

PATRIARCHAL CATECHETICAL COMMISSION

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«Christ is born - glorify Him!

Christ from heaven - meet Him!

Christ on earth - be inspired!

All the earth sing to the Lord, and all the
people start singing merrily.

For He became a fame!»

(Christmas Canon)

*The Heads of Catechetical Commissions
Directors of Catechetical Centers
Directors of Catholic and Catechetical Schools
Superiors of Monastic Orders and Religious
Communities and Institutes of Consecrated Life*



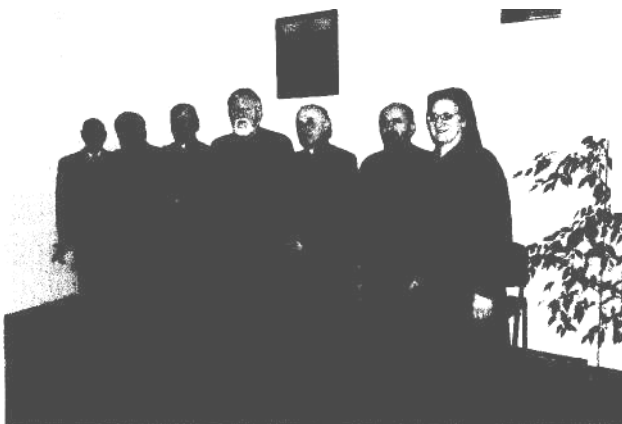
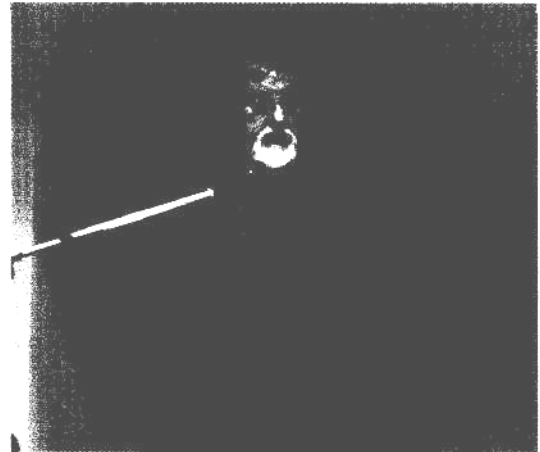
Christ is born! Glorify Him

We extend our cordial greetings on the occasion of the Holy feast of Nativity of our Lord and extend to you best wishes for the 2010 New Year! May the newborn Child Jesus, His and our Mother, the Blessed Theotokos, reward you for your sincere and devoted catechetical service, through which many children and adults have been able to know Christ, have come to love Him and have been united with Him in the Holy Mysteries and are now making their life deeper in Christ. Thank you for your work, love and prayer, for the reviving of Christian life in our parishes. We wish new strength, inspiration, and cheerfulness. «My dear brothers and sisters, keep firm always abounding in energy for the Lord's work, being sure that in the Lord none your labours are wasted.» (I Cor., 15,58) Thus, proclaim Christ, teach the truths of our holy faith catechising children, young people and adults! You are very important for our Church and Your service is significant for the development of Christian life in our parishes, and in the whole Church. The teaching of catechism is a major concern of Our Church! God is with us!

We are glad to use this opportunity to give you the newest information about the events in the life of our Church and the work of the Patriarchal Catechetical Commission of the UGCC:

Catechism of the UGCC «Christ - our Pascha»

We would like to inform you that with God's grace, the Sacred Synod, which took place November, 30 till December, 5, 2009, approved the text of the Catechism of the UGCC «Christ our Pascha». It is the text, which you had an opportunity to read and to which amendments were proposed, taking into account your suggestions. Each bishop has been presented with the approved text of the Catechism, so you might address your diocesan office in case you would like to get it.



The dedicated team, including Rev. Fr. Myron Bendyk, Rev. Fr. Ivan Havanio, Rev. Fr. Matey Havryliv, OSB, Rev. Fr. Taras Kobyrnko, Rev. Fr. Taras Barshevskyi, Sr. Luisa Ciupa, SSMI, Mr. Mykhailo Petrovych, His Excellency Petro Stasiuk, His Excellency Sviatoslaw

Shevchuk have been working on the Catechism for 9 years. Every year the Synod received a progress report on the H Catechism. The team has fulfilled a great task and the Church expresses sincere gratitude to this dedicated team and to all who cooperated with it. We are thankful to all, who reviewed the texts and made their comments. It is a historical moment for our Church, preparing to give the book of faith to the faithful, so that every Ukrainian person, wherever she or he might find themselves in the world, could discover in it and deepen their identity and feel joy being a faithful child of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

The Holy Synod called to life the Committee of the following 7 bishops: His Excellency Yaroslav Pryriz, the Most Reverend Ihor Vozniak, His Excellency Josaphat Hovera, His Excellency Hlib Lonchyna, His Excellency Dionisiy Lachovicz, His Excellency Davyd Motiuk, His Excellency Pavlo Chomnytskyi. This Committee's task is to review the Catechism as to:

- a) the right exposition of the dogmas of faith of Church;
- b) complete exposition of faith;
- c) the absence of ambiguous or inexact words in the teaching of faith; the committee is also to suggest to bring in concrete remarks or suggestions in relation to changes in the texts.

