

THE WAY ШЛЯХ

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EASTER PASTORAL OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A. TO OUR CLERGY, HIEROMONKS AND BROTHERS, RELIGIOUS SISTERS, SEMINARIANS AND BELOVED FAITHFUL

Christ is Risen!
Indeed he is Risen!

"Then (the women) went out and fled from the tomb, seized with trembling and bewilderment. They said nothing to anyone for they were afraid." Mk. 16:8

It should be easy for us to think of a time when we were so terrified of something or someone that we ran away in fear. Why did we run? Sometimes we were afraid of getting hurt. Or perhaps we were afraid of losing control. Other times we were afraid of what we did not understand.

When we read the



Gospels we can be surprised to learn that it is also those who are the closest companions of Christ who fled in terror. When Judas

led the soldiers into the Garden of Gethsemane and betrayed his Master, it is the disciples who fled for their lives. Later, it is Peter, fearing a similar

fate, who denied Jesus three times. And almost at the very end of the Gospel, following the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus, it is the women who came to the tomb very early on that first Easter Sunday morning, whom we witness fleeing in fear and astonishment. Why did they flee? Were they afraid for their lives as were Peter and the other disciples?

Certainly, we must admire the tenacity of the faith of Mary Magdalene and the other women for coming to the tomb in the first place to anoint the body of Jesus. It is astonishing they did not

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EASTER PASTORAL OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A.

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let themselves become discouraged either by the fearful events they had just witnessed two days earlier or by the impossibility of what they planned to do. After all, how were they to get past the soldiers guarding the tomb and whose aid could they enlist to help them roll away the great stone at its entrance?

But God, in rewarding their faith, removed all obstacles – the soldiers are struck dumb and the stone is miraculously rolled away by an angel in the form of a young man who now sits at the head of the place where Jesus was laid. He tells them that Jesus is not there, that he is risen and that he will meet them and the disciples in Galilee. But instead of responding with joy to this unexpected announcement, the women are seized with fear and run off in haste.

Their reaction is not surprising because they had come to the tomb to pay their final respects to their Teacher, who had died a horrible death. They were taken aback to discover the grave empty and still more when they heard the

message of the angel. And they were overcome with fear when they realized that the empty tomb had completely upended their world and challenged everything they thought they knew. If their eyes were not deceiving them and if what the young man in the tomb said was true, then the whole world had changed radically with Jesus' resurrection, and that meant they had to change too. The women had come to the tomb to honour a man who had died. Instead, they were sent out to proclaim that he is very much alive. Little wonder they were afraid!

Once again this year, we have completed our Lenten journey of prayer and repentance and, having spiritually re-lived the final terrible days of Jesus' earthly life in the liturgical services of Holy Week, we find ourselves, along with the pious women, kneeling at the foot of the empty tomb of Jesus.

How will we respond to the astonishing sight of the empty tomb and the words of the angel? Will we too run away in fear, unable to face a

God who overturns our understanding of the world? Will we flee from the personal challenge that He presents to us? Or, will we come to the empty tomb and find our hope?

Whatever our hopes are – for reconciled relationships, for healing from physical illness or emotional hurts, for a closer relationship with God, for peace in our families, our parish communities, our country, for an end to the senseless spilling of blood in Ukraine and for the restoration of peace in our homeland – they are all found in the empty tomb. For God has reconciled everything to himself by making peace through the blood of the crucified and resurrected Lord, the firstborn of the dead and the beginning of the new creation. (Col. 1:19, 20)

Today we celebrate the resurrection of the Messiah, the Son of God. We, like the women, must tremble with amazement when we approach the empty tomb. Christ is truly Risen! How wonderful it is when we

meet the living God!

Our fervent prayer is that our Resurrected and Living Lord may bestow his peace and grace upon you and your loved ones, upon all our brothers and sisters scattered throughout the world and especially upon our beloved and suffering Ukraine.

Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen!

+Stefan Soroka
Archbishop of
Philadelphia for
Ukrainians
Metropolitan of Ukrainian
Catholics in the United
States

+Richard Seminack
Eparch of St. Nicholas in
Chicago

+Paul Chomnycky,
OSBM (author)
Eparch of Stamford

+ Bohdan Danylo
Eparch of St. Josaphat in
Parma

+John Bura
Auxiliary Bishop of
Philadelphia

Easter, 2015

EASTER MESSAGE OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

Most Reverend Archbishops and Bishops,
Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers,
Venerable Brothers and Sisters, Dearly Beloved in Christ
of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church

Christ is Risen!

*Let the divinely inspired Habbakuk
stand with us at the divine watch;
Let him show us the brilliant angel who proclaims:
Today salvation comes to the world; for Christ, being Almighty, is risen.
Ode 4, Paschal Canon*



Beloved in Christ!

Once again we gather in Ukraine and throughout the world to greet one another on the glorious feast of our Lord's Resurrection. For more than a year we have been traveling along a special way of the cross, and, in human terms, it may seem difficult to speak of joy. However, Paschal joy comes not from men, but from God! Today all creation proclaims Christ's victory over evil and death: "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Let the divinely inspired Habbakuk stand with us at the divine watch.

Throughout salvation history there were many moments when God's people were tested. One such period was in the time of the prophet Habbakuk, mentioned in our Paschal Matins service. He lived in a time of transition, when the Babylonian empire arose on the ruins of the Assyrian empire. The new power proved to be just as ruthless as the previous. Although the ruler changed, but the same elements of imperial power remained unchanged: an ideology of one's own "greatness," the pursuit of glory, wealth, and foreign lands – all sustained by deceit and violence.

Keeping watch with the prophet on this Paschal night is to stand with perseverance in the midst of human disillusionment and helplessness expecting God's saving action, the revelation of His victory over the enemy and aggressor. Habbakuk proclaims: "I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint" (Hab 2:1). Today, we, together with the prophet, call out to God: "O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and You will not hear? Or cry to You 'Violence!' and You will not save?" (Hab 1:2).

In response to this call emanating from within the suffering heart of the faithful, today we receive an answer from the Almighty God: "God came ... His splendor covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from His hand; and there He veiled His power" (Hab 3:3-4). The prophesized glory and splendor, the brightness and ray of light – that is the light of Christ's Resurrection, which shines upon us today in the same way as it did then when Christ dispatched the armed guard and emerged victorious from the sealed tomb. The watchful song of Habbakuk finds its fulfillment in the good news greeting: "Christ is risen!" The Risen Christ shows us that God fulfills our prayer, He rushes to

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EASTER MESSAGE OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

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free those, who each day persistently stand on guard in prayer for Ukraine. On this light-filled night the Holy Church sings out God's victory, and in the prayerful vigil of her Paschal services together with the prophet Habbakuk , she points to "the brilliant angel who proclaims: Today salvation comes to the world..."

Today on its native lands our Church is called to give out the prophetic voice of victory over idolatry, deceit, and violence. The Risen Lord dispelled the fear of the Apostles, saying: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you" (Jn 20:21). These words also speak to us and give us strength not only to stand against the enemy, but to also conquer our interior ills: loss of faith, fatigue, fear. The Revolution of Dignity is far from completed as long as the peace of Christ has not filled our hearts – it is only with Christ that we can, in the words of the Servant of God Metropolitan Andrey, defeat self-serving political opportunism (*otamanshchyna*), corruption, and the vestiges of a godless regime in relations between government institutions and society.

The peace of Christ is threatened not only in Ukraine. Far and wide, where true Christians proclaim the Risen Lord and live according to the Gospel, old persecutions have reignited and new challenges emerge. We pray for the conversion of those who in words proclaim the Risen Lord but in action do works of the evil and deceit, which remains deeply rooted in human hearts. In a special way, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukrainian Crimea and the Donbas, as well as for our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East who are being persecuted unto martyrdom. We understand how the faith is threatened by the self-assured consumerist culture of a West that has forgotten its Christian roots and values. We might think that in our spiritual struggle it is as if we are surrounded on all sides. That is why the prophet's prayer is also our prayer: "Will you not hear? Will you not respond? Will you not save?" Today we who call out to God against the violence and lies, we who stand in watchful prayer, receive the brilliant angel, who proclaims the victory of the Risen Christ. He brings solace and peace to those who mourn the dead, gives assuredness of His victory over violence, aggression, malice, and untruth.

Today salvation comes to the world; for Christ, being Almighty, is risen.

Celebrating Pascha in wartime is to be able to see our victory in the Risen Christ. This victory must first of all take place in our souls and fill the heart of each person who truly believes that indeed Christ is risen! This faith in the victory of the Risen One allows those who are on the front lines to face death and, with courage and confidence, defend one's land. This power of the Risen One allows us to resist the temptation of hatred towards those who allowed themselves to be deceived by an insatiable imperial ideology of falsehood and violence. This victory of Christ, as the Risen Truth, finds its expression in all who speak of and bear witness to the truth regarding what is happening in Ukraine. This truth of Christ allows all who see themselves as disciples of Christ to be true apostles of the Good News of peace and love.

Our victory, found in the Risen Savior, over all enemies seen and unseen, may not appear right away. It approaches in stages, day by day, gradually revealing itself in all its fullness. Therefore, that which the prophet Habbakuk already saw, already celebrated, already in part received in anticipation, that is what we today celebrate in fullness: the Resurrection of Christ!

