michael Nutter which proclaimed the week of November 17 through the 24th as UKRAINIAN FAMINE GENOCIDE AWARENESS WEEK was read by Valerie Katruk. Remarks from the Consul General of Ukraine Ihor Sybiga was read by Alexa Waters. The head of the National Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 1932-1933 Michael Sawkiw delivered a stirring address stating, "just imagine if the population of the Delaware River Valley totaling 6 million vanished in 18 months

without the world knowing or carrying".

A dramatic presentation which included testimonies of survivors was organized by members of Plast, Ukrainian International Scouting Organization. The 10 minute dramatic performance incorporated Plast members who placed themselves in the roles of the survivors, they spoke in first person emotionally and dramatically.

An interpretive dance of the Holodomor, choreographed by Halyna Kozak, mesmerized the observers. Danced to the music of Myroslav Skoryk,

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SPECTACULAR MANIFESTATION BY LIBERTY BELL

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"Melodia", the 10 young dancer dressed in white with blue embroidery representing the 10 million victims of the Famine-Genocide and a mother with a dying child in her arms search the earth for grains of wheat. Standing next to the dancers are bundles of wheat guarded by students dressed in Soviet uniform. The dance ends with "Mother Ukraine" holding sheafs of wheat

greeting the children and passing the wheat to them. Taking part in the dance were students of the Ukrainian Heritage School (Ukrainoznavstvo). Roman Dubenko, of the Heritage School, gave an explanation to the symbolic movements of the dancers.

At the conclusion of the event by the Liberty Bell everyone was invited to the Solemn



Famine Dramatization (Photo: Vera Prysylak)

Commemorative Concert the Ukrainian Catholic which took place that Cathedral. afternoon at 3:00 pm.at

COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT AT THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

Article: Ulana Mazurkevich

The beautiful golden domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception hosted a somber and dignified commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor. The Commemorative concert took place after the public program/manifestation at the Liberty Bell earlier in the day.

Archbishop-Metropolitan Stefan Soroka welcomed the assembled to the solemn commemoration and gave brief remarks on the horrific genocide that took place in Ukraine 80 years ago. In a prayer form the Metropolitan of

Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S. intoned, "we will always remember, we will never forget".

Ulana Mazurkevich, the President of the Community Committee to Commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Holodomor opened the program and informed the public about the work of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine and the final report which the Commission submitted to Congress and which was adopted by Congress, stated "The famine which occurred in Ukraine and took millions of lives was the result of



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka (Photo: Teresa Siwak)

deliberate policies of the government against the Ukrainian people".

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COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT AT THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

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The opening was followed by a candlelight procession of youth walking in holding candles and placing them on the sides on the nave of the church. Three members of the Voloshky ensemble dressed in Ukrainian costume delivered a wreath tied with black ribbon and draped with a Ukrainian embroidered towel to the front of the church. The survivor of the Holodomor, Petro Hursky lit the large candle next to wreath. After the wreath laying ceremony the interpretive dance which was held at the Liberty Bell was repeated. In the solemn, dignified atmosphere of the church the dance evoked strong emotions

The keynote address of the commemorative concert was delivered by the Ambassador to the United States Oleksandr Motsyk, who spoke about the terrible tragedy of the famine-genocide organized by the Stalin regime. He spoke about the Holodomor targeting the biological and spiritual essence of the Ukrainian people. In his closing remarks the Ambassador stated, "We thank the American-

Ukrainians who diligently worked to preserve the memory of the millions.

The all-male choir 'Prometheus' under the artistic directorship of Roman Kucharsky and with Irene Zwarych as accompanist provided a solemn atmosphere. Michael Sawkiw president of the Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness in his remarks informed the participants about the ground breaking memorial to the Holdomor in Washington D.C.. 'Theoria' a quartet from the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary under the music directorship of Andrew Skitko raised their voices in solemn melodic prayers. The Youth Choir of the Ukrainian Baptist Church under the artistic directorship of Ivan Velenchuk provided a high level of artistic performance in the rendition of their religious hymns.

The six students and assistants from the Ukrainian Heritage School recited short moving testimonies of survivors

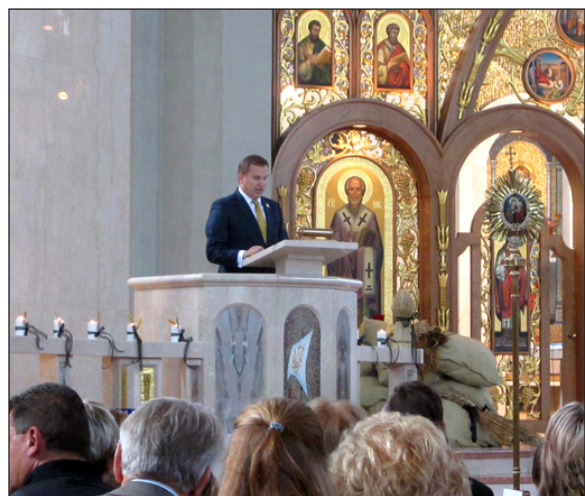
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Ulana Mazurkevich (Photo: Teresa Siwak)



Famine Dramatization (Photo: Vera Pryszlak)



Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Oleksandr Motsyk (Photo: Vera Pryszlak)

COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT AT THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

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taken from the report of testimonies of the U.S. Commission on Ukraine Famine. Speaking in moving voices one of the survivors intoned, “they took everything from me, they took away my conscience, they took away my soul, I would step over dead bodies as if stepping over kindling wood. When a person is starving they lose all feeling”.

then joined and raised their voices in a very moving and emotional Vichnaya Pamyat.

