Pope Francis accepts an icon as a gift from the U.S. Ukrainian Catholic bishops held by Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia during a meeting with U.S. bishops from the Eastern Catholic Churches in the United States during their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican February 20. Also pictured are Bishop Bohdan J. Danylo of the Eparchy of Saint Josaphat in Parma, Ohio; Bishop Benedykt Aleksiychuk of the Eparchy of Saint Nicholas of Chicago; and Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Eparchy of Stamford, Conn. (CNS, courtesy of Vatican Media)
Eastern Catholic bishops in US have particular pastoral concern for immigrants

Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency
Feb 19, 2020

In the United States, Eastern Catholics face many of the same challenges as Latin rite Catholics, but the Eastern Catholic Churches are particularly concerned about growing anti-immigrant rhetoric and the plight of Christians overseas, a Ukrainian Catholic archbishop said Wednesday.

The U.S.-based Eastern Catholic bishops are in Rome for their ad limina visit to the Vatican and to the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul Feb. 17-21.

“I see [the ad limina visit] as a chance for discussion, but it’s also a chance for communion,” Archbishop Borys Gudziak, Ukrainian Archbishop of Philadelphia, told CNA Feb. 19.

The bishops met with a group from the Secretariat of State, including Cardinal Pietro Parolin and Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Feb. 19 for an hour and 45 minutes. Their meeting with Pope Francis was Feb. 20.

“When you meet your father and when you meet in the family, it’s important to discuss different questions and the issues that arise, but it’s also important just to be together. That’s what this ad limina visit is like and I think that’s what our encounter with the Holy Father will be like tomorrow,” Gudziak said.

The archbishop is the metropolitan for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is the largest of the 23 Eastern Catholic Churches.

There are eparchies of 10 Eastern Catholic Churches in the US: Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Melkite, Syriac, Maronite, Armenian, Romanian, Syro-Malankara, Chaldean, and Syro-Malabar. Many of these serve large immigrant populations.

Gudziak said some of the concerns shared by all Catholic bishops in the U.S., and which were discussed in Wednesday’s meeting with Parolin, are “for the poor of America, the spread of gender ideology, and the safeguarding of all vulnerable people.”

Another two issues of importance, he said, are how to support priests

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and “how to help young people meet Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.”

“We breathe the same air that Roman Catholics breathe in the United States,” the archbishop said. “People are on the same internet and drinking the same Coca Cola, so we share these concerns.”

The Eastern bishops, however, have a particular pastoral concern for Catholic “immigrants and ensuring clergy and structures for them,” he stated.

According to Gudziak, the political situation in the U.S., especially in regard to immigrants, was one of the topics discussed with the Secretariat of State.

Gudziak pointed out that the actions, behavior, legislation, and quality of rhetoric in the political-social sphere in the United States is “quite distant” from the concerns of Christ in the Gospel and from what the Church teaches.

“I think the divisions in society are creeping into the Church and we become polarized.”

He noted: “We’re not expecting politicians to be saints but there are significant flaws across the political spectrum, whether it’s pro-life issues or aggression toward immigrants.”

Gudziak explained that the situation of immigrants touches the Eastern Catholic bishops personally, since they lead “quintessentially immigrant Churches, and not only in the past but today.”

He estimated that around 60% of his flock are recent immigrants fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

“For most of us our lands of origin are enduring great suffering,” Gudziak stated. “[There is the] Russian invasion in Ukraine, in the Middle East the Christians are decimated and leaving, fleeing the danger.”

“So, immigration is kind of a matrix of our reality, of our pastoral life. And the growing harshness of the rhetoric and the legislation about immigrants in the United States is something we are very troubled about.”

“We asked that the Holy See be as prophetic about this as possible,” he added.

“They are human beings, endowed with human dignity.”

He said the U.S. government’s increased vetting and denial of visas has also made it more difficult for Ukrainian priests to come to serve the growing Ukrainian

Ad Limina Apostolorum 2020 -Visit to the Oriental Congregation and cordial meeting with Leonardo Cardinal Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches.

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According to the archbishop, in the past, when people have been underserved by their priests, they have left the Church, many joining the Orthodox.

The Eastern Catholic Churches are the final group of U.S. bishops to make the pilgrimage. The U.S. bishops began their visits, which typically take place every five years, in November 2019.

On Friday, Archbishop Gudziak will preside over a Divine Liturgy at San Clemente al Laterano. The Roman church, he said, is an important place for all Eastern Catholics, but Ukrainian Catholics in particular, because of its connection to the legacy of St. Clement and to Sts. Cyril and Methodius, who brought the Gospel to the Slavic people.

“We will be praying for our Churches, our eparchies, our clergy, and our faithful, and young people...”

According to Gudziak “we’re living in a time of radical cultural change and there needs to be what Pope Francis calls a pastoral conversion.”

One of these changes, he explained, is the lack of a shared anthropology: “There isn’t one understanding of what a man or a woman is, marriage. If you don’t have common denominators in society around one of the most fundamental questions, what is humanity, there’s a lot of chaos.”

“Catholic teaching is pretty clear on these issues,” he said. “The Church needs to be a community of those who listen to the Word of God and share it in authentic friendship. We need to make sure the doctrine is correct; We also have to live very much according to what we preach.”

He said the abuse
Eastern Catholic bishops in US have particular pastoral concern for immigrant
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The bishops discussed at the Vatican “the fact that this is God’s Church,” he noted. “Really hoping that this time is a time of purification, where we’re losing illusions, any kind of hope that there’s a triumph in this world that we’re going to enjoy.”

“We are called more and more to swim against the current.”


The bishops met with a group from the Secretariat of State, including Cardinal Pietro Parolin

Meeting with Pope Francis (Photo: Vatican Media)
Archbishop Gudziak Visits DC-Area’s Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church

The Most Rev. Borys Gudziak, Archbishop-Metropolitan for the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, visited the parish of Holy Trinity Particular Ukrainian Catholic Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. The hierarchical pastoral visit took place on February 9th.

Upon his arrival, Archbishop Gudziak was welcomed by the children of the parish, board chairperson Ulana Bodnar and pastor Rev. Alexander Dumenko.

Besides Archbishop Gudziak and Rev. Dumenko, the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was con-celebrated by Deacon Volodymyr Radko, Rev. Andriy Onuferko and Rev. Bohdan Zablotskyj. The church choir sang exquisitely.

After liturgy participants gathered for a photo in front of the historic iconostas of this traditional Hutsul-style wooden church and then joined together in the church hall for a shared meal and conversation.

At the beginning of his sermon Archbishop Gudziak noted that the Ukrainian Catholic Church is drawing up plans for its next decade of service and activities. Borys Gudziak suggested that among the Church’s priorities will be growing the ranks of the priesthood and greater engagement of youth. Reflecting on the day’s gospel he talked about the importance of humility in the conduct of our daily lives.

