

Three Archbishops Join Over 500 Faithful in Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral

Philadelphia, Pa.--A Special Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine was held Sunday, March 16, 2014 at 5 pm in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception here.

Archbishop Stefan Soroka, of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, and Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. of the Latin Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Archbishop Antony, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States joined approximately 30 priests and over 500 faithful in the prayer



Archbishop Antony, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia, bow their heads in prayer at a Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine, Sunday, March 16, 2014 in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, Pa.

[\(continued on next page\)](#)

Highlights inside this issue:

Saint Stephen Parish in Toms River is building a new church - Pg. 8

+Reverend Mitred Archpriest Stephen Hrynuck Falls Asleep in the Lord - Pg. 9

Three Archbishops Join Over 500 Faithful in Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral

(continued from previous page)

service asking for the intercession of the Most Holy Mother of God in extending her Holy Mantle of Protection over the people of Ukraine during these days of international crisis.

Metropolitan-Archbishop Soroka welcomed his brother archbishops, clergy, religious and faithful. He recounted how the joy of an independent Ukraine in 1991 has now turned to sadness.

“All of us have joyously been celebrating the annual anniversaries of a free and democratic Ukraine since 1991. Hope and excitement for Ukraine and its people overtook us. These sentiments have now been replaced with great sadness and worry for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Confusion and anger have overtaken our hearts and minds as we have witnessed the callous trampling of people’s rights and freedoms in Ukraine. All of Ukraine is being subjugated to oppressive and controlling authorities, characteristic of communist times. We remember the souls of those who have lost their

lives and others who have suffered severe beatings in the struggle for freedom. Our beloved nation of Ukraine is being divided using force and intimidation. The oppressors have shown complete disregard for the freedoms and liberties which all people in a free world desire and are entitled to. We all are worried for the safety of our families and for the future of Ukraine. We are saddened by their sufferings. We share in their feelings of great uncertainty as to their future.”

He reminded that faithful that “We gather before the Mother of God in this holy Cathedral dedicated to her. We pray before the beautiful icon of her and ask for her intercession for Ukraine. Let us entrust Ukraine and its people to her care.”

“A breath of hope overtakes us as we share our hardships with the loving heart and comforting hands of our Blessed Mother. Let us entrust the sufferings of the people of Ukraine to her. She understands.

(continued on next page)



Archbishop Stefan Soroka



Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.



Archbishop Antony

Three Archbishops Join Over 500 Faithful in Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral

(continued from previous page)

Our Blessed Mother is the hope for all Ukrainians enduring the pain of suffering. She is our hope and comfort in our sorrow for Ukraine. Whatever the challenge, we are told that Mary “kept all things, reflecting on them in her heart.

“Let us offer the pain and sufferings of our beloved Ukraine and its people, and our feelings of concern and anger to our Blessed Mother in shared prayer. Let us pray with confidence that our Blessed Mother will hear our prayers, keep them close to her heart, and entrust them to her Son, Jesus Christ,” Metropolitan Soroka said.

Archbishop Chaput said, “Our traditions as Ukrainian or Roman Catholics may be different, but each tradition is equally rich, equally important, and the Catholic faith we both share is one and the same. In the end, we’re one Church and one people of God, and I want you to know that your brothers and sisters in the “other” Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia - the Roman

one -are praying for you and for the people of Ukraine in special way.

“I want you to know that many, many people of good will admire the leadership of your Church here in Philadelphia and in Ukraine for standing up for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for democratic government and for the dignity of the human person. Thank you for your courage. God bless you for your witness. And please know that

all of you will remain in my prayers,” Archbishop Chaput reassured the faithful in concluding his remarks.

Metropolitan Antony, in his reflection to the faithful, said, “We are praying here today before the Mother of God for a people, for a nation that over the centuries has lived through cataclysm and cataclysm, after cataclysm.

“By the grace of God

and the protection of His Holy Mother, Ukraine, as a nation and a people exists. Ukraine exists as an independent nation.

“Today we pray, as we always have, for her Holy Protection and ask for her intercession before her beloved Son Jesus Christ.

“I call upon you all to pray for our people... Dedicate your prayers during this holy Lenten Season to the Mother of God asking her to intercede once again; to hold up that veil of protection over all of our people.”

“Pray for our people. Pray for those who have the audacity to stand up and say, we have rights, there is dignity in humanity, there is a sanctity of life, that we will die for in order to preserve the future for our children.

He concluded by saying, “It’s in our power, the power of our prayers and the power of our faith to help Ukraine come through these difficult moments.”



(continued on next page)

Three Archbishops Join Over 500 Faithful in Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral

(continued from previous page)

During the Prayer Service, the Gospel of Luke (Luke 1, 39-49, 56) was proclaimed by the Rev. Andriy Dudkevych in Ukrainian, and Very Rev. Andriy Rabyi in English.

The faithful sang many hymns before and after the service, including Prenebesna Prechudesna, (Most Heavenly, Most Wonderful), O Spomahi Nas (Always Protect Us), Boshe Poslyukaj Blahannya (God Hear Our Prayer) as well as the praises to the Mother of God during the Moleben service.



Rev. Andriy Dudkevych proclaims the Holy Gospel in Ukrainian.

In concluding comments, Metropolitan Soroka thanked his brother bishops, clergy, religious and laity for their heartfelt participation in the prayer service.

The Moleben to the Most Holy Mother of God for Peace in Ukraine ended with the singing of three verses of the Ukrainian National Anthem.

After the service many of the faithful expressed their comments to the several reporters from local news media that covered the event.

Andrew Fylypovych, who has relatives in Ukraine told Dan Wing, CBS News, "It's absolutely unbelievable. The propaganda that the Russians are trying to pull over on the world is remarkable. Calling Ukrainians as being oppressors of Russians is absolute nonsense. Ukraine simply wants to exist on its own, be friendly with everybody, and live a normal life."

Stefan Makuch, 83, recalled for Philadelphia DailyNewsreporter Jason Nark, how his family was

uprooted during World War II in Ukraine. He fled the Russian army by moving west, away from his hometown of Zboriv (called Zborow, Poland, when he was born). His family worked in displaced-persons camps in Vienna and Bavaria, he said. In 1950, his family came to Philadelphia and never left.

"Why did we move away? We were at the risk of

being liquidated by the Russians," said Makuch, a former investigator for the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office.

"Right now, the government that is in power is trying to right things, and stabilize things and turn back toward Europe," he told the reporter.

Videos from the Prayer Service are posted on our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/thewayukrainian>

Three Archbishops Join Over 500 Faithful in Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral

(continued from previous page)



Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - March 25th

After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people." In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great



and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. (Lk. 1, 24-38)

The Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord commemorates the moment when the angel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she would give birth to the Child Jesus. It was the moment of the official announcement that the Word of God the Father would become man, being born of the Virgin Mary.

For centuries prior to the birth of Christ, God's chosen people had waited for the promised coming Messiah. As we heard from the first reading, around the time of 742 to 715 B.C., God spoke to king Ahaz through Isaiah. King Ahaz was told to ask the Lord God for a sign, any sign that he wanted to have. But king Ahaz refused to ask God for a sign, indicating that he would not put God to the test. Consequently, the Lord God gave Him a sign of His own choice. God said, "Look, the young woman, is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel." [Is. 7:14]

In the Douay English Translation of the Latin Vulgate Bible of 1609 A.D., it states, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign. Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel." This older Version of the Holy Bible states the words "a virgin" versus the words "the young woman" that are in the newer version of the Holy Bible.