Beloved in Christ! On this luminous day of Christ's Resurrection I long to share this Paschal joy with you. My deepest heartfelt wish is that our festive greeting, "Christ is risen," may strengthen us in faith, dispel the

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EASTER MESSAGE OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

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fatigue of battle, and give us hope in a complete victory and a shining future for Ukraine. This greeting is also addressed to our faithful throughout the world who share the pain of their family and friends in the native land, and provide assistance, each according to his or her ability, in prayer and material support. Wherever we are, let us proclaim a true Revolution of Dignity which can only be founded on a constant conversion to the Risen Christ, and on the fulfillment of His Gospel in our lives.

To all of you in Ukraine and throughout the world I send you my heartfelt festive greetings. May this feast of Our Lord's Resurrection bring you blessings, a tasty sharing of our traditional blessed egg, and a Paschal joy that is full of light.

The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Christ is risen! – Truly, He is risen!

+ SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, on the Feast of Palm Sunday.

Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' "From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (Jn. 1, 1-17)



Triumph and Victory

Easter marks the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. This glorious Resurrection demonstrates an entirely new idea to the world, one so important that it has been celebrated for almost two thousand years.

Christ's victory over all, even death, inspires us and provides the impetus by which we can overcome our own overcoming. In examining the works and wonders of Christ's life, we find that He meant for us to take His words and actions and use them in

our daily lives. He said in John 14:12; "He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."

Easter is a spiritual celebration like no other. At Christmas, we celebrate Christ's birth. It is the time many of us let the child in us come forth in full measure to express and experience the joy and wonder of life.

Easter, however, carries a different message, one that speaks to the adult in us. Who of us has

not met with rejection, suffering and pain? Who of us has not searched for the understanding of the change called death? At Easter, we overcome even the most intense of experiences, for Easter reminds us that there is neither condition nor circumstance that cannot be transformed into something greater. It celebrates the miracle of the resurrecting power of life.

Jesus celebrated this power of life in His every thought, word and action, and He taught others to do the same,

saying "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10). Easter provides the perfect opportunity for us to celebrate the promise given in the Resurrection of Christ and to make His teachings our own.

The message of Christ is one on triumph and victory. He said: "I am the resurrection and the life." Encouraged by this, we, too, know that we carry the seeds of overcoming within us, that Christ is our resurrection and our life. Easter is a celebration of resurrected life.

Why Easter Is Celebrated on Different Dates

In determining the day to celebrate Easter, early Christians faced a dilemma. It was known that Christ was crucified after Passover and therefore the date for Easter should fall after Passover. The date for Passover is the fourteenth day of Nisan (the first month of the Jewish ecclesiastical year, about the time of the vernal equinox), a fixed date in the Jewish lunar calendar. This date, translated to the old Julian or solar calendar that Christians used, became a floating date that fell any time in a week, and therefore made the date and day for Easter change yearly. To add to the confusion, early Christians felt that Easter should always fall on a Sunday. This was resolved at the Council at Nicaea in 325 A.D. when the date for Easter was set as the Sunday that fell after both the fourteenth of Nisan and the vernal equinox.

Further controversy in the date of Easter began in 1582 A.D. with the introduction of the Gregorian calendar. This calendar was not accepted by all countries, and even today, there are many churches that still use the old Julian calendar.

Currently, churches on the Gregorian calendar calculate Easter as the first Sunday after the full moon that comes on or after the vernal equinox (March 21). This means that Easter can fall within a 35-day period between March 22 and April 25, inclusive. Churches that still use the old Julian calendar occasionally have Easter on the same Sunday as those on the Gregorian calendar, but through the different methods of calculation may celebrate Easter anywhere from one to five weeks later. This is due to a combination of factors including the thirteen-day lag behind the Gregorian calendar and the tradition that Easter must necessarily follow the Jewish Passover but must never precede or coincide with it.

<http://www.brama.com/art/easter.html>

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How To Put Together a Traditional Easter Basket?

The Easter basket is the pride and joy of the family. Among the Slavs the custom of bringing an Easter Basket to Church on Easter Sunday is an age old tradition. It stems from the desire of the Christian community to ask God's blessing on the foods that will break the Great Lent and from which they have abstained from during this period. Remember, the basket should contain only a sampling of the foods you are going to eat at Easter time not the entire contents of the refrigerator. The Easter basket should contain:



PASKA – a sweet, yeast bread rich in eggs, butter, etc. Symbolic of Christ Himself who is our True Bread.

CHEESE - a custard-type cheese shaped into a ball having a rather bland but sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things.

HAM - the flesh meat popular with Slavs as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter.

SAUSAGE - a spicy, garlicky sausage of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.

BUTTER - this favorite dairy product reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.

SALT - a condiment necessary for flavor reminding the Christian of his duty to others.

HORSERADISH - mixed with grated red beets. Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. A bitter - sweet red colored mixture reminds us of the sufferings of Christ.

CANDLE is inserted into the basket to represent Christ, the Light of the World.

A LINEN COVER - usually embroidered with a picture of the Risen Christ or symbol with the words "Christ is Risen" is placed over the foods when brought to the church.

PYSANKY - EASTER EGGS

Easter egg, pysanka, decorating is one of the most interesting expressions of Ukrainian folk art. This tradition is very old and its beginnings reach back to antiquity, when in attempting to understand creation, ancient people developed myths in which the egg was perceived as the source of life, the sun and the universe. Although such similar myths are found in many cultures of the world, Ukrainians today are one of the few groups of people who still strongly adhere to many of the ancient traditions associated with the egg.



The Ukrainian pysanka (from the word pysaty, to write) was believed to possess an enormous power not only in the egg itself, which harbored the nucleus of life, but also in the symbolic designs and colors which were drawn upon the egg in a specific manner, according to prescribed rituals. The intricately colored eggs were used for various social and religious occasions and were considered to be a talisman, a protector against evil, as well as harbingers of good.

The symbolic ornamentation of the pysanky consists of geometric motifs, with some animal and plant elements. The most important motif is the stylized symbol of the sun, which is seen as a broken cross, triangle, an eight point rosette or a star. Other popular motifs are endless lines, stylized flowers, leaves, the tree of life and also some animal figures such as stags, horses or birds. The Christian influence brought elements such as the cross, the church and fish.

The most popular method of decorating pysanky is the use of the wax resist method or batik. A specialized instrument called the kistka or ryl'tse is used to write the design with hot wax. The dyes used in the process also had a symbolic meaning. Red symbolized the sun, life, joy; yellow stood for wealth and fertility; green was the symbol of spring and plant life. In the not too distant past artisans prepared their own dyes using natural products such as the bark of oak or ash trees, twigs of sour apple trees, saffron or willow tree leaves. Today, chemical dyes are used.

<http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org/pysanky.html>



*On the occasion of the
Feast of Feasts -
the Resurrection of Our Lord,
the Staff of "The Way,"
wishes Metropolitan Stefan,
all the clergy, religious, and
all the faithful a
Blessed Easter.*

*Christ is Risen!
Indeed He Is Risen!*



Over 1200 Faithful Attend Moleben and Healing Service before the Relic of Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, CSsR

Philadelphia, Pa.-

- On Sunday, March 22 at 4 p.m. over 1200 faithful from all areas of the Philadelphia Archeparchy, gathered together for a prayer and healing service before a relic of Blessed Bishop Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, C.Ss.R. The Moleben was led by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka at the golden domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 830 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia, Pa. During the service, Metropolitan Soroka also blessed a newly commissioned icon of Blessed Bishop Charnetsky, which is now available with the relic for prayer and veneration in the Cathedral.

During the service the faithful were anointed by Metropolitan Soroka or Bishop Bura and six other priests, following the tradition of anointing by the seven presbyters. The following 12 priests assisted in anointing the faithful: Very Rev. Ivan Demkiv, Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Mirchuk, Rev. Msgr. Ronald P. Popivchak, Rev. Msgr. Myron Grabowsky, Rev. Msgr. Peter Waslo, Very Rev. Taras Lonchyna,

Rev. Andriy Dudkevych, Very Rev. John Ciurpita, Rev. Wasyl Kharuk, Very Rev. Andriy Rabiy, Rev. Ivan Turyk and Rev. Paul Makar.

Prior to and during the service the faithful were afforded the opportunity to receive the Holy Mystery of Penance. Confessions were heard by the following clergy: Rev. Ihor Bloschynskyy, Rev. Volodymyr Klanichka, Rev. Volodymyr Kostyuk, Rev. Ihor Royik and Rev. Raphael Strontsitskyy.

The Moleben began with a procession into the Cathedral of the clergy and hierarchs, led by a Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Color Corps composed of the following Sir Knights: Archbishop Ryan Assembly 910-Patrick Anamah, Thomas Hennigan; Archbishop Wood Assembly 1680-Robert McNulty, John Smith and St. John Neumann Assembly 933-John Carroll, Anthony Porretta. Metropolitan Soroka carried the Icon and Relic of Blessed Mykola during the procession.

During his homily,

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Metropolitan Stefan carries the Icon and Relic of Blessed Bishop Martyr Mykola Charnetsky during the Procession as Deacon Michael Waak incenses.



Over 1200 Faithful Attend Moleben and Healing Service before the Relic of Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, CSsR

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Metropolitan Soroka highlighted the spiritual attributes, the martyr's suffering and the healing powers of Blessed Mykola, qualities that caused Pope St. John Paul II to beatify him on June 27, 2001 in Lviv, Ukraine.