MARCH 1, 2020
Catholic School Week (CSW) 2020 was even more memorable this year because Metropolitan Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia made his first archpastoral visit to Assumption Catholic Church and School (ACS). Metropolitan Gudziak awarded two Assumption Catholic School students with a tuition scholarship from the Scholarship Raffle the Archeparchy conducted for the parish schools. These two hard working and dedicated students were selected for being a living models of our school’s vision: To Know, To Love, To Serve God. They were presented their Scholarship after the Divine Liturgy.

Later that afternoon, Archbishop Gudziak was escorted through the school by the Principal, Mrs. Shumny, pastor and members of the Family School Association. He enjoyed his tour and was able to meet teachers, parents and students. What a wonderful way to kick-off our Catholic School’s Week Celebration! The rest of the week continued with many activities and a lot of FUN!

**Day 1:** It was a busy Monday at ACS! Kick Off!

We celebrated ACS School Spirit Day by wearing blue and yellow!

The day started with the Student Council reading to grades Pre-K through second grade. And the little ones were thrilled!

To begin, Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten students created their own information booklet, “We love our Catholic School!” Then Kindergarten worked on 2 Science projects:

1. Can celery sip?
   - In the pictures they are already observing the results of the experiment and record their results in their journals.
   - AND
2. Eyes Work Together
   - They tested their sensory abilities. (Eyes)
   
   The experiment was to find out how fast and/or slow they can perceive information with all sensory abilities intact and when 1 of them is slightly hindered; therefore, they closed 1 eye and then both eyes.

Students in grades 1,2,3 made oobleck and worked in groups in the auditorium

Grade 4 and 5 students pooled their brain power in a friendly competition that spanned the curriculum. And the winner of the academic relay races is . . . ?

Middle School performed an Escape Room style team building activity for their first Catholic Schools Week activity. This activity helped students learn to work together. This interactive escape room required technology by accessing a pre-coded Google form which automated the entire breakout experience.

**Day 2:** Pre-K was the entertainment today!! They went to each classroom and performed their famous Tooty Ta Ta song and dance! What a show!

Kindergarten had round 1 of their Spelling Bee Competition and finished their cards for our Police
officers (one of our special guests for Friday!)

Grades 1 to 3: Catholic School’s coloring activity and discussing how we learn, serve, lead and succeed in our school.

Fourth and Fifth grade - Tuesday Project Day!! AND what a project day it was! They made “rubber” balls made out of glue mixed with corn starch which is then dropped into water and borax. The last step is rolling the ball to get out the air and water bubbles. There’s a lot of rolling involved. In the end, the balls do bounce and as a fringe benefit, all the students now know how to roll a meat ball!

Middle school played their first round of Jeopardy and did some cooking …. ohhh and don’t miss grade 8 doing the Tooty Ta Ta with Pre-K!! #teamwork #amboy #csw2020 #acsschoolspirit

Day 3: Pre-Kinder and Kindergarten: SHOW AND TELL!! Each student brought in a favorite toy to share with their
class and gave a mini presentation!

I’m addition: Pre-K observed the effects of orbeez beads in water yesterday watched them expanded over night!

Kindergarteners worked on an amazing Science Experiment - the topic.... GERMS!! They explored how to stay healthy and how germs are transmitted.

Grades 1 to 3: Sharing is Caring! This grade group brought in one of their favorite toys from home to share with their class. They also made beautiful Prayer Bracelets.

Fourth and Fifth grade: Once again fourth and fifth graders came together for a Catholic Schools’ week event. This time it was delicious. Their teachers, Ms. Martinez and Mrs. Lawrence, treated them to breakfast. Students had their choice of several sweet cereals. Some were satisfied with one bowl, some had three, but all had fun!

Middle school teachers treated their students to a delicious breakfast! The 6th through 8th grade enjoyed time to hangout with their friends and enjoy an hour of fun in the morning.

Day 4: Our whole school celebrated today with grades Pre-K to second having a Pajama Day and grades 3 to 8 having Mis-matched Day!

We can’t forget our end of day Pep Rally!! We acknowledged our quarter 1 and 2 Students of the Month, our Jeopardy and Escape Room winners, and all the students who participate in after school clubs!

Pre-Kindergarten: They made beautiful wreaths with grade 6 and they watched a movie with blankets and pillows and enjoyed their PAJAMA DAY! They also put the finishing touches on their CSW booklets!

Kindergartenen: Kinder also enjoyed pajama day today!

Grades 1 to 3: Lights! Camera! Action! Today each group acted out their assigned Bible stories and what an excellent performance it was! Noah and the Flood, The Good Samaritan, and The Rich Man and Lazarus were among some of the beautiful stories. The three classes also made cards for first responders.

Fourth and Fifth grade: Their creativity was on fire! They finished their cards to our ACS Support Staff and FSA Board members. They discussed why they love their school and painted “I love my school” pictures.

Middle school- the excitement continued! Today was the final round of Jeopardy and the winners were Caeleb,
Day 5: WHO makes the ACS block ROCK?! On our last day of CSW we honored local First Responders and opened our doors to our parents and community in our 3rd Faith, Family, Fun Day! the police officers, firefighters and EMS visited Assumption school in Perth Amboy, NJ as part of the school’s activities for national Catholic Schools Week. These heroic men and women live each day fulfilling the theme of this year’s theme for Catholic Schools Week that is Learn, Serve, Lead and Succeed. The good work they do is not often mentioned in the papers or on the evening news, but they are the unsung heroes of our communities. Thank you for your service and we ask God’s blessing and protection on each of you.

Who Makes the ACS block ROCK? Many many dedicated people make this Catholic school the special place it is. YET, our ACS Teachers are our gems! We thank them for their hard work and dedication. We celebrated the end of Catholic Schools Week as a team and with Father Ivan taking us all to dinner. Each teacher wore their ACS pins that they were presented with at church and we enjoyed each other’s company. We truly thank God for our many blessings.
Catholic Schools Week at St. Nicholas School in Minersville, PA, was a wonderful celebration of Catholic Education. Students began the week with Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Jan. 28th with Most Rev. Andriy Rabiy. Bishop Andriy visited the parish to present scholarships to George Shimko, grade 6, and Aiden Cunningham, Kindergarten. The scholarships were funded by the Archeparchial Raffle held in Dec. 2019.

Among the week’s activities were Pastries with Parents, Game Day and School Color Day. Students also made ‘thank you’ cards for the parishioners and distributed them during the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Students and staff enjoyed the week’s celebration of the gift of Catholic Education.
Catholic Schools Week at
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Passaic

The students of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Passaic, NJ celebrated the start of Catholic Schools Week — whose theme this year was Catholic School – Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed — by attending Saturday evening Divine Liturgy in uniform as a school family. Melania read the Epistle.

