

## Christina Dochwat Visits Cathedral with Arrival of Two New Mosaics

Two new mosaics arrived at the Golden Domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, PA on June 2, 2015. Christina Dochwat, world renowned iconographer, came to the Cathedral to meet and plan with those installing the new mosaics of Venerable Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky and Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskya, SSMI.



**Christina Dochwat poses with the new mosaic of Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskya, SSMI. (Photo: T. Siwak)**



**Christina Dochwat joyously smiles at the new mosaic of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky. (Photo: T. Siwak)**

The mosaics have been prepared by Christina Dochwat who has written most of the Cathedral's iconography. The mosaics were fabricated in Italy by the same firm which has done previous art work in our Cathedral.

The mosaic of Blessed Josaphata, SSMI, was installed on June 3rd and the mosaic of Metropolitan Sheptytsky was installed on June 4th. Each mosaic is 9 feet tall and weighs approximately 250 pounds. Fourteen screws were used to fasten each mosaic to a wooden backboard into the Cathedral.

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# Christina Dochwat Visits Cathedral with Arrival of Two New Mosaics

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**Workers install the new mosaic of Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskya, SSMI on June 3, 2015.**



**Workers install the new mosaic of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky on June 4, 2015.**

When the mosaics arrived at the Cathedral, there was tape covering the 14 areas where the screws should be drilled on each mosaic. Workers carefully removed the tape and methodically collected the 14 sections of stones to uncover the area where the screws should be drilled.

After the workers installed the mosaics into place at Cathedral, they covered over the screws with the 14 sections of remaining stones to complete the mosaic.

At the end of June, marble should arrive to frame around the new mosaics.



**Screws show where the mosaic was attached to the wooden backboard.**

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# Christina Dochwat Visits Cathedral with Arrival of Two New Mosaics

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Christina Dochwat said if you look closely at the small pieces of glass and stone you can see they are of different heights and different angles. The "beauty of mosaics" is that the light will reflect off all the different angles of the tiles and that's what makes it special.

Christina Dochwat also cleaned and restored four of the main icons on the Cathedral's iconostas and helped with the installation of the icons on June 2, 2015. The four newly restored icons of St. Nicholas, Blessed Mother holding Jesus, Jesus, and St. John the Baptist were originally painted in 1981. Christina Dochwat said over time incense from the cadillo and so forth accumulates on the paintings. Christina Dochwat said a very mild baby soap mixed with water should be used with a sponge to clean the icons in the future.

Christina Dochwat will also be restoring the icons on the Deacon doors of Archangel Michael and St. Stephen Protomartyr.

-Teresa Siwak



**Stones from the mosaic.**



**Christina Dochwat helps install the newly restored icon on the iconostas.**



**Christina Dochwat helps install the newly restored icon of St. John the Baptist to the iconostas.**

JUNE 14, 2015

## 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.

## Third Sunday after Pentecost - June 14, 2015



*The Lord said: "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Mt. 6, 22-34)*

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Today's Gospel illustrates the loving concern God has for His creation. As you listen to it, you can close your eyes and almost feel Christ take your hand and tell you there is nothing to worry about. Nothing happens without His knowledge.

Jesus was probably sitting in a field with His apostles, trying to get them to understand that if God is first in your life, there is nothing else to worry about. He looked around, pointed out the tall grass, the wild flowers, the birds in the air, and asked: "Are not you of much more value than they?" Jesus tells us that there is much more to life than food, clothing, and material things. Of course, be concerned with life! But don't worry yourself sick about how you are going to pay the bills this week and still have enough money left for grocery shopping. Don't worry about where the money is going to come for school clothes in September. "Your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the Kingdom of God and His justice." He explained: "...and all these things will be given you besides."

This calls for confidence and trust in God. This does not mean that we can be idle, and do nothing, and expect God to provide us with everything we need and want. God doesn't directly feed birds nor nurture wild flowers. He does provide for them indirectly. He does not give it to them directly and immediately.

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# Third Sunday after Pentecost

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We are by nature different from the birds and flowers. We have talents, energies, and capabilities which they lack. It is natural for us to work and live by our work. But we must remember God's ways are not our ways. He brings good out of everything for our sake. The mistake we make is to think that what we need, when we need it and what is best for us.

God also uses people as His instruments to help one another. We are His hands, His feet, His mouth, and His presence of love among people. We should strive to be good helpers.

Have faith, confidence, and trust in God. "Seek first the Kingdom of God...and all these other things shall be given you besides."

## UKRAINIAN CULTURE AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL AT ST. NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

800-801 Lea Boulevard Wilmington, DE 19802  
Call us: (302) 762-5511



**Reserve the date!**  
**Sunday June 21, 2015**  
**12pm -8pm**

**Come and join us for Ukrainian Culture and Heritage Festival and fundraising event!**

**Food, drinks, music, fun and vendors all day long!**

**Money raised will go to the families of those brave soldiers who defend Ukraine today.**

**God's peace and love to all!**



## **“The Way” is going on a Summer Break in July.**

Please send us news about July or early August events so we can post them in our next issue on June 28. Our first issue after the Summer Break will be August 9th. Thank you.

**Visit our Website for any news during the Break.**

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



## **Knights of Columbus 133rd Supreme Convention**

will be held in

Philadelphia, PA

August 4 - 6, 2015

For more information please visit their website at

**<http://2015pakofc.org>**



## **THE PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATION**

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**61<sup>st</sup> Holy Dormition (Assumption) Pilgrimage  
August 8-9, 2015**

**Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate  
St. Mary's Villa / Sloatsburg, New York**

**Theme: "Mary, Our Model of Perfect Commitment"**



**Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**

- 12:00 p.m. Food Available at Pavilion  
1:00 p.m. **Akathist to the Mother of God** – Rev. Edward Cimbala,  
St. Mary's Byzantine Church, Hillsborough, NJ  
2:00 p.m. **Presentations** (listed below)  
5:00 p.m. **Divine Liturgy** – Rev. Edward Cimbala, main celebrant /homilist (*grotto – English*)  
Choir: St. Mary's, Hillsborough, NJ - Blessing of Water in front of St. Mary's Villa  
7:15 pm **Activity for children** – Children will also participate in the candlelight procession  
8:00 p.m. **Moleben to the Mother of God** with candlelight procession (*grotto – English*)  
Most Rev. Kurt Burnette – Bishop of Passaic Eparchy - main celebrant / homilist  
**Panakhida** – St. Mary's Villa chapel  
\*\*\*Teen Camp Out begins Saturday at 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy through Sunday\*\*\*

**Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**

- 8:00 a.m. **Akathist to the Mother of God** –Rev. Roman Malyarchuk, Rector of St. Basil's Seminary  
10:30 a.m. **Pontifical Divine Liturgy** with procession to the grotto - followed by blessing of flowers  
Most Rev. Stefan Soroka, Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia  
Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Bishop of the Eparchy of Stamford  
Most Rev. Bohdan Danylo – Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma – Homilist  
Most Rev. Basil Losten, Bishop Emeritus of the Eparchy of Stamford  
Choir: Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church, Lindenhurst, NY  
12:00 p.m. **Youth Liturgy**, Rev. Walter Pasicznyk, main celebrant / homilist (*chapel – English*)  
1:00 p.m. **Activity for youth/children**  
1:30 p.m. **Blessing of the Sick** (*St. Mary's Villa Chapel & grotto steps*)  
**Blessing of Religious Articles** (*front of St. Joseph's Home*)  
**Presentation** –V. Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak – "Sheptytsky as Metropolitan & Pastor"  
2:00 p.m. **Stations of the Cross** –Rev. Maxim Kobasuk, OSBM  
3:00 p.m. **Moleben to the Mother of God** – Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM –Celebrant & Homilist  
**Blessing of cars and buses** – Rev. Ivan Tyhovych

***Exhibits of Women/Men Religious Communities of the Eastern Church will be on display***

**CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE WEEKEND**

**Presentations - Saturday (English)**

- 2:00 Rt. Rev. Mitred Msgr. John Terlecky – "Mary's Commitment Expressed Through Her Icons"  
2:45 Sr. Kathleen Hutsko, SSMI – "The Heartbeat of the SSMI's – "The Charism of Bl. Josaphata"  
3:15 V. Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak – "Sheptytsky as Metropolitan & Pastor"

**Presentation - Sunday (Ukrainian)**

- 1:30 V. Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak – "Sheptytsky as Metropolitan & Pastor"

***Rt. Rev. Mitred Msgr. John Terlecky - Pilgrimage Spiritual Moderator***



## HOLY DORMITION PILGRIMAGE EVENTS

**2:00 - Mary's Commitment  
Expressed Through Her Icons**

**Rt. Rev. Mitred Msgr. John Terlecky**

Monsignor John Terlecky is a priest of the Stamford Eparchy. During his forty years of priestly ministry he has been a pastor, an administrator on the seminary and eparchial levels, and the librarian of the Stamford museum. DURING his missionary time in Ukraine (1991-1994), he learned quite a bit about icons and their symbolism.



**Saturday  
Conferences  
Presented in  
English**

**2:45 - The Heartbeat of the  
SSMI's - The Charism of  
Blessed Josaphata**

**Sister Kathleen Hutsko, SSMI**

Sr. Kathleen Hutsko is the Provincial Superior of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, American Province. During her 35 years of being in Consecrated Life, her main ministry has been as a teacher, principal in elementary education. As the Sisters Servants continue to pray for the Canonization of Blessed Josaphata, their foundress, and travel to parishes with the relic icon of Blessed Josaphata, Sr. Kathleen will share about the passion and "heartbeat" of Blessed Josaphata, a woman/saint for our times.

**All  
Presentations  
Held in  
St. Mary's  
Villa**



**3:30 - Sheptytsky as  
Metropolitan and Pastor**

**V. Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak**



**неділя - 1:30**

**Шептицький -  
Митрополит і Пастир**

V. Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak is a Church Historian who enjoys sharing his extensive knowledge of the history of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States. Fr. Ivan's latest book is entitled *Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky and the Establishment of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States*. Fr. Ivan is pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Kerhonkson, NY.

**Exhibits of Women/Men Religious Communities  
of the Eastern Church will be on display**

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM and TEEN CAMP-OUT**

**Children's Program  
for youth up to age 12**



**Teen Camp - Out  
for Ages: 13 -18**

**SATURDAY - 7:15 p.m.**  
*Includes participation in  
candlelight procession*

*Teen Program begins with  
the Divine Liturgy at 5 p.m.  
and lasts through Sunday.*

**SUNDAY - 1:00 p.m.**

**Questions? More information?**

**Contact:** Sr. Natalya at (845) 709-0769 [thesower@optonline.net](mailto:thesower@optonline.net)  
or Sr. Kathleen at (845) 753-2840 [ssminy@aol.com](mailto:ssminy@aol.com)

**Or write:** SSMI Camp-Out, P.O. Box 9, Sloatsburg, NY 10974

Registration Forms and Additional Information will be sent to you.

**Pilgrimage weekend August 8 - 9, 2015 Sloatsburg, NY**

# Ukrainian

Cultural and Heritage

# Festival



**Saturday June 27, 2015**  
**12 noon - 9pm**

Dance Shows at 1pm & 3pm  
 Food, Drink, Music, Vendors & Fun all day long

Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption  
 684 Alta Vista Place Perth Amboy, NJ  
 for more information call 732.826.0767

81st Annual

# UKRAINIAN DAY



Sunday  
**July 26, 2015**  
 11 AM to 8 PM  
**St. Nicholas Picnic Grove**  
 Rt. 901 in Primrose, Schuylkill Co., PA,  
 One Mile from Minersville

11 AM: Hierarchical Divine Liturgy  
 11:30 AM-1:30 PM: WPPA 1360 AM Live Polka Broadcast  
 1:00 PM-3 PM: Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble  
 4 PM-8 PM: John Stevens' Doubleshot Polka Band

**Everyone Welcome!**


- Delicious food made by the sponsoring parishes (pyrohy, halushki, halupki, potato cakes, kielbasa, soups, desserts, & more)
- Theme Basket Auction
- Vendors & Crafters selling traditional Eastern European items
- Pysanky Demonstrations & Classes
- Games & fun for the whole family

Free Parking • Buses Welcome • Free Admission • Rain or Shine  
 Proceeds benefit the St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary  
 (Sorry...no outside food or beverages allowed)  
[www.seminaryday.org](http://www.seminaryday.org) or Find us on Facebook: Ukrainian Seminary Day

## Byzantine Liturgy to be held at St. Edmond's Church in Rehoboth Beach, DE

Rev. Volodymyr Klanichka pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church will celebrate Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at St. Edmond's Roman Catholic Church, Rehoboth Beach, DE at 6:00 PM on Sundays: May 31, June 28, July 26 and August 30, 2015. (Last Sunday of the month during May, June, July, and August.)

St. Edmond's Roman Catholic Church is located on the Intersection of King Charles Avenue and Laurel Street, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971. For more information, please call at 302 762-5511



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 AND  
*THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE*

**AT OUR ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE**

**OCTOBER 4, 2015**

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

## AIDING UKRAINE

Roundtable Discussion at  
USUF:

The Humanitarian  
Catastrophe in Ukraine  
By Ashley Ferguson and  
Leah Valtin-Erwin

The U.S.-Ukraine  
Foundation collaborated  
with the Embassy of  
Ukraine in the United  
States of America to host  
a roundtable discussion  
on June 1, 2015 on  
the Humanitarian  
Catastrophe in Ukraine.



