

# THE WAY ШЛЯХ

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ENGLISH VERSION

## Faithful to be Anointed with Holy Oil of Healing on Sunday, Mar. 22 at the Golden Domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Philadelphia



**Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, CSsR**

On Sunday, March 22, at 4 p.m., a special healing service will be held at the golden-domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 830 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia, Pa. The healing service will be part of the moleben prayer service with the relics of Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charetsky, C.Ss.R., at which time a special icon of this martyr of the church will be blessed.

During the service the faithful will be anointed with the holy oil of healing. Blessed Bishop-Martyr Charnetsky, known as “the healer of souls” was beatified by St. John Paul II on June 27, 2001 in Lviv, Ukraine. Many personal testimonies are recorded of miraculous healings through his intercession. All the faithful are invited and encouraged to attend these services and to bring their intentions for healing through the intercession of Blessed Bishop Mykola.

The anointing with holy oil, also called holy unction, provides both physical and spiritual healing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The oil carries God’s grace both to renew the body and to cleanse the spirit. There are many references to anointing with oil in the Sacred Scriptures. In the New Testament, the Epistle of James specifically advises “Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.” (James 5:14-15).

Holy unction is a mystery of great comfort to the faithful. This is an opportunity for all the faithful to receive the grace and blessings through the anointing with the oil of healing for their physical and spiritual ailments.

### Highlights inside this issue:

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- Encounter Of Ukrainian Orthodox & Ukrainian Catholic Bishops - pg. 11**
- Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav for Lent 2015 - pg. 21**

## What does Holy Scripture teach about relics?

Scripture teaches that God acts through relics, especially in terms of healing. In fact, when surveying what Scripture has to say about sacred relics, one is left with the idea that healing is what relics “do.”

*When the corpse of a man was touched to the bones of the prophet Elisha the man came back to life and rose to his feet (2 Kings 13:20-21).*

*A woman was healed of her hemorrhage simply by touching the hem of Jesus’ cloak (Matthew 9:20-22).*

*The signs and wonders worked by the Apostles*

*were so great that people would line the streets with the sick so that when Peter walked by at least his shadow might ‘touch’ them (Acts 5:12-15).*

*When handkerchiefs or aprons that had been touched to Paul were applied to the sick, the people were healed and evil spirits were driven out of them (Acts 19:11-12).*

In each of these instances God has brought about a healing using a material object. The vehicle for the healing was the touching of that object. It is very important to note, however, that the cause of the healing is God;

the relics are a means through which He acts. In other words, relics are not magic. They do not contain a power that is their own; a power separate from God. Any good that comes about through a relic is God’s doing. But the fact that God chooses to use the relics of saints to work healing and miracles tells us that He wants to draw our attention to the saints as “models and intercessors” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 828). *(from Treasures of the Home website)*

With the moleben with the relic and icon of the Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, “the healer of souls,” in the



golden domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, March 22, 2015, at 4 p.m. the faithful will have an opportunity to receive the blessings of this act of pious devotion and veneration, as well as the blessings of healing through the anointing and through their intercessory prayers to Bishop Mykola.

## What is the present church teaching on the veneration of relics?

When Pope St. John Paul II, promulgated the Code of Canons for the Eastern Churches on October 18, 1990, the Code included an entire section of law entitled “Veneration of the Saints,

of Sacred Images and Relics.”

The principal teaching is expressed as follows: “To foster the sanctification of the people of God the Church recommends to the special and filial veneration of the Christian faithful the Holy Mary ever Virgin, the Mother of God, whom Christ established as the Mother of the human race; it also promotes true and authentic devotion to the other

saints by whose example the Christian faithful are edified and through whose intercession they are sustained.” (CCEO 884)

Additional canons encourage the veneration of those servants of God listed among the Saints or the blessed and the practice of displaying sacred icons in churches for the veneration of the Christian faithful.

With the moleben with the relic and icon of the

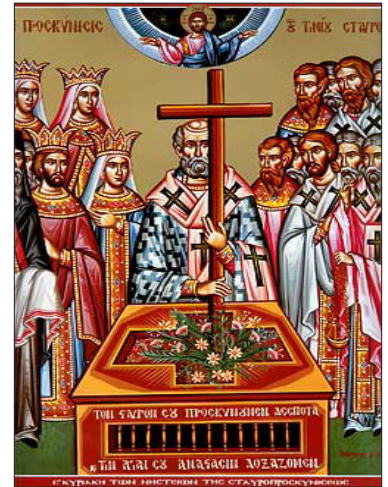
Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, “the healer of souls,” in the golden domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, March 22, 2015, at 4 p.m. the faithful will have an opportunity to receive the blessings of this act of pious devotion and veneration, as well as the blessings of healing through the anointing and through their intercessory prayers to Bishop Mykola.



# Third Sunday of the Great Lent – Veneration of the Cross

## March 8, 2015

*The Lord said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." And he said to them, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power." (Mk. 8, 34 – 9, 1)*



On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Eastern Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

### Historical Background

The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers "planted" on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the

glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts

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# Veneration of the Cross

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us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of

His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the

ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam's gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross,

we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal.

## Icon of the Veneration of the Cross

The most common icon associated with the Veneration of the Cross is the same icon used on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on September 14. In the icon, Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. On each side of the Patriarch are deacons holding candles. The elevated Cross is surrounded

and venerated by many clergy and lay people, including Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine.

In the background of the icon is a domed structure that represents the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. This church was one of the churches constructed and dedicated by Emperor Constantine on the holy sites of Jerusalem.



## Students Visit the Cathedral and Museum

Students from Arcadia University visited the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the Treasury of Faith Museum in Philadelphia on Friday, Feb. 13, 2015.

Father Walter Pasicznyk gave a tour of the Cathedral and the Missionary Sisters of Mother of God gave a tour of the Museum.



# Knights of Columbus Gives \$400,000 for Humanitarian Aid in Ukraine

2/26/2015

## Aid will be distributed by Catholic Church in violence-torn country

As the violent conflict in Ukraine continues to create an enormous humanitarian disaster in the freezing winter months, the Knights of Columbus is providing \$400,000 to relief programs sponsored by the Catholic Church in Ukraine.

Gifts by the Knights of \$200,000 each to the Greek and Latin Rite Catholic communities of Ukraine are being used for humanitarian relief, including projects that feed and aid homeless children and refugees living on the streets of the capital city of Kiev.



During their ad limina visit with Pope Francis on Feb. 20, the pope assured the Latin and Greek bishops of Ukraine that “the Holy See is at your side,” and urged them “to be attentive and considerate to the poor.” The Knights of Columbus gifts have been sent to Ukrainian Greek Catholic Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk and Roman Catholic Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki.

“Too often, the conflict in Ukraine is discussed purely in military or geopolitical terms, while the most vulnerable and marginalized — the young and old, the poor, the sick, and the increasing number of refugee families — are almost invisible to the outside world,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “Our support is meant to further enable the bishops of Ukraine as they help their people and further implement the Holy Father’s call to aid those most in need.”

Working in the midst of uncertainty, many of the Catholic efforts are designed to help provide a social safety net for the needy, especially orphans and children who are separated from their parents.

The programs attempt to carry out in a practical way the spiritual message of Pope Francis. Speaking about the care of migrant and itinerant people, he said: “Let us not forget the flesh of Christ, which is in the flesh of refugees: their flesh is the flesh of Christ.”



The Knights of Columbus began working in Ukraine at the invitation of Church leadership in 2005. A formal presence was established in 2013, and the organization has so far established seven councils with 300 members in the country.

