

THE WAY ШЛЯХ

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PASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A. TO OUR CLERGY, HIEROMONKS AND BROTHERS, RELIGIOUS SISTERS, SEMINARIANS AND BELOVED FAITHFUL



CHRIST IS BORN!

This year we Ukrainians conclude the Jubilee Year Commemorating the 1025th anniversary of the Baptism of our ancestors in the River Dnipro by the Grand Prince, St. Volodymyr the Great, the Equal-to-the-Apostles. Because of this

dramatic and blessed event, our people were illuminated by the light of Jesus Christ and His Word penetrated their hearts.

Pope Francis states in his Encyclical Letter, *Lumen Fidei*: "The light of Faith:

this is how the Church's tradition speaks of the great gift brought by Jesus." The Holy Father continues by quoting St. John's Gospel where Christ says of Himself: "I have come as Light into the world, that whoever believes in Me may not

remain in darkness" (Jn. 12:46).

That darkness was shattered by the appearance of a bright star followed by the Wise Men from the East. We

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PASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A. TO OUR CLERGY, HIEROMONKS AND BROTHERS, RELIGIOUS SISTERS, SEMINARIANS AND BELOVED FAITHFUL

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are able to celebrate anew the great mystery of our faith – the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ – because we inherited this faith from our ancestors. And what a mysterious and magnificent faith this is. The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, took on flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus became man so that all of us can become children of God, inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven, partakers of His glory.

All of this is beyond our ability to comprehend. It is astonishing that Almighty God became an infant for our salvation. The Word of God went through the whole process of conception and birth for us (“...by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man” – Nicene Creed).

This “good news” was announced to the shepherds. Together with them we are filled with wonder as the heavenly angelic host praises God and sings, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those who enjoy His favor rests” (Lk. 2:14).

The Gospel passage continues, “the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, in accord with what had been told them” (Lk. 2:20). In one of our Christmas carols we sing: “O Holy Night, the stars are brightly shining, this is the night of the dear Savior’s birth.” As with our ancestors, now we are not alone. “God is with us.” Entering into our world, Jesus, the Messiah, affects our every movement, our every action, our every aspiration, in fact our very life and destiny. The Incarnation, God-becoming-man, is not an illusion. It makes sense. “Through Him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through Him. All that came to be had life in Him...” (Jn. 1:3-4).

Christmas is such an obvious opportunity for renewal. This past “Year of Faith” urged us to

rediscover and renew our relationships with Christ that was given to us in Baptism. By virtue of our Baptism we are all called to share the “good news” with others, to evangelize, whether it is in our home in the example of prayer and witness we give, or perhaps at work, or in different organizations, both religious and secular. In some ways we are all given situations in which God is calling us to witness our faith.

1025 years ago, our ancestors were enlightened by Christ and His “good news.” This blessed gift they passed on to us. Now, let us pass it on to others. Let us rejoice on this great feast of the Nativity of our Lord and let us be grateful to Jesus for being born for our salvation. Christ is born – let us glorify Him!

We wish all of you a truly grace-filled Christmas and a very blessed and prosperous New Year.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

CHRIST IS BORN!
GLORIFY HIM!

+ Stefan Soroka
Archbishop of
Philadelphia for
Ukrainians

Metropolitan of Ukrainian
Catholics in the United
States

+Richard Seminack
Eparch of St. Nicholas in
Chicago

+Paul Chomnycky,
OSBM
Eparch of Stamford

+John Bura (author)
Apostolic Administrator
of St. Josaphat in Parma

Christmas, 2013



To Metropolitan Stefan and all our readership,

The entire staff of "The Way" greets all on this joyous Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ!



May the guiding light of the Bethlehem Star lead us to The Way of Christ - the path to salvation.

Therefore, let us all sing the Christmas carol, Boh Predvichny - God Eternal:

God Eternal is born today
He came down from above
To save us with His love
Christ is Born! Christ, the Son of God.



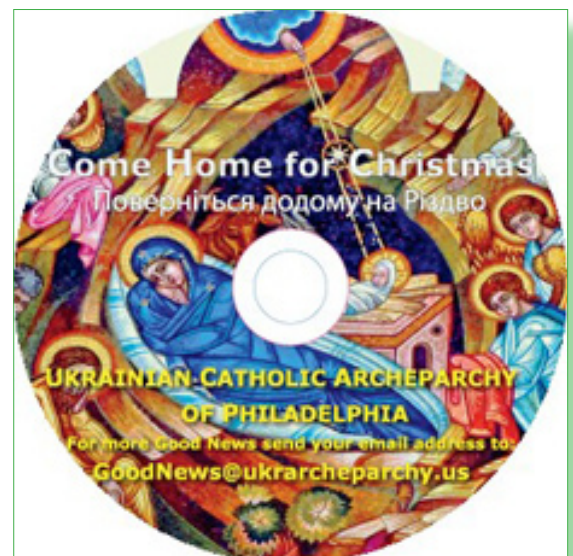
Christ is Born!
Христос Рождеться!

Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka invites all to "Come Home for Christmas"

A 5 minute DVD entitled "Come Home for Christmas" has been produced in both English and Ukrainian language versions and is being mailed to all parishioners throughout the Archeparchy. In addition the video program is posted on the archieparchial website <http://www.ukrarcheparchy.us/> and YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/thewayukrainian>

The Christmas service schedules of all parishes are also posted on the archieparchial website and were emailed to the faithful.

Metropolitan Stefan asks all the faithful to share this invitation with family, friends and neighbors to "Come Home for Christmas."



Philadelphia Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy Embarks on "Come Home for Christmas" Initiative

Philadelphia, Pa.— Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka has begun a "Come Home for Christmas" initiative in the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

A 5 minute DVD entitled "Come Home for Christmas" has been produced in both English and Ukrainian language versions and is being mailed to over 8500 households located in eastern Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware and Washington, D.C. In addition the video program has been posted on the archieparchial website <http://www.ukrarcheparchy.us/> and at YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/thewayukrainian>.

In the video, which Metropolitan Stefan narrates standing before the mosaic Nativity triptych in the Ukrainian Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, he states "the Nativity story is one of journeying and traveling. Joseph and Mary were journeying home to Bethlehem to be counted."

He cites "the Magi, the Three Kings. They journeyed from afar, guided by the celestial light of a star. They wanted to be in the presence of our God Made Man, Our Emmanuel."

Continuing the theme of journeying, he recounts how "the shepherds were abiding in the fields and watching their flocks. The angel and the multitude of heavenly host appeared to them. The shepherds then journeyed to the place where the Son of God was born of a Virgin named Mary."

