

# THE WAY ШЛЯХ

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## Christmas at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia, PA December 25, 2013



Watch a video on our blog at <http://www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com/>

### Highlights inside this issue:

**Metropolitan Stefan Announces Sobor for Archeparchy - Pg. 7**

**Remembering Metropolitan Stefan's trip to Rome - Pg. 8**

**St Nicholas Parish in Philadelphia celebrates 70th Anniversary - Pg. 10**

## Christmas in Olyphant

The Divine Liturgy on Christmas was celebrated along with the 125th Anniversary of the Church (1888-2013) at St. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, Pa. by Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor.

Monsignor Stephen Hrynuck who turned 102 years old on December 27th, attended the Divine Liturgy and sat with the Parishioners.

The Choir was under the direction of Patrick Marcinko Jr. and the Divine Liturgy was sung in Church Slavonic along with traditional Ukrainian Christmas Songs. The World Renowned Soprano Opera Singer, Rosemary Musoleno Martynuk and Judy McLane, NYC Broadway Star of the current show MAMA MIA were in attendance with the Church choir.



**Monsignor Stephen Hrynuck turned 102 years old on December 27th. He is pictured here with Rev. Nestor Iwasiw and parishioners of the church. Monsignor was the pastor for 57 years and retired in December 2008 at the age of 98, the oldest catholic serving pastor in the USA. Monsignor is also a priest for over 75 years. Mnohaya Lita!**



**(Left to right) Judy McLane (Broadway Star of MAMA MIA) , Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor, Rosemary Musoleno Martynuk, Opera Singer, and Lauren Telep.**



# CHRISTMAS EPISTLE OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

To the Son, eternally and immaculately born of the Father,  
Who—in the fullness of time—was born bodily, without seed, from a Virgin,  
Let us cry out to Christ-God: Holy are You, O Lord,  
Who fortified our strength! (Canon of the Nativity).

Christ is born!

At the voice of the angel, calling to the shepherds in the dark of night, let us now hasten to the poor stable in Bethlehem. Here we see in the Blessed Virgin Mary's arms the Son of God, who came into our world as a man. Together with them, let us rejoice and marvel; let us sing and contemplate the living and true God, who—born in a human body—gives Himself into human hands as a small, gentle and defenceless child.

Our Saviour's Nativity reveals the depths of Divine life as well as the truth about man. He—who today appears in human flesh—existed before the creation of the world, for—as God before all ages—He is eternally and immaculately born of the Father as a son! This is the ineffable and incomprehensible mystery of Jesus Christ's divine sonship which today is revealed and preached to all mankind. This feast makes the divine sonship accessible for all through the proclamation that God the Father loves us as his sons and daughters. In His new-born Son, we experience today our nearness to God. We experience the same warm, powerful, real and life-giving intimacy which is the Father's intimate affection for His first-born.

Gazing into the faces of the Divine Child and His Mother Mary, let us grasp the truth the Nativity teaches us about our humanity and of His humanity, which is a sign of God's presence: "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger" (Lk 2:12). This child—the God of Israel, Who—in the fullness of time—was born bodily from a Virgin without seed. He bestows upon Joseph the Betrothed, the wonderful role of guardian. At the Nativity of Christ, we receive the Eternal God in our own form. For people rightly desire to be cared for and here in Bethlehem, God himself—as a child—is the one caring for the human family!

Humaneness—as a sense of and respect for the sanctity of human life—is a moving and saving path along which—on this mysterious night—the Son of God, the Son of Mary, comes to our homes, to our families, to our nation. And this divine-humanity—the God-Manhood of Incarnate Son of God—gives us a Christmas path to follow in order to love God and neighbour. By celebrating Christmas with travellers and the homeless, or in solidarity with those who are despised and whose dignity is denied, we, Christians, as true guardians and evangelists of God's presence among us, make our world, our society more humane and dignified for man himself.

The birth of the Son of God, the Eternal Word of the Father, reveals along with the greatness and glory of our God, the Creator and Saviour, the greatness and glory of man as the crown of all creation. In His Incarnation, God reveals the special dignity of man, because He is incarnated in it—that is to say, in his own image. St. Irenaeus of Lyon says: "When the Word was made flesh... He Himself became what His image was... making man like the invisible Father through the visible Word" (Adv. Haer., 5, 16, 2).

Glorifying the dignity of the human person, Christ's Church today sings out: "Let us cry out to Christ-God: Holy are You, O Lord, Who fortified our strength!" Just as the coming to earth of the Son of God through the Incarnation became the centre of world history, similarly the dignity of the human person is the foundation for a true and indeed humane society. The Church teaches that social institutions and their leaders must respect each human person and their prime duty is to promote the holistic growth of each

**(continued on next page)**

# CHRISTMAS EPISTLE OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

(continued from previous page)

person. The person can never be a means for the realization of economic, social or political agendas imposed by secular authorities. Rather governments must be vigilant when placing restrictions on freedoms or burdens on a person's private life to never harm human dignity (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, § 131-133).

There is no future for a society in which man is demeaned. The dignity of the human person is the source for just laws and equitable social order. For in the human person the temporal and eternal, the divine and human, are united. Humanity is the door to eternity opened on Christmas Day by the Son of God's humanity. So celebrating the Nativity means to keep open the doors of our hearts to human dignity, especially of the weak and defenceless, as was the Divine Child Himself in the arms of the Virgin Mary.

Today once again Ukrainian society is striving to build its future on the foundation of the Christian faith. The new-born Saviour is the fulfilment of the hopes of all mankind for the coming of God's kingdom—a kingdom of justice, peace and goodness. The birth of the eternal King of Peace was announced by the angel, when he said to the shepherds: "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour" (Lk 2:10-11). This historic moment is important to us, for the word of the Evangelist proclaims that Christ Himself is the source of our joy and the end of our fears! In the Nativity of Christ, may our anxiety be transformed into hope, may confusion and uncertainty be directed along the path that leads to the place of our Lord's birth. On this Christmas Day, when, according to the apostle Paul, the power of God was made manifest in human weakness (cf. II Cor. 12:9), our sense of powerlessness is turned into a realization of our self-worth. Through the action of the Holy Spirit, this realization of our self-worth becomes a force that will enable us to build a society worthy of man. That is why today we glorify the power of the divine-humanity, singing: "Holy are You, O Lord, Who fortified our strength!"

Dearly beloved in Christ! On this joyous feast day of Christ's Nativity, I wish all of you my sincerest greetings. I wish for you goodness and peace, harmony and health. I desire to knock on the door of every Ukrainian family! With the sound of ancient carols, I wish to cheer every Ukrainian heart! Announcing the great joy of our Saviour's birth, I want to gather around Bethlehem's stable all of our church—both in Ukraine and abroad— into one community of God!