After the anointing, all the faithful recited the prayer to Blessed Mykola, "In life and death, Blessed Bishop Martyr Mykola, you exemplified the words of Our Lord, "A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Through your virtuous life and heroic death, you have attained the martyr's crown of glory in the Heavenly Kingdom. O Healer of Souls, we beseech you, hear our prayers and intercede for our needs. Heal our physical and spiritual infirmities through your intercession with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Supreme Physician of our bodies and souls. Amen."

Blessed Mykola, born on September 14, 1884 in the village of Semakivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, was ordained to the priesthood in 1909, and earning a doctorate in dogmatic theology from

Rome, he was appointed spiritual director and professor at the seminary in Ivano-Frankivsk.

In 1919, he entered the novitiate of the Redemptorist Fathers in Lviv and in 1926 was appointed apostolic visitator for Ukrainian Catholics in Volyn, Polissia, Kholm and Pidliahsia. He zealously worked for the union of the Holy Church.

On February 2, 1931, he was ordained to the episcopacy by Bishop Hryhorii Khomyshyn.

He was arrested by the NKVD, the secret police of Josef Stalin on April 11, 1945 and sentenced to six years of hard labor in Siberia.

According to official records, he underwent 600 hour of interrogation and torture and spent time in 30 different prisons and camps.

Terminally ill, in 1956, he was permitted to return to western Ukraine, where he secretly continued to fulfill his episcopal obligations in underground church of

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Rev. Ivan Demkiv proclaims Gospel in Ukrainian.



Deacon Michael Waak proclaims Gospel in English.



Metropolitan Stefan and Bishop John Bura offer prayers during the Moleben.

Over 1200 Faithful Attend Moleben and Healing Service before the Relic of Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, CSsR

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the catacombs.

In the midst of the cruelty and oppression which he suffered in imprisonment and in exile, he was distinguished for his evangelical patience, gentleness and limitless goodness and holiness. During his lifetime he was considered by the faithful, a holy man. As a consequence of his sufferings, he died a martyr for the faith on April 2, 1959 in Lviv, and is known as “the healer of souls’ by the faithful. Many personal testimonies have since been recorded of miraculous healings through his intercession.

Photos by: Teresa Siwak & Tanya Bilyj



During the service the faithful were anointed by Metropolitan Soroka or Bishop Bura and six other priests, following the tradition of anointing by the seven presbyters.

See more photos on our “Archeparchy of Philadelphia” Facebook page. Watch videos from the Moleben on our YouTube Channel.
<https://www.youtube.com/user/thewayukrainian>



Faithful venerate the Icon and Relic of Blessed Bishop Martyr Mykola Charnetsky.



Faithful are anointed with oil during the Healing Service.

Metropolitan Stefan offers the Homily at the Moleben in Honor of Blessed Bishop Martyr Mykola Charnetsky

March 22, 2015

+ Слава Ісусу Христу!

Our Holy Father recently offered some powerful words as to the role of the Saints. He said that it is the Saints, who carry the Church forward, and not hypocrites or the powerful. Pope Francis spoke of those who followed the rules but were far from the love of God. In times of history when faithfulness had disappeared, God sent forth the Saints. During the communist persecution of our Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Blessed Bishop Mykola Charnetsky endured the lawmakers who believed that life is governed by the laws that they establish. The testimonies reveal how Bishop Charnetsky was brutally beaten but responded with merciful kindness and forgiveness to his persecutors. Those same people later became restless. They came to kneel before God asking for forgiveness. The Blessed Martyr Bishop Charnetsky and all of the Blessed and Saints call forth a change of heart within you and me.

Pope Francis recently said that if we choose to follow our will, our heart hardens and becomes stone. The Word of God cannot penetrate. The people get more and more distant. This can happen to you and to me. The Holy Father tells us to ask ourselves, "Do I listen to the voice of the Lord or do I do what I please?"

The Saints are around us, ready to help. But do we ask? As a young priest, I visited a man, Roman, who had just had surgery to remove a tumor beside his brain. Roman was undergoing physical therapy to learn to walk again. One day, as I entered his room, Roman anxiously asked me to tell me all I knew about St. Stephen. I told him what little is known. I asked him to explain his sudden interest in St. Stephen. Roman described how St. Stephen visited him while he was trying to take his first step. Roman instantly understood that this help was more than taking his first physical step. He understood that St. Stephen came to help Roman to step into eternity.



Icon and Relic of Blessed Bishop Martyr Mykola Charnetsky

My spiritual Director reminded me that the visit was also a spiritual message for me. St. Stephen was reminding me that he is available to assist me in my ministry. Do I ask? Did I pray regularly to St. Stephen? You and I each have a spiritual mentor in the saint after whom we were named at baptism. Do we pray to that saint? You and I already have a special spiritual mentor in our earthly journey, sent by God. You and are reminded that our patron saint awaits a relationship of prayer.

Blessed Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky suffered greatly from his persecutors. Just prior to his anticipated death,

the communist authorities released him to the west. He moved to the home of the late Metropolitan Hermaniuk in Winnipeg, where he died. He lay quietly in our cemetery north of the city for 10 years. Pope John Paul II recognized him as a martyr during his visit to Ukraine. Bishop Velychkovsky's body was then moved to a specially constructed shrine in Winnipeg. Thousands visit every year. Many miracles have been reported, even among the Eskimos in northern Canada where the Redemptorist Fathers serve. For 10 years, we did not ask for his saintly intercession. Blessed

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Metropolitan Stefan offers the Homily at the Moleben in Honor of Blessed Bishop Martyr Mykola Charnetsky

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Martyr Velychkovsky is working overtime today in interceding for those who pray for his help. The Blessed Martyrs are a gift from Almighty God to our Church, to you and to me. My hope is that this Cathedral will become a place for veneration of the relics of the numerous blessed martyrs of our Church. We need to boldly ask for their intercession for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine who are suffering. We need to surrender our needs for healing so that the Blessed Martyrs can intercede with us and for us.

Among the relics at our Cathedral is that of Blessed Sister Josaphata Hordashevska. Her earthly remains were secretly removed from Ukraine in the difficult times of oppression. As a foundress of the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate, she models for you and for me our call to help those in need. Her community grew to minister to people of all ages, offering education, foster care for children, care for the elderly and infirm, organizing pilgrimages for spiritual

growth. Blessed Josaphata inspires you and me to do what we can to help others in distress. Turn to her in your time of need. Ask for her intercession with Jesus Christ our Lord. You will come to have a greater understanding of what God desires of you in your relationship with others.

Last week, a Redemptorist Father from Ukraine, Fr. Yuriy, shared how it came to be that people would continually take soil from the gravesite of Bishop Charnetsky. The soil had to be continually replenished. It began when priests who were summoned to the authorities for questioning, would visit Bishop Charnetsky's grave prior to going. They shared with the people how they felt empowered to endure the questioning and abuse. It usually went well with them because they felt the intercession of Blessed Bishop Mykola Charnetsky. Those of you who are from Ukraine have heard about the many healings attributed to the intercession of Blessed Mykola Charnetsky. He



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka offers the Homily

has become known as the 'healer of souls'. His intercession offers people who pray to him strength and perseverance. They often cite how they feel called to look within themselves to cleanse themselves of that which is obstructing them in life.

Read the personal testimonies about Blessed Bishop Mykola Charnetsky. The witnesses speak of how Blessed Mykola interceded with the mercy of God revealed through him, even to his persecutors. We have blessed and installed this inspiring newly written icon of Blessed Bishop Mykola Charnetsky. A fragment of a bone, a

holy relic is embedded in the icon for veneration. It reminds you and me of his constant saintly presence amidst us. I marvel how the iconographer was inspired to catch the depth of Blessed Mykola's eyes. In one of the testimonies, a persecutor describes how he was "unable to forget those eyes, so full of goodness, compassion and forgiveness that followed me, a monster".

This is the prayer the Church has for each of you today. I pray that you and I will pause in our hurried earthly journey. Gaze into the eyes of Blessed Martyr Bishop Mykola Charnetsky. See

(continued on next page)

Metropolitan Stefan offers the Homily at the Moleben in Honor of Blessed Bishop Martyr Mykola Charnetsky

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his goodness and God's presence in his life. Feel the Lord's compassion for us sinners. Seek God's understanding and forgiveness having been inspired by the sacrifice and example of Blessed Bishop Charnetsky.

Jesus says, "Whoever is not with me is against me". Pope Francis reminds you and me that there is no compromising. You are either on the path of love or on the path of hypocrisy. You let yourself be loved by God's mercy, or you do as you please according to your own heart that hardens day by day along this path. Whoever is not with me is against me; there is no third choice to be made. Either you are a saint or you take the other route. Whoever is not receptive loses out. Pope Francis places emphasis on this by saying that the person "who is not receptive to God's love wastes and wrecks. He is corrupt and he corrupts".

Prior to the conclusion of the Moleben, everyone will have opportunity to approach with reverence to venerate the holy relics of Blessed Bishop

Mykola Charnetsky. Look into his eyes and evidence the mercy of God softening your heart through his intercession for you. God reveals His love for you through this Blessed Martyr. Choose to receive God's love and mercy. Ask for the intercession of Blessed Mykola for your personal needs.