From the Nativity story, Metropolitan Stefan recalls how "in our Ukrainian tradition, we also experience a journeying for Christmas. Children and grandchildren and extended families travel, often great distances, to be with parents and grandparents. All share in the love and warmth with those gathered around the dinner table for the Holy Supper."

But he reminds the viewer, "the journey does not end here. The journey continues on Christmas



eve or Christmas day from the Holy Supper table of the home to the Holy Supper table of Our Lord in the parish church.

"Here the ultimate spiritual dimension and joy of Christmas is experienced. Here family, friends, neighbors and new visitors gather as a parish family around the Holy Table of the Lord. All are invited. All are welcome. For here we come, just like the Magi and the shepherds, to be in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Here we come to we give God our praise, glory and honor. Here we relive His miraculous birth that occurred in Bethlehem some 20 centuries ago. Here we are reminded that our Eternal God is with us."

Metropolitan Soroka then invites all to Come

Home for Christmas. "As you watch this program and hear my words, I sincerely ask that you and your beloved family members accept my personal invitation. Let my invitation become your invitation to your relatives, your friends and your neighbors. Come home this Christmas. Come home to your parish family.

"The doors of our churches are wide open to you. They beckon you and your families. Our dedicated priests wish to greet you and share the joy of Christmas with you. Here we will embrace and welcome each other with our traditional greeting: God Is Born! Glorify Him!

"This Christmas, come home and partake in the Holy Supper of the Lord.

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Philadelphia Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy Embarks on "Come Home for Christmas" Initiative

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Come home and share His love and His peace with your parish family. Our Eternal God is with us. Let us come home and be with Him."

While the video is prepared from the perspective of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Metropolitan

Soroka commented that the message is "universal for all Christians." "All Christians are invited to journey to a church on Christmas eve or Christmas Day. We hear this invitation in the words of the timeless carol, 'O come all ye faithful . . . O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.'"

Additionally, Christmas service schedules of all parishes have been posted online on the archiepiscopal website and emailed with archiepiscopal newspaper The Way to the faithful.

Metropolitan Soroka stated as part of the

"new evangelization" this is an effort to reach out to all and welcome all into our churches. "I am optimistic this initiative will be well received in bringing people to Jesus Christ."

Schedule of services at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for Christmas 2013

Tuesday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE.

9:00 p.m. Compline Lytia Service. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (UKR/ENG).

Wednesday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY.

9:00 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (UKR).

11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (ENG).

Thursday, December 26 - SYNAXIS OF THEOTOKOS.

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (UKR/ENG).

Friday, December 27 - FEAST OF ST. STEFAN.

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (UKR/ENG).

Wednesday, January 1 - CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD.

FEAST OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT. NEW YEAR'S DAY.

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (UKR/ENG)

Monday, January 6 - THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD (JORDAN).

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy. Blessing of Water (UKR).

6:30 p.m. Divine Liturgy. Blessing of Water (ENG).

Tuesday, January 7 - CHRISTMAS (Julian Calendar)

10:00 a.m. Christmas' Divine Liturgy (UKR).

Sunday, January 12 - SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

3 p. m. FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS



Annual Festival of Christmas Carols will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2014 at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia. Choirs from different parishes will participate. Everyone is welcome.

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. (Mt. 2, 1 - 12)



Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem during the reign of the emperor Augustus (Octavian). Caesar Augustus decreed that a universal census be made throughout all his empire, which then also included Palestinian Israel. The Jews were accustomed to carry out the nation's census-taking according to ancestral-origins, tribes and family-relations. Every ancestral-origin and family-relation had its own designated city as its place of ancestry. The Most Blessed Virgin Mary and Righteous

Joseph, descended from the family line of King David, had to go to Bethlehem (the city of David), to register their names on the census-list of Caesar's subjects. At Bethlehem they did not find a single place vacant at any of the city's inns. In the celebrated cave, used as a stable, amidst the hay and the straw, strewn about as food and bedding for the cattle, far from the hearth of home, amidst people that were total strangers, on the cold winter night, and in a setting deprived not only of worldly grandeur but even of the basic amenities - was born the God-Man, the Savior

of the world. "I behold a strange and most glorious mystery, - with awe sings Holy Church, - Heaven - the Cave; the Throne of the Cherubim - the Virgin; the Manger - the Crib, in which lay the placeless Christ God" (Irmos in 9th Ode of the Festal Canon). Without defilement having given birth to the Divine Infant the Most Holy Virgin, Herself without help from strangers, "wraps Him in swaddling cloths and places Him in the manger" (Lk. 2). But amidst the midnight stillness, when all mankind was shrouded in its deepest sinful sleep, the proclaiming of the Birth

of the Savior of the world was heard by shepherds, watching their flocks by night. And the Angel of the Lord came before them and said: "Fear not, for lo I proclaim you tidings of great joy, which shall be for all people, for this day is born unto you the Savior, Which is Christ the Lord in the city of David". The humble shepherds were the first deemed worthy to offer worship for the salvation of mankind to Him that has condescended to "the image of an humble servant". Besides the Angelic glad tidings to the Bethlehem shepherds,

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NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

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the Nativity of Christ by means of a wondrous star was made known to Magi "knowing the stars", and in the person of these Eastern wise-men all the pagan world, imperceptibly - bent down upon its knees before the true Savior of the world, the God-Man. Entering wherein the Infant lay, the wise-men Magi - "falling down they worshipped Him, and opening their treasure they presented Him gifts: gold and frankincense and myrrh" (Mt. 2: 11).

In remembrance of the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, the feast day was established by the Church. Its very origin is related to the times of the Apostles. In the Apostolic Constitutions it says: "Brethren, observe the feast days, and among the chief such the day of the Birth of Christ, which make ye celebration of on the 25th day of the tenth month" (from March, which in those days began the year). There also in another place it said: "Celebrate the day of the Nativity of Christ, in which unseen grace is given man by the birth of the Word of God from the Virgin

Mary for the salvation of the world".