Today let us feel like one Christian family in which our Saviour is born. Along the path of humanity and Christian solidarity, we can touch all who defend their own dignity, the dignity of their family and their nation! Let us share our Christmas joy with those who are far from home, in hospital beds or prison bunks. Together, guided by the light of the star, let us make haste towards our neighbours in order to see in the flesh—the Invisible One; in His poverty—the Source of all goodness; in His weakness—the Almighty, as the new-born Christ-God in the embrace of the Theotokos.

Christ is born! Let us glorify Him!

† SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv, at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, 19 December 2013, on the feast day of St. Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra, the Wonderworker. *(Note: Article was unofficially translated into English.)*

# Theophany one of the great feasts for Eastern Catholic and Orthodox churches

BY JOHN E. USALIS  
January 7, 2014

## SHENANDOAH, PA

- St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shenandoah celebrated on Monday the Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord, which included the blessing of "Jordan Water" in remembrance of the baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist.

The Feast of the Theophany is a major feast in Eastern Christianity. The importance of this event, described in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, involves the first public manifestation of the Holy Trinity to mankind. Theophany comes from the Greek word, "theophania," which means "appearance of God."

In Western Christianity, Sunday marked the Feast of the Epiphany, when the Magi came to visit the baby Jesus and presented Him with the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

This feast in the Eastern Christian churches originally included the Nativity of Jesus, the

appearance of the Magi and the wedding feast at Cana, all outward manifestations or appearances of God in the world. Gradually, the feast of the Nativity (Christmas) was moved in the west to Dec. 25, and the Western Christian church accepted the visit by the Magi on Jan. 6, the 12th day of Christmas.

The church pastor, Monsignor Myron Grabowsky, celebrated the Divine Liturgy, assisted by Deacon Paul Spotts. During the prayer service to bless the water ceremony at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Robert Leggo, Edward Bickowski and Sam Litwak each held a trikir, which is a liturgical candlestick with three lighted candles joined at the base.

Grabowsky and Spotts stood before two large containers of water as they conducted the service. Later in the service, Grabowsky took a trikir, made a sign of the cross with it over the water three times, then immersed it flame-side down into the water, extinguishing the flames, saying, "Great are you,



**Celebrating the Feast of Theophany on Monday are, from left, Monsignor Myron Grabowsky, Deacon Paul Spotts, Robert Leggo, Edward Bickowski and Sam Litwak at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Shenandoah. (Photo: John E. Usalis)**

O Lord, and marvelous are Your works; no words suffice to sing the praise of Your wonders."

He repeated the immersion and prayer with each trikir. Grabowsky then leaned over the water, saying a prayer while blowing on the water three times in the form of a cross. He said another prayer while blessing the water with his right hand, immersing the hand three times and making the sign of the cross.

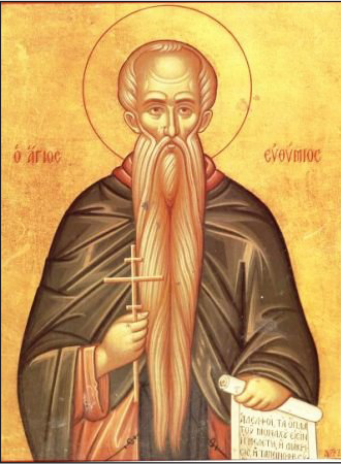
Grabowsky then held a cross, made the sign of the cross again with it, which was followed by

him immersing the cross into the water.

Using small plastic cups, Grabowsky filled them with the blessed water and handed the cups to Spotts and the three men to drink. He walked through the church and blessed the congregation, followed by an invitation to all to come to the sanctuary where they could drink the Jordan Water and take some home in containers they brought with them.

<http://republicanherald.com/>

## Venerable Euthymius the Great (January 20)



*He 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 coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure 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 people 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." (Lk. 6, 17-23)*

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Abbot in Palestine; born in Melitene in Lesser Armenia, A.D. 377; died A.D. 473. He was educated by Bishop Otreius of Melitene, who afterwards ordained him priest and placed him in charge of all the monasteries in the Diocese of Melitene. At the age of twenty-nine he secretly set out on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and remained for some time with a settlement of monks at a laura called Pharan, about six miles east of Jerusalem. In 411 he withdrew, with St. Theoctistus, a fellow-hermit, into the wilderness, and lived for a while in a rough cavern on the banks of a torrent. When many disciples gathered around them they turned the cavern into a church and built a monastery which was placed in charge of St. Theoctistus.

A miraculous cure which Euthymius was believed to have effected for Terebon, the son of the Saracen chief Aspebetus, spread the fame of the holy hermit far beyond the confines of Palestine. Aspebetus was afterwards ordained priest and became bishop over his tribe, in which capacity he attended the Council of Ephesus in 431.

When the report of this miracle had made the name of Euthymius famous throughout Palestine, and large crowds came to visit him in his solitude, he retreated with his disciple Domitian to the wilderness of Ruba, near the Dead Sea. Here he lived for some time on a remote mountain called Marda whence he afterwards withdrew to the desert of Ziphon (the ancient Engaddi). When large crowds followed him to this place also, he returned to the neighborhood of the monastery of Theoctistus, where he took up his abode in a cavern. Every Sunday he came to the monastery to take part in the Divine services. At length, because numerous disciples desired him as their spiritual guide, he founded, in 420, on the right side of the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, a laura similar to that of Pharan. The church connected with this laura was dedicated in 428 by Juvenal, the first Patriarch of Jerusalem. When the Council of Chalcedon (451) condemned the errors of Eutyches, it was greatly due to the authority of Euthymius that most of the Eastern recluses accepted its decrees. The empress Eudoxia was converted to Catholic unity through his efforts. The Church celebrates his feast on 20 January, the day of his death.

<http://www.newadvent.org>

## **METROPOLITAN ANNOUNCES SOBOR FOR ARCHEPARCHY**

Metropolitan Stefan Soroka, with the support of the Consultors of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, has announced that a Sobor of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia will take place at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception during the weekend of October 24-26, 2014. Participants will include representatives from every parish and mission of the archeparchy, including the Parish Finance and Pastoral Advisory Councils. Clergy and religious within the archeparchy will also participate.

The theme of the Sobor will be "Being a Vibrant Parish", developing on the vibrant parish initiative of our Patriarch and our Synod of Ukrainian Catholic Bishops. Our focus will be on developing a practical and achievable pastoral plan for the archeparchy and for our parishes and missions, reflecting the current and future needs of our Church. The Sobor will also prepare our contribution to a Sobor of the entire Ukrainian Catholic Church worldwide, to take place in Ukraine in the year 2015.