Then you will be anointed with blessed holy oil by a bishop and 6 priests. Allow the oil of healing pour forth upon you as you submit yourself to God acting in your life. Be

assured that you will be touched by God in ways only He can through your participation today. Just be open to God acting in your life. Be sure of it! Proceed slowly and return to your seat. Pray for the healing needs of others here today, and for your loved ones elsewhere. Pray for all the people throughout the world suffering war and persecution – in eastern Ukraine, in the Middle East, in Africa. Surrender their needs for peace with Blessed Mykola Charnetsky. At the end of the service, we will all

pray together a special prayer on holy cards which you will receive as you are anointed. Let us peacefully stay and not rush home. The power of prayer is magnified when the entire people of God pray together.


I thank you for your participation today in this holy Cathedral dedicated to the Mother of God. We pray as one people united under the golden dome of Philadelphia.

+ Слава Ісусу Христу!



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka offers the Homily

Holy Myrrh-Bearers Parish Opening in Swarthmore, PA.

| | | |
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| <p style="text-align: center;">Please join us for the Consecration of the Holy Table Blessing and Dedication Holy Myrrh-Bearers Eastern Catholic Church by His Grace Metropolitan Stefan Soroka Ukrainian Catholic Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH 2015 1:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Light refreshments immediately following in the Church Hall</p> |  | <p style="text-align: center;">Please join us for the celebration of the First Divine Liturgy Holy Myrrh-Bearers Eastern Catholic Church by His Grace Metropolitan Stefan Soroka Ukrainian Catholic Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH 2015 11:00 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hors d'oeuvres immediately following in the Church Hall</p> |
|---|--|---|

Holy Myrrh-Bearers Parish

For over 100 years, the Ukrainian Catholic parishes of Ss. Peter & Paul in Clifton Heights and Holy Ghost in Chester served the needs of many generations of the Ukrainian Catholic faithful living in Delaware and Chester Counties in Pennsylvania. Due to demographic shifts in their respective surrounding areas, the obsolescence of their physical facilities and the determination of parishioners to grow, Father Ciurpita called together the Pastoral and Financial Councils of both parishes to come together and perform a feasibility study. The combined Council completed a 98 page study that Fr. Ciurpita presented to Archbishop Stefan Soroka. The recommendation of the Councils was that the two

existing parishes should be combined and form a new parish that would serve the Ukrainian Catholic Community of Delaware and Chester Counties. By combining the resources of the two parishes a stronger and more energetic parish would be established.

Work began to seek out a new location from which to serve all faithful in Delaware and Chester Counties. With vacant land being scarce in Delaware County, the committee under the leadership of Very Reverend John Ciurpita, came upon the availability of a recently closed church and education center in Swarthmore, PA.

The Leiper Presbyterian Church, a small, historic

stone church located at 900 Fairview Road, has been a landmark in the Swarthmore/Ridley Township areas since 1819. It began as a place of worship for the early pioneers and continued its ministry up until January 2012.

The 19th-century Gothic church building was named for Scotsman Thomas Leiper, who purchased the land on which the church and cemetery stand, for \$150 in 1818 and immediately constructed a Sunday school building on the site. The stone church at the bend in the road, was considered to be the "mother church" of the Presbyterian movement in southern Delaware County. The congregation of the Leiper Church helped to organize

the First Presbyterian Church of Chester. In an ironic twist, the First Presbyterian Church of Chester was purchased in the early 20th century by a group of Ukrainian immigrants and became home to our Holy Ghost parish.

The Leiper Church was, in fact, built twice of stone from Leiper's popular Delaware County quarry, first in 1819 and again in 1850 after it had been destroyed by a fire that ignited in its stove pipe on Jan. 28, 1849. A Revolutionary War veteran, Thomas Leiper was also known for establishing the nation's first railroad as a way to convey granite from his Crum Creek quarry to Ridley Creek

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Holy Myrrh-Bearers Parish Opening in Swarthmore, PA.

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for transport by barge to Philadelphia.

The 7th, 9th and 15th Presidents of the United States -- Andrew Jackson, William Henry Harrison and James Buchanan -- worshipped there.

In addition to a large parking lot and outdoor activity areas, the Leiper Church property consists of a church building large enough to accommodate approximately 200 worshippers and a connected Educational Wing containing three classrooms, meeting rooms, two offices, a large social hall with a large kitchen.

Upon seeing the many benefits of the property and its easy accessibility to Interstate 476 (a/k/a "The Blue Route") Archbishop Stefan took the recommendation of the Councils and purchased the facilities and property. Closing was held between the Presbyterate of the Presbyterian Church and the Archbishop in the conference room of the Archbishop's Chancery on Thursday, May 8, 2014 the week dedicated to the Holy Myrrh-Bearers in the Ukrainian Catholic tradition.

Archbishop Stefan chose for the name of the new, "Holy Myrrh-Bearers" - a tribute to the Holy Myrrh-bearers who prepared the tomb and then came back three days later to finish their task. These Myrrh-bearers headed the words of the Angel who greeted them at the tomb with; "When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, 'Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going

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Original gate portico dating to 1819, that was moved to become a portico for the Church entrance being sured up. The portico is being moved to provide of ADA access to the Church. The portico will once again be used as a gate entrance from the parking lot through the cemetery garden path.



Parishioner Michael Socha returning from one of his many trips to the dumpster. Landscapers from Keystone Gardens prepare the Cemetery Garden path for plantings and the placement of the portico gate.

Holy Myrrh-Bearers Parish Opening in Swarthmore, PA.

(continued from previous page)

before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.”

Over the last 11 months, restoration has been done on the 164 year old Church edifice to make the building amenable to the needs of Byzantine worship. Various liturgical Items from SS. Peter & Paul, Holy Ghost and Protection of the Mother of God Parish have been utilized in the design of the new church interior.

At the same time, the Education Wing was also modernized with installation of a commercial kitchen and a modern social hall capable of handling various events. Both the Church and Education Center buildings have been fitted with the latest in audio-visual technology which will not only allow the Liturgical Services to be viewed live in every room, but will primarily be utilized for educational purposes.

With the dedication of the new church facilities, the final pages of Saints Peter & Paul and Holy

Ghost parish histories will be written. The last Liturgy at Saints. Peter & Paul will be held on Saturday, April 11th at 5:00 pm. and at Holy Ghost on Sunday, April 12th at 11:00 am. Consecration of the new parish will be celebrated by Archbishop Stefan Sorka, Bishop John Bura and clergy on Saturday, April 18th at 1:00 pm. with the First Divine Liturgy occurring at 11:00 am. on Sunday, April 19, 2015. Light refreshments will be available after each service.

As we open the doors of our new parish and begin writing a new chapter in the history of our Ukrainian Catholic Church in Delaware and Chester Counties, we graciously invite all to come and visit our new parish center. Holy Myrrh-Bearers intends to be a community-oriented and outward reaching parish that will serve the spiritual needs of all. Taking to heart the words of the angel that greeted the women; “Go and tell...”. Please look for important event dates and times.



Kyle Rhoads and his Father Bill Rhoads working on the hammer beam renovations and replacements.



Original hammer beams of the 1950 Church being renovated and secured

If you, your family or someone you know is or will be interested in joining our new parish, please contact us at; Church of The Holy Myrrh-Bearers, 900 Fairview Road, Swarthmore, PA. 19081 or via phone at (610) 544-1215 or via email at HMBChurch@verizon.net

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

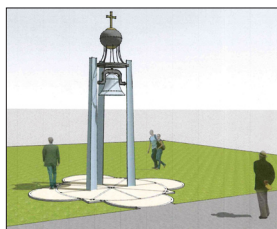
Two full sized mosaics of Venerable Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky and Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskia, SSMI will be installed in our Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia in Spring, 2015. The mosaics will include a reliquary for relics of both Metropolitan Sheptytsky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

Christian Churches Mark Beginning of Holy Week with Palms and Willows

By John E. Usalis,
Republican-Herald,
Pottsville, Pa.
March 30, 2015

MINERSVILLE, PA — The biblical account of the triumphal entrance of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem less than a week before his crucifixion was celebrated by Christian churches in the area and around the world with the use of palms and pussy willows.

The use of palms for Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday, remembers when people placed palm branches on the road before Jesus as he went into Jerusalem on a donkey. Catholic and Protestant churches observed the feast day Sunday. Due to a different way of calculating when Easter Sunday will fall in relation to the eight-day Jewish festival of Passover, Eastern Orthodox churches will mark Palm Sunday on April 5.

Passover will begin at sundown April 3 and conclude at sundown on April 11.

While palms are blessed and distributed to the faithful in western

Christian churches, many churches in Eastern Europe have the tradition of blessing and distributing pussy willow tree branches, because palms were unavailable.

The pussy willow branches, an early show of life in nature after winter, were blessed on Sunday for Flowery Sunday/Willow Sunday in Eastern churches such as St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Minersville. The Rev. Mark Fesniak, pastor, blessed pussy willows and palms after the Divine Liturgy.

During his homily, Fesniak began with the idea of a parade and how different they can be, such as ticker-tape parades for heroes, holiday parades like the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade or the parades in the former Soviet Union with displays of military weaponry. But on Palm Sunday, things are different.