In the II Century also Sainted Clement of Alexandria indicates that the day of the Nativity of Christ is December 25. In the III Century as before Saint Hypolitus of Rome makes mention concerning the feast day of the Nativity of Christ, and designates the Gospel readings for this day from the beginning chapters of Saint Matthew. It is known also, that during the time of persecution of Christians by Maximian in the year 302, Nicomedia Christians numbering 20,000 were burned in church on the very feast day of the Nativity of Christ (Comm. December 28). In that same century, but later on after the persecution when the Church had received freedom of religion and had become the official religion in the Roman empire, we find the feast day of the Nativity of Christ observed throughout all the Universal Church. And this is evidenced from the works of saint Ephrem the Syrian, Sainted Basil the Great, Sainted Gregory the Theologian, Sainted Gregory of

Nyssa, Sainted Ambrose of Milan, Sainted John Chrysostom and other fathers of the Church of the IV Century concerning this feast day. Saint John Chrysostom, in his sermon which he gave in the year 385, points out that the feast of the Nativity of Christ is ancient and indeed very ancient. In this same century also at the place of the Bethlehem Cave, made famous by the Birth of Jesus Christ, the Equal-to-the-Apostles empress Helen erected a church, which her mighty son Constantine strove after her to make resplendid. In the Codex of the emperor Theodosius from 438, and of the emperor Justinian -- in 535, is promulgated as law the universal celebration of the day of the Nativity of Christ. It is in this sense, truly, that Nicephoros Kallistos, a writer of the XIV Century, says in his history that the emperor Justinian in the VI Century established the celebration of the Nativity of Christ throughout all the world.

However, during the first three centuries, when persecutions hindered the freedom of Christian Divine-services, in certain

places in the East -- in the Churches of Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria and Cyprus -- the feast day of the Nativity of Christ was combined together with the feast day of the Baptism of Christ on 6 January, under the in-common term "Theophany" - which both in the Greek and the Slavonic means "Manifestation of God". The reason for this, actually, was from the view, that Christ was baptized at a later time on His birthday, as might be inferred concerning this from the discourse of Saint John Chrysostom who, in one of his sermons on the Nativity of Christ, says: "it is not that day on which Christ was born which is called Theophany, but rather that day on which He was baptized". Towards suchlike a viewpoint also it is possible to consider a nuance in the words of the Evangelist Luke who, speaking about the Baptism of Jesus Christ, testifies, that then "Jesus being incipient [incipiens, arkhomenos] upon His thirtieth year" (Lk. 3:23). The celebration of the Nativity of Christ conjointly with Theophany

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NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

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in certain of the Eastern Churches continued to the end of the IV Century, and in some - until the V or even the VI Century. Remembrance of the ancient conjoining of the feasts of the Nativity of Christ and Theophany at present enters into the making of the order of services in the celebration of these feasts. For both - on the eve-day preceding the feast, there is a similar tradition among the people, that on the festal eve-days the fast ought to be kept until the stars appear. The order of Divine services on the eve of both feast days and the feast days themselves is done the same.

The day of the Nativity of Christ from of old was numbered by the Church

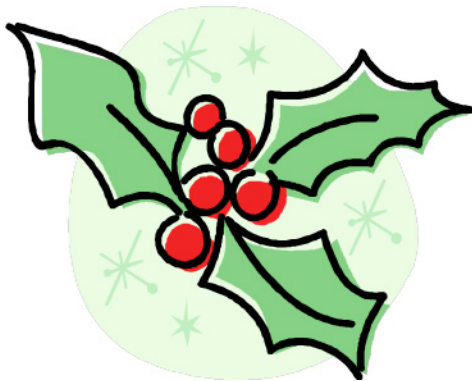
among the Twelve Great Feasts, - in accord with the Divine witness of the Gospel in depicting these festal events as the greatest, most all-joyful and wondrous. "Behold, I proclaim unto you glad tidings, -- said the Angel to the Bethlehem shepherds, -- of great joy, for all mankind. For unto you this day is born the Savior, Who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this is the sign for you: you will find the Infant wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. Then suddenly with the Angel was a multitude of the heavenly hosts, glorifying God and saying: Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good-will to mankind. Those hearing of this were awestruck at the

sayings of the shepherds concerning this Child. And the shepherds themselves returned back, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen" (Lk. 2: 10-20). Thus the Nativity of Christ, as an event most profound and extraordinary, was accompanied by the wondrous tidings to the shepherds and the Magi about the universal rejoicing for all mankind, -- "for the Savior is Born!", by the Angelic proclamation of glory to the new-born Savior, by the worship to him by shepherds and wise-men, by the reverent awe of many, hearkening to the words of the shepherds about the new-born Child, amidst glory and praise of Him by the

Shepherds.

In accord with the Divine witness of the Gospel, the fathers of the Church in their God-imbued writings also depict the feast of the Nativity of Christ as most profound, universal and all-joyous, which serves as a basis and foundation for all the other feast days.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



Christmas is the season of celebrating the fact that God became man and descended into the world. Christmas is a celebration of faith, hope, love, joy, peace on earth and good will among all people. What is the sense of all the gifts, the Christmas trees and the colorful lights in our homes if we cannot love each other and reach out to touch someone who is in distress or lonely in life? The best gift that we can give to someone is the love of God, a total and unconditional love. How joyful and grateful we should feel with the coming of Christ Our God into the world. Come, let us rejoice in Him. Rejoice, Christ is born, and God is revealed amongst us.

Christmas in Ukraine

Sviata Vechera or “Holy Supper” is the central tradition of the beautiful Christmas Eve celebrations in Ukrainian homes. The dinner table sometimes has a few wisps of hay on the embroidered table cloth as a reminder of the manger in Bethlehem. When the children see the first Star in the eastern evening sky, which symbolizes the trek of the Three Wise Men, the Sviata Vechera may begin. In farming communities the head of the household now brings in a sheaf of wheat called the didukh which represents the importance of the ancient and rich wheat crops of Ukraine, the staff of life through the centuries. Didukh means literally “grandfather spirit” so it symbolizes the family’s ancestors. In city homes a few stalks of golden wheat in a vase are often used to decorate the table.

A prayer is said and the father says the traditional Christmas greeting, “Khristos rodyvsya!” which translated is Christ is born!, which is answered by the family with “Slavite Yoho!” which translated is Let Us Glorify Him!. In some families the Old Slavic form Khristos razhdayetsya is used. At the end of the Sviata Vechera the family often sings Kolyadky which is a Ukrainian Christmas Carols. In many communities the old Ukrainian tradition of caroling is carried on by groups of young people and members of organizations and churches calling at homes and collecting donations. The favorite Ukrainian carol is Boh predvichny meaning God Eternal which has a very beautiful melody and lyrics. Some Ukrainian carols are unusual because they mention Ukraine while others are ancient pagan songs of a thousand years ago which have been converted into Christian carols.

