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METROPOLITAN-ARCHBISHOP STEFAN SOROKA OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA OFFERS REFLECTIONS ON THE CANONIZATION OF SAINTS JOHN XXIII AND JOHN PAUL II

The Pontifical Mass and canonization ceremonies celebrated by the Holy Father, Pope Francis on Sunday, April 27, 2014, began with great solemnity but under dark clouds and with light rain falling. At the moment Pope Francis prayed the Prayer of Canonization, "For the honour of the Blessed Trinity, the exaltation of the Catholic faith and the increase of the Christian life, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and our own, after due deliberation and frequent



Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II



Holy Mass for the Canonization of Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on April 27, 2014. (Photo: <http://www.credo-ua.org>)

prayer for divine assistance, and after having sought the counsel of many of our brother Bishops, we declare and define Blessed John XXIII and John Paul II be Saints and we enroll them among the Saints, decreeing that they are to be venerated as such by the whole Church. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit", a visible brightness occurred in the skies above us and the light rain ceased. It remained this way well after the conclusion of the Pontifical Mass.

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METROPOLITAN-ARCHBISHOP STEFAN SOROKA OFFERS REFLECTIONS ON THE CANONIZATION OF SAINTS JOHN XXIII AND JOHN PAUL II

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It was a privilege to be amidst others gathered in prayer, among them Pope Benedict XVI, the many Cardinals, bishops, priests, religious and faithful from throughout the world. All came with loving devotion and praise of these two Popes now recognized as Saints. We pray for their intercession for the needs of all humanity for which they consecrated their earthly life.

I especially prayed for the hierarchy, clergy, religious, seminarians, and faithful of our Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States of America. May that same brightness of light and the presence of Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II overtake all of us. May the clouds and rain drops of earthly life, our hardships with which we must cope and overcome, disappear for all, allowing us to be consumed by the light of the lives of the saints. May their intercession guide us to more brightly present the light of Christ to the world which surrounds us and thirsts for His light through you and me.

Pope John XXIII expressed a special love and dedication for our Ukrainian Catholic Church while our Church was in the catacombs, interceding in various ways to aid our suffering and persecuted Church during the harsh communist times. He facilitated the release of Patriarch Josyf Slipyj from his exile in Siberia, initiating hope for a renewed Ukrainian Catholic Church worldwide. With his calling of Vatican II, all Eastern Catholic Churches were recognized for their dignity as equal Christians.



A picture of the front page of "The Way" in 1963. Pope John XXIII and Patriarch Josyf Slipyj are pictured shortly after their audience in Clementine Hall of the Vatican on February 10, 1963. Vatican sources reported that the Holy Father wept with joy during the audience.

Pope John Paul II showed much heartfelt affection for our Ukrainian Catholic Church, overseeing our Church's rebirth with independence of Ukraine. He personally visited our Ukrainian Catholic Cathedrals in Philadelphia, and in Winnipeg, and elsewhere throughout the world, offering encouragement and recognition of a universal Catholic Church breathing with two lungs, east and west. Pope John Paul II visited Ukraine in 2001, celebrating Divine Liturgies in Kyiv and Lviv, and blessing many holy sites. During the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, Pope John Paul II raised twenty-

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Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka at St. Peter's Square on April 27, 2014. (Photo: <http://www.corriere.it>)



After Pope Francis (left) and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI embrace during the beginning of the Holy Mass in St. Peter's Square, you can see Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka standing among the Cardinals and Bishops in the center of the photo. (Photo: CTV)

METROPOLITAN-ARCHBISHOP STEFAN SOROKA OFFERS REFLECTIONS ON THE CANONIZATION OF SAINTS JOHN XXIII AND JOHN PAUL II

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Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka meets Pope John Paul II in Ukraine on June 24, 2001.

Church was expressed in a vibrant, energetic, compassionate and joyful manner, giving you and me saintly example to follow.

Let us especially pray fervently to Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II asking their intercession for Ukraine. Their lived commitment to strive for human dignity and freedom for all carries forth in their saintly lives. Our sincere prayers to them will result in their intercession with the bright light of hope as followers of the Risen Christ.

The celebrations were solemn and spiritual, offering much hope in all times, and especially now with the challenges posed by totalitarian regimes in Eastern Europe and in various parts of the world. May the intercessory power of Saint John XXIII and John Paul II convert hatred and hostility into passionate striving for human dignity for all. Let us pray for this for people throughout the world, and for all amidst us in our communities in the USA.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

MAY 11, 2014

seven martyrs to the dignity of “Blessed”, giving recognition to the martyrdom of our Church and the holiness of its ministers and faithful. He was steadfast in encouraging our Church to realize its full richness and experience of our rich traditions as a gift to be shared and appreciated by the entire Catholic Church.

I personally met Pope John Paul II on a number of occasions. Especially I recall a lunch at his residence with eight other Eastern Catholic Bishops during the Special Synod on the theme of Bishops. Pope John Paul II showed such intense interest in the affairs of each of the Eastern Catholic Churches, and ensured that each of us were fully involved in the discussion, to the extent of even limiting one bishop who wanted to monopolize the discussion. Pope John Paul II looked upon people as individuals even amidst crowds. He expressed this saintly quality as did Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta whom he knew well. His unconditional service of the Lord and of His



Ukrainian flags are seen in St. Peter's Square on April 27, 2014. (Photo: <http://alpha.crowdalbum.com>)

Pope Francis: 'popes of 20th century' witness, teach of God's mercy

2014-04-27

(Vatican Radio) The Catholic Church's two newest saints were "popes of the twentieth century" and "were not afraid to look upon the wounds of Christ," said Pope Francis on Sunday.

"They lived through the tragic events of that century, but they were not overwhelmed by them," Pope Francis said in his homily (offered below). "For them, God was more powerful; faith was more powerful -- faith in Jesus Christ the Redeemer of man and the Lord of history."

Earlier in the Mass, also attended by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Pope Francis read the formal proclamation of sainthood during the canonization rite. The crowd roared with applause upon hearing their names read in Latin in the official proclamation.

Hundreds of thousands of people from around the world have gathered in and around St Peter's Square for the canonization Mass for Saints John XXIII and John Paul II. Thousands more pilgrims gathered in squares around the

city to watch the Mass on big screens. Some 100 heads of state and governments were also in attendance.

Pope Francis described Saint John XXIII as "the pope of openness to the Spirit" and Saint John Paul II as "the pope of the family", each description followed by applause.

Pope Francis also underlined the deep faith of his two predecessors: "These were two men of courage, filled with the parrhesia of the Holy Spirit, and they bore witness before the Church and the world to God's goodness and mercy."

The two new saints "teach us to enter ever more deeply into the mystery of divine mercy," he concluded.

