

THE WAY ШЛЯХ

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ENGLISH VERSION

PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV AND THE PERMANENT SYNOD ON THE OCCASION OF THE GREAT FAST 2014

Most Reverend
Metropolitans and
Bishops. Very Reverend
Priests, Religious,
Monastics!

Dear Brothers and Sisters
in Christ!

Our Church, our Faithful and our entire Ukrainian People enter into the Great Fast this year with feelings of pain, fear, suffering and trembling hope. We have experienced one of the longest and most terrible winters in the history of our people – a winter in which we profoundly and personally felt the darkness of sin, and we saw evil that garishly expressed itself in our modern history and bore its murderous interior for all to see. Sin, in its ugly, noxious nature, rose up before us.

At the same time, this is the winter of our national unity, solidarity, openness to our neighbour, and the continuation of our exodus from the home of slavery. On the 'Maidan', we understood the true sense of sacrifice, dedication and mercy. For many this was a time of profound self-realization and conversion to the Lord. The experience of the last 90 days must become for us a signpost for the next 40 days and for the rest of our life.

During the Great Fast, we will especially remember, together with our deceased family members, the sacrifice of the martyrs of the "Heavenly Legion" – those that gave their lives for the victory of good over evil and of truth over injustice. We will also

remember the selfless dedication of those people who stood there over these last months in the most terrifying and freezing-cold nights on the Maidan united in prayer. With gratitude, we will remember all Christians and people of good will in Ukraine and throughout the world – for their prayer and moral and material support.

At the same time, we will always keep in mind that the results of this winter were not the accomplishment of human hands: "if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us up alive (Psalm 124: 2-3) We became witnesses and conveyers of the

mystery of the actions of God's grace, witnesses that, "what is impossible for man, is possible for God". (Luke 18:26).

The Great Fast continues that which began on the Maidan, and adds to it new spiritual substance. Contemplating the pure sacrifice of the "Heavenly Legion" and the dedication of the hundreds of thousands of people, each of us should evaluate our lives differently: seek greatness in your consciousness and in your mystical being, open your life to others – to God and your neighbour, cleanse from yourself everything that limits us and leads to sin. On this path of conversion and cleansing, our Church

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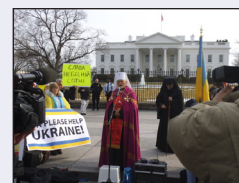
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PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV AND THE PERMANENT SYNOD ON THE OCCASION OF THE GREAT FAST 2014

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prays with the words of venerable Ephrem, "Lord and Master of my life! Remove from me the spirit of laziness and indifference, lust of power and idle chatter. Rather grant to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brother or sister, for it is You who are blessed forever!"

This year in particular, the Great Fast challenges Ukrainians to overcome the sins of hatred and distrust. This is especially the case for those who have been entrusted with the helm of the nation. It is difficult for us to trust the new leadership today, because we have experienced authorities that enslave, humiliate and kill. Thus, it will take a great effort to overcome this sin. The first step in this direction must be forgiveness. A good opportunity for this is "Forgiveness Sunday" which opens the way to reconciliation with God and neighbour. Together with this, we must remember that trust toward a restored authority cannot be

blind and should usher in an active sharing of responsibility for that which happens on our country. This shared responsibility must emanate from each of us: with responsibility for our own household, our village or city, and for our country - remembering that every citizen must not demand of oneself any less than he/she would demand of others.

The insistent reminder about this responsibility will be the sacrifice of those innocent people killed – whose memory no one dare stain by their own selfish purpose or political conduct. Let us not squander this God-given opportunity that opens for us new possibilities, a new way of living, so that, according to the words of the Apostle to the nations, we would be made, "worthy of the Kingdom of God, for which we are suffering" (cf. 2 Thessalonians 1:5).

How will we accomplish this? The Great Fast is the way to the Resurrection. Our Saviour, Who, "came that we would have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10) proposes for

us appropriate means, in order that our activity would be life-giving. He calls us to direct ourselves toward the Lord's Passover, to pass through the pilgrimage from sin to love in order to be forever a "new creation in Christ" (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17).

In spite of the uniqueness of the Lenten period for our people this year, it always is a period of spiritual struggle. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). The spiritual combat to which the Church calls us during the Great Fast, has concrete dimensions according to the words of the Prophet Isaiah, "this is the kind of fasting that I want: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the fetters of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every oppression. Share your bread with the hungry, and invite the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover him, and do not refuse to help your own people? (58, 6-7).

We must fight for truth and righteousness, confirm the God-given dignity of every person, maintain peace in our souls and our country, promote reconciliation and repentance, and aid in the healing of the spiritual and physical wounds by which Ukrainians have been injured. In particular we call everyone to solidarity in tending to the families of those killed and wounded and those that remain traumatized body and soul.

Difficult and complicated times may await us. We must be prepared for economic sacrifices, which will demand from our part patience and perseverance. Let us learn to carry our daily Cross steadfastly and without complaint, even when we will find ourselves without that which we consider most indispensable. Let this be our fast – a fast that raises hope for a better future for Ukraine, which,

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after the winter, will come into its springtime and will yield its fruit.

To experience the Great Fast most profitably, we propose to all of our Faithful to continue their prayer and fasting for the Ukrainian people according to the intentions that we give in the supplement.

We call upon everyone to dedicate themselves to work and prayer, in fasting and charity. "May the God of peace himself sanctify you totally; and

may your entire being - spirit and soul and body - be kept sound and blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

On behalf of the members of the Permanent Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church

+ SVIATOSLAV
Father and Head of the UGCC

Issued at Lviv-Briukhovychy
28 February 2014 A. D.
Cheesefare Friday

INTENTIONS FOR PRAYER AND FASTING DURING THE GREAT FAST

Monday - for the Supreme Council (i.e. Parliament) of Ukraine and the upcoming Presidential election

Tuesday - for the new government of Ukraine and its successful service

Wednesday - for the Army of Ukraine

Thursday - for the

Police and other law enforcement agencies

Friday - for those wounded on the Maidan and their families

Saturday - remembering the deceased, especially those killed on the Maidan

Sunday - for the unity and integrity of Ukraine

(Unofficial translation into English.)

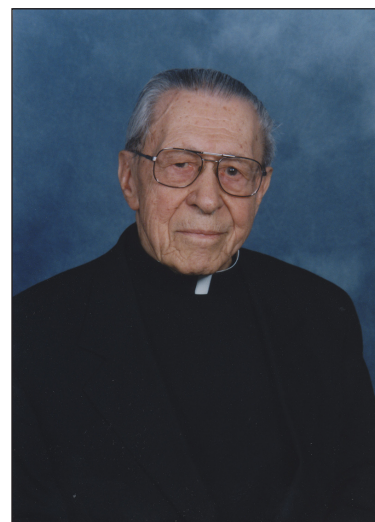
+Reverend Mitred Archpriest Stephen Hrynuck, 102, Falls Asleep in the Lord

+Reverend Mitred Archpriest Monsignor Stephen Hrynuck, 102, fell asleep in the Lord, Thursday, March 6, 2014. Prior to his retirement, he had served as pastor of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, Pa. for 57 years. On December 31, 2008, Msgr. Hrynuck was the oldest active serving Catholic pastor in the United States.

Priestly Parastas will be sung on Monday evening, March 10, 2014 at 7 p.m and funeral services will be held Tuesday morning, March 11, 2014 at 11 a.m. in Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, 135 River Avenue, Olyphant, Pa.

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

A tribute to Msgr. Hrynuck will be included in the March 23, 2014 issue of The Way.