Representatives from such  
organizations as Save  
Ukraine Now, Wounded  
Warrior Ukraine,  
Ukrainian Federation of  
America, United Help  
Ukraine, Ukrainian  
Catholic National Shrine  
of the Holy Family,  
Ukrainian Catholic

**Yaroslav Brisiuck, Charges D’Affaires - Embassy of Ukraine in the U.S., Nadia K. McConnell, President - USUF, Fr. Wasyl Kharuk of the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, and Auxiliary Bishop John Bura of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia (from left to right). Photo by Leah Valtin-Erwin.**

Archeparchy of Philadelphia, Embassy of Ukraine and USUF spoke about their organization’s efforts to provide aid to the victims of the war. These organizations are helping to provide physical and mental rehabilitation for Ukrainians and their families impacted by the war, organizing donations of medical supplies, and putting together events to raise public awareness about the ongoing conflict.

Before the roundtable discussion, USUF also hosted a Strategy Session led by President Nadia McConnell to discuss some of the major issues Ukraine is currently facing, as well as opportunities for cooperation and coordination of humanitarian assistance.

One of the major issues discussed was the need for heightened international awareness. As Dr. Gary Kellner, founder of Save Ukraine Now, stated, “It was a crisis a year ago. 2 million people being moved from their homes is a catastrophe.” And yet there is still not an appropriate amount of international attention on the need for humanitarian aid. Financial support, for both humanitarian needs and political reform, must be given to the Ukrainian government if the situation is to stabilize.

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# AIDING UKRAINE

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Many at this strategy session felt that the lack of widespread international attention given to the crisis in Ukraine was a result of the Ukrainian government downplaying the crisis in order to not appear vulnerable. It was also mentioned that the restrictions of diplomacy, while a powerful influence on politicians, do not apply to NGOs, allowing them more flexibility in their methods for getting a message out. It was suggested that if NGOs and the government could work together more closely, they could send out a more clear and powerful message about the need for humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

Participants at this meeting also discussed the possibility of creating a database to keep track of humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. This would reduce duplicate efforts and make sure that donations and supplies go where they are most needed. This could also serve as a library for videos and articles related to Ukraine that could be used as a valuable resource for promoting awareness.

After this strategy meeting, the organizations were given the chance to present their experiences with humanitarian work in Ukraine.

USUF's Humanitarian Aid Coordinator, Tetyana Neeley, described her success in donating 20 tons of medical supplies valued between \$300,000-\$400,000 to hospitals mainly located in central and eastern Ukraine where the need is greatest. She described the challenges and logistics of gathering donations, international shipping and delivery, and final distribution of supplies in Ukraine.

Dr. Gary Kellner, founder of Save Ukraine Now , spoke about his organization's efforts to raise awareness of the humanitarian issues in Ukraine, especially by reaching out to religious communities. He discussed Detroit's city-wide initiative in which religious leaders of all denominations gathered to show and discuss their support for Ukraine, and how small steps like this can have a far reaching influence.

Roman Torgovitsky and Olena Kozlova-Pates from Wounded Warrior Ukraine spoke about how their organization works to create modern psychological and physical rehabilitation services in Ukraine. They provide training organized in four sessions where trainees learn basic understanding of trauma, rebuilding resourcefulness, restoring emotional stability, psychological techniques to overcome trauma, and methods for post-traumatic physical and psychological re-orientation for the future.

Dr. Zenia Chernyk, President of the Ukrainian Federation of America, discussed her organization's many efforts in Ukraine such as their involvement in providing rehabilitation for soldiers and their families and helping to set up a first response program similar to 911.

[www.ukrainianfederationofamerica.org](http://www.ukrainianfederationofamerica.org)

The event concluded with a blessing from Auxiliary Bishop John Bura of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

<http://www.usukraine.org/healthcare.shtml>

## ECED Holds Spring Meeting

Directors of eparchial Religious Education departments recently held their Spring Meeting at Bon Secour Retreat and Conference Center in Marriotsville, Maryland. This group, the publishing arm of the Eastern Catholic Bishops in the United States, is entrusted with the task of providing catechetical and related materials for use in all levels of instruction—pre-K through adult, whether in formal classes, discussion groups, or at-home study.

The three-day session addressed the many facets of the processes involved in planning, producing and distributing student texts, facilitators' guides, pamphlets, books, DVDs, posters and other instructional aids, prepared in print, on discs, or on the Internet through God With Us Publications. During the course of forty years, ECED [Eastern Conference of Eparchial Directors (of Religious Education)] has seen to the details of maintaining an inventory of suitable resources for catechists, students, and anyone interested in learning more about the faith and its practices. Planning also went into the annual resumption of classroom activity in conjunction with the observance of "Catechetical Sunday."

The books and other items are mandated by the American bishops as instructional materials in parochial settings, and are also widely-used in Eastern Christian classes, study groups or individual growth internationally.

During one of the presentations, Business Manager Dr Barbara Lutz provided detailed fiscal information and reported on the many aspects of day-to-day activity regarding the inventory at the warehouse and the intricacies of maintaining the website for all the material available from God With Us Publications.



**PHOTO: Gathered on a sun-lit walkway are: [LEFT TO RIGHT] Fr John Lucas, (St Nicholas Eparchy—Ukrainian); Deacon Daniel Dozier, (Passaic Eparchy--Ruthenian); Deacon Sabatino Carnazzo, (Eparchy of Newton—Melkite); Fr Paul Voida, (Eparchy of St George—Romanian); Dr Barbara Lutz, (Eparchy of Passaic); Sr Ann Laszok, OSBM, (Eparchy of St Josaphat—Ukrainian); Fr Anthony Hernandez, (Holy Protection Eparchy—Ruthenian); Sr Marion Dobos, OSB, (Archeparchy of Pittsburgh—Ruthenian); Mrs Cindy Corbett, (Archeparchy of Pittsburgh); Archpriest John Kachuba, (Eparchy of Parma—Ruthenian); Bishop Nicholas Samra (Episcopal Liason of Eastern Catholic Associates); and Very Rev Gregory Noga, (Eparchy of Passaic).**

## BASILIAN SPIRITUALITY CENTER HOLDS ICON WORKSHOPS

Father Abbott Damien Higgins, Abbott of Holy Transfiguration Monastery ("Monks of Mount Tabor") in Redwood, CA, served as the guest master iconographer for two icon writing workshops sponsored by the Basilian Spirituality Center, Fox Chase Manor, PA, May 19 – 24 and May 26 – 31, 2015.