Read the full text of Pope Francis' homily below:

Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis
Mass of Canonization,
27 April 2014

At the heart of this Sunday, which concludes the Octave of Easter and which John Paul II



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka takes a picture of Pope Francis during the Pontifical Mass and canonization ceremonies in St. Peter's Square on April 27, 2014. (Photo by Metropolitan Stefan)

wished to dedicate to Divine Mercy, are the glorious wounds of the risen Jesus.

He had already shown those wounds when he first appeared to the Apostles on the very evening of that day following the Sabbath, the day of the resurrection. But, as we heard, Thomas was not there that evening, and when the others told him that they had seen the Lord, he replied that unless he himself saw and touched those wounds, he would not believe. A week later, Jesus appeared once more to the disciples gathered in the Upper Room, and Thomas was present; Jesus turned

to him and told him to touch his wounds. Whereupon that man, so straightforward and accustomed to testing everything personally, knelt before Jesus with the words: "My Lord and my God!" (Jn 20:28).

The wounds of Jesus are a scandal, a stumbling block for faith, yet they are also the test of faith. That is why on the body of the risen Christ the wounds never pass away: they remain, for those wounds are the enduring sign of God's love for us. They are essential for believing in God. Not for believing that God exists, but for believing that

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Pope Francis: 'popes of 20th century' witness, teach of God's mercy

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God is love, mercy and faithfulness. Saint Peter, quoting Isaiah, writes to Christians: "by his wounds you have been healed" (1 Pet 2:24, cf. Is 53:5).

Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II were not afraid to look upon the wounds of Jesus, to touch his torn hands and his pierced side. They were not ashamed of the flesh of Christ, they were not scandalized by him, by his cross; they did not despise the flesh of their brother (cf. Is 58:7), because they saw Jesus in every person who suffers and struggles. These were two men of courage, filled with the parrhesia of the Holy Spirit, and they bore witness before the Church and the world to God's goodness and mercy.

They were priests, bishops and popes of the twentieth century. They lived through the tragic events of that century, but they were not overwhelmed by them. For them, God was more powerful; faith was more powerful – faith in Jesus Christ the Redeemer of man and the Lord of history; the mercy of God, shown by those five wounds,

was more powerful; and more powerful too was the closeness of Mary our Mother.

In these two men, who looked upon the wounds of Christ and bore witness to his mercy, there dwelt a living hope and an indescribable and glorious joy (1 Pet 1:3,8). The hope and the joy which the risen Christ bestows on his disciples, the hope and the joy which nothing and no one can take from them. The hope and joy of Easter, forged in the crucible of self-denial, self-emptying, utter identification with sinners, even to the point of disgust at the bitterness of that chalice. Such were the hope and the joy which these two holy popes had received as a gift from the risen Lord and which they in turn bestowed in abundance upon the People of God, meriting our eternal gratitude.

This hope and this joy were palpable in the earliest community of believers, in Jerusalem, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles (cf. 2:42-47), as we heard in the second reading. It was a community which lived the heart of the Gospel, love and mercy, in

simplicity and fraternity.

This is also the image of the Church which the Second Vatican Council set before us. John

XXIII and John Paul II cooperated with the Holy Spirit in renewing and updating the Church in keeping with her pristine features, those features which the saints have given her throughout the centuries. Let us not forget that it is the saints who give direction and growth to the Church. In convening the Council, John XXIII showed an exquisite openness to the Holy Spirit. He let himself be led and he was for the Church a pastor, a servant-leader, led by the Spirit. This was his great service to the Church; he was the pope of openness to the Spirit.

In his own service to the People of God, John Paul II was the pope of the family. He himself once said that he wanted to be remembered as the pope of the family. I



(Photo: <http://en.radiovaticana.va>)

I am particularly happy to point this out as we are in the process of journeying with families towards the Synod on the family. It is surely a journey which, from his place in heaven, he guides and sustains.

May these two new saints and shepherds of God's people intercede for the Church, so that during this two-year journey toward the Synod she may be open to the Holy Spirit in pastoral service to the family. May both of them teach us not to be scandalized by the wounds of Christ and to enter ever more deeply into the mystery of divine mercy, which always hopes and always forgives, because it always loves.

Text from page <http://en.radiovaticana.va>

Easter at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia, PA, on April 20, 2014



Photo: Lisa Oprysk



Watch videos from Easter including Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka's Homily on our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/thewayukrainian>



Photo: T. Bilyi



Photo: T. Bilyi

Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka



Blessing of Easter foods an important tradition to many families

BY JOHN E. USALIS (STAFF WRITER JUSALIS@REPUBLICANHERALD.COM)

Published: April 20, 2014

On Holy Saturday, many churches had the makings of the Easter Sunday feast brought to them for the traditional blessing of the foods for the family celebrations of the holiest day on the Christian calendar.

The Rev. Roman Pitula, pastor of St. Michael and St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic churches in Frackville and Maizeville, respectively, blessed the traditional Easter foods in the Ukrainian ceremony called Sviachenia on Saturday afternoon, first at St. Michael's hall at 4 p.m. Parishioners and their families filled tables with all types of foods. The baskets were covered by beautifully embroidered linens with Ukrainian designs, which were placed on the table and on which some of the basket contents were placed. As with Roman Catholic and



The Rev. Roman Pitula blesses Easter foods Saturday at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Frackville. (Photo: David McKeown)

Orthodox customs, the foods are very symbolic, representing the foods abstained during the Great Fast or Lent: eggs, meat, butter and rich breads. They are prepared ahead of time and are traditionally eaten on Holy Pascha, thereby keeping cooking on the holy day to a minimum. The variety of foods can be extensive, but the basics are eggs, breads, meats and dairy (butter and cheese). Each family lights a candle, which symbolizes the radiance of the Resurrected Christ, prior to the prayers, incensing and the blessing of the foods with holy water.

The foods have the following meanings:

- Paska - A rich, decorated bread, it represents Christ, the True Bread of Life and the Living Bread. Traditionally, the candle is placed in the center of the bread, though many use a separate candleholder.
- Babka - A sweet bread, usually with raisins, represents Mary, the Mother of God (Theotokos).
- Pysanky - Decorated eggs with intricate designs and colors represent hope and are likened to Christ, who rose from the dead, since eggs, which look dead, bring forth new life.
- Krashanky - Plain, dyed eggs in a variety of colors, which also symbolize life. Traditionally, there is a red egg to represent salvation through the blood of Christ.
- Salt - A small amount represents the Christian's call to be the "salt of the earth" and his or her duty to others.