The working committee of the Community Committee to Commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Holodomor was the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee which also included Larissa Stebly and Ihor Kushnir.

The concert ended with a “Panakhyda” for the deceased which was led by Archbishop Soroka including priests from the Catholic Archeparchy. Joining and taking part with special prayers were Pastor Dmitro Login from the Baptist Church and Rev. Taras Naumenko from the Orthodox Church. The assembled

The Ukrainian Human Rights Committee, together with Larissa Stebly and Ihor Kushnir, was the working committee for the Ukrainian Committee to Commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor.

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‘Prometheus’ (Photo: Teresa Siwak)



‘Theoria’ (Photo: Teresa Siwak)



Youth Choir of the Ukrainian Baptist Church (Photo: Teresa Siwak)



Testimony - Ukrainian Heritage School (Photo: Teresa Siwak)

COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT AT THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL



Most Rev. Stefan Soroka, Metropolitan-Archbishop of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States, Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States O. Motsyk, his spouse - N.Terletska with organizers and attendees of the event. (Photo: Teresa Siwak)



"Panakhyda" (Photo: Teresa Siwak)



Read the text from Michael Sawkiw's speech on the following page. (Photo: Teresa Siwak)

Watch videos of the 80th Anniversary of the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine Commemoration held at the Cathedral in Philadelphia on our blog at www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com

Michael Sawkiw's Speech during the 80th Anniversary Holodomor Commemoration in Philadelphia, PA

Sunday, November 17, 2013

YOUR GRACE,
REVEREND CLERGY,
DISTINGUISHED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,
HONORED COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

When Ukraine restored its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, only then did the Ukrainian people begin openly discussing the events of 1932-1933, with witnesses coming forth to tell of the horrors they experienced during the genocide. The Ukrainian nation, after nearly 60 years of silence, began its national healing process. Now the time has come for the rest of the world to acknowledge and recognize the inhumanity that the Ukrainian nation experienced 80 years ago.



Michael Sawkiw (Photo: Teresa Siwak)

But put yourself in the midst of the situation, if you would, and imagine the Delaware River Valley – a population of approximately 6.5 million people (according to the 2010 census), vanishing in 18 months WITHOUT the world knowing or caring!

Unfathomable, would be the immediate reaction of any human being wrought with a conscience and love for mankind. Yet, the world, as we know it today, through its various mediums of communication, is not the world of yesteryear whereby slogans such as “food as a weapon”, as expressed by Stalin’s former Soviet Commissar of Foreign Affairs Maxim Litvinov, described the end to a means in physically starving to death as many as 7-10 million innocent Ukrainian men, women, and children between the years 1932-1933 for their one true crime – being Ukrainian!

One simple word can only describe the horrors and calculated human suffering caused by the Soviets – genocide, which described by Webster’s dictionary emphatically states: “the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group.”

Whereas, we know and understand the meaning of that horrific word and thus, we gather in the city of brotherly love, in front of the foremost symbol of American freedom – the Liberty Bell - and relate to the rest of the world the truth about the victims of the Ukrainian Genocide and their incredible sacrifice. Only having informed the world of the millions of victims and achieving international recognition of the Holodomor as a genocide will we be able to honor the memory of its victims, all the while remembering the tragic pages of the world history in order to prevent them from reoccurring again.

Our ever-lasting theme is simple and clear: “Україна пам’ятає, світ визнає!” - “Ukraine Remembers – the world recognizes!” Steps toward that direction have already been accomplished as witnessed through Holodomor curriculum within our nation’s high schools; recognition by national legislatures worldwide of

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Michael Sawkiw's Speech during the 80th Anniversary Holodomor Commemoration in Philadelphia, PA

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the Ukrainian Genocide in commemorative resolutions; and, the fortune act of erecting a monument to the victims of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide on federal land in the District of Columbia. Today, this gesture of goodwill presented to the American people will signify the relevance of Ukraine's tragedy 80 years ago, but also will promote an everlasting symbol that the world must be vigilant of all crimes against humanity and strive to eradicate those instances throughout the world.

What we must recognize, however, is that the Ukrainian Genocide is not simply a "Ukrainian issue." It is worldwide issue, it is an American issue. America's long-standing role as the foremost champion of human rights in the world makes Washington, DC the best location for a memorial to this tragedy. When the U.S. Congress and President Bush authorized the establishment of a "memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the victims of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933", U.S. Representative Sander Levin, sponsor of the congressional legislation, remarked: "Only through remembrance and recognition can we stop such acts of senseless cruelty and violence against humankind from happening again."

Every sitting U.S. President in recent memory has used the Ukrainian famine-genocide to illustrate crimes against humanity and to renew the struggle for human rights. President Reagan noted that by honoring the victims of the Ukrainian Genocide, Americans are afforded "...another opportunity to honor our own system of government and the freedoms we enjoy and our commitment to the right of self-determination and liberty for all the peoples of the world." President Clinton observed: "We have a solemn obligation to keep alive the memory of the innocent victims who suffered and died because of Stalin's attempt to crush Ukraine." And, in 2008, President Bush referred to the Ukrainian Haolodomor of 1932-1933 as a "crime against humanity."

