

Pastoral Letter on the occasion of the proclamation of the Holy Year of Mercy in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Dearly Beloved in Christ! Together with the Universal Church we are entering into a time of special grace -The Holy Year, which, according to the will of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, will last from 8th December 2015 to 20th November 2016.

This year, which is also called an Extraordinary Jubilee Year, has been dedicated by the Pope to God's mercy. This is a time of God's special blessings, to undertake a pilgrimage to a Cathedral in our Local or Universal Church. This is a time for healing the wounds of body and soul, a return to God - a rediscovery of Mercy. Standing on the



His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk at the Cathedral in Philadelphia on November 15, 2015 (Photo: P. Bilyj)

[\(continued on next page\)](#)

Highlights inside this issue:

Confront the Deficit - Pg. 5

Annual Requiem at St. Patrick's Cathedral Commemorates Ukraine's Holodomor - Pg. 16

Pastoral Letter on the occasion of the proclamation of the Holy Year of Mercy in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

(continued from previous page)

threshold of the Jubilee Year, let us reflect on how we accept God's Mercy, how we live it and how we testify about it to ourselves, our neighbors and all people so that we may take advantage of the many spiritual fruits of this fertile time.

When God desired to reveal himself to man, to introduce us to Himself and reveal the truth about Himself, he described Himself, first of all, as The Merciful God. Revealing His glory to Moses at Sinai, the Lord said of himself: "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Ex. 34: 6). God, the Father has poured upon us his merciful love in his Son Jesus Christ. This is what our Saviour taught when he said to his disciples, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (Jn. 3, 16). Being a Christian is to first of all believe in God's mercy for ourselves,- to believe in God's love. The Evangelist John emphasizes this sharing of faith saying, "So we

know and believed the love that God has for us" (I Jn. 4, 16).

An important aspect of this Holy Year is an invitation to everyone to receive God's mercy. It is given to us, - the Church, by the Holy Spirit - the Spirit of God's love. To personally accept and live this mercy we turn to the Holy Mystery of Penance or Reconciliation. Unfortunately, in many parts of the world this Sacrament is almost forgotten, rarely preached about and even more rarely gone to. The reasons for this sad state of affairs are many, but in the first place there is less knowledge and experience of God's presence and as a consequence, a loss of a sense of sin. Our great desire is that the faithful of our Church use the Year of God's Mercy to rediscover, appreciate and experience more frequently the Source of Mercy, which the Lord has revealed to us sinners in the Mystery of Penance. This appeal I direct to Pastors who have a duty to administer the Mystery to the faithful. I also appeal particularly to those baptized persons

who call themselves Christians, but rarely confess and therefore have no ability to live God's mercy and to receive God's love.

A particular requirement of anyone who experiences this Holy Year is to share God's mercy. Our motto this year will be the words "Merciful like the Father" that resonate from the call of our Lord Jesus to his disciples: "Be merciful, as your Father is merciful" (Lk. 6, 36). These words remind us that the gift of mercy that we ourselves receive from Our Lord requires us to be merciful to our neighbours. In this way we not only express our gratitude to God for His mercy on us, but reveal to our neighbours the face and gracious presence of God in this world, a world that is so frequently scarred by human suffering, loneliness, fear and hopelessness. Faithful of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, no matter on which continent of globe they live, feel the suffering and pain of millions of citizens of Ukraine caused by an unjust war against us. Therefore, we must

use every opportunity that presents itself to be merciful.

I call upon all our faithful to remember the Church's teaching on specific works of mercy for the soul and the body, for individuals and for the wider community, showing all the love and creativity and drawing on our faith to implement them in everyday life. Mercy washes away our sins, transforms our hearts and our lives and brings us closer to God through a transformation - to become more like Him. Our mercy should primarily be directed to our family members and neighbours, so that in the words of, Pope Francis the door of every home becomes "the door of mercy". Let us be attentive to the needy members of the parish community, which for us is the Family of God: there must never be people who feel forgotten, abandoned and overlooked in their needs. Since love has no boundaries, acts of mercy have to go out and meet poor people, regardless of their nationality, social status, religious affiliation

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or political preferences. Let all who meet us through our sincere interest in them, good words and effective help, feel the presence of the Merciful Father.

Another of our duties this year is to become witnesses of God's mercy. Our faith teaches us to see the opportunity so that we may exercise our Evangelical vocation to witness the wonderful works of God's mercy in the world. Our brothers and sisters in our native land have always remembered this vocation. We recall how they witnessed Christ before the torturers and unjust judges in difficult times of persecution. So today - when Ukrainian soldiers and those who support them physically and spiritually have become remarkable witnesses to the strength of love in the face of external aggression. All our faithful in Ukraine and throughout the World are called to become tireless evangelists of God's mercy, which has so clearly and generously manifested itself in the history of our Church and people. Indeed, the experience of salvation

in times of persecution and the power of God's love that still animates and leads our people is given to us not only for ourselves, but also as a sign of hope for a lost and fearful world. This sign, which is our history, speaks more with God's than human words: "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever" (Ps. 125: 1) and "But I will sing of your might; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been a fortress for me and a refuge in the day of my distress. O my strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love" (Ps. 59, 17-18). So do not be silent about God's great works, the works of the Lord's mercy on us, so that all people, among whom we live, know that - He is our God, our salvation, and having recognised this, they will come closer to God in their hearts and in their works.

In this Holy Year let us place ourselves and the world under the Protection of Mary the

Mother of Mercy. "God is in its midst, it will not be shaken" (Ps. 46, 6) - these words of the psalmist are found in Saint Sophia - Holy Wisdom Cathedral in Kyiv, from which flows the spring of our forefather's faith. They express the abiding confidence of our people in God's mighty protection for the city and the country through the unstoppable prayers to our Heavenly Intercessor depicted on the "Indestructible wall", The Kyiv Oranta.

Our people in different parts of Ukraine and the world venerate the Virgin and beg her help through miracle-working icons. This year, with much love let us focus our thoughts and our pilgrim steps to the princely city of Yaroslav, a city, near the western border of Ukraine and Poland, where in the territory of the Przemysl - Warsaw Archeparchy we find our ancient and miraculous Icon of the Virgin - "Doors of Mercy". God in His providence has chosen the Most Holy Virgin as the "door" through which He came to mankind in His Only Begotten Son, incarnate through the

power and action of the Holy Spirit.