Bishop Rabiy poses for a picture with Rev. Andriy Dudkevych, Teachers and Students at St. Nicholas School in Passaic and handed out scholarships to two students.

The school celebrated Catholic Schools Week by providing a fun or

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Catholic Schools Week at
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Passaic

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interesting activity every day.

Monday was “Pajama Day“, which found everybody feeling very cozy in their cute flannel pj’s and fluffy slippers. In the afternoon, grades 5 thru 8 participated in a Team Trivia contest, competing on multi-grade teams to answer 100 questions in a wide variety of fields, while grades 1 thru 2 participated in a school-wide Scavenger Hunt.

On Tuesday, grades 5 thru 8 came to school wearing the national colors of their respective heritages, while grades PK4 thru 3 created works of art under the tutelage of Aneta Pierog-Sudol of Rustic Square Art Studio.

Wednesday is our weekly Gym day, but for Catholic Schools Week, the students wore a different type of “uniform” – dressed to the nines for some cardio “exercise” at a good old-fashioned zabava.

On Thursday, the lower grades wore their (continued on next page)

Rev. Andriy Dudkevych lends a hand at creating art out of clay
“colors,” while the upper grades unleashed their creativity under Ms. Aneta’s encouragement.

Finally, on **Friday** Bishop Andriy Rabiy celebrated the Divine Liturgy together with our Pastor and Administrator Rev. Andriy Dudkevych. At the end of the Liturgy, Bishop Andriy personally presented 1st grader student Matviy Pekarsky and 7th grader Roksolana Mutka each with the Archeparchy Scholarship for next school year, and then joined our school family for the Student Talent Show. Students also brought in canned and boxed goods for the Food Pantry at the St Michael The Archangel Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Passaic, which the 8th graders brought over the following week. Also, since Friday was a half-day, pastor Father Andriy treated the teachers and staff to a special lunch at a local restaurant, expressing his gratitude for their hard work and dedication to the school.

The celebration ended

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Catholic Schools Week at
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Passaic

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on Saturday evening with Family Movie Night, organized by the PTA.

All in all, Catholic Schools Week provided a welcome break from routine, wonderful memories, and a meaningful reminder of what makes Catholic schools great!

We would like to give a special thank you to Bishop Andriy, the Archeparchy, the Pastors and Administrators of our Parishes and all the parishioners for their support and kindness which made these scholarships possible for our families. May God bless and reward each and every one.

- Sonia Lechicky

(Photos from School’s Facebook page)

Having fun at the Zabava Dance

Students collected and donated food to a Food Pantry at the St Michael The Archangel Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Passaic
To the Clergy and Faithful of the Archeparchy,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

From time to time, changes have to be made for the good of the Church, for the good of the parish and for the good of the priest. Having considered the pastoral needs and the availability of the clergy, the following assignments will be made effective May 1, 2020:

- Rev. Mark Fesniak from Pastor of Nativity of the BVM Church in Reading, PA and Administrator of St. Andrew Mission in Lancaster, PA, to Pastor of St. Nicholas Church in Minersville, PA and Administrator of Nativity of the BVM Church in Middleport, PA;

- Rev. Paul Makar from Pastor of St. Nicholas Church in Minersville, PA and Administrator of Nativity of the BVM Church in Middleport, PA to Administrator of Holy Ghost Church in West Easton, PA. Very Rev. John Seniw is the senior administrator of Holy Ghost Church in West Easton, PA.

- Rev. Roman Sverdan from Pastor of St. Michael Church in Cherry Hill, NJ and Administrator of St. Nicholas Church in Millville, NJ to Pastor of Nativity of the BVM Church in Reading, PA and Administrator of St. Andrew Mission in Lancaster, PA.

- Rev. Evhen Moniuk from leave of absence to Administrator of St. Michael Church in Cherry Hill, NJ and St. Nicholas Church in Millville, NJ. Rev. Ivan Demkiv is the senior administrator of St. Michael church in Cherry Hill and St. Nicholas church in Millville, NJ.

We kindly ask for your prayers as they undertake their new (and renewed) ministries in their parishes serving the People of God.

+Andriy Rably
Metropolitan Borys Gudziak’s Message for the Great Fast

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Beginning Great Lent, I ask forgiveness from the clergy, religious and faithful of the Philadelphia Metropolia, the UCU community, and family, friends and collaborators in different corners of the world.

Forgive me for the offenses or disappointments, the unfulfilled expectations, for everything by which I have sinned against God and you in thought or word, commission or omission, undue pressure or lack of attention, criticism or silence.

Let us ask for forgiveness of each other. Let us ask and forgive deeply, emptying and expunging the cup of negative passions that may have been filled over the last year so that we may begin nimbly our common journey of the next forty days— the holy pilgrimage to the Lord’s Pascha.

The Risen One is close! He’s coming, approaching embodied in our brothers and sisters, especially in those with whom we have issues, with whom something is not right.

Lent is a tool for focusing so that we may open up to God, focusing in order to free ourselves of passions: anger, envy, lust, avarice, and pride. It is a time when we symbolically mortify our bodies. Things settle down a bit. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving cleanse us and prepares us spiritually for the Passover — our transition from death to life.

Lent is not a time of sadness, although we should weep over our sins. We know how Lent ends — with the Resurrection, when our sins and death are trampled and crushed.

Today we are all bombarded by so much information and propaganda. It is difficult for us to find rest from visual stimulation. In this context certain disciplines of a contemporary Lent can bring peace and joy. This year I will repeat a practice of previous years: unplugging from social networks and limiting time on the Internet. If you can, I encourage you to do so too. Free time for prayer, works of charity, fellowship. Free time simply for silence before God.

May repentance and forgiveness open our eyes, our senses, to see the face of Him who takes the moral burden of all our afflictions, betrayals, and compromises, small and great, carrying them to Calvary and transforming them with His sacrifice.

In peace, joy, and gratitude for each other, let us immerse ourselves in prayer, fasting, and works of mercy!

Maranatha!
Christ is Risen!

+Borys
2030 UGCC Pastoral Plan Meeting

Archbishop Borys Gudziak and members of the Working Group for the 2030 Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) Pastoral Plan met with students, seminarians, and young professionals at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary on Monday, February 10th to discuss the question: “Where would you like to see the UGCC in 10 years?”

New Archbishop installed in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia


Metropolitan Borys and Bishop Andriy were in Rome the week of February 16 for the Ad Limina visit to the Vatican of the Eastern Catholic Bishops of the United States, Region 15.
Open House in Ambridge, PA

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

National Catholic Sisters Week,
March 8-14, 2020

NCSW is an annual celebration that began in 2014 to honor women religious with a series of events that instruct, enlighten, and bring greater focus on the lives of these women. The journey of seeking God, who is always seeking us, is a vocation of each Christian. However, the way we do that is unique to each one: Married Life, Single Life, Priesthood, or Consecrated Life.