Sadly, the world has not yet learned the cruel lessons of the Ukrainian Genocide. Food continues to be used as a political weapon in the world today. Apathy and ignorance of history will insure that the mistakes of the past will be repeated. It is not enough, however, to speak of genocide and famine in the abstract. We must cite specific events such as the Ukrainian Genocide in order to put a human face on such crimes. To do otherwise is to dismiss the murder of millions as a mere "statistic."

Today, and every day, we are here to keep their memory alive. We are here to pass the torch along from generation to generation and inspire the youngest to stand firmly in honor and memorialize the millions who needlessly suffered at the hands of a dictator. Only through our constant vigilance will the world finally know the truth about the Ukrainian Holodomor.

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL !



80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORCED FAMINE IN UKRAINE REMEMBERED AT ST. JOSAPHAT PARISH IN BETHLEHEM, PA

On Sunday, November 17th Branch 91 of the Ukrainian American Womens League hosted a solemn remembrance of the 80th anniversary of the forced Famine in Ukraine at St. Josaphat parish hall. The inspirational program was led by Mrs. Oksana Kipa who guided those in attendance through the program of remembrance. Martha Telensky of Philadelphia spoke briefly regarding the book "A Candle of Remembrance," and Mr. Jerome Kindrachuk read excerpts from the book. All in attendance held lighted candles in memory of those who perished. Two survivors were present and survivor Mrs. Maria Nanashko told the story of her ordeal as a small girl. Both of the survivors, Maria Nanashko and Patty Wynnycky, received a bouquet of flowers from the parish youth.



Group gathered for a special program at St. Josaphat's in Bethlehem.



Candlelight ceremony in remembrance of those who perished in the Great Famine.



Mr. Jerome Kindrachuk reading excerpts from the book.



Patty Wynnycky, a survivor of the forced famine receives flowers from children of the parish.



Maria Nanashko, a survivor of the forced famine receives flowers during the solemn remembrance.

Christmas Bazaar Базар Різдвяний DECEMBER 7-8, 2013

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

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

Featuring:

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



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY of the HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS OF THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE-GENOCIDE

DECEMBER 4, 2013, 1PM
WASHINGTON, DC

Corner of N. Capitol Street &
Massachusetts Avenue, NW

LIGHT RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
PHOENIX PARK HOTEL • 502 N. CAPITOL STREET, NW
RSVP NOVEMBER 27 • ukrainegenocide@gmail.com



SPONSORED BY: EMBASSY OF UKRAINE | U.S. COMMITTEE
FOR UKRAINIAN HOLODOMOR-GENOCIDE AWARENESS 1932-1933

Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great

December 8, 2013

Prepare for the Nativity of Our Lord
1 pm - 5 pm
All are Welcome

The "Burning Bush" icon

An Afternoon of Prayer and Reflection
with Sr. Ann and Sr. Joanne



For more information email or call:

Sr. Joanne Sosler, OSBM
vickis@stbasils.com or 215-379-3998
Sr. Ann Laszok, OSBM
srannl@aol.com or 412-260-1607
www.stbasils.com

Basilian Spirituality Center

710 Fox Chase Rd.
Jenkintown, PA 19046



St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church
2026 Bath Road
Bristol, PA 19007

**Christmas Bake Sale and
Mini Bazaar**

**Saturday, December 7th
8AM until 12 noon**

Poppy Seed rolls, Nut rolls and also Apricot rolls all at \$12.00 each.

Assorted home baked cakes, Pies and cookies (ideal for gift giving).

Christmas gift baskets.

Chance to win a Huffy 18 speed mountain bike.



**Church hall phone number -
215-788-3014**

**Ukrainian Catholic Mission
Parish in Lancaster**



A Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom will be celebrated at St. John Neumann Roman Catholic Church (601 East Delp Road, Lancaster) every Sunday at 1:30PM.

The services are bilingual, in Ukrainian and English.
Officiating celebrant - Very Rev. Andriy Rabiychuk
pastor of Nativity of BVM Ukrainian Catholic Church in Reading

For more information, please call 610.376.0586, send email to nativitybvmucc@mail.com or find us on FACEBOOK:
<https://www.facebook.com/ukrainianmissionlancasterpa>



**Annual
Ukrainian Christmas
*Bazaar***

**Saturday 12/7 10am-4pm
Sunday 12/8 12pm-5pm**

**Holy Trinity
Ukrainian Catholic Church
16631 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring MD 20905**

**Hot Food and Desserts – eat in or take out
Traditional Ukrainian Crafts & Gifts
Ukrainian Christmas Ornaments
Theme Baskets
Church Tours & History**

Contact: Sonia Krul 240-669-8566



**Christmas Carol Sing Along
Wilkes-Barre, PA**

YOU ARE INVITED to join Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Parish for their 20th Annual Christmas Carol Sing Along in the church on North River Street in Wilkes-Barre. Sunday, December 8th, 2013 starting at 2 p.m. Join in the singing of some very sacred, joyful and inspiring Christmas Carols. Afterwards, please join us in the lower church hall for a Christmas fellowship social. Please bring a friend or family member, and share the joy of Christmas with them, as we all prepare to welcome the Newborn Son of God into our hearts and homes.



