

THE WAY ШЛЯХ

Official Publication of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

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JANUARY 25, 2015

ENGLISH VERSION

Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

PHILADELPHIA, PA — On Sunday, January 11, 2015 choirs from the Ukrainian Catholic, Ukrainian Orthodox, and Ukrainian Baptist churches joined together in presenting the eighth annual “Festival of Carols” at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia. A total of 17 musical organizations performed at the Festival. Towards the end of the Festival, a free-will collection was taken for the medical needs of the Ukrainian Army which totaled \$6,733. After the Festival, a reception was held at the Cathedral Cafeteria.



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka poses for a picture at the Festival of Carols.

**Watch videos from the Festival on our YouTube Channel at
<https://www.youtube.com/user/thewayukrainian>**

**See over 300 photos from the Festival on our
“Archeparchy of Philadelphia” Facebook page.**

Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

(Photos: Siwak/Bilyj)



Rev. Ivan Demkiv, Cathedral Rector, welcomes everyone to the Festival.



Ivan Shpylchak was the Master of Ceremony at the Festival of Carols.



The Cathedral was filled with performers and attendees.



Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

(Photos: Siwak/Bilyj)



Combined choir of Immaculate Conception Cathedral and St. Josaphat parish, Philadelphia, PA.
Director: Bohdan Henhalo



Youth Choir of Ukrainian Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA.
Director: Ivan Velenchuk



Choir of Annunciation of the BVM parish, Melrose Park, PA.
Directors: Lesya Penkalskyj, Irene Zwarych.

Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

(Photos: Siwak/Bilyj)



Children's Choir of Ukrainian Heritage School, Jenkintown, PA. Director: Halyna Bodnar



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka gives a standing ovation for the children after their performance.

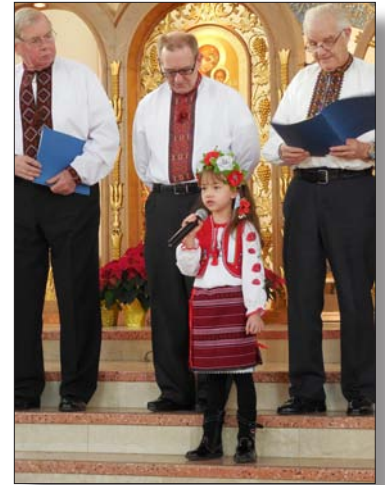
Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

(Photos: Siwak/Bilyj)



Choir of Saints Peter and Paul parish, Phoenixville, PA.

Director: Marusia Domchewska



Choir of St. Josaphat parish, Trenton, NJ.

Director: Roman Kuczarsky



Alexander Koshetz Choir of St. Volodymyr's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA.

Director: Karen Melnyk-Ferraro

Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

(Photos: Siwak/Bilyj)



Choir of St. Michael parish,
Jenkintown, PA.
Director: Maria Kaminska



Choir of St. Basil Academy,
Jenkintown, PA.
Director: Lesya Penkalskyj



Bells of St. Basil Academy,
Jenkintown, PA.
Director: Lesya Penkalskyj

Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

(Photos: Siwak/Bilyj)



Choir of the Assumption of the BVM Parish,
Perth Amboy, NJ
Director: Alla Korostyl



Male Choir "Dzvin",
Philadelphia, PA
Director: Nestor Kyzymyshyn



Choir of St. Michael parish,
Baltimore, MD
Director: Luba Semushchak

Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

(Photos: Siwak/Bilyj)



Leopolis Consort of the Ukrainian Music Institute of America (New York branch)
Director: Andriy Lehky



Bandura Duet "Berehynia"
Yulia Stupen and Halyna Bodnar



Choir "Living - SONG",
Washington, DC
Director: Oksana Lasovska

Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

(Photos: Siwak/Bilyj)



Chamber Choir "Accolade",
Philadelphia, PA
Director: Bohdan Henhalo



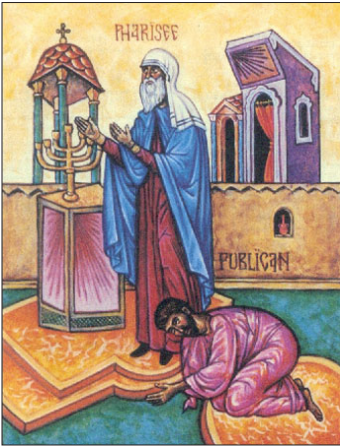
Metropolitan Stefan's Greeting



Combined Choir Finale



Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee - January 25, 2015



The Lord told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men - robbers, evildoers, adulterers - or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."(Lk. 18, 10-14)

Jesus Christ shared the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee with us to warn us of the great spiritual danger of arrogant self-confidence in our own righteousness, coupled with contempt for those whom we consider to be beneath us. In this way Jesus sought to protect us from the terrible spiritual sickness of Phariseism.

