

# THE WAY ШЛЯХ

Official Publication of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

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NOVEMBER 1, 2015

ENGLISH VERSION

## His Beatitude Sviatoslav to Bless New Mosaics on Sunday, November 15th during 2:30 p.m. Divine Liturgy Honoring Consecrated Life at Philadelphia Ukrainian Cathedral

All parishioners are invited to join with His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Spiritual Father of our Ukrainian Catholic Church, Metropolitan Stefan and the clergy of our Archeparchy as we honor consecrated life during a hierarchical Divine Liturgy, Sunday, November 15, 2015 beginning at 2:30 p.m. in our Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Philadelphia. During the Divine Liturgy, men and women religious will renew their vows, the mosaics of Blessed Josaphata, SSMI and Venerable Andrew Sheptytsky, OSBM will be blessed. After the Divine Liturgy, the bell tower with the bell from the original cathedral will also be blessed in an outdoor ceremony that will also include a prayer vigil for Ukraine. Following the services, everyone is welcome to enjoy a reception in the Cathedral Social Hall.

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA

HONORING CONSECRATED LIFE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2015  
DIVINE LITURGY – 2:30 PM



*Renewal of Vows by  
Men and Women Religious*

*Blessing of Mosaic of  
Blessed Josaphata, SSMI*

*Blessing of Mosaic of  
Venerable Servant of God  
Andrew Sheptytsky, OSBM*

*Blessing of Bell Tower*

*Prayer Vigil for Ukraine*



Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*All the faithful are invited to join with our Patriarch Sviatoslav, Metropolitan Stefan and the clergy of our Archeparchy as we honor the men and women who have dedicated their lives to consecrated life and living the evangelical counsels as they serve in the Vineyard of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

### Highlights inside this issue:

**84th ANNUAL BASILIAN PIGRIMAGE FOCUSES ON THE FAMILY - pg 3**

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# FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

## NOVEMBER 8, 2015

LUKE 10: 16-22

*The Lord said: "Whoever listens to you listens to Me. Whoever rejects you rejects Me. And whoever rejects Me rejects the One Who sent Me."*

*The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of Your name." Jesus said, "I have observed Satan falling like lightning" from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power "to tread upon serpents "and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."*

*At that very moment He rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I give You praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although You have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, you have revealed them to the child-like. Yes, Father, such has been Your gracious will. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal Him."*



### ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

On November 8th, our Ukrainian Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel. The name "Michael" means "one who is like God." Sacred Scriptures speaks of Michael as "one of the chief princes" and leader of the forces (powers) of heaven in the triumph over the powers of hell. Artists often depict St. Michael the Archangel as a holy warrior, holding a sword in his hand to show that he fights against evil and fights for the truth. He is also depicted wearing armor to show that he possesses the strength to protect us from impending danger. The wings show that he is quick to heed God's word and to do the Holy Will of God.

The Church has honored Michael since apostolic times. The early Church has invoked him as a patron and protector. The Greek Fathers of the early Church refer to Michael as "the prince of the Seraphim." Michael is mentioned in Sacred Scriptures as "the angel of the Lord" sent by God to Moses, Jacob, and Abraham. Many parents have named their sons "Michael" to inspire them to become strong in love of God and courageous in the battle of good over evil. Many churches have been built in his honor. St. Michael is the patron/protector of eastern Ukraine; whereas St. George is patron/protector of western Ukraine.

We should turn to the saintly Archangel for help in fulfilling the holy will of God. At times, it might become difficult to do what God wants. It might seem easier to do otherwise. But we should always seek to please God. When tempted to do what may seem to us as easier for the moment, let us remember that we can pray to the holy angels for the courage to do the right thing. And the Archangel Michael is one who will surely help us.

Adapted from Our Saints, MSMG

NOVEMBER 1, 2015

Photo from St. Michael's Ukrainian Church, Shenandoah, PA

## 84th ANNUAL BASILIAN PIGRIMAGE FOCUSES ON THE FAMILY

Despite the chill and overcast skies, hundreds of the Faithful gathered Sunday, October 4, 2015, for the 84th Annual Protection of the Mother of God Pilgrimage sponsored by the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great, Jesus Lover of Humanity Province, Fox Chase Manor, PA.

The theme of this year's gathering, "A Reflection of God's Love", centered first on Families and, secondly, on the Consecrated Life, thus tying in with the recent Papal visit to Philadelphia for the "World Meeting of Families" and, also, with the dedication of the current year as the "Year of Consecrated Life".

As a memento of the day's focus on families, each guest, upon arrival, was presented with a booklet profiling the holy members of the large family of Saint Basil the Great and a lapel pin with their images to wear as a remembrance,

Throughout the day, pilgrims were offered the Mystery of Reconciliation and the opportunity to participate in the praying of the Rosary led by

Mothers in Prayer in the Holy Trinity Chapel and at the Grotto shrine of Our Lady of Pochayiv.

The highlight of the day was the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. An honor guard from the Knights of Columbus and members of Plast and SUM preceded the hierarchy, clergy and religious in procession for the celebration of the Liturgy.

In her pre-liturgy address, Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, Provincial Superior, welcomed the attendees and commended them for their participation in a spiritual journey that clearly manifests their love and devotion to the Mother of God.

The main celebrant of the Liturgy, Most Rev. Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, was assisted at the altar by Most Rev. Basil H. Losten, Bishop Emeritus of the Stamford, CT, Eparchy, Most Rev. John Bura, Auxiliary Bishop of the Philadelphia Archeparchy, Most Rev. Bohdan J. Danylo, recently consecrated

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**Procession for the Divine Liturgy.**



**Divine Liturgy**



# 84th ANNUAL BASILIAN PIGRIMAGE FOCUSES ON THE FAMILY

(continued from previous page)



**Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Bishop John Bura and Bishop Bohdan Danylo pose with Seminarians and representatives of the Knights of Columbus at the steps of Holy Trinity Chapel in Fox Chase Manor, PA. (Photo: Teresa Siwak)**

by Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk for the Eparchy of Parma, OH, and Rev. Msgr. Peter Waslo, Basilian Motherhouse Chaplain. Assisting as deacon was Rev. Deacon Michael Waak. Seminarians from Saint Josaphat Seminary assisted by the altar and responses were sung by the visiting choir from the National Shrine of the Holy Family, Washington, DC.

In his homily, Bishop Danylo drew from

the example of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and encouraged present day families to follow their example, fostering familial closeness, encouragement, sharing and love.