Annual Christmas Luncheon Sunday December 8th Clifton Heights, PA

On Sunday, December 8th, Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, 100 South Penn Street, in Clifton Heights, will hold a traditional "Slavic Christmas Luncheon". Lunch will be served at noon, immediately after the regular 11:00 am. Sunday English Divine Liturgy. To make your reservations for this special event, please email us at SSPeterandPaul@verizon.net or call Kathy at (610) 328-4731 before Monday, December 2nd. In the spirit of helping others in the community who may be experiencing hard economic times, we also ask that each person attending bring a non-perishable food item for our Annual Food Drive.

"Special Request Christmas Kielbasi & Babka Bread Sale" - Clifton Heights

We are offering mouth-watering, high quality kielbasa for the unbelievably low price of only \$11.00 per ring or 4 links for \$8.00. In addition, we have loaves of homemade Babka Bread for \$5.00 each. For your convenience, we now are able to accept your orders via email. To place your Kielbasa & Babka orders, please email us at SSPeterandPaul@verizon.net or call Kathy at (610) 328-4731 by Monday, December 16th. Pickup will be at noon on Sunday, December 22nd at our Church in Clifton Heights.

70-ліття

Української Католицької Парафії Св. о. Миколая у Філадельфії 8-го грудня 2013 року

Дня 8-го грудня, 2013 р. Парафія Св. Отця Миколая святкуватиме 70-ту річницю своєї діяльності у Філадельфії.

Архидієцеска Свята Літургія буде відправлятися о 1:00 годині по полудні.

Головним служителем буде Високопреосвященніший Стефан Сорока, Архидієцеско Митрополит Філадельфійської Архидієцески.



70-th Anniversary of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Philadelphia December 8, 2013

On Sunday, December 8th, 2013 St. Nicholas Parish will be celebrating its 70th Anniversary of activity in Philadelphia.

The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 1:00PM.

The main celebrant will be Most Reverend Stefan Soroka, Metropolitan Archbishop of the Ukrainian Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

Pyrohy/Pierogi for Christmas Eve Holy Supper Scranton, PA

Sponsored by St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

All fresh ingredients and made the same day.

Saturday, December 7, 2013. Pickup beginning at 2:00pm. \$7.00 per dozen.

St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Advance orders required by calling Leslie at 570 342-3749 no later than Monday, December 2nd.



Meeting of the North Anthracite Council- League of Ukrainian Catholics

Members of the North Anthracite Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics met at Scranton's St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church on Sunday afternoon, November 3, 2013.

Moleben to Our Blessed Mother was celebrated by the host pastor, Father Myron Myronyuk and was followed by the general session. Discussion focused primarily on the findings and recommendations of this year's LUC Convention which was held in Buffalo New York. Among the agenda topics was the various annual awards made during the Convention:

The Sister John Paskevich Memorial School Endowment Award: to Matthew Goodman, a seventh student at St. Nicholas School, Minersville PA nominated by the Principal, Sister Thomas Hrynewich, SSMI

Burse Awards:

Archeparchy of Philadelphia: Rev. Deacon Walter Pasichnyk – nominated by Metropolitan Stefan Soroka



Photo: front row left to right: Dr. Michael Labuda; Mary Ezzyk; Anna Wolensky; Helen Lipowski; Kathleen Izak; Dorothy Jamula, President; Second row: Helen Pagnotti; Donna Passarello; Helen Ewasko; Gerry Adamchak; Sophie Soniak; Third row: Janina Everett; Alice Starr; Maria Szpynda; John Naradko; Father Paul Wolensky, Spiritual Advisor; Father Myron Myronyuk, host pastor; John Krupinski; Michael Trusz; Jean Pedley; Andrew Jamula; Not pictured are: Nikki Berta, Sandra Berta, Maria Izak, Anastasia Korman and Shirley Nidoh. [Photo taken by Paul Ewasko]

Stamford Eparchy: Roman Choba - nominated by Bishop Paul Chomnytsky

St. Josaphat Eparchy (Parma): Subdeacon Joseph Matlak - nominated by Bishop John Bura

St. Nicholas Eparchy (Chicago): Frank Avant -nominated by Bishop Richard Seminack

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate: Sister Kathleen Hutsko, SSMI - nominated by Sister Kathleen Hutsko

Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great: Sister Rose Anna Bukaczyk, OSBM -nominated by Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM

Holy Dormition Byzantine Franciscans of

Sybertsville PA: Michael Bezruchka - nominated by Father Jerome, OFM

A reception and fellowship concluded the afternoon get-together after it was decided to conduct the next regular meeting following the Christmas/Theophany Holy days.

“BRING A FRIEND TO LITURGY” SUNDAY PERTH AMBOY, NJ

Christmas is a time of year when people’s thoughts turn to God. There seems to be more of an openness to conversion for those who have been away from the Church. That’s why on December 14-15th Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church in Perth Amboy, NJ is having a “Bring a Friend to Liturgy” at all of our Saturday evening and Sunday Liturgies. Divine Liturgy schedule is Saturday 5:00 PM Liturgy in English and on Sunday 9:00 AM – Liturgy is sung in Ukrainian by the church choir “Boyan” and 11:30 AM – Liturgy in English. The goal is for everyone to invite someone they know, who may not be attending Liturgy regularly or who may feel alienated from the Church, to come to our church for the Liturgy. If we do our part and invite people, the Holy Spirit will do the rest and hearts will be touched. There will be hospitality afterwards after each Liturgy to make them feel welcome. Fr. Ivan and Deacon Paul will be at hand afterwards to answer any questions your friends might have. Start thinking about who you will invite. Being Catholic is a wonderful gift. Let’s show the rest of the world how happy are we! If you have any questions please call 732-826-0767

Sponsored by The Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption

NEW YEAR'S EVE
“ZABAVA”
Tuesday, December 31, 2013
8:00 PM.