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Blessing of Easter foods an important tradition to many families

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- Butter - Usually in the form of a lamb, representing Christ as "The Lamb of God" and the "Paschal Lamb." The butter also represents the goodness of Christ. Cloves are sometimes used to outline a cross and represent the oils and spices used to anoint the body of Christ.

- Cheese - Cheese, along with all dairy products, are related to the prophecies that told of the prosperity and peace of the Messianic times and are symbolic of the special gifts given by God.

- Horseradish/beets/vinegar/sugar - The bitterness of horseradish is a reminder of Christ's bitter suffering; the red of the beets tells of Christ's Passion and the blood He shed; the vinegar reminds of the gall Jesus was offered on the cross; the sugar reminds that Christ's sufferings are seen in the light of the Resurrection.

- Ham, roasted lamb, sausage, kielbasa, bacon
- These rich meats are reminders of the richness and joy of the Resurrection. They also are symbols of God's overabundance and limitless mercy and generosity.

The Paschal dinner can also include pierogie, halupki, mashed potatoes and gravy, salads, vegetables, head cheese, cakes, cheesecakes and tortes. It is important not to waste any of the blessed food. The crumbs and bones are buried so that the Earth receives blessing from the Resurrection.

After the blessing, Pitula offered his wishes for all to have a holy Pascha.

Adapted from the article on <http://republicanherald.com>



The Rev. Roman Pitula and Altar Boys during the blessing of Easter foods at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Frackville. (Photo: David McKeown)

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw blesses Easter foods in Olyphant, PA



Photos by Lauren Telep

Blessing Easter Foods at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, Bethlehem, PA.



Deacon Walter Pasicznyk incenses during the Blessing of Easter Foods.



Archpriest Daniel Gurovich, Pastor blesses Easter Foods assisted by an Altar Boy.



Good Friday Perth Amboy, NJ April 18, 2014



Good Friday in Olyphant, PA

Good Friday Vespers were held on 4/18/14 at 3:00 p.m. at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA. During the Vespers, The Holy Shroud (called the Paschanitsa) is moved from the main altar and handed to the elders of the church. The Elders hold it by each of its four corners, and start the procession around the church. After the procession, the Holy Shroud is paced in the Lord's Tomb. (Photo Lauren Telep)



Good Friday at the Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA with Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka.

(Photo: Lisa Oprysk)

Good Friday at Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Williamstown, NJ



After the procession around the church, Msgr. Peter Waslo took the Holy Shroud and placed it in the Lord's Tomb and placed the Gospel Book over it.

Watch a video on our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/thewayukrainian>

Philadelphia Metropolitan Archbishop Soroka Washes Feet of Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. during Holy Thursday Services in Washington, D.C.

During the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great with Vespers on Holy Thursday, 2014 at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA, Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians, washes the feet of Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Olexander Motsyk. The service commemorates the washing of the Apostles' feet by Jesus before His passion and death.



A Prayer for Mothers on Mother's Day on May 11, 2014

Most gracious Heavenly Father! We thank You for our mothers to whom You have entrusted the care of every precious human life from its very beginning in the womb. You have given to woman the capacity of participating with You in the creation of new life. Grant that every woman may come to understand the full meaning of that blessing, which gives her an unlimited capacity for selfless love for every child she may be privileged to bear, and for all Your children. Watch over every mother who is with child, strengthen her faith in Your fatherly care and love for her and for her unborn baby. Give her courage in times of fear or pain, understanding in times of uncertainty and doubt, and hope in times of trouble. Grant her joy in the birth of her child. To mothers You have given the great privilege and responsibility of being a child's first teacher and spiritual guide. Grant that all mothers may worthily foster the faith of their children, following the example of Mary, Elizabeth, and



other holy women who follow Christ. Help mothers to grow daily in knowledge and understanding of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and grant them the wisdom to impart this knowledge faithfully to their children, and to all who depend upon them. Assist all "spiritual mothers", those who, though they may have no children of their own, nevertheless selflessly care for the children of others — of every age and state in life. Grant that they may know the joy of fulfilling this motherly calling of women, whether in teaching, nursing, religious life, or in other work which recognizes and fosters the true dignity of every human being created in Your image and likeness. We beseech You to send Your Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to all mothers who sorrow for children that have died, are ill or estranged from their families, or who are in trouble or danger of any kind. Help grieving mothers to rely on Your tender mercy and fatherly love for all your children. We ask your blessing on all those to whom You have entrusted motherhood. May Your Holy Spirit constantly inspire and strengthen them. May they ever follow the example of Mary, mother of Our Lord, and imitate her fidelity, her humility, and her self-giving love. May all mothers receive Your Grace abundantly in this earthly life, and may they look forward to eternal joy in Your presence in the life to come.

SUNDAY OF MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

At that time Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James saw where he was laid. When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. (Mk. 15, 43 - 16, 8)

SUNDAY OF MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

“By Your resurrection, O Christ our God, You told the women bringing ointment to rejoice; and You stilled the weeping of Eve, the first mother. You instructed the women to announce to Your apostles: The Savior has risen from the tomb.”

Kontakion

During the three years of Jesus’ public ministry, he often went to Galilee where He performed many miracles. There was a group of seven women who faithfully followed Him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These women came to be known as the Myrrh-Bearers. They were Mary Magdalene; Joanna, the wife of Churza, the steward of Herod Antipas; Salome, the mother of the Holy Apostles James and John the Theologian, the sons of Zebedee; Mary, the wife of Cleopas; Susanna; Mary and Martha of Bethany, the sisters of Lazarus.

It is written in the Gospels that these women provided for Christ and His followers from their own possessions, acting as “deaconesses” to the Lord. Even through the dangerous times of His arrest and execution, they did not stray from Him. They were present

at His crucifixion, were said to be the last to leave the Cross after all the men had fled and escorted Christ’s body to the tomb for burial.

Jewish practice dictated that men prepare the body of men for burial and women the body of women. There had been no time before the Passover to properly prepare the body to avoid ritual impurity and in spite of the fear Christ’s enemies spread among the people, these women of faith and courage were the first to return to the tomb after the Sabbath.

As the dawn drew near, the women approached the tomb, neither having lost their faith in Him, nor fearing the wrath of the Jewish rulers. Here they witnessed an angel descending from a sky that lit with lightning as the earth trembled beneath their feet. The guards surrounding the tomb fell to the ground in fear and fainted, as the angel rolled away the stone to reveal an empty tomb. The angel told them to tell the apostles that the Lord had risen; He has opened to us the Kingdom of Heaven. Because of their strong faith, love for Christ

and belief in His teachings, these women became apostles to the apostles, who were afraid and had been in hiding in fear for their lives. The apostles were timid and the women brave, they proved themselves to be more steadfast than the men.