At the conclusion of Liturgy, Metropolitan-Archbishop Soroka thanked Sister Dorothy Ann and the Sisters for providing the venue and necessary services for the Pilgrimage and for being true to the calling of their consecrated lives in

service to the People of God. Thanks were also extended to the hierarchy, clergy and, especially, to the Faithful and youth present "for seeking to be closer to the Lord and obtaining His blessings through the reception of the sacraments." The Archbishop also announced the blessing of families following the Divine Liturgy.

Clouds parted and the sun broke through as all proceeded to the Grotto for the afternoon

Moleben to Our Lady. In his homily, Bishop Danylo compared Mary's "yes" at the Archangel Gabriel's visit to encounters throughout one's daily life and, especially for those who are seeking to know their true vocation. "Visit the Basilian Sisters, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, the Mother of God Sisters. See how they live. Are you missing the 'yes' of Mary?"

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# 84th ANNUAL BASILIAN PILGRIMAGE FOCUSES ON THE FAMILY

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The bestowing of the Episcopal blessing and the anointing of the Faithful concluded the day of prayer along with the expression of deep gratitude of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great to the hierarchy, the clergy who assisted with confession, all pilgrims, young adults, children, generous volunteers and all those who donated time, currency and supplies to the successful accomplishment of this spiritual experience.

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](mailto:province@stbasils.com), by telephone at 215-379-3998, and by mail at 710 Fox Chase Road, Fox Chase Manor, PA 19046. Their website is [www.stbasils.com](http://www.stbasils.com).*



**Choir**



**Bishop Bohdan Danylo offers the Homily during the Moleben.**



**Picture from the Moleben.**



**Anointing of the Faithful after the Moleben.**

# NATIONAL HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL

Washington, D.C.

FRIDAY

**November 6, 2015**

HOLODOMOR EXHIBIT BENEFIT RECEPTION | 7 PM

Union Station

SATURDAY

**November 7, 2015**

DEDICATION CEREMONY | 2 PM

Holodomor Memorial | N. Capitol St. and Massachusetts Ave, NW

SUNDAY

**November 8, 2015**

HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY | MORNING

Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches

COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT | 2 PM

George Washington University | Lisner Auditorium

**November 1-14, 2015**

HOLODOMOR EXHIBIT | 8 AM - 8 PM

Union Station

for more information | [www.ukraine-genocide.com](http://www.ukraine-genocide.com)



U.S. COMMITTEE FOR UKRAINIAN HOLODOMOR | GENOCIDE AWARENESS 1932-1933



**Sunday, November 8, 2015, 9:30am**

All are welcome to further commemorate the dedication of the new Holodomor Memorial, and to pray for the souls of those killed in the Holodomor genocide, by attending a special Hierarchical Divine Liturgy served by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk on Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 9:30am at Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Rd. NE, Washington, DC 20017

NOVEMBER 1, 2015

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**WAY**

# Ukrainian Congress Committee of America's Facebook Post about the Holodomor Memorial

Please join the Ukrainian American community and our friends from across the United States and the world as we gather in Washington, D.C. on November 6-7-8 to dedicate the National Ukrainian Holodomor Memorial. Make the effort to recruit your friends and family to join us for this historic occasion, to stand alongside U.S. and Ukrainian government representatives as well as foreign ambassadors and dignitaries. Many local Ukrainian communities have already started chartering buses from your area. As the world keeps trying to forget about the events in Ukraine, our public gathering just 4 blocks from the Capitol building can remind them that Ukraine knows well the opponent we are facing and the horrors that we can face when the world turns its back on us.



## **Friday, November 6, 2015:**

Grand Opening of the Holodomor exhibit and Benefit Reception at Union Station;  
RSVP: October 31, 2015  
Holodomor.Benefit@gmail.com

## **Saturday, November 7, 2015:**

2:00P Dedication Ceremony (corner of Massachusetts Avenue and N. Capitol Street, NW)

## **Sunday, November 8, 2015:**

8:15A - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with luncheon to follow  
St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Silver Spring, MD

9:30A - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy - celebrated by His Beatitude Sviatoslav with luncheon to follow  
Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, Washington, DC

2:00P - The Holodomor Commemorative Concert: An Artistic Tribute

Scheduled performances by:

UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS

KOBZARSKA SICH Bandura Camp Ensemble

UKRAINIAN CHORUS DUMKA

HROMOVYTSIA UKRAINIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE

OLEH CHMYR Baritone

MARTA ZALIZNYAK-DERZHKO Tenor

SOLOMIYA IVAKHIV Violinist

Lisner Auditorium, Washington, D.C.

To purchase tickets for the Sunday concert: <http://lisner.gwu.edu/holodomor-commemorative-concert>

\*Ticket prices range from \$25- \$75, plus additional \$6/per ticket fees.

See <http://ukrainegenocide.com/event/> for maps and latest updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/UCCA.org/>

# Holodomor: Stalin's genocidal famine of 1932-1933

## HOLODOMOR: STALIN'S GENOCIDAL FAMINE OF 1932-1933 DEATH TOLL: AT LEAST 4 MILLION UKRAINIANS

*Holodomor (death by hunger, in Ukrainian) is the starvation of millions of Ukrainians in 1932-33 as a result of Soviet policies*



- ▶ In Stalin's plan, rapid industrialization was supposed to propel the USSR into modernity.
- ▶ Collectivization of agriculture was enforced to feed the growing urban population and to purchase factory equipment from abroad.
- ▶ Ukrainian peasants had a strong tradition of private farming and resisted collectivization, posing a threat to the Soviet state.

**FALL 1932 - SUMMER 1933**

Ukrainian peasants were given impossibly high quotas for the amount of grain their villages were required to contribute to the Soviet state.

→ Because these quotas couldn't be fulfilled, special teams were sent in to search homes and confiscate all produce, including planting seeds, as "fines" for unrealistically high quotas.

→ The Ukrainian countryside was cut off and became what Stalin called a "fortress." Starving farmers were prohibited from leaving their villages to search for food. Stealing a few stalks of wheat from the collective field was punished by death.

2015/09/15

Holodomor ("death by hunger" in Ukrainian) refers to the starvation of at least four million Ukrainians in 1932-33 as a result of Soviet policies. The Holodomor can be seen as the culmination of an assault by the Communist Party and Soviet state on the Ukrainian peasantry, who resisted Soviet policies. This assault occurred in the context of a campaign of intimidation and arrests of Ukrainian intellectuals, writers, artists, religious leaders, and political cadres, who were seen as a threat to Soviet ideological and state-building aspirations.

The Ukrainian peasants were given impossible high quotas of the amount of grain to submit to the Soviet state. Special teams were sent in to search homes and confiscate all produce to the last grain. A particularly brutal law called "5 ears of grain law" was passed, following which starving Ukrainians were shot on the spot for gathering grain that remained on the field after the harvest.