During the introductory session, participants were told that an icon writer prepares for the task by prayer and by the way one's life is lived. As Father Basil Pennington, the renowned Catholic theologian, once said, "One cannot paint an icon by technique alone." There is a spiritual side to the preparation.

In the sessions that followed, the attendants quietly followed the steps—tracing, etching, gold-leafing, mixing and applying pigments— in producing an egg tempera icon portraying the sacred subject of their choice. Several of the students were participating for the first time, while others were repeat attendants. "Icon writing is spiritually and artistically enlightening for me," said Mary Quinn. "This is my tenth workshop

with Father Damien and I use the icon and what I've learned here, in my role as instructor of those preparing to accept the Faith."

Lorraine Martin, also a tenth year participant, finds that as a member of the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, she "experiences a new maturity and appreciation of my Faith through icon painting. Although I don't fully understand the mystery of the icon, faith will lead me to the knowledge of what I am prayerfully reflecting upon when I am in the process of icon writing." First-timer Lola Dubenko had long desired to participate in an icon workshop and finally, after study and exploration of the subject, signed on to write an inspiring icon of her own.

Future workshops, including the painting of acrylic icons, are to be scheduled. For these and other events please email [basilcenter@stbasils.com](mailto:basilcenter@stbasils.com) or visit our website at [www.stbasils.com](http://www.stbasils.com) or call 215-780-1227.

The Basilian Spirituality Center is administered by the Sisters of the

Order of Saint Basil the Great and is directed by Sister Charlene M. Diorka, SSJ, assisted by

Sister Johanna Gedaka, SSJ, Ph.D.



**Icon workshop I participants: Sitting - Sister Romana Hutnyk, OSBM, Sister Mary A. Kerner, SHCJ, Larysa Salamacha; Standing - Sister Charlene M. Diorka, SSJ, Basilian Spirituality Center Director, Pamela Hastings, Jurij Horajekyj, Maria Zmurkewycz, Father Abbot Damien Higgins; Not pictured - Rev. D. George Worschak, Virginia M. Licata**



**Icon workshop II participants: L-R - Brother Maximus, Sister Johanna Gedaka, SSJ, Lorraine Martin, Jurij Horajekyj, Lola Dubenko, Father Abbot Damien Higgins; Not pictured - Pamela Hastings, Dolores Kent, Mary A. Quinn, Lorraine Williams**

## Catechism Students of Cherry Hill Make Their First Confessions

On Sunday, June 7th, 2015, St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church celebrated our second class to make their First Confessions. It was a blessed and bright sunny day that Sunday when four of our children in our Eastern Catholic Catechism 2nd grade class came to make their First Confession. After receiving the Holy Mystery of the Eucharist and the Divine Liturgy was concluded, Father Paul presented each child with a Divine Liturgy book, a Ukrainian tri-bar wall cross, and their certificates of making their First Confession.



Gathering in the Church hall, everyone congratulated the First Confession class over light refreshments and a cake was presented to the class. At the cutting of the cake, all of our First Confession classmates gave Sister Maria and Sister Martin a bouquet of flowers, a card,

**First Confession Class 2015 of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Cherry Hill, NJ: Bottom Row (Left to Right): Ivanka Olearczyk, Bryson Loving, Sophia Peterson, Alexander Balmer; Top Row (Left to Right): Sister Maria Kelley, MSMG; Father Paul Makar; Sister Martin Rodko, MSMG**



**The First Confession Class of 2015 presenting Sister Martin and Sister Maria with a bouquet of flowers and a card, giving them both a group hug and thanking them for teaching them the basics of Eastern Catholic Catechism and the Ukrainian Catholic way of the Mystery of Reconciliation.**

and a group hug, thanking them for teaching them Catechism and how to make their First Confession according to the traditions of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

We here at St. Michael's truly believe that God blesses us through our children. It is why in the prayers of the ritual of the Mystery of Matrimony that we find so many references to the newlywed couple that they be blessed with many children and that they be blessed so that they "see their children's children." We certainly are blessed with our children here, and we ask God to bless all of our young ones with long life and many happy years, especially Alexander, Bryson, Ivanka, and Sophia, who have made their First Confession. Mnohaya Lita!

## Congratulations on your First Penance



On June 7th, 2015 Saint Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA two children received the Sacrament of Penance and Solemn Holy Communion at the 11:30 Divine Liturgy.

The young girls are Kathryn Elizabeth Skipan and Juleann DeSales Walsh. They received their certificates of their First Penance from Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor.

**(Photo at right) Kathryn and Juleann pose for a picture with Rev. Nestor Iwasiw in Olyphant, PA. (Photo: Lauren Telep)**



The Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great are an international Order of the Eastern Catholic Church, formed in the tradition, discipline, spirituality, and writings of St. Basil



### THE MISSION

The Sisters of St. Basil continue the mission of our Lord, Jesus Christ for His people in the countries and cultures where we serve Him as His praying, healing, life-giving presence.

#### His Praying Presence:

We respond with love, offering our lives of prayer and commitment so the world in seeing us sees Him, in hearing us recognizes His voice, and in knowing us knows Him.

#### His Healing Presence:

We respond with kindness and hospitality to those who are sick and needy, whether in body or spirit, dedicating ourselves in a special way for the reconciliation of those who live in the pain and darkness of separation from Jesus and His Church.

#### His Life-Giving Presence:

We respond in sincerity and willingness to share His gifts and goodness with those whose lives we touch so that they too may live more fully and be transformed in Him.



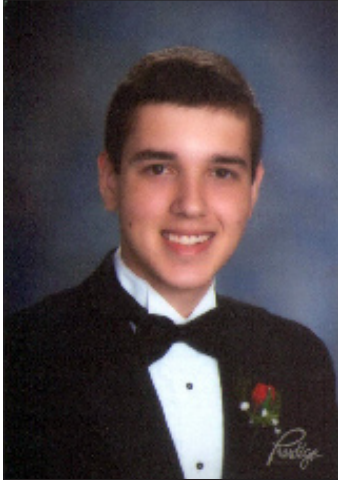
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## St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School is proud of Two Alumni Valedictorians this Year



**John Banya**

As the school year draws to a close, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School, Passaic, NJ has been given even more reason than usual to be proud of its students, as not one, but two alumni from the same graduating class of 2011 have been selected as Valedictorians of their respective high schools. Both young men were SNUCS students from Pre K through 8th grade. Just as the secure construction of a building depends upon its foundation, so too a student's future accomplishments rest upon the foundation laid in elementary school. St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School may be small and have fewer "bells and whistles" than other better-funded schools, but the commitment of its Pastor, Rev. Andriy Dudkevych, the dedication of Principal Sr. Eliane and the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate, and the quality of its faculty continue to make a difference in the lives of its students.