May this same Spirit may fill our hearts with God's love and mercy. May it transform our lives, making us a images of the presence and work of our merciful Father in the world. May we be accompanied this year by The Most Holy Virgin - Mother of Mercy, and all the saints and righteous of the Ukrainian land - faithful witnesses of God's mercy and God's love!

The blessing of the Lord be upon you!

+Sviatoslav

Given in Kyiv

At the Patriarchal Sobor of the Resurrection of Christ

On the feast of the Priest-Martyr Josephat, archbishop of Polotsk

25 November 2015

FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER

DECEMBER 6, 2015

Lk. 6:17-22

Jesus stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of His disciples and a large number of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon came to hear Him and be cured of their diseases; and even those who were possessed by evil spirits were cured. Everyone in the crowd sought to touch Him because power came forth from Him and healed them all.

Raising His eyes toward His disciples the Lord said: "Blessed are you poor, for the Kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping. For you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven.



**Icon: St. Nicholas
Ukrainian Catholic
Church, Philadelphia**

THE LIFE OF ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER

St. Nicholas was a holy and kind archbishop who was born in the second half of the third century in Patar, in the province of Lycia in Asia Minor. His parents, Theophan and Nona were devout Christians. It is said that St. Nicholas was a good and gentle child who was greatly influenced by his parents and by his uncle, also named Nicholas, who was a bishop.

St. Nicholas entered monastic life at an early age, he later became a priest and abbot of the monastery where he prayed and sought to grow in holiness. His parents died falling victim to the plague.

His inherited wealth he shared with the poor and needy. He was able to do many wondrous things. News of his kindness and generosity for the young people and for those less fortunate spread throughout the area. People referred to him as the "Wonderworker."

When he had become Bishop of Myra, he continued to be a humble servant of the Lord God. The miracles God performed through him increased. The good deeds that he had done were done in secret. He gave the glory and praise to the Lord God and not to himself.

He was willing to suffer for his Christian faith, for he was imprisoned shortly before his death in 342. After death St. Nicholas continued to be remembered for his holiness and generosity. His Feast Day is celebrated in many countries throughout the world. He is the patron saint of children, many of whom receive the name "Nicholas" at Baptism. Also many churches have built in his honor.

St. Nicholas brought joy and happiness to many. He was gentle and kind, willing to help those in need. And it brought him joy to do an act of

kindness and generosity to his less fortunate brother or sister in Christ. Let us remember that we too can become beacons of light who are sensitive to the need of others and bring Christ to others through a smile, a kind word, our willingness to help through prayer and action. And that at times may be simply to be present unto others, especially to the handicap and elderly. Let the spirit of Christ be present with us now and forever.

Adapted from Our Saints, MSMG



METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA

Ukrainian Catholic

827 North Franklin Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123-2097

Phone (215) 627-0143 Fax (215) 627-0377

ukrmet@ukrcap.org

No. 665/2015 O

This Number Should be Prefixed to Your Reply

Office of the Metropolitan

December, 2015

CONFRONT THE DEFICIT

I want to share with you, the clergy and faithful of our Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, of a troubling situation facing us. We are beginning to operate with annual deficits; that is not being able to meet the increasing costs facing the administration and operation of our archeparchy. I want to provide some information on the situation and offer a proposal to deal with the deficit.

Part of the deficit is due to a good thing – the development of new missions and parishes. This is a central mission of our Church and is an investment for our success in fulfilling our mission to evangelize. The Archeparchy needs to be able to fulfill this mission zealously.

Costs of maintaining buildings are rising for all of us. It will be an increasing cause of our annual deficits. The maintenance of our buildings in Philadelphia – the Cathedral, Cathedral Rectory, Cathedral Hall, Chancery, the former convent and former school buildings, and the Bishops' Residence all have increased considerably. All of the buildings are now in good repair and are sound structures. However, we have too many buildings to maintain. There is considerable underutilized space in the buildings next to our Cathedral. This is simply beyond our continued ability to maintain financially.

I propose adapting available space in the former convent building and in the school building to accommodate both the Cathedral Rectory and the Chancery operations. Some accommodating and down-sizing will be required. Yet, it is very feasible. All of our operations would thus be located in the Cathedral complex of four buildings, securely fenced in and with parking. Such a move would free up the existing Cathedral Rectory and the Chancery Building for rental income. This income would cover the deficit and provide necessary operating income without having to tax the parishes with additional burdens. We have not placed an increase on parish taxes since 2005. We well understand that parishes are also facing escalating costs of maintenance and operation.

Such a move will require some funds to cover some required upgrades to the existing buildings. An elevator needs to be installed in the school building to facilitate handicap access. We will have to do this at some time soon in any case. Handicap access to the Cathedral Rectory will be via a new ramp. The area of the school building where Chancery facilities will be located will need the installation of telephone and computer access. These are one-time costs. The cost for such a move is estimated at \$500,000.

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CONFRONT THE DEFICIT

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The potential income from rental of the Cathedral Rectory and Chancery complex is estimated to be in excess of \$ 300,000 annually. It makes sense to adapt and make the move. The alternative of meeting deficits by raising taxes on parishes or selling assets would be of short term benefit. This move would generate a source of income beyond our existing capabilities.

We have already begun the process. The existing museum has been consolidated onto one floor. The Cathedral Rectory is in the process of moving into the former convent building. Its current space will be prepared for rental. We need to progress immediately with the installation of an elevator for the school building, the most costly need.

My simple and heartfelt request of our parishes and of our faithful and friends of the Archeparchy is this. Please help us by offering a generous donation to our campaign to **“CONFRONT THE DEFICIT”**. Let’s be a part of responding to this challenge with a solution which will help for many years to come. Your response will enable us to be the Church we are called to be by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your anticipated understanding and for your generous support enabling our moving forward! God bless you in ways only He can!

Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka



Chancery

To donate make checks payable to: Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
827 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

To donate on the web using PayPal, please visit our website and select the option to support the
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

<http://www.ukrarcheparchy.us/index.php?categoryid=105>

Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Come and see the Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Display at the Treasury of Faith Museum

Courtesy of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Inc.
Branch 88, Philadelphia Regional Council

TREASURY OF FAITH MUSEUM
810 North Franklin Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
(215) 627-3389



TRADITIONAL UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS DISPLAY SCHEDULE 2015-2016

Sunday, December 20, 2015 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm
Special instructions for children (catechism)

Sunday, December 27, 2015 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Sunday, January 3, 2016 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Sunday, January 10, 2016 - 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm (before the Christmas concert)

SISTER JOSAPHAT SLOBODIAN 1925- 2015

Sister Josaphat Slobodian, OSBM, died Tuesday November 24, 2015, at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great. She was 90.

Born in Medwediwici, Ukraine, she was the daughter of the late Jacob and Maria (Pulyk) Slobodian.

Sister entered the Basilian Order on June 25, 1954 and professed her first vows on February 15, 1957, taking her final vows on August 28, 1960.

Sister Josaphat was a devoted caregiver to the sick and elderly nuns. She was also a proficient and talented artist who sewed and embroidered liturgical vestments. She also excelled in the Ukrainian arts including the art of Pysanky (decorating Ukrainian Easter eggs) and Ukrainian style embroidery, and beadwork.



Sister leaves behind her fellow sisters within the religious community and is also survived by her sisters, Barbara Sypko and Anna Bodnar; her nieces and nephews: Anna Scanapicco (Joseph), Raymond Babij (Anne), Mary Ann Ciampa (Gregory), Martha Bodnar (Frank Gribbin), Ihor Sypko (Helen Connor) and Roman Sypko (Stacey). She is also survived by eight grand nieces and nephews and six great-grand nieces and nephews. Sister is predeceased by her siblings, Evdokia Bandrowski and Michael Slobodian.

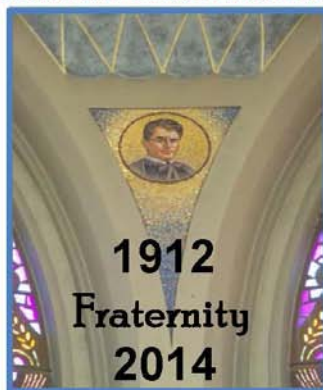
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The Providence Association Of the Ukrainian Catholics in America

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

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PRIESTS BLESS NEW DALMATICS IN PASSAIC, NJ

Fr. Taras Lonchyna and Fr. Andriy Dudkevych blessed new dalmatics for Altar Servers at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Passaic, NJ on November 22, 2015. The Dalmatics were donated to the church. A video can be found on the church Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stnicholasukrainiancatholic/>

MEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT IN PASSAIC, NJ

On Sunday, November 22, 2015 the parish of St. Nicholas sponsored a "Men's Spiritual Retreat" with the theme of 'Mans Role in Faith, The Family and Society', co-sponsored by the St. Nicholas Chapter of the League of Ukrainian Catholics. Fr. Taras Lonchyna, pastor at St. Josaphat Ukrainian parish, Trenton, NJ was the facilitator for the afternoon discussion.

Following a light lunch, Fr. Taras opened the retreat with a prayer. He spoke on faith, especially the faith of the head of the household, the father. If the father, the man of the household is a man of faith, then the family unit thrives and survives. As a man of faith the father needs to put his family first; he needs to see that the family unit prays together and plays together. Prayer should

be the center of the home, begin the day with prayer, pray before meals and pray before retiring. We read in Scripture that Our Lord spent time with the people and in most cases during a meal or He was found feeding the people that came to listen to His words.

There is a need to pray continually, to call upon God, "Abba", "Father", "Татуся", as God is our Heavenly Father and he looks after us as does the shepherd look after his sheep. Just as the sheep knows the voice of the shepherd, so should our children know the father's voice, as he prays with them.

Further, Fr. Taras encouraged the



participants to come to know the Word of God, the Bible. He directed them to take the time to read Scripture. Follow the church calendar and the daily readings. This is a way to come to understand the Word of God. Daily one should read a few lines in order to better know God.

He said that the father needs to be available to his children, he needs to "make time", to spend quality time with them. It is important to be present for your children. The children need the example of their father,

to emulate him and thus learn how to be a child of faith, of prayer and part of the family.

As we pray after Communion "save your people and bless your inheritance", know that the children are your inheritance, they are the future of the church and they need to be taught to be children of faith, to be part of society and honor the family unit. The afternoon ended with the guests discussing the presentation and sharing time with each other.

Generations of Faith Program honors Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky

On Sunday, November 29, 2015 the memory of the Venerable Servant of God, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, was honored at the seventh "Generations of Faith," religious education program sponsored by Assumption Parish in Perth Amboy, NJ. Over 100 parishioners and guests of all ages gathered in the church hall to learn about "Heroic Virtues" of the Venerable Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky. The day was filled with interest, food, great enthusiasm and good fellowship. During the presentation, our parishioners learned that Assumption parish has a very rich past and one of the most memorable events was a visit



by Metropolitan Andrey to our parish in December, 1921. He inspired the early parish community to persevere in its mission to establish a strong spiritual community of Ukrainian Catholics in Perth Amboy. After his visit numerous organizations were founded and plans for the parish school were set for the future. Our parishioners Mrs. Melanie Fedynshyn, President of St. Ann's Society, and Mrs. Olha Lytvyn, a recent parishioner and a graduate student of the Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv, prepared and delivered an outstanding presentation on Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky. Oleksiy Lytvyn's slideshow on the life of Metropolitan Andrey was also a great addition to the lively and memorable presentation.. Thank you to speakers and all volunteers for giving your time, talents and passions to this important task of educating us about the Metropolitan's wisdom, courage, and holiness. At the conclusion of the program, a prayer was offered by everyone for the successful completion of the beatification process for Venerable Servant of God, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky.



Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God help raise funds to save babies

The Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God with the help of friends and parishioners of the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, PA helped raise over \$3,000 for the "Legacy of Life Foundation" through a Baby Bottle Fund Drive.

A bassinet full of empty baby bottles was placed in the vestibule of the Cathedral and parishioners were encouraged to take a baby bottle home, fill it with spare change, and return it to the Cathedral the following week.