As a result, at least four million people starved to death in Ukraine. At the height of the Holodomor, 28,000 people were dying per day. This number does not include the ethnic Ukrainians outside the Ukrainians SSR who died, the half million people deported from Ukraine during collectivization or the thousands of religious, cultural and political leaders who were destroyed.

The USSR attempted to cover up the Holodomor, and Russia continues to deny or diminish it to the very day.

<http://euromaidanpress.com/2015/09/15/holodomor-stalins-genocidal-famine-of-1932-1933/>



# "HONORING THE PAST AND BUILDING OUR FUTURE" AT THE 77TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS OF AMERICA

On Friday, October 16th, the officers and members of the League of Ukrainian Catholics gathered at the Holiday Inn, Lansdale, PA for business and pleasure at their annual convention. The League was originally formed in 1933 through the efforts of the Ukrainian Catholic faithful and the then Rev. Ambrose Senyshyn. Rev. Ambrose was very sensitive to the needs of his parishioners and worked very hard to give them both spiritual solace and assistance with their many problems. In response to these needs, he organized the Ukrainian Catholic Youth League (UCYL) organization, now known as the League of Ukrainian Catholics (LUC). The goal of the League was and is, to provide religious education and social activities for Ukrainian youth and adults and to provide an opportunity for the faithful of all ages to meet and socialize with their peers and the clergy and religious throughout the Church community.

The National Board of Directors and Council and Chapter delegates

met Friday afternoon to review the work of the organization over the past year and to plan for the future. Archbishop Stefan Soroka was in attendance and participated in the meeting proceedings, providing his observations and insights. He commended the League on its' growth in membership within the past year, and the enthusiasm and joy with which they went about their work. He expressed the desire to support the League as it focused on collaborating with the clergy in their efforts to 'awaken' the faithful to the Word of God and our Eastern Catholic rite and traditions, and to build vibrancy at the parish level. His words of encouragement were gratifying and inspirational as the League looks forward to the coming years.

However, the entire weekend was not dedicated to work alone. Friday evening festivities opened with a "Gypsy Jazz Night" themed Welcome party, replete with local 'gypsies', and entertainment by Inessa

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**LUC National Board Meeting**



**LUC National Board Meeting**



**Metropolitan Stefan attends LUC National Board Meeting on Friday.**

# “HONORING THE PAST AND BUILDING OUR FUTURE” AT THE 77TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS OF AMERICA

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Tymochka and her fiery gypsy violin as well as the scintillating melodies of the Kronos Gypsy Jazz group.

Saturday commenced with a Mobile Workshop; an educational, enlightening, and entertaining tour of selected religious landmarks in the City of Philadelphia beginning with our own Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Met at the central doors of the Cathedral by Fr. Walter Pasicznyk, the League guests, both adults and children, were invited into the Cathedral’s nave for a detailed explanation of the interior, the significance of the iconography, and to view and venerate the Shroud of Turin and the holy relics of Blessed Josaphata, SSMI, and

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“Gypsy Jazz Night” themed Welcome party on Friday night.



LUC Mobile Workshop participants pose by the statue of Venerable Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky on the grounds of the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia on Saturday morning.

# "HONORING THE PAST AND BUILDING OUR FUTURE" AT THE 77TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS OF AMERICA

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Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, C.Ss.R.

At the conclusion of the tour, Archbishop Stefan and League National Spiritual Director, Fr. Marijan Procyk, and Fr. Dan Troyan, Convention Spiritual Director, led the guests down to the Crypt beneath the main Cathedral altar for the celebration of a Panachyda for the deceased Ukrainian Catholic Hierarchy interred there, Bishop Soter Ortynsky, Archbishop Constantine Bohachevsky, and Archbishop Ambrose Senyshyn, founder of the League, as well as all deceased members of the League. The prayerful Panachyda was a way of honoring past Ukrainian Catholic faith leaders and the League's founder.

Following an opportunity for shopping at the Byzantine Church Supplies store and a lovely boxed lunch, the group whisked off to the next destination, a masterpiece of baroque Italian architecture and the oldest Roman Catholic Church in the City of Philadelphia; the Jesuit Church of the Gesu. Though no longer functioning as a parish, it is now primarily used only on special occasions by St. Joseph's Preparatory School, a Jesuit high school located on the church grounds. The faculty tour guide provided an astounding history of the controversy, opposition, and even violence that preceded the establishment of



**Panachyda at the Crypt in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia on Saturday morning.**



**LUC at the Byzantine Church Supplies store on the grounds of the Cathedral in Philadelphia on Saturday morning.**

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# "HONORING THE PAST AND BUILDING OUR FUTURE" AT THE 77TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS OF AMERICA

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Catholicism within the City of Philadelphia and the building of the church itself.

The third stop for the Mobile Workshop was the newly renovated Shrine of St. John Neumann, at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Peter. The host pastor tour guide led the guests through the life and times of St. John Neumann, a priest of the Redemptorist order, his significant contribution to the establishment of the catholic school system in Philadelphia, and his tireless work in aiding the poor and the needy, right up to his untimely death on the streets of Philadelphia doing just such good deeds. St. John Neumann's remains are interred in a glass

coffin within the shrine chapel at the St. Peter Church. Time was made available to venerate the Saint's relics, to submit prayer requests, and to view the sketches of the Ukrainian Redemptorist Martyrs on display at the shrine: Bishop Mykola



**Sketches of Ukrainian Redemptorist Martyrs on display at St. Peter the Apostle parish.**



**The remains of St. John Neumann at St. Peter the Apostle parish, Philadelphia.**



**Fr. Walter Pasicznyk talks about the replica of the Shroud of Turin at the Cathedral on Saturday morning.**

Charnetsky (1884-1959), Bishop Vasyl Velychkovskiy (1903-73), Father Zenon Kovalyk (1903-41), and Father Ivan Ziatyk (1899-1952).

The final though very brief stop on the tour was the Philadelphia Museum of Art. This was an opportunity for League guests to stretch their legs and their lungs with a run up to the top of the stairs for a panoramic view of the City and a pause for photos with 'Rocky' and his footprints, and then to board the bus for the return trip to the hotel for the evening revelries. Weary though enlightened and grateful,

the group agreed that the journey was "an educational and spiritual' success for all ages.