<http://www.kofc.org/un/en/news/releases/detail/kofc-gives-humanitarian-aid-ukraine.html>

# Faithful gather together in Passaic, NJ for Archdiocesan Women's Day

On March 1, 2015, a Women's Day was held at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic, NJ sponsored by the Archeparchy of Philadelphia as well as the Sisters Servants, the Missionary Sisters, the Missionary Sisters and the Sisters of St. Basil. Sr. Natalya, SSMI was the presenter for the program. The theme was "Faith and Family." She provided a Faith and the Family idea booklet for crafts to do as a family and also a closing prayer. There were approximately 84 women, including sisters, in attendance. It was a good spiritual experience for the women.

See more photos from Women's Day in Passaic in the photo gallery of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate website at <http://ssmi-us.org>



**Sr. Natalya, SSMI**



# Sisters Servants New Ministry in the South Anthracite Deanery; Following in the Footsteps of Our Pioneer Sisters

By: Sr. Natalya, SSMI

In August, Sister Zenovia and I arrived in Minersville, Pa. to begin a new ministry or it may be better described as a revisioning of an old ministry. We are working in the parishes of the South Anthracite Deanery.

It is an old ministry because teaching catechism, mostly in the evenings, was the way that our pioneer sisters began their work so many years ago; we are simply following in their footsteps.

It is revisioned, though, because today we are working with pastors of the Deanery to try to help them to serve other needs within their parishes, as well.

We are following the example of our pioneer sisters by trying to go where the need is the greatest.

These last few months have been both a gift and a challenge. We have done many things and have been warmly welcomed by the pastors and parishioners alike and have tried to be there for our people as

much as possible.

What is it that we do? Let us share our schedule with you.

At St. Nicholas School, Sister Zenovia teaches Religion to grades K through 3 every day and I work with the Junior Girls Sodality and the student choir. Before Christmas, the Sodality joined us in making cookies for the parish shut-ins. They came to the convent after school for 2 days and made and decorated at least 20 dozen cookies.

We coordinate and teach in the catechetical programs at St. Nicholas parish in Minersville, and Transfiguration of Our Lord parish in Shamokin. I facilitate an adult catechism/discussion group at Ss. Peter and Paul parish in Mt. Carmel, and have done presentations to the weekly prayer/bible study group at St. Michael's parish in Shenandoah.

We are at a different parish every day of the week, from Sunday through Wednesday evening. We also try to



**Sr. Natalya makes cookies with the children**



**Sister Zenovia teaches Religion Class**



**Sister Natalya facilitates an Adult Catechism/Discussion Group**

attend as many parish events throughout the Deanery as our schedule allows.

In addition, Sister Zenovia visits residents in a nursing

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# Sisters Servants New Ministry in the South Anthracite Deanery; Following in the Footsteps of Our Pioneer Sisters

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home in Shenandoah every Thursday afternoon and has recently begun visiting some shut-ins in Minersville.

I go to a nursing home in Minersville to sing with the residents during the monthly Divine Liturgy, and have helped with pyrohy-making in Marion Heights, Shamokin and Shenandoah and spent an afternoon helping to make sticky buns in Mt. Carmel. This is helping me to enhance my kitchen skills and, thankfully, the ladies have been very patient and encouraging. And, they keep inviting me back!

I was asked to write a monthly newsletter for the Deanery youth and have written 4 issues thus far. The newsletter is now being sent to all the parishes in the Archeparchy for their use.

I continue to serve as editor of The Sower, the eparchial newspaper for the Stamford Eparchy.

I have been asked to give presentations in other parishes of the Deanery and Sister Zenovia will be visiting more of the homebound parishioners,

but these schedules are not yet set.

This new ministry has been an ambitious project with a challenging schedule, but the rewards have been truly amazing.

We have been invited and welcomed into every parish we visit. Parishioners and clergy have been supportive and loving. We continue to be invited to parish events and feel adopted by every parish, not just in the Deanery, but also by the Roman Catholic parishes and the Ruthenian parishes. This alone makes our new ministry a gift and gives us the desire to be there even more.

In November, we were given the very special privilege to travel to



parishes in this deanery, in the North Anthracite Deanery and to several of the Ruthenian parishes in the area with the Blessed Josaphata icon. Introducing Blessed Josaphata to the people in 20 parishes and 2 schools (one being Roman Catholic) has continued to bless our ministry and us.

This is an exciting ministry that provides us

with many opportunities to work with people of every age group. It is a special gift and opportunity given to us by God. We are grateful to the people of the area for so graciously allowing us into their parishes and into their lives.

We count on the help of our Blessed Josaphata as we continue her work, here in the South Anthracite Deanery.



**Fr. Mark Fesniak, Sr. Zenovia, and a volunteer help the children paint pumpkins.**



## Memorial Service held for the victims of the Revolution of Dignity.

On Sunday February 22, 2015, despite bad weather, parishioners of the Assumption Church in Perth Amboy, NJ gathered to commemorate the heroes of Heavenly Hundred who sacrificed their lives in the course of the Revolution of Dignity. A special candlelight service dedicated to the Heavenly Hundred was held after the Liturgy.



## St. Nicholas School Students Place in Top 10% Nationally

Congratulations are extended to all 8th grade students at St. Nicholas parish school in Passaic, NJ. All students in the 8th grade class scored in the 90th percentile or above nationally in the following subjects: Math, Language Arts or Reading.

This means that 89% of St. Nicholas School graduates for this year have scored in the 90th percentile (or above), placing them in the top 10% of all students who took the nationwide COOP exam. Fr. Andriy Dudkevych, pastor, Sr. Eliane Ilnitski, SSMI, principal, and the parishioners of St. Nicholas celebrate this achievement with the students, their teachers – past and present - and their parents for their dedication, hard work, and spiritual determination to achieve this goal.



This achievement is a shining example of how a catholic school education coupled with dedicated parents and teachers, and motivated students can set a solid foundation for future success. Students, we are so proud of you! May God continue to bless you in all your endeavors!

## Mt. Carmel , Pa. Parish Sponsors Pysanky Making Classes



**MT. CARMEL, PA.** —Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church has been sponsoring classes on the Ukrainian folk art of decorating Easter eggs, known as pysanky, during the Lenten season. The classes began on Thursday, February 19 and are continuing each Thursday until March 26. The sessions are held in the parish social hall.

Rose Demsko of Ranshaw, a renowned expert and accomplished artist, teaches these classes. The pysanky classes are free of charge and open to everyone and all age groups. However, children under 10 must be accompanied by a parent. Attendees are required to bring along two uncooked eggs. All other supplies are provided by the instructor.



**Rev. Michael Hutsko observes the Pysanky Making Class**

The art of pysanky utilizes a batik method of decorating the eggs. The process is simple, but requires a steady hand. The egg designs are drawn with beeswax by use of a stylus (kistka) on the egg. The egg is then dipped in the dyes, beginning with the lightest colors, usually yellow. Additional designs are then drawn with wax on the egg and it is dipped in a darker color, such as orange or red. The process is repeated several times. By the time of the last dipping, the egg is completely covered with beeswax. When the wax is removed over a candle with a soft cloth, the once white egg, emerges from under the wax with the beauty of the intricate geometric designs in a rainbow of color that is now a Ukrainian pysanky--the decorated Easter egg.



## South Anthracite Deanery Lenten Confession Schedule

During the Great Fast, the priests of the South Anthracite Deanery visit neighboring churches to offer the Holy Mystery of Penance. It provides an excellent opportunity for the faithful to receive the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation as they spiritually prepare for the celebration of Pascha.

