

Metropolitan Stefan leads faithful in prayer at the conclusion of "Automaïdan in Philadelphia"



(Photo: Myron Makar)

On Sunday, January 26, 2014, a "Protest Cavalcade" called the "Automaïdan in Philadelphia" was held to respond to the current events happening in Ukraine. The "Automaïdan"

began at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, PA, at 2:30pm. There were approximately 300 cars that participated in the event. Many of the cars had Ukrainian flags or blue and yellow

ribbons on them. The cars left the Cultural Center and proceeded down Broad Street to Center City Philadelphia. Afterwards everyone gathered for a Moleben prayer service that was held at the Ukrainian

Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

At the beginning of the Moleben service, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka greeted

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the faithful by saying, "Thank you my brothers and sisters in Christ for gathering in prayer for our beloved Ukraine."

Many of the local news stations wrote articles or aired video clips about the event. There was even a news station present at the Cathedral earlier in the day when special Liturgy petitions were offered for Ukraine during the Sunday morning Liturgy.



(Photo: Myron Makar)
<http://vimeo.com/85240247>

Metropolitan Stefan's Greeting during the Moleben

Thank you, my brothers and sisters, for gathering today for prayer for our beloved Ukraine. We are able to freely gather today in this beautiful Cathedral to pray. Our brothers and sisters in Ukraine do not enjoy many of the freedoms we have come to take for granted. We enjoy the freedom of assembly, the freedom to express our views without repression, the freedom of celebrating our faith. Ukrainians continue to suffer from persons who want to dominate society with a repressive ideology. There are



(Photo: Myron Makar)

those who want to stifle the development of democratic ideals for people to live freely and

without fear of repression. Ukraine's government has chosen to use force and violence to respond

to the legitimate protests of its people. We

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Metropolitan Stefan's Greeting during the Moleben

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cannot be silent about a government which has chosen to show hostility to the citizens whom they are to serve and to protect.

You and I need to do all we can to inform the world of the sufferings of the Ukrainian people. Today's manifestation helps to inform our Philadelphia and surrounding community. We also raise our hopes and desires for Ukraine in the power of our prayer to our Blessed Mother, and through her intercession, to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray with hope for



(Photo: Myron Makar)

peaceful resolve of the crisis in Ukraine. We pray for Ukrainians to enjoy peace and prosperity in a democratic country.

Let each of us be steadfast in our prayers offered to almighty God. And let each of us be steadfast in our resolve to raise

the plight of Ukrainians in the communities in which we live.



(Photo: Myron Makar)

<http://vimeo.com/85240247>

HEADS OF UKRAINIAN CHURCHES PRAY FOR UKRAINE IN WASHINGTON

Washington, DC -- Patriarch Sviatoslav celebrated a Moleben to the Mother of God for her intercession for a peaceful resolution to the turmoil in Ukraine on Wednesday, February 5, 2014, at the Taras Shevchenko Monument in Washington. Patriarch Filaret also joined the Ukrainian Greek Catholic clergy. Many faithful were also present to pray for peace in Ukraine.

The Shevchenko Monument has served as a gathering place for the Ukrainian-American community for 50 years. This was especially true during the communist era when Ukrainian-Americans would gather to call attention to the denial of basic freedoms and human rights to the people of Ukraine by the communist overlords.



Ukrainian Day 2014

Washington, DC - Patriarch Sviatoslav offered remarks at the Annual Ukrainian Day held on February 5, in the Rayburn House of Representatives Office Building at the US Capitol complex.

The morning briefing session began with remarks by Representative Marcy Kaptur, Patriarch Sviatoslav, Patriarch Filaret, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Eric Rubin, Amnesty International, opposition Members of Ukraine's Parliament, and representatives of the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC). Many members of the Ukrainian-American Community and also Ukrainians living abroad in the US participated.

Patriarch Sviatoslav said that all religious institutions of Ukraine support the people's quest for a more democratic government through constructive dialogue between the people and the government of Ukraine, but not through violence or aggression.



Photo: Patriarch Filaret, Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), and Patriarch Sviatoslav.

UKRAINIAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND POLITICIANS ATTEND THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST IN WASHINGTON

6 February 2014

The head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk and head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Kyiv Patriarchate) as well as government representatives and opposition leaders attended the National Prayer Breakfast today, a traditional event held in Washington.

The U.S. Congress is the official host of the event which is held on the first Thursday of February each year for 62 years.

By tradition, the participants of this year's event were addressed by U.S. President Barack Obama.

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

Metropolitan Stefan greets the Philadelphia Ukrainian Engineer's Society

The Philadelphia Ukrainian Engineer's Society Debutante Banquet and Ball was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Philadelphia, PA on Saturday, January 25, 2014. During the event, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka greeted the many guests and youth in attendance. A record number of people registered for the banquet this year.



**Maidan Tribute at the Philadelphia Engineer's Ball.
(Photo by "celecvideo")**

Metropolitan Stefan's Greeting during the Engineer's Ball.

The words of our Ukrainian anthem, "Shche ne vmerla Ykraina" gives us hope that Ukraine will pass through today's crisis. Our brothers and sisters in Ukraine do not enjoy many of the freedoms we have come to take for granted. We enjoy the freedom of assembly, the freedom to express our views without repression, the freedom of celebrating our faith. Ukrainians continue to suffer from persons who want to dominate society with a repressive ideology. There are those who want to stifle the development of democratic ideals for people to live freely and without fear of repression. Ukraine's government has chosen to use force and violence to respond to the legitimate protests of its people. We cannot be silent about a government which has chosen to show hostility to the citizens whom they are to serve and to protect.