John Banya has been named Valedictorian of Pequannock High School, which is ranked as a Top Public High School by New Jersey Monthly. When asked about his education at St. Nick's, John said that the school's greatest benefit was the small class sizes and consequently, all the individual attention which he received. In such small classes, John was not afraid to ask questions, and felt very comfortable in class. In addition, John said that St. Nicholas prepared him very well for high school; when he began Freshman year in high school, he found that he had studied or had heard about everything while still in St. Nick's.



**Daniel Peltyszyn**

Our second honoree from the Class of 2011 is Daniel Peltyszyn, Valedictorian of Clifton High School, the second-largest public high school in New Jersey. In transitioning from St. Nick's to Clifton High, Daniel also appreciated the greater personal attention he had received at St. Nicholas. He says, "I found that I was significantly intellectually ahead of the majority of high school students who came through the Clifton Public School district." In addition, he says that "Morals taught at a Catholic school allowed me to stay true to what was important throughout high school – love and respect for others, modesty, honesty, friendship, and fairness."

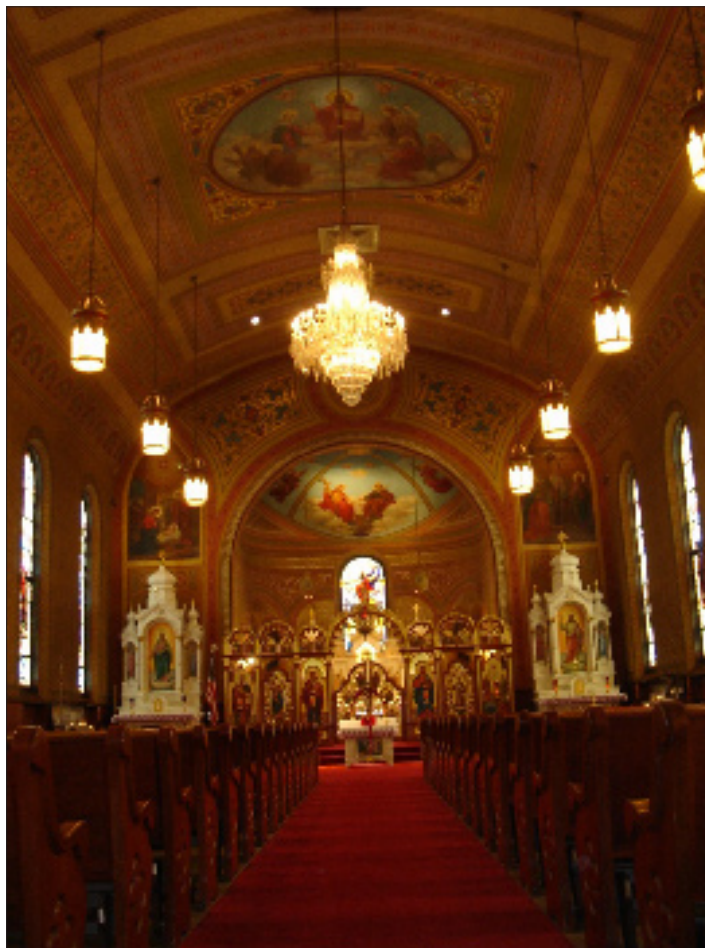
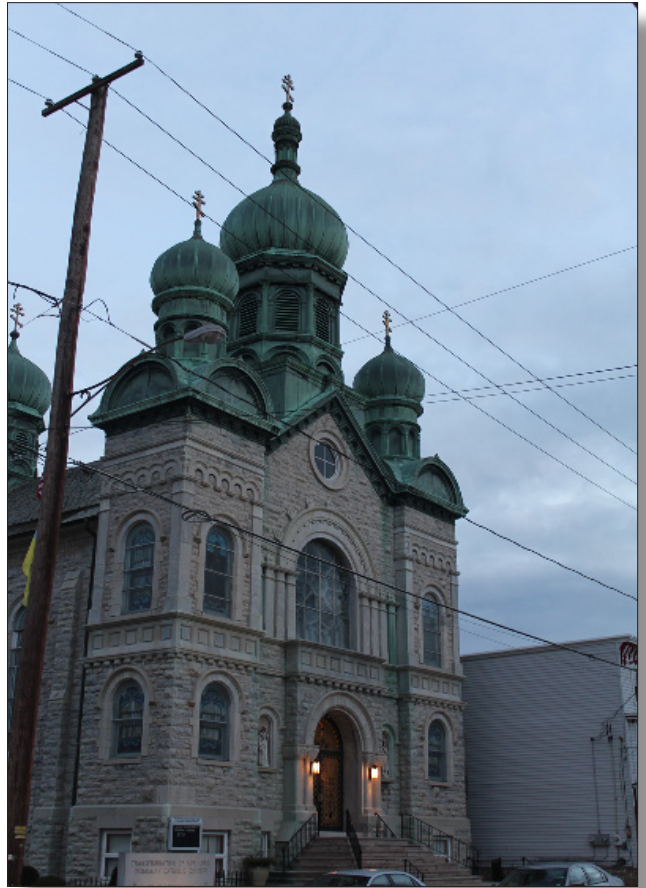
Congratulations to these two fine young men and to their families, and best wishes for their future endeavors!

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## Transfiguration Church in Shamokin marks Anthracite Heritage Days

The city of Shamokin, PA celebrated the tenth annual Anthracite Heritage Days festival on Memorial Day weekend. The city sponsored horse drawn carriage, trolley, and passenger train rides to tour the historic treasures in the city and the surrounding communities. Over a hundred street vendors sold coal region food and memorabilia to mark the celebration.

Our Transfiguration Ukrainian Church was included as one of Shamokin's treasures. Antique horse drawn carriages circled the church on their tour of historic buildings throughout the city. The church doors were open to welcome the many visitors. The visitors were given a tour of the church by three members of the parish. Rev. Mykola Ivanov placed many liturgical items on display, i.e. wedding crowns, gospel books, vestments, to give the visitors a taste of Ukrainian heritage. Father also produced an informative brochure containing a short history of Transfiguration Ukrainian Catholic Church as well as information of our Ukrainian customs and traditions.