First Sunday of the Great Lent - March 9, 2014



The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (Jn. 1, 43-51)

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of Great Lent. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent. Ever since, this Sunday has been commemorated as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy."

The Seventh Ecumenical Council dealt predominantly with the controversy regarding icons and their place in Eastern church worship. It was convened in Nicaea in 787 by Empress Irene at the request of Tarasios, Patriarch of Constantinople. The Council was attended by 367 bishops.

Almost a century before this, the iconoclastic controversy had once more shaken the foundations of both Church and State in the Byzantine empire. Excessive religious respect and the ascribed miracles to icons by some members of society, approached the point of worship (due only to God) and idolatry. This instigated excesses at the other extreme by which icons were completely taken out of the liturgical life of the Church by the Iconoclasts. The Iconophiles, on the other-hand, believed that icons served to preserve the doctrinal teachings of the Church; they considered icons to be man's dynamic way of expressing the divine through art and beauty.

The Council decided on a doctrine by which icons

should be venerated but not worshipped. In answering the Empress' invitation to the Council, Pope Hadrian replied with a letter in which he also held the position of extending veneration to icons but not worship, the last befitting only God.

The decree of the Council for restoring icons to churches added an important clause which still stands at the foundation of the rationale for using and venerating icons in the Eastern Churches to this very day: "We define that the holy icons, whether in color, mosaic, or some other material, should be exhibited in the holy churches of God, on the sacred vessels and liturgical vestments, on the walls, furnishings, and in houses and along the roads, namely the icons of our Lord God and

Savior Jesus Christ, that of our Lady the Theotokos, those of the venerable angels and those of all saintly people. Whenever these representations are contemplated, they will cause those who look at them to commemorate and love their prototype. We define also that they should be kissed and that they are an object of veneration and honor (timitiki proskynisis), but not of real worship (latreia), which is reserved for Him Who is the subject of our faith and is proper for the divine nature. The veneration accorded to an icon is in effect transmitted to the prototype; he who venerates the icon, venerated in it the reality for which it stands".

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First Sunday of the Great Lent

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An Endemousa (Regional) Synod was called in Constantinople in 843 under Empress Theodora. The veneration of icons was solemnly proclaimed at the Hagia Sophia Cathedral. The Empress, her son Michael III, Patriarch Methodios, and monks and clergy came in procession and restored the icons in their rightful place. The day was called "Triumph of Orthodoxy." Since that time, this event is commemorated yearly with a special service on the first Sunday of Lent, the "Sunday of Orthodoxy".

Eastern church teaching about icons, as defined at the Seventh Ecumenical Council of 787, is embodied in the texts

sung on this Sunday.

The name of this Sunday reflects the great significance which icons possess for our Church. They are not optional devotional extras, but an integral part of our faith and devotion. They are held to be a necessary consequence of Christian faith in the incarnation of the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, in Jesus Christ. They have a sacramental character, making present to the believer the person or event depicted on them. So the interior of our churches is often covered with icons painted on walls and domed roofs, and there is always an icon screen, or iconostasis, separating the sanctuary from the

nave, often with several rows of icons. No Eastern church home is complete without an icon corner (iconostasion), where the family prays.

Icons are venerated by burning lamps and candles in front of them, by the use of incense and by kissing. But there is a clear doctrinal distinction between the veneration paid to icons and the worship due to God. The former is not only relative, it is in fact paid to the person represented by the icon. This distinction safeguards the veneration of icons from any charge of idolatry.

The theme of the victory of the icons, by its emphasis on the incarnation, points us to the basic Christian

truth that the one whose death and resurrection we celebrate at Easter was none other than the Word of God who became human in Jesus Christ.

Before the Triumph of Orthodoxy came to be celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent, there was on this day a commemoration of Moses, Aaron, Samuel and the prophets. Traces of this more ancient observance can still be seen in the choice of the Epistle reading at the Liturgy and in the Alleluia verse appointed before the Gospel: "Moses and Aaron among His priests, and Samuel among them that call upon His Name."

Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

The first weekend of the Great Fast, Saturday and Sunday, March 8-9, is the date for the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe illuminates the way for the people of the region by helping Catholic organizations offer affordable shelter, training for seminarians, pastoral care, and catechesis. Your donation today helps to restore the Church and build the future in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Please be generous to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Visit www.usccb.org (search "Church in Central and Eastern Europe") to learn more about the important projects funded by the Collection.



**Shroud of Turin Exhibit
Authentic Replica
Plymouth, Edwarsville, and Scranton, PA
March 2- April 12, 2014**

March 2– March 15, 2014
SS Peter & Paul Church, 20 Nottingham Street
 Plymouth PA 18651 570-735-2262
 (Handicap Accessible)
 Monday –Saturday 10:00AM-8:00PM
 4:00PM Saturday **Divine Liturgy**
 Sunday **Divine Liturgy 8:30AM 10:00AM–8:00PM**

March 16-29, 2014
St Vladimir's Church, 70 Zerby Avenue
 Edwarsville, PA 18705 570-287-9718
 Monday –Saturday 10:00AM—7:00PM
 (Handicap Accessible)
 6:00PM Saturday **Divine Liturgy**
 Sunday 10:00AM—7:00PM
 Sunday **Divine Liturgy 10:30AM 11:30AM-7:00PM**

March 30-April 12, 2014
St. Vladimir's Church, 430 N 7th Avenue
 Scranton, PA 18503 570-342-7023
 Monday-Friday: 10:00AM-1:00PM
 4:00PM-7:00PM
 Saturday: 11:00AM– 2:00PM 5:00-7:00PM
 Saturday **Divine Liturgy 4:00PM**
 Sunday **Divine Liturgy 10:30AM 2:00-6:00PM**



YOU ARE INVITED TO AN EXHIBIT OF AN OFFICIAL REPLICA OF

THE SHROUD OF TURIN

Blessed by Pope Benedict XVI
 Touched to the actual Shroud of Turin in Turino, Northern Italy

March 16-29, 2014
 at Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church
 70 Zerby Ave., Edwarsville, PA

Exhibit opens on Sunday, March 16, 2 p.m. with a special presentation by The Very Reverend Archpriest Daniel Troyan, Curator of the Shroud Replica for The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

St. Vladimir Church will be open daily from 10 a.m.—7 p.m.



Admission is free. Photography is permitted.
 Parking across the street next to the rectory.
 The Church is completely handicap accessible.

The public is welcome. Groups are encouraged to make advance arrangements by calling the Church at 570-287-9718.

This exhibit is jointly sponsored by
 St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Edwarsville
 and Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Wilkes-Barre

Let my prayer...



During the season of the Great Fast, this being the time of penance and metanoia, the ancient discipline did not permit joyous and triumphant celebrations such as the Divine Liturgy. The liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is a special service. It is a combination of Vespers and a Communion service and is traditionally celebrated on Wednesdays and Fridays of the six weeks of the Great Lent, and on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

...rise like incense
before you

Hear Me O Lord

Liturgy Of The Presanctified Gifts

March 5, 19, 26, April 2, 9
 5:00 p.m.
 in the Byzantine Chapel (crypt level)
 Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
 400 Michigan Avenue, NE
 Washington, DC

Sponsored by St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary www.sjuces.org



- women's Lenten Day of Recollection at Holy Dormition Friary -

Dimensions of Prayer :

reflection on:

**Whole-heartedness ...
Faithfulness ... and Authenticity**
 through reflections on the Gospels

Important Dispositions:

a listening heart ... personal openness and generosity ... a spirit of conciliation ... having faith in God's work ... waiting on the Lord ... a sense of recollection: silence and quiet.