We pause in this evening's celebration with hope for peaceful resolve of the crisis in Ukraine. We pray for Ukrainians to enjoy peace and prosperity in a democratic country. We commit ourselves to be vigilant in raising our voices in support for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

We also pray to the Almighty Lord for the people of Ukraine who are struggling these days to defend their God given rights and freedom of speech, choice and religion. Grant them all and especially leaders of the Ukrainian nation wisdom, good judgment and discernment to find mutual understanding and respect that would lead to a peaceful resolution of the ongoing conflict, we pray to You, O Lord, and have mercy.

O merciful Lord and Lover of Mankind, look down mercifully upon those who laid down in sacrifice their lives for the improved future of Ukraine in the ongoing conflict and for hundreds of people that are wounded and hurt. Bestow your healing power upon all who need it that their sufferings be lessen and receive full recovery, we pray to You, O Lord, and have mercy.

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON - FEBRUARY 16



The Lord told this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'" "But the father

said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'" (Lk. 15, 11-32)

The story of the prodigal son is one of the best known of all Jesus' parables. Most of us have probably heard it or read it periodically ever since we were children. The story is often used as an example of the love of a father for his children despite their

short-comings and as an example of God's love for his people in the face of their sin and rejection. The father and elder brother of the prodigal had every right to be offended by the young man's actions. He had taken his inheritance before he was legally

entitled to receive it. Not only that, he had squandered it. As a result, the father and the elder brother had suffered a significant financial loss which fueled the elder son's resentment.

By going off as he did, the prodigal indicated

clearly that he was permanently severing his relationship with his father and the rest of the family.

Despite this, when the prodigal returned his father was able to

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SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

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disregard the financial loss and the pain of his son's rejection. The elder son was unwilling or unable to do so. His anger and resentment were so great that he was incapable of forgiving.

At one time or another, we have probably all been offended by the action of some family member. Like the elder son, we may still be harboring resentments because of our unwillingness to

forgive someone who has hurt us. If anyone ever had the right to bear a grudge, it would surely be the father of the prodigal son. But because of his great love, he was able to overcome the temptations of anger and resentment. This is the kind of love God has for us – and the kind he wants us to have for each other.

Examine your relationships with others,

especially members of your own family. In light of God's love for us, we cannot withhold our love from others, even if they have caused us great pain and disappointment. God calls each of us to love and to forgive in the same way that he loves and forgives. If you are nursing a grudge against anyone because they have hurt or offended you, forgive them in your heart. Pray (in the words of the Our

Father) that God would deliver you from the evil holding you in bondage. If possible and prudent, seek reconciliation. This does not mean that we ignore or condone sin, but it does mean that we seek to heal ruptured relationships so that God's healing might be worked through them.

Catholic Schools Week 2014 begins in Perth Amboy School.

On Sunday January 26, the Assumption Catholic School students came to the parish church for a special Liturgy to celebrate the beginning of the Catholic Schools Week. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2014 is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service," according to the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), which organizes the event. Rev. Ivan Turyk celebrated the Liturgy and during his homily he expressed thanks to parishioners, parents, students, faculty and staff of Assumption Catholic School for the dedication and hard work in promoting Catholic Education. After his homily, four students Jordan C. (5 grade), Jillian P. (6 grade), Katherine P. (7grade), Amarilis R. (8 grade) read their essays that focuses on faith, knowledge and service at ACS to the many parishioners and ACS families in attendance.



Catholic Schools Week at St. Nicholas School Minersville, PA

St. Nicholas School in Minersville, PA celebrated Catholic Schools Week with a few special events.



Student council raised money to support the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital, by having a bake sale and lemonade sale. Members are Hannah S., Elizabeth G. Gabriella Q., Matthew G., Anna A., Bella K., Lindsey R., and Aaron H. in back.



Pictured are students showing Souper Bowl donations. Students donated a canned soup for the area soup kitchen for a free dress down day. Students pictured are: Tryston N., Kaylei W., Lauren K., Jack D., Gabrelle R., Abigail A., Abigail Y., Nathan T., and Johnny A.

LUC Meeting – February, 16, 2014 Plymouth, PA

North Anthracite Council - League of Ukrainian Catholics will hold a general meeting on Sunday, February 16, 2014 at 2:00pm at SS. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, 20 Nottingham Street, Plymouth, PA. Moleben prayer service will be served at 2:00pm, business session at 2:30pm followed by reception and fellowship. Agenda will include discussion of proposed 2014 activities. Our clergy and guests are warmly invited and all members are sincerely asked to attend. For additional information contact: Dorothy Jamula, President at 570 822-5354.

PRELENTEN PORK AND SAUERKRAUT DINNER, SCRANTON, PA

Father Myron Myronyuk and his parish family of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Scranton PA, cordially invite you to join us for our annual Pre-Lenten PORK & SAUERKRAUT/ KAPUSTA DINNER on Sunday, February 23, 2014, beginning at 12:30pm at St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 North Seventh Avenue, between West Lackawanna Avenue and West Linden Street. Menu: Slow roasted pork loin, homemade pan gravy, Ukrainian kapusta (sweet and sour cabbage), real mashed potatoes, vegetable, applesauce, rolls, butter, dessert, coffee, tea, beverages. Adults \$13.00; Students \$6.00 (age 6-12); Age 5 and under free. Advance reservations required: phone 570 346-4164 (please do not call the church). Takeouts available between 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon only. Doors open at 11:30am. Door prizes will be awarded along with a 50/50 drawing. Welcome to our table!