This promise of God that was made to king Ahaz came to its fulfillment at the Annunciation to Mary. The Annunciation to Mary was the formal beginning of "the fullness of time", [Gal. 4:4]. It was the moment when Mary was invited to conceive Jesus in who the "whole fullness of deity" would dwell "bodily". [Col. 2:9] (C.C.C. # 484)

(continued on next page)

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

(continued from previous page)

This event had its origin in a small town in the mountains of Galilee. There, the angel Gabriel came to the Virgin Mary, a descendant of the royal blood of king David. At the time, Mary who was living in her mother's house, was engaged to be married to Joseph who also was of the same royal blood.

When Gabriel appeared to Mary, he said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee." When Mary heard these words, she was confused because she did not know who the angel was, why he had come, nor the meaning for this kind of salutation. The angel told her not to have any fear for she had found grace with God. Behold, she would conceive in her womb and bring forth a Son who shall be called Jesus. He shall be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.

From these words, the Virgin Mary understood the message of the coming Redeemer. But how could this be since she was a virgin who had vowed her virginity to God? Why should she be chosen among all women to be the mother of the Messiah?

To remove Mary's anxiety and to assure her virginity, the angel Gabriel told her that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of the Most High shall overshadow her. As a sign to this truth, the angel announced to Mary that her cousin Elizabeth who was in her old age, would also have a child, she presently being six month pregnant. In response to the angel's Annunciation, Mary answered, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to thy word."

As we heard earlier, the Name Immanuel means, "God is with us." Also, in Hebrew, the name Jesus means: "God saves." When the angel gave the Name of Jesus at the Annunciation, he gave the Lord His proper Name that expressed His identity and His mission. [Lk. 1:31] For God alone can forgive sins. It is God who, in Jesus His eternal Son made man, "will save his people from their sins." [Mt. 1:21] Through Jesus, God summarizes all of His history of salvation on behalf of men. (C.C.C. # 430)

Through Mary at the moment of the Annunciation, Jesus began His human nature. Through Mary, He became a member of the human race. Through Mary, Jesus was given to the world for the salvation of mankind.

Through Mary, an Immaculate Virgin, Jesus received His human form to become the perfect sacrifice and sin offering according to the Divine will of God the Father. Through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus came an end to the imperfect sacrifices and sin offerings of bulls and goats. For these, offered according to the law, were imperfect in nature.

Now that the former law has been abolished to establish the second, we are called to be sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Resulting from the Annunciation of the Lord, we are called to remember the moment when the Word of God the Father took human nature upon Himself. We are also called to remember that although Jesus has resurrected and is sitting at the right hand of the Father in Heaven, He remains present with us in the Holy Eucharist, awaiting our presence before Him in the Sacred Tabernacles of all the Catholic Churches throughout the world. Our Lord, our God who saves us, is with us. Let us never forget Him!

Saint Stephen Parish in Toms River is building a new church

Saint Stephen Ukrainian Catholic Church located at 1344 White Oak Bottom Road in Toms River, New Jersey, after receiving the blessing of His Grace, Metropolitan Stefan Soroka and being approved with all permits from the Township of Toms River began to build a new church. We draw nearer to the celebration of our beloved parish's 30th Anniversary, which will take place in 2016. During the last 30 years, our community has been blessed with many remarkable gifts, but this project is the most important and exciting challenge for our parish. Our existing facility was built in 1993 by a dedicated, small group of parishioners who overcame great barriers and with much sacrifice.

From the early days of liturgies at St. Andrew United Methodist Church to the temporary altar in the church's all-purpose hall, St. Stephen parish is today the home of approximately 120 families as a beacon of light in the Ocean County Ukrainian-American community in New Jersey. Through faith, hard work and determination, our parish continues to expand. At the dawn of the third Christian millennium, a new and holy task appears before our faithful parishioners. As our grandparents and parents were faithful in their time, so too must we be faithful in our time.

Inspired by faith and devotion of our ancestors we embark on a project



which will help to meet the current and future needs of our community and increase opportunities for religious worship, fellowship and the growth of our parish.

The New Church with seating capacity of 150 people will be accessible to all parishioners and guests. The existing Parish Community Center would enable us to host a number of events which we are currently unable to accommodate. These include receptions, fundraising efforts, and other cultural and religious outreach activities for the community.

The main goal is to raise funds for construction of the new Church through fundraising activities and pledges of our faithful parishioners. Since the initiation of this project, we have generated and received a number of donations. We are now appealing to every member of our parish and

our Ukrainian community, to join in solidarity, to support the financing of the construction of God's house. In view of the present, worldwide notoriety of Ukraine's hardship and national sacrifice of sweat, tears and blood, the building of our new Ukrainian Catholic Church is of prime importance to demonstrate our faith in God and love for our country, Ukraine. Our participation in supporting the financing of this project, in the year 2014, coincides with one of the most important historic moments in Ukraine and the world. This is the moment when we can measure the abundance of blessings we have received and are able to return in time, talent and treasure for God's work as we unite to continue the mission of Jesus Christ through St. Stephen Ukrainian Catholic Church.



Photo (l to r.): Mr. Volodymyr Powzaniuk, the Chairman of the Building Committee, Rev. Oleksandr Dumenko, Parish Administrator and Mr. Doug DeSandolo, Contractor, signing the contract for the new church.

+ Monsignor Stephen Hrynuck Beloved pastor eulogized as 'physician of souls'

BY DAVID SINGLETON,
TIMES-TRIBUNE

Published: March 12,
2014

As he eulogized Monsignor Stephen Hrynuck, Archbishop Stefan Soroka repeatedly used the word "beloved."

The more than 200 parishioners who gathered for a funeral Divine Liturgy at SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church to pay their last respects to their retired pastor would no doubt have seconded the description.

With solemn prayer and song and the pealing of bells, SS. Cyril and Methodius on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, bid farewell to the priest who guided the parish for 57 years until his retirement in 2008.

Archbishop Soroka, leader of the Archeparchy for Philadelphia and metropolitan for Ukrainians in the United States, reminded the congregation during his homily that Monsignor Hrynuck's parents wanted him to study to be a physician.



Archbishop Stefan, Bishop-emeritus Basil Losten, along with the Clergy and Faithful at the Funeral. (Photo: Fr. Paul Wolensky)

"He honored his parents' request. He became a physician of souls," the archbishop said.

Monsignor Hrynuck, a Philadelphia native who was ordained to the priesthood in 1938, died Thursday at age 102. He spent more than half his life ministering at SS. Cyril and Methodius, where he baptized more than 2,000 babies and married more than 800 couples.

"He loved everybody, and he was just a marvelous person," parishioner Mary Ann McConnell, Olyphant, said as she entered the church - through doors draped in black - for the

service. "He always had a smile, even right to the end."

About three dozen priests participated in the Divine Liturgy, with Archbishop Soroka serving as the chief celebrant. A delegation of nuns came from Philadelphia for the service.