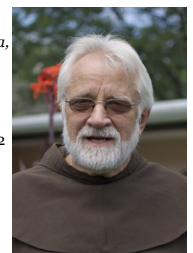
Saturday April 5th, 2014 - 9:30AM—4:30PM

There will be time for quiet prayer with communal preparation for Private Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

Registration opens at 9AM with continental breakfast; presentation begins at 9:30AM; closing prayer in chapel ends at 4:30PM. You are welcome to stay for the Divine Liturgy (vigil for Sunday) at 5PM.

Cost \$25 includes continental breakfast and luncheon. Please register in advance.

Fr. Laurian is the Guardian of Holy Dormition Friary, former pastor, teacher, and college president, and he directed retreats in North America, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, and in the Philippines, where he served eighteen years in the missions.



Register with Fr. Jerome at holydormition@gmail.com or at 570-788-1212 ext. 402. Send payment to Holy Dormition Friary—Lenten Retreat, PO box 270, Sybertsville 18251.

BASILIAN MOTHERHOUSE EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR SERVICE

A celebratory dinner was held for four employees of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, Fox Chase Manor, PA, Wednesday, February 12, 2014.

Among the honorees were Ivanna Sarachman and Nadiya Reva, recognized for twenty-two and twelve years, respectively, for housecare; Joan Crompton for twenty-one years of serving successively in the offices of the Basilian League of Prayer, Finance, Development and Reception; and Maria Panczak, who, for the past ten years in addition to her work in the Development Office,

also has been the curator of the Basilian Sisters' Archives.

The four honored employees were commended by Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, Provincial Superior, Sister Joann Sosler, OSBM, Assistant Provincial Superior, and Sister Maria Rozmarynowycz, OSBM, Motherhouse Superior, for their loyalty and valuable assistance not only in their assigned areas, but also for their personal extending of themselves to be of help to the Sisters and for volunteering their time and services for events such as the Annual

Marian Pilgrimage.

After the presentation of commemorative certificates, Sisters and

guests offered their congratulations and, in song, wished them "Many Happy Years".



Left to right: Honored employee Maria Panczak, Sister Susanne Matwijiw, OSBM, Basil Panczak, Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, Sister Maria Rozmarynowycz, OSBM, and honored employee Ivanna Sarachman.



Left to right: Sister Paula Jacynyk, OSBM, Father Dan Troyan, honored employee Joan Crompton, Sister Maria Rozmarynowycz, OSBM and Sister Joann Sosler, OSBM.



Left to right: Sister Maria Rozmarynowycz, OSBM, honored employee Nadiya Reva, Father Dan Troyan, Oksana Khoma, and Sister Clement Bartholomew, OSBM.

HELEN CHAYKOWSKY HONORED FOR SERVICE TO ST. BASIL ACADEMY

Friends, faculty and members of the extended family of St. Basil Academy gathered at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, Sunday, February 9, 2014, to thank and honor interim principal Helen Chaykowsky for her service to the school. Miss Chaykowsky, a SBA alumna recently retired from the Secondary School System of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, served as the Academy's principal for the first semester of the 2013-14 academic year while a search was conducted for a permanent replacement.

During his homily at the 11:00 Divine Liturgy in the Sisters' chapel, Father Daniel Troyan, chaplain, quoted the maxim of St. Basil the Great: "The gifts of God are meant to be shared with others." You have lived up to that adage, Helen, by giving of yourself to carry on the tradition of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great."

At the luncheon that followed, Provincial Superior Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, thanked Miss Chaykowsky for agreeing to temporarily replace the Academy's principal, Sister Lydia Anna Sawka, OSBM, who was elected in July to a position of leadership on the Sisters' Governing Council in Rome. "St. Basil tells us that a good deed is never lost. The Sisters and I are grateful to you, one of our own, for responding so graciously to serve as interim principal of St. Basil Academy."

After the singing of "Many Happy Years", Helen Chaykowsky thanked all present for their good wishes and reflected on her life's being patterned by the Sisters at St. Basil Elementary School and at St. Basil Academy, the spiritual influence of St. Basil and St. Macrina, and expressed her pleasure of having served as SBA's administrator if only for a brief time. "I will miss St. Basil Academy but am turning it over to a person of deep faith and integrity—Mrs. Theresa Ryan-Szott. The school is in good hands and will flourish as a viable institution of learning for young women."



New SBA principal Theresa Ryan-Szott, SBA Interim principal and honored guest Helen Chaykowsky, and Provincial Superior Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM among those at the Divine Liturgy.



Helen Chaykowsky, SBA interim principal, expresses her gratitude to guests.

At the afternoon reception, Sisters and members of the Academy's faculty, staff, Board of Trustees and Parents Club thanked Miss Chaykowsky for her service and extended their congratulations to St. Basil Academy's newly-appointed first lay principal, Mrs. Theresa Ryan-Szott who assumed office at the beginning of the second semester.

Forgiveness Vespers in Whippany, NJ

On Sunday, March 2, 2014 parishioners of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, NJ gathered together along with the clergy from the New Jersey Deanery to take part in the solemn service of Forgiveness Vespers. The main celebrant for the evening service was Rev. Joseph Szupa, Dean of Clergy for New Jersey. Con-celebrants were Right Reverend Mitred Protopresbyter Roman Mirchuk, Rev. Andriy Dudkevych, Rev. Vasyl Putera, Rev. Vasyl Vladyka, Rev. Orest Kunderevych, Rev. Ivan Turyk and altar servers. The main homilist was Rev. Taras Svirchuk, C.Ss.R, an assistant pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, NJ.



Rev. Taras Svirchuk, C.Ss.R,



Photo (l to r): Rev. Andriy Dudkevych, Rev. Vasyl Putera, Rev. Taras Svirchuk, C.Ss.R, Right Reverend Mitred Protopresbyter Roman Mirchuk, Rev. Joseph Szupa, Rev. Orest Kunderevych, Rev. Vasyl Vladyka, Rev. Ivan Turyk and two Altar Servers in the front row.

Myasopusna Meatfare Dinner in Nanticoke, PA

The annual MYASOPUSNA Meatfare Dinner, Sunday, February 23, 2014 was held at Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in Nanticoke, PA. In attendance were the parishioners from SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA. (Front Row); Marie Martin and Lauren Telep from SS. Cyril's, Olyphant, PA. Also in attendance were (2nd Row) Rev. Father Paul Wolensky from Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA., Father John Seniw from SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Berwick, PA, and Rev. Volodymyr Popyk, Pastor of Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in Nanticoke, PA.



The celebration included Dinner featuring Ukrainian food, along with Ukrainian Crafts, Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble and St. Mary's Traditional Ukrainian Dancers from Allentown, PA, and The Transfiguration Church Holy Year Choir, under the direction of Dr. Richard Barno. Rev. Father Volodymyr Popyk was the host of the event.