"We celebrate today a different kind of parade," he said. "There's a little bit of childlike wonder in this parade. There's a little bit of victory in this parade. And there's a little bit of fear. Jesus is



Rev. Mark Fesniak blesses pussy willows and palms. (Photo by John E. Usalis)

coming into Jerusalem. Jesus is entering the holiest of cities. And as he comes into Jerusalem, the children are out and they're shouting and they have in their hands the branches from the trees and placing them on the ground before him. They are children of wonder asking - Who is this? The stories we hear that he has raised the dead. Who is this man?' And they shout - Hosanna! "

Fesniak said that some people saw Jesus as a military leader, the Messiah, or a conqueror. Another group, the scribes and Pharisees, feared him because people were flocking to Jesus and would take away their authority.

"But Jesus is coming into Jerusalem with a message not of a warrior, but with a message of peace. That's what he preached," Fesniak said. "Jesus is coming into Jerusalem ... the place where he is going to die a miserable death."

According to information provided by the Very Rev. Archpriest John M. Fields, director of communication with the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, Palm Sunday in Ukraine is called Flowery Sunday or Willow Sunday because in Ukraine flowering willow branches are blessed in place of palm fronds. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, when people

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Christian Churches Mark Beginning of Holy Week with Palms and Willows

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come for the anointing, they take blessed willow branches and candles. After the service they bring the branches to their homes and use them as sacramentals. There is a tradition to tap each other with willow branches wishing good health, wealth and happiness saying one of the following verses: "The willow hits, not I; A week from now will be the Great Day, Pascha" or "Be as big as the will,

healthy as water, rich as the earth."

Since ancient times, the willow tree is considered to be a holy tree and symbolizes resurrection, eternal life, heavens, and the universe. It is the first tree to show signs of life after long winter. It was believed to have mysterious protective, medicinal and energizing powers drawn from the sun and people tapped each other with branches

believing that the energy from the tree will be transmitted to them. Willow is famous for its medicinal properties and for ages was used to treat many illnesses.

Fesniak reminded everyone to avail themselves of the many services throughout the week.

"Please try to make it to some of the services during this Holy Week.

It is the holiest time of the year," Fesniak said. "We should try to avail ourselves to come to church during this holiest period. You think about pilgrimages that have done in the past in centuries ago. People used to take time out of their lives to spend with God. They put a lot of energy going on pilgrimages."

<http://republicanherald.com/>

Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Parish of Scranton to hold Easter Dinner "Sviachene" on April 19th

Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Parish of Scranton will hold its annual Easter Dinner "Sviachene" celebration on Sunday, April 19, 2015, beginning at 12 noon in the Parish Center at 428 North Seventh Avenue. Traditional Easter foods will be served. Takeouts available from 11:00am to 11:45am.

Admission: \$13.00 adults; \$6.00 children age 6-12; age 5 and under free.

For reservations contact Dorothy at 570 346-4164. Advance reservations only - no tickets at the door. Reservation deadline is Tuesday, April 14.

Divine Liturgy is celebrated every Sunday at 10:30am.

Everyone is invited to our welcoming church and at our table!



Photo: (Pictured kneeling): Carolyn Moschorak, Jean Chomko, Dawn Carramanno; (Standing front row): Ann Lazuka, Helen "Lovey" Pietryka, Dorothy Fleck, Sophie Soniak, Shirley Nidoh, Donna Pace; (Back row): David Pietryka Jr., David Pietryka Sr., Edward Chomko, Jean Pedley, David Pedley, Father Myron Myronyuk, Patrick Caramanno, Michael Trusz and John Knott [Photo by Paul Ewasko]



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Sister Joann Sosler, OSBM
215-379-3998 Ext. 16
Registration Fee – \$15.00

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Never bound by a singly-defined ministry, the SSMI's have taken a flexible view, remaining faithful to its charism and founders' words:

"Serve where the need is the greatest."



The best candidates for religious life are women who have lots of choices - yet with all those choices say: **"I want to consecrate my life to God."**



Every vocation involves asking yourself the questions:

How am I Good News to others?

What gives me life?

And how do I share that life with others?



**Are you being called to be a
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Glory to God!

Honor to Mary!

Peace to Us!

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Phone: 845-753-2840
Email: ssminy@aol.com
Website: www.ssmi-us.org
Vocation Directors:
Sr. Eliane Ilnitski, SSMI
ilnitskiel10@yahoo.com
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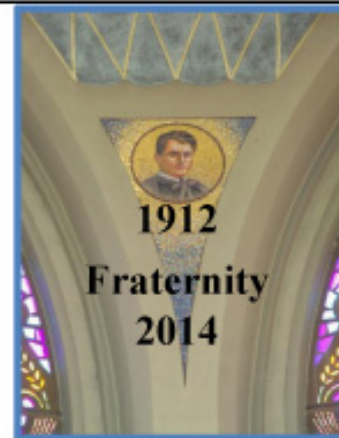
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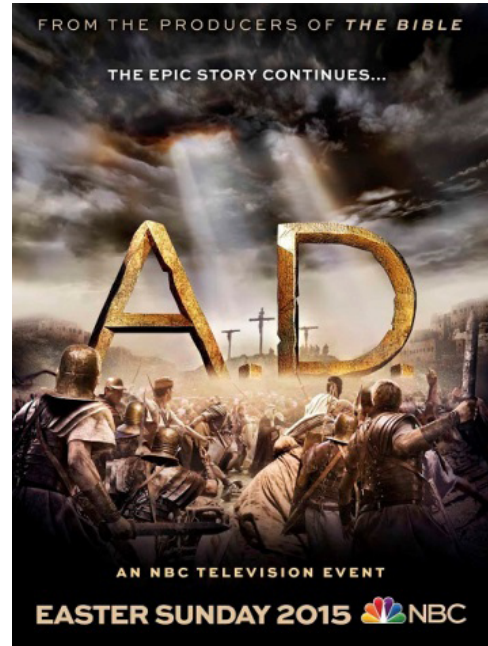
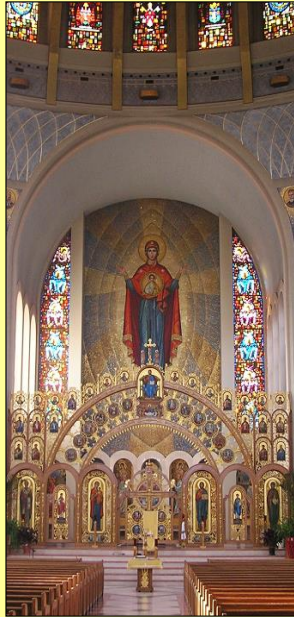
Saturdays: 2 pm to 4:30 pm

- View the Vatican authorized full size replica of the Shroud of Turin
- Venerate the relics of Blessed Bishop Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, CSsR and Blessed Sister Josaphata Hordashevaska, SSMI
- Experience the beauty of traditional Byzantine icons and mosaics

Divine Liturgies:

Saturday: 4:30 pm English
Sunday: 9 am Ukrainian
11 am English

For more information visit the website <http://www.ukrcathedral.com/>



Pascha Sunday, April 5, at 9 pm EDT, NBC begins a 12 part TV series entitled AD--The Bible Continues. The all new 12 part series, which will air each Sunday at 9 p.m. will conclude Sunday, June 21, 2015. The official trailer for the series <http://youtu.be/dSoFbndq0xs>, was previewed by the USCCB at their 2014 Fall meeting.

No. 219/2015 SXB
March 31, 2015

Dear Father,

April is National Child Abuse Prevention month. In an effort to continue educating our faithful about prevention of abuse of children, I am enclosing bulletin inserts for your use in the bulletins during the month of April.

The enclosed four inserts, available in both English and Ukrainian, can be included with your weekly parish bulletins. Also, materials will be published in The Way.

As the entire Catholic Church in the United States promotes protection of life and dignity of the human person, our efforts should also be directed to ensure safety of children and young adults in our parishes, schools, and communities.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and continued assistance by informing our faithful about child abuse and ways to prevent such abuse.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Hutchins, Coordinator for Victims Assistance and Youth Protection Office
Metropolitan Archeparchy of Philadelphia, Ukrainian Catholic

(continued on next page)



PROMISE TO
PROTECT

PLEDGE TO
HEAL



BULLETIN INSERT for April 4-5 (Easter Sunday)

APRIL: National Abuse Prevention Month

The Archeparchy has policies and procedures to create a safe environment and protect children. Read the policies and learn how you can help create a culture of protection.

<http://www.ukrarcheparchy.us/index.php?categoryid=13>

10 Safety lessons to teach your child

- Trust your feelings
- Treat others with Respect and expect to be treated the same.
- Question the motives of adults who single you out with gifts, privileges, or attention.
- Avoid going alone
- Know the rules for adult / child interactions
- Speak up tell someone if you are feeling uncomfortable
- Know your comfort zone and expect others to respect your boundaries
- Be sure someone knows where you are
- Talk with your parents, it's their job to keep you safe
- Remember you have the Right to Say No when you feel unsafe

For information on how you can become more informed and involved in keeping our children safe, please call our Child Protection and Victims Assistance Coordinator, Ken Hutchins at 215.627.0143 or email ukrchildprotection@ukrcap.org.