Prior to the concluding prayers, parishioners filed past the casket, saying a final goodbye to a man Archbishop Soroka described as "a priest with great integrity, straightforward honesty, faithfulness, devotion and love for those he was blessed to serve and care for."

The archbishop recalled Monsignor Hrynuck's spiritual motto, which he chose at his ordination: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my savior."

Article was reprinted with permission of the Times-Tribune.

Fr. Walter Wysochansky's eulogy for Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck read by Rev. Nestor Iwasiw at the Priestly Parastas

When Msgr. Hrynuck asked me to preach at his funeral, he said, "When you preach, praise God". This, I will try my best to do. No doubt, as I speak, I will be speaking not only on behalf of myself, but on behalf of many because many of the thoughts and feelings I have will be shared by many.

I praise God that He gave us such a unique individual in the priestly person of Msgr. Hrynuck so unique that my brother Fr. Demmy amusingly called him the ninth wonder of the world. In fact, one morning after Divine Liturgy while speaking with him in the rectory kitchen, I remarked, "Msgr. The human race is in this hand and you are in this hand." He responded, "Oh, Father Walter don't say that." (95 years old).

Msgr was most unique. Why? Not because of himself. He did not make or create his own uniqueness. It was a gift given to him by God. And so I praise God for this uniqueness.

What was so unique about him? Well, to pastor a parish up unto

the age of 97 is not the normal thing. To pastor one parish for 57 years is not the normal thing. It is extremely rare and most unique. This is why Fr. Benedict Groeschel interviewed him on EWTN recognizing him as the oldest active pastor in the United States, if not the whole world.

Why was he able to pastor actively up until the age of 97? Again, not because of himself, but because Our Lord gifted him with good health, sound mind, graced him with an open heart empowering him to respond to His will which was so exemplified in his profound love for the Priesthood. For this, I praise God.

He was uniquely blessed by God. What were these blessings? A keen intellect- depth of mind and soul resulting in a Doctorate in Philosophy – In being a Professor and a Rector of a Seminary. He was blessed with a phenomenal memory – a polyglot. I was always astounded how in telling a story of some kind (the good story-teller that he was), he would inevitably, to make a point more emphatic, quote some



Fr. Nestor reads Fr. Walter Wysochansky's homily at the Priestly Parastas. (Photo: Lauren Telep)

phrase in Latin or Greek or Hebrew or Italian or French or German or Russian or Polish or Japanese. His mind was a storehouse of quotes. He was blessed by the Lord, and for this I praise God.

He was blessed with the great gift of focus. Whenever he was speaking with you,

you had his complete, undivided attention. All else was blocked out. Nothing mattered but you. And many of you can attest to that.

He had such great focus on his priestly life that always, always, always his priestly duties and ministry came first. . As

(continued on next page)

Fr. Walter Wysochansky's eulogy for Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck read by Rev. Nestor Iwasiw at the Priestly Parastas

(continued from previous page)

much as he enjoyed fishing and I know because I fished with him many a time, he nevertheless never, never allowed that enjoyment or any pleasure to take him away from his priestly duties – a wonderful example of how he was so much in love with his Priesthood. So much focus did he have on his priestly identity that he always wore his cassock in the rectory. In fact, he was so conscious of his priestly identity that whenever he went fishing at some local lake, he would put on his fishing clothes then over his fishing clothes, he would put on his black suit and collar. Then, when he

got to the lake, he would take off his suit and collar. Today, that might seem odd in priestly circles, but it tells us he never forgot who he was; first and foremost Priest.

Amazing focus!! He always had time for you no matter who you were. Whether it was a little or a big matter, he was always there for you. I know from my personal experience in my spiritual journey with the Lord. He was always there for me in a moment of crisis, in a moment of discernment and decision. There was something about him that exuded a sense of strength, support, a sense of wisdom – a

sense of assurance and confidence that you wanted to tap into. That something attracted many to him for advice in moments of decision. So much so that many priests, many Bishops confided in him – sought his wisdom, his advice, his prayerful guidance. All of this came from total focus on Christ, the Blessed Mother, prayer, and his priestly duties.

As a result of his God given uniqueness and focus, much resulted in his 57 years of pastoring Saints Cyril & Methodius – too much to enumerate at this moment. He brought peace to a very troubled and divided

parish. Being very devoted to our Blessed Lady he established a Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion, with the intention of healing a divided parish. It worked. This devotion continued every Wednesday for 57 years. In his devotion to Mary, he inspired the erection of the beautiful Pilgrimage Shrine to Our Lady of Zhyrovitshiy which became a yearly pilgrimage site – no other parish in our archeparchy has such a pilgrimage shrine.

He was the only priest in our archeparchy who celebrated Sunday

(continued on next page)



Archbishop Stefan, along with the Clergy, celebrate Priestly Parastas on March 10, 2014. (Photo: Lauren Telep)



Patrick Marcinko III (Parish Cantor), Fr. Paul Wolensky & Prof. Joseph Roll lead the singing at the Priestly Parastas. (Photo: Lauren Telep)

Fr. Walter Wysochansky's eulogy for Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck read by Rev. Nestor Iwasiw at the Priestly Parastas

(continued from previous page)

Divine Liturgy with a homily broadcast on Radio which lasted for at least 25 years.

During his 57 year pastorate, the parish prospered; new societies were formed, new projects were started. Above all, to his great joy, 8 priests were ordained from the parish as well as 3 nuns professing vows. The school grew so much that a convent was built for the teaching sisters of St. Basil the Great.



Archbishop Stefan prays the prayer of absolution before pouring holy oil. (Photo: Fr. Paul Wolensky)

He took great pride in the church choir, always supporting and promoting it. Because of this it became one of the best choirs in the archeparchy. He was so

much in love with every facet of his parish life that he even took great pride in Saint Cyril's 7 baseball championships mentioning this in his interview with Fr.

Groeshel on EWTN.

When I think of Msgr. Hrynuck I think of prayerful devotion. Even in retirement he made a daily Holy Hour in Church after which Holy Hour he would go to the cemetery to pray before his empty crypt petitioning God to be merciful to him when he enters eternal life and to be merciful to all the priests buried there and for those to be buried there including me. When I think of Msgr., I think of dedication, spiritual focus someone deeply in love with the Priesthood of Jesus Christ wanting to serve as Pastor until his last breath as he once told me, "I want God to

retire me," meaning to die standing up as an active Pastor. He made this remark at the age of 97.

He impacted me so much that whenever I embarked on doing something or whenever I had to make a decision about something, so many times I would say to myself, "how would Msgr. Do it? How would he approach the matter?" Yes, he impacted me and the lives of many people as is evident in the outpouring of love.

It seems that I might have praised Msgr. a bit, but

(continued on next page)



At the Funeral Eileen and Roman Kushner (Monsignor's caregivers) cover Msgr. with the help of John Turko & Eugene Turko (funeral directors). (Photo: Lauren Telp)

Fr. Walter Wysochansky's eulogy for Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck read by Rev. Nestor Iwasiw at the Priestly Parastas

(continued from previous page)

when he asked me, as I said earlier, to preach at his funeral, he told me to praise God, not him. Well, in fact, that's what I did because Msgr. was who he was because of the blessings, the unique gifts, the generous graces he enjoyed from the Lord. Without these unique blessings, without these unique gifts he received from God, there would have been, perhaps, little to say about his priesthood. And so I conclude by saying something of what Fr. Groeshel told him when Msgr. asked him saying, "Fr. I am 96 years old. What should I do? Fr. Groeshel made only one response, "thank God, thank God, thank God." Well we might say the same, thank God, but also praise God, praise God, praise God.