The following is the visiting priests' confession schedule for the parishes of the South Anthracite Deanery. Confessions will be heard on the listed dates from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Monday, March 16	St. Mary-Centralia Ss. Peter & Paul-Mt. Carmel St. Mary-Middleport Transfiguration of Our Lord-Shamokin
Tuesday, March 17	St. John-Maizeville St. Mary-Marion Heights St. Nicholas-Minersville St. Michael-Shenandoah
Thursday, March 19	St. Michael-Frackville St. Michael-Hazleton St. Mary-McAdoo St. Nicholas-St. Clair

## "Baked Haddock" Fish Dinner

Church members of SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA., gather to promote upcoming Fund Raiser for the Church called "Meatless Meal for Lent" Baked Haddock Fish Dinner on Friday, March 27, 2015 being held at the Regal Room in Olyphant, PA. Call 580-383-9487 for reservations.



**(Photo) Left to Right: Brian Radle, Julia Yurkovic, Thomas Radle and Jordan Radle (2nd Row) John Radle, Kathy Radle, David Slachtish, Marie Slachtish (Last Row) Patrick Marcinko.**

## ENCOUNTER OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX & UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS

A fraternal encounter of the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches of North America was held from March 3-5, 2015 in Clearwater, FL. It was the first such meeting in three years. The hierarchs held discussions and exchanged information on topics of common concern ranging from liturgical, pastoral, doctrinal and administrative matters. Much time was spent in discussing the current situation in Ukraine and how our Churches in the diaspora can more effectively provide for the spiritual and materials needs of our suffering Ukrainian people. At the conclusion of this year's encounter the hierarchs agreed to meet again next spring in Winnipeg, Canada.



## NEW MEMBER ENTERS BASILIAN ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

One in Spirit, One in the Lord is the motto of the Lay Associate Program founded by the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great in 1991. The program sponsored by the Jesus Lover of Humanity Province includes members in the Philadelphia Archeparchy and Ohio Eparchy.

On Tuesday, February 24, 2015, Thomas M. Verni, upon completion of a year's candidacy, announced his desire for full membership in the program. During the evening vespers service in the Basilian Motherhouse Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity, Mr. Verni, a St. Basil Academy faculty member, expressed before the assembled Sisters and Associates, his desire to enter into the covenant relationship with the Sisters and to share in the spiritual benefits offered by that association. The Sisters responded with their promise of support and encouragement, the sharing of spiritual benefits and participation in their religious and professional activities. Mr. Verni then signed his commitment and received the lapel pin identifying him as a Basilian Lay Associate.

Associate members Kathy Grace, Mary Quinn,

Helen Reiche, Danuta Sawicky and Margaret Sykes then renewed their commitment and the Sisters responded in kind. All present sang the Jesus Prayer accompanied by Margaret Sykes on the flute. (Unable to attend were members Jean Chromczak and Kathy and Joseph Notarfrancesco).

"Tom, you have been gifted by God in numerous ways, not only intellectually, but also with a generous and giving heart that shows in the countless ways that you minister to others," said Provincial Superior Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM. "We congratulate you on this occasion and wish you many happy years. And to all the Associates -One in Spirit--You are an inspiration to us as you seek to minister with us and share in the life of prayer/community of the Sisters...I congratulate you on your dedication and continued desire to be of service to the Church, to the Basilian community and to one another."

The office of vespers continued followed by a celebratory dinner in the Sisters' dining room.



**Photo Caption: (Front Row) Sister Rita Stremba, OSBM, Kathy Grace, Helen Reiche, Danuta Sawicky, Sister Laura Palka, OSBM, Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, (Back Row) Sister Germaine Senita, OSBM, Margaret Sykes, Mary Quinn, Thomas M Verni**

The Basilian Associate Program offers the laity an opportunity to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and to come together with other adult Christians to engage in the mission and spirit of the Basilian Sisters. To learn more about this program, please contact:

### **PHILADELPHIA, PA ARCHEPARCHY—**

Sister Rita Stremba,  
OSBM  
srrita@stbasilacademy.  
org

### **PARMA, OH EPARCHY—**

Sister Olga Marie Faryna,  
OSBM  
OMFaryna@aol.com

*Since 1911 the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great have served in the United States. The Sisters strive to be a Praying, Healing, Life-Giving Presence in every community they minister, especially in the field of education. Their Motherhouse is in Fox Chase Manor, Pennsylvania, which is just outside Philadelphia. The Sisters can be reached by email at province@stbasils.com by telephone at 215-379-3998 and by mail at 710 Fox Chase Road, Fox Chase Manor, PA 19046. Their website is www.stbasils.com*

## BASILIAN SPIRITUALITY CENTER WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

The Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great announce the appointment of a new director of the Basilian Spirituality Center, Fox Chase Manor, PA. Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia, has assumed the office of Director formerly held by Sister Marina Bochnewich, OSBM.

An experienced educator on both the elementary and secondary levels, Sister Charlene credits that experience as being “foundational to everything I do because it has taught me how to envision and plan, to prepare and present, to create and evaluate.”

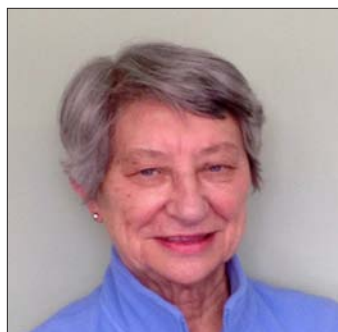
Having garnered a rich context in graduate theology studies, Sister Charlene entered the field of vocation and formation ministry, “accompanying others on their spiritual journey and assisting them in their spiritual relationship with God.” Serving in the office of the National Religious Vocation Conference in Chicago, IL, led to contacts with young adults, clergy and bishops and consecrated religious from across the country. “It also provided many opportunities



**Sister Charlene M  
Diorka, SSJ**

to write, speak and facilitate different groups on varied topics in light of faith, spirituality and consecrated life.”

Assisting the new director with her responsibilities is Sister Johanna Gedaka, SSJ, Ph.D. As a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph for many years, Sister Johanna has been involved in the field of education from the elementary to the university levels. Her accomplishments include developing and chairing the Fine Arts Department at West Philadelphia Catholic Girls High School and laying the foundation for its ministry of education leadership; serving as art, music and education instructor at Holy Family College, rising in rank there as the college grew and reached university status. In 2011, Sister Johanna retired and received the rank of Professor Emerita, but continued to teach



**Sister Johanna  
Gedaka, SSJ, Ph.D**

art history and music for another two years. At Holy Family University, Sister Johanna was head of the division of arts and humanities and then Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

Sister Johanna hopes the skills she cultivated during her tenure at Holy Family—developing a collaborative mode of leadership with a diverse faculty and staff, overseeing scheduling for students, curriculum development, assessment practices and managing the school’s large budget—will assist Sister Charlene as she undertakes the directorship of the Basilian Spirituality Center.

Both Sisters are excited about plans for the Center. “It is our greatest hope that the Basilian Spirituality Center will undergo a renewal and rebirth that will allow it to flourish in the spirit and

mission of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great. We want to expose people of both the Eastern and Western Churches to the beauty and hospitality of the Center through increased and diversified programming, to offer a welcoming presence and hospitality to others who want to host programs in these facilities and to invite a broad audience of students, young adults, lay and consecrated men and women to come and experience renewal in a spirit of prayer, healing and life-giving presence. Plans for programs, workshops and speakers are underway. We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. We hope the Basilian Spirituality Center will become a beacon of hope for the faithful in the greater Philadelphia area and a source of support, inspiration and hope for the Sisters of St. Basil the Great. It is a unique privilege to engage in this ministry at this time in the history of the Church and especially in this year dedicated as the Year of Consecrated Life.”

“I am delighted to be immersed in an environment that calls me

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# BASILIAN SPIRITUALITY CENTER WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

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to deepen and expand my own Ukrainian heritage," says Sister Charlene.