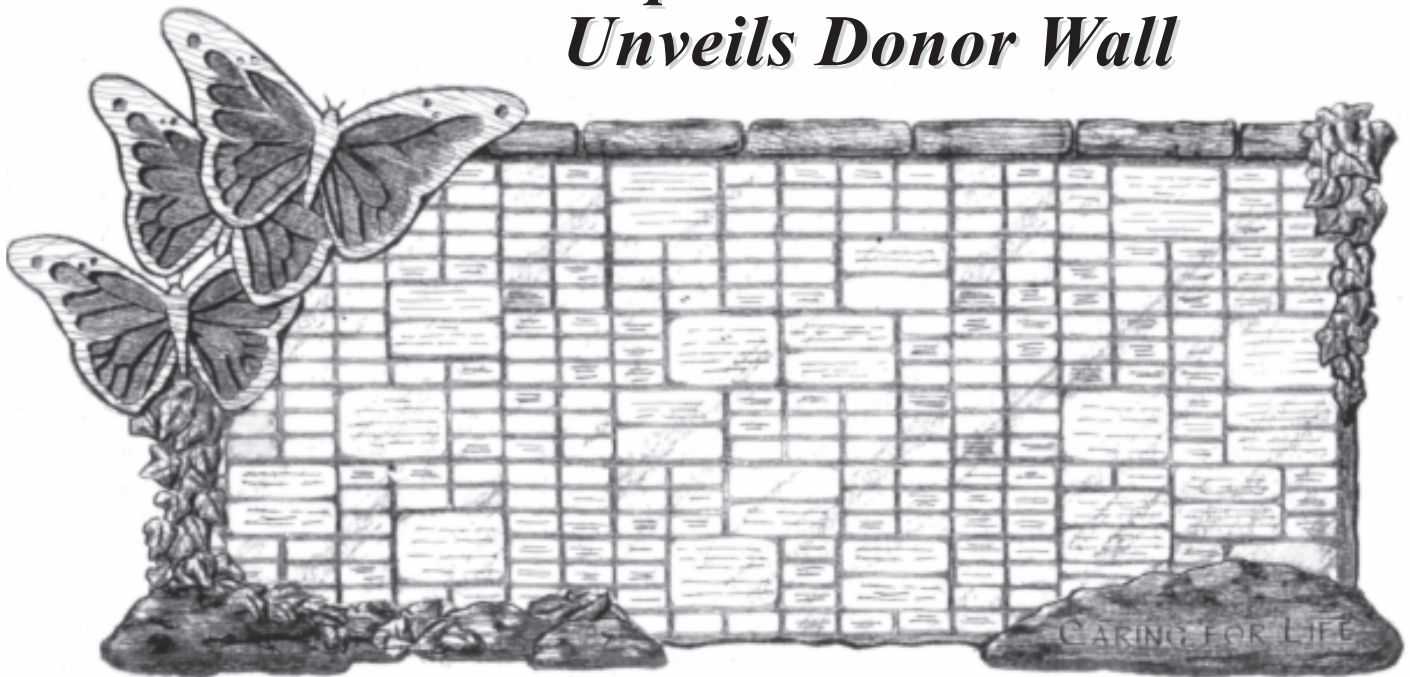


Many comments and praises were heard from the visitors, many have said that they passed the church for many years but this is the first time they stopped to see what was inside. The favorite comment heard by the tour guides was a 4 year old boy who referred to the church as a castle with crowns and altars.

Transfiguration Ukrainian Catholic Church is honored to be numbered as one of the treasures of Shamokin and was proud to display the church and its heritage to the many Shamokin residents and visitors on this special day.



## *St. Joseph's Adult Care Home Unveils Donor Wall*



The butterfly is a symbol of new life and resurrection. Therefore, it is appropriate that the Donor Remembrance/Recognition Wall to be located in the new addition to St. Joseph's Adult Care Home is designed to include butterflies. The Home is a place of new life for the residents. The care that they receive allows them to live in an environment of respect and dignity. The Wall will be a perpetual recognition of those who helped to make the 'dream' of the addition a reality and will continue to help sustain the Home in the future. By honoring or remembering a loved one, celebrating a milestone, special event or achievement, or showing gratitude for blessings that have been received, donors are also contributing to the future and ministry of St. Joseph's.

*For inquiries or assistance, just write to us at P.O. Box 8, Sloatsburg, NY 10974; or call (845)753-2555; or email [srmicheley75@aol.com](mailto:srmicheley75@aol.com).*

*Be a part of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate's on-going ministry of care for the elderly, today and beyond our years – as 2017 marks 75 years of such loving care. Be assured that your generosity will be remembered in our daily prayers of gratitude for you and your family. Our dear friends and benefactors, you hold a special place in our hearts.*



## Freedom to Bear Witness

June 9, 2015

During this year's Corpus Christi procession, Pope Francis asked us to remember "our many brothers and sisters who do not have the freedom to express their faith in the Lord Jesus." About 100 million Christians are persecuted each year around the world.

"Let us be united with them," he said. "And, in our hearts, let us venerate those brothers and sisters who were asked to sacrifice their lives out of fidelity to Christ. May their blood, united to the Lord's, be a pledge of peace and reconciliation for the whole world."

Closer to home, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives also condemned the worldwide persecution of Christians and called on global leaders to protect the religious liberty of Christians and all other faiths within their borders.

Representative Kathy Rapp (R-Warren, Crawford, Forest), recalled Pennsylvania's heritage while urging her colleagues to support her resolution: "Our Founder William Penn,

himself, was imprisoned several times for his faith. He was a leading defender in his time of religious freedom." House Resolution 182 passed unanimously on April 1, 2015.

From June 21 to July 4, 2015, American Catholics will mark the annual Fortnight for Freedom with a focus on the "freedom to bear witness" to the truth of the Gospel. These two weeks will include prayers, liturgical celebrations, and special events across the nation.

While we unite our prayers for persecuted fellow Christians around the world, we must not overlook threats to our own religious liberty at home. For example,

The mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services forces religious institutions to facilitate access to products contrary to their own moral teaching or be punished. Further, the federal government tries to define which religious institutions are "religious enough" to merit protection of their religious liberty.

Boston, San Francisco, the District of Columbia, and the State of Illinois have driven local Catholic Charities out of the business of providing adoption or foster care services—by revoking their licenses, by ending their government contracts, or both—because those Charities refused to place children with same-sex couples. After years of excellent performance by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) in administering contract services for victims of human trafficking, the federal government changed its contract specifications to require MRS to provide or refer for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of Catholic teaching.

Religious freedom is a fundamental human right. "All men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power," declared *Dignitatis Humanae* in 1965, "No one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone

or in association with others, within due limit." This inviolable right is grounded in the human dignity from "the revealed word of God and by reason itself. This right of the human person to religious freedom is to be recognized in the constitutional law whereby society is governed and thus it is to become a civil right."

The Pope and our state leaders are reminding us that we must be leading defenders of religious freedom now, in our time, and in every place where Christians are being persecuted across the globe or in our own public square.

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JUNE 2015 column. The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. Stay up-to-date with Catholic news and issues at [www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org), [www.facebook.com/pacatholic](http://www.facebook.com/pacatholic), and [www.twitter.com/pacatholic](http://www.twitter.com/pacatholic).

<http://www.pacatholic.org>.

## The Love of a Father

It is not easy being a father. One cynic, speaking from his own experience, noted that children go through four fascinating stages. First they call you DaDa. Then they call you Daddy. As they mature they call you Dad. Finally they call you collect.