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, invite you to join us on the dates below to spend time with us:

* in prayer, sharing of a meal, playing games with us as some of the SSMI's share the story of their life that led them to become a Sister Servant.*

Friday, March 13th - 6:30 - 8:00
Saturday, March 14th - 2:00 - 4:00

St. Mary’s Villa
150 Sisters Servants Lane,
Sloatsburg, NY 10974

RSVP: Call 845-753-2840 or e-mail: srkath25@gmail.com

Please respond by March 9th
Communion and unity on both sides of the ocean

A joint conference of clergy and laity of the Paris Eparchy of St. Volodymyr the Great is held every year at the end of January, in the Benedictine monastery in the town of Chevetogne in Belgium. This monastery has a long and unique history. The monks of Western and Eastern Rites of the Catholic Church live, work and pray there together. This year’s conference on the topic, “Immigration, settlements and the global unity of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church” chaired by the Apostolic Administrator for the Paris Eparchy, Bishop Hlib Lonchyna, took place in preparation for the seventh session of the summer of 2020 in the Patriarchal Sobor, Lviv, which will take place in

Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak has recently initiated a wonderful practice of exchanging delegates between the conferences and sobors of the Philadelphia Archeparchy and the Paris Eparchy. In December of last year, representatives of the Paris Eparchy, Fr. Ihor Rantsya, Deacon Volodymyr Radko and Mrs. Segolen Mykolenko were our guests at the second session of Sobor of the Philadelphia Archeparchy. This year,

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with the blessing of our Metropolitan Borys, Fathers Ihor Royik and Orest Kunderevych, represented the Philadelphia Archeparchy at the conference of the Paris Eparchy.

The eparchy conference was preceded by the clergy seminar, which took place from January 28 to the 30th. The main speakers at the seminar were Bishop Bohdan Manyshyn, Auxiliary Bishop of the Stryi Eparchy and Myroslawa Matwijwskyj from the London Eparchy.

The main theme of Bishop Bohdan’s speech was catechesis and pastoral care of families, thus expressing the unity of our Church. The Bishop talked about the role of UGCC during war, the rehabilitating of soldiers and helping them and their families.

The second day of the seminar was devoted to the protection of “at risk” persons within the church community. M. Matwijwskyj, coordinator for the protection of “at risk” persons in the London Eparchy, spoke about identifying the various forms of violence and how to assist its victims. A general discussion on the contributions of the Patriarchal Sobor followed.

The workshop ended on Thursday, January 30, with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and a trip to the Trappist monastery in the town of Rochefort near Chevetogne.

On January 30, in the afternoon, lay delegates arrived from the Ukrainian communities of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Switzerland for the eparchy conference. There, they prayed together, shared their experiences of parish life, and discussed plans (continued on next page)
Communion and unity on both sides of the ocean
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for further development of their eparchy.

More than 50 delegates from five countries of the Paris Eparchy and guests attended the conference, which took place from January 30 to February 1. After the introduction of the delegates, Bishop Bohdan Manyshyn talked about communion – the unity of our church as a gift and a duty for all.

At a joint meeting in the evening, all the attendees had a chance to hear from guests from the United States, Fathers Ihor and Orest. They spoke about positive experiences of community and unity, as well as the challenges and obstacles in parishes in the Philadelphia Archeparchy and in the Archeparchy itself. Father Ihor Rantsya from Paris, spoke of his impressions of the Sobor in Philadelphia and the conference in the Paris Eparchy.

Work in small groups and discussions took place on Friday. On this day, the oblates of the Chevetogne monastery, Eric and Levi Bodson, told the audience about their experiences in the spiritual formation of adults. The chairpersons of the eparchy commissions reported on their projects and work.

It was very interesting to watch the movie about the Paris Eparchy entitled “To Live in Unity”, during which the audience had the opportunity to learn more about our Ukrainian church in Lourdes and to revise past conferences in Chevetogne.

On Saturday, a presentation by the chairperson of the eparchy commissions and the pastoral planning – 2020 were completed. Bishop Bohdan delivered the address of Pope Francis to the bishops of the UGCC, which said that the main task of the Church is to give evidence of Christian hope.

The conference ended with the announcement of its results and resolutions; after which Bishops Hlib and Bohdan bestowed their blessings upon everyone present and wished them a safe trip home.

The days of the joint meetings had gone by very quickly. France and Belgium, which once seemed so distant, have now become in such a short time very close. The Paris Eparchy is relatively young, continuing to grow and develop in anticipation of a new shepherd. Somehow, there was a feeling that no obstacle could stand in its way because it was built on a strong foundation. Despite the varying numbers of faithful, clergy and parishes and the different experiences and challenges in our parishes and eparchies, we are all united in the love of God and our Church. As His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk said: “The Church is always and everywhere with you”, no matter on which side of the ocean and in what corner of the earth we live.

Fr. Ihor Royik during the presentation

Fr. Ihor Royik
Archeparchy News

Scrantons’s St. Vladimir Parish PreLenten Dinner

St. Vladimir parish annual PreLenten dinner immediately followed the 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Myasopusna/Meatfare Sunday, February 16, 2020 - in the parish center. Pastor Father Myron Myronyuk warmly welcomed all, led everyone in prayer and blessed the food. The meal consisted of pork tenderloin, sweet and sour Ukrainian kapusta, mashed potatoes, gravy, mixed vegetables, apple sauce, dinner rolls and beverages. Dozens upon dozens of delicious desserts were generously donated by parishioners. More than 150 dinners, both sit-down and take-out, were served. A large variety of door prizes were awarded which delighted the crowd.

Mingling with parishioners and friends of the parish were Father John Seniw, pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Northampton PA; Father John Wysochansky, Retired from our Philadelphia Metropolia; and Father John Cigan, pastor of Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, Jessup PA and St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, Forest City PA.

Father Myron encouraged all to experience a prayerful and personally meaningful Lent in order to enjoy the fullness of the glory of Easter. At the same time, he invited all to attend the annual parish Easter Dinner/Sviachene in April - details forthcoming.

“Holy Name Society” in Olyphant donates towards police department

The “Holy Name Society” of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church”, Olyphant, makes a donation to the Olyphant Borough Police Department. The money will be geared to “King” the first k-9 (canine) officer in the department. The 8-month old German Shepard is being trained at Millnerhouse Kennels in Throop.

Spin-offs from Sr. Bernarda’s Legacy

The Basilian Volunteer Program has continued Sr. Bernarda’s work of visiting and bringing help to the orphans and the needy of Ukraine ever since Sr. Bernarda was “retired” at age 90. An additional element that was added to this program was the week-long English Catechetical camps in various regions of Ukraine for the last 5 years.