"Because I believe firmly

in the Lord's wish that 'All may be One', says Sister Johanna, "I find excitement in learning the similarities as well as the differences between

Eastern and Roman Catholicism. My Eastern European heritage is culturally similar to Ukrainian, as well."

To keep posted on the Center's activities, contact: 215-780-1227  
basilcenter@stbasils.com  
www.stbasils.com

## SBA FRESHMEN SPEND DAY OF SERVICE AT BASILIAN MOTHERHOUSE

Each year on January 30, the students, faculty and staff of St. Basil Academy, Fox Chase Manor, observe the Feast of the Three Holy Heirarchs, St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory Nazianzus and St. John Chrysostom, as their Community Day. Usually celebrated as a time of fun and games, this year's observation took on a different tone, i.e., a day of service.

Under the direction of the Academy's unified community service organization "SBA Cares" moderated by Mrs. Theresa Harter and Mrs. Emily Kleinle, students and faculty were divided into groups to carry out to others St. Basil the Great's shining example of care for the poor and underprivileged.

Assigned to the Basilian Motherhouse was SBA's Freshmen Class who, together with the Sisters residing there,

engaged in a joint effort of completing fleece blankets to be distributed to warm the homeless. Accompanied by their moderators, Sister Rita Stremba, OSBM, Sister Germaine Senita, OSBM, and Sister Therese McFadden, SSJ, and encouraged by Motherhouse/Academy resident nurse, Mrs. Karen O'Brien, the Sisters, students and teachers not only enjoyed getting acquainted and socializing, but also completed eight projects to provide warmth to the city's unsheltered needy.

"The experience we had with the Sisters was incredibly unique," said Freshman Amanda O'Brien. "To be able to help others while providing company to the Sisters ...was worthwhile and heartwarming. I think it put all of us in the spirit of giving and of helping others."



**Sr. Elizabeth Bertoldi, OSBM and Sr. Therese McFadden, SSJ, surrounded by "blanket makers"**

Nina Violi felt that "as a student of St. Basil Academy, it was great that I could use my gifts and talents to create these beautiful blankets. It was also great to see the smiles on the Sisters' faces while we were working. I am fortunate... to have blankets to sleep with every night, and I am happy the class and I gave the less fortunate the comfort of the blankets."

"This amazing experience

opened my eyes to how many things I take for granted," said Olivia Piematteo. "It made me feel almost spoiled. How many people treasure something as little as a blanket, while I am in a warm cozy bed every night! The experience made me feel good inside and I hope we can do it again."

The completed fleece blankets were delivered to Project Linus for distribution to the homeless.

## League of Ukrainian Catholics Announces its Next Convention and Initiates New Council in the Delaware/Lehigh Valleys of PA

The League of Ukrainian Catholics (LUC) National President, Marion C. Hrubec, formally announced that the 77th Annual Convention of the League of Ukrainian Catholics will take place Friday through Sunday, \*October 16-18, 2015\*, in Kulpsville (near Lansdale), PA. The main venue is the Holiday Inn Hotel and Banquet Center just off the Lansdale Interchange of the NE Extension (I-476) of the PA Turnpike. Divine Liturgy, prayer services and several other events will take place at nearby Presentation of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church (Rev. Vasil Bunik, Pastor), 1564 Allentown Road, Lansdale, PA.



**Leadership Committee Photo (l to r): Msgr. Peter Waslo, Joseph Notarfrancesco, Sr. Marina Bochnewich, OSBM, Kathy Notarfrancesco, Andrea Naegle, Marion C. Hrubec, Eugene Luciw.**

This year's convention is a joint project of three LUC Councils: Garden State (NJ), South Anthracite (NE PA), and the newly organized Delaware-Lehigh Valleys Council (PA) dedicated to the Blessed memory of St. John Paul II. The Lansdale area's proximity to a number of Ukrainian Catholic Churches and communities and its overall central location promise good attendance and a vibrant spiritual and social experience.

Although the convention program is not yet fully set, Ms. Hrubec advised that it will follow established LUC procedures: there will be a Friday afternoon business meeting of delegates and an evening Welcome Party with a full dinner and lively entertainment. Saturday will feature a religious service, workshops, presentations, and a fascinating afternoon field trip that is still in its planning stages; the day will close with Ukrainian cultural entertainment, music and dancing, and a Banquet with a noteworthy speaker. After Sunday Liturgy at Presentation of Our Lord Church, the convention will close with a bountiful brunch.

"You do not have to be a member of the LUC to join us for the spiritual, educational and fun experience that is our Convention", said Ms. Hrubec. "In fact, in the past, non-members have attended our conventions in great numbers and many joined. You do not have to attend the entire event; you can pick and choose and attend only the specific events that interest you", she said. Complete convention details, registration forms and membership information will be forthcoming.

During the recently held Archeparchial Sobor, many participating delegates voiced the desire to have more active church and parish communities as a greater means of participation in the Church. The LUC has been this avenue all along, and we invite the faithful to become active members. To this end, in tandem with the Convention preparation process, LUC is initiating its newest Council designed to re-invigorate its once extremely active role in the Delaware and Lehigh Valleys. A leadership committee has assumed the task of organizing the Council and will make the work of the convention a cause for recruiting and rallying membership. The Delaware-Lehigh Council will be dedicated to the memory of St. John Paul II.

(continued on next page)

# League of Ukrainian Catholics Announces its Next Convention and Initiates New Council in the Delaware/Lehigh Valleys of PA

(continued from previous page)

Ms. Hrubec believes that "...former LUC'ers will no doubt join and actively participate in this Council; they already know the capabilities and purposes of our organization that was first organized in 1933 by then Father, and later Archbishop Metropolitan Ambrose Senyshyn." "We are confident that church faithful who are already active in or who are seeking a framework for becoming active in the life of their Church will join." The charter of the LUC describes its purposes as follows:

Religious - promotes personal sanctification

Educational - provides and supports programs to aid in the religious training of parish children, youth, and adults

Cultural - develops and promotes knowledge and appreciation of our Eastern Catholic Rite and our Ukrainian heritage

Social - encourages friendship and collaboration among members and the parishes and communities they serve

Collaborative - fosters unity among ecclesiastically approved organizations

"We believe that the LUC provides an excellent formula for generating the Vibrant parishes of Our Church ... those very things that Patriarch Sviatoslav asks all of us to foster and promote", said Ms. Hrubec. Persons interested in additional information about the LUC or in membership should call Marion C. Hrubec at 201-843-3960, or email her at [mc.hrubec@att.net](mailto:mc.hrubec@att.net).

Persons interested in the new Pennsylvania council can contact Gene Luciw by phoning 267-664-3857 or by email: [eluciw@comcast.net](mailto:eluciw@comcast.net). Those who become LUC members will have an exciting opportunity to learn how to make the lives of their parish a truly vibrant place to encounter the Living Christ and each other said Ms. Hrubec.

## SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church releases Easter Album

Choir members of SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA gather together at the Parish Hall on River Street, to discuss the new CD Format of the "Traditional Ukrainian Lenten Songs and Easter Anthems" Easter Album and the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom DVD for the 2015 Fund Raiser for the Church Choir. For more information please contact Glenda Marcinko at 570-876-2888.