Christmas is a joyous day which opens for Ukrainian families with attendance at Church. Ukrainian Churches offer services starting before midnight on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning. The traditional Christmas customs of Ukraine add color and significance to the winter festival of Christmas, and Ukrainian Christmas on January 7th is usually a peaceful and quiet event. This celebration reminds us of the baby in a Bethlehem manger whose birthday we celebrate. But whether Christmas is celebrated on December 25th or on January 7th the message is the same: “Peace on Earth! Good will towards men! (santas.net)

Celebration of Holy Days 2014

Just a reminder for the year 2014 concerning the celebration of holy days and feasts in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia: Please note: Gregorian Calendar/Julian Calendar

1. HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

- a) All Sundays of the year
- b) Theophany of Our Lord, Jesus Christ January 6th/January 19th
- c) Annunciation of the Mother of God March 25th/April 7th
- d) Ascension of Our Lord, Jesus Christ May 29th
- e) The Apostles, SS. Peter & Paul June 29th/July 12th
- f) Dormition of the Mother of God August 15th/August 28th
- g) Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ December 25th/January 7th

On these days, one of the Divine Liturgies is to be celebrated for the faithful (Pro Populo or For the People). A homily is to be preached on these days at all Divine Liturgies. The tradition of celebrating Vespers should also be re-introduced to enrich the liturgical life of the parish.

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Celebration of Holy Days 2014

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2. OTHER FEASTS

- a) Circumcision of Our Lord, Jesus Christ January 1st/January 14th
- b) Pratulín Martyrs January 23rd/February 5th
- c) Three Holy Hierarchs January 30th/February 12th
- d) Encounter of Our Lord, Jesus Christ February 2nd/February 15th
- e) Bright Monday April 21st
- f) Bright Tuesday April 22nd
- g) St. George the Great Martyr April 23rd/May 6th
- h) Pentecost Monday June 9th
 - i) Nativity of St. John the Baptist June 24th/July 7th
 - j) Bl. Nykolai Charnetsky & Others June 27th/July 10th
 - k) St. Volodymyr the Great July 15th/July 28th
 - l) St. Elias the Prophet July 20th/August 2nd
- m) Transfiguration of Our Lord, Jesus Christ August 6th/August 19th
- n) Beheading of St. John the Baptist August 29th/September 11th
- o) Nativity of the Mother of God September 8th/September 21st
- p) Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 14th/September 27th
- q) Falling Asleep of St. John the Theologian September 26th/October 9th
- r) Protection of the Mother of God October 1st/October 14th
- s) St. Demetrius the Great Martyr October 26th/November 8th
- t) St. Michael the Archangel November 8th/November 21st
- u) St. Josaphat the Hieromartyr November 12th/November 25th
- v) Entrance into the Temple of the Mother of God November 21st/December 4th
- w) St. Nicholas the Wonderworker December 6th/December 19th
- x) Conception of St. Anne (Immaculate Conception) December 9th/December 23rd
- y) Synaxis of the Mother of God December 26th/January 8th(2015)
- z) St. Stephen the Protomartyr December 27th/January 9th(2015)

The faithful are not obligated to attend Divine Services for these days. The clergy are not obligated to offer a Divine Liturgy for the faithful but should preach a homily on these days. These days are not to be transferred to Sunday. On all feast days and holy days, anointing/myrovannya should be celebrated with the faithful.

3. BINATION STIPENDS

If more than one Divine Liturgy is celebrated in a day during the week on these holy days and if three Divine Liturgies are celebrated on a weekend for the Sunday obligation (Saturday included), then the second stipend is to be forwarded to the chancery.

4. LITURGY OBLIGATIONS

A Bination Divine Liturgy is to be offered on the Sunday closest to the date of death of each of the following Hierarchs, with mention made in the parish bulletin:

- a) +Metropolitan Constantine Bohachevsky January 6th
- b) +Bishop Soter Ortynsky, O.S.B.M. March 24th
- c) +Bishop Jaroslav Gabro March 28th

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Celebration of Holy Days 2014

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- d) +Bishop John Stock June 29th
- e) +Bishop Walter Paska August 16th
- f) +Bishop Michael Kuchmiak, C.S.s.R. August 26th
- g) +His Beatitude, Josyf Cardinal Slipyj September 7th
- h) +Metropolitan Ambrose Senyshyn, O.S.B.M. September 11th
- i) +Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, November 1st
- j) +His Beatitude, Myroslav Ivan Cardinal Lubachivsky December 14th
- k) +Metropolitan Joseph Schmondiuk December 25th

In each parish a Divine Liturgy is also to be celebrated for the repose of the soul of a priest of the Archeparchy upon his falling asleep.

No stipend is to be drawn from the parish accounts or taken for any of these memorial Divine Liturgies.

5. GREAT FAST

The weekdays of the Great Fast are aliturgical whereas no Divine Liturgy should be celebrated except for the Feast of the Annunciation. On Wednesday and Friday of the Great Fast, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is to be celebrated. Typika may be used the other days. For funerals, the text used by the New Jersey Protokesbyterate may be utilized.

The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is to be celebrated at all Sunday Liturgies during this time.

During Holy Week, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts are to be celebrated Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. There is no Divine Liturgy celebrated on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. On Holy Saturday evening, Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is to be celebrated.

6. FASTS

The following are Days of Fast and Abstinence (abstaining from meat, eggs, and dairy products) in the Ukrainian Catholic Church:

- a) Monday of the First Day of the Great Fast March 3rd
- b) Good Friday April 18th

The following are Days of Fast (abstaining from meat):

- a) Eve of Theophany January 5th No Fasting This Year / January 18th
- b) Holy Saturday April 19th
- c) Beheading of St. John the Baptist August 29th/September 11th
- d) Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 14th/September 27th
- e) Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, December 24th/January 6th
- f) Every Friday during the year except for February 14th, April 25th, June 13th, December 26th(Gregorian Calendar)

This is obligatory for all Ukrainian Catholics between the ages of 14 and 59.

Msgr. Peter D. Waslo, Chancellor

St. Nicholas visits Melrose Park, PA

St. Nicholas visited children of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Melrose Park, PA on Sunday, December 8, 2013. Pictured: Fr. Ihor Royyk and children of the parish. (Photos: Russell Cooke).



SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church Donates a Christmas Tree to the Borough of Olyphant

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic, Olyphant, PA donated a Christmas Tree to the Borough of Olyphant this Christmas Season. The 25+ foot Bruce Spruce was removed from the front of St. Cyril's Rectory and placed in the Square by the Train Pavilion/ Flag Pole. Parishioners gathered, along with Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor and Jamye Morano, Mayor of Olyphant.

Photo: Lauren Telep, James Matuszewski, Cheryl Matuszewski, Jackie Hunt, Marie Martin, Marsalla Gawon, Sonia Maslar, Dorothy Zinsky, Jamye Morano (Mayor of Olyphant), Father Nestor Iwasiw (Pastor). Back Row: John Turko and Jack Martin.



Sixth "Generations of Faith Program" readies Assumption Parish in Perth Amboy, NJ for Christmas.