The evening banquet program included addresses by the key note speakers, Very Reverend Archpriest Daniel Troyan, pastor at Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, West Easton, PA, and Sister Eliane Ilnitsky, SSMI, principal at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School, Passaic, NJ on the Convention's theme, "Honoring Our Past and Building Our Future". Weaving individual life experiences and spiritual

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# "HONORING THE PAST AND BUILDING OUR FUTURE" AT THE 77TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS OF AMERICA

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passages, each speaker conveyed those things that formed the foundation of their and our faith, the strength of the presence of God in our lives now, and the hope God offers for our future. Rounding out the evening were colorful and exciting performances by the young Voloshky Dance Group depicting the many different regions of Ukraine, the return of Inessa Tymochka and her gypsy violin, and finally



the one-man band for all occasions, Mr. Stan Kosiv, for those who were motivated to dance the night away.

The Convention concluded on Sunday beginning with a Divine Liturgy with the main celebrant, Archbishop Stefan and co-celebrants,

Rev. Marijan Procyk, Very Rev. Msgr. Peter Waslo, Rev. Vasyl Bunik, pastor administrator of Presentation of Our Lord parish in Lansdale, and

Rev. Deacon Michael Waak. The Prometheus Ukrainian men's chorus sang the responses. At the

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# "HONORING THE PAST AND BUILDING OUR FUTURE" AT THE 77TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS OF AMERICA

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conclusion of the Divine Liturgy the newly elected National Board Officers recited their oath of office and were blessed and congratulated by Archbishop Stefan. Afterwards guests adjourned to the church hall for a festive brunch, an awarding of certificates to the newly formed Chapters and Council, and a look towards the year 2016 events.



**Group photo of LUC Officers with Celebrants of the Divine Liturgy, altar servers, and the children who greeted Metropolitan Stefan on Sunday, October 18, 2015 in Lansdale, PA.**

The League of Ukrainian Catholics would like to express their sincere gratitude to Archbishop Stefan for gracing our 2015 Convention with his presence, his valuable insights shared during our business meeting, for joining us in prayer and fellowship throughout the convention, and especially for his support and blessings as the League continues to fulfill the vision of its' founder by engaging themselves in their parishes, working closely with the Hierarchy and clergy to keep our Eastern Catholic Rite vibrant and our Ukrainian heritage identity alive.



**Newly elected National Board of Directors for the LUC recite Oath during Divine Liturgy (l to r): Sr. Olga Faryna, OSBM, Religious Director, Helen Fedoriw, Vice President, Janina Everette, Membership Director, Maria La Paglia, Convention Procedures Director, Sr. Cecelia Sworin, SSMI, Corresponding Secretary, Elaine Nowadly, Treasurer, Nadia Mark, Recording Secretary, Marion Hrubec, President. (Missing from picture: Fr. Marijan Procyk, co-National Spiritual Director, Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan, co-National Spiritual Director, Paul Ewasko, Publicity Director.)**



*Scenes  
from the  
Divine  
Liturgy  
in  
Lansdale,  
PA  
on  
October  
18th*



**Watch a video from the Divine Liturgy on our YouTube Channel.  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/thewayukrainian>**



# METROPOLITAN STEFAN'S SCHEDULE

## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 2015

### OCTOBER

- 1 CONCLUSION OF MEETING OF USCCB SUB-COMMITTEE ON HOME MISSIONS, HOUSTON, TEXAS.
- 3 BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL MONUMENT, ST. ANDREW UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CEMETERY, SOUTH BOUND BROOK, NJ.
- 4 ARCHIEPARCHIAL PILGRIMAGE AT MONASTERY OF ORDER OF SISTERS OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT, JESUS LOVER OF HUMANITY PROVINCE, FOX CHASE, PA.
- 5 VISIT TO PROPOSED SITE FOR ST. ANDREW UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC MISSION, LANCASTER, PA.
- 6 PHONE CONFERENCE WITH CLERGY CONFERENCE SPEAKER.
- 7 RECEIVED REV. VOLODYMYR KOSTYUK AND MR. IHOR ZHARIY OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, JENKINTOWN, PA.
- 13 PREPARATORY MEETING FOR NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION.
- 15 MEETING WITH ARCHIEPARCHIAL DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS, REV. PAUL MAKAR.
- 16 RECEIVED REV. MARK SEMEHEN OF ST. SOPHIA RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS (ROME).  
PARTICIPATED IN GENERAL MEETING OF LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS.
- 17 CELEBRATED PANAKHYDA FOR SOUL OF ARCHBISHOP AMBROSE SENYSHYN, OSBM, FOUNDER OF LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS AT THE CATHEDRAL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN PHILADELPHIA. ATTENDED EVENING BANQUET CELEBRATIONS IN LANSDALE, PA.
- 18 CELEBRATED DIVINE LITURGY AT PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, LANSDALE, PA. ON OCCASION OF CONVENTION OF LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS.
- 20-23 FACILITATED CONFERENCE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CLERGY OF USA, CHICAGO, IL.
- 25 CELEBRATED HIERARCHIAL DIVINE LITURGY AND BLESSED CORNER STONE FOR NEW PARISH CENTER AT ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, JENKINTOWN, PA.
- 27 RECEIVED REV. VITALY NOVAK OF DEPAUL SOCIETY OF UKRAINE, A CHARITY WORKING WITH STREET PEOPLE, PEOPLE SUFFERING ADDICTIONS, ORPHANS IN UKRAINE. PRESENTED \$5,000 GIFT FOR HUMANITARIAN AID OF DEPAUL SOCIETY IN UKRAINE FROM FAITHFUL OF ARCHEPARCHY.
- 28 MEETING OF ARCHIEPARCHIAL FINANCE COUNCIL.
- 31 BLESSING OF RENOVATED ST. SOPHIA ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS IN ELKINS PARK, PA.

### NOVEMBER

- 1 HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY AND HOMILY AT ANNUNCIATION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, MELROSE PARK, PA. PROGRAM HONORING METROPOLITAN ANDREW SHEPTYTSKY.
- 4 REHEARSAL PREPARATION FOR PATRIARCHAL DIVINE LITURGIES, WASHINGTON, DC.
- 5 GREET THE ARRIVAL OF HIS BEATITUDE, SVIATOSLAV SHEVCHUK TO THE USA.
- 7 BLESSING AND DEDICATION - UKRAINIAN HOLODMOR MEMORIAL, WASHINGTON, DC.
- 8 HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY CELEBRATED BY HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV SHEVCHUK, AT THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE TO HOLY FAMILY, WASHINGTON, DC 9:30 AM.  
AFTERNOON CONCERT COMMEMORATING HISTORIC EVENT.
- 9-14 PROGRAM OF EVENTS WITH PATRIARCH SVIATOSLAV SHEVCHUK IN UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA.
- 15 HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY CELEBRATED BY HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV SHEVCHUK. BLESSING OF MOSAIC TO VENERABLE METROPOLITAN ANDREW SHEPTYTSKY, MOSAIC TO BLESSED JOSAPHATA HORDASHEVSKA, BLESSING OF NEWLY ERECTED BELL TOWER.
- 16-19 MEETING OF UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS, BALTIMORE, MD.