This disease of the soul first manifests itself as absolute confidence and trust in the rightness of our own point of view and judgment; it presupposes our personal superiority over others. And this twisted expression of self-confidence quickly degenerates into uncritical self-satisfaction and self-righteousness, into a kind of mindless self-admiration. It takes endless pleasure in the self, and in all that it does.

Let us look at the Pharisee in today's parable. He goes into the Temple of God to offer incense to his own self-idol. He proclaims his saintliness and enumerates his good works. He admires and praises himself. He, after all, is not like other people who are up to their necks in immorality and evil. In the midst of his supposed prayer he does not hesitate to spill the poisonous bile of his hatred for the Publican whom he sees praying off in a distant corner. With exaggerated self-satisfaction he refers to his careful fasting and his generous support of the temple. He is indeed, a fastidious observer of the law of the covenant.

And even though we feel repulsed by the attitude and behavior of the Pharisee, we need to be honest enough to admit to ourselves that there are more than a few times when we astonishingly resemble him. After all, who among us does not want others to think that we are better people than we actually are? Which one of us does not suffer from some lack of respect toward others? Is there even one of us who is very lenient in his judgment of others, and stern in his own self-criticism? I sincerely doubt it. Every one of us, more or less, has something of that Pharisee inside of us. Something of that self-adulation and righteousness. And so to protect ourselves from infection by this disease requires nothing less than constant struggle and vigilant effort on our part.

A truly Christian heart seeks to do what is just and right as a simple and natural expression of our responsibility as persons. But even then we understand that our good deeds do not reflect perfection and so should not be the cause of weaning pride on our part. That is why St. Vasilios, who devoted his entire life to the loving service of others wrote, "Even if we were somehow able to do absolutely everything that is required of us, we would still have to conclude that we are unworthy servants of the Lord. And this is

(continued on next page)

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

(continued from previous page)

because after having done all this, we will only have fulfilled our basic duty and obligation and nothing more.”

This condemnation of the smug self-satisfaction of the Pharisee, leads us to the justification of the Publican, who keenly feels and readily acknowledges his personal inadequacies. The Publican is admittedly burdened by a host of sins. But he is acutely aware of his sinfulness and spiritual poverty. And so he stands back, in the farthest corner of the temple. He does not dare to even lift his eyes toward heaven. With heavy sighs, he whispers his short prayer, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

His prayer is a request, a plea actually, that is filled with contrition. And this contrition, this acknowledgement and confession of personal imperfection, is nothing less than the very cornerstone of the entire spiritual life. And this is because it is inseparably bound with humility of the soul; and it is humility that allows divine grace to transfigure and sanctify our lives.

Perhaps the attitude that we need to acquire if we wish to offer prayer that is acceptable before God, is summed up in the words of Jesus himself who said to us, “Come to Me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and in Me you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.” Matt. 11:28. May we too approach the altar of God with that same gentleness of spirit, and that same humility of heart and soul.



A picture of the carolers from PLAST caroling for Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka at his residence on January 4, 2015.

A Christmas Celebration in Berwick, PA

SS. Cyril & Methodius Church in Berwick, PA celebrated the birth of Christ as a parish family on December 28, 2014.

Many members of the parish as well as parish supporters were present for this special celebration of GODS love for his people.

A delicious menu was prepared by the members of the parish Sacred Heart Society and others.

The photo to the right is of the workers who prepared and served the festive repast.



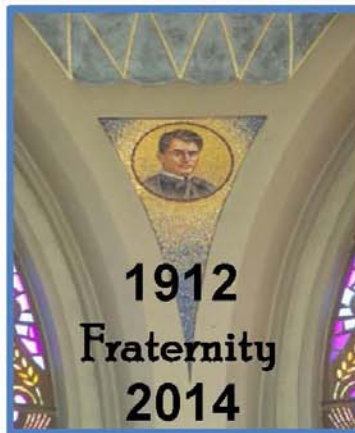
Photo left to right: Fr. John Seniw, Charity Klinefelter, Mary Ezyk, Janina Everett, Joan Serafin, Shirley Fowler, Linn Trapane, Joann Fedorco, Jack Musser and Judy Pypiak (Missing from photo: Barbara Nagy, Alice Starr and Marjorie Matash)

The Providence Association Of the Ukrainian Catholics in America

1-877-857-2284 (ext. 211)

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A picture of the Cathedral Choir & St. Josaphat's in Philadelphia caroling for Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka at his residence on January 11th.