REPLICA OF THE SHROUD OF TURIN - 2014 SCHEDULE

The Replica of the Shroud of Turin schedule for 2014 has been approved by Archbishop Stefan for the following parishes in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia. Contact information for the priest of each parish has been listed below for any questions regarding the exhibit.

February 16-28, 2014

St Josaphat, Trenton NJ

Fr. Taras Lonchyna: 609-695-3771

March 2-15, 2014

SS Peter & Paul, Plymouth PA

Fr. Volodomyr Popyk :570-735-2262

March 16-29, 2014

St. Vladimir's, Edwardsville PA

Fr. Paul Wolensky: 570-823-1821

March 30- April 12, 2014

St. Vladimir's , Scranton PA

Fr. Myron Myroniuk: 570-342-7023

April 13-26, 2014

St. Nicholas Church, Wilmington DE

Fr. Volodomyr Klanichka: 302-562-5511

April 27- May 10, 2014

St. Mary's Church, Bristol, PA

Fr. Gregory Maslak: 215-788-7117

May 11-25, 2014

SS Peter & Paul, Phoenixville PA

Fr. Stepan Bilyk: 610-933-5453



Photo: Replica of the Shroud of Turin on display at the Cathedral in 2010

Any parish in the Archeparchy interested in hosting the Shroud should contact the Chancery's Evangelization office. The Shroud Exhibit offers a perfect opportunity to engage your parish community in opening it's doors to your local community. The Exhibit gives our people a chance to share their faith and their church with their neighbors. It presents a forum through which your services, your hospitality, and your faith can invite people to come to know Jesus through this endeavor.

Replica of Shroud of Turin in Plymouth, PA

Reverend Volodymyr Popyk, the parishioners of SS Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church of Plymouth, PA and Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church of Nanticoke, PA proudly would like invite all for presentation of the Shroud of Turin. We extend an invitation to view the Replica of the Shroud of Turin for a unique spiritual experience. Visitation will begin on Sunday at 2:00 PM on March 2, 2014 and will be able to have visitation through Saturday, March 15 (morning), 2014.

A special presentation will be on Friday, March 14, 2014 at 6PM by Russ Breault a President of Turin Education Project, international expert (www.ShroudEncounter.com) .

Shroud of Turin

VISITATION
ADORATION
PRAYER

Sunday, March 2, 2014
Through
Saturday, March 15, 2014

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic
Church
20 Nottingham Street
Plymouth, PA 18651

Opening day March 2 at 2PM
Church is open daily from 10AM to 8PM

Contact us:
(570) 829-4202 or (570) 779-3323
Rectory: (570) 735-2262

Website: <http://sspeterandpaulucc.org>
<http://transfigurationucc.org>
Email: sspeterandpaulucc@gmail.com
typk2@yahoo.com

Groups please schedule in advance



Sisters Servants celebrate Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan's feast day

On January 19th, the Sisters Servants celebrated Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka's feast day at St. Mary's Villa in Sloatsburg, NY. The Sisters' enjoy preparing a program each year to honor Metropolitan Stefan's patron Saint as well as to acknowledge and thank the Archbishop for his spiritual guidance to us and the Church. The theme of the program was from Micah 6:8 *"...All I require of you is to Act Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with your God..."* comparing the lives of Jesus and St. Stephen. Sr. Kathleen Hutsko, Provincial Superior, and the sisters greeted the Archbishop and presented the Archbishop with a picture illustrating the Scripture passage.



Saint Cyrils and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church Olyphant, Pa

For the 4th year is offering classes in "LEARN HOW TO MAKE PYSANKY (Ukrainian Easter Eggs)".

Place: SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church PARISH HALL
207 River Street, Olyphant, Pa 18447
Free Parking

Dates: Sundays, March 16, March 23, March 30 and April 6th, 2014

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Please plan to arrive at 1:45 p.m.)

Cost: \$15.00 per person (Includes Eggs, bees wax and stylist)

Limited Seating only 25 people per class.

Contact; Lauren Telep for reservations ASAP at 570-383-0319



At the Parish Hall, the following items will be available for purchase: Pysanky eggs, supplies and books on Pysanky, and more.

<http://www.stcyril.maslar-online.com/>

Photo of Pysanky are done by St. Cyril's Parishioner Joyce Krisanda Garofalo.

Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church's Myasopusna Celebration to be held February 23, 2014

Dinner tickets are now available for Transfiguration of Our Lord Church's Myasopusna festival, held at the church's banquet hall, in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, February 23, 2014 from noon to 3:30 pm. The Myasopusna (Meatfare) festival is the parish's annual pre-lenten celebration, preceding the Lenten Great Fast. Dinner (a platter of haluptsi, kobasa, varenyky, kapusta, borscht, blackbread and butter, and a homemade dessert) will be served from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. A variety of Ukrainian crafts, including pysanky, embroidery, woodcrafts, beadwork, and ceramics, will be on display and available for sale or by raffle. This year's raffle features Ukrainian Easter basket covers, hand-embroidered by parishioner Anna Kutsup, and gerdany (Ukrainian necklaces), hand-beaded by the Milinichik sisters of Allentown. Following dinner, live entertainment will include the Holy Year Choir, Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble, and the Saint Mary's Ukrainian Dancers. Dinner tickets are \$15, with an advanced ticket price of \$12, if purchased by February 10. The church hall is located at the corners of Bliss Street and Center Street, in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke. Tickets can be purchased by calling 570-735-4654 or 570-824-3880