380 Meredith St, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Delicious, Bountiful Buffet Dinner
served at 8:00 PM and available all evening.

Champagne Toast and Dessert Table!

Music by:

“Anna-Maria Entertainment”

New Jersey’s biggest and best!

More than 300 people in attendance every year!!!

The best food and the biggest newly renovated hall in N.J.

For Tickets call 732-826-0767

Advanced Ticket Sales -

\$75.00 per adult - \$35.00 child (5 to 13 years old)

After December 25 - \$85.00 per person

No refunds - No tickets at the door!

METROPOLITAN SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

- DEC. 2 MEETING WITH SISTER DOROTHY ANN BUSOWSKI, OSBM, PROVINCIAL OF SISTERS OF ORDER OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT IN USA.
- DEC. 4 PARTICIPATE IN GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR NEW NATIONAL MONUMENT TO COMMEMORATE HOLODOMOR – GENOCIDE 1932-1933 IN UKRAINE, AT MONUMENT SITE, WASHINGTON, DC, 1:00 PM.
- DEC. 6 CELEBRATION OF FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS WITH FESTIVE STAFF GATHERING.
- DEC. 8 HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY AND BANQUET CELEBRATING 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, PA, 3:00 PM.
- DEC. 9 DIVINE LITURGY OF GRATITUDE FOR INTENTIONS OF ALL BENEFACTORS OF ARCHEPARCHY ON OCCASION OF FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF ST. ANN AT UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PHILADELPHIA, PA, 9:00 AM.
- DEC. 11 MEETING OF CONSULTORS OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA.
- DEC. 16 CELEBRATION OF VESPERS AND ANTICIPATING METROPOLITAN’S FEAST DAY WITH BASILIAN SISTERS AT FOX CHASE, PA.
- DEC. 18 PARTICIPATION IN CELEBRATION OF GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL GEORGE, CHICAGO.
- DEC. 24, 25 HOLY SUPPER, HIERARCHICAL CHRISTMAS LITURGIES
 CHRISTMAS EVE AT 9:00PM; CHRISTMAS DAY AT 9:00AM AND 11:00AM.
 UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
- DEC. 26 DIVINE LITURGY FOR SYNAXIS OF MOTHER OF GOD, 9:00AM.
 UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
- DEC. 27 ANNUAL CLERGY GATHERING AT BISHOPS’ RESIDENCE ON FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN.

NOTICE FOR ST. MARY'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY, FOX CHASE, PA

Excessive complaints as to the care and appearance of our St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Fox Chase, PA have led me to personally intervene. Regulation of a custom some people have come to practice has become problematic for the appearance and maintenance of our cemetery. Some people have installed copings in front of monuments, placed candles and planted flowers in front of the monuments. Some plants are now major size bushes uprooting monuments. While some people provide care for these areas, more than two thirds are completely

neglected. People have unjustifiably come to expect our cemetery staff to clean and maintain these areas, adding considerably to maintenance costs. Numerous complaints are received as to the appearance of the cemetery because of the unsightly appearance of the neglected areas. More important, the copings installed by people without permission exposes these people and the cemetery to great risk for liability claims. These people and the cemetery could be sued if someone would be inadvertently hurt by these copings. Further, the cemetery

lacks the beauty it ought to have. Such copings are not allowed at other cemeteries.

Therefore, in order to create safe and uniform conditions, all such copings, all plantings of any kind (including flowers) and all lamps or similar objects placed in front, behind or on the sides of monuments must be removed no later than February 1st, 2014. Lamps, vases, etc. may only be placed on the base of a monument—but they cannot be left on the ground. After February 1st, 2014, our cemetery staff is instructed to remove any items which continue to

remain in the ground and obstruct the areas around the monuments. These items will be discarded. The areas will be filled in with earth and grass planted by staff. St. Mary's Cemetery will then reflect the beauty and order we all expect in our cemetery.

There will be no exceptions to this policy. Your complete compliance with this policy will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your anticipated understanding and acceptance.

+Stefan Soroka
Metropolitan-Archbishop

Metropolitan Stefan Asks Clergy, Religious and Faithful to Participate in Vatican Survey

In a letter to the clergy, religious and faithful of the Archeparchy, Metropolitan Stefan has invited them to participate in a survey recently sent by the Vatican to all the bishops throughout the world.

In his letter, Metropolitan Stefan stated, "Eleven pages of material are presented. It can be a difficult challenge to digest and respond in the short period of time

being offered to all of us. I have elected to offer the full questionnaire on our archieparchial website for you to read (www.ukrarcheparchy.us) You may wish to respond to all or any part of the questionnaire. To assist in bringing together the material, I ask that you specify which specific question you are responding to.

Metropolitan Stefan has also prepared a brief

outline or summary of some of the major points being presented in the document to be considered. You may wish to respond or comment on all or any questions. Please specify which question you are addressing."