The Sobor will also observe the 100th anniversary of the Apostolic Decree establishing the jurisdiction of our first bishop, the Most Rev. Soter Ortynsky, OSBM. The Decree CUM EPISCOPO of the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith was issued on August 17, 1914.

An organizing committee is being formed and will shortly provide more detailed information in preparation for the major opportunity for renewal of our Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. Let us focus our attention forward to seek the Lord in prayer and action in all we do as a church.

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

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

## Remembering Metropolitan Stefan's trip to Rome

On Monday, November 25, 2013, 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. St. Josaphat was a Ukrainian monk who later became an Archbishop. He was martyred in 1623.

Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Bishop Paul Chomnycky, and Bishop-emeritus Basil Losten were among those in attendance as Pope Francis greeted Ukrainian pilgrims in the Vatican Basilica.

"Dear brothers and sisters, the best way to celebrate St. Josaphat is to love among each other and to love and serve the unity of the Church," said Pope Francis.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav presented the Pope with an icon of Saint Josaphat and afterwards an Akathist to Saint Martyr Josaphat was held.



**Pope Francis and Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka**



**Pope Francis and Bishop Paul Chomnycky**



**Pope Francis and Major-Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk**



**Pope Francis and Bishop-emeritus Basil Losten**



# Remembering Metropolitan Stefan's trip to Rome

(continued from previous page)



# St Nicholas Parish in Philadelphia celebrates 70th Anniversary

By Wasyl Panczak

On December 8, 2013 the parish of Saint Nicholas on Poplar and 24th Streets in Philadelphia, celebrated its 70th anniversary.

Despite the unpredictable heavy snow storm, many attended the festivity. The young members of our parish greeted Most Rev. Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka with traditional bread, salt and flowers.

The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Most Rev. Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka with Rev. Yaroslav Kurpel, pastor of St. Nicholas and former pastor Very Rev. Ivan Demkiv as concelebrants. Responses to the Liturgy were beautifully sung by Accolada Choir under the direction of Mr. Bohdan Henhalo.

After the Liturgy, guests and parishioners again braved the severe elements and walked over to the Ukrainian League Club on 23rd and Brown Streets, for a delicious luncheon prepared by the ladies of the luncheon committee under the direction of Mrs. Nadia Opuszynska and served by young volunteers, members of the Plast Youth Organization.

Wasyl Panczak, head of the Parish committee and master of ceremony, introduced and welcomed all. After prayer and blessing by Most Rev. Stefan Soroka, the introductory word and toast was raised by Mr. Stefan Makuch, officer of the committee and church cantor.

Keynote speaker was Mr. Osyp Rozka, who eloquently traced the history of the Parish.

Greetings from the clergy were expressed by Very Rev. Ivan Demkiv.

The day ended with words of gratitude from our current pastor Father Yaroslav Kurpel.

A very special thank you goes to all who helped to make this such a successful event.



**Parish youth greets Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka.**



**Rev. Yaroslav Kurpel proclaims the Gospel.**



**Wasyl Panczak**



**Osyp Rozka**

## **Історія Парафії Св. Миколая у Філадельфії**

Короткий перегляд діяльності парафії з нагоди ювілею 70-ліття свого існування

Коли сьогодні з нагоди 70-ліття нашої парафії, ми запитаємо себе, чим багата наша парафія, то відповідь буде навдивовиж проста: ми багаті вкладом праці наших батьків, перших парафіян і нашим. Ми багаті нашою участю у церковно-релігійному життю нашої парафії, нашим національним життям, як нерозривний симбіоз християнських та національних вартостей та цінностей, який проявляється через нашу багату духовну спадщину українців-католиків з власним прекрасним обрядом, яким ми всі дуже гордимось, - окраса не тільки нашої, але й вселенської католицької Церкви.

А ще ми багаті любов'ю до Бога і ближнього, вірністю вченням доброго благовістя, нерозривним прив'язанням до своєї української Церкви і українського народу, ціловідданим почитанням Пресвятої Богородиці, празники якої ми праздуємо, і нашої небесній Покровительці присвячуємо молебні у місяці травні. Ми багаті нашою відданістю та наполегливістю праці, нашим успадкованим ідеалізмом, жертвенністю, якими ми зреалізували

величні досягнення нашої парафії, які стали не тільки нашим надбанням, але й надбанням всієї нашої української католицької Церкви у США.

Зерно, посіяне нашими батьками зійшло пишно, парафія виховала сотні молоді і навіть дала на службу Богові одного священика, о. Миколу Івасіва. Парохами нашої парафії були десятки священиків, а двох з поміж них стали єпископами, а згодом Філадельфійськими Митрополитами УКЦ.

Не будемо входити у детальний перелік усіх наших досягнень або заслужених парафіян через які вони стали дійсністю, одначе нам личить сьогодні в часі 70-літнього ювілею згадати дещо про початки і розвиток нашої парафії, яка на початку свого існування, вже у 50-их роках, нараховувала понад 500 українських родин.

Польська держава згодом безбожна советсько-російська комуністична окупація Західної України більшовиками, які заслали за два роки часу понад 400,000 українців, майже всіх католиків, не дозволила українцям, які виїхали в Америку, повернутися на Батьківщину. Довелося у вільній та гостинній країні Джорджа Вашингтона забезпечити своє існування

та виховання дітей. Одначе, скоро українці-католики зауважили, що римо-католицькі школи вимагали від українських дітей включення у релігійні практики в римо-католицькому обряді. Ще більше, батькам українських дітей поставлено вимогу включитися у римо-католицьке парафіяльне життя, отже ставати римо-католиками.

На початку ХХ-го століття, у 1916 році, українська громада купила власний дім, то в цьому домі обслуговувалося 40 українських дітей, бо громада мала в ньому свою читальню і школу, і тут велося навчання релігії й української мови. Згодом, українська громада купила дім на 23-ій і Бравн вулицях, де парафіяни св. Миколая відзначили свій 70-літній ювілей існування.

Першим організатором парафії св. Миколая був о. Микола Волянський. На саму неділю Митаря і Фарисея 1943 року, молодий, енергійний священик, відслужив першу Божественну літургію у приміщенні Українського Горожанського Клубу (23-тя і Бравн вулицях), а вкортці після цього куплено площі і дім на 24-ій і Poplar вулицях, і вже 7-го січня 1944-го року, на самі Різдвяні Свята старого стилю,

відправлено для вірних Фермавнт околиці першу Святу Службу Божу.

Друга Світова Війна принесла демографічні зміни у нашому церковному житті: від 1948 -1950-их років з таборів Переміщених Осіб (Displaced Persons Camps) в Німеччині та Австрії прибуло в Америку 160 священиків і біля 100,000 українців, понад 50,000 з яких були спроваджені Українським Католицьким Допомоговим Комітетом для Біженців у Стемфорді, під опікою Екзарха Богачевського і єпископа-помічника Сенишина. Церковне життя пожвавилось, парахії зросли в членстві.