Another spin-off of Sr. Bernarda’s work are people who have offered to support the orphanages that the Sisters visit by sending clothes, pampers, toiletries, and various supplies during the year. One such person, Olga Shonk Alvino, while battling cancer, has been making quilts for the last ten years and sending them at her own expense to orphanages in eastern and western Ukraine.

She wrote: “Thank you, Sister, for helping me get these quilts and other items to the needy orphanages. I was fortunate to have met Sr. Bernarda at St George Church in the lower east side (NYC). She told me that she goes to Ukraine annually to visit the orphans. At that moment my mind was made up that I had found my calling to make quilts for the orphans. I promised to use my time well to help the orphans and so the last ten years have gone by and I have been blessed. She inspired me.”

Sr Ann Laszok, OSBM and Sr. Monica Lesnick, OSBM will be shepherding possibly eight or nine volunteers to Poltava, Ivana_Frankivsk and Mukachevo for three English Catechetical camps along with visits to orphanages.

For more information on volunteering or supporting the Basilian Volunteer Program contact Sr Ann at srannl@aol.com or call 412-260-1607.

Sr. Ann Laszok, OSBM

www.stbasils.com
http://stjoasaphateparchy.com/pastoral-office/
srannl@aol.com
412-260-1607
Children’s Corner

KIDS of the WAY

We have already learned that the feasts of the Liturgical Cycle of the year fall into two groups, the movable cycle and the immovable cycle. Let’s do a quick review.

We know that the Feast Day of St. Nicholas is always on the same day in December. That never changes, so that is part of the immovable cycle. It never moves to a different date. Our church may have a party for St. Nicholas Day, and the date of the party might be moved to a more convenient day, a Sunday for example, but St. Nicholas Feast day is always on the same date. We know that Christmas is always December 25. It will never change. Some years Christmas might be on a Wednesday, some years on a Monday and so forth. It is always December 25. It never moves.

Pascha is part of the movable cycle. Each year Pascha is on a different date. This year Pascha will be on Sunday, April 12. Last year, Pascha was on Sunday, April 21. Pascha is always on a Sunday but the date changes each year. Pascha is always on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Pascha, and all the days associated with it, change each year. This includes the dates for the beginning of Great Lent, along with the feast of the Lord’s Entrance into Jerusalem, His Ascension and Pentecost.

It also includes the four Sundays before Lent that help prepare us for Lent. These four Sundays are listed here. We can read about them in our catechism in paragraph 568.

1. The Sunday of the Publican (or tax collector) and the Pharisee. Do you remember this story? You can read it in your Holy Bible in Luke 18:10-14. The Publican and the Pharisee both prayed to God in the temple. The Pharisee was proud but the Publican was humble and asked God to be merciful to him. We should learn to pray with humility like the Publican.

2. The Sunday of the Prodigal Son. The gospel for this Sunday is the beautiful story of the son who asked his father to give him his share of the money he would inherit. It can be found in the Bible in Luke 15:11-32. The son took the money and wasted it on bad things. The son returned to his father in sorrow for what he had done. His father forgave him. On this Sunday we are reminded that we should always return to God our Father with sorrow for our sins. We should know that God will always forgive us.

3. On Meatfare Sunday we hear the Gospel of the Divine Judgement. On the last day God will judge us by how we treat our neighbor. We should always be on the lookout for works of mercy that we can perform. Just how important is this? Well, read all about it in Matthew 25:31-46.

4. On Cheesefare Sunday the Gospel is found in Matthew 6:14-21. The Church teaches us how important it is to forgive each other as the first step in repentance.

As we move through these Sundays before Great Lent, let’s see if we can concentrate on learning to pray with humility, never being afraid to return to God our Father with sincere sorrow for our sins, while also forgiving anyone who has hurt us. Let’s always be on the lookout for ways we can show God that we really love Him by doing good things for our neighbor.

Will your parish be doing a Lenten Charity Project? Find out what your parish is doing and join in. On judgment Day, you will be glad you did!
The feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. Originally, the feast was a minor celebration, but in 542 was established throughout the Eastern Empire by Emperor Justinian I. Up to the present day, the Presentation of Christ is one of the great feasts of the orthodox liturgical calendar.

According to the Gospel of Luke (2:22–40), forty days after his birth, Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the Temple of Jerusalem for the customary rite of purification. At the temple they encountered the prophet Simeon who had been promised that he would not die before seeing the Messiah. The elderly prophetess Anna was present in the temple as well. Joseph is seen carrying the sacrifice as is outlined in the law of Moses.

Why do you think he is holding two young pigeons instead of a lamb?

Did you know that the presentation of Jesus occurred at Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem which was the only place for Jewish worship at the time? Can you imagine if we only had ONE church we could go to? How would you feel about travelling a long distance to be baptized or to receive the eucharist?

The presentation into the Temple was a rite of purification and offering. However Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did not need to be offered to God the Father because no sacrifice of purification was necessary for the Spotless Child. Therefore, Jesus entered the Temple as a fulfillment of the law, not to be purified but to purify others. Can you think of another event in the life of Christ were he participates as a fulfillment of the law and not because he needs purification? *Hint: there is water and a dove involved *

Where are everyone’s hands?

The only hands you can see in this icon are the blessing hands of Christ. Simeon’s hand are covered in recognition of the Baby Jesus as the Messiah.

-Written by Kim Bombak
HELP SIMEON RETURN BABY JESUS TO THEOTOKOS!
MEANWHILE...

The Hagia Sophia was the treasure of the Eastern Roman Empire -- an elaborate basilica which mystically represent the unity of heaven and earth.

In this church built with marble and precious materials brought from all over the Roman empire, the faithful worshiped and emperors were crowned. One of the most famous mosaics in Hagia Sophia depicts the two emperors presenting church and state to the Holy Theotokos. It’s grand dome sores 180 feet above the earth -- that is about 16 stories high -- and had 40 windows to let light flood the area. Earlier visitors said they felt like the dome was suspended from heaven. One hundred and four pillars support the structure.

Originally built by the first Christian emperor, Constantine, the Hagia Sophia burned twice before Emperor Justinian ordered the construction of the breath-taking structure that still stands today. It was consecrated on December 27, 537. The name Hagia Sophia means “Holy Wisdom.”

Inside, mosaics crosses and scenes from the Gospels adorn the walls, although most of them have been covered up by musilem calligraphy. That is because the Hagia Sophia (although a museum today) was converted into a mosk when Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

Orthodox Christians all over the world continue to revear it as a holy place of worship.

-Written by Judith Jolma
St. Ephrem

PRAYER

O Lord and Master

of my life, spare me from
the spirit of indifference, despair,
lust for power and idle chatter
(make a great prostration)

Instead,
bestow on me, your servant,
the spirit of integrity,
humility, patience, and love.
(make a great prostration)

Yes, O Lord and King,
let me see my own sins,
and not judge my
brothers and sisters;
for you are blessed
forever and ever.

