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William C. Skurla named Metropolitan Archbishop

POPE BENEDICT XVI APPOINTS BISHOP OF PASSAIC TO HEAD METROPOLITAN CHURCH

WOODLAND PARK, N.J. – Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D. has been named Metropolitan Archbishop of the Byzantine Catholic (Ruthenian) Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI announced his official appointment from the Vatican Thursday, Jan. 19. He will be enthroned Wednesday, April 18.

Metropolitan Archbishop-elect William Charles Skurla, D.D. was born in Duluth, Minn., June 1, 1956, the son of the late John and Mavis Skurla. He attended Catholic and public elementary schools and graduated in 1974 from Chisholm High School, Chisholm, Minn.

Bishop William attended Deerfield Academy Post-Graduate program in Deerfield, Mass. 1974-75 and then attended Columbia University in New York City, graduating with a concentration in Philosophy in 1981. Following this, he then studied at Mary Immaculate Seminary in

Northampton, Pa., receiving Master of Divinity (1986) and Master of Theology (1987) degrees.

Discerning a call to serve the Lord in a special way, William Skurla entered the Byzantine Franciscan community in Sybertsville, Pa. in 1981 and was solemnly professed in 1985. Bishop Michael Dudick ordained him to the diaconate in 1986 and to the priesthood in 1987 at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Freeland, Pa. In 1996, having received and accepted his dispensation from solemn vows as a member of the Order of Friars Minor (OFM), he was incardinated into the Eparchy of Van Nuys, where he served as Pastoral Administrator at St. Melany Byzantine Catholic Church in Tucson, Ariz. from 1993 until 2002.

Archbishop-elect William was ordained to the Episcopacy and enthroned as the Third Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy

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Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D. will be enthroned as the fifth Metropolitan Archbishop of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh April 18.



Parish program underway

ICONS, PRAYERS TRAVEL HOME TO HOME

Inspirational icons such as the ones depicted are being used throughout the Metropolitan Church for the revitalized "Parish Vocations Icon" program, which was initiated Jan. 8 in all Metropolitan churches. The icon "I Have Chosen You" (left) was written by Raymond Mastroberte, especially commissioned for the program. "Suis Moi" - Follow Me (right) was written by Sister Marie-Paul, a French-speaking Benedictine nun residing in a convent near the summit of the Mount of Olives in the heart of ancient Jerusalem. ■

A timely reflection on the ongoing parish prayer program by Metropolitan Archbishop-elect Bishop William C. Skurla appears on page 5 of this issue.





UPS 081500
ISSN 07442289

Official publication of the
Byzantine Catholic
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Serving parish communities in
central and western Pennsylvania,
Louisiana, eastern Ohio, Oklahoma,
Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia

Published every third Sunday
(17 issues) by:

Byzantine Catholic Press Associates
66 Riverview Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
Tel: 412.231.4000
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Web site: www.archeparchy.org

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Annual Subscription Rates

US \$12
Canadian \$14
International \$16

Periodicals Postage Paid at Pittsburgh, PA

Postmaster: send address changes to:
The Byzantine Catholic World
ATTN: Donna
66 Riverview Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15214

Please allow 2-3 weeks for address
changes to take effect.

Submissions deadline:
2nd Tuesday before publication date
(12 days prior).



The Byzantine
Catholic World
is a member of the
Catholic Press
Association.

MISSION

The mission of **The Byzantine Catholic World** is to spread the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Byzantine Catholic Church; to encourage faithful to reflect the image of Christ in everyday activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Byzantine Catholics in the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, throughout the Metropolitan Church in America, and around the world.

The Byzantine Catholic World Copy/Publication Schedule for 2012

CONTRIBUTORS URGED TO SUBMIT EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS EARLY

Below is the publication schedule for The Byzantine Catholic World through December 2012. Publication dates are in YELLOW boxes.

Please note that the copy/materials deadline for each issue (in light BLUE boxes) is intended to allow ample time for pre-press production, especially prior to holidays.

It is strongly advised that upcoming event announcements be submitted at least two issues (six to eight weeks) prior to the event and/or deadline for tickets/reservations in order to afford adequate publicity.

Multiple factors must be considered when submitting materials (announcements, feature stories, photos with proper identification and credit to photographer, graphics, etc.) for publication. To assist contributors and readers in this process, a concise set of publication policies and guidelines for submission of materials to *The BCW* is available online at www.archeparchy.org or as a PDF (Portable Document File) via by e-mail request to bcw@archeparchy.org or hard-copy by mail: BCW Guidelines | 66 Riverview Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15214. ■

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STATEMENT OF VERY REVEREND EUGENE P. YACKANICH

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH

ON THE APPOINTMENT OF BISHOP WILLIAM C. SKURLA

AS THE METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP OF PITTSBURGH

January 19, 2012

On behalf of the clergy, monastics and Laity of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, I express our heartfelt gratitude to our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI for the appointment of Bishop William as our Metropolitan Archbishop.

We welcome Archbishop William among us, and we look forward to the new life and growth that his capabilities will bring to the Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh. He comes with both pastoral and administrative experience that will serve him well.

Our prayers and good wishes accompany him as he leaves the Eparchy of Passaic and comes to Pittsburgh, asking that his dedicated ministry of leadership will continue to bring great blessings to all those whom he shepherds.

May our Lord grant to Metropolitan Archbishop William health, happiness, and many blessed years!

Very Reverend Eugene P. Yackanich
Administrator of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Skurla

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of Van Nuys (now the Eparchy of Phoenix) on April 23, 2002 in Phoenix, Ariz. In December 2007 he was appointed Fourth Bishop of the Eparchy of Passaic (N.J.) and was enthroned at St. Michael Cathedral in Passaic on Jan. 29, 2008.

The Episcopal chairperson of the Intereparchial Vocations Commission (IEVC) and Intereparchial Youth Commission for the Metropolitan Church, Bishop William was a member of the Committee on the Laity with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). He currently serves as a member of the USCCB Administrative Committee, Priority and Plans Committee, and National Advisory Committee.

Metropolitan Archbishop-elect Skurla, 55, succeeds Metropolitan Archbishop Basil M. Schott, OFM, D.D., who fell asleep in the Lord in June 2010. Unlike other Eastern Catholic churches in Eastern Europe or the Middle East which are governed by a patriarch, the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh, USA is the only *sui iuris* (self-governing) Eastern Catholic Church in the United States; it is directly under the authority of the pope. The Metropolitan Church consists of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh and three eparchies - Passaic, Parma and Phoenix. The Archeparchy includes churches and missions in seven states: Pennsylvania (central and western), Ohio (eastern), West Virginia, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas, and has 58,000 parishioners and 65 priests in 78 parishes. ■

May God grant Metropolitan Archbishop-elect William peace, health and happiness for many blessed and fruitful years!

Pope names 22 new cardinals

TWO EASTERN CATHOLICS, TWO AMERICANS AMONG DESIGNEES

Pope Benedict XVI named 22 new cardinals Jan. 6, all of whom officially will be elevated to the College of Cardinals Feb. 18 in Rome.

Among the designees there are 2 Americans; 1 Belgian; 1 Brazilian; 1 Canadian; 1 Chinese; 1 Czech; 1 Dutch; 2 Germans; 1 Indian; 7 Italians; 1 Maltese; 1 Portuguese; 1 Romanian; 1 Spanish. Their ages range from 55 to 91.

Indian Archbishop George Alencherry of Ernakulam-Angamaly, 66, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, and Romanian Archbishop Lucian Muresan

80, of Fagaras and Alba Iulia, Major Archbishop of the Romanian Catholic Church, are the only two Eastern Catholic hierarchs among the 22 cardinals-designate.

Two Americans, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, 61, and Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of Baltimore, 72, also were named. In a statement from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, vice-president of the USCCB, congratulated Archbishops Dolan and O'Brien: "As men of prayer, wisdom and dedication, they

will bring many talents and graces to their new roles as advisors to the Holy Father."

Archbishop Kurtz noted their generous service beyond their respective archdioceses.

"The entire USCCB has benefitted from their many abilities," he said. "As president of the USCCB and as former president of Catholic Relief Services, Cardinal-designate Dolan has brought both energy and grace to international and domestic matters."

He noted Cardinal-designate O'Brien's unique contributions as well.

"Cardinal-designate O'Brien's experience with the military has made him a valuable consultant on USCCB justice and peace efforts," he said. "His seminary background has proven especially insightful in development of our priestly formation programs."

The new appointees will become members of the College of Cardinals, where they may be called upon by the pope to serve as advisors at consistories on church affairs. Those under the age of 80 also will be among the members of a conclave that elects successors of the pope. ■



Archbishop Lucian Muresan



Archbishop George Alencherry



Archbishop-elect William (left) and Bishop Nicholas Samra of the Melkite Eparchy of Newton were participants in the 55th annual Saint Nicholas Charity Event Dec. 4.

A beautiful path

EXAMPLE OF PRIESTS IS ESSENTIAL

by Father George D. Gallaro



Glancing at the latest *Statistical Yearbook of the Catholic Church* (2009), we should thank the Lord for the increase in the number of priestly vocations. There are now in the whole world 118,000 seminarians – up from the 60,000 of the early eighties. Many bishops, priests and deacons have worked hard in promoting vocations to the ordained ministry. And the result speaks for itself. Others, despite their commitment, so far did not attain the desired fruits. However, they maintain their efforts for vocations with perseverance and hope for the future. Both groups realized that this is the main pastoral problem for today's Church.