To provide sufficient time for Metropolitan Stefan to compile and prepare his response by December 31, 2013, all responses are requested by Friday,

December 13, 2013.

The information provided will be used for the preparation of the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops which Pope Francis has convened. The preliminary meeting is scheduled for October 2014. The topic of the gathering is on the theme of Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization.

(continued on next page)



METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA

Ukrainian Catholic

827 North Franklin Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123-2097

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

ukrmet@catholic.org

No. 785/2013 O

This Number Should be Prefixed to Your Reply

Office of the Metropolitan

November 25, 2013

My Brother Clergy, Reverend Sisters and Faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia,

Слава Ісусу Христу!

Recently, all Catholic bishops in the world received a lengthy and detailed questionnaire in preparation for an Extraordinary Synod on Pastoral Challenges for the Family. Each bishop is asked to submit a response before the end of this year on a number of questions. I ask your thoughtful contribution to the areas of interest for that Synod. Your opinions and suggestions are valued and are needed in assisting me to prepare the responses to this questionnaire.

Eleven pages of material are presented. It can be a difficult challenge to digest and respond in the short period of time being offered to all of us. I have elected to offer the full questionnaire on our archieparchial website for you to read (www.ukrarcheparchy.us) You may wish to respond to all or any part of the questionnaire. To assist in bringing together the material, I ask that you specify which specific question you are responding to.

I am also offering the following brief outline or summary of some of the major points being presented in the document to be considered. You may wish to respond or comment on all or any of the following. Please specify which question you are addressing.

Please respond by December 13, 2013, allowing me sufficient time to consider all the responses and prepare my response. My heartfelt and prayerful gratitude is offered to all who are able to assist me in this endeavor. God bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Stefan Soroka
Metropolitan-Archbishop of
Philadelphia for Ukrainians

(continued on next page)

Metropolitan Stefan Asks Clergy, Religious and Faithful to Participate in Vatican Survey

(continued from previous page)

METROPOLITAN STEFAN'S SUMMARY QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1) **Sacred Understanding and Church Teaching on the Family**
Your perception of the clergy's and faithful's knowledge and understanding of Family as revealed through Sacred Scripture and Church Teaching. Is it known? Is it practical?
- 2) **Marriage According to the Natural Law**
Is the understanding of natural law in the union between a man and a woman commonly accepted by all of us? What may be some pastoral challenges for us?
- 3) **The Pastoral Care of the Family in Evangelization**
Is marriage preparation being offered effectively? What have we learned from our experience in enhancing family spirituality? How do we help couples in crisis?
- 4) **Pastoral Care in Certain Different Marital Situations**
Is living together a reality amidst our faithful? How do we relate and minister to divorced and remarried people? Do some feel marginalized or suffer from not being able to receive the sacraments?
- 5) **On Unions of Persons of the Same Sex**
What is our attitude to societal recognition of civil unions and marriages between persons of the same sex? What pastoral attention ought we to give?
- 6) **The Education of Children in Irregular Marriages**
What do parents in these situations ask? Do they express interest in catechesis? How do we minister to these parents and children?
- 7) **The Openness of the Married Couple to Life**
Are faithful aware of the Teachings of the Church on responsible parenthood? What insight can you offer? Are there moral teachings not accepted or which pose difficulty for a couple? How can we foster a more open attitude to having children?
- 8) **The Relationship between the Family and the Person**
How can the family be a privileged place for a person to encounter Jesus Christ?
- 9) **Other Challenges and Proposals**
Are there other challenges or proposals which you consider urgent and useful to consider?

Thank you.

“The unwavering faith of the 20th century martyrs may inspire Europeans to take the route of a Christian life,” UGCC Head

Thursday, 14 November 2013

“It is with great joy that I found out that this symposium is dedicated to the 390th anniversary of the passing into eternity of St. Josaphat, one of the greatest saints of the Eastern Catholic Churches. The example of St. Josaphat shows why each authentic testimony of faith also has an ecumenical character. Since one who lives in close contact with God cannot not suffer schisms in the Church,” wrote His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk), Major Archbishop of Kyiv-Halych, UGCC Head to Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn, Archbishop of Vienna, the Ordinary for the faithful of the Byzantine Rite.



UGCC Head wrote the text on the occasion of the Symposium, “What does it mean to be a Christian today? From the experience of martyrdom in the Eastern Churches” held on November 9th in Vienna. This greeting was read by Bishop Bohdan (Dziurakh), Secretary of UGCC Synod of Bishops, who represented our Church at this gathering.

The Church Primate stresses that St. Josaphat and thousands of witnesses of faith and martyrs of the 20th century offer today’s Christians a valuable lesson on how to preserve and bear witness to one’s faith in our times. In his opinion, today in many aspects of human life, there rules confusion and uncertainty. Due to this, we should learn from them how to utilize every opportunity to share with others the joy and hope which we receive from our relationship with the Resurrected Christ.

“If our Church, as well as many other Churches of Central and Eastern Europe were granted the grace of martyrdom, then this blessing should serve all of Europe. Convinced that, specifically, the sacrificial commitment of the 20th century martyrs to the highest Grace and their unwavering faith in God’s Providence may inspire the Christians of Europe to express courage, to stand up for truth and to take the path of a Christian life in contemporary Europe,” he writes in his greeting.