Мов гриби по дощі почали виростати парафіяльні школи, церковні хори, численні прицерковні та національні організації. Серед здібних священиків, які прибули з Європи, був о. Іван Лебедович, який перебрав парахію св. Миколая у грудні 1949 року, а два роки після цього, 25 вересня 1951 року, зорганізував і відкрив цілоденну українську католицьку парафіяльну школу. Парафіяльна школа дала дітям християнсько-церковне виховання: діти вчилися вартості молитов та християнських світ, української мови, але також відзначали Свято

**(continued on next page)**

# Історія Парафії Св. Миколая у Філядельфії

(continued from previous page)

Листопадового Чину – щороку появлялося звернення наших Владик – Екзарха, а згодом Митрополита-Архієпископа Богачевського та єпископа-помічника, а згодом Екзарха та Митрополита Амвроса Сенишина, у „Шляху” так „Америці” відзначувати Свято Першого Листопада. Діти вшановували постать Тараса Шевченка, День Матері, Крути, Свято св. Миколая, та інші національні свята.

Повоєнні отці парохі дуже наголошували релігійно-патріотичний аспект релігійних та національних річниць, спринаючи їх як духовну симбіозу, і за твердженням сьгоднішніх парафіян св. Миколая, як пані Анни Забрордської, яка є парафіянкою від 1948-го року, виголошували після панахид надхненні проповіді, чи слова, які підношували людей і вдихали в них надію на перемогу української правди. Пам'ятаймо, що приклад давали наші церковні ієрархи-Митрополити, які закликали до участі в демонстраціях і вічах, особливо у протестах та обороні нашої переслідуваної безбожними більшовиками Української Католицької Церкви, яка була насильно приєднана до московської

Патріархії у 1946 році, і офіційно проголошена як зліквідована. Щороку наші Митрополити закликали до участі у переведенні Тижня Поневолених Націй, який був проголошений Президентом Айком Айзенгавером у 1959 році, на вимогу американського Конгресу, і з цієї нагоди щороку появлялися звернення нашої ієрархії.

Школа процвітала. Тому, десять років після відкриття цілоденної школи, за ініціативою отця парохі, яким був єпископ-помічник філядельфійської Архиепархії Йосиф Шмондюк, побудовано гарну модерну школу, завдяки позичці від „Провидіння” і Архиепископського Ординаріату на суму \$ 275,000.00. Кошт школи виніс \$700,000.00. Шкільний будинок посвячено 17 вересня 1961 р., при великій участі парафіян, родичів, дітей та духовенства.

Школа мала добрих директорів: першою директоркою вибрано пані Ольгу Ісаїв, а коли прибули сестри-Василіанки у 1962 році (на них парафія чекала десять років) директоркою школи стала сестра Ангела, а згодом сестра Бернарда. У своєму вершинному розвитку школа нараховувала 400 учнів та проіснувала, разом взявши, 37 років.

На її втримання виплачено 2 мільйони доларів.

У 1987 році, школа остаточно замкнула свої двері. Десять років пізніше її продали менонітам. Користь зі школи була очевидною, а свідками її вартості стали самі діти, які сьгодні дослі з родинами тримаються власного обряду та українства.

Після школи, парафіяни скоординували свої зусилля під проводом отця парохі Томи Баріляка і зайнялися збиранням фондів та будовою власного храму св. Миколая. О. Тома Баріляк був 25 років парохом цієї славної парафії, який у 1975 році підписав контракт з американською фірмою на суму \$ 603.653 долари. Позики зятягнуто у „Провидінні” на 190,000 доларів. Коли врахувати кошти іконостасу, малювання церкви, позолочені куполи та церковне устаткування, то сміло можна заявити, що церква св. Миколая винесла парафіянам один мільйон доларів. Ці пожертви записані золотими буквами в анналах нашої парафії. Церква св. Миколая збудована за проектом Аполінара Осадци. На фронтоні церкви прегарна мозаїка нашого Спасителя. Позолочені бані церкви – речевий доказ нашої церковної

унікальної архітектури. Для побудови церкви діяв церковний комітет під проводом Василя Титанича і 16 членів цього комітету.

Кожна українська католицька церква повинна мати власний добірний хор, який своїм співом додає духовної наснаги і кольоритности у літургічних відправах, і підносить вірних до висот своїм витонченим виконанням. Також і парафія св. Миколая користувалася добірним хором, тільки на самому початку це був хор маєстра Івана Онушканича, який нараховував дві десятки хористів, однак треба сказати, що це був хор Української Громади. Диригентами церковного хору у моментах вершинного розвитку парохії св. Миколая були мгр. Р. Книш, Євген Білінський та мгр. Б. Мир. Останній ще довгі роки виконував функцію церковного дяка, і тільки 2012 року передав свою функцію, через захворювання, панові Стефанові Макухові, який був раніше його помічником, а тепер є самотнім дяком в церкві св. Миколая. Раніше, хор нараховував до 40-ка і більше осіб.

При церкві, під проводом оо. Душпастирів діяли

(continued on next page)

# Історія Парафії Св. Миколая у Філядельфії

(continued from previous page)

різні товариства, такі як Апостольство Молитви, Марійська Дружина, Дружина вівтарних хлопців, яка в один час нараховувала 44 члени, церковний хор, бібліотека „Молода Просвіта“, Союз Українок, молодечі організації Пласт та СУМ.

Харитативна секція Марійської Дружини, яка ще діяла у 1993 році, висилала пакунки із уживаними речами до Бразилії і Польщі, допомагала згромадженням наших Сестер у Польщі. Членкині Марійської Дружини ходили щорічно з колядою, щоб принести різдвяну радість кожній родині. Головами були пані Павліна Скочилас (від 1959 року), а згодом Олімпія Гайдучок. Щомісячні реферати, проща до Зарваницької Богоматері (церква Царя Христа), переховування мандрівної ікони, участь у реколекціях, характеризували діяльність Марійської Дружини, яку заіснував єпископ-помічник Йосиф Шмондюк. З часом до Марійської Дружини прилучилися члени Товариства Апостольства Молитви, створеної у 1945 році, і які спочатку нараховували 36 членів, а згодом 49, та через старший вік були змушені або перейти до Марійської Дружини, або зупинити свою діяльність.

Ніяк не можна оминати в історії парафії діяльності Дружини Вареників під керівництвом пані О. Чабан. Під її провідом працювало 33 особи – чоловіків і жінок. Кожної п'ятниці, доки була школа, вареники давали дохід між 800 а 2,000 доларів місячно, а річно між 30-40,000 доларів. Сьогодні, у грудні 2013 року, дружина вареників нараховує 7 осіб, під провідом відданої 90-літньої пані Матковської. Дохід, хоч багато менший, такий поважний, бо \$500.00 місячно та іде на потреби нашої парафії. Ідеалізм та жертвенність цих жінок та чоловіків нашої парафії помагають сплачувати видатки парафії св. Миколая.