PHOTO (l to r): Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor, Choir Members are Jackie Hunt, Julie Hunt, Glenda Marcinko, Marie Martin, Jean Stange, Back Row: Dave Homisach

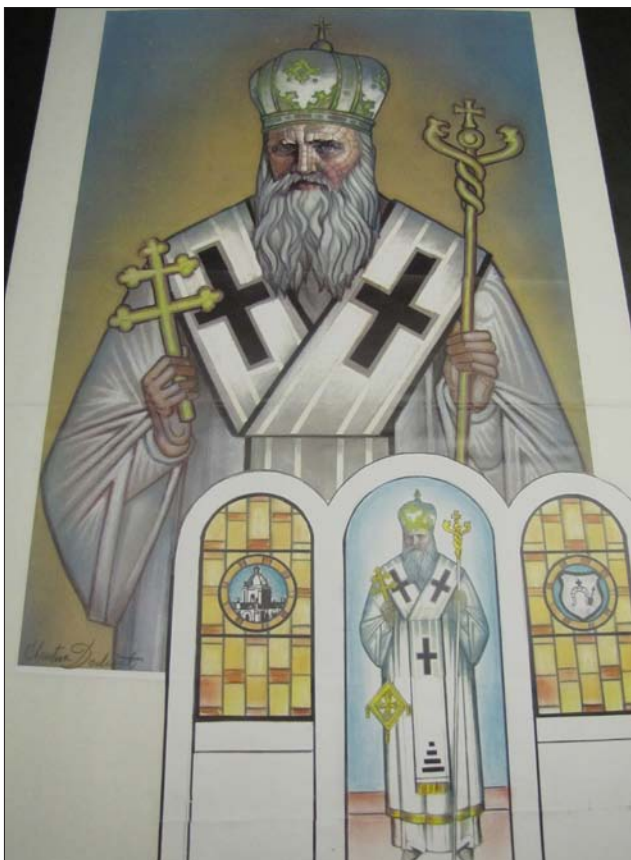


# NEW MOSAICS OF VENERABLE METROPOLITAN ANDREY SHEPTYTSKY AND BLESSED JOSAPHATA HORDASHEVSKA, SSMI FOR CATHEDRAL

Two full sized mosaics of Venerable Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky and Blessed Josaphata Hordashevka, SSMI will be installed in our Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia in Spring, 2015. The mosaics will include a reliquary for relics of both Metropolitan Sheptytsky and Blessed Josaphata for veneration by all.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, is to visit Philadelphia in September, 2015. He has been invited to include a visit to our Cathedral during his short two day visit. In hopeful anticipation of such a visit, we have commissioned these mosaics for the Holy Father to bless. Please pray for this!

The mosaics have been prepared by our world renowned iconographer who has written most of the Cathedral's iconography, Christine Dochwat. The mosaics are being fabricated in Italy by the same firm which has done previous art work in our Cathedral. The cost for each will be approximately \$ 35,000, which is very reasonable for such a significant project. Financial donations are invited from individuals and parishes for this project. Perhaps someone or a group may wish to fund one or both mosaics in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. Please remember the power of the intercession of the saints for our needs! Thank you for your anticipated assistance. Please send donations to Archbishop's Chancery, 827 N Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123. God bless you!



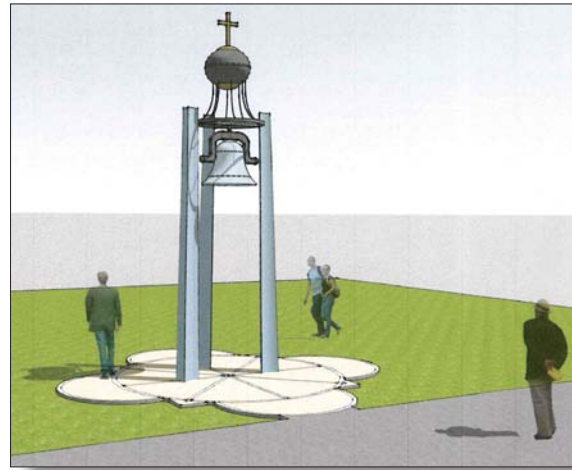
## NEW BELL TOWER FOR CATHEDRAL

The original Cathedral bell named "Stefan" in testimony to our first Ukrainian Catholic Bishop for all Eastern Catholics in USA, the Most Rev. Stephen Soter Ortynsky, OSBM, needs to be relocated from its present location.

A new bell tower of our Cathedral is planned to accommodate the bell, to be located to the right of our Cathedral.

We welcome your financial donation for this memorial to the founding bishop, clergy, religious and faithful. It is an expression of our heartfelt appreciation for their planting the seeds of faith and the roots of our Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA.

Please help us to meet the costs by sending a donation to the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, 827 N Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123. Your help is needed and appreciated. God bless you richly as you share in celebrating gratitude for our founders.

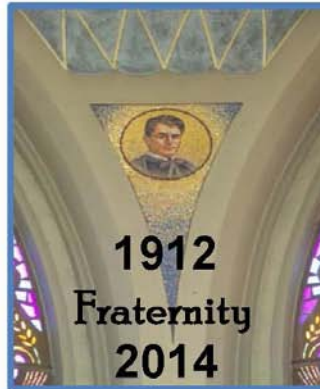


## The Providence Association Of the Ukrainian Catholics in America

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

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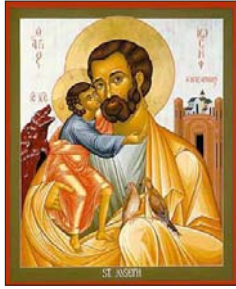
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## St. Joseph's Adult Care Home in Sloatsburg, NY

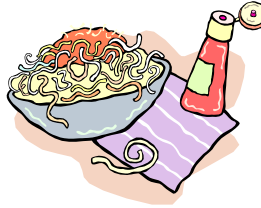
St. Joseph's Adult Care Home is a State-regulated, non-profit residence lovingly run by the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate. The Sisters Servants hope is to continue to care for the elderly by expanding the facility from a 31-bed capacity to a 50-bed capacity that includes assisted living care.



This expansion will include 19 additional private rooms with bath, enlargement of kitchen and dining room, doctor's office, guest/family visiting area, enclosed outdoor garden seating area, whirlpool room for therapy, and many more amenities.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Josephs-Adult-Care-Home/407193379388997>

## Spaghetti Dinner



Holy Ghost Ukrainian  
Catholic Church  
315 Fourth Street  
West Easton, PA 18042

**Sunday, March 22, 2015**

**Serving 12:00-3:00PM**

**Adults \$10.00**

**Children under 12: \$6.00**

**Children under 6 : free**

*Please join us for an all you can eat  
Spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread and butter,  
beverage, and homemade desserts.*

*Take outs available*

**To reserve tickets please call the rectory at  
610-252-4266 or John at 610-250-2742.**

**Thank You for Your Support!**

## Clifton Heights, PA

### Super Easter Kielbasa Sale - Orders Now Being Taken!

We are back with offering our traditional Easter-favorite food - Kielbasa! Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Clifton Heights, in conjunction with one of the area's well-known kielbasa makers, proudly announces the 2015 "Easter Kielbasa Sale". We are offering mouth-watering, high quality kielbasa for the unbelievably low price of only \$11.00 per ring or 4 links for \$8.00. For your convenience, we now are able to accept your orders via email. To place your kielbasa orders, please email us at SSPeterandPaul@verizon.net or call Kathy at (610) 328-4731. Pickup will be at noon on Sunday, March 29th at our Church which is located at 100 South Penn Street in Clifton Heights, PA.

### "Special Spring Food Collection for the Needy" - Now through March 29th

Due to the continued hard economic conditions, Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, 100 South Penn Street in Clifton Heights will hold a "Special Spring Food Collection" for the needy in the community from now through Sunday, March 29th. Anyone wishing to donate any canned or boxed, non-perishable food items should bring them to the Church on any Sunday before/or after the 11:00 am. English Divine Liturgy. Please help us help, if you can!