On the way to tell Peter and John what the women had just witnessed, Mary Magdalene encountered the Risen Lord Jesus. When he softly spoke her name, she recognized Jesus, the man she had come to know as the God of infinite love and forgiveness.

During Christ’s time and considering the nature of the culture, women were not considered too credible as witnesses, so why would Christ first reveal Himself to Mary Magdalene? John Chrysostom stated that Christ did this because of the women’s continued faithfulness to Him, their courage from the time of His trial to crucifixion and their affection and noble spirit even in the face of death. The Lord rewarded the Myrrh-Bearers for their faithfulness and devoted care. They were



the first witnesses to His well-guarded tomb, empty and to declare His Resurrection.

The Myrrh-Bearing women are an example of a powerful ideal to which women can strive. They Loved Christ, followed Him, were courageous and remained at His side when others feared for themselves. They proclaimed the Good News and were devoted to prayer. Women like the Myrrh-Bearers surpass many in heroic achievements of faith and virtue and can appear as an angel who spreads the myrrh of Love.

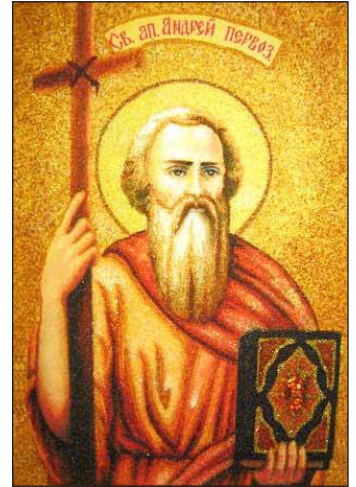
Let us follow their example so that we too may share in the ultimate joy of His Resurrection. Christ Is Risen!

(By Phyllis Muryn Zapanariuk)

Our Mission Parish in Lancaster has a Patron Saint!

On April 8, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka has confirmed and blessed a request to place our mission parish in Lancaster under the protection and care of the holy Apostle Andrew, the First Called. He was an apostle of Christ who preached the Gospel on the hills of Kyiv and south of Ukraine. From now on, our mission parish will be called St. Andrew the Apostle Ukrainian Catholic mission parish!

Holy Apostle Andrew, intercede and pray to the Almighty God for our mission parish and its faithful people! The mission parish currently holds services in English and Ukrainian at 1:30PM every Sunday at St. John Neumann Roman Catholic Church (601 East Delp Road, Lancaster). For more information, please call Fr. Andriy Rabiw at 610.376.0586, or visit us on FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/ukrainianmissionlanasterpa>.



ST. STEPHEN UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IS BUILDING A NEW CHURCH - TOMS RIVER, NJ



St. Stephen's Ukrainian Catholic Church is in the process of building a new church, adjoining its spacious parish hall/center and near the recently built parish rectory. The pastor, Fr. Oleksandr Dumenko, the Parish officers and parishioners are excited about the progress of the building of the new Church. St. Stephen's Ukrainian Catholic Church is celebrating renewed life in the risen Christ as it boldly progresses forward to offer its parishioners and visitors a holy Church to pray and worship in. Please support them with your prayers, encouragement and giftedness.

Congratulations Staff of Ascension Manor!

Ascension Manor scored a 91b on a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) REAC Inspection held on April 29, 2014. REAC is a HUD acronym for the Real Estate Assessment Center and the inspection is conducted to determine the building's adherence to HUD policy relating to Housing Quality Standards. The inspection covered 25 of the 281 apartments and 100% of all common areas, grounds and mechanical rooms. If it weren't for the 8.36 points lost due to paint on 1 sprinkler head, the buildings would have received a near perfect score! Congratulations to the staff of Ascension Manor on a job well done! Ascension Manor is a non profit senior citizens apartment complex sponsored by the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and is located 1 block away from the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia.



DAY OF REFLECTION FOR YOUTH AT BASILIAN SPIRITUALITY CENTER

The youth group from Holy Ghost Byzantine Ruthenian Parish in Philadelphia gathered at the Basilian Spirituality Center in Fox Chase Manor, PA, Saturday, April 5, 2014, for a day of prayer and reflection prepared by their directors.

Sister Marina Bochnewich,

OSBM, Director of the Center, welcomed the participants who were accompanied by their pastor, Rev. Edward Higgins; the facilitator for the day, Edward Dormer, and assistants Barbara Bachovin and Helene Prehatny. Father Joseph Loya, OSA, of Villanova also visited with the group.

“Friendship With Jesus” was the guiding theme during session discussions centering on God’s friendship, followed by personal reflection and group sharing on the high points of one’s relationship with God throughout life. The group also considered obstacles to friendship and the ‘masks’ used to

hide one’s true self.

Time was allotted for private prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation was available to all.

“MOTHERS IN PRAYER” CONVENE AT BASILIAN MOTHERHOUSE

Over one hundred delegates to the “Mothers in Prayer” convention gathered at the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil Motherhouse Saturday, April 5, 2014, for the second part of their scheduled program.

Upon completion of their morning session at the host parish of St. Michael the Archangel, Jenkintown, PA, the delegates from member chapters in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania processed singing hymns down Fox Chase Road to the Basilian Motherhouse where they were met by Motherhouse Superior, Sister Maria Rozmarynowycz, OSBM, who greeted them in the name of Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, Provincial Superior and all the Basilian Sisters.

During the afternoon session, Sister Elizaveta Vepruk, OSBM, drew the attention of the members to the display of pictures of the newly-beatified martyrs of Ukraine, and commented on the trials and sufferings of each. It is customary for each member of Mothers in Prayer to ask the intercession of one of the honored martyrs and individual women gave witness to the effect of those prayers in their lives.

Reverend Volodymyr Kostiyuk, Pastor of St. Michael’s, then introduced His Grace Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka who commended the Mothers in Prayer for their prayerful diligence and blessed each leader of the organization’s chapters as she was presented by Iryna Dorosh, director of the Philadelphia hosting chapter, and coordinator with Lesia Pradyvus, St. George Parish, NYC chapter leader, of this Sixth National Convention.

After the singing of Moleben to the Theotokos led by Archbishop Stefan, Father Kostiyuk and Very Rev. Kiril Angelov of Yonkers, NY, the delegates took time for private prayer at the Grotto Shrine of Our Lady of Pochayiv and at the Motherhouse Holy Trinity Chapel.

Blessings were extended to the Mothers in Prayer members via a message from His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk who encouraged all to offer their prayerful efforts to create a vibrant parish - “a place to encounter the Living Christ.”