Today we salute fathers. Dads, we love you. The role of a Christian father is more important in today's world than ever before. It is a different roll than in earlier generations. In most households today Dad is called upon to play more of a nurturing role in caring for children. If Mom works outside the home, Dad must take a more active role in doing household chores. Dad is no longer "lord of the castle." Hopefully, however, he has not been reduced to being another of the vassals.

Today's father needs to be nurturing of his children, supportive of his wife, and yet at the same time provide the spiritual leadership of the home that the Bible accords to fathers. It is a rare man, a special kind of man, who can combine all three of these qualities. We salute Christian fathers this day. Your family needs you more than ever before.

The most common image that Jesus used in describing God was that of "Father." It makes me think that Joseph must have been a very special kind of father. We center much of our attention on his mother, Mary, but Joseph must have also combined those very special qualities of strength and gentleness that we associate with Jesus. Jesus had a very keen knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures. In the Jewish home it was the father who had the primary responsibility for his son's religious instruction. Of course we know that Jesus had an unique relationship with God. Still, I have to believe that Joseph, though barely mentioned in the Gospel narrative, was probably an influential role model for Jesus. Why else would Jesus have chosen the imagery of "Father" to portray God?

In Matthew 10: 29-31 we have one of the most important Scriptural reminders of the love of our Heavenly Father for His children. "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?" Jesus asks, "And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." What a moving testimony to the very intimate love that God has for each of us.



**On this Father's Day, express your gratitude to your father. Assure him of your prayers and thanks for having assumed and fulfilled his important role according to God's plan. If your father is already deceased, pray that God may have mercy on his soul and grant him a blessed repose and render eternal his memory.**

## His Beatitude Sviatoslav meets with Ukrainian youth in Rome

Wednesday, 27 May 2015

As a part of His pastoral visit to Saint Sophia cathedral in Rome His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the Father and the Head of the UGCC met with the youth community of the cathedral.

In His conversation with the young representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora in Rome, His Beatitude Sviatoslav said that young people in today's circumstances are "very active, they become the driving force in the church and public life, full of new ideas and like to break many stereotypes of social life". His Beatitude thanked especially

the youth community for honoring the Heroes of Heavenly Hundred during the pilgrimage of bishops of the UGCC Synod to the tombs of the Apostles during the visit "Ad Limina". "It's especially impressed our bishops so on their behalf I express gratitude for this organization," - said the Preacher.

His Beatitude also encouraged young people of Rome to join the church-wide youth initiatives, including participation in World Youth Day, which in 2016 will be held in Poland and for the first time in the history, the Ukrainian language will be one of the official languages.

At the end of the meeting, members of the youth community made a present for His Beatitude Sviatoslav - a self-made blue and yellow bracelet, which is a symbol of youth charitable community of Saint Sophia Cathedral, proceeds by self-made bracelets the youth directs for the treatment and help for Ukrainian children who are undergoing their treatment in Italy.

Press service of the company "Saint Sofia"

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



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## His Beatitude Sviatoslav meets with Prime Minister of Ukraine

Saturday, 30 May 2015

On Friday, 29 May, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the Father and the Head of the UGCC met with Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Prime Minister of Ukraine. The meeting was also attended by Bishop Josyph Milian, Bishop of the Kyiv Archeparchy, and people's deputy of Ukraine Viktor Yelenskyi.

During the conversation the sides discussed the examples of cooperation of the UGCC and state structures of Ukraine. His Beatitude Sviatoslav spoke about the social service, which in the current special circumstances the Church is accomplishing. It was about the ministry for the forced settlers, the wounded, Ukrainian

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## His Beatitude Sviatoslav meets with Prime Minister of Ukraine

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soldiers. His Beatitude Sviatoslav stressed the need for regulation of the legal framework that would allow better and more effective social ministry of the Church.

Particular attention was paid to the preparation for celebration of the 150th anniversary of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytskyi. The Head of the UGCC thanked the Head of Government for the establishment of the organizing committee of Metropolitan Andrey's honour and for those initiatives that were decided to realize.



In memory of meeting His Beatitude Sviatoslav made a present for Arseniy Yatsenyuk - the book "In the Pilgrimage to the dignity and freedom ..." and the icon of St. Mykolay, the Wonderworker of Myra and Lycia.

UGCC Department of Information

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

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## "EU can live without Ukraine but Europe cannot, as it will be deficient", - His Beatitude Sviatoslav

Monday, 01 June 2015

"Ukrainians strive for occupying a prominent place in Europe as a Christian nation", - said the Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, in his interview to the Polish edition "In a network". He said, "Today, Ukraine realize its European identity, its place in European nations' family."

"When we are talking about a European consciousness of Ukraine, first of all, we mean here some inner processes, happening in our country, - stressed the Head of the UGCC. - A spark, that caused Revolution of dignity, was a decision of president Yanukovich not to sign an agreement about an Association with a European Union".

According to words of the Head of the

UGCC, today, Ukraine is struggling for its European identity, for the independence, for the right to be themselves. In this context is being considered a question about a possible membership of European Union.

A lot of foreigners, who are visiting Ukraine, note that our people are ready to give out their lives for that real European values, for which Europeans do not want to

fight anymore and, even, forget about them. We are sure that Christian Ukraine "can become a call for awakening of a secularized Europe, mentioned His Beatitude Sviatoslav. "Ukraine reject a doubtful values in a face of a gender ideology, otherwise it may be an obstacle for joining to the European Union. "But EU - it is still not a Europe, -

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# **“EU can live without Ukraine but Europe cannot, as it will be deficient”, - His Beatitude Sviatoslav**

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remarked the Head of the UGCC. – “EU can live without Ukraine but Europe cannot, as it will be deficient”.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav underlined that UGCC “have always been a Church of her nation and always have

been with her nation”. “In time, when our Motherland is an object of an aggression from army of the neighboring state, - said he, - while the war is in progress and Ukrainian soldiers with civilians are dying everyday, it is evident that we are with our people.

Greek-Catholic Church have always been a teacher for our nation, a keeper, a guide and a voice of truth. Thus, when we have become a victim of an unjust aggression, we must speak about it loudly, sincerely and frankly, especially appealing to

the international public opinion”.

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

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## **Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church elects a new Primate**

4 June 2015



Bishop Makariy Maletych, Metropolitan of Lviv, and ruling bishop of Rivne, Volyn and the Tauride dioceses became the new Primate of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church. Today, he received 360 votes out of 499 at the Local Council of the UAOC.

According to the RISU reporter, altogether four candidates were put to a vote: apart from Bishop Makariy, the candidates were hierarchs Roman Balaschuk, Volodymyr Cherpak and Herman Semanchuk.