MYASOPUSNA 2014

A UKRAINIAN CULTURAL CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2014

NOON TO 3:30 PM

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD CHURCH HALL

BLISS & CENTER STREET -- NANTICOKE



UKRAINIAN DANCE, MUSIC & SONG
Kazka Ukrainian Dance & Song Group
St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Dance Group
The Holy Year Choir, Dr. Richard Barno, Director



**DISPLAY AND SALES OF
HANDCRAFTED UKRAINIAN ITEMS**

**PYSANKY, GERDANY (BEADWORK)
EMBROIDERY, GIFT ITEMS**



HOMEMADE UKRAINIAN DINNER
Haluptsi, Kovbasa,
Varenyky (pyrohy), Kapusta,
Borscht, Black Bread/Butter,
Beverage & Dessert
Dinner Tickets—\$15.
\$12.00 in advance (by Feb. 10)

Dinner served 12:30 –1:30 PM, followed by entertainment.

For tickets, call 570-735-4654 or 570-824-3880

Shameful: Human Trafficking a Reality in Pennsylvania

We are naive if we believe slavery is a subject for the history books. Nor can we tell ourselves that slavery is only an issue in foreign countries. It is estimated that 17,000 men, women and children in the United States each year are victims of modern day slavery called human trafficking.

Human trafficking is defined by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as “the acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them.” It is often involved with activities such as prostitution, pornography or illegal labor practices. This crime creates slaves right here in Pennsylvania, but legislation is proposed to address it through prosecution, prevention and protection. Legislation was already passed unanimously by the Pennsylvania Senate in December and hopefully it will be considered by the House of Representatives in the near future.

Pennsylvania is known as a “pass through state” whose laws and

atmosphere make it easier for traffickers to carry out their heinous actions. Pennsylvania is just the start. Look around you – the electronics you listen to and watch, the vegetables and meat you eat, the clothes you wear – all of these consumables could have involved human trafficking from the first moments of production to the moment they entered your home. A lack of awareness and transparency compounds the issues of human trafficking.

Pope Francis has pointed to our personal responsibility, saying we each must make an “examination of conscience: how many times have we permitted a human being to be seen as an object, to be put on show in order to sell a product or to satisfy an immoral desire? The human person ought never to be sold or bought as if he or she were a commodity. Whoever uses human persons in this way and exploits them, even if indirectly, becomes an accomplice of this injustice.”

He said we “must not allow these women,

men and children to be treated as objects, to be deceived, raped, often sold and resold for various purposes, and in the end either killed or left devastated in mind and body, only to be finally thrown away or abandoned. It is shameful.”

This crime defies and violates the dignity of the person. Human trafficking impacts many more women than men: 55 percent of forced labor victims are women and girls, as are 98 percent of sex trafficking victims. This is a true war on women, one that we must work to end.

What can we do to help? First, if you suspect human trafficking, please notify local law enforcement, call 1-888-373-7888 or text BeFree (233733). The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) is a national, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls and texts from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Further, we can pray. February 8 is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as

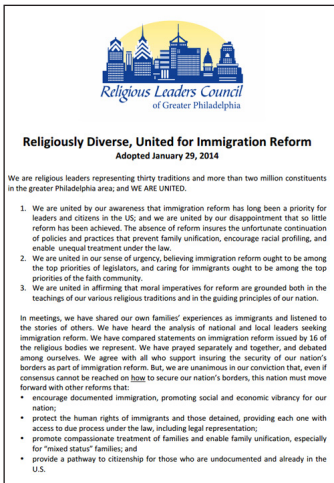
a child and sold into slavery. Once freed, St. Josephine devoted her life to Christ, sharing her personal story of release from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. As we approach St. Josephine’s feast day, let us pray for her intercession for an end to slavery.

Finally, we must demand legislative action that supports the dignity of the person and prevents victims from even getting involved in human trafficking. Please send a message in support of legislation that ends human trafficking by visiting www.pacatholic.org.

Joelle Shea is the Director of Outreach for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference – the public affairs agency for Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.

Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia Adopts Statement Regarding Immigration Reform

The Religious Leaders Council of the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia has adopted a statement affirming that it is "Religiously Diverse but United for Immigration Reform."



immigration, promoting social and economic vibrancy for our nation; protects the human rights of immigrants and those detained, providing each one with access to due process under the law, including legal representation; promotes compassionate treatment of families and enables family unification, especially for "mixed status" families; and provides a pathway to citizenship for those who are undocumented and already in the U.S.

The statement also calls upon diverse communities of faith in this region to recognize their common commitment to care for those in need; and cooperate to welcome immigrants and refugees, educate themselves about the immigrant experience and the laws which govern it, and advocate for reform locally, statewide, and nationally.

The Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia is led by four co-conveners: Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. - Archdiocese of Philadelphia; Bishop Claire Schenot Burkat -

Southeastern PA Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America; Imam Anwar Muhaimin - Quba Masjid; and Rabbi David Straus - Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka is a member of the Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia and has actively participated in the group since its inception in 2006.

You can read the document at: <http://www.interfaithcenterpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Religious-Ldrs-Council-Phila-Immigration-Reform.pdf>

Comprised of religious leaders representing thirty traditions and more than two million constituents in the greater Philadelphia area, the Council is calling upon national, state and local elected officials and all in authority to address immigration reform *now*, making just, compassionate, and humane changes to public policy and practice.