Grotto

“Teen Reflection” Day in Sloatsburg, NY

Sloatsburg, NY – On April 6th, 17 teenagers from the parishes of Passaic, Ramsey, Spring Valley, Yonkers and Middletown participated in a special “Teen Reflection” day, offered by the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate at St. Mary’s Villa. Sr. Eliane, SSMI and Sr. Tekla, SSMI conducted this prayerful experience. They focused the day on the story of Zacchaeus, explaining that we are all invited by Jesus: “Come down immediately, I want to stay at your house!”



In the morning the group was invited to participate in morning prayer, and then participated in the Divine Liturgy together with the members of LUC, which was celebrated by the Rev. Father Appleyard. During his Sunday homily Fr. Appleyard, reminded everyone and especially the teens that everything in life comes after a little sacrifice, like sports which need a lot of training and preparation. The teens reminded one another during the day of father’s word during his homily: “No Pain, No Gain.”

After the Divine Liturgy the participants reflected on the Story of Zacchaeus, played by teen parishioners from St. Nicholas, Passaic, NJ. The girls and boys learned that Zacchaeus teaches us to learn to listen for the voice of God in our personal lives and respond without holding anything back. He also teaches us to look for Jesus along the road of life.

In the afternoon the group of retreatants enjoyed popcorn while watching the movie “Facing the Giants” which was used later for reflection conducted by Sr. Kathleen Hustko, SSMI Provincial Superior about giving your best in all that you do, and that all things are possible with God.

In bringing closure to the day, the group was invited for a Ritual of Reconciliation. Each participant wrote on a paper, anything that stops him/her from being closer to God or to spread God’s word and love to others, starting in the family. The girls and boys then dropped their papers in to the fire pit acknowledging their desire to rid themselves of habits that draw them away from God and others. Finally, each participant was given an icon of Zacchaeus to take home with them reminding them that Jesus wants to “stay close to them.”

We congratulate and thank the parents who took this opportunity to show their child how important is to give time for faith growth, as it is given to everything else.



“Sviachene” at Melrose Park, PA

On Sunday, April 27th, more than 100 parishioners of Annunciation of the BVM Church in Melrose Park were welcomed to the church hall by their pastor, Rev. Ihor Royik, for the annual “Sviachene”.

Photo: Rev. Ihor Royik introduces the children of the parish at the start of the 7th annual Easter Brunch (Photo: Russell Cooke)

Marriage Preparation Program

A glorious day in Melrose Park, PA on May 3, 2014 as 17 couples gathered at the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church for the marriage Preparation Program “Entering the Holy Mystery of Marriage”. What a great joy to see the youth and future of our Church engaging in this important Program of insight reflection and instruction for healthy relationship under the care of Fr. Ihor Royik and John Michalczyk, M.A MDiv, Pastoral Counselor.



Spring Concert in Perth Amboy, NJ

On Sunday, April 27 many parishioners and parents, enjoyed performances by all dancing groups and were pleased by the result of their children's hard work all year. The groups Nadiya Dance Ensemble, Chervona Kalyna and Veselka, performed Ukrainian traditional dances, international folk dances and theatrical dances. Everyone had a great time listening to the music and watching the dancers.



First Confession in Northampton, PA



On April 12, 2014, the children and families of St. John the Baptist Religious Education Program gathered with Religious Education Teachers Paulette Yonosh, Marcia Vincler, Monica Ivory and V. Rev. David Clooney to witness the children receiving First Confession. Congratulations and Many Years to the following Religious Education Students who have received First Confession...Mnohaya Lita! Nicholas Dmytrow Bach, Jonathan Kayce Hirsch, Jacob Matthew Joseph Ford, Anna Kathryn Hirsch, Catherine Rose Neagle, and Stephanie Patricia Hirsch.

On the Ballot 2014 Pennsylvania Primary

Primary Election day is **May 20, 2014**. Pennsylvanians will go to the polls to select the Democratic and Republican contenders for governor, lieutenant governor, U.S. Congressional representatives, some state senators and all state representatives.

In the gubernatorial race, Republicans have two choices. Tom Corbett is the incumbent governor and former state attorney general. Prior to running for statewide office, Corbett was a teacher and a lawyer both as an assistant U.S. attorney and in private practice. Bob Guzzardi, his challenger, is also an attorney.

UPDATE: On Thursday, May 1, 2014, the PA Supreme Court removed Guzzardi from the ballot due to improperly filed documents.

Democrats have a few more choices. Here is how they will appear on the ballot. Tom Wolf is the former Secretary of Revenue under Governor Ed Rendell and is CEO of a kitchen cabinet and specialty building products company. Rob

McCord is the current state treasurer. Prior to his public service, he was the managing director of several venture capital funds. Katie McGinty sits on the boards of several energy and clean technology companies. She was a senior advisor on environmental matters to Senator and Vice-President Al Gore and President Bill Clinton and was secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under Governor Ed Rendell. Allyson Schwartz currently represents Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District and is a former state senator. Prior to elective office she was executive director of the Elizabeth Blackwell Women's Health Center, a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Philadelphia.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office but aims to educate Catholic voters about candidates and their positions on key issues. We sent a questionnaire to every statewide candidate giving them an opportunity to state their positions in their

own words. Governor Corbett responded (read his completed questionnaire here); the other Republican and the Democratic candidates did not respond. However, all of the candidates have made public statements and published campaign materials that give clues about where they stand. These are a few, but certainly not all, of the issues that may be of interest to Catholic voters.

Life & Dignity of the Human Person

Republican Corbett indicated on PCC's questionnaire that he opposes legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. In a January 26, 2014, story the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported that Guzzardi agrees with restricting abortion and on his Facebook page he describes partial-birth abortion as infanticide. All four Democratic candidates described themselves as 'pro-choice' on the abortion issue during a debate at Carnegie Mellon University in

January 2014.

Access to Health Care

Corbett told the PCC he believes Pennsylvania should use the additional federal funds under the Affordable Care Act to allow more people, including the working poor, to access the private insurance market. He has proposed a plan to this effect called Healthy Pennsylvania. Regarding the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion, Guzzardi told the York Daily Record, "The Forgotten Taxpayer cannot afford these programs ... There are consequences to spending more than we can afford." All four Democrats say they would expand Medicaid immediately if elected governor. According to his campaign website, Wolf would "take an active, aggressive role in expanding access to health care in Pennsylvania." In addition to expanding Medicaid, McCord told Keystone Politics that he "would like to see Pennsylvania take an aggressive approach to promoting health care

(continued on next page)

On the Ballot 2014 Pennsylvania Primary

(continued from previous page)

exchanges, especially to young, healthy consumers who will help spread out the risk and bring costs down for the rest of us." In a campaign press release, McGinty said, "Numerous studies have shown the federal aid would not only cover hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians, but it would also boost economic activity, support job creation and generate real savings for state government." Schwartz talks about her record in Congress helping to pass the Affordable Care Act in her campaign ads.