## **METROPOLITAN STEFAN SOROKA SCHEDULE FOR MARCH, 2015**

### **MARCH**

- 1-5** MEETING OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF USA AND CANADA, FOLLOWED BY MEETING OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS AND UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX BISHOPS OF USA AND CANADA, CLEARWATER, FL.
- 6** STAFF LENTEN SERVICE
- 8** DIVINE LITURGY AND WOMEN'S DAY AT LANSDALE, PA.
- 10** MEETING OF OFFICERS OF ARCHIEPARCHIAL CORPORATION  
MEETING OF TRUSTEES OF ST. JOSAPHAT UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC SEMINARY ENDOWMENT FUND.  
MEETING OF TRUSTEES OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ENDOWMENT FUND.
- 12** MEETING WITH ARCHIEPARCHIAL WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.  
MEETING WITH ALEXANDER KUZMA, CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION, CHANCERY OFFICE
- 13** STAFF LENTEN SERVICE
- 15** PARTICIPATION IN GALA CONCERT IN HONOR OF TARAS SHEVCHENKO AT THE UKRAINIAN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL CENTER, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
- 17-18** MEETING OF BISHOPS OF EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN USA, ST. LOUIS, MO
- 19** MEETING OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR METROPOLITAN CLERGY CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER, 2015, CHICAGO, IL.
- 22** 4PM MOLEBEN BEFORE HOLY RELICS OF BISHOP MYKOLA CHARNETSKY, C.SS.R.  
BLESSING OF NEW ICON FOR VENERATION, UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PHILADELPHIA.
- 24** PARTICIPATION IN OPTIONS FOR WOMEN PREGNANCY CENTER BANQUET FOR WOMEN CHOOSING NOT TO HAVE ABORTIONS, CHERRY HILL, N.J.
- 25** FEAST OF ANNUNCIATION OF MOTHER OF GOD.
- 26** MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ASCENSION MANOR, PHILADELPHIA
- 27** STAFF LENTEN SERVICE
- 29** PALM SUNDAY

# Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav for Lent 2015

Wednesday, 25 February  
2015

Eminence and  
Most Reverend  
Bishop! Reverend,  
Reverend Fathers and  
vysokoprepodobni!  
Dearly beloved in Christ  
brothers and sisters!

Lent - a special period  
of the liturgical year,  
a spiritual awakening  
and cleaning. The  
Lord encourages us to  
attention and reflect  
on personal life, our  
relationship to God  
and neighbor; invites  
us to test how well we  
experience the historical  
circumstances in which  
we have to pass this year  
path of Lent.

Our relationship to  
God we Christians call  
faith. Living in complete  
trust in God and His  
dosvidchuyuchy active  
presence in our lives  
through prayer, we  
find in him a source of  
hope - become strong  
His power and His love  
vidrozhuyemosya. To  
live with faith in God  
- means continually  
updated. In particular,  
during the Lenten journey  
we must endure "spiritual  
reform-renewal" - turning  
to God.

This conversion we  
traditionally call

**MARCH 8, 2015**



repentance, directing all  
thoughts, desires and  
aspirations to God, the  
restoration of the ability  
to fight evil, strengthening  
resistance lies. True  
repentance is not only  
deep inner nature and  
is not just our personal  
relationship with God.  
Just as sin spreads  
around us death and  
destruction, conversion  
to our Creator has the  
ability to beneficially  
affect our society. That  
is why the post - period  
conversion, penance  
and prayer - we call  
time revival, renewal  
and healing believer,  
and through it the whole  
society - the power and  
action of the Holy Spirit.

Fighting evil, falsehood  
and sin is a matter not  
only of individuals. As  
people able to resist  
aggression attacker  
only united, together,

just personal spiritual  
revival of Christian life  
is impossible without  
upgrading its relations  
with neighbors. No  
real fasting and prayer  
without charity, as you  
can not love God without  
noticing pain neighbor.  
On this occasion, the  
Lord tells us, "That's Fast,  
dating, break the shackles  
of injustice, to undo the  
yoke solved at liberty to  
release the oppressed,  
to break every yoke, his  
bread with the hungry to  
share, enter the house of  
the poor, the homeless,  
seeing naked, wear it  
on your brother not hide  
(Isa. 58: 6-7). Like St.  
Augustine teaches, noting  
that the first step in the  
Lenten journey be a step  
towards the neighbor:  
"Love your neighbor and  
then look inside himself  
where this nascent love  
of God and see how

you would be possible"  
(Treatise on the Gospel  
of John 17, 7-9).

By calling us to  
repentance conscience  
- the voice of God in  
our souls, our true "I",  
which will meet with  
the light of God's truth.  
Right experienced Lent  
strengthens this voice  
allows us to better hear  
it, not zahlushuvaly  
it without losing the  
brightness of God's truth  
in our hearts and not  
gone astray.

However, not only a few  
people can zamulyuvaty  
his conscience and  
indulge in self-deception.  
History and reality show  
us that this state of  
flow goals of society.  
Therefore, every person,  
society also needs  
renovation, conversion  
and look at themselves  
in the light of Truth.

Christian love is  
manifested in social  
terms as social justice.  
Conversely, social  
injustice is both evil  
and falsehood and sin.  
That's why the first step  
in a national repentance  
should be a revival of  
justice for those who  
are weakest, the most  
vulnerable and most in

**(continued on next page)**

# Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav for Lent 2015

(continued from previous page)

need. "Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy - in hard times God will save it" (Ps. 41: 2).

The court shall cease to be valid if not looking for the truth, and the judge - when acting against God's truth and His law.

One of the indicators of social conscience in the state is the judiciary, as evidence of the moral health of the state is a fair trial, which is the basis for a viable law of God. This Court is meeting point between God's truth and personal and social life of the citizen. It ceases to be valid if not looking for the truth, and the judge - when acting against God's truth and His law. Lord instructs judges words of Scripture: "Look what you're doing, because you are doing is not for the court, as to the Lord, and he shall be with you when

you judge. Suppose, therefore, will you fear the Lord: proceed with caution because the Lord our God, there lies no storonnychosty or pidkupstva "(2 Chron. 19, 5-7). Earthly judges must not forget that before God and they defendants because he calls himself Lord Judge and Final Judgment - "highest authority" - leaves himself, for his "judgment is righteous" (cf. Jn. 5, 30).

We all know that the unjust court can be an instrument of violence and reprisals against human, means of repression and neglect the dignity of the whole nation. Each wrong and injustice impressive, but wrong and injustice which people undergo where it should protect against injustice strikes and hurts much stronger and denies hope. In our country most people feel helpless just before the

judiciary, as is the need for judicial reform in us or not acute.

And fast, and reforms need to self, work on yourself, which can even be painful. This year, the preparation of the Passover of the Lord will be marked scourge of war and economic hardship. Let our endurance in the struggle for freedom and a better future of their people updated through voluntary self-denial for renewal of private and public life, personal sacrifice for the victory of love over hatred.

We Christians know that the result of this reform, renewal depends not only on us, and on our first accord with God by keeping two prerequisites real fast - prayer and almsgiving. Prayer opens us to God, He invites us to act, and charity, to others and the overcoming of injustice

in the world, is voluntary mortification of our evil inclinations for pilgrimage to the resurrection.

Let renewed strength of the Christian faith, hope and love gives us certainty in the inevitability of the victory of God's justice over injustice - the victory over every enemy, internal and external, that rebels against God and the dignity of man, created in His image and likeness. "Nevertheless, brethren, rejoice, strive for excellence, pidbadoryuytesya, be of one mind, live peacefully, and the God of love and peace shall be with you" (II Cor. 13, 11).

† SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection, the day of the Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, February 12, 2015

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## "Lent – is the time of recovery and healing of the believer, and through him - the whole society" - His Beatitude Sviatoslav

Thursday, 26 February 2015

This year the preparation for the Lent is marked

with the disasters of war and economic hardship. However, fasting – it is a time of rebirth, renewal and healing of

the believer, and through him – the whole society – with the power and action of the Holy Spirit.

So, let our endurance in the struggle for freedom and a better future of our

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# **“Lent – is the time of recovery and healing of the believer, and through him - the whole society” - His Beatitude Sviatoslav**

(continued from previous page)

people update through voluntary self-denial for renewal of private and public life, personal sacrifice for the victory of love over hatred.

It was written in a Pastoral letter on Lent by the Father and the Head of the UGCC His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

He also notes that Lent – is a spiritual awakening and purification. According to Him, the Lord Himself during this period leads us to attention and reflection on the personal life, our relationship to God and our near. He invites us

to check how well we experience the historical circumstances in which we have to pass this year path of Lent.

“There is no true fasting without prayer and alms, as you can not love God without noticing the pain of your near. To repentance is calling us our conscience - the voice of God in our soul... Right experienced time of the Lent reinforces this voice, allows us to better hear it, not to muffle it...”- He explained.

In his view, the state must also pass an examination

of social conscience, especially in the judiciary, “Evidence of the moral health of the state is a fair court of justice, which has in its basis a life-giving law of God. This Court is a meeting point between God’s truth and personal and social life of the citizen. It ceases to be just if it is not looking for the truth, and the judge - when acting against God’s truth and His law”. The Head of the Church said that unfair trial can be an instrument of violence and reprisals against human, means of repression and neglect the indignity of

the whole nation.

“Let the renewed strength of the Christian faith, hope and love give us certainty in the inevitability of the victory of God’s justice over injustice - the victory over every enemy, internal and external, that rebels against God and the dignity of man, created in His image and likeness”, - says His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

UGCC Department of Information

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

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# **“Real Heroes Are Those Who Attain an Eternity, Giving Untimely”, - His Beatitude Sviatoslav about Heavenly Hundred**

Monday, 23 February 2015

On 22 of February at Saint Sophia Church in Rome, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Father and Head of the UGCC, led a Divine Liturgy on occasion of finishing the pilgrimage of the UGCC Synod of Bishops from Ukraine to the tombs of the supreme apostles.

On the first anniversary

Maidan, Hierarchs together with Ukrainian migrants were praying for victims of Heavenly Hundred.

Appealing to those present at praying, the Head of the UGCC reminded that “today we are calling to mind the first anniversary of Revolution of Dignity and praying for heroes of Heavenly Hundred – those, whom do we call heroes and those



who are not dying. Those heroes have preserved in their hearts something what cannot be killed -

love to their Motherland

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# “Real Heroes Are Those Who Attain an Eternity, Giving Untimely”, - His Beatitude Sviatoslav about Heavenly Hundred

(continued from previous page)

and self-sacrifice for their fellows”.

On the words of Major Archbishop Sviatoslav, the newest heroes of Ukraine are also a great example of how we should love our Motherland, because “during this tragic time all of us are called for being heroes at our own places because real heroes are those who

attain an eternity, giving untimely”.

After serving a Liturgy, a devoted went out of church processionaly straight to the Heavenly Hundred Heroes’ memorial cross, built on the wall nearby the cathedral. Here UGCC Hierarchs together with numerous Ukrainian community were praying Mass for the dead and

lit memory candles for lost during the Revolution of Dignity. After a prayer the parochial youth led a memorial requiem and the youngest representatives of Rome Ukrainian community organized a flash mob, calling for peace.

Furthermore, ten Bishops from different eparchies and exarchates in Ukraine, as well as

representatives of Rome ecclesiastical institutions, seminarians and monkhood of UGCC participated in a divine service. Tetiana Izhevskia, Ambassador of Ukraine to the Holy See was also present at praying.

Press-service of “Saint Sophia” community

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

## His Beatitude Sviatoslav: “A Victim of the Heavenly Hundred is an Easter Sacrifice”

Monday, 23 February 2015

Christians, in the fusillades at Maidan, must recognize an Easter sacrifice of Heavenly Hundred. About this declared the Father and the Head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav in his video-blog up to the Day of the Heavenly Hundred Heroes. This day is celebrated, according to the President’s Decree “About a Commemoration of a Great Deed Perpetrated by Participators of Revolution of Dignity and Perpetuating the Memory of Heavenly Hundred Heroes”, every year on 20th of February.



An Archbishop of the UGCC mentioned that, different people, going through this first anniversary of victory in Revolution of Dignity, also felt a different sense of this anniversary, and, probably, that day would be called in a different ways. “Someone will think of victims of Maidan, another one will talk about a fusillade at Maidan... But we, Christians realize something much deeper here. We talk about an Easter sacrifice of Heavenly Hundred”, mentioned Archbishop Sviatoslav.

The Head of the Church pointed out: to realize what comprehends a Christian heart, while speaking about Easter sacrifice, it is worth looking at Easter sacrifice of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. “What exactly the bystanders saw and comprehended that time? Ones saw the execution of a criminal, condemned by Roman authority of that time, presented by a Sanhedrin. Others saw a tragedy of death of the righteous. But, virtually, it was an Easter sacrifice. Son of God sacrificed Himself for saving the world. In that sacrifice the whole mankind got an eternal life. The Death cross of our Savior started as a beginning of the Resurrection,

(continued on next page)



# His Beatitude Sviatoslav: “A Victim of the Heavenly Hundred is an Easter Sacrifice”

(continued from previous page)

triumph of life over death, a human’s journey from darkness to light, the same from earth to heaven, - considers the Major Archbishop of the UGCC.

“If so, we, Christians, - continued he, - talking about an anniversary of Heavenly Hundred’s Easter sacrifice, recognize this free-willed sacrifice of giving an own life for better future of our nation. And this sacrifice became a time of changes. Regarding the past year, we really see how Ukraine has started to change the recent days. A new generation, a new state is born in pains. The worth of being a free man is being realized now.”

“This holy blood of Heavenly Hundred Heroes sanctified the freedom of Ukraine. It is our real treasure. It is a moment of the emancipation. It is a moment of transition from slavery to liberty. Consequently, this victim is the beginning of life. The death, which is reviving”, - accented the Head of the Church.

Jesus Christ says: unless the grain of wheat dies, it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit. “Today, we, Christians remind ourselves an anniversary of Easter sacrifice that gives and will give fruits, which we will be able to appreciate only considering time aspect. History of new Ukraine will be revealing the sense of the Easter sacrifice of Revolution of Dignity, - thinks His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

UGCC Department of Information

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

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## Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church during press conference in Rome calls on Christians to help end conflict

Tuesday, 24 February 2015

On 23rd of February, at 12 at the press-center of Radio Vatican (sala Marconi), His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the Head of the UGCC held a press-conference, speaking on topic “The pastoral challenges of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in war conditions”

His Beatitude Sviatoslav met the press and answered questions put to him by journalists. Amongst other things he stressed that the humanitarian situation is worsening as a result of the war



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MARCH 8, 2015

## Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church during press conference in Rome calls on Christians to help end conflict

(continued from previous page)

and he reiterated that what is being witnessed in Ukraine “is not a local conflict, but an external assault”. He also said he informed Francis that the expression “fratricidal war” which he used in recent days “has hurt the sensibilities of the Ukrainians” as it seemed to echo what the Russians said about the war in Ukraine being internal conflict

Archbishop Shevchuk also mentioned the words the Pope addressed to Ukraine’s bishops - “I am at your side and at your service”.

Shevchuk told international journalists about the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine connected with war in the east and post-traumatic syndrome that has affected whole Ukrainian society.