At the cemetery, a Panakhyda is prayed at the graveside. (Photo: Lauren Telep)



The kneeler +Msgr. Hrynuck used for his daily Holy Hour next to the Blessed Sacrament. Also visible: his cane and epitrachil (stole). This memorial stands before the icon of Saints Cyril & Methodius, and will remain there for 40 days in +Msgr.'s honor, ending on Monday April 14. (Photo: Rev. Paul Wolensky)



Help Wanted

Ascension Manor Apartments is searching for a Part Time Maintenance Technician to help with apartment turnovers, work orders and general maintenance of the property. This is a temporary position that is available for a few weeks. Ideal candidates will have prior experience in either carpentry, plumbing, electrical or painting. For immediate consideration, please fax your Resume to (215)922-3735. E.O.E.

The Liturgy of Great and Holy Thursday



April 17, 2014
10:30 a.m.

The Ukrainian Catholic
National Shrine
of the Holy Family
4250 Harewood Road NE
Washington, DC 20017
202-526-3737
www.ucns-holyfamily.org

The Most Reverend Stefan Soroka, Metropolitan Archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, invites you to join us in Washington, as we celebrate the Hierarchical Vespers and Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, commemorating the beginning of Our Lord's Passion, the Institution of the Holy Eucharist and the Washing of the Apostles' Feet. Chrism (Myron) is also consecrated this day.



New Jersey Ukrainian American Catholic Youth Gathering

"MEETING CHRIST"
Sponsored by NJ Deanery
Ages: (5th Grade - College Age Students)

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2014

St. John The Baptist Ukrainian American Cultural Center
60 North Jefferson Road Whippany, NJ 07981

Program:

11:00 a.m. - 12 noon - Registration
12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Keynote Speaker : Mr. Gerry Tchir
author of the book "Dare to Be Great"
1:00 p.m. - Youth Divine Liturgy
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Lunch
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - The One Man Play "Damien",
presented by the Broadway actor-turned-priest Fr. Edward Evanko
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Fellowship and Discussions in age appropriate Groups
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Volleyball Game (Youth vs NJ Priests)
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Bonfire/Music/Conversations/Refreshment

Contact:

1. Register in your parish/speak to your priest.
2. NJ Dean Fr. Joseph Szupa @ (908)352-8823 - jszupa@optonline.net
2. Fr. Ivan Turyk @ (732)826-0767 - aphinagor@hotmail.com

2014 Foundation for Catholic Education Dinner

The 2014 Foundation for Catholic Education Dinner was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2014. This year's theme was "Serving God by Serving Others". The spotlight of the evening was on the twenty-six religious orders who were Catholic schools' first models of service to community - the women and men who have devoted their lives to teaching as Jesus did. Sister Yosaphata attended the reception and accepted a Certificate of Commendation on behalf of the Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God for over 50 years of service to Assumption Catholic School.



Knights Recognize Educator of the Year at Assumption School, Perth Amboy, NJ

On a recent Friday evening Sister Yosaphata was honored by the Knights of Columbus San Salvador Council # 299 for her dedication to the children of A.C.S. Mr. Ed Troche, parent of Christopher, (Class of 2007) first recognized ACS for our support of activities sponsored by the Knights. Then, he called upon Mrs. Shumny, the school's 7th Grade teacher to introduce Sister Yosaphata, Missionary Sister of the Mother of God. Mrs. Shumny shared how Sister's life of service and devotion has led to a life of love and dedication which has given A.C.S. half a century of beautiful memories. Finally,



Mr. Troche then presented Sister Yosaphata with a beautiful plaque for Educator of the Year that is now on display in the school office.

A Panachyda in Hillsborough, NJ for the Victims of the Conflict in Ukraine

On Thursday evening, March 13, 2014, the parishioners of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Hillsborough, NJ, gathered with members of the local community for a Panachyda (Requiem Service) and a remembrance in the church hall to remember and honor the sacrifice of Heaven's Hundred, those who have given their lives since December of 2013 for a free and independent Ukraine.

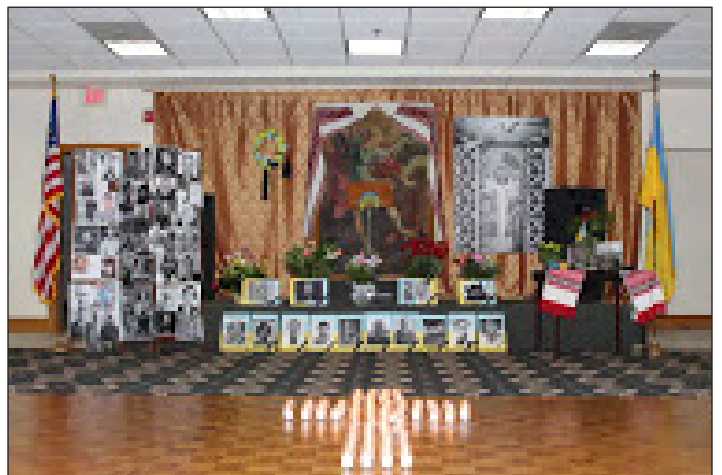


Father Orest Kunderevych, Pastor of St. Michael's, offered the Panachyda in front of eighty attendees. During the Panachyda prayers were said for the deceased Ukrainian heroes. The service ended with the traditional singing of "Eternal Memory" ("Vichnaya Pamyat") and a prayer for peace in Ukraine distributed by the Philadelphia Archeparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The church hall was beautifully decorated for the commemoration service by parishioners Nadia Gakalo and Maria Wowk. A cross composed of 106 candles, one for each of the victims, was set before the stage. Women and children from the parish family stood side by side with candles, a rose, and a picture of the victims of violence bought about by the Yanukovych regime. The remembrance program began with the playing of "Hey Plyve Kacha," a traditional Ukrainian folk song adopted on the Maidan (Independence Square in Kyiv) as a salute to the fallen heroes. Parishioner Eugene Brenycz made a short introduction statement in both English and Ukrainian, saluting those who sacrificed their lives in defense of others and Ukraine's freedoms. Joining him in reading the names of Heaven's Hundred were parishioners Ihor Shymkiv, Yuri Wowk, Mary Makar and Ewhen Brenycz.

The attendees then saluted Ukraine's fallen hero's with chants of "Heroes Never Die!" The program concluded with the attendees singing the Ukrainian National Anthem.

Written by Eugene L. Brenycz



Silence for Ukraine

“Ukraine needs our help! What can we do?” At a recent Student Council meeting this was the exact question that was being discussed among the student members. It was acknowledged that as young people it would be hard to show their support for the people of Ukraine. They still knew there had to be something they could do.

Silence! That was something that they could accomplish. So on Wednesday, March 19, 2014, the students of grades four through eight zipped their lips for the entire day. They offered their silence as a form of prayer for the people of Ukraine that have been suffering during this trying period of unrest.