# \*Shop for the Holidays\*

## CRAFT SALE

SS CYRIL & METHODIUS  
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH   
Warren St & First Ave, Berwick PA  
Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> 9am to 3pm

Lunch will be available

Food \*MADE OUR WAY\*, baked goods,  
Variety of crafts for any occasion and much more

Contact: Janina Everett 570 759 2824 after 5pm  
Or by email: yankapysanky@yahoo.com

### "The Way" Schedule

Please note: The next issue of "The Way" will be on November 8, 2015.

We return to our regular schedule with the following issue of "The Way" on November 22, 2015.

Presentation of Our Lord  
Ukrainian Catholic Church

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

Fabulous Food



Filled Baskets

Sample only

Tickets:  
\$20 in  
advance  
\$25 at  
the door

DOORS OPEN AT NOON  
GAMES BEGIN AT 1 PM

*Presentation of Our Lord  
1564 Allentown Road  
Lansdale, PA*

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION:  
PLEASE CALL ALICIA AT 215-852-3463

# Fall Basket Bingo



## THE PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATION

*Your Ukrainian Catholic  
Fraternal Life Insurance and Benefit Society*

### ATTENTION!

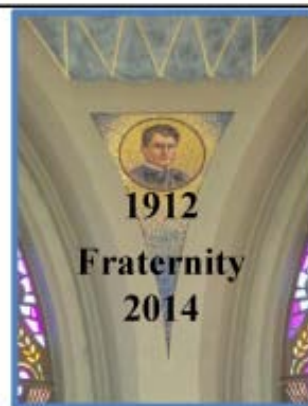
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### Providence Association

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www.provassn.com

## St. Joseph's Adult Care Home is having a Raffle to support the expansion of their building

Buy your tickets now for St. Joseph's Adult Care Home Building Fund Raffle. To buy raffle tickets contact any SSMI for tickets or call 845-753-2555 or email srkath25@gmail.com Support this worthy cause.

St. Joseph's Home is located on the grounds of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in Sloatsburg, NY. St. Joseph's is a warm, friendly, and safe home for seniors who need assistance.

St. Joseph's is a short or long-term residential care facility that is designed for elderly adults who are ambulatory and largely able to care for themselves.



### LUC Meeting - Sunday, November 8, 2015

North Anthracite Council - League of Ukrainian Catholics will meet on Sunday, November 8, 2015 at Holy Transfiguration Church, 240 Center Street, Hanover Section of Nanticoke. Moleben prayer service is scheduled for 2:30pm., business session at 3:00pm followed by reception and fellowship. Main agenda item will focus on the recently concluded National Convention which was held in Lansdale PA.

Former members and new members are warmly invited to become involved in the LUC as active participants in the Vibrant Parish movement throughout our worldwide Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church as envisioned by Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk. For additional information contact Dorothy Jamula, President at 570 822-5354 or any LUC member of the parish.



**Nanticoke**

### Plan to attend the 2016 Women's Day of Prayer to celebrate Women as Caregivers: Spiritual, Pastoral and Practical Matters

Come pray, reflect and grow while being enlightened and strengthened through the scriptures and listening to other women caregivers as they share their experiences.

#### The 2016 Women's Day of Prayer will be held on:

Sunday, **March 6, 2016** at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 4520 Harewood Road. N.E., **Washington, D. C.**, 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, **April 24, 2016** at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, 430 North Seventh Avenue, **Scranton, Pennsylvania**, 10:30 a.m.



Lunch and the program follow the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Additional details will be forthcoming.

**NOVEMBER 1, 2015**

## The Holy Year Choir of Nanticoke, PA Celebrates 40th Anniversary

The Holy Year Choir of the Transfiguration Of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke, PA celebrated its 40th year of singing the responses to the Divine Liturgy.

A Liturgy of Thanksgiving was held on Sunday, September 20th by Rev. Volodymyr Popyk, pastor, as the choir once again lifted up its voices to give honor and praise to Almighty God. A celebration dinner followed.

The choir was founded in 1975 when Father Nicholas Fisanick appointed Richard Barno as director. The newly-formed choir consisted of more than a dozen members learning to sing in four-part harmony.

As the choir grew in number, Father Myron Grabowsky in 1976 encouraged Richard and John Barno to attend the Cantor's Institute at Saint Basil's College in Stamford, Connecticut to learn additional liturgical music of various composers under the tutelage of Professor Joseph Roll. Msgr. Grabowsky was instrumental in the development of the choir.

Throughout the years, the choir members have faithfully dedicated their lives to singing the Liturgies on Sundays and holy days, concerts, and special occasions. They have sacrificed much to grace our Ukrainian Catholic Church with the gift of song.

The choir is eternally grateful to Fr. Popyk and to all of the parishioners and former priests of the parish who have continually offered their support. Their encouragement is heart-warming.

**(Photo):** Choir members pictured on the day of the event are (first row) Geraldine Adamchak, Helen Lipowski, Olga Yurkowski. (Second Row) Mary Hastings, Jill Gagliardi, Arlene Jennings, Mary Schwartz, Gayle Miles, and Christine Mash. (Third row) Lisa Placek, Dr. Michael Sawczuk, John Barno, Brian Kawczenski, Rev. Volodymyr Popyk, Mark Jennings, Dr. Richard Barno, John Hook, Theodore Weron, and Joanne Kawczenski. Photo by LYONS STUDIO.





# **MEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

**ALL MEN 18 YEARS AND OLDER—  
HUSBANDS, FATHERS, SONS, GRANDFATHERS, UNCLES,  
FRIENDS— ARE INVITED TO  
PARTICIPATE IN A SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

**SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 22nd , 2015**

**Immediately Following the 10:30 am DIVINE LITURGY**

**Theme: A MAN'S ROLE IN FAITH,  
THE FAMILY, AND SOCIETY**



**FACILITATOR: REV. TARAS LONCHYNA**

**The program will be presented in Ukrainian and English**

**Lunch will be available**

**Suggested Donation: \$ 10.00**

**Call the Rectory by November 15th to  
reserve your seat; 973-471-9727**

**Sponsored by**

**St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church**

**223 President St., Passaic, NJ**

**And the St. Nicholas Chapter of the**

**League of Ukrainian Catholics**

## October Events At St. Nicholas School in Minersville

### Junior Marian Sodality Begins A New School Year



Rev. Mark Fesniak



On October 1, during Divine Liturgy with the school children, the 2015-16 officers of the Junior Marian Sodality at St. Nicholas School were installed and seven new members were inducted. The Junior Marian Sodality, comprised of students from grades 3-8, facilitates service projects throughout the school year.