Дуже численною та активною організацією, був 10-ий Відділ Союзу Українок Америки ім. Лесі Українки, який нараховував 90 членкинь та мав власний добірний хор. Членкині СУА уділялися у всіх проявах діяльності нашої парафії. Пані Анна Заброцька була довголітньою головою віділу, який проіснував до 2009-го року.

Парафія св. Миколая впродовж свого існування проводила збірки на численні добрі цілі, і проводить їх і зараз. Так переведено збірки на Будову Пам'ятника Тараса Шевченка у Вашингтоні,

Народний Фонд УККА, Коляду на ЗУАДК, на потреби Верховного Архієпископа Йосифа Сліпого (згодом Патріярха) у 1963 році, на українській катедри Гарвардського Університету, На Фонд СКВУ, на будову Собору Непорочного Зачаття, на Беатифікаційний Фонд ім. Андрея Шептицького, на фонд Церкви у Потребі (о. Виренфріда ван Страатена), на будову церкви у Люрді, на будову храму св. Софії в Римі, на Український Католицький Університет ім. Климента Папи, на допомогу потерпілим братам в Югославії, нашим братам українцям у Польщі, а останньо (від 1991 року) на допомогу потерпілим братам в Україні, та на всі цілі, які визначає Митрополичий Ординаріат.

Не забуваймо, що близькість до Митрополичого Собору, була фактором, який стимулював участь вірних святого Миколая у всіх більших імпрезах Митрополії, у єпископських свяченнях, митрополичих інтронізаціях, похоронах визначних ієрархів, зустрічах з Патріярхом Йосифом, у благословенні наріжного каменя Собору Непорочного Зачаття та будинку місцевих парафіяльних церков, шкіл, „Вознесіння“, у громадній участі у інтронізації першого

Митрополита УКЦ в США Владики Богачевського, та чергового у 1961 році – Митрополита Сенишина, як і колишнього пароха Митрополита Йосифа Шмондюка, у десятилітті святкування Митрополії у 1968-9 роках, в участі у Марійському Евхаристійному Конгресі у 1954 році (в якому взяло участь 30,000 учасників із всіх парафій нашої Митрополії), у Світовому Евхаристійному Конгресі у 1976 році у Філядельфії, у відкритті Пам'ятника Тарасу Шевченкові у Вашингтоні, у трьох зустрічах з Патріярхом Йосифом, у поїздки до Риму на благословення Собору св. Софії, та у багатьох інших імпрезах.

Нам личить у часі 70-літнього ювілею парафії згадати всіх отців душпастирів і їхніх сотрудників, які трудилися в парафії св. Миколая. Були це:

О. Микола Волянський, який прибув сюди та zorganizував парафію св. Миколая у 1943 році;

О. Іван Лебедович, організатор цілоденної школи, який трудився в парафії сім років (1949-1956);

Єпископ-помічник Філядельфійського Митрополита Йосиф

(continued on next page)

# Історія Парафії Св. Миколая у Філядельфії

(continued from previous page)

Шмондюк, який збудував модерну школу, трудився в парафії від 1958 до 1961 року;

О. Стефан Сулик, пізніший Митрополит, трудився два роки від 1961 до березня 1962 року;

О. Микола Збир – 6 років (від серпня 1962 року до лютого 1968 року),

О. Тома Бариляк – який збудував нову церкву у 1975 році – був парохом 23 роки, фактично до кінця свого трудолюбивого життя (від лютого 1968 року до серпня 1992 року, помер у 1993 році);

Від 1992 року парохом був о. Яків Мельник, філядельфійський декан а о. Роман Паньків, духовний опікун-душпастир. (Згодом виїхав до Канади).

Парафія мала також оо.

Сотрудників від 1956-60 років, таких як:

О. Юрій Паздрій, о. Семенн Квартуччі, о. Юліян Слонський, о. Йосиф Шарий, о. Іван Мода, о. д-р Дмитро Блажейовський, о. Августин Молодовець, о. Л. Корчинський.

Від 1993 року душпастирями були:

О. Яків Мельник зсотрудником о. Василем Сивінським;

О. Павло Волянський ізсотрудником Євгеном Монюком;

О. Іван Демків (9 років, від 2003 року) зсотрудниками: о. Іваном Туриком, о. Миколою Івановим, о. Орестом Кундеревичем, о. Мироном Миронюком. Наш теперішній парох о. Ярослав Курпель вже завоював серця своїх парафіян.

Парафія, хоч і без школи, продовжує своє скромне існування: в неділю і свята правляться Божественні Літургії, святяться овочі на Спаса, проводиться йорданське водосвяття, о. парохі благословлять доми вірних, святять лозу, артос, великодні кошики, відправляють панахиди за померші душі родин парафіян у Провідну Неділю, заохочують до участі у відпустових прощах на Фокс Чейсі і Словтсбургу, сповідають, причащають, і супроводять усопших парафіян до небесного царства відповідними літургічними відправами. У травні наші отці душпастирі правлять Молебні до Пречистої Діви Марії, Богоматері, та до Серця Ісусового, в яких все ще бере участь понад 20 осіб.

Чи ви знаєте, шановні парафіяни, як виглядає

парафія без душпастиря? В неї немає майбутнього. Тому заохочуємо всіх наших вірних докласти свою цеголку, щоб здобути нових членів для парафії, особливо з четвертої хвили, молодих професіоналістів, щоб нас було більше. А коли нас буде більше, буде й веселіше і парафія відчуватиме потребу поширити свою діяльність. Тому з Божим благословенням з нагоди цього 70-річчя – вперед, до нових висот, найприклад перших парафіян, натхнених ідеалізмом та повною відданістю своїй УКЦ, показує нам шлях!

Слава Ісусу Христу!

**Осип Рожка**

**Article was submitted only in Ukrainian.**

## “Super Bowl Sunday Snack Event” Sunday, February 2nd Clifton Heights, PA

Enjoy your Super Bowl Sunday festivities with two popular home-made snacks – Chicken wings and Kielbasi/Sauerkraut sandwiches. The chef at SS. Peter & Paul Church is busily preparing large, juicy, hickory-smoked chicken wings (with Blue Cheese Dressing, Celery Strips and Choice of Honey Mustard or BBQ sauce) for the low prices of: 10 Wings for \$8.00; to 50 Wings for \$35.00.

He’s also preparing 4 large, cooked Kielbasi links on a bed of Sauerkraut with rolls for only \$12.00.