Recently, the Congregation for the Clergy published a helpful aid, *The Priest as Minister of Divine Mercy*, inviting the faithful to frequently receive the Sacrament [Mystery] of Confession [Penance] and the priests to be more easily available for counseling. This helpful booklet aims at pastoral work with young people. God stirs up vocations to the ministerial priesthood among these people who are looking for ways to follow Christ.

Once called by the Lord, these young people need to be guided towards a rich life in Christ, founded on a balanced human personality. The doctrinal formation will be based on a theology of the authentic search for the face of Christ today, which is faithful to the sound teaching of the Church. One cannot follow the Lord on the path of the priesthood if, at the level of research, the true face of Christ is lost by relegating him to the past as a moralist, a revolutionary or a preacher.

As Pope Benedict, at the conclusion of the Year for Priests, in the words of Saint Bonaventure affirmed: "There is a theology that comes from the arrogance of reason that wants to dominate everything, God passes from being the subject to the object of our study, while He should be the

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My vocation: The best-ever 'gift exchange'

BLESSED TO STILL BE INVOLVED IN MINISTRY

by Sister Theresa Bavol, OSBM

I see life as a continual discovery and sharing of gifts and giftedness. How blessed I am!

Trenton, New Jersey was my home. I am the seventh and last child of a devout Greek Catholic family. I believe that watching my very prayerful mother was the first and strongest inspiration for my religious vocation, and *that* was *gift*.

Of course, I have an older sister who is a member of the Sisters of St. Basil, Uniontown. Sister Stephanie, former teacher and iconographer, is several years older than I am so we were not playmates. She left for the convent when I was still young, so we came to know each other better in the convent. Now I visit her at Mount Macrina Manor Nursing Home, where she is a cheerful resident. My mother took me to the Pilgrimage yearly, so I got to know something of the context of her life.

The Sisters themselves were my next gift and inspiration. The Basilian Sisters taught me at St. Mary Assumption, at the parish grade school. Many vocations had come from this parish already. I recall the influence of Sisters Marcelline and Genevieve. Sister Helena often invited my mother and me to the convent for snacks after Mom's weekly cleaning of the church. Sister Michael, an artist herself, helped me to discover and begin to share my art talents. I can remember

as a child enlarging a crochet pattern for an altar cloth on graph paper to help my Mom, who was making a new set of cloths for the church.

Somehow, I grew up with a sense that Mount St. Macrina was my home. Oh yes, I did go through a period of infatuation with the idea of becoming a Carmelite since I had the name Theresa. In fact, I came across an address and wrote to a Carmelite religious community, only to receive a polite refusal – it was a men's Carmelite community!

When, in my senior year, I wrote my letter to Mother Macrina, then the Sisters of St. Basil Superior, my family members were not at all surprised. They had been expecting this all along.

After receiving my letter of acceptance, for some reason, I requested to postpone my move to Uniontown, but Mother Macrina responded that the day to arrive remains Sept. 15, and I obeyed. Although I had never gone away from home by myself before, I traveled alone by train, staying awake all night so I would not miss my stop.

Throughout the years and challenges of religious life, of going to college, and also of teaching, it was the gift of art that helped me to encourage me. Art gave me a reliable and creative means of expression. Even more, teaching art opens me to the gifts in other people.

After many years of teaching in our parochial schools in the Northeast, I am now missioned at St. Theresa Byzantine Catholic



Sister Theresa Bavol, OSBM

Church in St. Petersburg, Fla. A Catholic home-schoolers group formed the School of the Immaculata which uses the parish facilities five days a week. I teach art in various classes and also assist at the parish. For me it is a continual exchange of gifts and giftedness. I often think of my own childhood discovery of my art talent and how much this has bolstered my life along the way. I pray many of these students could have an awakening of life and joy, such as they spark in me.

I feel blessed to still be involved in ministry. Eight years ago, doctors told me that I have heart problems. Thank God, though I began then to prepare to meet my Maker, I am still here "exchanging" gifts. I am very conscious of the Lord's presence to me now. I am never alone.

Two years ago, Sister Stephanie suddenly became very ill. I was brought to the Mount to be with her, to prepare for her funeral, to go through her possessions. I remember praying very intensely before a Spanish-style image of the pregnant Virgin Mary, praying that I would have more time to enjoy the gift of my sister. My prayer was granted – we continue to spend many happy hours together as often as I can be at the Mount. Again, *gift!*

I pray often that many others, called by God, will be open to the gift of a religious or priestly vocation. It is an exchange program beyond anyone's expectations! ■



Sister Theresa interacts with students in an art class at the School of the Immaculata, which meets at St. Theresa Byzantine Catholic Church, St. Petersburg, Fla.



Answering the call: rewards beyond words

A REFLECTION ON THE WORDS OF OUR LORD, 'COME FOLLOW ME . . .'

by Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D., Metropolitan Archbishop-elect

In the call of the first Apostles, Jesus called fishermen to leadership with the simple words "Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Men and women have answered Jesus' call for over

two-thousand years. Our daily prayers should include prayers for those who are called to a deeper life of prayer. For each person, the answer has meant leaving behind what they were doing to try to follow an open

road of a life of prayer and service to the Lord.

We continue to call our people to listen to the voice of God whispering in their ear, calling them to follow him. To help them to be aware and reflect upon where Jesus is calling them, we [have started] the Vocation Icon Program on Sunday, January 8, 2012.

The Vocation Icon begins its journey through the homes of the parish at a special vocation service at the church. Then, each week the icon travels from home to home through the parish. They pray in a special way for one week, and then pass the icon to the next family in the parish. Some parishes have had a Vocation Icon traveling through their parishes for over ten years.

As the Parish Vocation Icon continues its journey, we will follow Jesus' example with the implementation of the 'Called by Name' program on Sunday, April 22, 2012. The people of the parish are invited to call individuals to be considered for a vocation to be a priest, deacon, or religious brother or sister. Cards are given to write the name of someone who you feel may have a vocation and return it to the pastor or administrator of the parish. After the 'Called by Name' cards have been collected, they will be sent to the Vocation Director to contact and help



Bishop William

them discern how they are being called to serve the Lord.

Many priests, deacons, and religious responding to previous Vocation Icon and 'Called by Name' programs have continued in loving service to the Church. Although a life of prayer and service is not easy, the rewards are beyond words. A priest, deacon or religious helps others to learn the way of the Lord, to pray, and to form their lives in the image and likeness of Christ. Being a leader give a special vision of how God is present in the lives of his people.

Like the first Apostles, we may be afraid to recommend someone to serve God's Church, or we ourselves may be afraid to consider answering the call to serve. However, we have to be willing to listen to the Lord who speaks to our hearts. Our fears are overcome by trust in the Lord, who then enables us to follow the less-traveled path. Like Andrew and Peter, we become fishers of men. ■



Cathedral of St. John the Baptist (Munhall, Pa.) parishioners Steve and Janine Tima and family receive the Pilgrim Vocation icon from their pastor, Father Dennis Bogda.

World Day for Consecrated Life set for Feb. 4-5

TIME TO REFLECT, PRAY, SAY 'THANKS'

from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

WASHINGTON—The 16th annual World Day for Consecrated Life will be observed in U.S. parishes the weekend of Feb. 4-5.

The annual celebration was established by Pope John Paul II in 1997, to be marked each year on Feb. 2, the Feast of the Presentation [Encounter of our Lord with Simeon and Anna].

The U.S. bishops voted to observe the occasion the weekend following the feast, to highlight men and women religious in consecrated life as part of weekend Mass/Liturgy celebrations, to enable expressions of appreciation for the service of those who have chosen the consecrated life, and to pray for an increase of vocations.

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations (CCLV), heralded the role of religious. "Many consecrated men and women share Christ's light and love through their work in parish or diocesan

ministries, education, health care, social services, spiritual direction and prayer," he said.

Father Shawn McKnight, executive director of the Secretariat adds that consecrated life takes many forms within the Church. "All who embrace the consecrated life promise poverty, chastity and obedience," he said. "Religious priests, sisters and brothers live and pray in community, and they serve the Church in apostolic service or are wholly devoted to contemplation. Members of secular institutes fulfill their promises living within, not apart from, the world. Consecrated virgins, who are consecrated by the diocesan [eparchial] bishop, also serve the Church while remaining within the world, and hermits observe separation from the world in solitude, prayer and penance."

Resources for World Day for Consecrated Life can be found on the U.S. bishops' website at <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/world-day-for-consecrated-life.cfm>. ■

A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS

"Through a culture of vocation in families, parishes, schools and dioceses, Catholics can nurture an environment of discipleship, commitment to daily prayer, spiritual conversion, growth in virtue, participation in the sacraments, and service in community. Without this environment, promoting vocations becomes simply recruitment. We believe we have much more to offer our young people."

— Archbishop Robert Carlson, chair of the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations



Forgiveness Sunday Feb. 19

SERVICE CELEBRATED AT CATHEDRAL AND CHURCHES OF ARCHEPARCHY

On Cheesefare Sunday, Feb. 19, Forgiveness Vespers for the beginning of the Great Fast will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Munhall, Pa. at 4:00 p.m. Celebrant for this this powerful and moving service will be Very Reverend Archpriest Dennis M. Bogda, Cathedral Rector. A traditional 'Meager Meal' of soup and bread will be served in the lower level of the Cathedral following the service.