No. 219/2105 SXB

This Number should be Prefixed to Your Reply

PROMISE TO
PROTECT

PLEDGE TO
HEAL



BULLETIN INSERT FOR April 11-12

APRIL: National Abuse Prevention Month

Our Archeparchy has codes of conduct adults must follow to create safe environments and protect children. Reading and following the code in all situations creates a culture of protection and keeps our children safer. <http://www.ukrarcheparchy.us/index.php?categoryid=67>

10 Ways to keep your child safe

- Know where your child is.
- Know who your child is with.
- Be Aware of adults who single out your child with
 - Attention
 - Gifts
 - Special privileges
- Be sensitive to changes in your child's attitude or behavior.
- Teach your child about Right Relationships
- Listen to your child
- Practice basic safety skills
- Talk to your child about when to say "no" to an adult
- Give your child unconditional love and attention
- Be involved in your child's activities

For information on how you can become more informed and involved in keeping our children safe, please call our Child Protection and Victims Assistance Coordinator, Ken Hutchins at 215.627.0143 or email ukrchildprotection@ukrcap.org.

No. 219/2105 SXB

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HUMANITARIAN AID FOR UKRAINE FROM PEOPLE OF HOPE

Heartfelt gratitude is offered in prayers and words to all who have so generously donated for the ongoing Archieparchial COLLECTION FOR HUMANITARIAN AID FOR UKRAINE. You are Easter people – people who offer hope! Many individuals and parishes have made significant contributions, for which we are most thankful. To date, \$60,000 has been generously donated by you, people of hope! The donations have been forwarded directly to the Office of the Patriarch of our Ukrainian Catholic Church. They are best aware of the needs of those suffering as a result of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Our Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine has generously provided for the care of the many refugees and those in need of medical assistance. Your generous donations enable the Church to respond and to help immediately with great compassion and care.

Some parishes have elected to raise funds for specific programs providing assistance to the suffering in Ukraine. I believe that our Patriarch can best determine the greatest and most immediate needs for help. My preference is for us to respond as one family and direct collections taken within our parishes to assisting our Church in responding to the needs. It is the responsibility of the parish priest to ensure that all collections taken within parishes are strictly for humanitarian needs. This is also in conformity with tax laws.

The need for help in eastern Ukraine will continue to be great for some time. We are people of hope who celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Risen Christ walks with us in the journey of life as He did with the apostles on the road to Emmaus. Their hearts burned with passion as they came to understand the meaning of life. May our hearts burn with passion and love as we generously provide for the needs of the many who needlessly suffer in eastern Ukraine. When we choose to help, we grow in our understanding of life in the Risen Christ.

People of hope are asked to continue to share generously in providing humanitarian aid so desperately needed. Contributions may be made through your parish or sent directly to the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, 827 N Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123. Tax receipts are issued.

Thank you for your generosity shown to date. Thank you for your anticipated understanding and generous support for those requiring humanitarian help in this urgent time of crisis in our native Ukraine. God bless you in ways only He can for your generous outpouring of love and support for those in need!

+ Stefan Soroka
Metropolitan-Archbishop of
Philadelphia for Ukrainians



A Response to A Holy Call

Nowadays, we often wonder just what is happening with vocations in our Church. Our numbers seem to shrink in the face of a strongly secularized culture that relegates God to the back burner and sees our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as a “wandering hippy good guy” on par with Gautama Buddha or Mahatma Gandhi. In spite of all this, God is indeed amongst us and continues to work in mysterious ways. His divine voice still speaks out to us, calling us to Him, in spite of all the noise around us in the world. And . . . there is a small number of people out there who do strive to hear God’s voice and call, and fearlessly strike out to follow in His footsteps and live the life of His Gospel in our world.

Not too long ago, Motria (better known as “Moki”) Lonchyna, daughter of Rev. Taras and Pani Yaroslawa Lonchyna, and niece of Bishop Hlib Lonchnya (Eparch of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family in London, England), took that bold step to answer God’s call by entering into the Monastery of Christ the Bridegroom in Burton, OH. This is a relatively

new women’s monastery that was founded under the patronage of Bishop John Kudrick of the Byzantine-Ruthenian Eparchy of Parma, OH. It is a small, but young and flourishing community of women who seek to live a monastic life according to the customs of the Eastern Catholic Churches who trace their lineage to the ancient Christian see of Constantinople.

It would seem strange, even troubling to some, that Moki would give up a very successful life to follow in this path. She is a very accomplished and talented woman, holding degrees in Nursing from Catholic University of America, and Neonatal Nursing certification from the University of Pennsylvania. She has extensive work experience, having worked as a nurse at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, DC, and as a neonatal nurse practitioner at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Besides being a fan of the long running BBC show Doctor Who, she is also an avid runner as well. Knowing this, just what is it that would draw a person like Moki to the religious life as a nun?



Moki receives the habit of the “dokimos” (postulant in Greek) from her fellow postulant and friend, Jackie McNeill, at her tonsure ceremony. (Picture is used with permission from the website of the Monastery of Christ the Bridegroom, Burton, OH.)

When God calls someone to the priesthood, diaconate, or religious life as a monk or nun, that call is very personal, between God and that person. God Himself is mysterious and only He truly knows what is in each man and woman’s heart. This is a part of what makes the call to religious life mysterious, for we cannot truly know what that call is like unless we personally experience it. When a man or woman answers God’s call and truly open their hearts to His presence, His voice oftentimes proves to exert an irresistible pull on that person. When someone hears God’s call to the religious life, it is not for

us to try and force that person to what we think they should be. If we do this, we fall into error by trying to prevent God’s voice from reaching that person. We may think we are helping that person, but in essence, we are “shoe-horning” that person into what we think they should be doing. When we fall into this error, we are essentially telling God that we are rejecting His divine plan for us and for whom He chooses.

Moki has chosen a holy way of life, and in commending her to God and His call, we shall be rewarded in ways we

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A Response to A Holy Call

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cannot begin to envision. Her prayers, her labors, and her love that is expressed in the monastic life at the Monastery of Christ the Bridegroom will

prove to be a blessing to all of us. Let us all offer our prayers for Moki as this Great Fast rapidly comes to a close and Holy Week comes

upon us. Let us all offer words of congratulations to her, and to her family (especially Father Taras and Pani Lala). But most important of all, let us

all continue to pray for vocations so that God may continue to bless us and His holy church for generations to come.



Bishop Hryhoriy Komar Visits Cathedral in Philadelphia

On March 27th, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka warmly welcomed at his chancery His Grace, Bishop Hryhoriy Komar, Auxiliary Bishop of Sambir-Drohobych Eparchy in Ukraine.

Religious Education Students in Northampton, PA participate in Food Bank delivery

Middle school students of St. John the Baptist (Northampton, PA) Religious Education program celebrated St. Patrick's Day on March 17th by delivering parish food donations to the Northampton Area Food Bank. The parish generously donated hundreds of canned and boxed food items over several weeks. The students collected the items, then delivered, sorted and stocked the Food Bank shelves with the parish's donations. Food Bank Treasurer Pamela Kametz gave the students a tour of the Food Bank and explained how the food is distributed to those in need. The Northampton Area Food Bank is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization serving an average of 400-450 families per month. The students ended the evening by thanking Ms. Kametz for her time and promising to come back again during next year's Lenten season.



Photo, from left to right: (1st row): Students Christian Holmes, Noah Ford and Teresa Ford (2nd Row) Cindy Preston, Student Evelyn Bodnar, Pamela Kametz of the Food Bank, Student Elizabeth Neagle, Coletta Bodnar and Andrea Neagle

LUC Meeting - Sunday, May 3, 2015



North Anthracite Council - League of Ukrainian Catholics will meet on Sunday, May 3, 2015 at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, 430 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton, PA.

Moleben prayer service at 3:00pm, business session at 3:30pm, followed by reception and fellowship. Main agenda items include discussion of the upcoming May 16th bus trip to the annual St. George Ukrainian Street Festival in New York City and the October 2015 National LUC Convention in Lansdale PA.

For additional information contact Dorothy Jamula, President at 570 822-5354 or any LUC member of the parish.

Former members and new members are warmly invited to become involved in the LUC as an active participant in the "Vibrant Parish" movement throughout our worldwide Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

The Way E-mail Address Change



"The Way" currently has two e-mail addresses where we receive e-mails about news and events from parishes. We are going to stop using our old e-mail address in the upcoming weeks. Please send new e-mail messages for "The Way" to our newer e-mail address at: **theway@ukrcap.org**

Thank you!



Date: **Sunday, April 26, 2015**

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

Featuring: Filled
Longaberger Baskets &
Fabulous Food!



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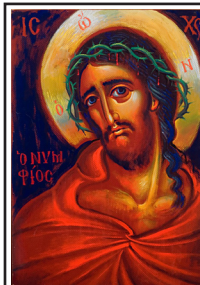
Tickets:

\$20 in advance

\$25 at the door

For information:

215-368-3365



Christ the Bridegroom

Christ the Bridegroom

2015 Icon retreat led by
iconographer Peter Pearson

May 7-10, 2015

Retreatants will follow step by step instructions to produce an icon of Christ the Bridegroom similar to the image on this flier. We will also discuss the development of iconography, the spirituality of creating an icon, and praying with icons.

Peter Pearson has forty years experience writing icons for churches, private individuals, and institutions around the world. He is noted for teaching both painting technique and the spirituality of creating icons. He has given presentations to groups ranging from school children and senior citizen groups to artists and seminarians and is the author of *A Brush with God: An Icon Workbook*. Samples of his iconography are available online at <http://www.peterpearsonicons.com/> or may be seen in Hazleton at St John Byzantine Catholic Church or Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church.