In addition to this, UGCC Primate states that Christians, as the carriers of the Holy Spirit -- who in the Byzantine tradition is also known as the “Comforter” -- we are called to preach and pass on to others a new hope and a new life. It is the Holy Spirit who grants the strength to martyrs of all times and to us who live today to be true witnesses of Christ in our times.

Finally, His Beatitude Sviatoslav appealed to all to bear witness to the living Christ and to truth in today’s Europe. “Look towards Europe’s future with hope and trust, listen to the voice of God and permit the Holy Spirit to act in you and through you! Live sincerely in faith!”

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

Social Ministry and Moral Issues Discussed at Retreat of Ukrainian Catholic and Roman Catholic Bishops

18 November 2013

From November 11 to 15 the fourth retreat of Catholic Bishops of both rites was held in Bryukhovychi near Lviv at the UGCC Retreat Center. The meeting was attended by, among others, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk, head of the Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops of Ukraine Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki, and Apostolic Nuncio in Ukraine Archbishop Thomas Edward Gullickson.

Spiritual exercises were conducted by Bishop Hlib Lonchyna, Eparch of the UGCC in the UK and Apostolic Visitor for Ukrainian Greek Catholics of Ireland.

The several-days retreat culminated with a meeting of Catholic bishops, Radio Vatican reports.

According to the head of the UGCC, the two main issues discussed at the meetings were the social ministry of the church and moral problems of modern society, which were discussed in

relation to the Ukraine's European integration.

He stressed that it is important to coordinate the steps of pastoral care for those who are disadvantaged. Such collective action is an essential part of episcopal ministry.

"Nothing brings people more together than jointly listening to the Word of God. These retreats are the first step in the spiritual life of a person; the fraternal meetings provide a sense of ecclesial communion. They also

help us to coordinate our steps in pastoral care," commented Patriarch Sviatoslav.

Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki said that such retreats are brotherly meetings that aim to help poor Christians.

"Each of us must not only proclaim the Word of God, but to physically complete this existence, care for others," he called.

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

Ukrainians Abroad Commemorate Holodomor Victims

18 November 2013

Ukrainians abroad commemorated the victims of the Holodomor on the 80th anniversary of the tragedy. In France, a memorial Hierarchical Liturgy was celebrated in the Notre Dame Cathedral, and in the United States, a memorial service at the St. Nicholas Cathedral in Chicago as well as a commemorative event in downtown Chicago were held.

The Eparch of Paris Bishop Borys Gudziak participated in the Liturgy in the Notre Dame Cathedral on November 17, the official website of the UGCC reports.



"We remember the martyrs and the victims of the Holodomor. We are called on to foster confidence in our future, assert our dignity – not at the expense of others, not in spite of anyone, but simply because it is true. And this truth we experienced today," commented Bishop Borys Gudziak.

In addition, on November 16 a memorial service was held in Chicago at the St. Nicholas Cathedral at the

(continued on next page)

Ukrainians Abroad Commemorate Holodomor Victims

(continued from previous page)

invitation of Ukrainian Genocide Foundation, the site of the UOC-KP reports. The service was celebrated by Patriarch Filaret of the UOC-KP.

Before the memorial service, UGCC Bishop Richard Seminack addressed the faithful, stressing the importance of commemorating the victims of the Holodomor.

In honor of the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor genocide of the Ukrainian people in 1932-1933, on November 17 a commemorative event Candle of Memory was held in Millennium Park in the center of Chicago. It was organized by the American branch of Svoboda, Pomarancheva Khvyliya, and Nova Ukrayinska Khvyliya.

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

UGCC Head participates in the Plenary Meeting of the Congregation of Eastern Churches

Wednesday, 20 November 2013, 13:41

His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, UGCC Head, participated in the Plenary Assembly of the Congregation of Eastern Churches which began in the Vatican on November 19th and concluded on November 22nd.

The topic of the meeting was Eastern Catholic Churches some fifty years after the Second Vatican Council. Heads of Eastern Catholic Churches and members of the Congregation participated informs Radio Vatican.



Meetings participants contemplated the valuable heritage of the Second Vatican Council in what it concerns the Christianity of the East and its effects on the further teachings of the Church, evident, especially in the proclaimed in 1990 Codex of the Canons of the Eastern Churches, the Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II *Orientalium In Ecclesia* and the post-council Apostolic teachings of Benedict XVI «*Ecclesia in Medio Oriente*».

On Thursday, November 21st, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation, celebrated the Divine Liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica with members of the plenary meeting as concelebrants. A joint prayer for peace in the Holy Land and all of the Near East united the representatives of the collegiums and other Eastern institutions of Rome. Afterwards, Pope Francis received the Patriarchs and Major Archbishops in order to discuss the position of the eastern Catholics in the Holy Land, Eastern Europe, India and in diaspora. This was followed by an audience for all the members of the plenary meeting.