The "Legacy of Life Foundation" funds two crisis pregnancy centers in Bristol and Philadelphia, PA that serve over 500 families who cannot provide for simple baby supplies for their children. Many women visit the center and receive free pregnancy testing, counseling, and ultrasound services which give them the strength to say yes to life.

The "Legacy of Life Foundation" supports women throughout their pregnancy, and for at least 3 years after their babies are born.

On behalf of the "Legacy of Life Foundation" the Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God thank the Cathedral Fathers, parishioners and friends who contributed to the success of this project.

For more information please visit the "Legacy of Life Foundation" website at www.legacyoflifefoundation.org.



Sr. Timothea, MSMG, Mother Evhenia, MSMG, and Lisa Oprysk, Cathedral Cantor, pose for a picture by the Baby Bottle Display at the Cathedral.



SR. JOHN PASKEVICH MEMORIAL SCHOOL ENDOWMENT AWARD PRESENTATION

The League of Ukrainian Catholics at their Conventions have annually selected a Ukrainian Catholic School in the Metropolitan Archeparchy on a rotating basis to be the recipient of the Sr. John Paskevich, SSMI School Endowment Award.

This award was established by the League to recognize the work of our parochial schools and award an elementary school, from the Eparchies, with a monetary gift. This gift of \$500 is generally given in the name of an outstanding student and awarded to the named school.



L-R: Sr. Eliane Ilnitski, SSMI Principal; Helen Fedoriw (National Board); Mrs. Lecia Peltysyn mother of Alexandra and a teacher in the school; Alexandra Peltysyn, award recipient; Marion C. Hrubec, LUC National President; Fr. Andriy Dudkevych, pastor; Sr. Cecelia, SSMI (National Board)

On Friday, November 21, the Feast of Blessed Josaphata, the students and faculty of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School, Passaic, NJ gathered in Church to celebrate this Feast with a Divine Liturgy, recitation of the Chaplet to Blessed Josaphata and the veneration of her relic.

This was a fitting day for members of the League of Ukrainian Catholics to make the presentation of the +Sr. John Paskevich, SSMI Schools Endowment Award, as Sr. John as a Sisters Servant and a dedicated teacher. The National Board of the League of Ukrainian Catholics selected St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School, Passaic, NJ as the recipient school for this award and Alexandra Peltysyn was the named student. Sr. Eliane Ilnitski, SSMI, principal accepted the monetary gift on behalf of the school.

Congratulations to Alexandra, or Lexie as she is known to all, for her being named outstanding student, as she demonstrated her worthiness through her dedication to her studies, her catholic faith and for her helpfulness fostered by her solid family-values foundation and to the faculty of St. Nicholas School for their untiring work in educating our children in the Rite and Faith of our Church.

Religious Leaders of Ukraine Deliver Appeal for Aid to President Obama

**Washington, DC,
November 9, 2015**

- Representatives of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations met with Obama Administration officials today, delivering a letter to the President calling for the U.S. government to play a greater role in delivering aid to the millions in Ukraine in dire need of humanitarian assistance as the season's freezing temperatures set in. The All Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations members represent 85% of the citizens of Ukraine.



The All Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations members represent 85% of the citizens of Ukraine.

Representing the Council were Ukraine's Chief Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich, Ukrainian Orthodox Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko) and Ukrainian Catholic Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk. They met with the following representatives of President Obama's Administration:

- Dr. Charles Kupchan (Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European Affairs)
- Melissa Rogers (Special Assistant to the President and Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships)
- Elizabeth Zentos (National Security Council Director for Eastern Europe),
- Eric Ciaramella (NSC Director for Ukraine)
- Christine Gottschalk (NSC Director for Humanitarian and Crisis Response)
- Laura Shultz (NSC Director for Global Engagement)
- Jennifer Wistrand (Policy Advisor for Europe and Eurasia in the Secretary of States Office of Religion and Global Affairs)
- M. Patrick Ellsworth (Senior Ukraine Policy Advisor, U.S. State Department)

They discussed the current humanitarian crisis and their appeal to President Obama to allow the National Guard Program and the Partnership for Peace program to airlift crucial humanitarian supplies to Ukraine for this winter season. Also, participating in the meeting at the White House were Ambassador of Ukraine Valeriy Chaly, Deputy Head of Presidential Administration Rostyslav Pavlenko and President of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation Nadia K. McConnell.

The letter to President Obama states: "While we are grateful for the assistance provided by the United States government to date, we know that the need is so much greater. Thus, we appeal to you to increase assistance and to activate the full potential of the National Guard State Partnership Program and the Partnership for Peace (PfP) as instruments for alleviating the humanitarian catastrophe..." particularly to "... deliver already available medical and humanitarian supplies to Ukraine."

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Religious Leaders of Ukraine Deliver Appeal for Aid to President Obama

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According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), time is running out for winterization: 5 million people are in need of assistance, which includes 1.7 million children; 1.5 million internally displaced; 1.1 million externally displaced; the families of the almost 8,000 killed and 17,600 wounded. Long queues of civilians waiting for up to 24 hours at a number of crossing points on the 'contact line' between government-controlled and non-government-controlled areas persist, says the OCHA.

Also in attendance were: Yaroslav Brisuik (Deputy Chief of Mission, Minister-Counselor, Embassy of Ukraine in U.S.), Archbishop Stephen Soroka (Ukrainian Catholic Church, Philadelphia), Archpriest Oleksandr Trofymlyuk (Rector of the Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy), Ari Shapiro (Assistant to Rabbi Bleich), Jennifer Perrino (Legislative Director, Rep. Marcy Kaptur's Office), Ali Chalupa, (National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee), John Jaresko (Ukrainian Orthodox church activist from Chicago), Peter Voitsekhovsky (Research Director, U.S.-Ukraine Foundation).

Shortly after their White House meeting, Patriarch Filaret, Patriarch Sviatoslav and Rabbi Bleich spoke at a press conference at the National Press Club, where they stressed the need to address the immediate humanitarian crisis due to winter.

Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church noted that "today, in Ukraine, we have more than 2 million refugees but international societies can help only 400,000 refugees ... Ukrainians are helping Ukrainians, but our resources are short because of the economic crisis... We are here to be a voice of the millions who are suffering the biggest humanitarian crisis in Europe after the Second World War... Ukraine needs worldwide international support in order to solve this situation and we are here to speak on behalf of those millions who will suffer terrible winter months."



Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Kyiv Patriarchate, reminded the audience that through its rejection of Russian authoritarianism and battle against Putin's aggression, "Ukraine is defending democracy and freedom" for all Western countries. He emphasizes, "The United States is the leaders of democracy and freedom in the world and Ukrainians are giving their lives for this democracy and freedom... We are giving away our lives, and you (the United States) please give us the resources including the humanitarian assistance. We ask you to please help us!"

Ukraine's Chief Rabbi Bleich said: "The message comes from a coalition which is called All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations which is a very unique organization anywhere in the world probably, where the heads of all the religious in the country come together and work for the benefit of all of the people living in the country." "The help that we may get in paying for transport of containers of humanitarian aid that was collected here to be sent over to Ukraine is very, very symbolic. Money is

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Religious Leaders of Ukraine Deliver Appeal for Aid to President Obama

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not the most important thing.” It will show the “importance that the United States government places on the humanitarian needs in Ukraine,” and that “people in the U.S. care about what is happening in Ukraine” and about the “the fight of freedom over Putinism.”

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, working with other Members of Congress has been actively encouraging the Obama Administration to increase assistance to Ukraine and to engage the National Guard State Partnership Program and the Partnership for Peace program in delivering aid to Ukraine.

The press conference at the National Press Club was sponsored by the Sound the Alarm for Ukraine Coalition, moderated by Ambassador John Herbst of the Atlantic Council and a member of the coalition. The newly formed coalition is bringing together former ambassadors, Ukraine experts, humanitarian organizations, diaspora groups, the interfaith community, corporate supporters, other organizations, and individuals around the shared mission of delivering humanitarian, reconstruction/redevelopment and peacekeeping assistance to millions of people in Ukraine, effectively and in a timely manner.

Nadia K. McConnell emphasizes that “the Coalition will sound the alarm for Ukraine here in the U.S., so that the people of Ukraine will know that they have not been forgotten and will receive the assistance they need and deserve. We cannot allow geopolitical issues to compromise our response to the humanitarian catastrophe in Ukraine. We must not repeat what happened during the Holodomor, the Holocaust and more recently Chernobyl.”

After the press conference (photo to right) Archbishop Soroka, Patriarch Shevchuk, Patriarch Filaret, and Rabbi Bleich jointly visited the newly-dedicated Holodomor Memorial in Washington, DC. Other religious and secular leaders who attended this event (to the right of Rabbi Bleich) are Nicholas Kotcherha, President of the Ukrainian Genocide Commission, Archpriest Oleksandr Trofymlyuk, Rector of the Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy, Rev. Roman Zahursky, Pastor of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate in North Royalton, OH, Adrian Saluk of Phoenix, AZ, and Nadia McConnell, President of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.



Afterwards, there was a working visit with government, religious and community leaders at the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation office. Of the latter, these individuals included Tamara Denysenko of Rochester, NY, Vera Eliashevsky of Chicago, IL, Marta Farion of Chicago, IL, Bohdan Kantor of Arlington, VA, Daniel & Daria King of Mount Airy, MD, Adrian Saluk of Phoenix, AZ, and Marianna Zajac of New York City.

<http://usukraine.org/coalition/report-wh-press-conf-events.shtml>

Annual Requiem at St. Patrick's Cathedral Commemorates Ukraine's Holodomor

New York, NY (UCCA) -

On Saturday, November 21, 2015, hundreds of Ukrainians, friends and supporters gathered at Manhattan's iconic St. Patrick's Cathedral for an ecumenical requiem service and commemorative program dedicated to the memory of Ukraine's Holodomor, Stalin's Famine Genocide of 7-10 million Ukrainians in 1932-33. As co-organized by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representation of Ukrainians in America, this annual commemoration regularly attracts hundreds of attendees from across the tri-state metropolitan area, and this year was no exception. Even following the massive gathering in Washington, DC on November 7, when the National Ukrainian Genocide Memorial was dedicated in the presence of several thousand people, this year's annual program at St. Patrick's Cathedral still drew buses from communities in Hartford, CT, Whippany, NJ, as well as hundreds of others solemn churchgoers.

As has become tradition,



(Photo: Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM Facebook Page)

the requiem service was led by hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and Ukrainian Catholic Church leaders in the United States, with the participation of the Dumka Choir of New York, under the direction of Vasyl Hrychynsky. Prior to the service, a solemn procession of students was organized by Ivanka Zajac, president of the United Ukrainian American Organizations of New York. With the Dumka choir singing, students from St. George Academy began a

procession through the massive nave of the cathedral, carrying an image of the newly dedicated National Memorial in Washington, DC. Following the high school students were the younger attendees of the "Samopomich" School of Ukrainian Studies in New York City, under the direction of Ivan Makar, dressed in Ukrainian embroidery, and carrying candles and stalks of wheat. The procession was anchored by Nadia Severyn, a Holodomor survivor and yearly participant at the

cathedral.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. was the first to address the attendees, explaining in brief the context of the ceremony to the cathedral's many visitors. He was then joined by His Grace Bishop Daniel of the UOC-USA, leading the traditional Ukrainian Memorial Service – the Panakhyda – along with con-celebrants His

(continued on next page)

Annual Requiem at St. Patrick's Cathedral Commemorates Ukraine's Holodomor

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Excellency Bishop Paul Chomnycky and the Most Reverend Bishop Emeritus Basil Losten of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford.

Following the requiem service, the assembled were addressed by Tamara Olexy, President of the UCCA, which, along with the community's religious leadership, organizes this commemorative event each year. In her remarks, Ms. Olexy cautioned that, "The Holodomor cannot remain merely a Ukrainian issue – it must be a global one so that such tragedies do not reoccur." Along that theme, both Ms. Olexy and all subsequent speakers remarked on the importance of the National Memorial in Washington, DC, the symbol of the immortality and courage of the Ukrainian nation which now stands just blocks from the US Capitol building. It was only fitting that the keynote speaker of the program was design architect and co-sculptor of the National Ukrainian Genocide Memorial, Larysa Kurylas, whose remarks touched on her personal

journey of genocide awareness in Ukraine's history. "Without a doubt, the creation of this monument will be the most important project of my architectural career."