Forgiveness Vespers also will be celebrated in churches throughout the Archeparchy; all are urged to attend and participate in this meaningful penitential opportunity. ■

Pittsburgh Protopresbytery Great Fast Vespers 2012

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - 4:00 P.M.*

Sunday, February 26

Holy Spirit Church, Pittsburgh (Oakland), Pa.
Rev. David A. Bosnich, homilist

Sunday, March 4

SS. Peter and Paul Church, Braddock, Pa.
Msgr. Russell A. Duker, homilist

Sunday, March 11

St. John Chrysostom Church, Pittsburgh (Greenfield), Pa.
Archpriest John G. Petro, homilist

Sunday, March 18

Holy Ghost Church, Pittsburgh (North Side), Pa.
Rev. Thomas G. Schaefer, homilist

Sunday, March 25

SS. Peter and Paul Church, Tarentum, Pa.
Rev. Frank A. Firko, homilist

* *Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession) available at 3:30 p.m.*
Lenten soup and bread will be served following Vespers in the social hall of each parish.

Seminary Press offers calendars, books

GREAT SELECTION OF ITEMS FOR GREAT FAST

The Byzantine Seminary Press, located at 3643 Perrysville Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214, offers an impressive range of religious materials for application in just about every facet of spirituality and prayer life.

With the approach of the 2012 Great Fast (Feb. 20), the Press informs *The BCW* that readers may wish to take advantage of limited supplies of 2012 calendars on sale, before they are sold out.

Available are:

- 2012 wall calendar with graphic of Angel icon or St. Nicholas Chapel - \$1.75 each
- 2012 Liturgical Desk Calendar - \$28 (orig. \$34)

Also, items which sell out quickly for the Great Fast are the 8¼" golden standing 3-bar cross (\$30) and 'Extreme Humility' prayer cards with prayer of St. Ephrem (13¢ ea. or \$13 / pack of 100).

Store hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. or by appointment. Phone 412-322-8307. ■

Path *continued from page 4*

subject who speaks and guides us. There is really this abuse of theology, which is the arrogance of reason and does not nurture faith but overshadows God's presence in the world. Then, there is a theology that wants to know more out of love for the beloved, it is stirred by love and guided by love. It wants to know the beloved more. And this is the true theology that comes from love of God, of Christ, and it wants to enter more deeply into communion with Christ. In reality, temptations today are great. Above all, it imposes the so-called 'modern vision of the world' which becomes the criterion of what would be possible or impossible. And so, because of this very criterion that everything is as usual, that all historical events are of the same type, the newness of the Gospel is excluded, the real news that is the joy of our faith."

We should confidently start again from the Gospels, with a rigorous historical-critical exegesis, but in unbroken communion with the Church's tradition, which makes us discover the true face of the Lord.

The young people, who received from God the priestly vocation, need this Christological formation which has the task of giving them a solid doctrinal foundation for life and the ability to announce it to their contemporaries.

A Christology that is a true word on Jesus of Nazareth and, as a result, an ecclesiology based on the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and its correct reception and implementation is what is fundamentally needed.

For his part, since the beginning of his papal ministry Benedict XVI has supported this correct understanding of Vatican II and rejected any pathway of rupture. The Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Code of Canon Law are not only authentic fruits of the council but also means of its correct reception by the faithful.

Teachers in Catholic schools have a great responsibility not only academically but also ecclesially for the formation of those young students called to the ordained ministry. It is about time to dismiss all complaints; to refuse to give

in to a secularized society which discourages Christian marriages and well-governed families with children. Certainly no one can escape the cultural conditions that our environment surrounds us. We ought to assert more positively the beauty and attraction of the priestly vocation, of a life spent in total service to the people of God; a life for Christ and the brethren in Christ. There is no pathway on earth more beautiful than this and many young people are capable of perceiving the Lord's call.

We should not get distracted either by the hustle and bustle of the mass media which present the priestly ministry as a model of the past, swept away by history, and the priesthood as a lesser democratic institution of modern society. We are well aware that the basic structure of the Church reflects the will of its Founder and cannot change.

The prayer for priestly vocations is the road indicated by Jesus himself so that there will be sufficient laborers in his vineyard. The Evangelist Matthew ends one of his Gospel sections by summarizing the activity of the Savior: "Jesus went to every town and village. He taught in their meeting places and preached the good news about God's kingdom. Jesus also healed every kind of disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He felt sorry for them. They were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, 'A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in'."

This exhortation of the Lord to pray for vocations becomes also a mandate. The blessing of more vocations depends entirely on the will of the Lord of the harvest which, in turn, must be sought by constant prayer. Vocations need also the example of good priests. The example of priests is essential. Young people are attracted not by lukewarm priests but by men full of joy and enthusiasm who serve Christ and his people. There is an urgent need for new apostles who fully understand their priestly being and their fascinating mission. ■



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STERLING RECORD SINCE AUDITS BEGAN

by Sister Elaine Kisinko, Coordinator of the Audit

Very Reverend Eugene P. Yackanich, Administrator of the Archeparchy, received a letter on December 15, 2011 from the Stonebridge Business Partners Auditing Firm of Rochester, N.Y. informing him that once again the Archeparchy is in compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

The Archeparchy of Pittsburgh has been audited every year since 2003 regarding background checks and participation in Safe Environment Programs for church personnel, volunteers, and all those who have contact with children. Each time, the Archeparchy has been found to be in compliance.

The two auditors who conducted the on-site audit earlier in the year were apprised of the facts that during the July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 audit period, 983 children had received safe environment training. By that date, 419 adults actively working in various positions in the Archeparchy also had completed the training as

required and had received the necessary clearances for background checks.

The policies of the Archeparchy for the protection of children may be obtained by writing to the Chancery, 66 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15214 or by calling 412-231-4000 ext. #11. The policies also can be found on the Archieparchial website: www.archeparchy.org. Anyone with an allegation of sexual misconduct should call 412-231-4000 ext. #22 to report this confidentially.

The Archieparchial Staff for the Protection of Children and Young People includes: Sister Marion Dobos, OSB, Director of the Office of Religious Education; Sister Agnes Knapik, OSB, Safe Environment Coordinator; Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM, Victim Assistance Coordinator; and Sister Elaine Kisinko, OSBM, coordinator of the audit. The Archeparchy also has a Review Board to oversee its programs and policies and to offer assistance when needed. ■

Bishops hail court decision upholding religious liberty

'MINISTERIAL EXCEPTION' GROUNDED IN FIRST FREEDOM

WASHINGTON — "It's a great day for the First Amendment," said Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty.

Bishop Lori spoke Jan. 11, shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court voted unanimously to uphold a church's right to determine who its ministers are and banned government interference in the process. His statement follows. ■

"The Supreme Court decision marks a victory for religious liberty and the U.S. Constitution. Freedom of Religion is America's First Freedom and the Court has spoken unanimously in favor of it. The Founding Fathers would be proud. Respect for the long-standing 'ministerial exception,' which is grounded in the Religion Clauses of the First Amendment and prevents the government from interfering in the employment relationship between a Church and its ministers. This decision makes resoundingly clear the historical and constitutional importance of keeping internal church affairs off limits to the government—because whoever chooses the minister chooses the message. It's a great day for the First Amendment."

Bishop William E. Lori

Chairman, U.S. Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty

Abortion Statistics Released - Where's the Outrage?

PRAY FOR GENUINE HEALING AND PEACE

by A.B. Hill



About a year ago, when news was released about the Philadelphia abortion clinic of Dr. Kermit Gosnell, words like "house of horrors," "shocking," "murder," and "intentional killing of babies" graced the headlines. The stories told of charges filed against Gosnell and others, stemming from the death of one woman and the murder of seven newborn infants in his clinic.

In response, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed Senate Bill 732, which holds abortion facilities to the same fire and safety standards, personnel and equipment requirements, and quality assurance procedures as other freestanding ambulatory surgical facilities. Governor Tom Corbett signed the bill into law before Christmas.

Senate Bill 732 does not put an end to abortion, but it does correct a situation that allowed Pennsylvania law to favor the abortion industry, not women's health.

Sometimes the debate about abortion seems to overlook the very real women and children who are affected by it. Talk in the public square tends to reduce the issue to political ideology. The news about the Gosnell clinic shined a spotlight on the reality of abortion. The debate about SB 732 provided an opportunity to speak the truth and open people's eyes about what goes on in abortion clinics every day. Abortion is not merely a routine medical procedure.

In the last week of 2011, the Pennsylvania Department of Health released its annual report of abortion statistics: 36,778 abortions were performed in Pennsylvania in 2010, a 1.4 percent decrease from 2009.

Sadly, there were no headlines reporting this year-long tragedy. The deaths of these 36,778 children and the wounds left in the hearts of their mothers and fathers are no less important than those of the victims in Gosnell's clinic. The Pennsylvania Department

of Health, in releasing the 2010 abortion statistics, notified us of 36,778 lives will not be lived in our community, nor will their deaths be mourned publically. Within these statistics, we were also told of 36,778 women – and in some cases couples – in our community who are experiencing the pain and hurt that comes with deciding to abort. We must be filled with the compassion of Christ and pray for genuine healing and peace for these women and men.

Throughout the coming year, several other bills intended to provide additional protections for women and children will be considered in the state legislature. Keep up with the latest pro-life news and action alerts with the Pennsylvania Catholic Advocacy Network at www.pacatholic.org.

Senate Bill 732 is now Pennsylvania law; but the pro-life community has much more work to do. We cannot rest until the annual report of abortions in Pennsylvania is zero. ■

Hill is Communications Director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference – the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses/eparchies of Pennsylvania.