AMEN.

(make a great prostration)

Have you ever wished there was something similar to the Christmas Jesse Tree activity to help you better prepare your children for Pascha?

NOW THERE IS!!

The Zacchaeus Tree!

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ANSWER KEY TO MAZE (UPSIDE DOWN)
**First Sunday of the Great Fast (Lent)**

The First Sunday of the Great Fast is also known as the Sunday of Orthodoxy (True Faith). We, Ukrainian Catholics, are of the True Faith and openly celebrate our Faith in Christ Jesus. For God is present among us. His presence is real, complete and visible.

On this First Sunday of the Great Fast, we solemnly venerate the holy icons. His Beatitude Sviatoslav explains to us that the holy icon is the open heaven. But the icon is only the beginning of the spiritual path for us, because it seems to transform, change the eyes of one who looks at it and teaches to see the invisible. The holy icon is like a window open to eternity.

The icon is the very moment when we are able to contemplate the presence of God. We contemplate the face of God by means of His grace and by the power of the Holy Spirit. We look upon the face of God, depicted in human form and this enables us to experience a foretaste of the Heavenly Kingdom, an eternal Kingdom of happiness and peace.

In the Gospel for the First Sunday of Great Fast, we hear the words of Christ spoken to Nathanael: “Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” His Beatitude Sviatoslav explains that the icon opens to us the invisible, a window to Heaven. Our earthly, temporal outlook is changed, We learn to focus on the eternal, the invisible reality of Heaven, which is, if deemed worthy by Christ, our future home for eternity.

Whoever venerates the holy icons gives honor and glory to the Most Blessed Trinity. We place lamps before the icons, for the God Who is invisible, a spirit, comes to dwell among us. We, who are created in the image and likeness of God, are enabled by grace to become liken to God Himself.

The Gospel for the first Sunday of the Great Fast speaks of Jesus calling His first disciples, the apostles. Andrew is the “First-Called”, then Andrew’s brother, Simon Peter. The next day, Jesus went to Galilee and asks Philip to follow Him. Philip in turn meets Nathanael and tells him: “We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth” (John 1:46).

Nathanael’s initial response was: “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” Philip told him: “Come and see!” As Nathanael was walking toward Jesus, Our Lord remarked: “Here is a true Israelite.* There is whom there is no guile. After Our Lord told Nathanael that He had seen him under the fig tree even before Philip seen and spoke with him, Nathanael asserts that Jesus is “the Son of God, the King of Israel (John 1:51).”

Let us during this holy season of Great Fast (Lent) seek to develop a deeper personal and spiritual relationship with our Lord and make the Gospel message of Love and Truth the very center, core of our lives! For we acknowledge Jesus as our Redeemer Who died on the cross to save us from the wickedness and wiles of the devil. So great was the Love of Christ that He died on the cross to save us and He continually cares for our salvation and well-being.

*Rev. D. George Worschak*
The inaugural and first annual Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church Singing Conference (“UGCCSingCon”), for cantors, singers, choir directors, clergy, and all those interested in church singing, was held in Parma, Ohio, from Friday, October 5, to Sunday, October 7, 2018, at Pokrova Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and St. Josaphat Ukrainian Greek Catholic Cathedral.

The second annual Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church Singing Conference, “SingCon,” was held from Thursday, September 26, to Sunday, September 29, 2019 at St. Basil’s Seminary in Stamford, Connecticut.

This year “SingCon,” will be held in Philadelphia, PA, it is a weekend of prayer, learning, and fellowship being held from October 1 to 4th, 2020. Save the Date!

Photo: SingCon 2018 in Parma
2020 LENTEN RETREAT

The League of Ukrainian Catholics of America will be celebrating their Retreat at St. Mary’s Villa in Sloatsburg, NY on March 27, 28 and 29th, Msgr. Martin Canavan will be the Retreat Director.

Standing at the Cross with the Mother of God
Lenten Spiritual Retreat
March 27 - 29th 2020
St. Mary’s Villa, Sloatsburg, NY

Retreat Master: Msgr. Martin Canavan
Director of Spiritual Formation, at Basil Seminary, Stamford, CT

Sponsored by the League of Ukrainian Catholics
Fee: $180 includes meals, room, program
Contact: Marion Hrubec: 201-843-3960 or mhrubec@optimum.net
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St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church

In the Footsteps of Jesus Pilgrimage to the

HOLY LAND

with Fr. Andriy Dudkevych, Spiritual Director
Special Guest: Most Rev. Andriy Rabyi,
Auxiliary Bishop for Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy
of Philadelphia and Fr. Ivan Demkiv, Group Leader

11 Days
October 11-21, 2020

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Holy Land Trip
(continued from previous page)

ITINERARY

Sunday, October 11, Day 1: DEPART U.S.A
• Depart from on an overnight flight to Tel Aviv via JFK International airport. Dinner and breakfast are served on the plane.

Monday, October 12, Day 2: ARRIVAL in TEL AVIV – NAZARETH
• We meet our Christian tour guide and transfer to the hotel in Nazareth
• Relaxing dinner and a good night’s rest.

Tuesday, October 13, Day 3: MT. TABOR – CANA – NAZARETH
• Open buffet breakfast
• This morning travel Mt. Tabor where we visit the Church of Transfiguration and have Divine Liturgy
• We visit Cana of Galilee and the Wedding Church, where couples can renew their vows.
• Depart for Nazareth
• Lunch on our own
• Visit the Church of the Annunciation, including the archeological museum next door to the church.
• We then walk a short distance to Mary’s Well, where Angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary and the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church.
• Open buffet dinner and overnight in Nazareth.

Wednesday, October 14, Day 4: SEA OF GALILEE
• Open buffet breakfast at the hotel
• Start the day with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.
• Continue to visit Jesus’ hometown Capernaum
• Visit the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Apostles
• Visit Mt of Beatitudes Then we visit the Church of Multiplication of Fish and Loaves and Peters Primacy (John 21)
• Lunch – of St Peter Fish (Included)
• Return to your hotel
• Open buffet dinner and overnight in Nazareth.