The statement urges reform that secures the nation's borders; encourages documented

Seeking God in a Busy World

a Lenten Day of Prayer and Recollection for Men

Saturday, March 15, 2014
9:30am-4pm

Respond! Speak! Do this! With busy lives and sounds bouncing around us 24/7, rarely do we feel the freedom to be quiet. We do not truly listen without planning what is next, what we are going to say in response.

Jesus frequently went up the mountain or to the desert to be alone and to pray. The prophet Elijah, at a time with many responsibilities and many enemies, found God not in the earthquake or the storm but in a quiet whisper, hidden in a cave.

This day is an opportunity to go to the "mountain cave" in the valley and spend a day of prayer away from the busyness and noise of the world.

The day includes three short talks from the friars on quiet prayer in our noisy world. Retreat rooms are available for quiet space, as well as the peaceful grounds and chapel, with an opportunity for Confession. You are invited to come early for 7:15am Matins, 8am Saturday Divine Liturgy; or stay for the 5pm Divine Liturgy (vigil for Sunday).

Reinvigorate your soul with a day of quiet prayer and reflection.

Cost for the day program: \$25 includes a simple, lenten lunch.

Add \$30/night if you wish to stay over Friday or Saturday night.

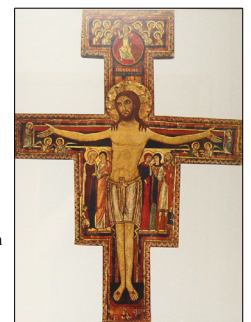
Space is limited. Please register by March 12, 2014.

Contact: Fr Jerome at holydormition@gmail.com; 570-788-1212 ext 402.

Payment: Holy Dormition Friary, Attn: 2014 Men's Retreat, PO Box 270, Sybertsville, PA 18251



Holy Dormition Friary, home of the Byzantine Franciscans, is located on Pennsylvania Highway 93 at Main Street in Sybertsville, PA 18251.

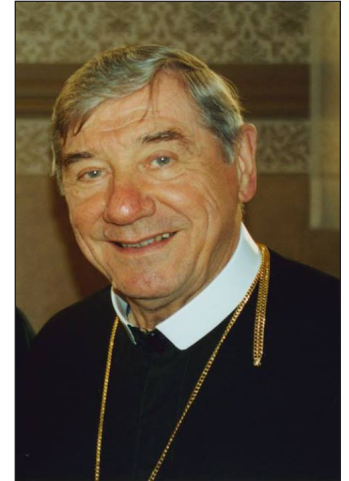


Eparch-emeritus of Toronto, bishop Cornelius John Pasichny passed away on January 30, 2014

On 30 January 2014 in Toronto died the eparch-emeritus of Toronto, Bishop Cornelius John Pasichny

His biography in English posted on Facebook by Rev. Athanasius McVay:

Bishop Cornelius was born in the north end of Winnipeg on 27 March 1927 to Stefan Pasichny and Anastasia Kruk, parishioners of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Parish. He attended the parish School of St. Nicholas (today Immaculate Heart of Mary) and was active in parish life especially as an altar boy. In September 1942 at the age of 15 he entered the noviciate of the Basilian Order in Mundare, Alberta and, the following year, upon receiving his monastic tonsure, he assumed the religious name of Cornelius. His middle schooling (high school courses) took place at the Basilian Scholasticate in Mundare and Grimsby, Ontario from 1944 to 1948. He studied philosophy at the Basilian House of Studies in Glen Cove, Long Island, and sacred theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He professed solemn perpetual vows on 31 October 1948 and was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Ivam Buchko in Rome, at the Church of Sts. Sergius and Bacchus, Piazza Madonna dei Monti, on 5 July 1953, following which he continued higher studies, obtaining a Licenciate in Philosophy from the Gregorian University the following year.



Returning to Canada in 1954 he continued to studies obtaining a a Masters of Philosophy from St. Paul's University, Ottawa in 1956. That year he was assigned to the Basilian House of Studies at the Mundare Monastery where he taught philosophy to the scholastics (students) and served as parish priest of the Krakow and Borschiv areas. From 1958 to 1959 he served as interim pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ottawa. From 1959 to 1963 he was vicarius (assistant superior) of the Mundare Monastery where he taught Latin, Church Slavonic and Ukrainian history to the Basilian students.

Father Cornelius was known for his love of the Ukrainian language and culture and music. He served various pastoral and administrative charges in the Canadian Basilian Province of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, such as provincial consultor and bursar, and editor of the English-language periodical "Beacon." From 1981 he served spiritual director at the newly-established Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Seminary. After 43 years away from his native Winnipeg, in 1985 his superiors assigned him to serve as parish priest of his home parish of St. Nicholas.

In November 1995 Blessed John Paul II appointed him Eparch of Saskatoon and he was ordained to the episcopacy at St. Nicholas Church on 17 January 1996 by Metropolitan Michael Bzdel, CSsR, Bishop Basil Filevych, eparch-emeritus of Saskatoon, and Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM. Only three years later, in September 1998, he was transferred to Toronto where he served as eparch until his retirement in May 2003.

During his time as eparch and thereafter, Bishop Cornelius lived in the Basilian Monastery of St. Gregory of Nyssa in Weston (Toronto), Ontario, where he continued to pastorally assist the eparchy and the Order and assisted in the diting of the Canadian Basilian's Ukrainian-language publication *Svitlo*.