OPEN HOUSE

Assumption Catholic School



will host an open house on Sunday, January 25, from 12-3 p.m. as part of its Catholic Schools Week celebrations. Founded in 1963, Assumption Catholic School brings the tradition of high-quality Catholic Education to the city of Perth Amboy, NJ.



Advanced accredited, the school provides a Christ-centered, Catholic environment to a diverse population of pre-kindergarten (age 4) through eighth-grade students. Before Care and After Care are available.

Light refreshments and school tours will be available for prospective students and their parents.

To receive more information about the school, call 1-732-826-8721 or visit www.assumptioncatholicschool.net



MYASOPUSNA 2015

A UKRAINIAN CULTURAL CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015
NOON TO 3:30 PM

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD CHURCH HALL
BLISS & CENTER STREET -- NANTICOKE



UKRAINIAN DANCE, MUSIC & SONG
Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble
St. Mary's Traditional Ukrainian Dancers
The Holy Year Choir, Dr. Richard Bamo, Director



DISPLAY, SALES, AND RAFFLE OF HANDCRAFTED UKRAINIAN ITEMS



PYSANKY, GERDANY (BEADWORK) EMBROIDERY, GIFT ITEMS



HOMEMADE UKRAINIAN DINNER
Haluptsi, Kovbasa, Varenyky (pyrohy), Kapusta, Black Bread/Butter, & Dessert (Borscht, Ukrainian and other beverages available for purchase)
Dinner Tickets—\$15. (the day of) \$12. in advance

Doors open at 12 noon; Dinner service begins with Otche Nash (Our Father) at 12:30, served 12:30 – 1:30 PM, followed by entertainment.

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

Happy Birthday Sr. Yosaphata!

All of us at Assumption Catholic School express a sincere Happy Birthday to Sister Yosaphata a Missionary Sister of the Mother of God, who just celebrated her 80th birthday. A long time teacher who dedicated her life to educating young people and now vice-Principal of the parish school, you also do many things behind the scenes for ACS. Please know that everything you have done over the years is appreciated.

As you serve the Lord with all your heart, and as His life shines through you to light the way for others, may you rejoice in knowing what a difference you are making in His kingdom. For the work, love and goodwill that you spread throughout the ACS and our parish community, we sincerely thank you and wish you many happy years of life.



Sister Bohdonna's Feast Day – December 27th

How fortunate you are, Sister Bohdonna, OSBM, to be connected to the two saints we celebrate this evening.

St. Stephen is your patron because you were baptized Stephanie, and in religion you are known as Bohdonna, another form of Theodore, "gift of God". We ask these two great and brave followers of Christ to fill you with their spirit while continuing to guide and protect you from day to day.

Someone recently sent me an email with some thought-provoking

sayings. My favorite is "It's better to walk alone, than with a crowd going in the wrong direction." This is a maxim you seem to follow, Sister; you don't allow age to dictate your behavior.

So on this, your umpteenth feast day, we say, hop on that scooter and enjoy our beautiful grounds.

Stay friends with your computer and continue your communication with the outside world.

Continue creating those pretty greeting cards that bring such pleasure.

Continue reminding your caregivers of the importance of being faithful to God.

Keep those politicians in line.

Discover a new element or planet.

There is still a lot of energy, curiosity and stamina in you, Sister Bohdonna, and you know that this is a gift of God.

And so today, Sister, during this joyful Christmastide, we ask God to bless you for using His gifts for His

honor and for others.

We thank you for remembering all of us on our feast days and birthdays.

We wish you a happy feast day and Mnohaya Lita!



SISTER MARINA HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Sister Marina Bochnewich, OSBM, retiring director of the Basilian Spirituality Center, Fox Chase Manor, PA, was honored Thursday, January 15, 2015, for her years of service to the Center.



In recognition of her contributions of researching and shaping the foundation of a center envisioned by the Basilian Provincial Chapter, that would offer an introduction to or expand knowledge of Eastern Christian spirituality and the Basilian tradition, Sisters and friends of the Center gathered at the Basilian Motherhouse for a celebratory dinner in honor of Sister Marina's leadership.

For the past eighteen years, Sister has led the planning of programs offered at the Center. These offerings have included days of retreat and reflection, workshops, seminars and lectures as well as the hosting of outside groups. Eastern theology and spirituality became the very core of this location.

"During this Year of Consecrated Life, we are reflecting on the life of one Sister—Sister Marina," said Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, Provincial Superior, "and thank her for the generous service she has offered as Director of the Basilian Spirituality Center. On behalf of those who have taken programs at the Center and the community of the Order of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great, I say thank you."