"Baked Haddock Fish Dinner-Meatless Meal for Lent" on April 11, 2014 in Olyphant, PA

The 3rd Annual Meatless Meal for Lent "Baked Haddock Fish Dinner" sponsored by Saint Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA will be held on Friday, April 11, 2014 at The REGAL ROOM, 216 Lackawanna Ave. Olyphant, PA from at 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Pre-sold tickets are \$13.00 per person/dinner. You can "Sit In or Take Out" The dinner will included, baked haddock, potato vegetable, cole claw, roll, dessert with coffee or tea. At the door, a limited amount of tickets will be \$15.00 per dinner. Call Sandra at 570-383-9487 for reservations before Monday April 7th, 2014. <http://www.stcyriils.maslar-online.com/>

"Special Spring Food Collection for the Needy" - Now through April 13th in Clifton Heights, PA

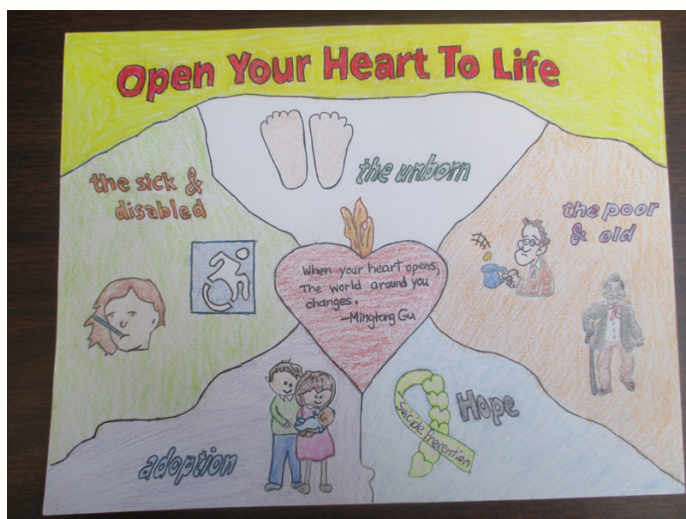
Due to the continued hard economic conditions, Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, 100 South Penn Street in Clifton Heights will hold a "Special Spring Food Collection" for the needy in the community from now through Sunday, April 13th. Anyone wishing to donate any canned or boxed, non-perishable food items should bring them to the Church on any Sunday before/or after the 11:00 am. English Divine Liturgy. We appreciate anyone's help in this worthwhile effort. It will be through your efforts that we aim for matching or exceeding our last collection. Please help us help, if you can!

Super Easter Pierogie/Paska Bread/Kielbasa Sale - Orders Now Being Taken! Clifton Heights, PA

We are back with offering three traditional Easter-favorite foods - Kielbasa, Pierogies and Paska bread. Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Clifton Heights, in conjunction with one of the area's well-known kielbasa makers, proudly announces the 2014 "Easter Pierogie, Kielbasa and Paska Bread Sale". We are offering mouth-watering, high quality kielbasa for the unbelievably low price of only \$11.00 per ring or 4 links for \$8.00. We are also offering our homemade, mouth-watering, flavorful, potato-cheese pierogies for the unbelievably low price of only \$8.00 per dozen! As a special treat, we are also baking the traditional Easter Bread for only \$10.00. For your convenience, we now are able to accept your orders via email. To place your pierogie, Paska Bread and/or kielbasa orders, please email us at SSPeterandPaul@verizon.net or call Kathy at (610) 328-4731. Pickup will be at noon on either Saturday, April 12th or Sunday, April 13th, at our Church which is located at 100 South Penn Street in Clifton Heights, PA. Please place your orders early since high demand and our desire to fully satisfy all orders may require us to limit quantities and stop taking orders.

Respect Life Poster Contest 2014

This year, Pope Francis' message at World Youth Day commanded our young people to Open Your Hearts to Life. This message became the theme for the 2014 Respect Life Poster Contest. Assumption Catholic School (ACS) in Perth Amboy, NJ was one of sixteen elementary Catholic Schools and twenty Religious Education Programs that participated in this contest. One poster per grade from each school and program was submitted to the Diocese for judging. The contest focuses young people on the message of life in the classroom and provides a conversation starter for parents at home. A total of 206 posters were received by the Diocese. We are extremely proud to announce that Assumption Catholic School has two winners! Katherine Perez is the 1st place winner for the grade 7 category. Ishaani Purang is the 2nd place winner for the grade 3 category. We will see our winners artwork displayed in the 2015 Respect Life Calendar. Congratulations to both our winners for a job well done!



THE POPE DEFINES THE MISSION OF THE CONGREGATION FOR BISHOPS AND THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE APOSTLES' SUCCESSORS

Vatican City, 27 February 2014 (VIS) – This morning, in the Sala Bologna of the Vatican Apostolic Palace, Pope Francis presided over a meeting of the Congregation for Bishops, whose prefect is Cardinal Marc Ouellet, P.S.S., and gave an address to those present regarding the mission of this congregation and the criteria that should determine the selection of a bishop, as well as the characteristics he should embody and his task in relation to the faithful entrusted to him. The Holy Father concluded by urging greater attention in scouring the fields in search of suitable pastors for this ministry, with the certainty that Christ never abandons His Church.

Extensive extracts are published below:

1. The essential mission of the Congregation

"In celebration of the ordination of a bishop the Church gathered together, after the invocation of the Holy Spirit, asks for the presented candidate to be ordained. He who presides then asks, "Do you have the mandate?". ... This Congregation exists to help write this mandate, which then resonates in many Churches and brings joy and hope to the Holy People of God. This Congregation exists to ensure that the name chosen has first of all been pronounced by the Lord. ... The Holy People of God continues to speak: ...we need someone who looks upon us with the breadth of heart of God; we do not need a manager, a company administrator. ... We need someone who knows how to raise himself to the height of God's gaze above us in order to guide us towards Him. ... We must not lose sight of the needs of the particular Churches, for whom we must always provide. There does not exist a standard Pastor for all Churches. ... Our challenge is to enter into Christ's view, taking into account the singularity of the particular Churches".

2. God's horizon determines the mission of the Congregation

"To choose such ministers we too need to elevate ourselves, to rise to the 'upper level'. We must rise above and overcome any eventual preferences, sympathies, provenances or tendencies to arrive at God's broad horizon. ... We do not need men conditioned by fear from below, but Pastors endowed with *parresia*, capable of ensuring that in the world there is a sacrament of unity, and therefore humanity is not destined to abandonment and helplessness. ... In approving the appointment of each bishop I would like to be able to feel the authority of your discernment and the greatness of the horizons according to which you arrive at your counsel. Therefore, the spirit that presides over your work cannot be other than that humble, silent and laborious process carried out by the light that comes from above. Professionalism, service and holiness of life: if we turn away from these three virtues we fall from the greatness to which we are called".

3. The Apostolic Church as a wellspring

"The height of the Church is always found in the depths of its foundations. ... The future of the Church always lives in its origins. ... We know that the College of Bishops, which the bishops enter by the Sacrament, succeeds the Apostolic College. The world needs to be aware that this sequence is uninterrupted. ... People already know through suffering the experience of many ruptures: they need to find that there remains in the Church the grace of her origins".

4. The bishop as a witness to the Risen Christ

"Let us consider ... the moment at which the Apostolic Church must recompose the College of the Twelve

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THE POPE DEFINES THE MISSION OF THE CONGREGATION FOR BISHOPS AND THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE APOSTLES' SUCCESSORS

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after the betrayal of Judas. Without the Twelve the fullness of the Spirit can not descend. We must find a successor among those who have followed from the beginning the journey of Jesus and who now can be, 'along with the Twelve' a 'witness of the resurrection'. We must choose from the followers of Jesus those who will be witnesses of the Risen Christ. ... Also for us, this is the unifying criterion: the bishop is he who is able to make current all that befell Jesus and above all, who knows, along with the Church, how to bear witness to His Resurrection. ... Not an isolated witness, but together with the Church. ... I would like to emphasise that renouncement and sacrifice is inherent to the episcopal mission. The episcopate is not for oneself, it is for the Church ... for others, especially for those who according to the world should be excluded. ... Therefore, to identify a bishop, it is not necessary to list his human, intellectual cultural or even pastoral skills. ... Certainly, there is a need for someone who excels; whose human integrity ensures a capacity for healthy relationships ... so as not to project his shortcomings onto others and to become a destabilising factor ... his cultural preparation must enable him to enter into dialogue with men and their cultures; his orthodoxy and faithfulness to the complete Truth held by the Church makes him a pillar and a point of reference ... his transparency and detachment when managing community assets must confer authority and merit the esteem of all".