Thursday, October 15, Day 5: NABLUS – MT. GERAZIM – BETHLEHEM
• Open buffet breakfast
• Check out of the hotel and depart for Nablus to visit the Melkite Church in Nablus and see Jacob’s well. Then we start the ascent to Mt. Gerazim, meeting the Samaritan community living on this mountain for almost 2500 years.
• Check into our hotel
• Open buffet dinner at hotel and overnight in Bethlehem

Friday, October 16, Day 6: BETHLEHEM – SHEPHERD’S FIELD – ST. SABA MONASTERY
• Open buffet breakfast
• This morning we start the day with a visit to the Church of the Nativity to see the place where Our Lord Jesus Christ was born and to walk through the door of Humility
• We see the relics of the Holy Crib recently donated to the Christians of the Holy Land by the Vatican
• Stop at Shepherd’s Field – Greek Catholic Church of Shepherd Field for Divine Liturgy
• Lunch on our own
• This afternoon we have time for a visit to St. Saba’s Monastery followed by shopping in a Christian store
• Open buffet dinner at hotel and overnight in Bethlehem

Saturday, October 17, DAY 7: MT. OF OLIVES & MT. ZION
• Open buffet breakfast
• Visit the Ascension Chapel; then, we drive by Bethpage, where Jesus started his Palm Sunday walk.
• Our next stop is the Church of Pater Noster where Jesus taught the Lord’s Prayer – today we see the prayer in over 160 languages,
• Continue for a panoramic view from the Mt of Olives – seeing the eternal golden city
Happenings at Swarthmore Parish

"LEARN THE ANCIENT ART OF
UKRAINIAN EGG DECORATING"

Come learn the ancient art of Ukrainian Egg decorating on Saturday, March 7th from 12:00 pm. to 4:00 pm. at Holy Myrrh-Bearers Church, 900 Fairview Road in Swarthmore, PA. Cost is only $20.00 per person and covers the cost of all materials. Seating is limited. For more information and to reserve your seat, please email HMBCHURCH@VERIZON.NET or call 610-544-1215 by March 1, 2020.

“What is an “Iconostas?
You’re invited to come and find out!”

In Eastern Christian churches of the Byzantine tradition, an iconostas is a wall of icons and religious paintings, separating the nave from the sanctuary. Holy Myrrh-Bearers Ukrainian Catholic Church is proud and fortunate to have a traditional historic Iconostas. During the weekend of March 14th-15th, Holy Myrrh-Bearers Parish, located at 900 Fairview Road in Swarthmore, will hold presentations on the “Iconostas and Its Meaning for Worship” immediately following the Saturday 5:00 pm. Liturgy and the Sunday 10:00 am Liturgy. The presentation is free and is open to all wishing to know more about this magnificent piece of Byzantine Church architecture.

E-mail “The Way” about news and events in your parish

“The Way” would like to increase coverage of parish life by including more articles of events that occur in parishes in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

Kindly submit articles together with a photo or two on a regular basis of events and activities happening in your parishes to: theway@ukrcap.org

Subscribe to “The Way” by e-mail!

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“The Way” appreciates your support! Thank you!
The Ukrainian American Youth Association invites you, your family, and your friends to its annual

**FISH FRY DINNER**

$15 platter includes:
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Dine-in and take-out available • Pre-ordering is encouraged

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**FRIDAY, MARCH 6**
Ukrainian Educational & Cultural Center
700 N Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046

5:00 PM — 8:00 PM

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Springtime Bus Trip

The North Anthracite Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics is sponsoring a bus trip to New York City on Saturday, May 16, 2020. The itinerary includes the 44th Annual Ukrainian Street Festival sponsored by St. George Ukrainian Greek Catholic parish and the 14th Annual Multi-Ethnic Parade and Dance Festival both on the Lower East Side plus a ride on the Staten Island Ferry. Participants are free to do their own thing in the City for all or part of the day if they so wish. Bus will pick up at Edwardsville’s St. Vladimir Church, 70 Zerby Avenue at 8:00am and at Scranton’s St. Vladimir Church, 428 North Seventh Avenue at 8:45am. Departure for home will be at 8:00pm. Cost is $45.00 per person. Full nonrefundable advance payment reserves a seat. For further information and reservations call Paul at 570-563-2275 or Dorothy at 570-822-5354. Early reservations are recommended as this is a very popular trip and the 55 passenger bus is expected to fill quickly.

Meatless Meal for LENT

“BAKED HADDOCK” FISH DINNER

Sponsored by Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, Pa.

FRI DAY April 3, 2020

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

At the REGAL ROOM (Ballroom/ side entrance)

216 Lackawanna Avenue
Olyphant, Pa.

Sit Down or Take Out!!

(pre-sold) $13.00 per ticket/ dinner

Baked haddock, potato, vegetable, roll and dessert

Call 570-383-9487 for Reservations

*Deadline for pre-sold Tickets Monday, March 30, 2020

*LIMITED amount of Dinners will be available at the Door

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• Wills and Trusts
• Powers of Attorney
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You are cordially invited to a special presentation courtesy of the Sisters of St Basil the Great.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020
6:00 - 7:00 PM	Drinks + Appetizers
7:00 - 8:30 PM	Seminar
8:30 - 9:00 PM	Dessert + Coffee

SPEAKERS
Tara Walsh, Esq., Partner at Stradley Ronon Law Firm, concentrates her practice in the areas of estate, tax and business planning, as well as estate and trust administration. She represents and advises individuals, business owners, fiduciaries, and nonprofit entities. Her practice involves designing and implementing a wide range of estate plans; handling all aspects of estate and trust administrations; advising clients on estate, gift and transfer tax issues; and counseling clients on planned gifts, charitable giving, life insurance and retirement plan issues.

Robert DeLambily, CLU, ChFC is the founder of Planned Financial Programs, a financial services firm that focuses on retirement, financial, estate, tax and college planning. He holds the Chartered Financial Consultant and Chartered Life Underwriter designations, and insurance, annuities and securities licenses. Mr. DeLambily proudly represents The Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America, a fraternal benefit and life insurance society.

MODERATORS
John F. Kurey, Esq., MBA, is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. He serves as Development Director and Provincial Advisor for the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great. He is also an advisor to several Catholic Bishops and a member of multiple boards of Catholic and charitable institutions.

Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, is the Provincial Superior of the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great, Jesus Lover of Humanity Province.
God With Us

ONLINE

— presents —

GREAT LENT

A Spiritual Journey to Pascha

— + —

LIVE WEBINAR
Wednesdays
February 26, March 4, 11 & 18
8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET

Presented by Rev. David Anderson

With the late Rev. Alexander Schmemann’s important work Great Lent as our guide, this four-week series will take us through the liturgies of the Great Fast to help us experience them more fully and make the most out of the Church’s beautiful season of preparation for Pascha.

Register:
http://easterncatholic.org/

GOD WITH US ONLINE is an outreach project of the Eparchial Directors of Religious Education (ECED) and the Eastern Catholic Associates (ECA) and is dedicated to the catechetical renewal of Eastern Catholics in the United States in accord with the Church’s call for a new evangelization. All programs are offered free of charge.
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GREAT LENT
A Spiritual Journey to Pascha
Rev. David Anderson
Wednesdays, February 26, March 4, 11 and 18 @ 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET
With the late Rev. Alexander Schmemann’s important work Great Lent as our guide, this four-week series will take us through the liturgies of the Great Fast to help us experience them more deeply and make the most out of the Church’s beautiful season of preparation for Pascha.