Schedule: Thursday May 7 & Friday May 8, 6:30pm-9:30pm
Saturday May 9, 9:30am-4:30pm; and Sunday May 10, 1-5pm

Cost: \$280 (\$295 after April 28), includes all supplies and materials for completing this icon, plus Saturday lunch.
Optional room & board starts at \$50/night (\$75 for private room).

Contact: Fr Carmen at holydormition@gmail.com or 570-788-1212 x 406



Holy Dormition Friary

712 State Highway 93 - PO Box 270 - Sybertsville, PA 18251
570-788-1212 - <http://hdbfm.com> - holydormition@gmail.com

BASILIAN SISTERS HOST RETIREMENT LUNCHEON FOR JOAN CROMPTON

The relationship began many years ago. It was the 1960's and Joan Crompton's two young boys were ready for elementary school. At that time a resident of the Wissinoming section of Philadelphia, a chance meeting with another mother acquainted Joan with St. Josaphat School in nearby Tacony. Little Jerry and Gary were enrolled and entrusted to the care of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great and the dedicated lay teachers who staffed the school. And so began the Ukrainian-Irish connection that has endured for decades.

On Thursday, March 19, 2015, the Motherhouse Community—Sisters and staff—gathered for a farewell retirement luncheon to honor long-time employee, Joan Crompton, who has served the Basilian community in so many ways.



Joan Crompton

At St. Josaphat's, Joan became an active member and then president of the St. Josaphat Parents Association, volunteering her services and eventually becoming secretary to the principal. In the 1970s, her reputation as a talented seamstress led the St. Basil Academy Principal at that time, Sister Dorothy Ann, to request that Joan teach a Home Economics course being offered as part of the curriculum.

The year 1994 found Joan entering a new phase of relationship with the Sisters at their Motherhouse, with duties in reception and in the Development Office. Throughout the years, known for her trustworthiness and capabilities, Joan's responsibilities grew as she worked closely with the Motherhouse superior, all the while growing in endearment to all the resident Sisters.

"Joan, we value you for your devotion, your sense of responsibility and your trustworthiness," said Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, Provincial Superior, at the farewell. "You are more than an employee in our eyes—you are co-minister sharing with us and with others our mission of hospitality. We pray that the all-loving God bless this leave-taking."

Joan, who with her late husband Jerry, had been residents of Warminster, PA, will continue to live in a retirement community in that township, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren close-by. "The Sisters have been my family," said Joan. "I feel this is just a vacation because I'll be back now and then."

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 web site is www.stbasils.com.

FELLOWSHIP AT LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT

Even a forecast of snow did not deter the retreatants from journeying to St. Mary's Villa, Slootsburg, NY, to attend the 37th Annual Lenten Retreat sponsored by the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America which was held Friday, March 20 to Sunday, March 22, 2015.

Inspired by the theme "Fellowship of the Holy Spirit" and the retreat master, Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM of the Franciscan Friary, Sybertsville, PA, retreatants from four states "put aside all worldly cares" to hear the lessons for spiritual renewal.

Twenty-four faithful adults of all ages gathered for the weekend to participate in five conferences and to hear about our relationship with the Holy Spirit and with each other. Fr. Jerome spoke of the definition of Fellowship; sharing, interaction and caring. The core of fellowship is Jesus Christ Himself in the Eucharist. Fellowship in the Holy Spirit keeps us together as members of His body. We should see Christ in each other, and identify with Jesus first and foremost as members of "His Body". Each attendee was asked to reflect on his/her own most favorite Jesus story found in the Bible and the Gospels. Through this reflection, we see the fruits of the Spirit and truly come to know Jesus. Through this knowledge and fellowship we learn to be attentive to the people around us, allowing our hearts to be with people and thus, to set aside our hurts and our hatreds.

We should all enjoy and live the fruits of the Holy Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. We must allow the Holy Spirit to bring us together, to witness to each other, to forgive each other. Fellowship enables us to want to spend time together and with God; and to come together in Church to be with each other.

Other highlights of the weekend included celebration of the Akathist to the Mother of God and Divine Liturgy, and the Anointing for Healing service. There was ample opportunity for the sacrament of repentance, private prayer and reflection, and of course, lively fellowship with fellow retreatants.

At the conclusion of the retreat at mid-day Sunday, participants were reluctant to leave, having gained revitalization, both spiritual and physical, and wishing to continue the peace and happiness of the weekend. This retreat is an opportunity to renew friendships, as many have participated in this annual Lenten program for greater than 20 years, and to make new ones. All vowed to share their learnings with family and friends in the hope that next year, more would partake of this rewarding annual event.

[Composed by Marion Hrubec, National President]



Photo: (Front row – Left to right): Sr. Olga Faryna OSBM, Michael Labuda, Amy Bolesky, Marie Glowa, Sonya Capar, Fr. Jerome Wolbert OFM, Sr. Cecelia Sworin SSMI, Marybeth Darnobid, Joanne Serafin, Jurij Holinej, Janina Everett (Back Row – Left to right) : Maria Szynda, Delores Dzubaty, Marie Hancher, Helen Labinsky, Paul Hancher, Catherine Wall, Marcia Bolesky, Irene Plaxa, Anastasia Pucher, Ihor Shust, Stephen Darnobid, Olga Bell, Marion Hrubec (Photo by Helen Fedoriw)

Assumption School Teacher Receives the Teacher of the Year Award.

The Knights of Columbus are a charitable, Catholic fraternal organization, deserving of their own accolades and recognition for their service to community, but on Saturday, March 22, they were the ones doing the honoring. At their Annual Shield Awards and Dinner, the San Salvador Council 299 honored members of the local Perth Amboy Police and Fire Departments, as well as Catholic school teachers and community volunteers.

Assumption Catholic School had quite a fine representation at the dinner. Alumni Brian Lopazanski and parent of current students Katie and Nathaniel Perez, Michael Perez were honored for their work in the Fire Department. Our school, represented by Father Ivan Turyk and principal Michael Szyhulsky, was honored for our volunteer work. Students who participated in and won the basketball free throw contest sponsored by the Knights were on hand to receive trophies and certificates. Awards were handed out by Ed Troche, parent of alumni Christopher Troche, who, it is worth mentioning, will soon be graduating from the US Naval Academy.



**Melanie Lawrence -
Teacher of the Year**

The shining star of our school for the evening, was the recipient of the Teacher of the Year award, Melanie Lawrence. Mrs. Lawrence has been teaching at Assumption Catholic School for over 30 years. For six of those years, she even served as principal. As she drew inspiration from some of her own teachers - she can trace back her love of poodles to stories her third grade teacher told about her own pets (does that scenario sound familiar to anyone?), and it was a seventh grade teacher that encouraged her to refine her writing skills (did you know she usually writes her junior drama plays herself?) - so too does she inspire generation after generation of students at ACS. Her love for education and dedication to the Assumption Catholic community shows and inspires in almost everything she does, from her teaching, to her many after school groups, and her volunteering at church.

No matter what you may do with your life, whether you are a fire fighter, a teacher, or something else entirely, it is always the hope that you pursue your dreams not for the recognition, but because it helps you live a fulfilling, and happy life. But sometimes, the recognition is nice. Congratulations to all the 2014 honorees!

PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV TO THE YOUTH

My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways. (Prov. 23:26)

Dear Young People in Christ!

I always await Palm Sunday with great anticipation – the day of the glorious entrance of Christ into Jerusalem – for it is an opportunity to support and bless you and to speak to you the Word of God.

Today we experience a profound Gospel event – the entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem. This is a celebration of Christ's triumph and glory that opens the door to suffering and death, one of the most important episodes of His life. The people greet Jesus with great elation because news that He restored life to Lazarus had spread across the land like lightning. The thunderous welcome of Jesus at His entry into the city is a manifestation of the joy at encountering a person who recently revealed Himself as a life-giver, by having "called" to life His friend with the words, "Lazarus, come out!" Our Lord – still before he set out on His own path of suffering, death and resurrection –

weeps for His deceased friend and returns him to life – because life, not death, is the human vocation!

By the resurrection of Christ, the expanse of resurrectional activity is extended to each of us. We receive hope in Jesus Christ because He, by His life-giving Word, can restore us to the light of life and the fullness of joy even from the very depths of death. In a few days, He will even literally descend to Hades to bring out from there those who fell asleep awaiting the Saviour. The hands of Christ are always open for our hands, in order that, like in the icon of "The Descent Into Hades," He would raise us from our knees. His touch, the squeeze of His hand, is life-giving. He Himself is Life.

Dear young people! Over the course of the last year, we had the opportunity to sense and observe how quickly you grew, how you matured. The calamity that came upon Ukraine changed you and placed before you challenges that usually are unknown to your peers in many countries of the world. You saw many deaths,



experienced the loss of your friends and acquaintances, as well as of our soldiers who, perhaps, were even younger than you.

The painful experience that you received encourages you even more to ask fundamental, deep and direct questions. I received one such question during an encounter with youth at the Marian shrine at Zarvanytsya. A girl asked, "Are we to live or die for Ukraine?" I was impressed by the openness, depth, and courage that was contained in that phrase. For Ukraine you must live! That is how I answered then in Zarvanytsya. That is what I say to you today. Because life is our principal vocation.

We have heard thousands of times this year the slogan, "Heroes don't

die." These words have a profound Christian meaning, because we believe that death has been defeated. John Chrysostom wrote, "O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are fallen! Christ is risen, and the demons are conquered! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life flows freely!" I implore you: remember these words throughout the next week... in those moments when despair and powerlessness weigh on your soul in these difficult times of war and crisis.