"All these indispensable skills must be, however, in support of his central witness to the Risen Christ, and must be subordinate to this central commitment.

5. The sovereignty of God, responsible for the decision.

"Let us return to the apostolic text. After the tiring task of discernment, the Apostles pray ... We cannot elude that 'Show us, Lord.' The decisions can not be conditioned by our claims, for any groups, cliques or hegemonies. To guarantee this sovereignty two attitudes are fundamental: conscience before God, and collegiality ... Not discretion, but the discernment of all. No one can have everything on hand, each person must humbly and honestly add his tile to a mosaic which belongs to God".

6. "Kerygmatic" bishops

"Since faith comes from proclamation we need kerygmatic bishops. ... Men who are guardians of doctrine, not so as to measure how far the world is from doctrinal truth, but in order to fascinate the world ... with the beauty of love, with the freedom offered by the Gospel. The Church does not need apologists for her causes or crusaders for her battles, but humble and trusting sowers of the truth, who know that it is always given to them anew and trust in its power. Men who are patient men as they know that the weeds will never fill the field".

7. Praying bishops

"I have spoken of kerygmatic bishops; now I will move on to the other trait typical of the bishop: he must be a man of prayer. The same *parresia* he must have in the proclamation of the Word, must be present in his prayer, in speaking with God our Lord of the good of his people, the salvation of his people. ... A man who does not have the courage to argue with God on behalf of his people can not be a bishop, nor can he who is not able to assume the mission of guiding the people of God to where He, the Lord, indicates. ... And this also applies to apostolic patience ... the bishop must be able to 'go with patience' before God ... finding and letting himself be found".

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THE POPE DEFINES THE MISSION OF THE CONGREGATION FOR BISHOPS AND THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE APOSTLES' SUCCESSORS

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8. Bishop-Pastors

"May bishops be shepherds, close to the people; 'fathers and brothers, may they be gentle, patient and merciful; may they love poverty, interior poverty, as freedom for the Lord, and exterior poverty, as well as simplicity and a modest lifestyle; may they not have the mindset of "princes". Be careful that they are not ambitious, that they are not in quest of the episcopate', that they are espoused to the Church, without constantly seeking another; this is called adultery. May they be overseers of the flock that has been entrusted to them, to take care of everything that is needed to keep it united. ... I wish to emphasise again that the Church needs genuine Pastors ... look at the testament of the Apostle Paul. ... He speaks directly to us. He commits the pastors of the Church 'to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance'. Therefore, not masters of the Word, but committed to it, servants of the Word. Only in this way is it possible to edify and obtain the inheritance of the saints. To those who are plagued with questions about their legacy: 'What is the legacy of a bishop, gold or silver?', Paul answers, 'Holiness'. The Church remains when God's holiness spreads to her members. ... Vatican Council II states that the 'pastoral office or the habitual and daily care of their sheep is entrusted' completely to bishops. In our times, regularity and the everyday are often associated with routine and boredom. Therefore we often try to escape to a permanent 'elsewhere'. Unfortunately even in the Church we are not exempt from this risk. I think that in this time of meetings and congresses the decree of the Council of Trent is very current, and it would be good for the Congregation for Bishops to write something about this. ... The flock needs to find a place in the heart of its Pastor. If this is not solidly anchored in itself, in Christ and His Church, the bishop will continually be at the mercy of the waves, in search of ephemeral compensations, and will offer no shelter to his flock".

Conclusion

"At the end of these words, I wonder: where can we find such men? ... It is not easy. ... I think of the prophet Samuel in search of Saul's successor, who, knowing that little David was outside in the field grazing the sheep, demands 'Send for him'. We too must search among the fields of the Church for men to present to the Lord, in order that he say 'Rise and anoint him; this is the one'. I am sure that they are there, since the Lord does not abandon his Church. Perhaps we are not seeking well enough in the fields. Perhaps we need to heed Samuel's warning: 'We will not sit down until he arrives'. I would like this Congregation to live in this state of this holy restlessness".

SATURDAY REFLECTIONS

With God there is a time for everything:

A time to pause; A time for the sharing of Scripture; A time for meditation and personal reflection;

A time to encounter the God within.

A Prayer Group is forming on Saturday afternoons from 1:00-3:00PM at the Formation House Chapel at the Sisters of St Basil the Great in Fox Chase. It will be held every other Saturday beginning March 8, 2014. The Saturday Reflections Group will be coordinated by Sr. Judith Pizyk, Sr. Joann Sosler and Fr . Daniel Troyan. The Group will focus on prayer, Scripture, meditation, and personal reflections. All are welcome. For more information or to register please contact Sr. Judith Pizyk at 215-379-3998 ext 539 or email janinajp3@yahoo.com . The Prayer group will be in English. There is no fee or good will offering required.

Ukrainian native distressed over bloodshed in his homeland

BY JOHN E. USALIS
REPUBLICANHERALD.COM

Published: February 21, 2014

FRACKVILLE - The Rev. Roman Pitula came to the United States from Ukraine in 2002 and has been closely monitoring the tragic news stories coming from his homeland and praying every day for peace to return.

The pastor of St. Michael and St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic churches in Frackville and Maizeville, respectively, Pitula, 40, lives in Frackville with his wife, Tetyana, a native Ukrainian, and children Sofiya, Petro and Yuriy.

Pitula and Tetyana were born and grew up in Stryi, a city located on the left bank of the river Stryi in the Lviv Oblast of western Ukraine. The town is about 100 miles from the Polish border.

When asked how often he has been keeping up with the news about Ukraine, Pitula said, "Every day. Being born there, I feel really bad and sorry for all those people. They are in a great struggle for

democracy and human rights. Even though I'm a U.S. citizen, I was born there and I can't forget. It's in our hearts always."

He explained that the Ukrainian Catholic Church cannot become involved in the political aspects of the situation.

"The church is trying to lead people in prayers," he said. "People are dying and suffering and wounded. People need our prayers."

The protest, called the "Euromaidan," is a wave of ongoing demonstrations and civil unrest in Ukraine that began Nov. 21, 2013, with very large public protests demanding closer European integration. The scope of the protests has since evolved, with many calls for the resignation of Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich and his government. Protesters also have stated they joined because of the dispersal of protesters on Nov. 30 and what has been described as "a will to change life in Ukraine."



Rev. Roman Pitula talks Thursday about the protests and violence in his home country of Ukraine. (Photo: Andy Matsko)

There was a plan in the works to have Ukraine join the European Union, but just before that was to happen, Yanukovich decided against Ukraine becoming an EU member and making stronger ties with Russia.

While keeping track of events through the news services and the Internet, Pitula said there is almost daily contact with his wife's parents and her brother and his family still live in Ukraine.

"I talk to them every day or every other day," he said. "People are very scared and afraid. I get information

through email. Most of the protests are in Kyiv, the capital, in the central part of Ukraine, but it's all around Ukraine in different oblasts, which means a region."

Pitula said that the number of people killed is not known.