On Sunday, December 1, 2013, about 65 parishioners gathered for a festive and incisive catechetical program to ready the parish for the great celebration of the Nativity of Christ in the church hall which was decorated with the nativity icon and tables decorated with poinsettias, the parishioners enjoyed a wonderful lunch as they conversed about their preparations for the holiday as well as their Thanksgiving celebration.



The program then began when our pastor Father Ivan Turyk asked the participants to recall the following: As you enter the church of Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church in Perth Amboy, N.J. you see in the Nave of the Church surrounding the altar in a half circle on the left the various prophets from the Old Testament. On the opposite side of the half circle on the right, are pictured the saints of the New Testament. The center of these half circles is God the Father, then streaming from Him, a dove, the Holy Spirit, radiating to the Blessed Mother and then Christ and His apostles.



Once the participants of this Generations of Faith program titled "God is with Us" were immersed in the setting, Mrs. Helen Cheloc began the presentation in English with translations by Mrs. Alla Korostil in Ukrainian. The presentation centered on how the world was changed on that first Holy Night; and yet, the foundations for that change were set for thousands of years prior to that event. The theme of trust, humility and love were explored as they related to the world changing event 2013 years ago. The large Nativity Icon was featured and the writings of it were incorporated into the program.

As has been the custom of the previous GOF gatherings, parishioners had questions at their tables to discuss. The following five questions were decided upon by the GOF committee.

1. How do you keep the true meaning of Christmas alive in your home and how does it compare with the ways in which society tries to commercialize and secularize the meaning of Christmas?
2. What can we as Catholics do to keep the true meaning of Christmas alive?
3. Has saying "yes" to Christ transformed your life?
4. What role does the Christmas Eve Supper and caroling play in your family? Why are the traditions still kept in your family?
5. If you were with the Magi what would you bring to the baby Jesus on that first Christmas night?

(continued on next page)

Sixth "Generations of Faith Program" readies Assumption Parish in Perth Amboy, NJ for Christmas.

(continued from previous page)

After table discussions, a spokesperson from every table presented a short synopsis of their discussion with translations presented so everyone could benefit from the insights. The group was ready for two of the youngest parishioners that Sister Yosaphata prepared to explain the nativity story by putting together a creche while the story of the First Christmas was read. The concluding remarks were summarized with good recommendations by the participants. A young lady recently from Ukraine shared with the participants the need for extra prayer and fasting as well more acts of charity during this Advent season, while a Senior citizen that has been a parishioner for over 65 years stated that the elderly, the shut in, the neglected and the military should be remembered especially during this season. The program was ended with the singing by everyone of the verse from the Nativity vespers "God is with us"- Z Namu Boh.



His Beatitude Sviatoslav in his pastoral letter "The Vibrant Parish" reflects on the importance of the Word of God by saying "Permanent and continuous formation for various age groups-children, youth, adults and the elderly is an essential component of the vibrant parish". The Generation of Faith presentations at Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church address all age groups that are represented and it provides an opportunity for a deeper knowledge of the faith.

Likewise, in accordance with the same pastoral letter encouraging serving one's neighbor, the Parish raised over \$1,600.00, for the victims of the Typhoon in the Philippines, and the women's group of the Parish, St. Ann's Society have donated \$500.00 to the building of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Spain. Both of these causes are continents apart from Perth Amboy, New Jersey, but the parishioners are trying to adhere to the teaching of the pastoral letter "This service to our neighbor flows from our rootedness in Christ".

"IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE"

During the month of November, The Apostleship of Prayer chapter of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Reading, PA sponsored a warm clothing and blanket drive to help those in need in the area. The idea stemmed from one of the members of the Apostleship of Prayer, Antoinette Ridilla, who offered to use her time and talents to crochet scarves for the homeless for the winter. She brought this idea to an Apostleship meeting and it grew from there. Enough blankets, coats, hats, scarves and other items were collected to donate to three different local charities, two in Reading, PA and one in Lancaster, PA. The donations were delivered the first week of December, just in time for Saint Nicholas Day! Many thanks to all of the parishioners of the Reading Parish and also to those from our Lancaster Mission Parish for their generosity and kindness that made this charitable project possible!

The Reading Apostleship of Prayer is also coordinating food baskets to deliver to the parish shut-ins for Christmas in order to share God's love with those who cannot make it to church to experience the beautiful services of Christmas.

It is truly in giving that we receive, especially as we prepare to celebrate Our Savior's Birth!

S.S. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ambridge, PA
Invites You to Join Our Congregation in Celebrating
Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy
On Tuesday, December 24th, 2013
At 12:00 Midnight, E.S.T.
To Be Broadcast Live On
KDKA Radio 1020 A.M.
www.KDKA.com



“I will announce your name to my brothers, I will sing your praise in the midst of the assembly; and I will put my trust in Him.” Heb.2 verses: 12, 13

Missionary Sisters of Mother of God
711 North Franklin Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
(215) 627-7808
msmg@catholic.org

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!

Northeastern Pennsylvania’s MALANKA 2014

Northeastern Pennsylvania’s 10th Annual MALANKA is scheduled for Saturday evening, January 11, 2014 from 6:00pm to 1:00am at St. Vladimir Parish Center, 728 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton.

The festive evening will include a generous Ukrainian and American dinner buffet catered by Paul Wanas of Accentuate Caterers, cash bar, complimentary bubbly toast and dancing to the internationally known Ukrainian orchestra “Fata Morgana”. Door prizes will be awarded along with special awards for the lady and gentleman wearing the most attractive Ukrainian embroidered apparel.

Tickets are \$40.00 per person and can be obtained by contacting Michael Trusz, Ticket Chairman at 570 489-1256 or via one’s parish. No tickets will be sold at the door - advance reservations are required.

Doors will not open before 5:45pm. Parking is free.

Food and Clothing Drive in Olyphant, PA

St. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church Olyphant, Olyphant, PA sponsored a Church Community Project: Clothing Drive. The parishioners collected over 100 boxes/bags of clothes for Adults, children and babies and took 4 carloads and 2 truck loads to deliver to the United Neighborhood Centers, Olive Street, Scranton, Pa on Monday Nov. 25th, 2013



St. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church Olyphant, Olyphant, PA sponsored a Food Drive for Food Pantry at St. Michael's Church, 316 First Ave., Jessup, Pa (Bread Basket of NEPA for the Mid-valley area and TEFAP) Monday, Nov. 26th. The parishioners collected a truck load of food and delivered it on Monday Nov. 26th in time for Thanksgiving.

Pyrohy for Holy Supper - Scranton, PA

Scranton's St. Vladimir Parish Pyrohy Team gathered on Saturday, December 7, 2013 to prepare hundreds of dozens of verynyky for many families' Christmas Eve Holy Supper.