(continued on next page)

# October Events At St. Nicholas School in Minersville

## October: Bullying Prevention Month



Sr. Zenovia, SSMI



On Monday, October 5, the faculty of St. Nicholas School joined their students in wearing blue and learning about the many ways in which people bully one another. Students, from grades Pre-K through 8, worked on projects that they shared with the entire student body later in the day. Students, faculty and staff also signed a poster, created by the Grade 8 students, pledging not to bully others.

(continued on next page)

# October Events At St. Nicholas School in Minersville

**Fire Department  
Visits  
St. Nicholas  
School during  
Fire Prevention  
Week**



During Fire Prevention Week, the Minersville Fire Department visited St. Nicholas School with their trucks and equipment. Students were able to learn about fire safety and prevention first hand, by interacting with the firefighters and their equipment. They climbed into the trucks, handled equipment, asked questions and learned what it is like for a firefighter to respond to an emergency.

(continued on next page)

# October Events At St. Nicholas School in Minersville



**Tough  
Guys  
and  
Girls  
Wear  
Pink**



Sr. Natalya, SSMI

On Thursday, October 22, teachers and students wore pink to support Cancer Awareness and raise money for Research, as St. Nicholas School celebrated *Pink-Out Day*. Beginning the day with a prayer for those who struggle with cancer and for their families, students and teachers were immersed in pink for the day. They proudly displayed their 'pink' outfits, drank 'pink' lemonade at lunch, and purchased 'pink' pencils to use in their classes.

\$173.00 was raised for Cancer Research during the St. Nicholas School *Pink-Out*.



# **“The Church should not be afraid to speak the truth about marriage and the family”, Bishop Hlib Lonchyna**

10 October 2015

The bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Holy Family of London Hlib (Lonchyna) reporting during the general meeting of the Synod of Bishops on October 9 stressed that mercy and truth are the key concepts to take into account in teaching on marriage.

The following text of Bishop’s Hlib’s intervention was posted on Athanasius McVay Facebook page.

“Jesus looked upon the women and the men he met with love and tenderness, accompanying their steps with patience and mercy, in proclaiming the demands of the Kingdom of God” (Instrumentum Laboris, 37).

The face of God, as His Holiness reminds us, is the face of mercy. This is the face we, the Church, must show the faithful and the unfaithful, people of good will and those who seek not the Lord. Our task is to manifest God’s everlasting mercy (see Ps 136).

Yet, if mercy is boundless, why does not everyone experience it? Because mercy cannot be encountered unless it is measured against the eternal law, which is truth. “Mercy and truth have met together”, says the psalmist (Ps 85:10 NKJV). One must seek the truth in order to experience mercy.

The first words Jesus uttered when he began his public ministry were, “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mk 1:15). Jesus is uniting mercy with truth, as did the psalmist. In order to enter the kingdom – the gift of God’s mercy – Jesus calls his disciples not to self-fulfillment, not to having fun, but to repentance and faith. This entails a change of mentality: from the ways of the world to the ways of the kingdom, from thinking only humanly to having the mindset of Christ (see Phil 2:5).

Jesus is showing mercy by calling people to conversion. Pope Saint John Paul II illustrated this in the third Mystery of Light: Jesus’ “proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with his call to conversion” (Rosarium Virginis Mariae, 21). Mercy means leading a person to the truth. Mercy means challenging people. Mercy means not covering up reality with gift wrap.

The Church should not be afraid to speak the truth about marriage and the family. The “demands of the Kingdom of God” are indeed sublime, out of reach, not attainable by our own means; nevertheless, they make us free when – with the grace of God – we seek to fulfill them.

However, maybe we fear being irrelevant, out of touch, not modern, not merciful. Perhaps this is because we do not trust that the Spirit is guiding us; or the Word is not strong enough; or it will not appeal to our secularized world.

If we want people to believe in marriage, to believe in the family, we ought to help them, first of all, to repent and believe. We should not water down the tough words Jesus pronounced. We should begin with a challenge: “Repent, and believe in the gospel”, and then we shall arrive at mercy: “The kingdom of God is at hand”.

<http://risu.org.ua/>

# Clergy and faithful of different denominations pray together at St. Michael's Square in Kyiv

11 October 2015

An ecumenical prayer with the intention of Christian unity and peace in Ukraine, through the intercession of the Blessed Martha Vetska.

The prayer was attended by His Beatitude Lubomyr Husar, Bishop Joseph Milian, priests, seminarians of the Kyiv Three Saints Theological Seminary, nuns and the faithful of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, the UGCC Information Department reports.

Among those present were monks and faithful of the Catholic, Orthodox and Armenian Churches.

A prayer started with a solemn procession from St. Michael's Cathedral. The clergy of various denominations, with the relics of the Blessed Martka Vetska, walked to St. Michael's Square and came up on the stage, where they held the ecumenical prayer.

Having prayed together, the bishops spoke from the stage about peace and unity in Ukraine.

His Beatitude Lubomyr

focused the attention of the faithful on peace, unity and compassion. According to the Hierarchy, comprehension of these three concepts will provide answers to many issues we are concerned about today. The Archbishop Emeritus said that without peace nothing could grow and develop. Speaking of unity, the Archbishop said: "No one is like an island, separated from all the rest, but quite the contrary - we can be ourselves when we are together with others. "Mercy, according to the moral leader of Ukrainian people, is the best way to open oneself to others and serve one another.

Lubomyr said in his speech: "We have gathered for a joint prayer, in order to be close to God. Either peace or true unity and especially mercy are not possible without God ... He is the one who gives us these gifts. We have been generously endowed by God, but unfortunately often forget that without him, we cannot rejoice in these gifts."

Archbishop Emeritus also drew the attention



of residents and guests to the figure of Blessed Martha, who is a good example of how to benefit from God's gifts.

"Today, being here together in prayer, we have deeply experienced the power that God tries to fill us, so that peace, unity and compassion were established through ourselves... Today we have to ask ourselves, "What can we do to make it happen?" This is a very important step that the Lord expects of us!" His Beatitude completed his speech.

Thereafter the seminarians of the Kyiv Three Saints Seminary performed prayer chants, which urged everyone to the joint worship of God.

In a commentary for the press service of Kyiv Archdiocese Bishop Joseph Milian, auxiliary

bishop of Kyiv, said: "Talking about peace, you have to create peace in your own heart first. Creating peace is creating it first in your family and in relationships with people (who are close to you). Then the global peace will come! I believe that the global peace depends on the peace of man with his Creator - God. Only on this foundation we can build peace in Ukraine and all over the world," the hierarch said.