To order your Super Bowl snacks, and for more information on pricing, please email us at SSPeterandPaul@verizon.net or call Kathy at (610) 328-4731 before Wednesday, January 29th. Pickup will be at noon on Sunday, February 2nd.

## Hillside, NJ Parish children share a special gift with St. Nicholas, parishioners and retired religious

**Hillside, NJ** – Hours after a 6 inch snowfall blanketed Union County, NJ, the children and parishioners of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hillside, NJ gathered on Sunday, December 15, 2013 to welcome a visit from St. Nicholas.

The children honored St. Nicholas by presenting the following bilingual holiday entertainment program:

\* "A Gift for Christmas" Play (Julia and Emilia Pelesz; Matthew & Elizabeth Dolowy; Julianna, Ariana & Nicholas Shatynski; Ashley & Nicole Santoro; Peter & Arthur Hrycak; Nicholas Senyk; and Nadya Howansky)

\* Carols on the keyboard (Julia Pelesz), Violin (Julianna Shatynski), Clarinet (Ariana Shatynski), Saxophone (Peter Hrycak) and Recorder (Peter & Arthur Hrycak, and Nicholas Shatynski)

\* A very heart-warming chorus rendition of Silent Night (all children)

Rev. Vasyl Vladyka, Parochial Vicar, led the attendees in prayer and koliady. Russ Pencak served as liaison to St. Nicholas. Mike Szpyhulsky served as emcee.

On Friday, December 27, 2013, the parish children and their parents journeyed to nearby Watchung, NJ to carol in Ukrainian and English to the retired Sisters of Mercy and clergy of McAuley Hall Center at Mount Saint Mary Academy. Julia Pelesz also dazzled the audience with a piano recital. The children distributed home baked cookies and religious calendars to the attendees.

The retired religious sisters and clergy said that they were very appreciative of the parish children and their families visiting and singing with them to spread the Christmas spirit. Many of the sisters and clergy shared individual stories with the children from their past. The children were truly mesmerized and didn't want the stories to end.

Afterwards, the parish caroling group of 18 children and adults traveled throughout Union, Essex, Morris and Middlesex counties to share the gift of koliady with parishioners at their homes. Without a doubt, the children shared a very special gift with St. Nicholas, the retired sisters and clergy, and the parishioners – a gift of love and caring.

[www.byzcath.org/ImmaculateConception](http://www.byzcath.org/ImmaculateConception)



## ST NICHOLAS VISITS READING AND LANCASTER

On Saturday, December 21, St. Nicholas paid a visit to the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Reading, PA after the Saturday evening Liturgy. St. Nicholas told his story to all present, capturing the attention of everyone, especially the children. The children of the parish entertained all with a Christmas skit telling the story of Jesus' birth. Afterwards, St. Nicholas presented gifts and goodies to all of the children!

The following day, Sunday December 22, St. Nicholas made his way south to Lancaster, PA to visit our Mission Parish. The children answered questions about St. Nicholas, telling everyone that he is known for his kindness and for helping everyone, especially the poor. St. Nicholas also presented gifts and goodies to the children!

Many thanks to Mrs. Debbie Marco and Mr. George Kowal for helping to organize such a great St. Nicholas program with our parish children!



Lancaster, PA



Reading, PA

## ST NICHOLAS VISITS MANASSAS, VA

On December 8, 2013, St. Nicholas visited the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Annunciation in Manassas VA. The children welcomed Him with the song: "Ой хто хто Миколая любить." St. Nicholas had an engaging conversation with the children, encouraging them to pray to Infant Jesus in preparation for the celebration of His Birth. Afterwards every child received a gift from St. Nicholas. The event was pleasant and uplifting for the children and their parents.



Manassas, VA

Fr. Volodymyr Baran, Pastor

JANUARY 12, 2014



## ST NICHOLAS VISITS RICHMOND, VA



On December 15, 2013, St. Nicholas visited St. John the Baptist Church in Richmond, VA.

Fr. Volodymyr Baran, Pastor

## St. Nicholas student earns page in state drug-free calendar

BY JOHN E. USALIS,  
Republican Herald

December 27, 2013

**MINERSVILLE** - The artwork of a fifth-grader at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Minersville will be seen across the state as part of a 2014 calendar to promote a drug-free lifestyle.

Kameron Thomas, 11, of Minersville, entered the 17th annual Drug-Free Calendar Contest sponsored by the office of state Attorney General Kathleen Kane. The contest is open to fifth-grade students from across the commonwealth who create an original work of art illustrating

a drug-free message of their choice.

"She was selected for April in the calendar," fifth-grade teacher Michael Curran said. "She went down to Harrisburg and had lunch and awarded prizes. This contest is done throughout the state. This is quite a distinction for young Kameron. They gave her calendars and a big blowup of her artwork."

Thomas also received a Lenovo tablet computer as a prize. Her winning calendar page is prominently displayed near the stairwell on the first floor of the school.

When asked if she has an interest in art, Kameron said, "Not really,"



**Kameron Thomas, a fifth-grader at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School, Minersville, poses with a poster of her drawing Thursday that won the April spot in the Office of Attorney General's 17th annual Drug-Free Calendar Contest. (Photo: Nick Meyer)**

though Curran said she is artistic.

"We just finished a production of 'A Christmas Carol,' and Kameron helped me a lot with the design of the

sets. She's a very good student," Curran said.

"This is really great," Thomas said. "I got to meet the attorney general."

**(continued on next page)**

# St. Nicholas student earns page in state drug-free calendar

(continued from previous page)

Thomas got her idea from a ribbon that had words similar to those she used in the poster, which were "Best of Me Drug-Free." Curran said he had a variety of different ribbons that have drug-free slogans from which the students could choose.

The calendar's cover features the artwork of the grand prize winner and the other 12 winners represent each month of the calendar year. The contest is funded through the Community Drug Abuse Prevention Fund from fines and penalties collected from certain types of offenses, such as DUIs.

"Fifth-grade students are at an age when most have not been exposed to drugs or alcohol socially, so the goal of our contest is to engage them before they or their friends make a bad choice," Kane said in her press release about the contest.

"Agents from my office visit schools and meet with children of all ages year round to educate them about the importance of living a drug-free lifestyle," she said. "The drawings and

paintings submitted by all of this year's contestants show that the students are paying attention and our message is getting through."

Winners were chosen from more than 720 entries from 210 schools in 52 counties throughout the commonwealth. Their selection was based on the artists' creativity and ability to illustrate and convey a drug-free message.

Curran was informed about the contest by Sister Thomas Hyrnewich, SSMI, principal.

"All of the children participated and I selected three to send to Harrisburg," Curran said. "Of all of the entries, she took April. From what I learned, they liked it because it seemed 'springy.'"