Students wore a small tag indicating they were silent for Ukraine. They walked through the halls of school, worked in class, and sat together at lunch in silence. Hopefully, by offering their prayer of silence to the Lord, He will bring comfort to the people of Ukraine.

Assumption Catholic School in Perth Amboy, NJ families will continue to keep the people of Ukraine in their hearts.

National Catholic Sisters Week contest

The Sisters of St. Basil invite all to celebrate National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14, 2014 by participating in a contest acknowledging the various contributions and impact Sisters have made in people's lives. Recently one woman wrote: "Thank you for the fine educational foundation you instilled in me and for setting me on a path to an enriching and sound life." (Cohoes, NY) Let us celebrate the women who dedicated their lives to the spreading of the gospel and the education, care and service of others.

The Sisters of St. Basil have ministered in the United States over 100 years so we encourage our community, particularly our youth, to research the accomplishments of Sisters, interview people who have been enriched by a Sister or speak to a Sister about her life and create works of art or the written word about "what Sisters mean to us today."

The contest will run from March 8, 2014 to May 8, 2014. All entries of works of art, essay, video, etc should be sent to Sr Joann Sosler, OSBM 710 Fox Chase Rd, Jenkintown, PA 19046. Prizes are: 1. free trip to Ukraine with the Basilian Volunteer Outreach group 2. \$100 and 3. an Icon of Handmaidens of the Lord.

For further questions or more information email Sr. Joann at vickis@stbasils.com or call 215 - 379-3998 ext 16.

LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS OF AMERICA ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT

ST. MARY'S VILLA EDUCATIONAL & RETREAT CENTER, SLOATSBURG, NEW YORK 10974

April 4, 5 and 6 - 2014

Retreat Director: Very Rev. George Appleyard
Cost \$175.00 includes registration fee, room, plus Saturday and Sunday meals

Checks payable to League of Ukrainian Catholics

For detailed information contact either Ms. Marion C. Hrubec by phone at 201-843-3960 or via email: mc.hrubec@att.net or Sister Olga at omfaryna@aol.com

Registration due by March 25th



Spring Basket Bingo

Date: Sunday, April 27, 2014

Time: Doors open at Noon; Games begin at 1 PM

Featuring: Filled Longaberger Baskets & Fabulous Food!



Sample Only

Presentation of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church

1564 Allentown Road
Lansdale, PA 19446

To purchase advance tickets, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a check payable to Presentation of Our Lord Church.

Mail to:
Ann Stefanic
2109 Kriebel Road
Lansdale, PA 19446

Tickets:

\$20 in advance

\$25 at the door

For information:

215-368-3365

American Girl Doll® Bingo



Sunday May 4th

Doors open at 12 noon

Early Bird at 1:15pm

Bingo starts at 1:30pm

Admission \$20.00



***All Players must purchase an admission ticket**

***Winner receives their choice of doll.**

***Advanced ticket holders will be entered in a drawing for an American Girl Accessory .**

*** Special Raffle - Bring non-perishable food or paper products to get a chance for a special raffle – one chance per item**

St. Michael's Church Hall

300 W Oak St , Shenandoah, PA

for tickets or info call 570-462-0809.

We cannot accept 50 or 100 dollar bill's

BARN SALE

Sisters of Saint Basil the Great

710 Fox Chase Road

Fox Chase Manor, PA



*furniture, books, outdoor equipment,
electronics, sports equipment,
clothes and much more!*

*For more information,
please call
Danuta*

215.542.7352

April 4 & April 5

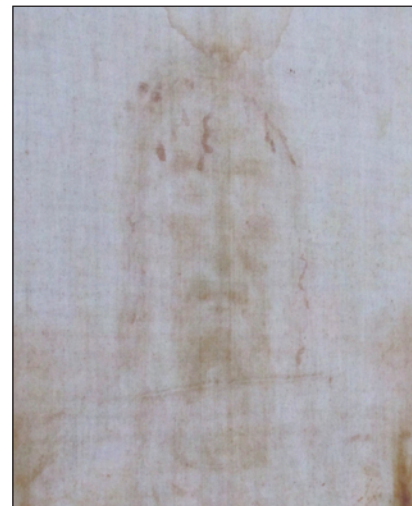
9 am to 1 pm

Opening Ceremony - Shroud of Turin (replica) at St. Vladimir Church of Scranton, PA

Visitation to the authentic replica of the Shroud of Turin will begin on Sunday, March 30, 2014 at 2:00pm with a welcome message by Rev. Myron Myronyuk who is pastor of St. Vladimir Church; a presentation by Very Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan, Curator of the Shroud for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia; and, a special Lenten Service known as Akathist to the Passion of Jesus Christ.

The church will be open to the public on weekdays from 10:00am to 1:00pm and 4:00pm to 7:00pm; Saturday from 11:00am to 2:00pm and 5:00pm to 7:00pm; and on Sundays from 2:00pm to 6:00pm.

The Shroud will be at the Scranton church until Friday, April 11. St. Vladimir Church is located at 430 North Seventh Avenue between West Lackawanna Avenue and West Linden Street. Group tours can be arranged by phoning 570 342-7023.



BASILIAN ASSOCIATES WELCOME NEW MEMBER

In 1991, the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great founded the Basilian Lay Associate Program which now includes members in the Philadelphia Archeparchy and Parma Eparchy.

On Tuesday, February 25, 2014, a new member pronounced her commitment to this covenant relationship. During an evening vespers ceremony in the Holy Trinity Chapel of the Basilian Motherhouse, Fox Chase, PA, Margaret Sykes completed her year of candidacy by professing her desire to enter into a covenant relationship with the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great and to share in the spiritual benefits of this membership.

The Basilian Associate Program offers the laity an opportunity to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and to come together with other adult Christians to engage in the mission and spirit of the Basilian Sisters. To learn more about this program, please contact: Sister Rita Stremba, OSBM (Philadelphia Archeparchy) at srrita@stbasilacademy.org or Sister Olga Marie Faryna, OSBM (Parma Eparchy) OMFaryna@aol.com
Read entire Press Release at <http://www.stbasils.com/Events/AssociatesNewMember2014.html>

New York City Bus Trip

St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of Scranton is sponsoring a bus trip to the annual St. George Ukrainian Street Festival in the Lower East Side of Manhattan on Saturday, May 17, 2014. Side trips will include the magnificent Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and on-your-own sightseeing in bustling midtown Manhattan. The 55 passenger bus will leave at 9:00am from the church parking lot, 428 North Seventh Avenue. Departure for Scranton from midtown will be at 9:00pm. Cost is \$37.00 per person. Full advance nonrefundable payment reserves a seat. Check should be made out to St. Vladimir Church. For reservations contact Paul at 570 563-2275.