School Choice

Corbett increased funding for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) and established the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTC) during his administration. Guzzardi states he believes in parental choice in education on his campaign website. All four Democratic candidates told NBC 10 in Philadelphia that they oppose state-funded tuition assistance vouchers for private school students. They

also told the York Daily Record about their opposition to vouchers. Wolf has a plan to reform charter schools. McCord has a \$1.3 billion education plan. McGinty has a multi-step plan to increase education funding. Schwartz details a "new road forward" for education in Pennsylvania.

Further Information

In addition to researching the candidates' public statements on issues, reviewing a list of endorsements can also demonstrate a particular point of view. Catholics may consider reviewing campaign websites for the most update news about who is supporting the candidates.

•Tom Corbett – www.tomcorbettforgovernor.com

•Bob Guzzardi – www.bobguzzardi.com

•Tom Wolf – www.wolfforpa.com

•Rob McCord – www.robmccord.com

•Katie McGinty – www.katiemcginty.com

•Allyson Schwartz – www.allysonschwartz.com

All of these resources serve to educate voters about the issues and allow us to inform our consciences about which candidate will act in the best interest of the common good. As Catholic citizens, we have a moral obligation to participate in the political process. Mark your calendar for Primary Election Day on May 20, 2014. Visit www.votespa.com to find out where your polling place is. Visit the PA Department of State's website at

www.dos.state.pa.us to see who else is on the ballot. Then exercise your faithful citizenship and VOTE!

MAY 2014. The staff of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference contributed to this article. The PCC is the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. Stay up-to-date with Catholic news and issues at www.pacatholic.org, www.facebook.com/pacatholic, and www.twitter.com/pacatholic.



METROPOLITAN STEFAN'S SCHEDULE FOR MAY, 2014

- 1 APPOINTMENTS WITH CLERGY REGARDING ASSIGNMENTS.
- 5 SPRING CLERGY CONFERENCE PREPARATORY MEETING.
- 6-7 MEETING OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF PENNSYLVANIA, ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO SEMINARY, WYNNEWOOD, PA.
- 8 CLOSING OF PURCHASE OF CHURCH IN MEDIA, PA.
- MEETING OF CONSULTORS OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA.
- 9 RECEIVE REV. MARK SEMEHEM, ST. SOPHIA ASSOCIATION, ROME.
- 13 PARTICIPATION IN MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEME FOR WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES IN PHILADELPHIA, 2015.
- 13-15 SPRING CLERGY CONFERENCE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA, HERSHEY, PA.
- 17 GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF SR. ANN LASZOK, OSBM AND SR. MONICA LESNICK, OSBM, FOX CHASE, PA.
- 18 DIVINE LITURGY AND SVIACHENE AT UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.
- 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD OF VERY REV. ARCHPRIEST DAVID CLOONEY, NORTHAMPTON, PA.
- 21 PILGRIMAGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING AT FOX CHASE, PA.
- HOLY FAMILY UNIVERSITY, PRESIDENTIAL AWARD DINNER.
- 22 MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF FOUR UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHIES IN USA FOR PLANNING OF METROPOLITAN CLERGY CONFERENCE IN 2015.
- 29 FEAST OF ASCENSION OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST.

80th ANNUAL UKRAINIAN SEMINARY DAY

Benefit of the

ST. JOSAPHAT UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC SEMINARY

Sunday, July 27, 2014

Dear friends of Ukrainian Seminary Day,

Every year, for the past 80 years on the last Sunday of July, members of the Ukrainian Catholic churches in the South Anthracite Deanery, host an annual social to raise funds for the support of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington, D.C. and to highlight Ukrainian spiritual and ethnic heritage. Between 1985 through 2013, the parishes have raised over \$600,000 for St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary. This year's social will be held Sunday, July 27 at St. Nick's Grove, Primrose, Minersville, Pa.

In conjunction with Ukrainian Seminary Day, a Commemorative Book will be published, which will be distributed to the hundreds of friends who will attend Ukrainian Seminary Day on Sunday, July 27.

We will most sincerely appreciate your support in the form of advertisements from your parishes and parish organizations in this Annual Ukrainian Seminary Book.

Prices are as follows: FULL PAGE AD ----- \$125.00
 HALF PAGE AD ----- \$75.00
 QUARTER PAGE AD ----- \$40.00
 Patron ----- \$ 5.00

Advertisers should furnish their own camera ready cuts of artwork. A photograph may be included in full page ads for which there is an additional surcharge of \$15.00

We encourage you to return the form with your ad copy as soon as possible, but no later than June 15, 2014. Send you ad copy and donation to the following address:

Ukrainian Seminary Day Committee
 c/o Rev. Deacon Paul Spotts
 20 South Third Street
 FRACKVILLE, PA 17931-1634
 Email: paul@uniquelyukrainian.com

Please make all checks payable to Ukrainian Seminary Day.
 Thank you in advance for your support of our St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary.

80th ANNUAL UKRAINIAN SEMINARY DAY

Benefit of the

ST. JOSAPHAT UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC SEMINARY

AD FORM

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone Number _____ e-mail _____

Please indicate your ad size by placing a check in the appropriate space.

____ FULL PAGE AD ----- \$125.00
 ____ Surcharge for Photo (full page ads only) 15.00
 ____ HALF PAGE AD ----- \$75.00
 ____ QUARTER PAGE AD ----- \$40.00

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Ad copy (use the space below or use a separate sheet).

Ukrainian Seminary Day Committee c/o Rev. Deacon Paul Spotts
 20 South Third Street FRACKVILLE, PA 17931-1634
 Email: paul@uniquelyukrainian.com

Please return form and your ad copy as soon as possible, but no later than June 15, 2014. Thank you.

Pope Francis mentioned Ukraine in Urbi et Orbi message

20 April 2014

In Easter 'Urbi et Orbi' Message Pope Francis prayed for peace in Ukraine.

"By your resurrection, which this year we celebrate together with the Churches that follow the Julian calendar, we ask you to enlighten and inspire the initiatives that promote peace in Ukraine so that all those involved, with the support of the international community, will make every effort to prevent violence and, in a spirit of unity and dialogue, chart a path for the country's future. On this day, may they be able to proclaim, as brothers and sisters, that Christ is risen, Khrystos voskres!", said the Pope.

<http://risu.org.ua>

Greetings of His Beatitude Sviatoslav on Easter

Monday, 21 April 2014

May this wave of renewal which emerges from the empty grave of Christ, touch all sides of Ukrainian society. Christ resurrected and life conquers death. Christ resurrected and peace conquers war. Christ resurrected and love conquers hatred.