In her response, Sister Marina expressed her gratitude to God, her religious community and the Center's Advisory Board—Msgr. Peter Waslo, Rev. John Ciurpita, Sister Elizabeth Bertoldi, OSBM, Linda Donofrio and Mary and Edward Quinn, and the maintenance and culinary staffs whose services contributed to the success of the programs offered. "I learned more from you than you did from me."

A new Director, Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ, assisted by Dr. (Sister) Johanna Gedaka, SSJ, will assume the office in February. Sister Marina will continue to be involved in the Center through outreach to the parishes and other organizations as spiritual director, retreat director and through various offerings of workshops and programs.

The Sisters of Saint Basil extend an invitation to all to visit the Basilian Spirituality Center, a place for deepening oneself spiritually. For more information contact: Sister Charlene Diorka, Director, 215-379-3998, Ext.24

St. Mary's Coal Cracker Ball in Bristol, PA



Sunday, January 25, 2015
2026 Bath Rd, Bristol, PA 19007
\$25.00 per person BYOB
1 PM until 5 PM

Complete Ethnic Luncheon with dessert and beverage.
Dancing to "Denny'O and his Polka Band."
Door prizes, chances, 50/50.
Fun, Food, Good time, and Great Dancing.

Please contact Joan (215) 943-1216 or Linda (215) 945-6661 for tickets or information.

Non profit-fundraiser

A Festive Christmas Season at Hillside, NJ Parish

St. Nicholas greeted and inspired the children and parishioners of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hillside (Union County), NJ. The children honored St. Nicholas by presenting the following bilingual holiday entertainment program:

- Stone Soup Play (which teaches the lessons of sharing and helping others.)
- Carols on the Flute, Piano, Violin, Clarinet, Drums, Saxophone and Recorder.
- Singing with guitar accompaniment.
- A beautiful rendition of Silent Night (under the direction of Natalia Senyk)

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



St. Nicholas poses with the Hillside, NJ parish children and Parish Administrator Rev. Vasyl Vladyka.

On Sunday, December 27, 2014, the children and parishioners were inspired to travel to nearby Watchung, NJ to carol in Ukrainian and English to the retired Sisters of Mercy and clergy of McAuley Hall Center at Mount Saint Mary Academy. The children distributed home baked cookies and religious calendars to the attendees. A highlight of the afternoon for the sisters was when our parishioners mentioned names of Sisters of Mercy teachers they previously had at Mt. St. Mary Academy and Union Catholic High School. Afterwards, the parish caroling group of 17 children and adults traveled throughout Union, Somerset and Morris Counties to share the gift of koliady with parishioners at their homes.

Additional photos can be found on the parish website www.byzcath.org/ImmaculateConception and our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/pages/Immaculate-Conception-Ukrainian-Catholic-Church-Hillside-Union-County-NJ/1025029430856940?hc_location=timeline



The parish children, their families and friends sing Ukrainian and English koliady to the retired sisters and clergy at McAuley Hall Center in Watchung, NJ.



Retired Sisters of Mercy and clergy of Watchung, NJ join the Hillside, NJ parish children and their families singing Christmas carols.

JANUARY 25, 2015

New Year's Dance Zabava in Perth Amboy, NJ.



This year more than 250 people celebrated the New Year amongst friends and family at Assumption Parish in Perth Amboy, NJ. The beautifully decorated hall immediately put all the guests in a festive mood. The cheerfully decorated tables and melodic tones of the orchestra "Oberehy" contributed to the festivities. The parishioners/volunteers worked diligently for three days to make certain everything was ready. The high praise expressed by the guests attested to the quality of their work. There were also many complimentary words regarding the musicians, but, as always, the highest praise was reserved for the hardworking kitchen staff who prepared a truly sumptuous buffet.

The Zabava Committee of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary has decided to donate five thousand dollars from the profits of the New Year's Eve celebration to the fund in support of the Ukrainian army and for their medical needs. The donation was sent to the HUMANITARIAN AID FOR UKRAINE FUND created by +Stefan Soroka, Metropolitan-Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians.

Ukraine – we are with you! We pray for all those who suffer or perpetuate violence in Ukraine as we invoke the words of Psalm 29: *"May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!" (Psalm 29:11)*



News About St. Joseph's Adult Care Home

by Sr. Michele, SSMI

It is nearly three years now (September, 2011) since I came to *our* St. Joseph's Adult Care Home, here in Sloatsburg, I say "*our home*" because it is one of the few homes or buildings that we, Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, own in the United States. Though it is owned by the SSMI, it is fully mandated by the state of New York, as well as the local municipality.



I honestly did not know what to expect when I came to the home, though there are still times I still do not know what to expect when I get up in the morning – what will face me this day! The challenges have been humongous: fixing leaking pipes, filling empty rooms, understanding medical terminology, following state regulations, understanding the elderly and, basically, being available 24/7.