A Blessing for Healing

May the blessing of healing be upon us: *healing of mind, body and spirit.*

May the blessing of wholeness be upon us: *freedom from fear, freedom from torment.*

May the blessing of God's grace be upon us: *grace to be compassionate, grace to accept compassion.*

And may the blessing of peace be upon us: *peace in our thoughts, peace in our words, peace in our actions.*

We pray in the Name of **the One** who created love; **the One** who walked among us healing; **the One** who calls us to abundant life.

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Discovering the Kingdom of God within

HOUSTON PARISH INAUGURATES NEW EASTERN SPIRITUALITY REFLECTION SERIES

by Deacon Ed Kleinguetl



Addressing a great hunger to know more, St. John Chrysostom Parish in Houston, Texas launched a new “Brunch With” series of reflections to explore great treasures of Eastern Spirituality. This is quite timely, in light of Pope Benedict XVI’s comments of Nov. 4, 2011 regarding his call for prayer for an increase of knowledge of the Eastern Catholic Churches: “. . . that the Eastern Catholic Churches and their venerable traditions may be known and esteemed as a spiritual treasure for the whole Church.”

The first of these “Reflections” was on December 10, 2011 and was set as a pause within the Philippian Fast to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity. The conference explored the core theme of theosis and participation in the Divine Nature through the writings of St. Gregory of Nyssa, specifically his Homilies on the Beatitudes. The session began with Divine Liturgy, followed by brunch, and then a conference on the specific topic. Thus, participants were able to experience two facets of the Eastern mystical tradition: communal divine worship and individual spirituality. Fr. Deacon Edward Kleinguetl led the conference, while Pastor Fr. Elias Rafaj, Helen Kees, and other parishioners prepared the meal for the large number of guests. Attending was a mixed audience of 50 representing Eastern and Roman Catholics, Orthodox, and Protestants.

St. Gregory of Nyssa is of particular interest, especially in a penitential reflection, given his pivotal influence on the mystical tradition of the Early Greek Church. His corpus on the Beatitudes represents one of his earliest works (c. 370s), likely when he first became bishop of Nyssa, and describes how one can participate in the Divine Life, encounter the Indwelling Divine, and how the clean of heart can “see” God as described in the Beatitudes in the Gospel of Matthew.

Interestingly, St. Gregory rarely used the word *theosis* or divinization (deification) in his writings; however, it is in the very fabric of his thought. He was more conservative in his description of mystical union, preferring the term “participating in the divine” versus his contemporary, St. Gregory the Theologian, who first used the word *theosis* and spoke of “assimilation of the divine.” For the Nyssen, he wanted to preserve in his teachings clarity surrounding the great difference and distance between Creator and creature and that a purified soul could “participate” in the divine energies of the Trinity (not the essence).

The eight sermons in this corpus essentially are exhortations to cultivate the virtues in order to purify the soul and attain the divine life intended by the Creator. There is one particular theme in this corpus that is the most significant as it pertains to a person’s ability to participate in the divine life: the soul as a mirror that, when purified, can reflect the attributes of the Divine Archetype whose divine image is impressed in each. Thus, per St. Gregory, we can gain our first knowledge about God by seeing the reflection of the divine attributes.

Probably one of the best illustrations of St. Gregory’s spirituality in this particular regard is from On the Beatitudes, Sermon 6: “The Lord does not say it is blessed to know something about God, but to have God present within oneself. ‘Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.’ I do not think that if the eyes of one’s soul have been purified, he is promised a direct vision of God; but perhaps this marvelous saying may suggest what the Word expresses more clearly when He says to others, ‘the Kingdom of God is within you’ (Luke 17:21). By this we should learn that if a man’s heart has been purified from every creature and all unruly affections, he will see the Image of the Divine Nature in his own beauty.”

St. John’s will continue the

God-given talents shine at St. Stephen’s show

A CELEBRATION OF PARISH COMMUNITY

by Kristen Keleschenyi

America’s Got Talent may be a hit TV show, but it recently provided the inspiration for a holiday talent show at St. Stephen Church in North Huntingdon, Pa. On Dec. 18, the Sunday before Christmas, nineteen ECF (Eastern Christian Formation) students took to the stage before an audience and panel of judges, and showed that they, too, have what it takes.

Mr. Thomas Slosky served as Master of Ceremonies, and the show had a variety of acts from dance to comedy. The line-up also included a number of kids playing musical instruments. Once the child finished his or her performance each faced judges Abbie Bache and Jacob Frye, both ECF students in the Young Disciples class (grades 8-10). They had the responsibility of providing positive feedback for each performer. Frye said that the opportunity allowed him the chance to see his classmates in a different light.

“Some of these kids you would never expect to be able to play a musical instrument, and there they were playing

the violin and the cello!”

For some students this was their first experience in a talent show. Parent Michele Rudolph said her children were a little reluctant to participate. “They both became excited, although a bit nervous, as they got closer to the performance date. They were practicing their acts repeatedly trying to impress the audience.”

To close the show, all students gathered on stage to sing “We Wish You A Merry Christmas.” A prize raffle followed, which featured donated items such as Pittsburgh Pirates game tickets, museum passes and even an autographed photo of Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward. The crowd that gathered in the parish social hall was then able to share in an Italian themed luncheon afterward. Bache says events like these are important for the parish. “It brings us closer in times when we may stray away from the close community we should be.”

More pictures from the talent show are featured on the parish website at <http://bcchnh.org> under ‘Events.’ ■



ENCORE! Children of the ECF program at St. Stephen Church, North Huntingdon, Pa. end their Dec. 18 Christmas Talent Show by singing “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” to the delight of all in attendance.

Father Jim Hess, O.Carm

“Brunch With” series throughout the year and explore other writings from the Early Church Fathers. The next session, Brunch with St. Macrina: Model of Virtue in Family Relationships, will be presented Feb. 11 by parishioner Leslie Hrusch Bohannon (and also leveraging the writings of St. Gregory of Nyssa). Future sessions are planned around the writings of St. John Chrysostom

and other important figures from the Christian East, continuing to explore the richness of the mystical tradition and individual spirituality. ■

Deacon Ed Kleinguetl was ordained for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, and serves St. Martha Church in Kingwood, Texas in addition to his service to St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church in Houston.



Lifelong dream realized through faith, art

'ICONS BY HIS DESIGN'

by Jennifer Helsley

It gives me great pleasure to introduce *The Byzantine Catholic World* readers to my mother, Mary Susick. She and my father Dan have been longtime subscribers of the BCW and members of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Northern Cambria, Pa. and have led their lives as fine examples of the Byzantine faith.

Although she already has inspired many (especially her 4 children and 6 grandchildren),

my mother recently has accomplished a life-long goal of having her icons publicly available to inspire others. Her art studio, Icons By His Design, now has a new web site, www.iconsbyhisd.com, through which she is able to share her faith and love of art with others around the world.

Please do visit the site soon, read a biography of the iconographer, and browse through the inspired art of my wonderful mom, Mary Susick. ■



Artist and iconographer Mary Susick puts finishing touches to an icon in her studio "Icons By His Design." Mary is a parishioner of St. John the Baptist Church in Northern Cambria, Pa., where Father Oliver Hebert, TOR is pastor.

Butler monastery welcomes pilgrim group

DISTANCE, WEATHER NO PROBLEM FOR 35 DETERMINED SOULS

by George Walter, a.k.a. "Pilgrim George"

On Saturday, Dec. 17, thirty-five pilgrims from New York City and Chicago, Ill. descended upon Holy Trinity Monastery in Butler, Pa. They arrived at 5:30 a.m. (after driving all night in two vans and car) in time to join the monks for Matins at and Divine Liturgy. Abbot Leo Schlosser (who also is pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Gibsonsia, Pa.) welcomed the travelers at the Divine Liturgy and shared with them the words of Pope Benedict XVI about St. Benedict of Nursia, since the monks at Holy Trinity live under the 6th century rule of St. Benedict. After Divine Liturgy, Father Eugene of the Basilian Fathers' Novitiate in Glen

Cove, N.Y., led the Akathist in Thanksgiving for All Things in Ukrainian, as that was the native language of most of the pilgrims in attendance.

At 9:00 a.m. the pilgrims gathered in the monastic refectory for a continental breakfast and individual prayer for healing. Afterwards, some returned to the chapel for confession, while others climbed the hill to the Holy Protection Mother of God Poustinia to pray in Pilgrim George's *poustinia* and enjoy a piece of homemade pizza. Father Douglas Lorange of St. Michael Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church in nearby

Pilgrims continued on page 12

A visit from St. Nicholas!

SYKESVILLE, DU BOIS CHILDREN BID WELCOME

Holy Trinity Church in Sykesville, Pa. held its annual St. Nicholas Day celebration on Dec. 4, together with parishioners of Nativity of the Mother of God Church, DuBois. The event began with a Moleben to St. Nicholas, celebrated by Father John Mihalco, pastor of both parishes. A potluck dinner followed in the church social hall. Saint Nicholas (Deacon Paul Boboige) made a special visit with the children and handed out treats to all. ■



'Bishop' meets Deacon: 'Saint Nicholas' (Deacon Paul Boboige) with Deacon Luke Crawford



'Saint Nicholas' with Father John Mihalco and the children from Holy Trinity and Nativity of the Mother of God parishes

Photos by Julia Kennis, Holy Trinity Church

Festive Feast Day celebration in Perryopolis

PARISH HONORS ITS VENERABLE PATRON



Members of St. Nicholas Church, Perryopolis, Pa. again celebrated its patronal feast with Divine Liturgy, brunch, and a visit from St. Nicholas on Dec. 4. The good saint distributed 'gold' coins to all in attendance (*top photo*). Parishioners enjoyed a delicious brunch and a warm and festive social in the parish hall (*bottom photo*). ■



Nestled in the Alaskan wilderness is St. Nicholas of Myra Church, Anchorage. Visit this unique Byzantine Catholic church on the Internet at www.ak-byz-cath.org

ALASKA: Searching For God in the Wilderness

by Sandy Simko



For KINDER-KIDS . . .