<http://risu.org.ua>

Pope Francis appeals for dialogue in Ukraine

26 January 2014

Pope Francis appealed for constructive dialogue between institutions and civil society in the Ukraine during his address to pilgrims in St Peter's Square after the Angelus on Sunday, January 26. The Pope said he is praying for the people of Ukraine, in particular for those who have lost their lives during the violence of the past days, and for their families.

He said he is praying that the parties involved will avoid violence in future and that the spirit of peace and the quest for common good may prevail.

<http://risu.org.ua>



"I urge authorities to stop talking to people with the language of force and use of repressive tactics!" UGCC Head

Friday, 24 January 2014

"I appeal to representatives of civil society and all political activists to renounce violence and to return to the path of peaceful protest. Let us not permit emotions, even justified ones, to muddle our clear thinking and forsake us of even the possibility of entering a dialogue!

"I appeal to our bishops and clergy to particularly pay attention to the souls of the herd entrusted to us," stated His Beatitude Sviatoslav, UGCC Head, in his Appeal to UGCC faithful and to all people of good will on the occasion of on the Day of Unity of Ukraine.

UGCC Major Archbishop believes that the independence of the nation mirrors the independence of the soul of the Ukrainian people—the cultural, civilized and spiritual unity of the inheritors of the ancient Rus–Kyiv state. This unity was solidified 1025 years ago by the Baptism of the Equal to the Apostles, Prince Volodymyr and provided the spiritual beginnings of a European identity to the Ukrainian people.

However, in his opinion, today's celebration of the Independence of Ukraine is marred by the protest and the heightening of violence in the nation's capital – Kyiv. "With trepidation we observe how the on-going peaceful demonstrations, not heard by the authorities, have turned into waves of violence and bloodshed. In the name of preserving an independent Ukraine, in the name of its future, I urge the government to listen to the demands of its people and to cease talking to them with the language of force and the utilization of repressive measures!", urged His Beatitude Sviatoslav, UGCC Head.

UGCC Department of Information

UGCC Head: "We are, were, and will be with our people"

Monday, 27 January 2014

The Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, described the meeting of the members of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations (AUCCRO) with President Yanukovych. On the air of Hromadske TV, the Prelate emphasized: "It is the conviction of AUCCRO members that only when we place as an absolute priority the inadmissibility of a civil war, forced demonstrations and the preservation of peace, can we proceed to the next steps".

Today AUCCRO explains its participation in the events in Ukraine as a purely peacemaking activity. According to His Beatitude Sviatoslav, sometime earlier, AUCCRO members had declared that they planned to be the mediators between the politicians and the citizens. "Now, we have decided to deal as mediators and peacemakers. In a communique previously published we had censured all who broke God's commandment "Thou shall not kill"

and openly asked for a meeting with the President and the representatives of the opposition," explained UGCC Prelate. He stated that today the first meeting was held with Yanukovych and tomorrow, on January 25th, there is a meeting planned with the opposition representatives.

The meeting with President Yanukovych was attended by all members of AUCCRO. Each member had a chance to address the President and express his concern about events in Ukraine.

In particular, UGCC Head emphasized some of the painful aspects which UGCC pastors have encountered.

"First of all, I emphasized the fact that we are, were, and will continue to be with our people. During the last two months we were present not only on the Maidan with our people, but also, one can say, we have struggled to earn our right to be there. Today all understand that the presence of the clergy is very important for appeasing those people and preserving a peaceful protest as such.



We attempt to serve our people with everything which we only can. We opened our churches in order to welcome them and to permit them to warm up as needed," he said.

The Church Head informed Yanukovych that in carrying out their pastoral services, UGCC priests become witnesses of the fact that there are many wounded who are afraid to turn to Kyiv hospitals for assistance because the mere fact of being wounded is interpreted by law enforcing agents as proof of a crime. Therefore, people simply have no place to go.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav related to Yanukovych the story of one boy who after losing an eye was forced to jump from the second floor of a hospital to escape the police who came for the wounded. "I said, Mr. President,

this is not normal. These people should have access to medical care. Besides that, the mere fact of having a wound should not be qualified as a proof or a crime," noted the Prelate.

Secondly, stated the Church Head to the President, "UGCC prison chaplains cannot gain access to those who were arrested due to the events on Hrushevsky St. because for some reason they are "under extremely severe guard."

"Unfortunately, I did not hear a clear answer from the President about these concerns but it was said that those who did not commit serious crimes, should be freed. We shall see how much this will be realized," added His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

They also talked with Yanukovych about

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UGCC Head: "We are, were, and will be with our people"

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killings and torture which was undertaken by Berkut, especially about the torture of Maykhailo Havryliak who was captured and totally undressed in the frigid frost. "The President said that this was undignified, this cannot be done, but that it is an answer of violence against

violence," narrated UGCC Head.

In reply to the questions of journalists whether Yanukovych heard the religious leaders, His Beatitude replied "I think that sincerity has to be tested by actions."

We remind all that

AUCCRO held its external meeting on January 22nd, Independence Day in Ukraine. During the meeting AUCCRO members saw that BTR was headed to the European Square... On that day people were also killed.

AUCCRO is a community organization which unites 90% of all religious communities in Ukraine.

UGCC Department of Information

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

Christians around the World Pray for Peace in Ukraine

30 January 2014

On Sunday, February 2, 2014, on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the Romanian Greek Catholic Church will unite in prayer for Ukraine and Ukrainians who are experiencing a difficult period, the head of this church, Archbishop Lucian Muresan, announced. He also expressed his solidarity with Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC).