Today I look back with gratitude to not only to have survived, but to have, hopefully, made some difference in the lives of those faces I meet every morning. Hopefully, I have added a breath of fresh air to their lives by my presences among them. I know that if there is a cause for which to fight regarding the elderly, here at home or on the state steps of the state capital in Albany, I will be there yelling at the top of my lungs. Their cause is my cause!

What does the future hold? It holds much promise for us at St. Joseph's, as we will celebrate 75 years of offering loving care to the elderly we have been called to serve, in 2017. If there is any dream that I now have and hope others will share with me, it is to be able to continue that same loving care for years to come. The elderly will always be with us. That is a known and proven fact.

We will not only praise God for the 75 years we have been called to serve the elderly among us, but we will embark on renewing and promising to commit ourselves to tomorrow's elderly, by adding a new wing or addition to our existing home.

Soon, a major campaign will be underway to create additional first floor bedrooms with private baths, a spacious dining area, a doctor's office, and enclosed outdoor sitting garden, an expanded kitchen and much more to enhance the quality of life for everyone who calls St. Joseph's their home.

Our hope and prayer is that this dream of many will become a reality in 2017, when the Sisters Servants celebrate 75 years of committed loving care at St. Joseph's Home, not only to the Ukrainian community but all men and women, elderly and those nearing their elder years.

BASILIAN SISTERS BRING COMFORT TO THE SICK

In reply to the request of the chaplain at Fox Chase Cancer Center, the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great have resumed sewing crosses for distribution among patients.

Originally started four years ago under the direction of Sister Maria Nadia Barusewicz, OSBM, MD, (deceased) and at the request of the hospital chaplain, Sisters gathered to embroider the small crosses which then were picked up and distributed by the chaplain on his visits to the sick. The number at that time amounted to one thousand crosses.

Today, Sisters Judith, Paula and Theodora are carrying on the custom and since November, 2014, have completed three hundred.

Reports from those distributing the little keepsakes tell of their value to the recipients. The gift of the cross leads to comfortable interaction with the chaplain and consolation knowing others are in some way sharing their suffering. Patients undergoing medical treatment continue to carry them close to themselves and families treasure them as a source of consolation when the original bearers depart this life. Realizing that their efforts are bringing comfort to those who are ill and/or incapacitated brings comfort to the Sisters as well.



Photo (L-R): Sister Judith Piszyk, OSBM, Sister Paula Jacynyk, OSBM, Sister Theodora Kopyn, OSBM


Year of Consecrated Life

The Year of Consecrated Life declared by Pope Francis, began on November 30, 2014 and will end February 2, 2016. The theme for this special year is "Wake Up The World!" One of the many reasons for designating this year is to help people learn about the consecrated life of women and men religious.

On February 8, 2015 the Sisters Servants are hosting a Religious Open House.

This will include a 11am Liturgy celebrated by Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, tours of the Motherhouse and St. Joseph's Adult Care Home, and sharing of Vocation Stories and learning about Blessed Josaphata the foundress of the Sisters Servants.

For more information please visit the Sisters Servants website at <http://ssmi-us.org>



In celebration of the **Year of Consecrated Life**,
declared by Pope Francis,
the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate
cordially invite you to join us for an **Open House**
at our Motherhouse in Sloatsburg, NY
on February 8, 2015
from 11:00 – 4:00 pm

The Afternoon Includes:

11:00 am: Sunday Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's Villa – celebrated by
the Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM
Lunch will be served

1:00 – 2:15 pm: Tour of Motherhouse

2:15 – 2:45 pm: Sharing Vocation Stories

2:45 – 3:15 pm: A DVD about the life of Blessed Josaphata Hordashevska,
foundress, of the Sisters Servants

3:30 pm: Tour of St. Joseph's Adult Care Home

4:00 pm: Closing

If you would like to celebrate this day with us, please call 845-753-2840 or
e-mail: srkath25@gmail.com by February 2, 2015. You may come for some or all of
the events, but please contact us so that we can plan accordingly for the number of
people for Liturgy and Lunch.

FEBRUARY 2

The Encounter (Presentation) of Our Lord in the Temple



Now, Master, You can dismiss Your servant in peace; You have fulfilled Your word. For my eyes have witnessed Your saving deed, displayed for all peoples to see: A revealing Light to the Gentiles, the Glory of Your people, Israel. (Lk. 2: 29-32)

This is the hymn which Simeon uttered when he received the Child Jesus in his arms in the temple. He had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he beheld the "Anointed of the Lord." (Lk. 2: 26) The Icon of the Encounter of Our Lord is a pictorial rendering of this Gospel event.