Following Ms. Kurylas, William Pope, Senior Advisor for Europe to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, delivered a statement from the White House, which read in part, "Through the tireless efforts of the Ukrainian-American community... a memorial now stands in the heart of our nation's capital, allowing Americans to share in the somber memory of

the Holodomor." His Excellence Valeriy Chaly, Ambassador of Ukraine to the USA, made mention of Ukraine's Day of Dignity and Freedom, now celebrated every November 21 in memory of the Orange Revolution and the Revolution of Dignity. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Yuriy Sergeyev, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed the assembled in both the Ukrainian and English languages, remarking on the long efforts of the Ukrainian mission to educate others about the Holodomor,

and the importance of remembering its legacy.

His Excellency Bishop Paul concluded the program with solemn prayers and a word of sincere gratitude to His Excellency Archbishop Timothy Dolan, for graciously allowing the Ukrainian community to commemorate the Holodomor at St. Patrick's Cathedral, after which the Dumka choir let the faithful in an uplifting rendition of the liturgical hymn, "Bless The Lord, O My Soul."

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



Dumka choir (Photo: Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM Facebook Page)

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church

NEW LOCATION
211 Grace Street
Reading PA 19611

(610) 376-0323

Saturday, December 5th

12 to 4 PM

Soup

Bread

Pierogies

Rolls



Pastries

Merry Christmas

Holupchi

Halushky

Crafts

Pa. South Anthracite Deanery Christmas Confession Schedule

During Philip's Fast, the priests of the South Anthracite Deanery visit neighboring churches to offer the Holy Mystery of Penance. It provides an excellent opportunity for the faithful to receive the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation as they spiritually prepare for the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord.

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

Monday, December 14th

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Assumption BVM, Centralia | Fr. Fesniak |
| Ss. Peter & Paul, Mt. Carmel | Msgr. Melnic Msgr. Grabowsky |
| Nativity BVM, Middleport | Fr. Ivanov |
| Transfiguration, Shamokin | Fr. Pitula Fr. Hutsko |

Tuesday, December 15th

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| St. John, Maizeville | Fr. Hutsko |
| Protection of the BVM, Marion Heights | Fr. Pitula |
| St. Nicholas, Minersville | Msgr. Melnic Msgr. Grabowsky |
| St. Michael, Shenandoah | Fr. Fesniak Fr. Ivanov |

Wednesday, December 16th

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| St. Michael, Hazleton | Msgr. Grabowsky |
| Protection of the BVM, McAdoo | Fr. Pitula Fr. Hutsko |
| St. Michael, Frackville | Fr. Fesniak Fr. Ivanov |
| St. Nicholas, St. Clair | Msgr. Melnic |

Holiday Polka Party
Sunday, December 13, 2015
2 pm til 6pm

Music by

Crab Town Sound

At

Nativity B.V.M. Ukrainian Catholic
"NEW" Church Hall

211 Grace Street, Reading, PA 19611

Tickets \$12 in advance \$15 at the door

Refreshments available to purchase

(NO B.Y.O.B. or B.Y.O.F.)

For tickets & info contact

Ellen Rohrbach 610-207-7875 or Cindy Koretsky 610-914-5785



Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 3:00 PM

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
830 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

Фестиваль Українських Різдвяних Колядок

Неділя, 10-го січня 2016 року о 3-й годині пополудні

Катедра Непорочного Зачаття
Філадельфія, ПА

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE & BAZAAR

AT

St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church

2026 Bath Road

Bristol, PA. 19007

(215) 788-3014 – Church Hall

Saturday December 12, 2015

9 AM until Twelve noon

Poppy seed and Nut rolls \$12.00 each

Assorted cookies, cakes, and pies

Christmas gift baskets

Plants

Gift items

Sts Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church
301 Fairview Street, Phoenixville
www.sspeterandpaulukr.com
610-933-7801

HOLIDAY EVENT

3rd Annual Cookie Walk & Steaming Soups

HOMEMADE

**Cookies, Soup, & Baked Goods
Plus Attic Treasures**

Visit with Santa 12 – 1 pm



Saturday, December 12, 2015

11am – 3pm



Delicious Hot Soups

Borscht

Chicken Noodle

French Onion

Creamy Tomato with Tortellini & Spinach

Potato Leek with Bacon



Perogies and Filled Cabbages are available – TAKE OUT ONLY

For additional information, please contact Lisa Dries (484) 429-4787

Donations of gloves & socks for Ukrainian soldiers will be greatly appreciated

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.

This year's Women's Day of Prayer will be held on:

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2016

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2016

at the

at

**Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of
the Holy Family**

**St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic
Church**

4520 Harewood Road, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

430 North Seventh Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Our day begins with Divine Liturgy (11:30 a.m. at the Shrine of the Holy Family;

10:30 a.m. at St. Vladimir's).

Lunch and the program follow the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Additional details will be forthcoming.

Sponsored by Ukrainian Assumption Church

New Years Eve

Zabava

*Fabulous buffet dinner
served all evening in
New Jersey's BIGGEST
& BEST Hall!*

Thursday

December 31, 2015

at 8:00 p.m.

Music by "Anna-Maria"

Tickets - \$80.00 per person

Children (5-12) - \$40.00

Tickets after Dec. 25, - \$90.00

For Tickets Call:

732-826-0767 or 202-368-2408

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No refunds - No tickets at the door

APOSTOLIC NUNCIO ARCHBISHOP CLAUDIO GUGEROTTI, Titular Archbishop of Ravello

Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti was born in Verona, Italy on 7 October 1955. He was ordained a priest on 29 May 1982 for the service of the Church in Verona. He earned a Doctorate in Oriental Languages and Literature and possesses a Licentiate in Sacred Liturgy. He was a lecturer in Patrology at the Theological Institute of St. Zeno in Verona from 1981-1984. He lectured in Oriental Theology and Liturgy at the Institute of Ecumenical Studies in Verona from 1982 to 1985. He entered the service of the Holy See in the Congregation for Oriental Churches in 1985, being promoted to Under-Secretary of the Congregation on 17 December 1997. As a lecturer in Patrology, Armenian language and literature at the Pontifical Oriental Institute he authored various publications. He has mastered a number of ancient and modern languages: Latin, Greek, Armenian (classical and modern), Kurd, English and French.