"The police are not supposed to use their firearms, but they do," he said. "You can see on TVs and YouTube that they are shooting people with sniper rifles and machine guns. That's what people are scared of, but I guess that people are

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so tired of this regime and its corruption. That is the main reason they are there. They want to be peaceful protesters for their opinion, their thoughts and their beliefs. That's a sad part. When people die in peacetime and from the hands of your own police force, it's a shame. We pray for those deceased and their family members. We also pray for those who are missing. A lot of people are missing."

Pitula said there are many instances of protesters being beaten and tortured. In some cases, protesters have water poured on them in temperatures close to 5 degrees.

"They pour the water on them. It's torture," he said. "Our patriarch says that we cannot leave our people alone. We as a church must pray for a peaceful solution of this conflict."

The Very Rev. Archpriest Michael Hutsko visited Ukraine with Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka for two weeks last August to celebrate the 1,025th anniversary of the Baptism of Ukraine and for the solemn consecration of the

brand new Resurrection Patriarchal Cathedral in Kyiv. Hutsko is the dean of the South Anthracite Protopytery (deanery), which includes Schuylkill County and portions of Northumberland, Columbia and Luzerne counties. He is also the pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul and Assumption BVM Ukrainian Catholic churches in Mount Carmel and Centralia, respectively. His ancestors came to America at the turn of the 20th century from an area in western Ukraine near the Polish border.

Hutsko has been following the events through the Internet, Ukrainian newspapers and the BBC, which he said has been providing much more extensive coverage of Ukrainian news than news services in America.

"I've also been watching it more on television since the crisis has escalated," Hutsko said. "It's a terrible tragedy just from my own personal observations."

During his visit, Hutsko stayed at the Hotel Ukraina, a four-star hotel on Independence Square in Kyiv where the

protests and deaths have occurred.

"They're currently using that now as a medical facility," he said. "The freedom fighters have taken over that particular area now. I just read on BBC that they've been bringing in the wounded and the dead into the lobby. They're using the lobby for triage before the wounded are taken to hospitals."

He continued, "Independence Square is really the heart of Kyiv, including a western style shopping mall with all the names you would see on Fifth Avenue in New York City or the Magnificent Mile in Chicago. The main post office is there, along with restaurants and outdoor cafeterias. Businesses were just bustling when I was there in August."

Under the direction of Archbishop Soroka, the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia churches had special prayers added to the Divine Liturgies for the first weekend of February, with some churches continuing those prayers or others for Ukraine.

"The Ukrainian people are a peaceful people," Hutsko said. "They are a people with a strong yearning for freedom and independence. I would compare them with the Founding Fathers and early fighters in the Revolutionary War here in the United States. They're trying to establish a government of the people, by the people, for the people. With the events of the last several years, they've been stymied in that desire. It seems as if certain oligarchs have taken control of all the levers of all the power, and even though there have been more-or-less free elections, they've been rigged to the point where their choices have only helped to move forward the agenda of the oligarchs who control the power and the industry and properties throughout Ukraine. The move toward the EU was seen as an opportunity to break that power and truly have representative democracy."

Hutsko said the tension could be felt in Kyiv when he visited.

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Ukrainian native distressed over bloodshed in his homeland

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"There was tension among the citizenry, even in Kyiv, that the police force could not be trusted, the judicial branch could not be trusted, that they has all been colored by the desires of those in control of power," Hutsko said. "The interesting thing is that the military of Ukraine has not gotten involved and has the greatest respect of the

people. Our Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is seen as a truly honest broker of independence and freedom for all people in Ukraine."

His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk is the Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. He attended the 62nd annual National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C.

"He had formal visits with members of Congress at their invitation because of the respect and reputation that our church has throughout all of Ukraine, not just the Catholics," Hutsko said.

Pitula said prayer is very important in calming the situation and ending further bloodshed.

"I ask you to pray. It is one of the best things," he said. "Prayer helps so much. We have a saying that 'Prayer breaks the iron.' Prayer has such power that it will break iron metal. Prayer can break a physical thing."

<http://republicanherald.com>

Prayers in Washington, DC

Washington, DC -- Nearly 500 members of the Ukrainian-American community of Washington and Ukrainians living in the USA gathered outside the White House on Sunday February 23, 2014 to pray for Ukraine and for those who died at Maidan. Speakers asked President Obama to help the Ukrainian people to continue on a peaceful path to reform the government and to provide financial and humanitarian aid. The Priests of the Washington Protopresbyterate, Rev. Volodymyr Baran, Rev. Vasyl Sivinskyj, Rev. Wasyl Kharuk, and Rev. Robert Hitchens, dean, celebrated Panakhyda.

Washington, DC -- A warm night in the US capital city provided some comfort to those who came to mourn and pray for the fallen heroes of Maidan at the Taras Shevchenko Monument in northwest DC. About 300 people of the Washington area Ukrainian-American community and Ukrainians living in the US came together in candlelight to pray for their brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Led by the Priests of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and its Washington Deanery, Rev. Robert Hitchens, Rev. Wasyl Kharuk, Rev. Volodymyr Baran, and Rev. Roman Petryshak, offered the Panakhyda service as the names of those who died at Maidan were read by many young people. Ukrainian Ambassador to the USA, Oleksander Motsyk, and other embassy personnel also came to pray for the fallen and for Ukraine.



On EuroMaidan Clerics Honor 'Heavenly Hundred' Heroes

23 February 2014

On February 22, on the Maidan in Kyiv, Ukrainian clerics led memorial prayers for protesters who were killed by bullets from special force snipers in Kyiv. They called the protesters fallen heroes of the "Heavenly Hundred" and assured that for their sacrifice and love for others the Lord will give them the kingdom of heaven.



Their prayers were led by representatives of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyivan Patriarchate, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Jewish community, and Protestants. An archpriest of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate was also present.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate was also present.

The clerics noted that due to the victims' sacrifice we obtained freedom and that the Maidan must spread to the whole country, because it is a place of truth, love, and justice.

The Primate of the Kyivan Patriarchate, who was warmly greeted by the people, said that we are starting to win, but the fight for freedom for the country has not yet ended.

"We need to be careful," he said, "because the evil forces are trying to break our unity. We need to cease hostilities and to stand firmly on the principles of truth. For there can be no reconciliation between good and evil. There can be nothing in common between light and darkness."

Patriarch Filaret also noted that now is an opportune moment for the establishment in Ukraine of one national Ukrainian Church.

"The Synod of the Church appealed to the episcopate of the UOC-MP with a proposal to unite in one church.

"They do not realize whom they serve. They must serve their people and be independent from other states. Love them, but above all love their country. Because the enemies are using our division and this division is not only in the church, but in the entire nation. Therefore, for the entire Ukrainian people to be one, the Orthodox Church must be one," the patriarch said on the Maidan.

<http://risu.org.ua>

Ukrainian Major Archbishop appeals for solidarity and warns the danger of civil war is not over

2/25/14

(Vatican Radio) The Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church has made a heartfelt appeal to European Nations for solidarity and support for the people of Ukraine.

Speaking at a press conference held on Tuesday at Vatican Radio, His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk denounced the fact that the cry of the Maidan protesters went largely unheard and ignored until the explosion of violence last week that left some 100 people dead, and thousands more injured.

He said that Ukraine is now living through a dark time because nobody knows how the situation is going to evolve...

But he also said it also a moment of great hope because Maidan has become a yeast that has caused the whole Ukrainian population to ferment.

After recounting at length and in detail the chain of events set off on November 29th when the President refused to



sign a pact with the EU, Archbishop Shevchuk made an appeal for solidarity.

