

Pastoral Ministry  
Office Newsletter  
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# "Good News"



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma

January 2008

## Celebrating 20 Years

This September, 2008 will mark 20 years since the establishment of the Pastoral Ministry Office (PMO) in the Eparchy of St. Josaphat. Looking back over the years the PMO team has contributed to the growth of the people in this Eparchy through catechesis, evangelization and social ministry.

Communicating the Word of God has been the primary mission of the Pastoral Ministry office. Catechesis through classes, workshops, presentations and retreats has been on-going over the years. The «*Good News*», the eparchial catechetical newsletter, was one way we shared the gospel and catechetical information. Developing an Eparchial website ([www.stjosaphateparchy.org](http://www.stjosaphateparchy.org)) that links the parishes with the rest of the Church and the world brought us into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Producing videos and books (*New*



**Designing GOF for Byzantine Churches**



**«Good News» mailing helpers**

*Life in the Trinity; Sacrifice of Praise* and *Light of the East*) catechized many to the beauty of our Tradition. Evangelizing through the local Cable TV station (PCTV Channel 21) in Pittsburgh, PA, expanded the knowledge of our Church beyond our parish boundaries.

Sister Olga Marie, the Director of Social Ministry, not only visited the sick and home bound but organized parish teams to do likewise in their parish. She has maintained the *Society of Prodigals*, which prays for the various intentions of each parish monthly. She has also set up a *Prayer Hotline* via the internet.



**Collaboration with Manor College**

Advocating for the poor and immigrant families is another outreach she provides for the parishes.

Many different sisters and lay people have contributed to the work of the pastoral ministry office. Over the years Srs. Marina, Elizabeth, Luba, Barbara and Monica Jaciuk from Argentina have joined Srs. Ann, Olga and Judith in the work of the Eparchy. The above are just a few of the highlights of these past 20 years.

In the next issue, we would like to feature any story, pictures or memory you have of someone touching your life from the Pastoral Ministry Team. Send your stories to: 20 Years of Service, Pastoral Ministry Office, 727 East Carson St. Pittsburgh, PA 15203 or email them to [srannl@aol.com](mailto:srannl@aol.com)

## Children and the Great Fast

For the worshipping faithful, the soft and somber sound of *The Rivers of Babylon* hint at the approaching season of repentance. The familiar Sundays of the Publican and the Pharisee, The Prodigal Son, and the Last Judgement prepare us adults for the spiritual journey of the Great Fast, a journey facilitated by liturgical services, spiritual reading, Lenten missions, fasting and prayer. This season of great challenges is hopefully followed by great rewards. What about our children? How do *they* fit into the demanding spiritual disciplines of this holy season? What can parents do to help their children – even the littlest ones – experience the period of the Great Fast on a deeper level, a level that goes beyond the usual writing *pysanky* and preparing a new outfit for Easter Sunday? How do we root our children in the joyous discipline of this Great Fast so that it becomes for them an absolutely essential part of the rhythm of their life? We must speak to them about the mystery of their faith – about Christ's death and resurrection, about repentance and new life – in the language they know best, the language of the senses.

We might begin with a visual message. The Great Fast is a time for *change*. In church, the color of altar vestments changes from bright to dark and festive embroideries are put away. At home, the icon corner is tidied and pussy willows (*loza*) from the previous year's *Palm Sunday* are burned. The Prayer of St. Ephraim is taped to the wall near the icons and pictures of deceased members of the family to be remembered in prayer might be placed near the icon corner. Embroideries are taken down, washed, starched and put away, ready to bring out for Pascha. The *pysanky* (so often left out on display year-round) are also placed out of sight. Covering the television with a cloth might be a reminder of the family's commitment to fast from this visual distraction. The house is tidied – somewhat bare-inviting its inhabitants to change their routine; to replace television with books or conversation and to be more diligent in their prayer. The absence of familiar decorations in the home – the «emptiness» – is a constant reminder that this is a time of year that is set apart for the very special purpose of refocusing our life on Christ, who fills the emptiness in us.