Note that after the death of the previous head of the UAOC, on February 27, the Extraordinary Bishops' Council of the UAOC elected Metropolitan Makariy to the post of Locum Tenens of the UAOC Primate's seat.

Reference: Makariy Maletych was born on October 1, 1944, in the village of Krasne, Turka district, Lviv region. In 1973, he enrolled to Odessa Theological Seminary. On August 10, 1975, he was ordained a priest of the ROC. In 1982, he graduated from Moscow Theological Seminary, per correspondence department. He served as a priest in Donetsk, Luhansk, Rostov, and Lviv regions. In 1989, he left the ROC. In 1996, he was ordained by hierarchs Dymytriy Yarema, Ihor Isichenko and Mefodiy Kudriakov as the Bishop of Lviv of the UAOC. In 1997 he was appointed ruling bishop of Rivne and Volyn Diocese, in 2001 – of the Tauride Diocese. In 2001, he was elevated to the rank of archbishop, and in 2011, he became Metropolitan. On February 27, 2015, the Extraordinary Bishops' Council elected him Locum Tenens of the UAOC Primate's Throne. On June 4, 2015, he was elected the Primate of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

<http://risu.org.ua>



# Eastern Catholic bishops of Europe express their solidarity with the people of Ukraine

8 June 2015

The participants of the meeting of the Eastern Catholic bishops of Europe demonstrated their solidarity with the people of Ukraine, above all the Greek Catholics. They exhorted them to pursue the path of dialogue and unity between the country's Christian churches which a particular attitude of misinformation – especially at the international level – aims to undermine.



“At this dramatic moment in the country's history, all the churches are committed to supporting the difficult path of the rebuilding of social cohesion first of all through a path of conversion, the only weapon in the face of those who think of corruption as the only controlling principle of society”, said bishops.

Faced with the greatest humanitarian disaster since the fall of the totalitarian regime, His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, Major Archbishop of Kyiv-Halyc, thanked his confrere for the prayers and spiritual closeness of the sister churches, and recalled the generosity of the various national Caritas organizations, calling for a renewed solidarity of the international community.

The annual meeting of the Eastern Catholic hierarchs of Europe took place this year in Prague (Czech Republic) at the invitation of Mgr Ladislav Hucko, Apostolic Exarch for Byzantine Rite Catholics resident in the Czech Republic.

More than 40 Eastern Catholic bishops in Europe met to examine in depth the relationships of friendship and unity among the continent's Eastern Catholic episcopate, through the exchange of information about the life of the respective churches at the national level and about the sensitive relations between Church and civil society and with the other Christian churches. The meeting was also an opportunity to prepare for the Synod of Bishops on the family next October. It was precisely the family, its sacramental nature and the challenges laid before it by a rapidly-changing society, which was the object of reflection and examination.

The 2016 meeting will take in Fatima (Portugal) in October.

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

# 'I asked the Pope to become a voice of Ukrainian people at the meeting with Putin,' His Beatitude Sviatoslav writes in a letter to Pope

10 June 2015

UGCC Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk wrote a letter to Pope Francis on the eve of his meeting with President Vladimir Putin. Head of the UGCC said that the Ukrainian Church will closely follow this meeting with great interest and pray for the Pope.

It was reported by Polish media outlet w Polityce.pl.

"I claim that now no one, no diplomacy, no system of international security and none of

the great men of this world is capable to stop the war in Ukraine. In the letter I asked the Holy Father to become the voice of Ukrainian people, his children, faithful Catholics Ukraine that are suffering, so that the Pope, as our father, defended his children," the Patriarch said.

The Patriarch sees great similarities between Pope Francis meeting with Putin and St. John Paul II who visited former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1989, after which the UGCC came out of hiding and

renewed its normal activities.

Much may depend on this meeting, he said.

"We believe that the Holy Father as the Vicar of Jesus Christ on Earth can do that none of the great men of this world could do up to this point. We believe that the Pope intercede for us," said the Patriarch.

The First Hierarch is sure that Francis Pope and Vatican diplomacy is well familiar with what is happening in Ukraine. He recalls that recently the

Ukrainian bishops made the Ad Limina visit and could personally tell the pontiff about the "pain, blood and tears that overflow the Ukrainian land."

"Pope Francis said then: "I am always at your service." I think that this meeting will show the Pope's stance concerning Ukraine and can work towards the reign of peace on our land," the Patriarch said.

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

## Putin meets with Pope Francis at the Vatican

10 June 2015

The private meeting lasted for 50 minutes and the Russian leader arrived more than an hour late.

During the meeting, the pope affirmed the need to work sincerely toward peace in Ukraine and emphasized the importance of rebuilding a climate of dialogue, Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi said afterward.

The pope also talked

about the grave humanitarian situation in the country and the need to give access to relief workers, Lombardi said. The Vatican did not say whether Francis challenged Russia on its role in the Ukraine conflict.

In the traditional exchange of gifts, Putin gave the pope a piece of embroidery representing Moscow's Cathedral of Christ the Savior, which was destroyed by Joseph Stalin and later reconstructed.

Francis gave Putin the "Angel of Peace" medal, which the pope said has the ability to create solidarity between populations.



**Statement of Fr. Federico Lombardi, SJ following the meeting of Pope Francis with President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin:**

Late this afternoon, Wednesday June 10, 2015, the President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin, was received in audience by the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

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# Putin meets with Pope Francis at the Vatican

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The private meeting in the Library of the Apostolic Palace, began around 18:15 (6:15 p.m.) and lasted close to 50 minutes.

Following the meeting there was an exchange of gifts.

President Putin gave the Pope a representation in embroidery of the famous Church of Jesus the Savior, while the Pope gave the President the medallion by the artist Guido Veroi depicting the angel of peace that is an invitation to build a world of solidarity and peace founded on justice, as well as a copy of the

Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium.

In the context of the current world situation, the conversation mainly focused on the conflict in the Ukraine and the situation in the Middle East.

Regarding the situation in the Ukraine, the Holy Father said that we must engage in a sincere and great effort to achieve peace and emphasized the importance of rebuilding a climate of dialogue and the need for all concerned parties to implement the agreements of Minsk.

Another topic was the essential commitment required by all parties to address the serious humanitarian situation and allow wider access to humanitarian workers in the region.

As for the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, in the lands of Syria and Iraq, the meeting confirmed what has already been shared: the urgency to pursue peace with the concrete interest of the international community, while ensuring at the same time the necessary conditions for the life of all the parts of society, including religious minorities, and

particularly Christians.

At the same time the meeting was taking place with President Vladimir Putin and the Pope, another meeting took place between Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Vatican Secretary for Relations with States, and His Excellency Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. During that meeting, the same topics were addressed, with a focus on the conflict in the Ukraine and the alarming situation in the Middle East.

<http://risu.org.ua>

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