The event takes place in the Temple of Jerusalem, in front of the gate of the altar. Immediately flanking the gates are, on the right, the aged Prophet Simeon holding the Christ Child in his covered arms; and, on the left, a small group including the Mother of God, the Holy Joseph, and the Prophetess Anna. Simeon is the most important person in the Icon. In the imagery of this event, he represents all that was good, all that was God-seeking in the Old Testament community. Encountering the Incarnate Word of God present in the Infant Jesus, the Old Testament people -personified by Simeon- reached their fulfillment. Thus completed, it can recognize the dawn of a new age, the Age of Redemption, and see the close of its own era.

The Icon shows the Infant Jesus seated in the arms of St. Simeon as if on a throne. Simeon's hands are covered with his garment as a sign of reverence. Jesus is clothed in a short robe or tunic. The Mother of God is depicted with her left hand covered in a gesture of offering, having just given her Son to Simeon. Next to her is Joseph, carrying in the folds of his cloak the sacrifices of purification as prescribed for the poor in the Book of Leviticus: "two turtle doves or two young pigeons; one for holocaust and the other for a sin offering." (Lev. 12: 8) The last figure is the image of the Prophetess Anna, also introduced in the Gospel of St. Luke (2: 36-38) announcing to all creation that the Child to Whom she is pointing, now presented in the Temple, is the Creator of Heaven and of Earth. For us, the Icon is a call to discover Christ, to meet Him, and accept Him as our Lord and Savior.

A Reflection by Pope Benedict XVI

The Encounter between Chaos and Light

In everyday modern life we are hardly aware that on February 2nd we celebrate an ancient feast, common to the Church of both East and West, which used to have a great significance in the rural calendar: Candlemas. Tributaries from many historical sources have flowed together into this feast, with the result that it sparkles with many colors. Its immediate reference is to the event when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem forty days after his birth to perform the prescribed sacrifice of purification.

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The Encounter (Presentation) of Our Lord in the Temple

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The liturgy focuses mainly on one detail of Luke's portrayal: the meeting between the Child Jesus and the aged Simeon. Thus in the Greek-speaking world the feast was called HYPAPANTI (the encounter). In this juxtaposition of the Child and the old man, the Church sees the encounter between the passing heathen world and the new beginning in Christ, between the fading age of the Old Covenant and the new era of the Church of all nations.

What this expresses is more than the eternal recurrence of death and becoming; it is more than the consoling thought that the passing of one generation is always succeeded by a new one with new ideas and hopes. If that were all, this Child would not represent a hope for Simeon but only for himself. But it is more: it is hope for everyone, because it is a hope transcending death.

This brings us to a second aspect of this day which the liturgy illuminates. It takes up the words of Simeon when he calls this Child "a light to enlighten the Gentiles". Accordingly this day was made into a feast of candles. The warm candlelight is meant to be a tangible reminder of that greater light which, for and beyond all time, radiates from the figure of Jesus. In Rome this candlelit procession supplanted a rowdy, desolate carnival, the so-called Amburbale, which had survived from paganism right into Christian times. The pagan procession had magical features: it was supposed to effect the purification of the city and the repelling of evil powers. To remind people of this, the Christian procession was originally celebrated in black vestments and then in purple--until the Council's liturgical reform. Thus the element of encounter, again, was evident in this procession:

the pagan world's wild cry for purification, liberation, deliverance from dark powers, meets the "light to enlighten the Gentiles", the mild and humble light of Jesus Christ. The failing (and yet still active) aeon of a foul, chaotic, enslaved and enslaving world encounters the purifying power of the Christian message.

It reminds me of something the playwright Eugene Ionesco wrote. As the inventor of the Theatre of the Absurd, he articulated the cry of an absurd world and was increasingly aware that it was a cry for God. "History", he said recently, "is a process of corruption, it is chaotic, unless it is oriented to the supernatural." The candle-lit procession in black garments, the symbolic encounter between chaos and light which it represents, should remind us of this truth and give us courage to see the supernatural, not as a waste of time, distracting us from the business of ameliorating the world, but as the only way in which meaning can be brought to bear on the chaotic side of life.



Photo of Fr. Paul Makar blessing candles on the Feast of the Encounter (Presentation) of Our Lord in the Temple. (Archived photo)

--Pope Benedict XVI

Shamokin Sunday School Students Spread Christmas Cheer

Sunday School students of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shamokin, PA were busy making Christmas Cards for the homebound and nursing home parishioners of the Parish. School teachers: Sr. Natalya, Sr. Zenovia, Ms. Anna and Ms. Renee helped children to make a beautiful cards.