The hardworking group, which numbers thirty to forty at any one session, comes together at least six times a year to not only raise funds in support of the parish, but also to enjoy the fellowship and fun they have together. To quote just one team member: "Not only are we helping our parish, but we're holding on to our rich ethnic traditions while building a strong Christian community".

Our pastor, Father Myron Myronyuk is pictured in the back row, third from the left.



BASILIAN SISTERS HOLD FALL COMMUNITY DAYS

The Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, Jesus Lover of Humanity Province, gathered at their Motherhouse in Fox Chase Manor, PA, for a weekend of prayer, reflection and discussion, November 22-24, 2013.

Fourth in a series of “Community Days—Facing Our Future With Hope”, the three-day session began with Provincial Superior Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski’s update of Province matters and then centered on the Sisters’ plans for their communal future.



Once again assisted by facilitators, Sister Carol Marozzi, SSJ, and Sister Connie Gilder, SSJ, the attendees engaged in contemplative dialogue to reflect upon progress made thus far and to determine if the group is headed toward a preferred course of direction.

At the conclusion of the three-day session, each Sister was called upon to reflect upon her commitment to her religious Order and to re-dedicate herself to work for “the life of the world and the future of our mission as Sisters of St. Basil the Great.”

In conclusion, Sister Dorothy Ann expressed the hope that “these days have brought us a greater appreciation of each other, our Province and our Order so that we can continue on our path to transformation.”



Photo at left: Provincial Council

Top Row – Sister Joann Sosler, Sister Ann Laszok, Sister Maria Rozmarynowycz.

Bottom Row – Sister Clement Bartholomew, Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski.

Groundbreaking ceremony of the Holodomor Memorial took place in Washington, DC

On December 4, 2013 a groundbreaking ceremony of the Holodomor Memorial took place in Washington, DC. The ceremony was attended by over 200 people, including representatives of the U.S. Congress and State Department, National Park Service, former U.S. Ambassadors to Ukraine, Ambassadors accredited to the U.S., Ukraine Embassy staff, and Ukrainian American community.

The attendees of the event were addressed by Olexander Motsyk, Ambassador of Ukraine to the U.S.; Michael Sawkiw, Chairman of the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 1932-1933; Rep. Sander Levin and Rep. Marcy Kaptur, Co-chairs, Congressional Ukrainian Caucus; Ambassador Douglas Davidson, Special Envoy of the U.S. Department of State for Holocaust Issues; Bob Vogel, Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks National Park Service; Anthony Fisher, Trustee of "Dmytro Firtash Foundation", Marco Mihkelson, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of Estonian Parliament; H.E. Zygimantas Pavilionis, Ambassador of Lithuania to the U.S.; H.E. Petr Gandalovic, Ambassador of Czech Republic to the U.S.; H.E. Gyorgy Szapary, Ambassador of Hungary to the U.S.

In his speech, Ambassador of Ukraine O.Motsyk emphasized: "I am sure that in the fall of 2014 Washington, DC will be enriched by a new important Memorial, symbolizing triumph of truth and justice. The monument that we're going to erect here, in the heart of Washington, DC will warn the mankind so that such atrocities could never ever happen again in the world."

The ceremony of Blessing of Commemorative Plaque was led by His Eminence Anthony, Metropolitan and Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S. and the Most Reverend Stefan Soroka, Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

<http://usa.mfa.gov.ua>



(Photos: <https://www.facebook.com/ukr.embassy.usa>)

Message from Dmitry Firtash delivered at the Holodomor Memorial Groundbreaking Ceremony in Washington DC on 4th December 2013.

Your Eminence, Your Grace, Reverend Clergy, Lord Risby, Honorable Ambassadors, Senators, Congressmen, Distinguished Guests.

I applaud the important work of the US Holodomor Committee in raising awareness of the Holodomor tragedy and in campaigning for the erection of this Memorial in Washington.

Its elegant and timeless design and prominent position will ensure that

future generations of American citizens and visitors to Washington are able to acknowledge the historic significance of the Holodomor, which was a tragic chapter in the history of Ukraine.

It has been a great privilege for me to support this important and worthy endeavour. Many of the victims who fled the famine came to the United States of America, and it is a tribute to this great Country that it opened its doors to so many of our

people and where today their descendants are a large, prosperous and valued part of American society.

This ground breaking ceremony is a sombre occasion when we remember the victims of this sad chapter in our history. But it should also be a cause for inspiration. This Memorial - when completed - will become a symbol of hope, a proud testament to the fact that Ukrainians everywhere can stand tall and look to the

future with optimism and renewed faith, proud in our language, our culture, our traditions and our history.

With my sincere thanks to all of you who are here today to mark this special occasion, especially to those of you who have worked so hard to help realise this project, and with my best wishes for a successful ceremony.

Yours faithfully,

Dmytro Firtash

Holodomor Memorial Groundbreaking, Washington, DC

The building of the long-awaited Ukrainian Holodomor Memorial in Washington in remembrance of the millions of Ukrainians who died in Stalin's 1932-33 famine-genocide was launched Dec 4 with the symbolic groundbreaking ceremony at the site carried out by eight individuals and representatives of organizations instrumental in the successful achievement of this goal (from left to right): Robert Vogel, superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks; Larysa Kurylas, designer and sculptor of the monument; U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio); Ukrainian Ambassador Oleksandr Motsyk; Michael Sawkiw, of the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness; Anthony Fisher, representing Ukrainian businessman Dmytro Firtash, the major funder of the memorial; U.S. Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), sponsor of the Holodomor Memorial bill in Congress; and Oleksandr Severyn, 91, from the Bronx, NY, a Holodomor survivor. (Article and photo by Yaro Bihun.)



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Committee-for-Ukrainian-Holodomor-Genocide-Awareness-1932-33/115928911852192>

Perth Amboy Parish Marks 80th Anniversary of Ukraine's Great Famine

By Andrij Wowk

"No one knew how many innocents entered the grave – old, young, children, and those not yet born, in the bosoms of their mothers." These words were among many by which the parish of the Ukrainian Assumption Church in Perth Amboy, NJ solemnly commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor (Terror-Famine) in Ukraine on Sunday, November 23rd, 2013. Led by the church Choir "Boyan", directed by Alla Korostil, the requiem-concert included poetry readings and the performance of several musical pieces by the choir.



Following a "panakhyda" for the 10 million victims of the Holodomor which concluded the morning's Divine Liturgy, parish faithful assembled in the church hall to take part in the commemoration. The requiem-concert was opened by the words: "7,441 years from the beginning of the world, 1,933 years after the Birth of Christ, the Great Famine happened in Ukraine. There was no war, no drought, no flood, or pestilence at the time. There was only the evil will of one group of people against another."