A visual «toning down» needs to be accompanied by an auditory one. The sound of bearing radios, televisions and noisy computer games assault the ears, disrupt interior peace and affect the behavior of adults and children alike. Older children need guidance in choosing appropriate music for listening. The family might agree to observe periods of «quiet time» on certain days. Perhaps, supper could begin by reading aloud from the *Lives of the Saints* or stories from the Bible. Take care to choose literary versions that are appropriate for the age of your children or simply tell the stories in your own words and discuss the pearls of wisdom hidden in them. Children need to experience the haunting sounds of Lenten hymns. Bring them to church for the extraordinary liturgical services of Lent (tempering frequency of attendance with the age of

your child) and give them the opportunity to *fall in love* with such ancient melodies as «Let my prayer arise like incense before you...», so that as adults they might *thirst* for these and await the Great Fast with great anticipation.

It is often a fragrance that evokes for adults a memory of childhood. The fragrances that surround activities during the Great Fast are many: incense during prayer in church and

at home, lilies at the services of holy week, *paska* baking in the oven, fresh spring air that flows through the open windows as the home is being cleaned for the feast, pungent *pysanka* dyes and melting beeswax. Involve the children in all of these activities, so that their little noses might be close to the fragrances that will bond them for life to the rituals that heighten the anticipation of Pascha. Do not protect them from getting their hands sticky with dough or stained with dyes, for they need to touch and experience all that this holy season has to offer.

One of the most challenging aspects of the Great Fast is *the fasting*. If adults have difficulty adjusting to simpler meals and different tastes, what can we expect from children? Most important here is the *attitude of the parents* toward their own fasting. If seen as a burden, all of the benefits of this spiritual exercise are lost. Fasting is a challenge, but it need not be a burden. It must *never* be presented strictly as a duty to suddenly be assumed at the magic age of 12. Fasting is a *privilege*, to be practiced out of love, increasing the measure of sacrifice in appropriate

degrees throughout childhood and beyond. When approached with a positive attitude, fasting presents an invaluable opportunity to train children in the virtue of self-control. Plant the seeds of humility, by teaching children not to boast of their fasting nor be critical of those who do not observe the fast. Teach them to offer and receive hospitality graciously, without drawing attention to their fasting. Be reasonable when setting dietary expectations, taking into account the nutritional demands of growing bodies and the health and maturity of the children. For little children, the absence of sweet treats from their diets is a big sacrifice. While drawing children closer to keeping the prescribed fast, take great care to set goals that are achievable, thus encouraging acceptance of greater challenges. Once children have experienced sacrifice, they come closer to appreciating Christ's sacrifice for us.

The challenges of the Great Fast can only be met with the grace that accompanies prayer and reception of Holy Communion. Memorize the Prayer of St. Ephraim and pray it with your children daily, making the accompanying *poklony*. Feed them with the Body and

Blood of Christ so that they may «taste and see how good the Lord is» who suffered for the sake of giving us new life. Teach little children to ask for forgiveness of those they have hurt and offer it graciously to those who seek it from them. Great Lent is a most appropriate time to prepare children for their First Confession and review with older ones the process of examining their conscience in preparation for their Easter Confession, which they will approach with confidence when presented with the good example of their parents.

The more effort invested teaching our children to live the Great Fast in a holistic way, involving all the senses and faculties God has given them, the more rooted they will be in their faith. When the Great Fast no longer seems «long enough» – when you anticipate it with gladness and it becomes an indispensable part of the rhythm of your life – you will know that your efforts have been blessed. Then, the celebration of Christ's Resurrection will be accompanied with indescribable joy!

Olenka Galadza

### *Generations of Faith for Byzantine Churches Spreads*



To date twelve parishes in the USA, Canada and Australia have been trained in *Generations of Faith for Byzantine Churches*. Of those twelve, eight parishes have started implementing the intergenerational catechetical process and are reporting good results. All of the Year 1 sessions have been placed on a CD and have distributed them to the 12 parishes. In May, 2008, Sr Ann Laszok, OSBM will be presenting the GOF process to the clergy, religious and pastoral staffs of all of Canada at their Encounter 2008. Holy Trinity Church (Carnegie, PA) and St John (Pittsburgh, PA) have held several Byzantine GOF sessions with much success. (Pictures by Chuck Sradomski)



## **Sr. Miriam Claire says Farewell**

On August 11, 2007, Rev. Andrew Hanowsky, faculty, parents and clergy bid Sr. Miriam Claire Kowal, OSBM farewell. Sr. Miriam Claire was elected General Superior of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great in July, 2007. Attending the banquet were over 300 people who wanted to thank Sr. Claire for her 10 years of service to St. Josaphat school as principal. Amidst tears and smiles, many offered their thanks through prose, poetry, song and gifts of flowers.