"We are concerned about the threats against the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, which, like us, was persecuted in the past," reads the message, which also encourages believers to

express solidarity and join calls for an end to violence.

On behalf of the Slovak Greek Catholic Church, Metropolitan Jan Babiak issued a letter to Patriarch Sviatoslav, in which he encouraged his clergy and faithful to pray "for the peaceful resolution of the tense situation, to keep the Commandments of God and the principles of solidarity and democracy," and for priests "to celebrate the Divine Liturgy or to include in the Liturgy the request for peace and a just resolution to the situation in Ukraine."

Earlier, the UGCC Information Department reported that the UGCC received a letter with words of support from

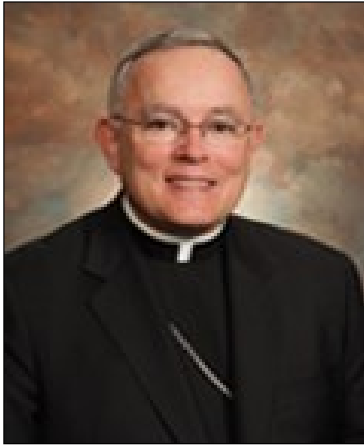
the President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, which read: "I ask you to assure the people of Ukraine that Canadian Catholics and their Bishops are united with you in prayer and solidarity. We plead for the guarantee of all rights and liberties in Ukraine, particularly the right to life and dignity, freedom of conscience and religion, and liberty of expression and self-government."

Pastoral Coordinator of Ukrainian Greek Catholics in Italy Fr. Marko Yaroslav Semehen sent a letter to the director general of the Migrants Foundation of the Italian Bishops' Conference and 17 national coordinators on behalf of the Ukrainian community,

priests, and chaplains in Italy, in which he calls on other ethnic communities and their chaplains to pray for the peaceful resolution of the situation in Ukraine.

When blood was shed in Ukraine, the Polish Episcopal Conference expressed its solidarity with Ukrainians. "With great concern we watch the struggle of the fraternal Ukrainian people," reads the letter, which was signed by Archbishop Jzef Michalik, head of the Polish Episcopal Conference. In the letter the hierarchy expressed its "sincere condolences to the parents of those who were tragically killed."

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



Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Latin Rite Archbishop of Philadelphia

STATEMENT ON THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE
by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Latin Rite Archdiocese of Philadelphia

We belong to one Church – a family that spans continents and centuries, bound together by a common faith in Jesus Christ. In that spirit, today I ask all Catholics in the Greater Philadelphia region to pray urgently for the Church in Ukraine and to press our elected federal representatives for financial and travel restrictions on Ukraine’s political and business leaders.

Western Catholics remember the suffering of the Polish Church under Communism because of Pope John Paul II’s witness of resistance. Less well known, but even more brutal, was the half-century of Soviet persecution experienced by Ukrainian Greek Catholics, who make up the largest Eastern Catholic Church in the world.

After Communism’s collapse, life for the Church in Ukraine improved. But late last year Ukraine’s leaders shifted back toward the Russian orbit. They cracked down heavily on demonstrations and dissent, killing some protesters and arresting hundreds of others. Christians in Ukraine – Catholics, Orthodox and others -- have not been silent. The Church’s people and leaders have played a major role in denouncing government violence, political repression and corruption. Ukrainian Catholic clergy have given vital pastoral care to those demonstrating for human rights and democratic principles. And they’ve been targeted by the government for doing so.

Last week, the Wall Street Journal voiced its frustration with Washington’s inaction – and seeming disinterest -- in the face of the worsening Ukraine crisis. The Journal’s editors noted that the best way of curbing repression by corrupt Ukraine officials and “business oligarchs” is a visa ban and freeze on their American-based assets. But so far, it hasn’t happened.

Philadelphia’s Ukrainian Catholic Archbishop Stefan Soroka has called on all of us as fellow Catholics, and other Americans of good will, to support the struggle for religious and civil liberties in Ukraine. We can do that first and most importantly by prayer – and then by contacting our elected representatives. Silence from the United States encourages oppression in Ukraine. We can’t let that happen, again, to fellow believers who bore so much suffering for so many decades.

It’s a privilege to join my own voice, and the voice of the people and clergy of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, to the voice of Archbishop Soroka and the Ukrainian Catholic community.

+Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia

KINDLY NOTE: The statement by Archbishop Stefan Soroka and his brother Ukrainian Catholic bishops in the United States can be found at www.ukrarcheparchy.us/, along with other critical information about the situation in Ukraine.

An Appeal from Greek-Catholic Bishops in Ukraine concerning the socio-political situation in the country

Monday, 03 February 2014, 15:10

Beloved in Christ! Over the last few months our country has been living through severe trials which testify to the deep crisis in the relationship between people and government.. The lack of the will of the government to listen to the thoughts of the people has already led to tragic results.

We express our deep sympathy to the families of the perished, assuring them of our closeness through prayer, we express our solidarity with the families of the persecuted, we stand on the side of the beaten ones, the oppressed, the harassed, and the humiliated. Today our voice joins with the voices of millions of citizens of Ukraine who plead with the heavens for truth and justice in the words of the Holy Scripture: Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; (Is 45,8) . With this I also would like to underline that justice will not come until every single wound is healed on the bodies of the victims, until all the disappeared without a trace are found, until in society all threats towards fundamental rights and freedoms of a person and the whole nation are removed and there comes a renewal of trust in government, the lack of which makes it impossible to build a modern lawful; nation.