**New Apostolic
Nuncio in Ukraine**

His first assignment as head of a diplomatic mission was as Apostolic Nuncio in Georgia and Armenia on 7 December 2001.

He was named Apostolic Nuncio in Azerbaijan on 13 December 2001.

He was named Apostolic Nuncio in Belarus on 15 July 2011.

He was named Apostolic Nuncio in Ukraine on 13 November 2015.

http://www.nuntiatura.kiev.ua/nuncio.files/nuncio_eng.htm

Representatives of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church pray for victims of Paris attacks at Notre Dame de Paris

16 November 2015

On Sunday 15 November, Bishop Borys Gudziak prayed in the Cathedral of Notre Dame for the victims of terrorist attacks in Paris. Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois, archbishop of Paris led the mass. 129 people were killed in a wave of terror attacks Friday night.

Police vans lined the streets surrounding the cathedral and armed officers rifled through bags. Another check took place by the cathedral's heavy doors. Many believers couldn't enter the cathedral and prayed outside.



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Representatives of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church pray for victims of Paris attacks at Notre Dame de Paris

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Archbishop of Paris Andre Vingt-Trois addressed the terrorist attacks, referring to them as barbaric, and insisted that the country must fight back with strength within.

The dean of The School of Theology and Religious Studies of the Catholic University of America also joined the Mass at Notre Dame Cathedral. "This moving liturgy demonstrated the importance of prayer. I have been Visiting with Bishop Borys Gudziak and have been deeply moved by the faith of the people in Paris. Thousands were on the streets unable to enter the filled Cathedral. There was such a sense of peace, calm, and hope in God', he wrote on his Facebook page.

http://risu.org.ua/en/index/all_news/ukraine_and_world/ukrainians_outside_of_Ukraine/61703/

Leaders of Ukrainian churches offer condolences to French people over terrorist attacks

16 November 2015

Head of the UGCC, Patriarch Sviatoslav on behalf of the bishops and faithful of the UGCC extended his condolences to the President of the French Episcopal Conference Archbishop Marcel Georges Pointier and Ambassador of France to Ukraine Mrs. Isabelle Dumont.

"It is with great sorrow that we learned of the terrible terrorist acts committed in France on the night of November 14. The faithful of our Church, as well as all children of the Ukrainian land, which for the last time undergoes many unjust attacks and suffering, especially today feel the pain

and suffering of French people and unite with you in prayer to Merciful God.

Our prayers today are with each family who mourns the loss of their dear ones, with every wounded person with everyone who is struck today in France," goes the letter of condolence.

According to the press-center of the Kyiv Patriarchate, on November 15, Patriarch Filaret 15 in concelebration of the cathedral clergy officiated at the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom in St Volodymyr Cathedral. After the liturgy, he led a memorial service for the

repose of the souls of those killed in the road accidents and prayed for the victims of the terrorist attacks that took place in Paris on November 13, 2015.

The primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine Onufriy extended his condolences to Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France to Ukraine Isabelle Dumont. It was reported by Information Department of the UOC.

His message of condolence says that the terrorists aim at instilling fear and intimidating

people. However, these tests further unite the people of France who will bear them with dignity - said the Primate. Expressing condolences over the death of the victims, Metropolitan Onufriy wished recovery to the injured and the return of peace and tranquility on the French land.

Archbishop Ihor (Isichenko) of Kharkiv-Poltava Eparchy of the UAOC sent condolences addressed to ordinary bishop of the Diocese of St. Volodymyr the Great in Paris, Bishop Borys Gudziak.

"In these difficult moments

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Leaders of Ukrainian churches offer condolences to French people over terrorist attacks

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the faithful of Kharkiv-Poltava Eparchy of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church join your congregation in prayer for the eternal peace of innocent victims of the victims of terrorist attacks in Paris. Please convey my sincere condolences to the families and friends of the victims. We, the people of Eastern and Southern Ukraine, have been experiencing for the last two years, the

constant threat of terrorist attacks, the residents are well aware of the feelings of the residents of Paris and all over France who suddenly found themselves in a critical situation. We believe that the courageous people of France will withstand this challenge. We assure you of our prayers and unwavering Christian solidarity."

As you know, on November 13, dozens

of people were killed in the French capital in a series of explosions and shooting.

According to various sources, the total number of victims of terrorist attacks ranges from 129 to 150 people. Out of these, as reported by the world's leading agencies, about a hundred people were found dead in the concert hall Bataclan, which hosted the concert of the American rock

band. More than 200 people are injured, 80 of them are in critical condition. This was reported by AFP with the reference to sources in investigative circles.

http://risu.org.ua/en/index/all_news/ukraine_and_world/international_relations/61698/

Francis accepts invitation to visit Ukraine, says country's president

Joshua J. McElwee | Nov. 20, 2015 NCR Today

VATICAN CITY Pope Francis has accepted an invitation to visit Ukraine made during a meeting Friday (November 20, 2015) at the Vatican with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, according to a statement from the country's leader.

While such invitations are routinely made by heads of state meeting with the pontiff, and the Vatican has yet to confirm the pope's acceptance, a visit to Ukraine would carry high significance given continuing international outcry over Russia's annexing of Crimea in 2014.

"I invited His Holiness to visit Ukraine and he accepted the invitation," Poroshenko wrote on his Facebook page following Friday's meeting, which saw the president meet privately with the pope for about 22 minutes in the Vatican's apostolic palace.

The possible visit by Francis would be only the second of a pontiff to the former Soviet nation, following a five-day visit by Pope John Paul II in 2001.

The situation in the country has been unsettled since early 2014, when Russia effectively took over the Crimean peninsula, part of Ukraine, by deploying unmarked troops to the region before holding a referendum for independence and absorption into the Russian Federation.

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Francis accepts invitation to visit Ukraine, says country's president

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The Russians are also now threatening Ukraine with a food-trade ban should the country conclude a trade deal with the European Union, a move Ukrainian authorities say could cost some \$600 million in revenue.