Prior to coming to St. Josaphat, Sister Claire served as President of Manor College, (Jenkintown, PA) and as Provincial of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Philadelphia, PA. The Sisters of St. Basil the Great are a worldwide order focused on education, the spiritual growth of Ukrainian Catholics and the promotion and retention of the Eastern Tradition.



As General Superior, she will serve as the spiritual and organizational leader of the entire order. This position is based in Rome, Italy. Sister Claire is required to personally visit and assess all locations of the order during her six year term, covering ten countries on four continents. Her main goals during her tenure are to increase the visibility and recognition of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great and promote awareness of the Order's founder, St. Basil of Cappadocia (circa 330 AD). For more information on the Order of the Sisters of St. Basil visit [www.basiliansisters.org](http://www.basiliansisters.org) and [www.stbasils.com](http://www.stbasils.com).



### ***St. Josaphat School Marks 60 Years***

On November 10, 2007, Sr Olga Marie joined Srs Laura and Chrysostom at the 60th Anniversary Banquet of St Josaphat school in Parma, OH. (A complete feature article on St. Josaphat School will appear in the next Diocesan Newsletter.)



### ***A New Member of the PMO Team***

Sandy Repitcky, a friend of Srs. Ann & Olga Marie, and her dog Patches came to visit in Pittsburgh, PA. During their stay, *they not only joined the sisters in prayer* but also visited the sick with Sr. Olga Marie. Patches ministered to the sick by bringing them smiles and joy. Their ministry to the sick was greatly appreciated by all. (Pictured are Maryann & Ted with Sr Olga and Patches and Lucy with Patches).



## **2008 Eparchial Calendar of Events**

**January 5, 2008** - Eve of the Theophany Holy Supper at St. John's in Pittsburgh, PA at 5 P.M.  
*Generations of Faith* will start at 3:00 P.M. after the Vespereal Liturgy with a «Bountiful Supper.»

**January 6, 2008** - Theophany Dinner, St. George UCC, Pittsburgh, PA at Noon

**January 6, 2008** - *Generations of Faith for Byzantine Churches* session held at Holy Trinity Church, Carnegie, PA from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

**January 12, 2008** - Sisterhood of St Nonna, woman's prayer group for intentions of children and grandchildren at St. John's in Pittsburgh, PA. Akathist to The Mother of God: Nurturer of Children, and spontaneous prayers also. They meet the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 A.M.

**January 13, 2008** - Ukrainian Cultural Trust Choir Concert- St. Vladimir UOC, South Side, Pittsburgh at 3:00 PM

**January 20, 2008** - Week of Christian Unity - Prayer Service at St. Andrew's Church (Parma, OH) at 3:00 pm

**January 27, 2008** - *Generations of Faith: Great Fast* - 12:15-3:15 P.M. at SS. Peter & Paul, Ambridge, PA

**January 31, 2008** - *Generations of Faith* designers meeting in Stamford, CT

**February 2, 3, 2008** - Community Days for Sisters of St. Basil at Fox Chase Manor, PA

**February 3, 2008** - *Generations of Faith* for Byzantine Churches Session held at Holy Trinity Church, Carnegie, PA from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

**February 17, 2008** - Spaghetti Dinner at Holy Trinity Church (Carnegie, PA) from 12 to 5 p.m.

**March 2, 2008** - *Generations of Faith for Byzantine Churches* session held at Holy Trinity Church, Carnegie, PA from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

**March 2-4, 2008** - His Grace Bishop Samra will guide Lenten Mission at St John's (Pittsburgh, PA)

**March 5-6, 9, 2008** - His Grace Bishop Samra will guide Lenten Mission at St George's (Pittsburgh, PA)

**March 7-8, 2008** - His Grace Bishop Samra will guide Lenten Mission at St. John's (McKees Rocks, PA)

**March 7, 8, 9 2008** - Retreat in Sloatsburg, NY sponsored by LUC given by Rev James Karepin, OP

**March 16, 2008** - Pysanky Class at St. John's in Pittsburgh, PA beginning at 9:30 A.M.

**March 30, 2008** - Easter (Sviachene) Dinner at St. John's in Pittsburgh at noon. There will be only one Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am.