In these difficult situations we have become witnesses of great human kindness and solidarity in our people. Youth, especially students, adults, elderly, women and men, and even people with special needs came to the squares and Maidans in Kyiv and in other cities, towns, and villages of our country, expressing their civil and spiritual maturity, readiness for self-sacrifice for a better fate for their native country. We express our respect and thanks to all these people, directing to them the words of St. Paul: Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. (por. 1 Corinth 15, 58). We want to especially pay tribute to those people who while in the service of the country, regardless of pressure and threats, remained true to God's commandment and the voice of one's own conscience, and refused to act violently towards one's own people. They fulfilled the law with which the first Christians in Jerusalem followed, who, in being persecuted, did not step away from God's truth and said: "It is appropriate to listen to God more than to people!" (Di 5, 29).

Simultaneously, it is with great trepidation and a painful heart that we perceive the acts of violence, pressure and persecution of peaceful demonstrators by the law forces of Ukraine. Terrible and degrading for the nation itself has become the well-known fact, that the law forces have begun to deal in cahoots with hired criminals who have done pogroms and attacked the meeting crowds, medical doctors, journalists and even plain citizens among whom there were both the elderly as well as children.

Actions, aimed at the forceful suppression of a peaceful expression by citizens cannot be justified by anything and they deserve a definite and decisive censure. A government which supposedly does not hear the cries of its people and attempts to quiet its voice for personal rights through the blows of police clubs and with bullet shots, enters the dangerous path of terrorism and dictatorship which contradicts its essential fundamental vocation of caring about the unity of the people, to be on a guard of the sovereignty of the country and to work for the general good of all citizens, without exception.

The Church condemns all bloodshed and any forms of violence, but supports the right of citizens to peacefully

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An Appeal from Greek-Catholic Bishops in Ukraine concerning the socio-political situation in the country

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demonstrate. With all due decisiveness, we appeal to all sides of the protest: “End the bloodshed! Do not permit the spread of violence!” In an independent and civilized Ukrainian nation, there should be no blood shedding of its own citizens during a peaceful time, only because these citizens demand and protect their given human rights and freedom. We call upon the government not to be violent towards their own people but to begin to respect their people. We hope that our voice does not become the “voice of the thirsty in the desert.”

Today many look towards the Church with a direct or indirect question: what should we do? It is with such a question that contemporaries of that time came to John the Baptist and he answered them with the strength of the Holy Spirit, appealing to their change of hearts, to conversion: He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.(Luke 3,11-14).

We are also conscious that: My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth... (Ps. 121, 2), we appeal to our faithful and to all people of good will to keep God’s commandments, do none evil, remain in peace and goodness. We ask you to continue praying together in communities (parishes, monasteries, families) and individually for Ukraine. And we announce a period of fasting in all our eparchies and exarchates in Ukraine. To this appeal, we add practical directives about prayer and about fasting and ask our pastors to announce them and to organize them in an appropriate manner. Together with Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, “we believe and hope that with contrition, sincere prayer and a sincere reception of the Holiest Sacrament we will earn that God will curtail our time of experience and suffering, that he will look with merciful eyes on his sons, that he will help them to survive with grace the evil of this life and through his Almighty Power will end our suffering.” (por. Prayer for a better fate for the Ukrainian people).

At this time when our eyes are turned to the Capital of Kyiv, we are carried by our thoughts to the Church of St. Sophia – The Wisdom of God, where the Blessed Mother with hands raised to heaven intercedes for us, imploring God to grant our land blessings and God’s peace. To Her, our Queen and Heavenly intermediary, we long to place ourselves in her care, our land, its rulers, army – all who live on our land, asking with the words of an old Ukrainian prayer “We run to your mercy, Virgin Mother, do not ignore our prayers in our troubles, but save us from evil, you, the only pure and blessed one!”

God’s Blessings on you!

Lviv –Briukhovychi, January 31, Year of God 2014

His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk)
UGCC Father and Head, Major Archbishop
Kyiv –Halych

His Excellency Bishop Ihor (Vozniak)
Metropolitan of Lviv

An Appeal from Greek-Catholic Bishops in Ukraine concerning the socio-political situation in the country

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His Excellency Bishop Volodymyr (Viytyshyn)
Metropolitan of Ivano-Frankivsk

His Excellency Bishop Vasyl (Semeniuk)
Metropolitan of Ternopil-Zboriv

His Excellency Bishop Mykhail (Koltun)
Eparch of Sokal-Zhovkva

His Excellency Bishop Milan (Shashik)
Eparch of Mukachevo

His Excellency Bishop Yaroslav (Pryriz)
Eparch of Sambir - Drohobych

His Excellency Bishop Vasyl (Ivasiuk)
Exarch of Odesa-Crimea,
Administrator of Kolomyia - Chernivtsi

His Excellency Josaphat (Hoverlia)
Exarch of Lutsk

His Excellency Bishop Stepan (Meniuk)
Exarch of Donetsk-Kharkiv

His Excellency Bishop Dmytro (Hryhorak)
Eparch of Buchach

His Excellency Bishop Taras (Senkiv)
Bishop Administrator of Stryj

His Excellency Bishop Bohdan (Dziurakh)
Bishop, Curia of UGCC Major Archbishop

His Excellency Bishop Venedykt (Aleksiychuk)
Assistant Bishop of Lviv Archeparchy

His Excellency Bishop Nil (Lushchak)
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