Going to church on Sunday is probably an easy routine for you, especially if your church is right around the corner in your neighborhood. Being a kid and living in the largest of all our states – ALASKA, it may be a little more difficult to attend a Diving Liturgy. Depending on where you live and the weather, it may be a long ride to church. However, in Alaska, there are families who choose to praise God in a Byzantine Church even if it is a challenging trip. ■

For BIGGER-KIDS . . .

Up North - *way up North* - over 3,500 miles from St. Stephen Cathedral (in the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix, Arizona) is a small Byzantine Catholic church, St. Nicholas of Myra, located in Anchorage, Alaska. And, about 48 minutes and 50 miles north of Anchorage, Alaska in the small town of Wasilla is Blessed Theodore Romzha Byzantine Mission Church.

It was not any easy task to establish a church in this 49th state. Alaska is known by many nicknames - the Great Country, Land of the Midnight Sun, the Northern Giant and the Last Frontier - for good reason. It's a vast wilderness twice the size of Texas; it has 3 million lakes, 10 major river systems, 1,800 named islands, glaciers, chains of towering mountains, (Mt. McKinley is the highest mount in North America), fjords, tundra and a limited number of roads - and frequent earthquakes. With such huge obstacles challenging the people then and now, it's a blessing and accomplishment that any kind of religion was established there.

In the second half of the 18th century, Russia was expanding its territory and decided that the natives needed to hear the word of God. A group of Eastern Orthodox missionaries was sent and established themselves at Kodiak Island near the Aleutian Islands. Their efforts were successful and today the Orthodox people honor two missionaries as beloved saints - St. Herman and St. Innocent.

In 1957, two Byzantine priests - Reverend fathers Demetrius Darin and Robert Bayusik - were sent to Alaska to establish churches. Father Darin was in the capital city of Juneau and Father Bayusik was sent to Anchorage, a the larger city, where Father Bayusik met with success in founding a church - St. Nicholas of Myra.

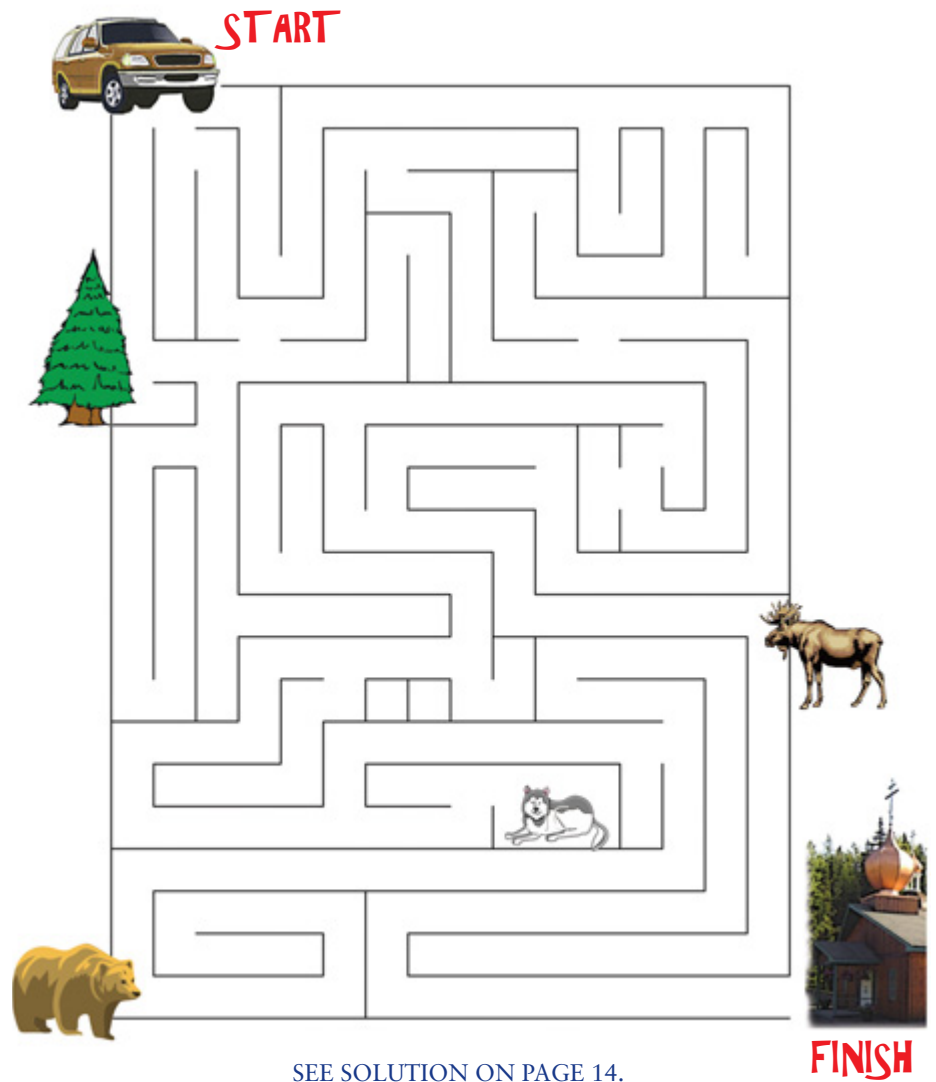
The next assignment went to Father John Kasarda, who was in Anchorage when the devastating 9.4 Good Friday earthquake occurred in 1964. There was heavy damage to the city but very little damage to St. Nicholas of Myra church!

Many priests were instrumental in forming the Byzantine Church in Alaska. They are Father Michael Artim, Father

AN a-MAZE-ing Activity!

Find your way to ANCHORAGE, ALASKA'S ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA CHURCH.

Start at the top of the maze in the SUV . . . 'drive' thru the maze, and end at St. Nicholas Church!



Joseph Hutsko, Father Stephen Greskowiak, Right Reverend Archimandrite Wesley Izer (It was through Father Izer's leadership and great efforts that the mission church in Wasilla was established), Father Michael Hornick and presently Father James Barrant is the pastor way up there in glacier country.

In recent news headlines, we learned of current-day problems in Alaska: the small fishing town of Cordova is digging out from under 18 FEET of snow, and a ship carrying much-needed fuel to Nome, a small northern town, is stuck in ice jams as it travels

north. There were difficult conditions THEN when our Byzantine Church was founded, and conditions TODAY can be just as challenging to the Alaskan people.

Byzantine Catholics in all of our four eparchies of the Metropolitan Church should offer words of thanks, praise, and honor to those priests, true servants of God, for their endurance of the many difficult living conditions, their great efforts and their desire to spread the Good News of Jesus to all Alaskans who love the Byzantine Catholic Church. ■



2011 Christmas season a busy one at Cathedral

Very Reverend Archpriest Dennis M. Bogda and his parishioners at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Munhall, Pa. report a quite busy yet thoroughly enjoyable and faith-filled Christmas season in 2011. Beginning with the parish festivities for the Feast of St. Nicholas (observed on Sunday, Dec. 4) to the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord on Dec. 25, there were numerous services and activities for parishioners and visitors alike. All of the hustle-and-bustle kept the camera and discerning eye of parishioner/photographer Nick Havrilla busy as well, evidenced in the photos below. ■



St Nicholas (Cathedral parishioner Marty Bovee) greets youngsters Dec. 4 at the parish brunch in honor of the patron saint of the Byzantine Catholic Church.



The Cathedral Men's Organization, better known as the CAMEO Club, pose with Father Dennis Bogda following the group's Corporate Communion event Dec. 18.



Graciously hosted by the Cathedral, the Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archdiocesan Choir, under the direction of Darlene Fejka, presented its annual "Christmas at the Cathedral" program of hymns and carols for the Nativity season. Guests were welcomed by the choir to the lower level of the Cathedral following the Dec. 18 afternoon program for their traditional 'cookie' reception.

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist 210 Greentree Road - Munhall, Pa.

Parish Mission February 11-16

The heart itself is but a small vessel, yet dragons are there, and there are also lions; there are poisonous beasts and all the treasures of evil. But there too is God, the angels, the life and the kingdom, the light and the apostles, the heavenly cities and the treasures of grace – all things are there.

— St. Macarius the Great

Rev. James D. Hess, OCarm is the retreat master.
Father Jim serves St. Stephen parish in North Huntingdon
and St. Mary Church, Herminie.

All are invited to come and be part of the mission.
Bring a friend!