**March 31 to May 19, 2008** - «*Prayer and Spiritual Potpourri*» - Every Monday night at St. Josaphat Cathedral from 7 to 9 p.m. Sr. Judith, OSBM facilitating this discussion on prayer life.

**April 6, 2007** - *Generations of Faith for Byzantine Churches* session held at Holy Trinity Church, Carnegie, PA from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

**April 6 – 10, 2008** - National Catholic Catechetical Leaders (NCCL) Conference in Galveston-Houston, TX

**April 13, 2008** - Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union Annual Meeting

**April 15 – 17, 2008** - Pope Benedict visit to the USA, Washington, DC

**April 20, 2008** - Generations of Faith session at St. John's, Pittsburgh, PA at 3:00 P.M.

**April 20, 2008** - *Generations of Faith: Ascension* - from 12:15-3:15 P.M. at SS. Peter & Paul in Ambridge, PA

**April 20, 2008** - Lenten Choir Concert - Ukrainian Cultural Trust Choir at St. John the Baptist UOC, Dixonville, PA

**May 4, 2008** - *Generations of Faith for Byzantine Churches* session held at Holy Trinity Church, Carnegie, PA from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

**May 11, 2008** - The Annual Pentecost Sunday Picnic will be at St John's Church Cemetery (Baldwin, PA). This year it coincides with Mother's Day and there will be only one Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am.

**May 16-18, 2008** – Visit SS. Peter & Paul's booth at the Ambridge Nationality Days

**May 18, 2008** - First Reconciliation Day with a breakfast after the Divine Liturgy at St. John's, Pittsburgh, PA

**May 19 - 22, 2008** - ECDD meeting in Detroit, MI

**May 25-28, 2008** – *Encounter 2008* – Sr. Ann presents *Generations of Faith* for Byzantine Churches in Canada

**June 11-12, 2008** - The 7th Acolyte Convention will be held at Gilmary Retreat Center

**June 15, 2008** - Father's Day breakfast after the Divine Liturgy at St. John's, Pittsburgh, PA

**June 22, 2008** - St. John the Baptist Patronage Dinner at 12 noon at St. John's, Pittsburgh, PA

**June 16 - 19, 2008** - *Oriente Lumen XI* - Washington, DC

**June 22 - 27, 2008**- Sisters of St. Basil Retreat at Fox Chase Manor, PA

**July 2 - 3, 2008** - Community Days for Sisters of St. Basil at Fox Chase Manor, PA

**July 2-5, 2008** - Sr. Ann will do a presentation at the Sheptytsky Study Days in Ottawa, Canada

**July 8, 2008** - *Oriente Lumen XI* - Chicago, IL

**July, 2008** - *World Youth Day*, Australia July 7 – 13, 2008 in Melbourne and July 14-20, 2008 in Sydney

**August 4-9, 2008** - Vacation Bible School - «Power Lab» - from 6-9 PM at SS. Peter & Paul, (Ambridge, PA)

**September 2 - 9, 2008** - Synod of Bishops in Ukraine

**October 4 - 5, 2008** - Pilgrimage to the Mother of God – Fox Chase

**October 5, 2008** - *Generations of Faith* session at St. John's, Pittsburgh, PA

**October 11-12, 2008** - Annual Youth Retreat - Camp Crestfield, Slippery Rock; contact SS. Peter & Paul, Ambridge, PA

**November 1-2, 2008** - St. John's Church Bazaar, Pittsburgh, PA Sat. Nov 1, 2008 from 8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. with food from 11:00 – 7:00 and Sun. Nov.2, 2008 from 9:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

**December 7, 2008** - *Generations of Faith* with a Visit from St. Nick at St. John's, Pittsburgh, PA

**2009** - Blessing of the Patriarchal Cathedral in Kyiv. Anyone interested in this 10 day trip call Fr. Ropke or Deacon Levy at 724-443-8764.