The ecumenical prayer participants also had a good chance to hear spiritual chants performed by the choir of St. Alexander Church of the Roman Catholic Church, and pray for peace and unity in different languages.

At the end of the action,

**(continued on next page)**

# Clergy and faithful of different denominations pray together at St. Michael's Square in Kyiv

(continued from previous page)

everybody could bow onto the relics of the Blessed Martha Vetska and ask God for the graces through her

intercession.

It should be noted that the relics have been recently brought from

the ATO zone and will be transported across Ukraine so that the faithful of different cities could pray for peace

and unity of Ukraine.

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

## Pope to His Beatitude Sviatoslav: "Ukraine remains in my heart"

Friday, 16 October 2015

Staying in Vatican with an official visit to participate in Pope's Synod on the Family, His Beatitude Sviatoslav met with a Holy Father and spoke once again about the situation in Ukraine. A meeting of the Bishop of Rome with the Head of the UGCC was held on October 14th.

During the conversation His Beatitude Sviatoslav spoke to Pope Francis about a humanities crisis in Ukraine, which erupted because of the war in East Ukraine. The Head of the Church spoke to the Pope of the data received from the United Nations that there are more than 1,5 million internally displaced persons, who are the victims of war in Donbas. His Holiness assured His Beatitude Sviatoslav of his prayers and support to restore and build a peaceful life in Ukraine.

"Ukraine remains in my heart", - stressed Pope Francis.

Apart from this, the Head of the UGCC thanked His Holiness for extolling the heroic virtues of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky. He mentioned that a figure of Metropolitan Andrey is invaluable in life of our Church and signing a decree concerning his heroic virtues indicates a great support of Ukraine by the Apostolic City".

His Beatitude Sviatoslav, stated that a miracle of healing is being investigated that happened in the territory of the USA through the mediation of prayers to Metropolitan Andrey. This fact has been already stated canonically. A meeting of medical men will be held soon in order to study this miracle.

On this occasion His Beatitude Sviatoslav presented Pope Francis



with a medal having an image of our great Metropolitan on it. It was made on the occasion of his 150th birthday anniversary with the efforts of Fr. Volodymyr Palchynskiy, a Basilian monk from the Ivano - Frankivsk region. The Pope accepted that present with gratitude and inquired about the symbolism of the images on this medal.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav stated that the UGCC on November 1st, 2014 started the celebration: "The Year of Metropolitan

Andrey." This also commemorated the 70th anniversary since the day of his death. A culmination of all events was a celebration of his birthday on the state level in Lviv. "Then we consecrated a monument to the great Metropolitan. The President of Ukraine also attended that event", His Beatitude added. Thus, this event has gone beyond the borders of Galicia. Also another monument was unveiled in Ivano-Frankivsk during the Patriarchal Council

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## Pope to His Beatitude Sviatoslav: "Ukraine remains in my heart"

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of the UGCC "The Vibrant Parish – a Place to Encounter the Living Christ".

"On November, 1st we will conclude the Year of Metropolitan Andrey. On October, 28th the opening of a memorial desk will take place in the building of the former Central Rada in Kyiv (A Pedagogical Museum today). It is known that exactly at this place Metropolitan

Andrey, coming back from Russia, met with members of the CIA to discuss the factual basis of a state foundation of the independent country of Ukraine", the Head of the UGCC related.

Later, on October 29th in Kyiv will be held a scientific conference, where the intellectual elite of Kyiv will participate. The theme of the conference concerns the figure of Metropolitan

and his activity on Church, social and state and international fields as well. Finally, on November, 1st "The Year of Metropolitan Andrey" concludes with an academic ceremony (program) at the Kyiv Opera House.

"The more that we reveal to ourselves the figure of the Metropolitan, the more we realize how little we know about him. Regretfully, his figure

remains unknown for a wide range of Ukrainians. That is why these jubilee celebrations were to become an opportunity to tell all Ukrainian people about this pious man", - concluded His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

The UGCC Department of Information according to "Saint Sophia" community press-service

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

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## Head of the UGCC explained why divorced and re-married cannot receive communion

22 October 2015

We are absolutely unanimous in saying that the one who lives in a state of grave sin, whether we are talking about the situation of divorced and re-married, or about any other sin on God's commandments, the teaching of the Church is unchanged - in a state of grave sin no one can receive the Holy Communion.

Head of the UGCC, Patriarch Sviatoslav said it in an interview with Vatican Radio, as he summed up the first results of XIV Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in the Vatican in which he participated.

The Primate explained that "if the Church says that someone is in a state of grave sin and may not be admitted to the Holy Communion, it neither discriminates nor diminishes anyone, on the contrary, this teaching of the Church is a good shelter and parent aid for these people." "For we know, according to St. Paul teaching that we can accept Holy Communion both in the salvation of our souls and in our judgment or condemnation. Therefore, according to the Apostles' doctrine and the traditional teaching of the Church, when someone comes to

the Holy Communion in a state of grave sin, he will worsen his condition, committing a new grave sin of sacrilege," the Patriarch says.

He said that at the Synod the hierarchs unanimously voted on the matter. When we are talking about the Holy Communion, including the possibility of administering the Holy Communion to those who are in a state of grave sin, this issue is not a matter of a pastoral method, it is the matter of the doctrine of the Church, the matter of the Catholic faith, the matter of understanding, on the

one hand, the sanctity of the sacrament of marriage, on the other hand, understanding the holiness and the basic sense of the Eucharist, the summit of Christian life.

Instead, the patriarch said that at the Synod, the hierarchs were considering how to help those people who live in such a state of grave sin and how to overcome it. What is the penitential way by which the Church today can lead people to conversion, repentance, and therefore to the possibility to recover.

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# Head of the UGCC explained why divorced and re-married cannot receive communion

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These are the terms under which a person may recover from a state of grave sin.

In this regard, according to the head of the UGCC, there is an interesting contribution of the Eastern Churches, as in the Latin rite the concept of sin is more legal in nature, "in other words, the concept of sin as a particular transgression

of law, which deserves a certain penalty. So many ordinary people have this impression: once I broke the law, so I am punished. I am not admitted to the Communion - this is a punishment for me...

Well, let's start asking the Church so this sentence could be eased down or reversed in one way or another. In the Eastern spirituality, the

sin is understood not as the transgression of law but as a terrible disease, a disease that needs treatment. The penitential practice in the context of Eastern theology is a medical treatment. Thus we help to understand many of our brothers in the episcopate that the traditional teaching of the Church on the penitential practice, the possibility or impossibility

of administering the Holy Communion to those who live in a state of grave sin is not some kind of severe punishment for anyone, but it is the way of treatment and healing of the human soul," said the patriarch. It was reported by the Information Department of the UGCC.