METROPOLITAN'S SCHEDULE – MARCH 2014

- March 3** Early a.m. radio interview regarding Ukraine.
- March 4** Telephone conference with Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and Supreme Advocate Michael O'Connor.
Received Rev. Andriy Rabi, Vicar General.
Met with Rev. Ivan Demkiv regarding St. Mary's cemetery.
Received John Drozd, Econome.
Meeting with Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan regarding youth program initiative.
- March 5** Interview with EWTN Reporter regarding Ukraine.
Received Rev. Roman Sverdan.
Received Rev. Stepan Bilyk regarding evangelization DVD.
Travel to St. Josaphat Seminary, Washington, DC.
- March 6** Participation in rally in support of Ukraine before White House, Washington, DC.
- March 7** Received Rev. and Mrs. Ihor Bloschynskyy regarding Northeast Mission, St. Josaphat.
- March 10** Interview with CNS reporter.
Received Rev. Rafael Strontsitskyy of Ukraine.
Celebration of Priestly Panakhyda for +Rev. Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck, Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA.
- March 11** Celebrated funeral Divine Liturgy and offered homily for the late +Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck, Olyphant.
- March 13** Participated in Women's Day Meeting.
Meeting with Redemptorist Priests, Provincial Fr. Ihor Kolisnyk and Fr. Taras Svirchuk .
Received Deacon Walter Pasicznyk.
- March 14** Met with construction company and owners of potential property site for new mission in Northeast Philadelphia.
- March 16** Celebrated prayer service for peace and unity for Ukraine with Metropolitan Antony of Ukrainian Orthodox Church in USA and Archbishop Charles Chaput of Archdiocese of Philadelphia at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia; offered introductory and concluding reflections.
- March 18** Facilitated creation and work of Sobor 2014 Planning, Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, October 25, 2014.
- March 25** Celebration of Liturgy for Feast of Annunciation of Blessed Mother of God, Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia.
- March 26** Pilgrimage Planning Committee meeting at Fox Chase, PA with Sisters of Order of St. Basil the Great.
- March 28** Visit to potential property site for Northeast Philadelphia Mission Parish.
- March 30** Participation in 40th Day Panakhyda service for those who died at Maidan 2014, Kyiv, to take place at South Boundbrook Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery/Church.

STERILE PRIESTS DO NOT HELP THE CHURCH

Vatican City, 6 March 2014 (VIS) – This morning, in the Vatican’s Paul VI Hall, Pope Francis met with the clergy of the diocese of Rome. The central theme of the meeting, inspired by the Gospel of St. Matthew, was mercy. The Holy Father recalled how Jesus walked through towns and villages, feeling compassion for those he encountered; people who were “tired and worn out, like sheep without a shepherd”. “We are not here to perform a spiritual exercise for the beginning of Lent, but rather to listen to the voice of the Spirit that speaks to everyone in the Church in this, our time, which is indeed the time of mercy”.

This “time of mercy” was Pope Francis’ first point of reflection. “Today, we forget everything too easily, including the teaching of the Church! This is in part inevitable, but we must not forget the important content, the great intuitions and that which has been consigned to the People of God. And divine mercy is among these. ... It is up to us, as ministers of the Church, to keep this message alive, above all in preaching and in our gestures, in signs and in pastoral choices, such as the decision to restore

priority to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and at the same time to works of mercy”.

Secondly, the Pope asked, “What does it mean to be a priest?”. He explained that “priests are moved by their sheep, like Jesus when he saw the people, tired and exhausted, like sheep without a shepherd”. He commented that the priest, following the example of the Good Shepherd, is a man of mercy and compassion, close to his people and the servant of all. “In particular, the priest demonstrates the depths of his mercy in administering the Sacrament of Reconciliation; he shows this in all his attitude, in his way of welcoming, listening, advising and absolving. ... But this derives from how he lives this Sacrament himself. ... If a person lives this himself, in his own heart, he is also able to give it to others in his ministry”.

The Holy Father added that the heart of a priest must be susceptible to being moved, as “sterile priests do not help the Church. ... We can think of today’s Church as a kind of ‘field hospital’, where we need to tend to injuries. ... There are many people who are

wounded by material problems, by scandals, even in the Church. ... People wounded by the illusions of the world. ... We priests must be there, close to these people. Mercy means, above all, taking care of wounds. When a person is injured, this is the immediate help they need, not analyses; the special care can follow, but first we need to tend to the open wounds. Do you know what your parishioners’ wounds are? Are you close to them?”.

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, mercy means “neither undue laxity nor excessive rigour”. “Often, as priests, we hear of the experience of the faithful who say they have encountered in Confession a very ‘rigid’ or a very ‘flexible’ priest, lax or rigorous. That there may be differences in style is normal, but these differences must not relate to the substance, that is the healthy moral doctrine and mercy. Neither the lax nor the rigorous bear witness to Jesus, because neither of them truly take on the people they meet. ... True mercy truly takes the person on board ... and acts like the Good Samaritan. ... Neither laxity nor rigour make holiness flourish”.

“Instead, mercy accompanies the path of holiness, and helps growth. But how? Through pastoral suffering, which is a form of mercy. What does pastoral suffering mean? It means suffering with the people, like a father and a mother suffer for their children, and I would say also with anxiety”.

Pope Francis shared with the clergy some questions that helped him when a priest comes to him for advice. “Do you cry? How many of us cry when faced with the suffering of a child, the destruction of a family, before the many people who cannot find their path? The tears of a priest ... Do you cry, or is this a clergy that has lost its tears? Do you cry for your people? Do you battle with the Lord for your people, like Abraham fought?”

The Bishop of Rome concluded by commenting that in the end, “we will be judged for how we have been able to be close to ‘every flesh’, to our neighbours, to the flesh of our brothers. ... At the end of time, only those who have not been ashamed before the flesh of his injured and excluded brother will be admitted to the contemplation of Christ’s glorified flesh”.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk speaks truth to secular powers

Sunday, 09 March 2014

The head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is giving witness similar to that of Blessed John Paul II.

In the midst of the unfolding societal, political and now international crisis in Ukraine, the Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church has been a constant and courageous witness to the moral law, human rights and Catholic social teaching. The world has not seen such a tutorial on how the Church should defend peace and justice since Blessed John Paul II supported the Solidarity movement in his pastoral visits to his native Poland while it labored under a Communist regime.

Just as the Polish Pope's first encyclical *Redemptor hominis* was addressed, not only to Catholics, but "to all men and women of good will", His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk has made common cause with leaders of the three Orthodox Churches in Ukraine and of the Baptist, Lutheran and Jewish and Muslim communities, as a member of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations (AUCCRO), which has

acted as a mediator between the Ukrainian civil authorities and the "EuroMaidan" protestors on Independence Square in Kyiv.

At the same time, the Head of the UGCC carefully instructed his priests about the fine line between ministering to demonstrators and leading a demonstration. On February 19 he issued guidelines to the Ukrainian Catholic clergy, emphasizing the priest's role as the servant of a fellowship of faith, "the image of Christ the Good Shepherd, who is present and active among His people." Since each member of the clergy is "the face of the Church", he must live out his vocation according to her doctrine. The chief duty of a pastor of souls is the proclamation of Christ's Gospel, the administration of the Sacraments, leading the faithful in prayer and serving the needy. "The Church is an active participant in social not political processes; therefore a priest does not have the right to be a leader of political actions or to make political speeches."

"The vocation of the pastor in all issues of the

day is not to abandon the faithful, and to be with them," the Major Archbishop of the UGCC emphasized. Training for Ukrainian Catholic priests to become military chaplains was offered by ecclesiastical authorities in the city of Yaremche from February 25-27, 2014. Shevchuk then wrote a letter to the Ukrainian Minister of Defense offering the services of his clergy as military chaplains, if needed.