UGCC Department of Information

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

“May the flame of the memorial candle in the hearts of our successors never be extinguished!” – His Beatitude Sviatoslav on Holodomor [Great Famine] Memorial Day

Sunday, 24 November 2013, 21:57

Christian memory is not a memory of malice or grief, but rather it turns into a prayer. His Beatitude Sviatoslav drew attention to this in his sermon at the overfilled Basilica of Saint Sophia in Rome on Saturday, November 23, 2013, a day in Ukraine and throughout the world, on which victims of the Holodomor of 1932-33 are remembered. Joined in prayer, noted UGCC Head, was our entire sui juris Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, since concelebrants included bishops from Canada, USA, Brazil, from European countries and various metropolitanates and eparchies of Ukrainian lands as well as numerous priests who serve



in Rome and in all of Italy, and those who came on the Pilgrimage to mark the 50th anniversary of the placing of the relics of Saint Josphat in St. Peter’s Basilica. There were representatives of the diplomatic corps, including Ukraine’s Ambassador to Italy and the Ambassadors of Poland and Ukraine to the Holy See. Information was provided by Radio Vatican.

In talking about the funeral hymn Vichnaya Pamiat [Eternal Memory] with which Christians lead the deceased to their eternal rest, UGCC Head noted that this is not a reference to human memory which “is not eternal” but to God’s memory because “God remembers each one of us.”

The services ended with a Panakhyda [Requiem Service] and the lighting of memorial candles.

In conclusion, His Beatitude Sviatoslav thanked all who came in such large numbers to Saint Sophia Basilica. UGCC Primate also invited all to attend the Divine Liturgy on Monday, November 25th, in Saint Peter’s Basilica. The Liturgy will be celebrated at the Main Altar and at the end of the communal prayer, Pope Francis will greet the Ukrainian pilgrims.

UGCC Department of Information,

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

POPE FRANCIS AT THE END OF THE YEAR OF FAITH

Vatican City, 24 November 2013 (VIS) – This morning, solemnity of Christ King of the Universe, the Holy Father Francis presided the Mass in St. Peter’s Square on the occasion of the closing of the Year of Faith, inaugurated by Pope Benedict XVI on 11 October 2012, the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Vatican Council II. The cardinals, patriarchs and major archbishops of the Oriental Catholic Churches, the archbishops and bishops concelebrated with the Holy Father.



The relics of the apostle Peter were displayed alongside the altar, contained in a bronze casket bearing the inscription “Ex ossibus quae in Arcibasilicae Vaticane Hypogeo inventa Beati Petri Apostoli esse putantur” (“Remains found in the Hypogeum of the Vatican Basilica and believed to be of the Blessed Apostle Peter”).

Before the Mass a collection was made in aid of the people of the Philippines, recently afflicted by the typhoon Haiyan. At the end of the celebration, the Holy Father consigned his Apostolic Exhortation “Evangelii Gaudium” to thirty-six representatives of the People of God, from eighteen countries.

Pope with relics. Adapted from the article on Vatican Information Service (VIS)
(Photo: Vatican Radio)

ANGELUS: FRANCIS REMEMBERS THE HOLODOMOR, THE GREAT UKRAINIAN FAMINE, AND THE GRACE OF THOSE WHO COLLABORATED IN THE YEAR OF FAITH

Vatican City, 24 November 2013 (VIS) – Following the closing Mass of the Year of Faith, Pope Francis prayed the Angelus with the faithful gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

“Before concluding this celebration”, he said, “I would like to greet all the pilgrims, families, parish groups, associations and movements who have come here from many countries. I greet the participants in the National Congress of Mercy and the Ukrainian community, which commemorates the eightieth anniversary of the Holodomor, the great famine provoked by the Soviet regime, which claimed millions of victims”.

“On this day we also give thanks to the missionaries who, throughout the centuries, have proclaimed the Gospel and sown the seed of faith in many parts of the world, and among them Blessed Junipero Serra, the Spanish Franciscan missionary, the third centenary of whose birth we celebrate today.

“I do not want to finish without sparing a thought for all those who have worked to bring about this Year of Faith. Msgr. Rino Fisichella, who has guided this path: I give heartfelt thanks to him and all those who have collaborated with him. Many thanks!”

After the Marian prayer, Pope Francis again thanked all those present at the concelebration and, as is his custom, wished them a good Sunday and a good lunch.



Metropolitan Stefan and Pope Francis at the end of the Mass in St. Peter’s Square. (<http://www.youtube.com/vatican>)

EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES ENCOUNTER



ENCOUNTER IS INTENDED TO BE AN INSPIRED GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE FROM THE EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA WHO, TOGETHER, WILL BE "ENCOUNTERING JESUS CHRIST" THROUGH PRAYER, TEACHING, AND FELLOWSHIP.

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Encountering Christ In The Sacred Scriptures

COME, FOLLOW ME
Encountering The Call To Discipleship

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?
Confessing Christ In Our Daily Life

GO AND TEACH ALL NATIONS
Proclaiming Christ In Our Society

CASTING OUR NETS
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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

CLERGY DAYS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

1 - 3 PM Registration
3:30 Prayer Service And Welcome
Session I & Session II
Vespers; Dinner

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

7:30 AM Holy Quarabana
Breakfast
Session III & Session IV
Vendor Visits
Lunch
1:30 PM Closing

MAIN CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

3 - 5 PM Registration, Vendor Visits
Prayer Service & Welcome
Dinner
Session I
Prayer/ Confessions

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

8:00AM Morning Prayer Service
Breakfast
Sessions II, III
Lunch
Vendor Visits
Sessions IV, V
Dinner
Hospitality/Vendor Visits

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

8:00 AM Holy Quarabana (Liturgy) Syro-Malabar
Breakfast
Closing Remarks
Departure
11:30

LOCATION

Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel,
5445 Forbes Place, Orlando, Florida 32812

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