Participants recited a number of poems on the topic of the Hoodomor, including works of Ukrainian poets Lesia Lubarska and Bohdan Dydyk. This was followed by the Choir "Boyan" performing the well-known song "Oj u luzi chervona kalyna" (In the meadow the red kalyna is bowed), "Bozhe velykyj jedynyj" (Great and only God), and the Ukrainian national anthem, "Shche ne vmaerla Ukraiina" (Ukraine lives on). The program was concluded by a performance of the song "Svicha" (Candle) by choir member Iryna Stems'ka. A slide show of historical photos taken in Ukraine during the Holodomor was shown in the background throughout the performances.



Few in the audience were left untouched by the emotion of the event, including many of the performers. The commemorative concert was organized by Mrs. Korostil with the support of Pastor Rev. Ivan Turyk. The historical slide show for the event was coordinated by Andrij Wowk.

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

Excessive complaints neglected. People have 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

ENCOUNTER 2014: ENCOUNTERING JESUS CHRIST

Would you like to "Encounter Jesus Christ" with other Eastern Catholics through prayer, teaching and fellowship?

The Eastern Catholic Bishops of the U.S. invite you to participate in the Conference, EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES ENCOUNTER 2014 which is intended to be an inspired gathering of God's people from the Eastern Catholic Churches of the United States and Canada "Encountering Jesus Christ" ENCOUNTER 2014 will take place in Orlando, Florida at the Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel, January 30 to February 2, 2014. Clergy Days are January 30-31; the Main Conference January 31 to February 2. Conference Registration fee \$95 covers all meals, break refreshments and materials. Special Hotel room rate of \$109. For more information and to register, go to: www.Encounter2014EasternCatholicChurches.org or call 570-294-2910 to request brochures. Look forward to praying, learning and meeting with you at ENCOUNTER!

“The Way” Holiday Schedule

**The first 2014 issue of “The Way”
will be the January 12, 2014 Issue.**

**Visit our website, blog, or Facebook
page for any news or updates.
www.ukrarcheparchy.us**



A Request by Metropolitan Stefan

We are all aware of the unsettling events occurring in Ukraine. Ukrainians are showing great courage to manifest change in their society. We admire their efforts for democracy. Many organizations in our archeparchy are collecting funds to aid those involved. So as not to show favoritism to any one group, I am asking pastors to urge parishioners to assist through their preferred organizations. Collection of funds to assist will be done by the respective organizations. Thank you for your anticipated assistance of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

“We condemn those acts of violence that were utilized against peaceful citizens,” His Beatitude Sviatoslav

Tuesday, 03 December 2013

In the name of our Church I want to express my sadness about the events which took place on Independence Maidan in Kyiv this night. We condemn those expressions of violence which were utilized by law enforcing authorities towards peaceful citizens,” stated His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk), UGCC Head, in commenting on the events of the night of November 30th in the capital of Ukraine.

Simultaneously UGCC Primate warned against using force as a response. “We ask you not to permit more escalation of violence which can lead to even more tragic results. We should not answer violence with violence, evil with evil,” noted His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

He urged all faithful of the Church and people of goodwill to pray and hold prayer vigils “for peace and harmony in our country.” “I encourage that all our churches organize prayer services in order to use the strength of prayer to heal those wounds caused our society and so that we can gain hope for a better future. Hope comes from Almighty God. He has that power of love which is capable of conquering any temptation of violence,” appealed Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church Primate.

UGCC Department of Information

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UGCC Head greeted the priests and seminarians who arrived to serve people gathered on the Maidan

Thursday, 05 December 2013

Today, on December 4th, the day of the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Mother at the Temple, Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church during the Pontifical Liturgy in the Patriarchal Cathedral of Christ's Resurrection greeted all the priests and seminarians who arrived in Kyiv in order to be with their people on the Maidan.

"I greet all our priests from various cities and villages who have arrived here in order to be together with their people. I greet my brethren-seminarians, especially from Lviv Spiritual Seminary who together with their Rector and Vice-Rector came in order to serve the people gathered on the Maidan. I greet all of you who, possibly, just

as Blessed Virgin Mary, left your warm homes and come to the capital of our Ukraine today in order to seek a road to hope, to a better future for our country and our people."

His Beatitude Sviatoslav reminded all that the Feast of the Presentation at the Temple of the Blessed Mother is one of the 12 greatest Christian holydays in the year.

"This feast focuses our attention on one historical event in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Already at the age of three, she was brought by her parents Joachim and Anna to the temple. Through this act they wanted to give her to a consecrated service of God. They were a sterile couple and promised God, that should they have a child, they would offer that child for the service of the Lord," narrated in his sermon the Church Primate.

He noted that today we entered this church on a very

complicated day in the history of our country. One can say that today we are filled with mixed feelings. On the one hand -- a lot of anxiety, on the other hand -- hope "The day which we are living is not only filled with anxiety but also with hope, because in our search as Christians, we are taking a step towards God. Even in this complex time we are not leaving the path of His commandments -- the commandments of love for God and love for one's neighbor. In celebrating the feast of the Blessed Virgin, we together with her are making a feast that is beyond aggression, violence, and hatred. And by our path we are showing the way to all Ukrainian people -- which is the path of exit from this complex scenario in which we find ourselves. There is no other path which we should take, but only the path of Christ's commandments -- that path which in essence is Christ himself. He said "I am the Way, the Truth, the Life" concluded the Church Head.

He urged all to pray today for Ukraine, to pray for our future -- for

a European future. "Just as many centuries ago here, in Kyiv, the Great King Yaroslav the Wise dedicated this land to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us do the same today -- let us place our land, our people, our nation under the intercession of the Mother of God. And we can be sure that the anxiety will turn into hope," emphasized the preacher.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav noted that in Greek-Catholic churches there are continuous prayer vigils for a better fate of our Ukrainian people. Therefore, at the end of the Liturgy in the Patriarchal Cathedral, the faithful prayed Our Father and Hail Mary, Glory to God, and sang the hymn "Oh Lord Almighty and Only."

Concelebrant with his Beatitude was Bishop Bohdan (Dziurakh), the Secretary of UGCC Synod of Bishops as well as priests from various UGCC eparchies and exarchates in Ukraine.