"I would like to ask Europeans to wake up because what is happening in Ukraine, sooner or later, will touch all of you. Because Ukraine is part of Europe. And if people continue to pretend that nothing is happening, not only will things worsen in Eastern Europe, but this will cause great lack of faith in European values in the Western nations".

"I would also like to ask for a review of the relations with Ukraine". Archbishop Shevchuk says the problem of visas

required by Ukrainian students and the great difficulties they have to face when they want to enter other European countries has already been considered and should again come under examination.

"We want to build Europe in Ukraine, and only the students can do that" – so he says – "Europe does not have to defend itself from Ukrainian youth".

Shevchuk also appealed for solidarity and help for the many thousands who have been wounded during the Maidan uprising.

He says many countries

including Poland, Lithuania, the Czech republic and Slovakia have already offered to receive the wounded. And he makes an appeal to Italy to do the same.

Shevchuk expresses his gratitude to Germany, Poland and France for having sent their foreign ministers to Ukraine to act as peace mediators in the most difficult moment of the standoff. But he warns "this kind of solidarity must continue because the danger that one of our neighbours will provoke a civil war has not blown over".

<http://en.radiovaticana.va>

Chancery Staff has Panakhyda for the Victims of the Conflict in Ukraine

On February 27, 2014, the Chancery Staff had a Panakhyda for the Victims of the Conflict in Ukraine. The Panakhyda was held at the Chapel at the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

The service was led by Vicar General Very Rev. Andriy Rabi, Rev. Ivan Demkiv, and Rev. Roman Sverd.

Watch a video from the Panakhyda on our blog at www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com



Photo l to r: Rev. Roman Sverd, Very Rev. Andriy Rabi, and Rev. Ivan Demkiv.

Liturgy petitions

O good and loving Master, look down with compassion, heal, comfort and protect Your servants in Ukraine as they seek to foster unity and end division, and enjoy human rights, liberty, and self-determination in their nation, let us pray to the Lord.

We also pray that the Holy Spirit may open the hearts and minds of all to wisdom and grace so that those in Ukraine and throughout the world will cease the acts of aggression and respect the territorial sovereignty of Ukraine, let us pray to the Lord.

A Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

Heavenly Father, Your Son taught us "Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called Children of God." At this hour, we fervently pray that Your Holy Spirit may inspire men and women in Ukraine to become Peacemakers. May they seek reconciliation and dialogue and end the violent confrontation and killing. May they restore tranquility to their nation and restore human rights, democratic principles and religious liberty to their troubled land. God, our Father, we beseech you to comfort the suffering, heal the wounded and accept the souls of the departed into Your Heavenly Kingdom. And may the Most Holy Mother of God, extend her Blessed Mantle of Protection over Ukraine. And may each of us always live our lives as instruments of Your Peace. Amen.

Patriarch Sviatoslav: 'If We Will Need to Stand Together on the Battlefield with Our Soldiers, the Ukrainian Church, Especially UGCC, Is Ready'

1 March 2014

On March 1, 2014, Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk, head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, made a live statement on public television.

"With regret, we can say that Ukraine, unfortunately, has been pulled into a military conflict. So far no one is shooting, so far people are not dying, but it is obvious that military intervention has already begun. And so, indeed, the entire world community is on the side of Ukraine, as Russia is the aggressor. The role of the church is consistent. During the last three months, the church, especially the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church,

was with its people. And it will continue to remain with its people. If, God forbid, we will have to stand together on the battlefield with our soldiers, with our army, the Ukrainian Church, especially the UGCC, is ready to provide pastoral support.

"Every citizen of Ukraine must be prepared to defend his or her independent and sovereign state. The church has always sought to defend peace. The church at all costs tried to prevent bloodshed. Unfortunately, there are already victims in Ukraine, and bloodshed was not prevented. We will continue to use every opportunity to relieve tension in society and avoid casualties.

"The activity of the AUCCRO over the last three months has shown that the church is fully consolidated. We will not be silent. The church has never covered any falsehood or violence by silence. The church always exposes lies. The church has always defended human life and human dignity. The AUCCRO is not only ready to continue this work, but we are absolutely united. At a time when our Fatherland is in danger, all kinds of interfaith disputes including property issues that may be the subject of discussion between the churches should be put aside. We now need to unite and consolidate in order to protect our people and our country. I appeal to all the faithful

of the UGCC and to all the Ukrainian people. Our people and our country are currently in danger. We must stand up for our country, to be ready – if necessary – to sacrifice our lives in order to protect the sovereign, free, independent, and unified state. And here we are absolutely united. We now need to think about what unites us. Our state is a multinational, multiconfessional, but we all have to be together to defend our own independent and sovereign state," the patriarch said in his appeal, which was disseminated by the Catholic publication CREDO.

<http://risu.org.ua>

Pope Francis calls for dialogue and peace in Ukraine

Monday, 03 March 2014

On Sunday, March 2, 2014, Pope Francis after the recitation of prayer "Angelus" appealed to Ukrainian society and the international community to "support every initiative for dialogue and reconciliation," - reported the Vatican Radio.

"Dear brothers and sisters, I ask you to continue praying for Ukraine, which is going through a delicate situation. Calling all parts of the country to work to overcome misunderstandings and build together the future of the state, I appeal to the international community with the passionate call to support every initiative in behalf of the dialogue and reconciliation."

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Pope Francis calls for dialogue and peace in Ukraine

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We recall that the Pope has repeatedly appealed to the Ukrainian people with words of support, in particular February 21, 2014, while praying of the Third time, which began the second day of the meetings of the Consistory of Cardinals, dedicated to the family, Pope Francis has sent the words of encouragement to the Ukrainian Cardinals, which, taking into consideration the old age, did not come to Rome to attend the meetings.

Department of Information UGCC

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



UGCC Head asks world religious leaders to make their contribution toward a peaceful solution to the situation in Ukraine

Tuesday, 04 March 2014

“We appeal to you to be united with us at this difficult time when the army of the Russian Federation, breaching all treaties, has invaded the sovereign territory of Ukraine. There is no discrimination in our country with regard to language, nationality or religion. Our deep and sincere desire lies in the establishment and amelioration of our fraternal and friendly relationship with Russia, but in the spirit of mutual respect”.

This is the theme found in letters of appeal that His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk), the Head of the UGCC, sent to religious leaders in Europe and throughout the world.

Among others, the UGCC Primate forwarded letters to Cardinal Peter Erdo, the Archbishop of Budapest, who is presently the head of the Council of European Bishops’ Conferences as well as to all presidents of the episcopal conferences of Europe (CCEE); Cardinal Reinhard Marx, the Archbishop of Munich and Freising as well as the President of COMECE; the Reverend Dr Guy Liagre, the General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches. The letters of appeal were sent also to the Archbishop of Louisville, Most Rev. Joseph Kurtz, the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; the Archbishop of Gatineau, Most Rev. Paul-Andre Durocher, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops; The Reverend Martin Junge, the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation; The Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; The Reverend Dr. Olav Tveit, the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches as well as Ronald S. Lauder, the President of the World Jewish Congress.

His Beatitude expressed his conviction that the destruction of peace and stability in Ukraine could destabilize the system of global security in the world. “We are counting on your concern and your involvement, so that no manifestations of aggression will be allowed in our country. We are convinced that God reveals Himself not in power, but in truth. May God protect all of us!” – with these words, His Beatitude concludes his letter to the leaders of Churches and religious organizations of the world.