Thus, my message to you today is – live for God and Ukraine! The logical question arises: how are we to live? The renowned Swedish actress, Greta

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THE WAY

PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV TO THE YOUTH

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Garbo, once said, "Life would be so wonderful if we only knew what to do with it." This is truly a fundamental question, the answer to which is sought by young people throughout the world. I call you to a profound, honest, responsible, and bold quest for an answer. I assure you that in this search the Church will be your guide and advisor. Search for an answer in the Gospel of Christ, listening to the Word of God in the contemporary context and in the light of history, which is rich in good examples that inspire and allow us to dream and act with courage.

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of his birth this year, our Church honours the memory of a great prince of the Church, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky. He was a wise leader that led his people and Church through the most difficult hardships of the 20th century. Metropolitan Andrey often addressed young people, helping them to overcome the confusion of the interwar period, when they were faced with the same harsh complex life decisions that you are facing today.

The Metropolitan, to use modern terminology, was a successful man of his day. However, his advice regarding success – how to live – remains relevant even today. In particular, in his 1942 letter, *About the Nurturing of Youth*, he wrote, "But undoubtedly every young person needs the ideal to be a good, and a great Christian. In some degree, the young must understand that success and the achievement of other ideals, depend on this..." In time of war and anxiety, he turned the attention of the youth to that which was most important – to be good and great Christians. This is the key that offers us a response to the question of the abovementioned actress of what to do with this life.

The words of our great Metropolitan are echoed in the thought of Pope Francis, expressed this year in his letter to youth, when he says, "in Christ you find fulfilled your every desire for goodness and happiness. He alone can satisfy your deepest longings, which are so often clouded by deceptive worldly promises." He called upon young people to have the courage

to be happy. In fact, true happiness requires courage!

Hardship generates sacrifice, but in you, young people, it also brings out vigorous creativity. I regard with profound respect the young volunteer movement that has engulfed our communities and parishes. Your aid to the soldiers, the wounded, to those forced to migrate from the territory of conflict, and to all those that suffer from the war in Ukraine's east, your dedication, resourcefulness, and sincerity inspire everyone, and are a concrete act of mercy about which the Lord speaks so often in the Gospel. Do not give up. Help those to whom you can reach out. And let not your sacrifice diminish with time. Rather, by creating a network of young volunteers, build ties that will form a foundation for new structures of goodness that are so needed in Ukraine. This will be the beginning of real change in a society that will be united, strong, and just in times of peace, which will certainly come.

In particular, I want to address the young

soldiers. Dear friends and brothers! Hardship and the grave task of defending our homeland from adversaries is the fate that fell upon you. You accepted this challenge upon yourselves and exhibit admirable tenacity and dedication. Therefore, when we say today that young people "must live for Ukraine," above all we think about you. Looking at your achievements that you so faithfully and persistently realize day after day, we cannot but recognize that you have trod on the path of the fullness of life, because the fullness of life is found in love. And what is love? Our Saviour assures us that, "greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (Jn. 15:13). To paraphrase Christ, we can say that no one is capable of living a more full life than the one who is ready to surrender his own earthly life out of love for one's neighbour, and love for one's country. Remember that our mother, the Church, prays for you continuously, supports you and, together with your earthly mothers, awaits your return

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PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV TO THE YOUTH

(continued from previous page)

home.

Dear young faithful of our Church, throughout this year we will seek out every opportunity to listen to you as frequently as possible, to be inspired by your boldness, and to learn from your courage. In addition, so that there might be a method to our encounters, I am giving you a small "homework assignment." Following Pope Francis, I want to call upon you to read the Holy Scriptures more often. It is in the Scriptures that will find

many answers to the questions which have been and will be posed to you.

Share with one another that Word of God that you hear, in your meditations on the texts of Sacred Scripture, when taking part in the prayer life of the Church and in your experiences of the spiritual life. Be open to the call of God to the priestly and monastic life, and never be afraid to make your own life choice in favour of God and His Truth. Make use

of your own creative gifts and share Christian wisdom wherever you are – on social networks and on websites, on radio and television, during individual conversations, and other opportunities. May the wisdom of God, according to the words of Metropolitan Andrey, be a powerful and decisive force that will guide you into the future – a force that will transfigure your young minds and those of your peers. It is this Wisdom that will give you understanding as to what to do with your life,

and what its purpose is. It will be beautiful.

May the blessing of the Lord be upon you!

+ SVIATOSLAV

Issued in Kyiv, At the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, On Akafist Saturday, 28 March 2015 AD

<http://news.ugcc.ua>

Holy See: All parties need to work to implement Ukraine agreements

26/03/2015

(Vatican Radio) The Holy See reminded the international community of the need to "respect international legality regarding Ukraine's territory and borders" as a "key element" for ensuring stability, both for Ukraine and the entire region.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, on Thursday addressed the United Nations Human Rights Council about the situation in Ukraine.

"The Holy See welcomes the steps taken to enforce the ceasefire, which is intended as an essential condition to arrive at political solutions exclusively through dialogue and negotiation," said Archbishop Tomasi.

"At the same time, it emphasizes the crucial need for all parties to implement the decisions taken by common agreement, acknowledging in this context the efforts made by the UN, the OSCE and other relevant organizations with reference to the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements," he said.



Archbishop Silvano Tomasi

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Holy See: All parties need to work to implement Ukraine agreements

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With reference to the Statement made by this Permanent Mission at the 25th Session of the Human Rights Council on March 26, 2014, the Holy See reiterates its closeness and solidarity to all the people of Ukraine, whose country continues to be affected by the present conflict.

With this intervention, the Holy See intends to stress once again the urgent need to respect international legality regarding Ukraine's territory and borders, as a key element for ensuring stability at both the national and the regional level, and to re-establish law and order based on full respect for all fundamental human rights.

In this regard, the Holy See welcomes the steps taken to enforce the ceasefire, which is intended as an essential condition to arrive at political solutions exclusively through dialogue and negotiation. At the same time, it emphasizes the crucial need for all parties to implement the decisions taken by common agreement, acknowledging in this context the efforts made by the UN, the OSCE and other relevant organizations with reference to the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements.

The Holy See holds that the full adherence of all parties to the provisions of said Agreements is a prerequisite for all further efforts to improve the humanitarian and human rights situation in the affected territories, by, first of all, bringing an end to the loss of human life, acts of violence and other forms of abuse. It should also include the release of all hostages and illegally held persons and ensure unfettered access by all legitimate actors to provide humanitarian assistance in those areas.

At the same time the Holy See is concerned about the social emergency facing the population living in the areas affected, who suffer from poverty, hunger, insecurity and health risks. It is also concerned about injured and displaced persons and families suffering from the loss of loved ones. In this urgent situation, the Holy See is committed to offering its assistance through its institutions and requests the charitable organizations of the Catholic Church to intensify and coordinate their efforts to provide assistance to the people of Ukraine. The Holy See also wishes to express its confidence in the solidarity of the international community.

<http://en.radiovaticana.va>

Christians, Muslims and Buddhists pray for peace in Ukraine

30 March 2015

Believers and enthusiasts gathered to participate in a joint interdenominational prayer at St Sophia Square. The event took place on Saturday, March 28, at the initiative of "Women for Peace" Public initiative and with the assistance of the Synodal Department for social service and charity of the UOC-KP and NGO "Elios-Grace." Representatives of three world religions: Christians, Muslims and Buddhists prayed side by side," says RISU reporter Iryna Ryndych.

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Christians, Muslims and Buddhists pray for peace in Ukraine

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As noted a representative of the social service department of Ukraine, Fr. Olexander Medvedev: "All the sharpness of the moment, all the specifics of our prayers is that peace and tranquility in Ukraine are possible only given the full victory. And we pray that Ukraine may be free and independent in the God-granted boundaries. We believe that God hears our prayers and justice will prevail."

The event started with a minute of silence for the deceased in the ATO. Thereafter representatives of various religious organizations read prayers and made speeches on peace, power of love, respect and unity of Ukraine.



As Mufti of the Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of Ukraine "Ummah" Said Ismagilov noted in his speech, "Today we gathered here in the capital, in order to pray to God for peace. We are all representatives of different religions, we pray in different languages, but there is one wish in our minds and hearts that the Lord helped us, answered our prayers and Ukraine would be a free and peaceful country."

"Ukraine is a unique country, we can show the world how united we are, in spite of all the differences. We have the same love for our country, its people and the future that we are building together. For believers there is no doubt that the help comes from the Lord, He grants forgiveness, victory, liberation, unity and reconciliation. These are what all people of Ukraine need the most," he added.

Buddhists added special zest to the action. As noted Dzyunsey Terasava, a traveler, Buddhist teacher and monk from Japan: "We serve this prayer in the name of truth and justice, for the sake of humanity and Ukraine.

Authentic truth always defeats injustice, lies and violence. The power of love and mutual respect will enable us to overcome all the challenges that we are facing now. The Ukrainian people became true heroes who not only saved the country but also showed example for the whole world."

According the event organizer Anna Ardens, this event was held for the second time and it is planned to hold it regularly in the future, for the unity of the people and to show that we have attained mutual understanding and respect among all religious organizations.

<http://risu.org.ua>



Moleben to Blessed Bishop Martyr Mykola Charnetsky

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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.