The committee has until April, 3, 2010, to finish its work; whereupon the text will be passed on for consideration and acquaintance to the Congregation of Eastern Churches in Rome. Afterwards, the final formulation of the Catechism and its preparation for publishing will be carried out in July - August of 2010. An



official presentation of the Catechism of our Church will take a place at the next Synod in September in 2010 in Lviv. Then the Catechism will represent the official teaching of the UGCC.

Catechetical conference on the occasion of presentation of the Catechism of the UGCC

If the work on the Catechism, with God's help, develops according to the plan, the Patriarchal Catechetical Commission of the UGCC would like to convene all the heads of catechetical commissions and the directors of catechetical centers of our Church to participate in the conference on the occasion of presentation of the Catechism. This conference is to take place in Lviv in September 2010 within the framework of the Synod. We will inform you about the exact date of the conference in the future. The purpose of the conference will be the presentation of the Catechism and preparation for its implementation into life.

The Bible with icons for children



It is my wish to inform you that our commission has published a Bible for children with icon illustrations. This will give children a chance to read the Bible and pray together in their families. If you wish to get such Bibles, please, address the Patriarchal catechetical commission of the UGCC.

Biblical apostolate

Our commission works on the development of the Biblical apostolate, that is a prayerful reading of the Holy Scriptures. We also encourage you to extend this experience of catechetical service to other countries. Every year, there are biblical seminars and conferences. Our next conference «The Holy Scripture, Education, Spirituality and Culture» will take place on May, 25 - 26, 2010 in Lviv.



The contest «The Song of the Heart»

The Patriarchal Catechetical commission holds catechetical contests or competitions and other activities that unite children. The contest of religious song "The Song of the Heart" is one of such events. The contest takes place on all levels, from parochial to patriarchal once every 2 years and in 2010 year it will celebrate its 10th anniversary. We would like to emphasize, that we especially invite Ukrainian children from the whole world to participate in the contest. In relation to the rules of participation in the contest, please, see the brochure, which is attached. This contest is a very good means of evangelization and catechization of children. Children also have a great mission in our Church and can share their spiritual treasure, through their music, thus spreading Christian values and proclaiming Christ. On the patriarchal level of the contest «The Song of the Heart» will take a place in June, 2010. We are looking forward to seeing you in Ukraine on this occasion.

Our coming plans and publications:

- the DVD disk and the book «Comment on Divine Liturgy»;
- we are launching the program of training of catechetical assistants (brochure is attached);
- the catechetical program for the 10th year «Life in Christ»;
- the catechetical program «Liturgical year», including the description of the life of new Church martyrs of our Church.

We are working on the program of running of summer camps, which are an intensive form of catechisation in the community. In 2010, the program for camp meetings, in which children from our Church participate, will be based on the Holy Mysteries, and the biblical figure of Moses will make the basis for the program of the school camps;



- the Synod of the UGCC charged the Patriarchal catechetical commission with the task to as quickly as possible develop the program for the catechumenate in our Church. This program is for those who wish to become the members of our Church and for the persons who convert to Christianity and, wish to be baptized;

- We are working on compilation of a catalogue of our publications, a reference book of all catechetical commissions and edition of new disks with catechetical songs;

We are working on a new catechetical program of preparation of children to the first Confession and Communion. It is soon being published and you will be able to use it in the nearest future. Our commission has also prepared methodological materials and instructions for catechisation of children with special needs;

- The webpage of the Patriarchal catechetical commission of the UGCC is also being created.

These are the events and plans for the future we wanted to share with you. We are always to happy to cooperate with you and receive your suggestions.

Thank you for your reports and the information on catechetical service in your

dioceses. We would like very much to publish a catechetical reference book, but unfortunately, not all of dioceses from the diaspora have sent us necessary information. We have received only few reports from Canada, the USA and Germany, but these materials are not sufficient to make a thorough analysis of the state of catechetical service in our Church. If your eparchy has not sent us this report, please arrange to have it sent to us immediately.

The next 2010 year has been proclaimed by our Church as the Year of Christian vocations with the accent on vocations of consecrated life. Catechists are endowed with the important and responsible mission of cherishing the seed of vocation. Thus, let's care for our children and young people to accompany them with love in the growth of their vocations.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, may our Lord generously reward you for your work for the good of Church and God's people!

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Most Rev. Petro (Stasiuk)
Head of the Patriarchal catechetical commission