The meeting between Poroshenko and Francis was held privately Friday.

In a statement afterwards, the Vatican said discussions "were dedicated principally to matters connected with the situation of conflict in the country." The two leaders focused specifically on humanitarian concerns and spoke particularly of economic and social consequences of the conflict, the Vatican said.

After their meeting Friday, Francis gave Poroshenko his traditional gift of a bronze medallion showing an olive branch holding together two parts of a rock face, a symbol of the duty of political leaders to overcome what divides and work for peace.

"This is my desire of peace for Ukraine," the pontiff could be heard telling the president.

Poroshenko gave Francis a small glass sculpture of angel, made by Ukrainian artisans and accented with pieces of Ukrainian amber.

"I pray that this gift will remind you of Ukraine," said the president.

Vatican spokesman Jesuit Fr. Federico Lombardi said Francis had first greeted Poroshenko during their encounter in the Ukrainian language. The pontiff learned the greeting as a young boy while serving Mass for an Ukrainian priest living in Buenos Aires, said Lombardi.



President's visit to the Vatican
(Photo: <http://www.president.gov.ua>)

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/francis-accepts-invitation-visit-ukraine-says-country-s-president>

President after the meeting with Pope Francis: Support of the Church is essential for us

20 November 2015

President Petro Poroshenko called his meeting with Pope Francis “very touching”. Meetings in the Vatican confirmed the interest in Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, as stated by the President.

After the meeting with Pope Francis, President Petro Poroshenko noted: “The main conclusion of the meeting is the remark by His Holiness that we always remember and pray for Ukraine. After visiting the Vatican, I was convinced once again that the truth is with us, the Lord is with us and His prayers are with Ukraine,” Petro Poroshenko said.



(Photo: <http://www.president.gov.ua>)

The President informed that substantial attention had been paid to the assistance in the establishment of peace on the Ukrainian land. Pope Francis is well aware of the details of the Minsk plan and considers it the only way to bring peace to Ukraine, as stated by Petro Poroshenko. “The steps made by the Church today are very important for us,” the Head of State emphasized.

According to the President, he addressed Pope Francis with a request to accelerate beatification of Metropolitan Andriy Sheptytsky. The Pope said that much had been done for that already. It was also informed that the procedure of beatification of Bishop Stepan Chmil had also been started.

The Head of State invited Pope Francis to visit Ukraine. The invitation was accepted.

Following the meeting with Cardinal Secretary of State of the Holy See Pietro Parolin, the President said: “We’ve heard the words of support for Ukraine. Ukrainian state remains a priority in the prayers and the work of the Vatican”.



(Photo: <http://www.president.gov.ua>)

The Head of State invited the representatives of the Vatican to attend the events in the memory of the 30th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster and the 75th anniversary of the Babi Yar tragedy.

In the course of the meeting, the parties also discussed interpersonal contacts. Pietro Parolin was touched by the heroic deed of Ukrainian Anatoliy Korol who was killed in Naples trying to stop the burglars.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/pidtrimka-cerkvi-ye-duzhe-vazhlivoyu-dlya-nas-prezident-ukra-36339>

UGCC organizes church-wide anticorruption movement

27 November 2015

The Sixty-ninth session of the Synod of Bishops of the Kyiv-Galician Major Archbishopric of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was held at Patriarch Josyp Slipyj Retreat Center in Lviv-Bryukhovychi on November 24-25, 2015, UGCC website reports.

The Synodal meetings were attended by all the active bishops of the Kyiv-Galician Major Archbishopric (except for Bishop Stepan (Meniok), who was absent for good reason). Bishop Milan (Shashik), Eparch of Mukachevo, and Bishop Nil (Lushchak), auxiliary bishop of Mukachevo Greek Catholic Diocese, which is not part of the UGCC, were also present at the Synodal meetings.



The issue of corruption was the main subject of the current Synodal session. Analyzing the origins of this social malaise, members of the Synod heard a report on the societal expectations from the Church in terms of combating corruption in Ukraine, delivered by Myroslav Marynovych, president of the Institute of Religion and Society and vice-rector for the UCU mission, as well as a report on the practical steps to overcome corruption, delivered by Serhiy Hula, coordinator of the National Movement: "No bribery! I neither accept nor give bribes."

Having analyzed the said perspective, the Synod recognized the social malaise of corruption to be a sin, a responsibility for which lies with an individual, and decided to initiate the establishment of a church-wide movement to counter this sin, having formed a working group, whose first task should be elaboration of the program of pastoral care in the realm of combating corruption. The Major Archbishopric Synod also expressed its support for all civic organizations and initiatives that are countering the social malaise of corruption, and instructed the faithful of the UGCC to include a prayer for healing the sin of corruption in the monthly prayers on the day of prayer for the healing of addicts and their families.

The pastoral letter of the Synod of Bishops of the Kyiv-Galician Major Archbishopric on the malaise of corruption was reviewed and approved in the first reading by the section which processed the Synodal documents.

http://risu.org.ua/en/index/all_news/catholics/ugcc/61802/

December 2015 - Грудня 2015

Happy Birthday!

З Днем народження!

December 7: Rev. Stepan Bilyk
December 17: Rev. Mykola Ivanov
December 21: Rev. Deacon Michael Waak
December 21: Rev. Orest Kunderevych

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

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



**Congratulations on your
Anniversary of Priesthood!**

Вітаємо з Річницею Священства!

December 6: Rev. Volodymyr Kostyuk
(17th Anniversary)
December 10: Rev. D. George Worschak
(37th Anniversary)
December 11: Rev. Ihor Royik
(23rd Anniversary)
December 19: Rev. Andriy Rabiyy
(14th Anniversary)
December 20: Rev. Ihor Bloshchynskyy
(12th Anniversary)

**May God Grant You Many Happy and
Blessed Years of Service in the Vineyard
of Our Lord!**

**Нехай Бог Обдарує Багатьма
Благословенними Роками Служіння в
Господньому Винограднику!**

Editorial and Business Office:

827 N. Franklin St.
Philadelphia, PA 19123
Telephone: (215) 627-0143
E-mail: theway@ukrcap.org

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