One of the remarkable gifts of John Paul II as a preacher was his ability to inspire the individual listener with the conviction that his or her prayers and sacrifices could make a difference in the greater scheme of things, despite apparently overwhelming odds. His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk has noted and fostered a similar transformation that is taking place among the Ukrainian people, thanks to the EuroMaidan protests in many oblasts [provinces]. In his Lenten Pastoral Letter, he wrote to the faithful: "Complicated times may await us. We must be ready to make economic sacrifices that will demand patience and perseverance on our part."

Finally, as George Weigel shows in the biography, *Witness to Hope*, John Paul II bypassed the bureaucracy of the Secretariat of State and its established *Ostpolitik* [policy of dealing with the Eastern Communist bloc] and seized new opportunities for moral suasion and international diplomacy in the struggle against atheistic materialism and political oppression. Similarly, the His Beatitude Sviatoslav, speaking on public television, reiterated that "We have to use every opportunity for a peaceful regulation of the conflict... [Yet] every citizen must be ready to stand in defense of the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine."

Contrary to the worldly wisdom of commentators who recommend partitioning Ukraine into a "Russian-speaking East" and a "Ukrainian-speaking West", the Head of the UGCC calls for national unity. "We are different, but we are not divided," he often says about the different languages, ethnic groups and religions in that nation of 44.6 million. Throughout the past three and a half months

(continued on next page)

His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk speaks truth to secular powers

(continued from previous page)

he has been in constant consultation with other religious leaders in Ukraine in the AUCCRO, which has not only become a peacemaker but also strongly opposes separatist propaganda. Although support for Ukrainian national unity is a prudential decision (and not intrinsically a matter of moral law or Christian doctrine), it is being made by a broad spectrum of men of faith representing the vast majority of Ukrainian

citizens. In recent weeks the Head of the UGCC has been conducting a diplomatic outreach to both religious and secular leaders worldwide. In one letter that was sent to the Catholic Bishops Conferences of the European Union, the United States and Canada (where there are large communities of emigrant Ukrainians), and also the Anglican Primate and the General Secretary

of the World Lutheran Federation, he requested their solidarity with Ukrainians in prayer and with Ukraine as it resists threats to its sovereignty. In another letter to high-ranking officials of the EU, he urged them not to allow "the center of the European continent-Ukraine-to be destroyed".

In all of these efforts, the Head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church has acted as a

pastor first and as the descendant of Ukrainian emigrants second and incidentally. His teaching is not driven by ethnic allegiance, nationalism or exaggerated patriotism, but is motivated by the virtue of piety and a concern for the welfare of the Church and for the common good.

Michael J. Miller

www.catholicworldreport.com

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

Head of the Church: «Unite because we are unitary people and unitary Ukraine»

Monday, 10 March 2014

Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Patriarch Sviatoslav (Shevchuk) took part in the TV project "Ukraine is unitary «channel «1 +1»".



«We experienced the coldest and the most difficult winter in the history of the independent Ukraine, when they saw the face of deadly sin. But now, when spring begins, we hear from the depths of the earth through ancient Ukrainian roots vivifying power comes, the power of the Holy Spirit that revives us all during Lent,» - said the Head of the UGCC to the Ukrainian people.

He asked to reflect on the fact that "we are all different, as the leaves on the crown of the ancient Ukrainian oak, but we are all children of the same land, the same people."

"Unite because we are unitary people and unitary Ukraine» - called the Head of the Church.

The project, in particular, was also attended by Sheikh Ahmad Tamim, Mufti of Ukraine, Chairman of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Ukraine, who was born in Lebanon and Bishop Clement Irpin UPC. They called for the unity of our country.

Department of Information UGCC

Maidan Commemorates 200th Anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's Birth

9 March 2014

Events commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko were held on Sunday, March 9.

In Kyiv, the celebration began by laying flowers at the monument to Taras Shevchenko. It was followed by an event in Shevchenko Park with the participation of Maidan activists, government leaders, officials, and representatives of the diplomatic corps and the public, as well as churches and religious organizations in Ukraine, including representatives of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP), the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyivan Patriarchate (UOC-KP), the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, the Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Armenians, Muslims, and Protestants.



“We have come to pay homage and bow our heads to the main Hero of Ukraine – Taras Shevchenko. Our great prophet for two hundred years has been leading his people from slavery to freedom, to a truly strong country – a country that all Ukrainians wherever they live – here or abroad – will be proud of. Today his word of truth, word of faith helps us to build Ukraine, restore the Ukrainian government, stop discord and confrontation. His word helps us to recover the completely shattered economy. And today when an aggressor threatens our land, our Taras is with us in our ranks. And with him, his words “struggle, and you shall overcome,” which has become our slogan, with our weapons, we win. Because with us is truth, with us is God, with us is Ukraine, and with us is Our Great Taras. I thank God for giving Ukraine our great prophet. Glory to God! Glory to the Great Taras! Glory to Ukraine!” acting President of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov said in his speech.

Among the speakers were the heads of Ukrainian churches and religious organizations. In his speech, Patriarch Filaret, head of the UOC-KP, spoke about Taras Shevchenko's invaluable contribution to Ukraine's history and the relevance of his words, harshly criticized Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and called on the people to courageously and with God defend the indivisibility of Ukrainian lands. Patriarch Filaret expressed confidence that victory will be Ukraine's and the U.S. and Europe should help as today they are allies of an independent Ukraine.

“What is the basis of our victory? It is the invincible spirit of the people. The spirit that has overcome the fear of death. And you witnessed how snipers killed Ukrainians here, and they were not afraid of death. So you think that our people cannot defend their country? They can. We have true guarantors – the United States and Great Britain, who do not refuse to be guarantors of the integrity of our Ukrainian territory. We turn to them as guarantors, to fulfill their duty not only to the Ukrainian people, but to the world. Because if you do not protect the territorial integrity of Ukraine, who will trust you in the future, who will trust international agreements? Therefore, the honor of the U.S. and the UK requires them to protect our territorial integrity. But we, dear brothers and sisters, should first of all rely on ourselves. We have to do everything we can so that our state is democratic, intact, free,” said in an address to the people gathered on the Square Patriarch Filaret.

(continued on next page)

Maidan Commemorates 200th Anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's Birth

(continued from previous page)

The head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk, during a speech on the Maidan called Taras Shevchenko a prophet whose voice opens for us a door of freedom and happiness in our native land. The hierarch asked all to pray for the land that the great prophet gave our nation and all the world.

"Let us pray for the indivisibility of our land. For the Lord God to protect us all from the disaster of war and new bloodshed. I ask you not to stop praying, because we still have a long way to go before we can say that the Ukrainian people have won on their own land," asked the head of UGCC.

From the Ukrainian Orthodox Church took part in the celebrations: Metropolitan Onufriy of Chernivtsi and Bukovina Onufry, Chancellor the UOC Metropolitan Anthony of Boryspil and Brovary, and Metropolitan Oleksandr of Pereyaslav-Khmelytsky and Vishnevsky. In his speech one of the representatives of the UOC-MP stated that Metropolitan Volodymyr is a great connoisseur of Taras Shevchenko's work. He has an outstanding collection of works by the Ukrainian patriot and artist.