**October, 2009** - The Western Pennsylvania Council will host the LUC National Convention.

## 100 Years Old and Going Strong

Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ambridge, PA marked its Centennial Jubilee as a parish community this year. The year long activities culminated on October 14, 2007 with a Pontifical Liturgy celebrated by the Most Rev. Robert Moskal followed by a wonderful banquet at the Holiday Inn (Moon Township, PA).

The parish began preparing for this year in 2004, when a special renovation fund was started to beautify the Church for its centennial. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee labored long and hard to prepare for the 100<sup>th</sup> Banquet but also for the wonderful book of memories called «*Yesterday, Today and Forever*».

A special choir was organized under the leadership of Lisa Hladio to sing the Liturgy. In attendance were most of the vocations from the parish: Rev. Peter Galadza, Msgr Peter. Waslo, Re. Richard Hladio, Sr. Thomas, SSMI, Sr. Tharasia, SSMI, Sr. Bernitta, SSMI, Sr. Barbara, SSMI, Deacon Mark Prokopovich, Dr. Vera Krokono. Many area priests participated in the Liturgy. Sr. Ann and Sr Olga Marie, who reside in the parish, were also present.



At the Banquet celebration Fr. Galadza, a native son, gave the main talk after Fr. Wysochansky gave the invocation. Following the toast by Fr. Waslo, the Poltava dancers provided the entertainment along with the junior Sts. Peter & Paul dance group.

Sts. Peter & Paul's story began on August 6, 1907 with the purchase of land and a wooden church that had belonged to a Methodist congregation. In July of 1916 ground was broken for a new church. On Labor Day, 1917, Rev. Kean Peter Yezersky blessed the new church and altar. A number of priests were in residence, but in the last 67 years Sts. Peter & Paul has had 3 wonderful men of God caring for the parish family. Very Rev. Monsignor Alexander Krochmalny (1940 – 1977), Very Rev. Monsignor Michael Nestor (1977 – 1994) and Rev. Fr. Michael Polosky (1994 – Present).



## Several Other 100 Celebrations



Sr. Ann Laszok, a vocation from St John Church in Newark, NJ, attended the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the parish on November 4, 2007. Srs. Ann Laszok, OSBM and Maria Rosmarynowych, OSBM, a former principal, were featured in the history video (check it out on [www.stjosaphateparchy.org](http://www.stjosaphateparchy.org)) that members of the parish produced.

Sr. Ann also attended St. Nicholas Church's (Watervliet, NY) Centennial celebration. St. Nicholas school was Sr. Ann's first parish assignment. Pictured are: Bishop Wasyl, Eparch of Odessa, Sr Ann and Bishop Paul, Eparch of Stamford, CT

# An Appeal to the People of God

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

The Second Vatican Council teaches that  
*«God did not create human beings for life in isolation, but for the formation of social unity...So from the beginning of salvation history God has chosen persons not just as individuals but as members of a certain community...This communitarian character is developed and consummated in the work of Jesus Christ. For the very Word made flesh willed to share in the human fellowship...In His prayers He pleaded that all His disciples might be 'one.' Indeed, as the Redeemer of all, He offered Himself for all even to the point of death...He founded after His death and resurrection a new fraternal community composed of all those who receive Him in faith and love. This He did through His body, which is the Church» (GS, n. 32).*

Closely connected with this is the work of the entire Church: catechization; evangelization; fostering in the domestic church vocations to the Priesthood and Monastic life; care of our youth; formation of future priests; care of our elderly and homebound; fostering loving relations with our Orthodox brothers and sisters.

All this we try to accomplish in our Eparchy. Because of the generosity of our faithful much is already being done. However, to continue our mutual activities, we need, in the first place, your understanding, and secondly, your generous financial support.

If you can make a contribution to the Eparchial Appeal your donations will further the building up of the Kingdom of God here on earth. Let's work together to meet the challenge of the various works of the Eparchy. Your ongoing support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

The Blessing of the Lord be upon you!  
+Robert, bishop

## Contribution Reply Form

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Contribution: \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5.00 a month)

\$91.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (Quarter a day)

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Mail form with payment or call with your pledge:

**The Most Rev. Robert Moskal, Chancery ,  
P.O. Box 347180, Parma, OH 44134 or call  
404-888-1522**

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