'The Great Fast: Dying and Rising to Kingdom Glory'

Saturday, February 11, 2012 - 5:00 p.m.
Theme: *Introduction and Invitation to the Mission*
Service: Divine Liturgy

Sunday, February 12, 2012 - 9:00 a.m.
Theme: *Introduction and Invitation to the Mission*
Service: Divine Liturgy

Monday, February 13, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.
Theme: *Our "Life" and Christ's LIFE*
Service: Panachida & Memorial

Tuesday, February 14, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.
Theme: *Memories: Befriending Loneliness, Hostility, and Illusions*
Service: Mystery of Reconciliation

Wednesday, February 15, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.
Theme: *Apprenticeship: Embracing Discipleship and the Challenge of Being Church*
Service: Vespers

Thursday, February 16, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.
Theme: *Love: The Procession to Theosis*
Service: Mystery of Anointing

For more information, phone the Cathedral at 412-461-0944



Resplendent with beautiful iconography, poinsettias, evergreen trees, twinkle lights, candles and garland, the Cathedral glowed on Dec. 25 - the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

by Archpriest David M. Petras




LET US LIFT UP OUR HEARTS

As we have seen, the deacon asks us to be attentive to the Anaphora. The Anaphora is the prayer of the eucharist and it means “offering.” We must not make the mistake of thinking that it is a mere matter of words. When we pray in the Liturgy, Christ our Lord is praying with us, and because God is present, all of the salvation which he has brought about through his death and resurrection is present and real. For this reason, the Fathers have said that the Divine Liturgy and the Cross and Resurrection are one mystery, which we offer together in Christ. The priest, therefore, makes the admonition of the deacon more intense: not only must we be attentive, but we should offer ourselves entirely. The priest says, “Let us lift up our hearts.” The original Greek is very simple, “Up with the hearts.” Our response is “We have - to the Lord.” This simple exchange must be very ancient, because it is found in all Christian liturgies.

The original meaning was probably to put aside all earthly cares, to direct our attention to the Lord who is above, as St. Paul says in Colossians 3:1-2, “If ... you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.” In some parts of the East, the word “minds” is substituted for “hearts,” a more intellectual approach. In either case, however, it does not mean that we offer up only a part of ourselves, but our whole being, symbolized by the heart (our feelings) or by our mind (our whole thought). The ancient Jews did not parcel

out our human existence; we are all one integral being. Again, when St. Paul tells us “to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship” (Romans 12:1), he does not mean only our physical bodies but the entirety of who we are.

The antiquity of these words leads us to suspect that it


In some parts of the East, the word “minds” is substituted for “hearts,” a more intellectual approach.

was a very concrete, physical invitation: the people were to elevate their hands in prayer, in the traditional “praying” (Latin, *orans*) position. Tertullian notes that the Christians were laughed at as being “cloud counters.” The response, “We have - to the Lord,” also adds the idea that the Christians pray toward the East. This was a characteristic of Christian prayer as opposed to pagan prayer. Christians looked up, not down - as Father Taft observed “downcast eyes were for those in need of penance, or for the unbaptized.” The specific command to “face the East,” is found in Coptic anaphoras.

St. John of Damascus gives us theological reasons for facing the East, the final of these looks toward the coming of Jesus in

glory, “when he was received again into heaven he was borne towards the East. and thus his apostles worship him, and thus he will come again in the way they beheld him going towards heaven; as the Lord himself said. ‘As the lightning comes out of the East and shines even unto the West, so also shall the coming of the Son of Man be.’ So, in expectation of his coming we worship towards the East.” (On the Orthodox Faith IV, 12)

In the final part of the dialogue before the Anaphora, the priest says, “Let us give thanks to the Lord,” and the people respond, “It is proper and just.” Again, this is an ancient exchange in all Christian Churches. The Slavonic Liturgy had added, “it is proper and just to worship the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity one in essence and undivided.” Since this addition was to cover the practice of reciting the Anaphora silently, it has been dropped, for the priest now prays the whole prayer aloud. In any case, it was added to the text only in the 17th century and, for the Liturgy, this is very recent.

For the rest, we are dealing with the most ancient words of the Liturgy. “Let us give thanks” was the best Greek attempt to translate the Jewish “berekah,” a much more general word meaning, “to praise, to glorify, to bless, to thank, to ‘proclaim the greatness.’” The Anaphora always begins with one of these words, all of them attempts to translate “berekah,” which means to dedicate or consecrate something, but in the broader sense of praise, glorification and thanksgiving. It was a sense of acknowledgment of

all God’s works, an acceptance of his acts of love, and our offering and consecration to him in return. The introduction chooses the word “to thank,” in all traditions except the East Syrian, which has “The sacrifice is offered to God, the Lord of all.” However, even here, the ancient form was probably, “Let us give thanks.” This introduction has given rise to the modern technical term for the Anaphora, “eucharistic prayer” which means “prayer of thanksgiving.” Its meaning is two-fold: first, as in the deacon’s admonition, it is an invitation to “pay attention,” to join with the priest in prayer, and second, it is a sign of the people’s participation in prayer. The celebrating priest is really asking the permission of the congregation to continue: “Should we give thanks to the Lord?” The people respond, “Yes, it is proper and right.” The presider then accepts the people’s permission and continues, “It is truly proper and right.” The response itself is one of those popular acclamations common in antiquity, as is still done today in crowds, e.g. ‘Long live the king,’ “Hear, hear,” “Right on.” In the days when the Liturgy was being formed, these words were used by the crowd at the election of an emperor. When the new emperor was announced and introduced to the crowds, they would respond in Latin, “*Aequum est, justum est.*” (“It is right, it is just.”) For us today, it is a proclamation that to commemorate our Lord in his act of salvation is the best thing we can do, bringing us life and union with God. ■

Pilgrims *continued from page 9*

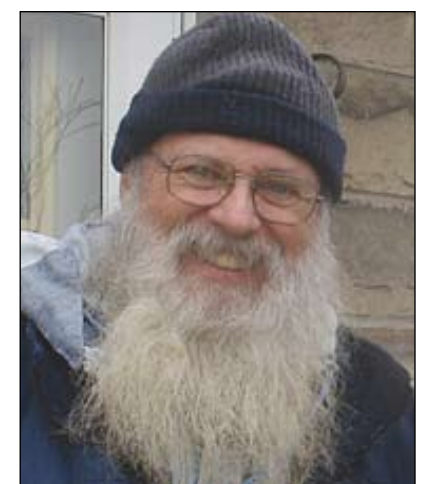
Lyndora came to share and encourage the pilgrims to be strong in their faith and joyful in the Lord.

By noon the pilgrims were ready to get back on the road and drive all night to return to their home parishes of St. George Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church in New York

and Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church in Chicago. It was a real *podvig* of approximately 800 miles on the road, non-stop prayers, little sleep and simple meals in a period of approximately 24 hours. But the pilgrims were happy and blessed as they made their

journey in the spirit of the Philipian Fast in preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord in the Year 2011. ■

George Walter - “Pilgrim George” - is a familiar face and presence at many faith-based events throughout the Metropolitan Church.





Finding New Testament discipleship models

SCHOLAR REVEALS NEW HORIZONS AT 2011 SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

by Kathe Kress

Sponsored by the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Office of Religious Education, the 2011 Byzantine Spirituality Conference, held Nov. 19 at the Cathedral Center in Munhall, Pa. laid a foundation for future growth in our Church. Father Dan Forsythe, Dr. Sandra Collins and Father Ed Cimbala led participants to understand Discipleship and its biblical roots, to meet New Testament disciples and how to serve as disciples in our Church today. Before the day ended with Vespers, four parishioner-disciples described how they serve their respective parishes. This article, part two of a two-part feature on the Conference, focuses on the presentation of Dr. Sandra Collins, and the significance of discipleship models in the New Testament.

Dr. Sandra Collins serves SS. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary in many roles: she teaches Scripture courses as well as serving as Director of the Library and the Online Program. She took this opportunity to guide conference participants to reflect on *New Testament Disciples*.

She began the reflection with the call of the first four disciples. Jesus found and called Andrew, Simon (Peter) and James and John, the sons of Zebedee – by the Sea of Galilee. (Mk 1:16-20, Mt 4:18-22 and Lk 5:1-11) He said: “Follow me, and I will make of you fishers of men.” But the Bible, Dr. Collins said, “tells us what to do, but not how to do it.”

Especially, as it speaks of love, when asked to give the greatest commandment, Jesus’ reply was “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Dt 6:5 and Mt 22:37)

Dr. Collins drew from Jesus’ parable of The Good Samaritan. Though it may or may not be based on a real person, Jesus taught of the value of “stepping outside your comfort zone” in this story, placing this teaching

into what would become one of his more-familiar parables. Here He shows that loving your neighbor as yourself can be as simple as stepping out of one’s comfort zone. Expanding on the great commandment, Dr. Collins showed this to be integral to discipleship.

The apostles whom Jesus first called, served “as a laboratory for Jesus’ teachings and it would be up to them to carry the narrative of Christ crucified forward,” Dr. Collins explained. But the apostles were just as human as we are today – they weren’t overly pious or righteous or powerful, but what they did have was that they were malleable and teachable. Here we go back to the meaning of disciple as someone who followed and therefore learned from a teacher. Further, Dr. Collins said, “We are here today, the result of the effort to share Christ crucified by some simple, illiterate apostle ... nearly two-thousand years ago.”

We acknowledge and accept that Jesus came into the world to save sinners, “but it is an unnamed woman who reaches out to touch the hem of His garment in order to be healed, in whom I find the greatest affinity,” Dr. Collins said. “This is a person I know; this is a woman – a woman would

not want to bother Him, just to touch Him as he passes by.” This woman’s faith rings true to this day.