"On this day, I want every believing Christian soul to be renewed by this holyday. May the strength of the Risen Christ give us peace and joy in our hearts, in our families, in our country," noted UGCC Prelate. He also wished that on this day Christ's peace rule our hearts.

Greetings of His Beatitude Sviatoslav on Easter <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeUr774ICFM>

UGCC Department of Information

His Beatitude Sviatoslav at Easter: "Christ is risen and Ukraine is resurrecting..."

Monday, 21 April 2014

This year we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ in a difficult time for Ukraine. The last months of our modern Ukrainian history are so similar to the Saviour's Way of the Cross. This Easter night has set before us the question of our future, like asked questions about the future of Christ's disciples.

With these words during His Easter homily the Father and the Head of UGCC His Beatitude Sviatoslav described the features of this year's celebration of Easter. It was said during the Hierarchical liturgy, which was served in the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Kyiv.



The Archbishop of the UGCC, quoting the Ukrainian Prophet Taras Shevchenko said that "this night before
(continued on next page)

His Beatitude Sviatoslav at Easter: "Christ is risen and Ukraine is resurrecting..."

(continued from previous page)

our eyes ... Ukraine is resurrecting." "It's not the night of hopeless, but the night of enlightenment and modern Ukrainian Easter", - he added.

As the preacher remarked, that Christ is risen and Ukraine will rise today, it is spoken by Sloboda Ukraine and Dnieper Ukraine, Ukrainian steppes and Crimea, Galicia, Transcarpathia and Volyn'. "For us, Christians of the third millennium, it is important to recognize in the face of the risen Christ, our resurrected Mother (Ukraine) and believe in it, that it is and will be. For a nation that believes in the resurrection of the state – is the invincible"- said His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

"This joyous day, let in our hearts there will be no sorrow. Let before the face of the risen Christ disappear every anxiety and uncertainty. Let Ukraine rejoice, for Christ is risen, and in Him is our victory forever"- wished the Head of UGCC on the day of the Resurrection.

With the head of the UGCC in the Patriarchal Cathedral Bishop Bogdan Dziurakh, Secretary of the Synod of Bishops, Bishop Josyph (Milian), Auxiliary Bishop of Kyiv archdiocese and many priests prayed together.

UGCC Department of Information

His Beatitude Sviatoslav plants an oak tree in honor of a person on the Oak Alley in Moryntsi

Thursday, 24 April 2014

In the Cherkas region, in the village of Moryntsi, the small homeland of Taras Shevchenko, on April 22, 2014, the Oak Alley was ceremonially renewed by planting twenty new young trees.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav celebrated a public prayer and planted a tree in honor of Archbishop-Emeritus, His Beatitude Lubomyr Husar.

In his welcoming address, the Church Prelate noted that in Moryntsi it is very important to carefully listen to sounds.

Shevchenko, as a child, probably heard a lot of secret conversations...

"I believe that Shevchenko Alley talks about freedom, about the resurrection of Ukraine, inspires all of us with optimism that Ukraine is also resurrecting and that Ukraine is and will be," stated His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

The Archbishop stressed that it is worthwhile to continue the tradition of planting trees on this alley.

"Europe begins from a planted tree," believes



the Head of the Church.

His Beatitude thanked the community initiative of the University of Banking. "May these trees that we have planted, grow into hundred-year-old oaks, who in Moryntsi will speak both to people

and to God about freedom," wished the Major Archbishop.

UGCC Department of Information

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

MAY 11, 2014

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk visits Vatican

26 April 2014

On Saturday 26 April 2014 Pope Francis received Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who was subsequently received by Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin. The content of their discussions will be published in upcoming days.

From the Vatican, Yatsenyuk and his entourage travelled to the Basilica of St. Sophia on the Via Boccea, built by Ukrainian Confessor of the Faith, Cardinal Yosyf Slipyi (+1984), who had been condemned by Joseph Stalin in 1945 to 18 years in the gulag. Slipyi was named a cardinal "in pectore" (in secret) by John XXIII a few years before his release in 1963.

At St. Sophia's PM Yatsenyuk and entourage will participate in a prayer for Ukraine and meet the local Ukrainian community.

As head of the Ukrainian Government, Yatsenyuk has come to represent Ukraine at the Canonizations of Popes John XXIII and John-Paul II, but escalating Ukrainian-Russian

tensions prompted him to return home instead of staying for the canonization ceremony on Sunday.

Other members of the official Ukrainian delegation include Foreign Minister Andrii Deschtytsya and Andrii Sadovyi, the Mayor of Lviv, a city which JP2 visited during his 2001 trip to Ukraine.

Yatsenyuk spent 18 minutes behind closed doors with the pope on Saturday, who had urged the international community to "prevent violence" in Ukraine in his Easter Sunday message, AP informs.

During the cordial talks, which took place in the context of the good bilateral relations between the Holy See and Ukraine, the current situation was discussed, with the hope that all interested parties would work together constructively for the restoration of political and social stability of the country, within the scope of international law, and that they would promote understanding among the peoples of the Region. The specific role of churches and religious organizations, and of

individual believers, in fostering mutual respect and harmony among all sections of society was also noted. Finally, possible further action by the international community was mentioned."

At an exchange of gifts, Yatsenyuk presented Francis with a photograph of Maidan square in Kyiv on New Year's night.

"This is where Ukrainians fought for their freedom and rights. Millions of people," he said.

The pope in return gave

the Ukraine leader a pen, saying "I hope this pen will sign the peace", to which Yatsenyuk replied "I hope so."

PM Yatsenyuk asked the Pope to pray for Ukraine and do everything within his power to bring peace and stability to Europe.

News partly translated by Rev Athanasius McVay.

Photo - Ukrainian government press office

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



Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk and Pope Francis.

The Prime Minister of Ukraine met with the Ukrainian community in Rome

Saturday, 26 April 2014

On Saturday, 26 April 2014, at 1 o'clock, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, the Prime Minister of Ukraine, visited Saint Sophia Cathedral in Rome - the main Ukrainian sanctuary abroad. Ukrainian Premier was met by His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the Head of the UGCC.