Thomas said she has an increased interest in art after becoming a contest winner. Her classmates were impressed with her win, according to Thomas.

"They were excited and they said 'congratulations,'" Thomas said. "Most of them were asking me

what prize I picked."

The other winners were from eight other counties - two each from Armstrong, Beaver, Delaware and Bucks counties, and one each from Lackawanna, Westmoreland, Carbon and Potter.

According to the press release, the attorney general's office has created a number of exciting educational programs to help schools, parents and communities empower children with knowledge to keep

them safe. The programs feature customized lesson plans, interactive listening activities and powerful messages that speak directly to kids and adults. They are free of charge and speakers are available to visit schools and community groups to discuss these important subjects, which include online safety, cyberbullying, drugs, gun violence and prescription drug abuse.

<http://republicanherald.com>

## St. Nicholas visits St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Minersville, PA.



Pictured is a visit from St. Nicholas with angels: Kaylei, Lauren, Alexandria, Allyson, and Kaitlyn.

2013 ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA STATISTICS  
(Figures ending 30 September, 2013)

**Clergy**

Archbishop 1  
Retired Archbishop 1  
Archeparchial Priests 45  
Retired Priests 7  
Total 52  
Religious Priests 3  
Total Priests 58  
External Priests 3  
Permanent Deacons 7  
Transitional Deacon 1  
Sisters 43

**Parishes**

Parishes 67  
Resident Archeparchial Clergy 41  
Resident Religious Clergy 1  
Without Resident Pastor 25  
Missions 2  
Sisters 2  
Lay Ministers 2

**Social**

Homes for the Aged 2  
Number assisted 229

**Education**

Seminary 1  
Students from Archeparchy 1  
Students from other Eparchies 3  
Total Seminarians 4  
College 1  
Students 862  
High School, Private 1  
Students 289  
Elementary Schools 3  
Students 431  
Religious Education Programs  
High School Students 109  
Elementary Students 522  
Teachers (Full Time)  
Priest 1  
Sisters 10  
Lay Teachers 87

**Mysteries**

Infant Baptisms 183  
Minor Baptisms 5  
Adult Baptisms 5  
Received into Full Communion 16  
Confirmations 196  
Communions 241  
Marriages 59  
Catholic 43  
Interfaith 16  
Deaths 484  
Households 7,850  
Total Population 14,299

These statistics contain partial information from the following parishes:  
Baltimore, Curtis Bay, Lansdale, Northampton, & Warrington



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

## His Beatitude Sviatoslav: “The example of St. Nicholas demonstrates that the most powerful revolution can be done only through love”

Monday, 23 December 2013

It is only through love that one can create the most powerful revolution – a revolution of love. Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk) voiced this conviction in his homily during the Divine Liturgy in the monastery of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family in Lviv on the occasion of the Feast Day of St. Nicholas.



In talking about God’s love, the preacher noted that there is hardly a better way to explain to even a small child who Almighty God is, than to tell the story of St. Nicholas. The name Nicholas itself means “conqueror” -- the one who through love overcomes enemies.

“We would not know anything real about God in life if He did not love us,” stated the hierarch. “And in this boundless incomprehensible to us love lies the key to understanding who God is. God is Love.”

“St. Nicholas,” UGCC Head also reminded, “testified God’s love in the best manner. In being a priest, a bishop, he understood that his vocation was to love his people, to always be with them.”

His Beatitude Sviatoslav believes that today we are experiencing a special period in the history of our people. “Maybe today Christians from around the world are watching us. Yes, perhaps for some sort of luxury, maybe someone in satiated Europe would come out to a demonstration, but to stand in freezing temperatures for a month in order to testify to authentic, eternal values --- I think that there would be few very few.”

It is exactly through love, according to the Prelate, that the first Christians made a revolution in the Roman Empire. They laid the foundation for a European civilization, which was constructed on the good news about God’s love.

“It is only in sharing this love, that we will be able to a true democratic society because its foundation is the love of a person for a person and then the love – of a person for God. And today, in this very complex historic moment, in this church which is dedicated to our St. Nicholas, the fragile Sister Mykolaya gives us a lesson in God’s love. Through her gesture, as we have seen today, she dedicated her life until death to the service of God, professing her eternal vows in the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family,” stated the Prelate and greeted Sister Mykolaya with her profession of the eternal vows.

UGCC Department of Information

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

## During the consecration of Bishop Yevgen Myroslav Popovych, His Beatitude Sviatoslav said, "The bishop is the one who manages the faithful"

Tuesday, 24 December 2013

On the 21st December in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Przemysl the Father and the Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church His Beatitude Svyatoslav Shevchuk made the episcopal ordination of Fr. Yevgen Myroslav Popovych.

The coprelates were Archbishop Ivan Martyniak, Metropolitan of Przemysl and Warsaw, and Bishop Volodymyr Jushchak, the Bishop of Wroclaw and Gdansk.

"Our nation is wroth again. We do not know what to expect. We do not know what evidence will the Lord call our Church in Eastern Europe, but the ordination of Bishop

Yevgen is a sign that the Lord will always be with us," - said the patriarch in his sermon .

The Preacher remembered the words of Jesus Christ, "I will follow you wherever you go." "Father Yevgen, how deeply today these words apply to you", - His Beatitude addressed directly to Bishop Yevgen.

According to the Head of the UGCC , these words of Christ "deeply and accurately reveals us the meaning of this joy - new episcopal ordination , which we experience in the holy temple in ancient Przemysl."

He reminded the faithful and the clergy who the bishop is : "Everyone who is called to the episcopal ministry should accomplish three tasks: to teach, to sanctify and to govern. To teach the word of God's truth. To point people to the truth of the living God, to help them to abdicate all that drives a person to secret life and



bring all his life to light. The Bishop is the first evangelist of the God's Word, the successor of the Apostles, the carrier of the Kingdom of Heaven, the evangelist of the future salvation. The Bishop is always asked the answers to the most difficult question of our life. The bishop is the one who sanctifies believers. The bishop is the one who manages the faithful. He shows the right road in our life. He is the one who is the teacher of the people. "

According to the head of the UGCC, such teacher, preacher and saint is given to our Church by Christ.

"You do not know which paths the Lord will lead you to the episcopal ministry. You do not know what kind of challenges,

tasks and patience will be on your life way, but be sure that He is in you and with you. He will always be the source of your life and ministry", - the Head of the Church assured the bishop.

The consecration was held in the evening of the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. Therefore the new appointed Bishop Yevgen was entrusted to the Virgin Mary.

"Let she, blameless conceived, will be your cover, your teacher, your joy and the power of your words" - wished the Patriarch from himself and the whole Church.