“The war always brings destruction and misery. The Ukrainian economy is really flopping and is facing a crisis. Officially, the UN has declared that there are a million displaced in Ukraine but church bodies tell us that this figure is in actual fact double. Almost 600,000 people have been forced to flee to other countries. The Ukrainian government is unable to manage this situation. I call this situation a humanitarian catastrophe on a scale that has not been witnessed in Eastern Europe since World War II. For this reason I have asked the Holy Father and various bodies of the Roman Curia to launch an appeal for humanitarian aid on an international level. We have managed to provide shelter to 40,000 people in our Ukrainian Caritas centers, but this is not enough: there are 140,000 children among the displaced and then there are the wounded. So in order to really save human lives we need solidarity on an international level.”

Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church also mentioned that the Ukrainian bishops invited Pope Francis to visit Ukraine and said that it “would be such a prophetic gesture”.

Source:RISU

<http://news.ugcc.ua>

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## The Pope promises to do all possible so that war in Ukraine ends soon, Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki



23 February 2015

On February 20, the ad Limina visit of the Catholic Bishops in Ukraine completed. Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki, President of the Conference of the Episcopate of Latin rite Ukraine, shared his impressions of the visit, especially of a meeting with Pope Francis.

“We are very pleased that in this difficult time for Ukraine, together with our pilgrims we could get to the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul, to pray for our Church in a special

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# The Pope promises to do all possible so that war in Ukraine ends soon, Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki

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way, for our whole country, for peace in Ukraine,” said Archbishop at the beginning of his interview to Radio Vatican.

He emphasized that the Vatican is constantly monitoring the situation in Ukraine:

“We are very pleased that in this difficult time for Ukraine, together with our pilgrims we could get to the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul, to pray for our Church in a special way, for our whole country, for peace in Ukraine. During these meetings, we were very impressed that every cardinal, every bishop asked us about the situation in Ukraine, ascertained us of their prayerful solidarity.”

The highlight of the visit was meeting with Pope Francis. Archbishop Mokrzycki says that the Pope promised to assist the peace process in Ukraine, and even to think about a possible visit to Ukraine:

“Pope Francis asked us to tell him about the war. He told us that he did not know about the tortures used by enemies towards our soldiers. He said he would talk with representatives of the world’s countries and will be asking their assistance so the war ended soon. He asked us to tell all the faithful and all the laity in Ukraine that he remembers them in prayer every day, he stays beside us and will do everything to help us. Every hour, every day, if we have any problems, any request, we can always turn to him as a father, because he loves us, and he also said he would think about coming to Ukraine,” the Catholic media center reports.

<http://risu.org.ua>

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## Could Pope Francis travel to Ukraine?

26 February 2015

Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko has sent a letter inviting Pope Francis to visit Ukraine, though the Vatican diplomacy has not yet responded, Ukraine’s Embassy to the Holy See told CNA on Wednesday.

The embassy forwarded the letter to the Vatican Secretariat of State Feb. 18, two days before the ad limina meeting of Ukrainian bishops with Pope Francis.

Bishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Eparchy of St. Vladimir the Great of Paris told Radio Liberty Feb. 25 he was aware of the letter, and that the Pope had a “positive reaction” to it.

On the other hand, diplomatic sources warned CNA Feb. 25 there would still be a long way to go before a papal trip to Ukraine could effectively take place.

According to the source, neither security nor relations with the Russian Orthodox Church would slow down the organization of the trip, but that the trip itself should be carefully managed, which would take time.

“When John Paul II visited Ukraine in 2001, he spent five days in the country, and it was considered a rush. Pope Francis’ visit would last at least three days, between Kyiv, Lviv and perhaps another city,” the source maintained.

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# Could Pope Francis travel to Ukraine?

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Should the Pope give a positive response to the invitation, one possibility is that a papal trip to Ukraine could be an adjunct to his 2016 visit to Poland for World Youth Day.

A papal visit to Ukraine would represent a hope for the country, according to Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

Major Archbishop Shevchuk said in a press conference Feb. 23 he had invited the Pope to visit Ukraine, saying such a visit would “bring peace to that part of Eastern Europe soaked with the blood of so many martyrs for the unity of the Church.”

During the press conference, Major Archbishop Shevchuk also pointed out that Ukraine is “victim of a foreign aggression,” and that “the Ukrainian people feel hurt when the Holy See uses expressions that seemingly come from the Russian propaganda.”

Major Archbishop Shevchuk referred to Pope Francis ‘off the cuff’ words at the Feb. 4 General Audience, during which he referred to the conflict in Ukraine as “fratricidal violence.”

Fr. Federico Lombardi, director of the Holy See press office, later explained that Pope Francis “has always wished to address all the interested parties, trusting in the sincere efforts of each one to implement agreements reached by common consent and invoking the principle of international law, to which the Holy See has referred several times since the beginning of the crisis.”

In the official speech delivered to Ukrainian Bishops Feb. 20, Pope Francis no longer mentioned “fratricidal violence,” though on the other hand there was no mention either of a ‘foreign aggression’ or Russia’s annexation of Crimea.

Major Archbishop Shevchuk commented that the Pope “had spoken of the respect of the international law, and asked for respect of the integrity of Ukrainian territory,” and made it understood that this was enough to him.

On the other hand, he also urged a “humanitarian action in the country to help refugees.”

Major Archbishop Shevchuk stressed that “UN official data estimates 1 million displaced persons, but non-official data estimates that the amount of people escaping from Crimea and Donbas may be double that, including 140,000 children.

The Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church said religious freedom is lacking in Russian-administered Crimea, and areas of Ukraine controlled by Russian-backed separatists: “Muslim Tartars of Crimea had to escape because they were persecuted; Jewish people in Donetsk had to leave the Donbas or were obliged to register themselves as Jewish and to pay a tax; and in Crimea five parishes were requested to renew by March 1 an authorization to stay in the territory, with the risk that the request may be rejected.”

Major Archbishop Shevchuk said the Pope told the Ukrainian bishops: “The Holy See supports you, also on the international stage, to articulate your rights, your concerns, and the evangelical values that motivate you.” And he reportedly added: “I am at your side, I am at your service.”

Source: Catholic News Agency 26 February 2015

[http://risu.org.ua/en/index/monitoring/society\\_digest/59268/](http://risu.org.ua/en/index/monitoring/society_digest/59268/)

## UGCC Head and President Poroshenko met on Saturday

Sunday, 01 March 2015

President Poroshenko met with the Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church Sviatoslav Shevchuk.

They discussed the leading role played by the Church in these crucial moments of a nation that Ukraine is going through, and stressed the importance of spiritual component to strengthen the country and achieve victory.

President Poroshenko expressed his gratitude for active patriotic

position of Archbishop Sviatoslav and bishops and priests of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. "Great respect and appreciation deserves your position on Russia's aggression, prayers for the Ukrainian state, soldiers that protect the most valuable thing we have - our freedom, our country, our future" - he said.

"You are making an invaluable contribution to peace, peace in your hearts, because the enemy Ukraine seeks not only for a military victory, but also wants to open a second front in the country, to sow hatred.

Therefore the word of the Church, which calls for unity today is extremely important, maybe more than ever in our history," - said Poroshenko.

"We are trying at different levels, in different ways to engage all our spiritual strength, our ability as a global church structure and to support our country and serve the people" - said Sviatoslav Shevchuk.

The patriarch informed that during his recent visit to the Holy See he asked the Pope to initiate international charitable aid to Ukraine. "We will do everything to

save people," - said the Archbishop. "I told the Pope that our Church today - a military field hospital, which treats human soul, heals wounds and trying to serve people" - he said.

Source RISU

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