Students created approximately 30 Christmas Cards of their own design which were given to the homebound by the parish choir as they visited private homes and nursing homes singing Christmas carols.

METROPOLITAN STEFAN'S SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY, 2015

JANUARY

- 4 RECEIVED CAROLERS FROM PLAST UKRAINIAN SCOUTING ORGANIZATION.
- 6 DIVINE LITURGY AND WATER BLESSING AT UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PHILADELPHIA.
- 7 CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGY AT ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, JENKINTOWN, PA.
- 8 CLERGY FAMILY GATHERING AT BISHOP'S RESIDENCE.
RECEIVED "PROMETHEUS" CHOIR CAROLERS.
- 9 VISIT TO ST. ANTHONY OF PADRA RC CHURCH, READING, PA TO REVIEW PROPERTY.
- 11 RECEIVED CAROLERS OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF PHILADELPHIA.
FESTIVAL OF UKRAINIAN CAROLS, UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.
- 12 MEETING OF ARCHIEPARCHIAL SOBOR COMMITTEE
- 13 MEETING OF "UNDER THE GOLDEN DOME CATHEDRAL" COMMITTEE.
- 15 RECEIVE VERY REV. JOSEPH SZUPA, CHANCELLOR.
MEETING WITH CAPTAIN BRANVILLE BARD, COMMANDING OFFICER OF FORENSIC SCIENCE UNITE (NEXT TO CATHEDRAL).
- 17-31 ABSENCE FOR HOLIDAY.

In Kyiv the “Rizdviana Prosfora”, Christmas Leaven Bread, with the Patriarch, takes place

Sunday, 11 January 2015 Kyiv.

On January 10 in the capital of Ukraine, the Annual Christmas Leaven Bread with the Patriarch took place. The Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, was visited by guests and carolers who also became familiar with plans for completing the furnishings of the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ.

The evening was led by the former Minister of Culture, Yevhen Nyshchuk. The Christmas atmosphere was created by the numerous choirs and collectives, both children and adult.

Among the guests was: Apostolic Nuncio Thomas Edward Gullickson, Ukraine’s Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk with his wife and daughter, Mr. Ivan Vasiunyk with his family, Mr. Petro Tokach with his wife, Bishop Bohdan Dziurakh, Bishop Joseph Milian, Bishop Vasyl Tuchanets, numerous national deputies, cultural and community activists, entrepreneurs and active UGCC parishioners in

In his welcoming words, His Beatitude Sviatoslav mentioned that always when the family gathers around the Christmas Eve dinner, they first thank the Lord that he permitted them to live to this year and this Feast day of the Nativity. He permitted us to experience this Christmas Joy. In beginning the Christmas Eve supper, we also remember all those who passed away during the past year. We also remember those, who perhaps do not have a festive table at which to dine and do not have those with whom to share the joy. However, in this year, we realized many new things and we discovered a lot for ourselves.

The Head of the Church reminded the guests that traditionally for the Patriarchal Christmas Leaven Bread, it is the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ which gathers us. “I think, that this year for the first time we realized in a new manner what this Patriarchal Cathedral on the left bank of Kyiv means not only for us, but for all the Ukrainian people,” he noted.

The host related that in the history of God’s people, patriarchs always built offering altars to the God of Israel as a sign of some very important event, as a sign of some special moment of a meeting with God.

The offering places were always a visible sign of the union between God and His people. “Perhaps,” said his Beatitude Sviatoslav, “last year, as never before, we realized that this Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ is a visible sign of a renewed union between the Ukrainian people and our God. The Cathedral which we blessed remembering the 1025-th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus-Ukraine. It is exactly this year when all the allies of Ukraine, all those, who guaranteed our safety and the permanence of our borders, they all betrayed us. And the only ally with whom we renewed our union, by blessing this Cathedral, remained with us. That is our God. And this cathedral stands as a sign of the permanent union, a testament between us and our God, who is always with us.”

The Church Head remembered how the



Patriarchal Cathedral became for many the father’s home. In its basement every night close to 800 people spent the night during the revolution of Dignity.

One other characteristic which the Cathedral discovered -- is what it became for our neighbors, for Kyiv. UGCC Head remembered how several hundred people, even those who were not UGCC faithful, gathered to protect the Cathedral from thugs.

“Today we will ask that God blesses all of us. He assures his assistance to us and his presence among us. The Cathedral is a sign that He is with us,” said the Prelate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.