Department of Information UGCC

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

Appeal of the Ukrainian Churches on the Occasion of the Foreign Aggression

Sunday, 02 March 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters! In this difficult time when military units of the Russian Federation, violating international and bilateral agreements, entered the sovereign territory of Ukraine and the Soviet of Federation by presentation of the President of Russia has given its permission to use employment of the Russian troops in Ukraine – we, first of all call all of you and all the people of the good will to solidarity with us, to prayer for Ukraine and Ukrainian nation.

We call the Russian authorities to come to senses and stop its aggression against Ukraine, and immediately pull out Russian troops from the Ukrainian land. All the responsibility before God and mankind for irreparable consequences fully falls on the leadership of Russia.

There is no oppression by the language, nation and denomination in our country. Therefore we witness that all the efforts of the Russian propaganda to represent all the events in Ukraine as “fascist coup de tat” and “extremists’ victory” do not correspond to reality absolutely.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Russia!

The Ukrainian people have only friendly, fraternal feelings toward the Russian people. Do not believe the propaganda that enflames hostility between us. We want and we will continue to build friendly and fraternal relations with Russia but only as a sovereign and independent state.

We appeal to the international community, to the countries-guarantors of the security of Ukraine – the United States of America and Great Britain, to the European Union, to the United Nations and OSCE: stop foreign invasion into Ukraine and brutal interference into our internal affairs! Undermining of peace and stability in Ukraine threatens to destroy all the modern system of the world security. Therefore all the measures should be used to stop breaking up of the war in Ukraine.

Brothers and Sisters!

Churches of Ukraine are with the Ukrainian people. We know for sure: God is not in might, but He is in the truth. The truth is on the side of the Ukrainian people. Therefore we shall win.

May the Lord protect all of us!

- Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko), Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyivan Patriarchate;
- Archbishop Sviatoslav (Shevchuk), Primate of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church;
- Viacheslav Nesteruk, Chairman of the Evangelical Baptist Union of Ukraine;
- Senior Bishop Mykhailo Panocho, the Church of Christians of Evangelical Faith of Ukraine;
- Victor Alekseenko, Head of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ukraine;
- Senior Bishop Leonid Padun, the Ukrainian Christian Evangelical Church;
- Bishop Vyacheslav Horpynchuk, Ukrainian Lutheran Church;
- Rabbi Jacob Dov Bleich, the Chief Rabbi of Kiev and Ukraine and United Jewish religious organizations in Ukraine.

Statement on the Crisis in Ukraine

By Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville

President, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

March 4, 2014

The bishops of the United States, together with tens of millions of U.S. Catholics of Eastern European descent, join Pope Francis in solidarity and prayers for the people of Ukraine for an end to the current tensions and troubling events which continue to unfold there. We are grateful for the call of Pope Francis, that all “endeavor to overcome misunderstandings and build together the future of the nation.”

The heroic witness of Ukrainian Greek and Latin Catholic leaders, who stand firm for human rights and democracy, gives us hope that peaceful means might prevail to help rebuild civil society.

Over the centuries, Catholics in Ukraine have been severely persecuted, and Catholicism even outlawed. For this reason, we raise our voice in defense of religious liberty in Ukraine, a liberty further threatened by the invasive actions occurring in the country.

Together with my brother bishops, I ask U.S. Catholic communities, gathering for the beginning of Lent on Wednesday, to pray for a peaceful resolution of this crisis, one that secures the just and fundamental human rights of a long-suffering, oppressed people.

John Kerry Notes Ukrainian Churches' Enormous Peacekeeping Role During Revolution

5 March 2014

On March 4, during his official visit to Kyiv, US Secretary of State John Kerry met with representatives of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations. At the meeting, John Kerry commented on the religious community's enormous peacekeeping role during the events on Independence Square.

The meeting with was held on Instytutska Street, where the secretary of state and religious leaders came together to lay flowers

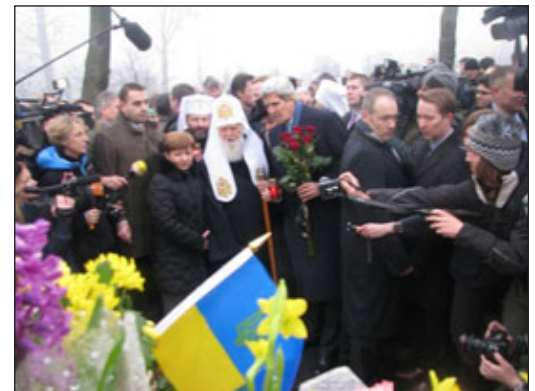
and commemorate those who were killed during the clashes in Kyiv.

John Kerry and the representatives of the Ukrainian churches walked along other barricades on the Maidan. The US official spoke with many of the people there who shared with him their views on what happened in Ukraine in the last three months, and especially during February 18-20 when nearly a hundred innocent people were killed.

According to the Information Department

of the U G C C , Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk thanked John Kerry for coming to Ukraine and asked for international support for the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian government. The patriarch told the secretary of state that his presence in Kyiv, and especially on the Maidan, is very important for Ukrainians.

Representatives of the Jewish, Muslim, and



Christian communities of Ukraine were present at the meeting with the secretary of state. The head of the church asked the American official to note that in Ukraine there is no interfaith or interethnic conflict. John Kerry said, “Yes, I see it.”

<http://risu.org.ua>

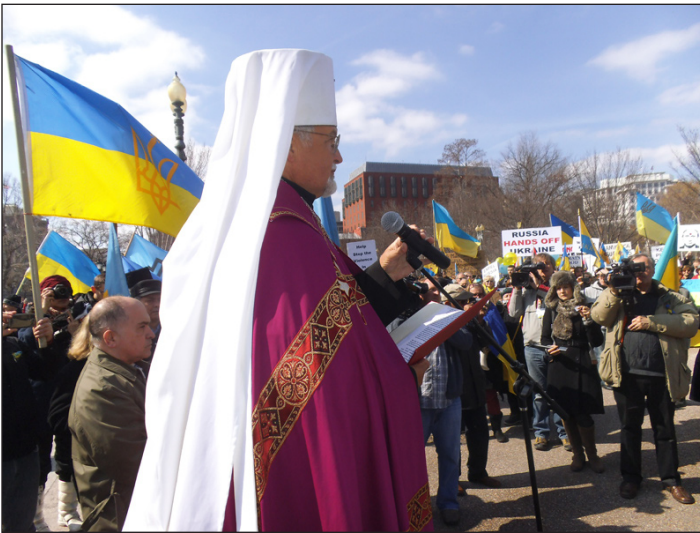
Metropolitan Stefan Soroka at White House Rally to Support Ukraine

Washington, DC - As US President Obama addressed the press in the White House announcing an executive order, Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka of Philadelphia led some 2000 people in prayer on March 6, 2014 outside the White House at a rally to urge US support for Ukraine.

President Obama issued the order that authorizes sanctions on individuals and entities responsible for violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, or for stealing the assets of the Ukrainian people. The President said, "Today the world can see that the United States is united with our allies and partners in upholding international law and pursuing a just outcome that advances global security and the future that the Ukrainian people deserve. That's what we're going to continue to do in the days to come until we have seen a resolution to this crisis."



Metropolitan Soroka asked God's blessing upon the peoples of the United States and Ukraine who all desire to live in peace and with freedom.



PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE, SUNDAY, MARCH 16 AT 5 PM. UKRAINIAN CATHEDRAL IN PHILADELPHIA

A special Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine will be held Sunday, March 16, 2014 at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 830 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia, Pa. The prayer service will begin at 5 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend as the faithful pray for peace in Ukraine.



The Cathedral covered with snow in February. (Photo: Teresa Siwak)

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