There were no women apostles. To travel and to be permitted to speak in synagogues simply was not an option for women in that day. But the women disciples speak for the ordinary women and men, and they bear witness of their faith by example.

The Myrrh Bearers came to Jesus’ tomb early in the morning after the Sabbath. They were prepared to anoint him for burial because it was the right thing to do. Ordinarily the entombment preparations fell to the women of the family of the deceased, who was bathed and anointed with aromatic oils, and wrapped and bound with cloth. Then the face was gently covered with fine cloth or linen. All of this was done with utmost respect, and they did it as soon as religious laws permitted – first thing in the morning after the Sabbath. But they were not prepared for “a direct and real encounter with the risen Christ,” Dr. Collins said, “and I would like to think of this as the crowning moment of their discipleship.”

In Matthew, Chapter 11, after he heard in prison of Jesus’ works, John the Baptist sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus,



“Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” Jesus’ reply to them was that the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have the gospel preached to them. After John’s disciples left to report to John, Jesus told the multitudes that John was the “messenger” foretold in Malachi 3:1. Later, many of John’s disciples would follow Jesus.

Dr. Collins then asked: “Are you willing to be called to a new life – a life that is loving, caring?” The kind of love Jesus shows, borne of humility, of emptying of self for the other, is what is required of a disciple.

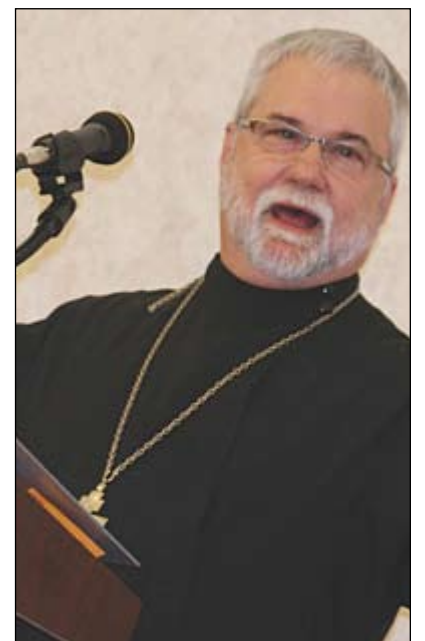
Finally, she drew from the Gospel of John, to show exactly what kind of life of love to which Jesus calls us – “the very real love that the disciples had – ‘As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in my love’.” (Jn 16:9)

“Today, what we need is to be open,” Dr. Collins said. We need to listen and to hear that small whispering voice calling us to bring Jesus into our everyday situations. “We are called by the love of Christ,” she said. ■



Attending the Spirituality Conference Nov. 19 were faithful of the Eparchy of Phoenix and their hierarch, Bishop Gerald N. Dino. Members of the entourage traveled to Pittsburgh from Albuquerque, N.M., Seattle, Wash., San Diego, Calif. and Phoenix, Az for the ordinations to minor orders of Seminarians Benjamin Crow and Michael Bezruchka. From left: Deacon Brian Escobedo; Mary Lynn Cihak; Janet Escobedo; Bob Cihak; Benjamin Crow; Bishop Gerald; Michael Bezruchka; Judit Crow; Father Robert Pipta; Deacon Michael Mandelas.

photos by Darlene Fejka / BCW



Father Ed Cimbala of the Eparchy of Passaic made a passionate and animated presentation, *Discipleship: What Should it Look Like Today?* at the 2011 Spirituality Conference.

New Year's resolution: in 2012, resolve to be disaster-ready

MAKE A MASTER PLAN, STAY INFORMED

by MaryAnn Tierney, Regional Administrator FEMA Region III

2011 has been an important reminder to all of us that disasters can strike anytime, anyplace. Regionally, we have felt those devastating effects first hand. As we recovery from 2011's disasters we prepare to continually protect our communities for future emergency events in 2012. Our goal is to empower all residents to become their own emergency manager through simple steps such as getting a kit, making a plan and staying informed.

Last summer our Region experienced disasters of significant proportion. The severe impact of Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee and the Mid-Atlantic earthquake thrust our recovery efforts into motion in record volume. However, each disaster was met head on by local, state, and federal partners ready to work together with the public's safety and best interest in our minds and hearts.

Ultimately, this year proved that we all are vulnerable to these hazards, no matter where we live. And preparing for them at the last minute can often be too little, too late.

We all want the peace of mind of knowing that our families, our homes and our businesses are safe and protected from threats of any kind. While we can't control where or when the next flood, tornado, earthquake or other disaster will hit, we can take

responsibility for preparing our loved ones and properties for emergencies.

So as we reflect on the past year and get ready for a new beginning, we're encouraging all Americans to do their part to be prepared by 'Resolving to be Ready' for disasters in 2012. It's a New Year's resolution that is easy to keep - and could save your life.

First, make an emergency communications plan with your family. How would you contact your child if their school was locked down? Where would you meet your family if cell phone towers were down? Simply take a moment to sit down with your family and come up with a communication plan to deal with these kinds of scenarios.

Second, build an emergency kit for your home, office, and car. What if the roads were so bad, that you had to stay in your office overnight? It would be helpful to have spare food, clothes, and medications at your office desk. In the New Year, treat yourself to a shopping trip dedicated to building a few emergency kits. You can find a list of suggested items on Ready.gov.

Third, stay informed of risks in your community. In this region in particular, we experience events such as floods, hurricanes, tropical storms and snow.

Additionally, recognizing that it takes the whole community to implement all-inclusive emergency management, kind acts such as checking in on friends and neighbors that might need extra assistance during disasters could make a world of difference.

So, if you haven't yet taken the steps to keep you and your family prepared for emergencies, please take some time in this new year and resolve to be ready. Take the pledge or learn more information at www.ready.gov/pledge — and encourage the rest of your community to join. ■

MaryAnn Tierney is the Regional Administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III office, which covers Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

Seminary Board meets

THREE NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED

PITTSBURGH, PA — Online courses, new seminarians, and library renovations - these are just some of the positive developments noted by new and returning members of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary Board of Directors during their January meeting, led by Archieparchial Administrator Rev. Eugene Yackanich.

Seminary Rector Very Rev. Archpriest John G. Petro and Library Director Sandra A. Collins, Ph.D. offered a tour of the newly carpeted library and media center, available to students and faculty. Dr. Collins also discussed the increasing interest in the Seminary's on-line courses, which are available for both academic credit and personal enrichment. These unique courses offer an opportunity to learn more about the richness of Eastern Christianity to those who cannot travel to the Seminary campus in Pittsburgh.

The Seminary's Academic Dean, Rev. R. Joseph Raptosh, explained the effort to revamp the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Theology degree programs (with an emphasis on the Byzantine Tradition) as well as opportunities for faculty development.

The Director of the Self-Study, in preparation for the re-accreditation of the Seminary, Dr. Betty Shovlin reviewed the positive steps taken toward renewal of the Seminary's accreditation by the Association of Theological Schools.

In addition to educating seminarians and others for further service to the Byzantine Ruthenian eparchies, the Seminary also is welcoming students from the Melkite Eparchy of Newton, Mass.

The Seminary is grateful

to those who continue to contribute to its financial well-being. Despite country-wide difficult financial times, Seminary Finance Officer Gregory Popivchak reports that the Seminary's Christmas Appeal set an all-time record for donations.

Maintenance to the 62-year-old complex is ongoing. Work has been completed to repair the dome, and a new server and computer network system are now in place for use by staff, students and faculty. One classroom now features a 'SMART' board, which enhances interactive instruction. Future projects will include the resurfacing of the parking lot, re-pointing the stonework of the building, and general updating of the facilities. Volunteers with expertise in those areas are invited to contact the Seminary to assist.

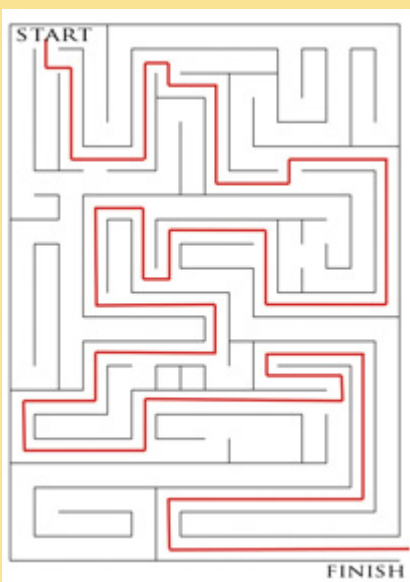
Three new members of the Board were introduced during the meeting:

- Mr. George Juba, President and CEO of the Greek Catholic Union of the U.S.A.
- Khaled Anatolios, Professor of Historical Theology at Boston College
- Robert Grip, broadcast journalist and educator, Mobile, Ala.

Returning members of the Board are Very Rev. Eugene Yackanich; Cathy Chromulak, Esq.; Rev. James A. Spontak; Archpriest John G. Petro; Dr. Betty Radvak Shovlin; Dr. Helen S. Kennedy and Deacon John Evancho. ■

Tax-deductible donations to the Seminary are gratefully accepted at any time. Those wishing to remember the Seminary in their wills are advised to contact the Seminary's Development Consultant, Jack Miller, at 412-321-8383, extension 28.

SOLUTION to Kids Corner maze from page 10:



Members of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary Board of Directors met Jan. 9. from left: Mr. George Juba; Dr. Betty Shovlin; Mr. Robert Grip; Very Rev. Eugene Yackanich; Deacon John Evancho; Dr. Helen Kennedy; Father James A. Spontak; Archpriest John G. Petro; Prof. Khaled Anatolios. Missing from the photo is Atty. Cathy Chromulak.