UGCC Department of Information

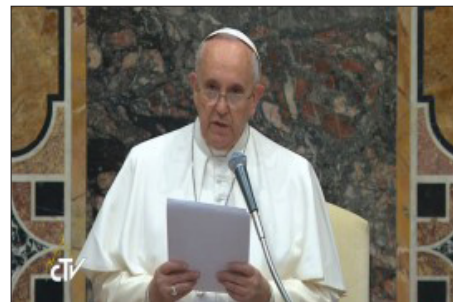
Adapted from an article on <http://news.ugcc.ua>

Pope Francis: Ukraine becomes a dramatic theater of war

13 January 2015

January 12 held a traditional New Year's meeting with Pope Francis heads of diplomatic missions of foreign states and international organizations accredited to the Vatican.

In this regard, the pontiff delivered a speech, which was dedicated to Vatican diplomatic activities, major international events of the past year and the challenges the international community is facing on the eve of 2015. During the speech, the Pope specially mentioned the situation in Ukraine, as reported by Ukraine's Embassy to the Holy See (Vatican) website.



He said that "endless conflicts are, in fact, a true and real world war being waged partially throughout the world, and, first of all, in Ukraine, which is close to us, which became the dramatic theater of operations. I hope that through dialogue, the efforts to end the hostilities will be consolidated and that the parties concerned will follow the path of mutual trust and fraternal reconciliation to end the current crisis as soon as possible, in a spirit of respect for international law."

<http://risu.org.ua>

His Beatitude Sviatoslav condemns the terrorist act near Volnovakha

15 January 2015

In the name of God I strongly condemn the terrorist attack near the city of Volnovakha, as a result of which 12 civilians, including women and children, were killed and 16 people sustained injuries.

Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church Patriarch Sviatoslav was reported as saying this during the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the Church of St. Basil the Great in Kyiv.

"I emphatically condemn those terrorists who committed this sin of Cain. For today the blood of these innocent victims cries out unto God. In the name of God I condemn all those who put guns in the hands of criminals and direct their murderous hands," said the head of the UGCC.

Patriarch appealed to the global community, state, political and religious leaders to unite with Ukraine in the fight against terrorism. "As the last week the world united with French nation, condemning the assassination in Paris, today we are asking for the same solidarity with the pain and grief of Ukrainian people," said the Primate.

"I ask all people of good will do everything to stop the murderous hand that has shed blood today in Ukraine," called the Head of Church, according to the Information Department of the UGCC.

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

“Tell those, who are at the forefront and protect our Ukraine that we early in the morning, at night and during the day pray for them ...” - His Beatitude Sviatoslav told volunteers and chaplains

Friday, 16 January 2015

On 15 January, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the Head and the Father of the UGCC in Kiev near the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ blessed volunteers and chaplains who drove all the necessary things for the military in the ATO area.

There are warm clothes (uniform), army boots, food and more. In addition, soldiers will be amused with Good News by the theatre “Prytcha” (“Parable”), whose members also went to the ATO area.



“Tell those, who are at the forefront and protect our Ukraine that we early in the morning, at night and during the day pray for them. The prayer of the UGCC, especially here in Kyiv, is continuous. Also extend greetings to our chaplains who accomplish their ministry there. And I wish you a safe trip and successful fulfilment of the mission. I want to thank all the volunteers who collected money and bought the necessary things” – marked the Head of the Church.



As you know, things were bought by the Pastoral Care Department of the power structure of the Patriarchal Curia of the UGCC with the help of the volunteers of Kyiv and individual donors.

UGCC Department of Information

<http://news.ugcc.ua>

Priest chaplain got wounded in the battles near Debaltseve

20 January 2015

Priest-chaplain of the Greek Catholic Church Ivan Isaievych was wounded during shelling near Debaltseve. Now he is in hospital.

As reported by Zakarpattia-online website, soldiers of the 128th Mountain Infantry Brigade arranged a chapel in their headquarters near Debaltsevo. Father Ivan, a priest from Transcarpathian region, who had performed his ministry for military servicemen at the forefront for five months, was appointed church rector.

<http://risu.org.ua>



February 2015 - Лютий 2015

Happy Birthday!

З Днем народження!

February 1: Rev. Roman Pitula
February 3: Rev. Evhen Moniuk
February 6: Rev. Robert Hitchens
February 16: Rev. Mr. Donald Latrick
February 19: Very Rev. Archpr. John M. Fields
February 22: Rev. Uriy Markewych
February 26: Rev. T. Frank Patrylak
February 26: Rev. Myron Myronyuk
February 28: Rev. Ivan Turyk

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

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



Congratulations on your Anniversary of Priesthood!

Вітаємо з Річницею Священства!

February 12: Rev. Ivan Demkiv
(23rd Anniversary)
February 14: Bishop John Bura
(44th Anniversary)
February 27: Rev. Mr. Theodore Spotts
(15th 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!

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