Arseniy Yatsenyuk met with the Ukrainian community in Rome shortly after his visit to the Vatican, where he had an audience with the Pope Francis and met with the Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the State Secretary of the Apostolic See. Prime Minister lit a candle in front of Heavenly Hundred memory wall, on which the pictures of fallen heroes of Maidan are situated and held a briefing for Ukrainian and foreign media. So Yatsenyuk visited Saint Sophia Cathedral, where the prayer for Ukraine took place. Answering the question about the purpose of his visit to the Holy Father, the Prime Minister said that "he came to ask the Pope to pray for Ukraine and Ukrainian people and support us in this difficult time". The Head of Ukrainian was accompanied by Acting Foreign Minister Andriy Deshchytsya, the ambassador at the Holy See Tetyana Izhevs'ka and the ambassador at the Republic of Italy Yevgen Perelygin. To the meeting with the Prime Minister came the representatives of clergy, monastic orders and congregations, boards of administration of the papal Ukrainian collegium and Ukrainian community in Rome. Yatsenyuk thanked everyone for being present and said that the Ukrainian government feels the support of foreign Ukrainians. We need to add that Yatsenyuk met with the Holy Father on the eve



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka (pictured left), His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatsenyuk, and the Ukrainian Community in Rome.



of an important event in the history of the Catholic Church - the canonization of two prominent Roman Bishops of the last century: Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II. At a meeting with Ukrainian officials Francis Pope granted him a pen, adding: "I hope that a peace agreement will be signed with this pen". The Ukrainian official presented the Holy Father with a picture of events at Maidan. In addition, he also met with the Prime Minister of Italy Matteo Renzi, who expressed his support for political and economic reforms in Ukraine. Press office of the "Saint Sophia" association.

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

His Beatitude Sviatoslav participated in the canonizations of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II

Tuesday, 29 April 2014

This morning His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Father and Head of UGCC, participated in the canonizations of two renowned Roman Bishops of the last century: Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II. Concelebrants with His Holiness Father Francis were Prelates of various Eastern Churches, 150 Cardinals and over 700 Bishops.



Major-Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk at St. Peter's Square on April 27, 2014. (Photo: CTV)

The Liturgy started with a prayer to the Mercy of God and a Litany to all the Saints, during which the entry procession of all the celebrants took place. At the beginning of the Holy Mass, the postulants beseeched His Holiness the Pope to declare the sainthood of the two Popes. Following a prayer to the Holy Spirit, Pope Francis read the Canonization Declaration. Then the relics of the newly proclaimed saints were carried in and deposited in the place designated for newly proclaimed saints.

Floribeth Mora of Costa Rica, healed through the intercession of St. John Paul II, carried in his relics, while a relative of Saint John XXIII carried his relics.



Pope Francis and the relics. (Photo: News.va English Facebook page)

"The newly pronounced saints drank fully to the end their chalice of human suffering in the last century. While Pope John XXIII stopped the Caribbean Crisis, when the world stood on the brink of an atom war, it was Pope John II who led humankind into the 3rd Millennium with a great hope that peace would reign in the world. It was he who was the person who could destroy various walls of the 20th century," related His Beatitude Sviatoslav in his comments on the canonizations of two Popes.

He believes that "this event has an important significance in the context of events in Ukraine, since the newly canonized saints were fighters for peace in the world and they will pray to God that Ukraine not suffer new aggression and that that human blood will never again be shed on our land."

Besides this, reminded UGCC Head, it is precisely thanks to Pope John XXIII that Patriarch Josyf Slipyj was released from his Siberian internment, and Pope John Paul II visited Ukraine: "These are two significant signs, that today Almighty God sends to the Ukrainian nation, in order to demonstrate that goodness and God's power are always victorious."

Press Service, Saint Sophia Association

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

Pope Francis: Regina coeli appeals for Ukraine, Afghanistan

2014-05-04

(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis appealed for peace in Ukraine on Sunday. Speaking to the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square for the midday Regina coeli prayer (which replaces the Angelus at Eastertide), The Holy Father said, "I would like to invite you to entrust to Our Lady the situation in Ukraine, where tensions continue unabated." The Holy Father went on to say, "I pray with you for the victims of recent days, asking that the Lord instill sentiments of peacemaking and brotherhood in the hearts of everyone."

Pope Francis also asked prayers for the victims of the massive landslide that killed more than 2 thousand people in an Afghan village near the border with Tajikistan on Friday of last week. "Let us pray also," he said, "for those who died because of the huge landslide that struck two days ago in a village in Afghanistan." Pope Francis went on to pray, "[May] Almighty God, who knows the name of every one of the victims, welcome all in His peace, and give survivors the strength to go forward, with the support of those who seek to alleviate their suffering."

<http://en.radiovaticana.va>

UGCC bishops urge to pray for Presidential elections

6 May 2014

Synod of UGCC published a letter, urging Ukrainians to "support actively these crucial elections, and faithfully take part in them." Presidential elections are scheduled on May 25.

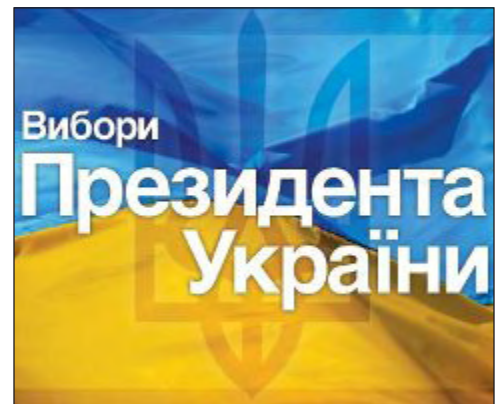
The hierarchy of the UGCC stresses, we need unity of all healthy forces of society and institutions more than ever.

They asked the candidates, their parties and representatives to "act honestly, transparently and responsibly, do not use loud, hollow and deceptive slogans but present a truthful program of necessary reforms in Ukraine.

UGCC bishops called all members of election commissions for "responsible and honest fulfillment their tasks not to become co-authors of fraud or manipulation of the will of citizens. "No one - neither in Ukraine nor globally - should have any doubts regarding the respect of democratic principles in future elections," - said the hierarchy of the UGCC.

Bishops offer clergy after every Liturgy to pray the prayer of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky for better fate for Ukraine and to pray daily for future elections. Letter was published by the UGCC Information Department .

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



UGCC Head arrived on a pastoral visit to Canada

Friday, 02 May 2014

The Father and Head of UGCC, His Beatitude Sviatoslav began his official visit to Canada on May 2, 2014. During his stay in Canada, UGCC Major Archbishop will visit the largest cities of the country (Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa) and Greek-Catholic parishes.

Also a visit is planned to the community of the Institute of Andrey (Sheptytsky), meetings with Greek-Catholic youth, catechists, wives of priests and the clergy. UGCC Head will also visit the Community of Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in Toronto, and will meet with Cardinal Thomas Christopher Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, members of the Ukrainian Catholic branch of the Knights of Columbus in Canada, and the Papal Nuncio. On each day of his visit he will hold a Pontifical Divine Liturgy in various Greek-Catholic parishes.

UGCC Head will conclude his visit to Canada on May 12, 2014.

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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.