Parents of Father Christopher Burke enter eternity

FATHER, FRANK DAVID BURKE, JR. AND MOTHER, ELIZABETH "BETTY" BURKE

Frank David Burke Jr., 86, and Elizabeth "Betty" Burke, 86, both longtime Mentor, Ohio residents fell asleep in the Lord within two months of one another. Mr. Burke was born on June 7, 1925 in Cleveland and entered into eternity on Friday, Nov. 11, 2011, at Homestead II in Painesville. Mrs. Burke, also a Cleveland native, was born on Oct. 23, 1927 and died on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012 at her daughter Patty's home in Fairport Harbor.

Both Frank and Betty led very active lives. Mr. Burke was a chemist at Lubrizol Corp. in Wickliffe for 42 years, retiring in 1993. He graduated from Cleveland Heights High School, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and both BS and Master of Science

degrees in chemistry from John Carroll University. Mrs. Burke was a homemaker, raising nine sons and one daughter. In her spare time, she was a crossing guard for many years at the intersection of Hart St. and Mentor Ave. for the school children attending St. Mary of the Assumption School.

Married for 63 years, Frank and Betty shared many wonderful things together. One activity they loved was watching their children and grandchildren at their sporting events. In addition, Frank loved woodworking and gardening. He was an amateur astronomer and a classical grand pianist. He also was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Church, in Mentor, and a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. Betty enjoyed socializing at the

Mentor Eat n Park Restaurant for many years. Her love of nature included her care for her animals, especially her dog, "Wicket."

Survivors include their children, Patricia Ann "Patty" Matsko of Fairport Harbor, Frank David (Marie) Burke III of Concord, Paul (Sherrie) Burke of Bloomington, Ill., Kerry (Cathy) Burke of Bath, Fr. Christopher R. Burke of Boardman, Jamie (Annette) Burke of Grand River, William "Billy" (Joyce) Burke of Shelby Township, Mich., Peter (Emily) Burke of Montville and Terence "Terry" Burke of Mentor; 24 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren. Mr. Burke is also survived by his sister, Alberta (Ozzie) Oswald of Cleveland Heights; brother, Raymond (Sally) Burke of Gates Mills;

and sister-in-law, Ann Burke of Rocky River. Mrs. Burke is also survived by a brother, Paul Taylor of Oregon.

Both were preceded in death by their son, Timothy J. Burke; Mr. Burke's parents, Frank David and Ruth Burke Sr.; and brother, John Burke; Mrs. Burke's parents Frank and Irma Taylor; and brother, Landon "Lanny" Taylor.

Funeral liturgies were celebrated for Mr. and Mrs. Burke on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2011 and Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012, respectively. Parastas services also were celebrated by Father Christopher in blessed memory of his parents. ■

*May God grant to his servants
Frank and Elizabeth
Eternal Memory
and Blessed Repose!*

Learn plainchant online

SEMINARY OFFERS NEW ENRICHMENT COURSE

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh is pleased to announce its first eight-week online course for 2012. Starting Monday, Feb. 6, Byzantine Online will offer *Plainchant of the Byzantine Catholic Church*.

The new course will look at the history and development of Eastern chant within the Byzantine tradition. No musical skills or special software is required, although listening to music will be an important part of this course.

Course instructor Jeff Mierzejewski serves as a cantor for St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church in Munhall, Pa. and also is a deacon candidate in formation for the Eparchy of Pittsburgh. He currently is webmaster as well as an instructor for the Metropolitan Cantor Institute (MCI) of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. Mierzejewski also is a graduate of West Virginia University with bachelor degrees in

math and computer science as well as a Masters degree in mathematics.

The course is asynchronous, which means that participants can view, listen and respond to the course at their convenience; there is no set class time. The only tools necessary for the course is a computer and a desire to know more about Eastern Christianity.

Students who are part of the certificate program may register at a cost of \$500 per class. Those who wish to take a course for their own personal enrichment can audit a class for \$350. Group discounts and multiple registration discounts are available.

Course descriptions for this and upcoming Byzantine Online classes, as well as registration information are available at <http://online.bcs.edu>.

For more information, contact Dr. Sandra Collins, Director, Byzantine Online, at scollins@bcs.edu or 412-321-8383, ext. 23. ■

Earn a Certificate in Eastern Christian Studies Online!

BCS Educational Value:

- Better equip yourself to serve the Church in new capacities
- Deepen your knowledge and understanding of the Byzantine and Eastern Churches
- Build upon your faith and spirituality

Plainchant of the Byzantine Catholic Church

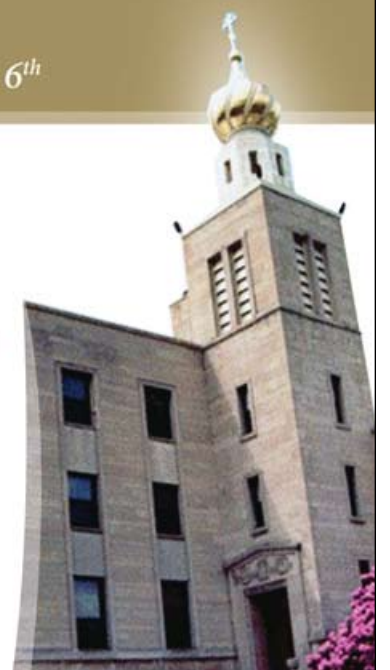
Online course starts February 6th

Register Today!

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Email: scollins@bcs.edu

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PAGE 6

'O Joyful Light ...' ByzanTEEN Youth Rally 2012

REGISTRATION
PACKETS ARE HERE!



Registration packets for ByzanTEEN Youth Rally 2012, July 12-15 at the University of San Diego have been sent to all parishes and missions of the Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh.

If any parish or interested person has not seen this packet of information or would like more information and materials, please call the Rally Planning office at 708-645-0241. Also visit www.byzanteen.com. ■

AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET/FLEA MARKET/CRAFT SHOW - Sponsored by the Youth Group of St. Mary Church, Trauger (Latrobe), Pa. Sunday Feb. 12, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Center 4480 Route 981 Latrobe, PA 15650. Adults \$6; Children 5-10 \$3; 4 and under are FREE. Vendors needed! For info, call Laurie Knouse at 724-423-7396.

MMMM, SPAGHETTI DINNER - SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, 701 Foster Ave. Duquesne, PA 15110. Father David Bosnich and parishioners welcome all to its Spaghetti Dinner fund-raiser, Sunday, March 18. Serving will begin at 1:00 p.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. Diners over 10 yrs. old - \$7; Children 6 to 10 - \$3.50; under 5 yrs. old FREE! Raffles and plentiful basket auctions. Proceeds to benefit church improvements. For info, call 412-466-3578.

WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION - Sponsored by the Office of Religious Education is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Munhall, PA 15120. Inspiring speakers' program, lunch, outstanding gift basket auction for benefit of local womens' shelters. For information, phone Sister Marion Dobos, OSB at 412-322-8773.

RUSYN SUMMER SCHOOL The Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center and the Institute for Rusyn Language and Culture at Prešov University in Prešov, Slovakia announce the third annual three-week *Studium Carpatho-Ruthenorum International Summer School for Rusyn Language and Culture*, which will be held June 10-July 1. The Studium offers a unique experience to individuals interested in exploring the history, culture, and language of the Carpatho-Rusyn people located on the border between East and West Slavic linguistic and cultural worlds. Intensive daily language study and history lectures, along with a mini-course in Rusyn folklore, are all offered with parallel instruction in English and Rusyn. Participants also will enjoy excursions to the famous Carpathian wooden churches, museums, and folk festivals, along with pysanky and folksong workshops, and the opportunity to attend liturgies in Byzantine Catholic churches in the city of Prešov. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to study the Rusyn language, codified in Slovakia in 1995. Deadline for applications is March 1. For further detailed information, a daily schedule, and an application, visit www.carpathorusynsociety.org.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE NOVEMBER 2012 - Hosted by Father Charles M. Yastishock and Father Edward Cimbala of the Eparchy of Passaic. 10 DAYS: NOVEMBER 11 - 20, 2012. \$2499* per person, including air. (tax and gratuities extra). Included: Roundtrip air from New York, First Class hotels, breakfast and dinner daily, comprehensive sightseeing and much more! Walk where Jesus walked...Cruise the Sea of Galilee...Visit Nazareth ... Climb the Mount of Olives and view the Old City of Jerusalem ...Walk the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre ...Visit Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity. FOR A FULL COLOR BROCHURE call Father Charles at 732-255-6272 or e-mail him at czarcmy@comcast.net. At this very special price, space is limited ... join Fathers Ed and Charles for this inspirational trip of a lifetime.



Official publication of the
Byzantine Catholic
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

**Byzantine Catholic Press
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**NEXT
ISSUE DATE:
FEBRUARY 12**

**SUBMISSIONS
DEADLINE:
JANUARY 31**

DATES TO REMEMBER



JANUARY 30
Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs
CHANCERY CLOSED

FEBRUARY 2
Feast of the Encounter of our Lord with Simeon and Anna
CHANCERY CLOSED

FEBRUARY 4-5
World Day for Consecrated Life

FEBRUARY 19
Forgiveness (Cheesefare) Sunday

FEBRUARY 20
First Day of the Great Fast 2012

MARCH 25
Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos

See more upcoming events at www.archeparchy.org