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Bishops of Poland express their solidarity in prayer with the Ukrainian people

Monday, 09 December 2013

The Polish Episcopal Conference sent Ukrainians "words of solidarity in prayer with the Ukrainian people at this moment of such significant historic meaning." "We strive to express our spiritual union with all Ukrainian citizens who during these days feel a special responsibility for the fate of their motherland," states the letter from the Polish Episcopal Conference

addressed to UGCC Head His Beatitude Sviatoslav. "With our prayer we embrace your motherland with which Poland has brotherly and good neighbor ties as well as numerous collaborative efforts."

Ukraine deserves that its citizens be able to live in dignity and that their rights be respected and based on universal values which come from common Christian roots, the letter notes. "We fervently believe that

Christ – the Lord of the history and actions of humans – will permit us all to overcome all difficulties, making them the foundation of a new closeness and hope for the resurrection of goodness," state the authors.

"We ask once again that you pass on to your faithful and all Ukrainian citizens," note the Polish bishops, "our expression of closeness and



solidarity through prayer with these words: God, safeguard Ukraine!"

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DECLARATION

of the Permanent Synod of the UGCC

Wednesday, 11 December 2013

We are profoundly disturbed by the actions of the state security forces on the Maydan Square in heart of Kyiv conducted under the cover of the night.

We condemn the action directed towards restricting civil liberties, especially the freedom of expression and peaceful civic manifestation of the citizens of Ukraine.

We declare our support and solidarity with all those on the Maydan Square who are standing with dignity and witnessing to the dignity of their fellow citizens and of the whole nation.

We strongly support the peaceful character of this civic gathering and declare our rejection of any type of violence.

We pray to God Almighty for peace, justice and the triumph of truth for our people.

In this time of great trial by the words of Jesus Christ that were proclaimed in all of our churches this past Sunday offer encouragement: "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed!" (Lk 8, 50)

May the blessing of the Lord be upon you!

+Sviatoslav

Major Archbishop of Kyiv and Halych

Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

And the members of the Permanent Synod:

+Volodymyr Viytyshyn, Archbishop and Metropolitan of Ivano Frankivsk

+Ken Nowakowski Eparch of New Westminster (Canada)

+Borys Gudziak, Eparch of the Eparchy of St. Volodymyr the Great in Paris

+Yaroslav Pryriz, Eparch of Sambir-Drohobych ;

+Bohdan Dzhiurakh, Bishop and Secretary of the Permanent Synod of the UGCC

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

His Beatitude Lubomyr called Ukrainians to work and pray

Wednesday, 11 December 2013

Archbishop Emeritus Lubomyr (Husar) made a speech to millions of Ukrainians, who were on Independence Square in Kiev and told Ukrainians a proverb: Work as if everything depends on you, and pray to the Lord as if everything depends on him

He welcomed “ warmly “ everybody on the Independence Square and all the streets of Ukraine and the world.

“It is clear to all of us, who assembled here, that Ukraine needs a big change. Maybe someone asks you where those changes come from? Maybe someone will give them to us or fight for them? No. These major changes, which we desire, because our country and the people truly need them, must be won by ourselves”, - the spiritual leader of Ukrainians said.



Appealing to people His Beatitude remembered a proverb, which he heard first in North America, and later - in different states, among other nations, and more recently in Ukraine.

“This saying is simple, but has a profound meaning : work as if everything depends on you and pray to the Lord , as if everything depends on him ,” - said the spokesman .

He said that for younger generation to work means, first of all, to know what the normal state is. And for the older generations - to make a profound analysis of the situation, to understand what to do.

“When we work, we understand what we want» - he says.

The second part of the proverb - pray as if everything depends on God. “Our prayer is not a request to God to change something. We pray to God to ask him to realize the things that belong to us from time immemorial. Prayer is a request for God to accomplish that he established when we started to be an independent nation. Pray to God is of critical importance for us. We comprehend nothing without a prayer “- said the Archbishop Emeritus.

“So Dear community, I want to beg you ... not only I but also the initiative group” First of December“: work as if everything depends on us, let us pray like everything depends on the Lord “- called His Beatitude.

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“Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) – a laboratory of living theological thought...” UGCC Head

Monday, 09 December 2013

“Ukrainian Catholic University is a blessing for our Church and for the Ukrainian people. Its 50th anniversary is a sign and a Biblical symbol of this blessing of God,” noted in his Epistle on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Ukrainian Catholic University, His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk), UGCC Head.

According to the Church Head, today UCU is the intellectual center of UGCC, a place of gathering of “creative minds in an atmosphere of prayer and a sense of responsibility for the fate of the Church.”

The Epistle also covers the history of the founding of UCU. In 1963, Patriarch Josyf Slipyi, after 18 years of penal servitude in Siberia, unexpectedly appeared in Rome. By his first decree, he founded Ukrainian Catholic University – “a forge in which there should be educated and raised new generations of priests and lay apostles, warriors for a truth and scholarship free of coercion.” (Testament)

The significance of this university goes far beyond the borders of Ukraine. It is expected that UCU can provide weighty statements and even redeeming Christian solutions for many contemporary problems within the context of the whole Universal Church. The UCU community chose the favorite expression of its founder, “Yearn for the Highest” as the slogan of its jubilee year. “To recognize the signs of the times” and to find solutions for the most complicated contemporary problems – that is exactly this Highest that UCU should wish for itself.” he emphasized. No less important is a deep comprehension of the church character of its mission within the university community itself. Of course, the “university assists the Church to discover new ways of communication with society, to understand how the world is changing and how to better, in the contemporary and in new circumstances, to preach God’s Grace of Salvation.” In this sense UCU is called upon to be “a laboratory of living theological thought that is born from a deeply-rooted live transmission of faith and a continual openness to the renewing acts of the Holy Spirit.”

UCU belongs to the world network of Catholic universities who deal in the lawful sphere of Catholic education.

“I cannot imagine UCU without UGCC nor UGCC without UCU. May the University always remain a pulsating source from which there will flow to our Church and our people, streams of God’s Wisdom, valid scholarship, and above all – the righteousness and holiness of life,” writes His Beatitude Sviatoslav, UGCC Head, in the Epistle on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Ukrainian Catholic University.

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January 2014 - Січня 2014

Happy Birthday!

З Днем народження!

January 6: Rev. Andriy Manko, C.S.s.R.
January 9: Very Rev. Archpr. Daniel Gurovich
January 12: Rev. Vasyl Sivinskyi
January 19: V. Rev. Archimandrite Joseph Lee
January 21: Rev. Taras Lonchyna
January 28: Rev. Mr. Theodore Spotts

**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!

January 5: Rev. Volodymyr Popyk
(17th Anniversary)
January 8: Rev. Oleksandr Dumenko
(13th Anniversary)
January 9: Rev. Orest Kunderevych
(16th Anniversary)
January 17: Rev. Paul Wolensky
(20th 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!**

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