<http://risu.org.ua/>

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## Synod's final document focuses on discernment in family life

24/10/2015

(Vatican Radio) The Synod of Bishops on the Family completed its final working day on Saturday, as bishops voted on a final document and approved a statement on families affected by conflicts in the Middle East, Africa and Ukraine.

Philippa Hitchen has been following the different stages of the meeting and talking to many of the bishops, religious and lay people who've taken part in the discussions. She reports on the atmosphere inside the hall as the final Synod document was presented to participants....

It's hard to describe the mix of emotions that washed around the Synod Hall on Saturday at the close of this three week meeting. Elation, exhaustion, incredulity and relief were certainly among the reactions I heard from Synod Fathers as they worked their way painstakingly through all 94 points of their lengthy final text. Surprisingly similar, I thought, to that indescribable blend of emotions that most mothers experience as they give birth to a new life.

There's no denying there have been labor pains over the past weeks here, as tensions

surfaced and fears were expressed, both in public and on the pages of letters sent to the Pope and members of the organizing committee. In the small groups and in the open debates, strong words and provocative language have been bandied around, both by those seeking some new developments in Church teaching and by those who resist any openings towards people in so-called irregular situations of cohabitation, remarriage or same-sex relationships.

Yet the final document has been welcomed by most as a carefully crafted work of art which

seeks to balance the very different views and cultural perspectives of all Synod participants. Rather than producing any groundbreaking theological developments, it showcases a new, more inclusive way of working, which began with the questionnaires sent out to families around the world and concluded with the intense small group discussions inside the Synod Hall.

Inevitably, the more open, frank discussions of difficult issues, encouraged by Pope Francis at the start

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# Synod's final document focuses on discernment in family life

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of the 2014 Synod, has required a new methodology to find agreement acceptable to all sides, without settling for a lowest common denominator.

The key word in this process – unsurprisingly under a Jesuit Pope – is discernment, or the ability to listen, learn and respond to personal stories. Starting from the Bible, the catechism and the teaching of Popes past and present, pastors are encouraged to open

doors and engage with every person and every family, not judging or condemning, but welcoming and caring for each individual need.

While the joys and sorrows of family life have been the main focus of discussions, the bishops have really been learning a new way of relating to each other in the family of the Church. Half a century on from the establishment of the Synod of bishops, these

Church leaders are moving towards a new way of collaborating more closely with each other and with the pope, respecting differences, while at the same time realizing the value of diversity.

You could call it a growing up and coming of age of that synodality that was born during the Second Vatican Council. Few of those Council Fathers are around today to witness the joy all parents feel as

they watch their children mature and make their way in the world. But just as the document born during this Synod stresses the role of each generation in nurturing and handing on the faith, so today's Synod Fathers will be looking back with gratitude as they strive to respond more effectively to the challenges facing the Church in the contemporary world.

<http://en.radiovaticana.va/>

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## Synod Fathers appeal for peace in Middle East, Africa and Ukraine

26 October 2015

During Vespers for the conclusion of the Synod on Saturday, the Synod Fathers launched a new appeal for peace and the resolution of conflicts in the Middle East, Africa and Ukraine, asking the international Community to act via diplomatic channels and to engage in dialogue to end the suffering of thousands of people. In the declaration, the full text of which is published below, the Fathers make special reference to families compelled to flee their homes, and give thanks to the countries that have welcomed refugees.

“Gathered around the Holy Father Francis, we the Synod Fathers, along with the fraternal Delegates and Auditors participating in the 14th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, turn our thoughts to all the families of the Middle East

For years now, due to bloody conflicts, they have been victims of unspeakable atrocities. Their conditions of life have been further aggravated in recent months and weeks.

The use of weapons of mass destruction, indiscriminate killings, beheadings, kidnapping of human beings, trafficking of women, the enrolment of children into militias, the persecution on the basis of religious belief or ethnicity, the destruction of cultural heritage and countless other atrocities have forced thousands of families to flee their homes in search of refuge elsewhere, often in conditions of extreme precariousness. Currently they are prevented from returning and from exercising the right to live in dignity and safety on their own soil, contributing to the reconstruction and the material and spiritual well-being of their respective countries.

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# Synod Fathers appeal for peace in Middle East, Africa and Ukraine

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In such a dramatic context, there are continual violations of the fundamental principles of human dignity and of peaceful and harmonious co-existence among persons and peoples, of the most basic rights, such as the rights to life and religious freedom, and of international humanitarian law.

Therefore, we wish to express our closeness to the Patriarchs, the Bishops, the priests, consecrated persons and faithful, as well as all the inhabitants of the Middle East, to demonstrate our solidarity and to assure them of our prayers. We think of all the people who have been kidnapped and ask for their liberation. Our voices unite with the cry of so many innocent people: no more violence, no more terrorism, no more persecution! May the hostilities and weapons trafficking cease immediately!

Peace in the Middle East must be sought not with choices imposed by force, but rather with political decisions that respect the cultural and religious particularities of the individual Nations and their various components.

Although we are grateful especially to Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and many European countries for the welcome they have granted to refugees, we wish to make a further plea to the international community so that in the search for solutions they set aside particular interests and make use of the tools of diplomacy, dialogue and international law.

Let us recall the words of Pope Francis to 'all communities who look to Abraham: may we respect and love one another as brothers and sisters! May we learn to understand the sufferings of others! May no one abuse the name of God through violence! May we work together for justice and peace!'

We are convinced that peace is possible, and that it is possible to stop the violence in Syria, Iraq, Jerusalem and throughout the Holy Land that every day involves increasing numbers of families and innocent civilians and aggravates the humanitarian crisis. Reconciliation is the fruit of fraternity, justice, respect and forgiveness.

Our sole wish, like that of the people of goodwill who form part of the great human family, is that we may all live in peace, so that 'Jews, Christians and Muslims find in other believers brothers and sisters to be respected and loved, and in this way, beginning in their own lands, to give the beautiful witness of serenity and concord between the children of Abraham'.

Our thoughts and our prayers extend, with equal concern, solicitude and love, to all the families that find themselves involved in similar situations in other parts of the world, especially in Africa and Ukraine. We have kept them in mind during the work of this Synod Assembly, like the families of the Middle East, and for them too make a strong plea for a return to a calm and dignified life.

Let us entrust our intentions to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, accustomed to suffering, so that the world may soon become one family of brothers and sisters".

<http://risu.org.ua/>

**Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, the Prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, opened the Academic Year at the Pontifical Oriental Institute with a Mass at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major on Monday, October 26, 2015.**



<https://www.facebook.com/VaticanRadioEnglish>

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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.