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



Photo: <http://ugcc.tv/ua>

# UGCC Head expressed his solidarity with those who today in Ukraine are not afraid of saying the truth

Saturday, 28 December 2013

"In the name of Our Church, I want to express great anxiety about the violence which is spreading throughout Ukraine towards journalists and civil activists. The right to know and speak the truth is one of the fundamental rights of a free person," stated His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, UGCC Head, in commenting on the latest events including an attack on the well-known journalist Tetiana Chornovol.



"I want to express my solidarity with those who today in Ukraine do not fear to speak the truth. Christ said: And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8: 32). I expect that the right to speak the truth will continue to be the right of free citizens of Ukraine. Let us remember the Lord's words: Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:10), emphasized UGCC Prelate.

UGCC Department of Information

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

## For the first time in Ukraine a web-documentary will tell about His Beatitude Lyubomyr

Saturday, 28 December 2013

His Beatitude Lubomyr Husar will become a hero of Ukraine's first interactive movie. The co-authors and co-producers of this innovative project will be the audience.

The innovative project about the prominent spiritual leader of the present days was blessed by His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the Head of the UGCC: "The world in which we live today, it is very often the world of sinister ideas, the world of limitation, and at the same time the world of vile people. We sometimes



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# For the first time in Ukraine a web-documentary will tell about His Beatitude Lyubomyr

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have a narrow look at ourselves, at those who are close to us and we do not notice the greatness of simplicity, and as a result great people fall out of our sight. I believe that this film will allow us to expand our horizons and see the great man who is now among us. This man - His Beatitude Lyubomyr. So I invite all of you to see the big man beside you "- said the current leader of the Greek Catholics in a special video message on the website.

The initiator and producer of the documentary project "Lyubomyr" is a production company Screen Media Ukraine. The project involves the composer Valentyn Silvestrov. The co-author and co-producer of the film can be anyone who feels the spiritual need to contribute to the documentary memory of His Beatitude Lyubomyr. The funding for the project will be carried out directly by future spectators (by crowdfunding or common expense).

"We make the movie together. Each hryvnya, each photograph or memory is a small particle of a large project. The creation of the film by the community is a unique precedent. We hope that together we will really make a necessary deal both for the present and for the future generations, "- said the producer of the documentary "Lyubomyr", Pavlo Kazantsev.

The current format of the web documentary film will allow everyone to choose the sequence and scope of review. In the real-time web platform the crew's collected stories of heroes, experts' opinions, historical researches, archival footage and documents will appear. Using interactive tools you will be able to upload your own project materials, offer locations for filming, themes for interview. The project will be available in modern browsers and applications to mobile devices.

The documentary project "Lyubomyr" - is Ukraine's first project as a web-documentary. The creative group of the documentary "Lyubomyr" invites to share videos, photos, memories associated with the figure of His Beatitude Lyubomyr.

"Our project is about the hope of humanity that is present in today's life and in a calm and wise words of Cardinal Lyubomyr Husar. We want to explore the phenomenon of the man and understand who he is for Ukraine: the exception or the bearer of the tradition, "- said the author of the idea and screenwriter of the project Lesya Kharchenko.

The first expedition of the project "Lyubomyr" began on December 26th. The authorial group visited places of His Beatitude Lyubomyr's childhood.

You can follow the project on the web site [www.lubomyr.net](http://www.lubomyr.net) and in social networks.

Roksolana Shkil, Editor of the project

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

# His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk met with the supervisors of UGCC monastic orders and communities in Hoshiv

Sunday, 29 December 2013

UGCC Head His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk met with the supervisors of UGCC monastic orders and communities in Hoshiv on December 26th. It is customary that the UGCC Major Archbishop holds such a meeting at the end of every year.

During this meeting, UGCC Head reviewed the key Church events of 2013. He talked about the joint declaration of UGCC and RCC of Poland on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Volyn tragedy, the blessing of the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Kyiv, the 50th anniversary of the transfer of the relics of the priest martyr Josaphat (Kuntsevych) to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. "We have to newly rediscover for ourselves the figure of St. Josaphat. The fact that his relics rest in Rome is a great gift for our Church," he noted.

The Prelate emphasized that in 2014 there will be held a Ten Day Period of Missionary Work during the period between the



feasts of the Ascension of the Lord and the Descent of the Holy Spirit. During this period there will be a collection of donations for the purpose of missionary work, so that each eparchy and exarchate has its own missionary funds. These will fund catechization activities, various programs for youth, etc. This will become an annual effort. "For each moment of this, we need to express our gratitude to God and to you," noted the Prelate.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav announced that in Kyiv there has been established a monastery of the Congregation of the Salesian Fathers of Saint Don Bosco. And in Obukhiv, near Kyiv, a monastery of the Studite Fathers has been blessed. Soon in Chernihiv, a church will be blessed for the Sisters Missionary

of the Most Holy Savior.

UGCC Head focused the attention of the gathered on the topic of the new evangelization. It is his conviction that it is important that the evangelization become a sharing of personal experiences of meetings with God. He informed that next year in the entire Catholic Church will be the Year of People Consecrated to God. In UGCC this will coincide with the Year of Metropolitan Andrey (Sheptytsky) and the 25th anniversary of the Legalization of the Church. "It is important for us to preserve the memory of the Underground Church as such. After all, unfortunately, today the new generation of clergy and members of monastic orders know next to nothing about this period in the Church. Therefore we need to remind

ourselves and others that we are not afraid of persecutions because we are the children of martyrs. UGCC survived in the repressive skies of the soviet system. Today it can provide a strong impulse for the preservation of our nation and people in complex circumstances," said His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

In conclusion, UGCC Prelate thanked the members of the monastic orders for their active participation in the life of the Church.

UGCC Department of Information

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



# ENCOUNTER 2014: ENCOUNTERING JESUS CHRIST

The Eastern Catholic Bishops of the U.S. invite you, your family and friends to participate in ENCOUNTER 2014 of the Eastern Catholic Churches "ENCOUNTERING JESUS CHRIST!" ENCOUNTER2014 promises notable speakers, Prayer Services according to the various Churches of the East, opportunity to meet, discuss and share among members of the many Eastern Churches, visit vendors and purchase Eastern Christian books, icons, crosses, etc. ENCOUNTER2014 will be held at the Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel, Orlando, FL Jan. 30-31 (Clergy Days); Jan. 31-Feb. 2 (Main Conference). For information, conference registration, hotel reservations, go to: [www.Encounter2014EasternCatholicChurches.org](http://www.Encounter2014EasternCatholicChurches.org) or for brochures, call: 570-294-2910.

## Speakers:

Session I: Reverend Jack Custer

Session II: Sister Michele Yakymovich SSMI

Session III: Fr. Deacon Alexander Wroblecky

Session IV: Bishop Peter Anthony Libasci

Session V: Fr. Deacon Sabatino Carnazzo



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