THE SACRIFICE OF GOD
The Mystery of the Cross in the Eastern Christian Tradition
Rev. Stephen Freeman
Wednesday, April 1 @ 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET
"... hung upon the cross, He who suspended the Earth amid the waters... He, who wrapped the heavens in clouds is clothed with the purpose of mockery. He was transfixed with nails, who is the Bridegroom of the Church... We worship your passion, O Christ. Show us also your glorious resurrection." - Vespers of Great Friday

PURIFICATION OF THE HEART
The First Stage of the Spiritual Life
Rev. Deacon Thomas Moses
Wednesdays, May 6, 13 and 20 @ 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET
The purification of the heart is the first of three stages, the essential starting point of the Christian life. How do we identify the presence of the passions in our own lives, and what are the means, the medicine, that the Church gives us to overcome them?

THE THIRD HEAVEN
The Key to the Epistles of Saint Paul
Rev. Sebastian Carnazzo
Wednesdays, June 3, 10, & 17 @ 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET
In this Bible study we’ll explore what the scriptures tell us about the life of the thirteenth Apostle and the impact of his conversion on the Church, and learn how to read Saint Paul’s epistles in the context of his life to understand them and his ministry to the Church more fully.

WEEKLY BYZANTINE GOSPEL REFLECTIONS
Join us weekly in a study of the Gospel for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy. We explore the Biblical, literal, and historical context as the foundation for spiritual and moral application. In collaboration with the Institute of Catholic Culture.
Please visit InstituteofCatholicCulture.org/reflections/byzantine-gospel
**Ukrainian Homestead CEC of ODWU, Inc.**  
in cooperation with the  
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present a

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**Sunday, March 15, 2020**  
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*Learn the Art of Pysanky*  
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**Deadline for paid registrations: March 6, 2020**
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
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DATES FOR 2020

1. WEEKS COURSE: 11 – 29 MAY 2020
   INTENSIVE COURSE

2. SUMMER PROGRAM
   SESSION A
   - WEEKS COURSE: 22 JUNE – 3 JULY
     carpathian program
   - WEEKS COURSE: 22 JUNE – 10 JULY
     carpathian program & program in lviv
   - WEEKS COURSE: 22 JUNE – 17 JULY
     carpathian program & program in lviv
   - WEEKS COURSE: 22 JUNE – 24 JULY
     carpathian program & program in lviv
   - WEEKS COURSE: 22 JUNE – 31 JULY
     carpathian program & program in lviv

3. WEEKS COURSE: 5 – 23 OCTOBER 2020
   INTENSIVE COURSE

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Church News

Pope at Audience: ‘disconnect from TV, smart phones and connect to the Gospel in Lent’

26 February 2020

Pope Francis holds the General Audience in St. Peter’s Square on Ash Wednesday, reflecting on how the coming forty days are a good time to make room for the Word of God in our lives.

By Linda Bordoni

“Lent,” Pope Francis said to some 12,000 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square, “is a time in which to turn off the television and open the Bible.”

During his catechesis for the weekly General Audience the Pope reflected on the 40 days spent by Jesus in the desert as He prepared for His public ministry and said that, in a sense, it is a time for us to imitate Jesus and seek a place of silence, where we are free to hear the Lord’s word and experience His call.

“In the desert one hears the Word of God,” he said, “one finds intimacy with God and the love of the Lord,” noting that Jesus taught us how to seek the Father, who speaks to us in silence.

The pollution of verbal violence
He remarked on the fact that, for many of us, it is not easy to be in silence as we live in an environment that is “polluted by too much verbal violence,” by so many “offensive and harmful words” which are amplified by the internet.

“A Lent is a time to disconnect from cell phones and connect to the Gospel,” he said, recalling that when he was a child there was no television, but his family would make a point of not listening to the radio.

“It is the time to give up useless words, chatter, rumors, gossip, and talk and to speak directly to the Lord,” he said, it is a time in which to dedicated ourselves to an ecology of the heart.

In a world in which we often struggle to distinguish the voice of the Lord, Jesus calls us into the desert and invites us to listen to what matters, Pope Francis explained. And he recalled that when the devil tempted Him, Jesus replied “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.”

A place of silence and dialogue with the Lord
Thus the desert, represented by the journey of Lent, he continued, is a place of life, a place in which to dialogue in silence with the Lord who gives us life.

The Pope also reflected on how an important part of our Lenten desert experience is the practice of fasting, which trains us to recognize, in simplicity of heart, how often our lives are spent in empty and superficial pursuits.

“The fasting is being capable of giving up the superfluous and going to the essential. Fasting is not only losing weight, it is seeking the beauty of a simpler life,” he said.

The Pope also noted that the solitude of the desert increases our sensitivity to those who quietly cry out for help.

“A journey of charity
The desert of Lent leads us to them, he continued. It is a journey of charity towards those who are weak and in need.

Pope Francis concluded his catechesis reiterating that the path through the Lenten desert is made up of “prayer, fasting, works of mercy”, so that it may lead us “from death to life”.

“If we enter the desert with Jesus, we will leave it at Easter when the power of God’s love renews life,” he said, and just like those deserts that bloom in spring with buds and plants suddenly sprouting from the sand, if we follow Jesus, our deserts will also bloom.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav visited the Ukrainian Pontifical College in Rome

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

While on a working visit to the Vatican and Italy, His Beatitude met with UGCC students studying at various papal universities of the Eternal City.

The meeting was held on February 25 at the Ukrainian Pontifical College of St. Josaphat. The Head of the UGCC told the students about the Meeting of Eastern Catholic Hierarchs, which took place last September at the College of St. Josaphat. “At this meeting we tried to present the ecumenical position of our Church, and also felt the need to create a joint ecumenical document of the Eastern Catholic Churches of Europe,” said His Beatitude Sviatoslav. In his opinion, this document should present the Eastern Catholic Churches from a new ecumenical perspective, “where they are not seen as an obstacle or a method of achieving Christian unity but as a model of Christian unity.”

This year, in the life of the UGCC, can be called “the year of global assembly.” On August 26-29, the Patriarchal Sobor on the theme “Emigration, Settlements, and Global Unity of the UGCC” will be held in Lviv. In communicating with the students, he invited them to help the Church answer the three main questions of this Sobor: Who are we? Where are we? How can we be together?

Various institutions say that today people do not want to be together, because modern culture separates man from man. Therefore, universal communion is at stake. The Sobor is one way to bring people together. Speaking about the strategy of pastoral ministry, His Beatitude Sviatoslav noted: “Previously, our attention was focused on parishes and parish structures. Now, instead, we need to focus on personal approach as a way to heal human wounds, including wounds of hatred for one another.”

At the end of the meeting, students had the opportunity to ask the Head of the UGCC some questions.

Secretariat of the Head of the UGCC in Rome


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