After the speeches by the church leaders, the Maidan chanted: "The united church."

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

The Head of the UGCC greeted Pope Francis on the first anniversary of the pontificate

Saturday, 15 March 2014

"The whole people of God with great joy recall the day when the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, "almost from the end of the world", was called by the Lord to fulfill the ministry of the Apostle Peter," - writes in a letter of greeting to the Holy Father Francis, Pope, His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk), the Head of the UGCC. Congratulations are written on the occasion of the first anniversary of the pontificate of Pope Francis, who headed the Catholic Church on March 13, 2013.

In the letter to the Pope the Head of the UGCC thanked for "such an important support for the Ukrainian people in the last few dramatic months."

His Beatitude Sviatoslav emphasized that the prayer of Pope Francis and his appeal to the international community to show solidarity with Ukraine strengthened the hearts of Ukrainian people with hope that "God is with us and speaks to us through the Bishop of Rome."

At the end the Head of the UGCC on his own behalf, on behalf of the bishops of Bishops Synod, the clergy, the monkhood and the laity of Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, wished the successor of the Apostle Peter many years.

UGCC Department of Information

Pope Francis said that he would do everything to keep the peace in Eastern Europe

Monday, 17 March 2014

On March 17, the Holy Father Francis had a personal audience with His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav told in details about the events that took place in Ukraine in recent months. It was highlighted that UGCC in this difficult time was with its people and pastors with faithful have experienced all the drama of social conflict and continue to serve their people according to their needs.



Separately, the Primate analyzed the interfaith relations in Ukraine and activity of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and religious organizations. He drew attention to the efforts of the religious environment in maintaining the civil peace, unity and understanding among the various national and religious communities seeking to comfort in peace in the sovereign and independent Ukrainian state.

Pope Francis expressed his solidarity and closeness to the people of Ukraine, their sufferings and dangers that wait for Ukrainian state recently. Particular attention the Holy Father paid to the challenges facing Ukraine and the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. The Pope assured His Beatitude Sviatoslav that the Holy See will do the best to keep the peace in Eastern Europe, to prevent military confrontation and the danger of escalating violence and bloodshed.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav in particular noted that the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church throughout the history has been able to endure persecution and to acknowledge allegiance to Christ through unity and full communion with the Successor of the Apostle Peter. The Ecumenical Bishop, according to the Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, is a former protector of the Ukrainian Church and our people, and such support from the Pope we really need in this difficult period of our life.

In addition to that, the Holy Father said that this care and support of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church from the Holy See will never be lack. In conclusion, the Pope Francis gave His Beatitude Sviatoslav and all the Ukrainian people His apostolic benediction.

Besides that, on 17 March the Head of the UGCC met with Cardinal Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State.

UGCC Department of Information

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

His Beatitude Sviatoslav equated the priests of the UGCC in Crimea with the brave Ukrainian soldiers

Tuesday, 18 March 2014

The Head of the Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk) appealed to the clergy of the Odesa and Crimean Exarchates of the UGCC.

"I know that you and your people are experiencing various disadvantages and pressures," he writes in his letter to the clergy, "I know that you are receiving threats and that

for the realization of your ministry you will have to overcome obstacles which only recently would have been difficult for us to imagine."

"In these attacks, we find nothing new", the Head of the UGC Church continues, "We hear in this an echo of all that which our 'Church of martyrs' experienced not very long ago in the Communist past. ... Today, to you goes our special respect and

gratitude that you do not give in to provocations, that you do not fall into despair and panic, but you persevere in prayer and in faithfully carrying out your priestly duties."

His Beatitude Sviatoslav pointed out that just as all citizens of Ukraine, with trepidation and hope, direct their gaze toward the brave Ukrainian soldiers, "the eyes of all of our Church are turned to you, dear Fathers."

The Primate of UGCC counselled the clergy to, "maintain close contact with your local Bishop-Administrator and coordinate with him your next steps with regard to the fulfilment of your pastoral activity in the parishes of the Odesa and Crimean Exarchates".

Information Department of the UGCC

Department of Religious Affairs Strongly Condemns Persecution of Clerics in Crimea

18 March 2014

The director of the Department of Religious and Ethnic Affairs of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine Volodymyr Yushkevych March 18 issued a statement regarding the persecution of clerics in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The document calls "to stop the practice of terror and to ensure respect for rights and liberties."

The director of the Department for Religious and Ethnic Affairs asks international organizations and the

public to help protect the clerics and faithful from persecution.

"Recently, in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea cases of persecution of the clerics of various denominations have been documented, there has been an unprecedented violation of rights in the field of freedom of conscience and religion, in guaranteeing the inviolability of the person.

"According to the media, gangs of separatists together with Russian occupation forces are

trying to intimidate the citizens of Ukraine in Crimea, belittle their honor and dignity. Violence is being committed against religious people, who have always called for interfaith peace and harmony in autonomy.

"We demand there be a stop to the practice of terror and for rights and liberties to be respected. We call on international organizations and the public to help protect the clergy and faithful from persecution.

"Crimea was and should remain a region where citizens of many faiths

and nationalities live and work together peacefully, tolerate and respect each other. We believe that no aggressor can destroy the love and harmony in the land," reads Volodymyr Yushkevych's statement, which was published on the site of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine.

<http://risu.org.ua>

April 2014 - Квітня 2014

Happy Birthday!

З Днем народження!

April 1: Rev. Deacon Mr. Theophil Staruch
April 7: Rev. Petro Zvarych
April 7: Rev. Deacon Mr. Paul Spotts
April 14: Rev. Taras Svirchuk, C.S.s.R.
April 28: Rev. Ihor Royik

**May the Good Lord Continue to Guide
You and Shower You with
His Great Blessings.
Многая Лита!**

**Нехай Добрий Господь
Тримає Вас у Своїй Опіці
та Щедро Благословить
Вас. Многая Літа!**



Congratulations on your Anniversary of Priesthood!

Вітаємо з Річницею Священства!

April 7: Rev. Taras Svirchuk, C.S.s.R. (8th Anniversary)
April 10: Rev. Roman Dubitsky (49th Anniversary)
April 10: Rev. Edward Levandusky (49th Anniversary)
April 10: Rev. Uriy Markewych (49th Anniversary)
April 14: Rev. Volodymyr Klanichka (13th Anniversary)
April 14: Rev. T. Frank Patrylak (52nd Anniversary)
April 19: Rev. Evhen Moniuk (22nd Anniversary)
April 27: Rev. Wasyl Bunik (21st Anniversary)

**May God Grant You Many Happy and
Blessed Years of Service in the Vineyard of
Our Lord!**

**Нехай Бог Обдарує Багатьма
Благословенними Роками Служіння в
Господньому Винограднику!**

Editorial and Business Office:

827 N. Franklin St.
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Telephone: (215) 627-0143

E-mail: theway@ukrarcheparchy.us



Established 1939

Online: <http://www.ukrarcheparchy.us>

Blog: <http://www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com>

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

YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/thewayukrainian>

THE WAY Staff

Very Rev. Archpriest John Fields, Director of Communication;
Ms. Teresa Siwak, Editor;
Rev. Ihor Royik, Assistant Editor

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.