



Mnohaya Lita, Vladyko!



The Letter to the Hebrews comes to an end with the author telling his readers, «Cooperate with your leaders and obey them, because they must give an account of the way they look after your souls». As we mark the silver jubilee of the ordination of the Most Reverend Robert Moskal as a bishop, it is only fitting to reflect on his ministry. After serving as an auxiliary bishop for a while, he was appointed the founding bishop of the Eparchy of Saint Josaphat in Parma. As such, he did not inherit «a well oiled machine» but had to set up a chancery to provide for the orderly (and rather demanding) conduct of business, appoint subordinates to assist in his ministry, such as the protopresbyters (deans) and heads of committees and departments. He needed to set up the physical space in which he could maintain the curial offices, files, records, and so on. He had to supervise the transfer of a portion of the reserves from the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, the eparchy from which the new one was drawn, and much, much more.

In the course of his ministry he performed the usual duties of a bishop. He ordained twelve presbyters (priests) and fifteen additional deacons. He established a deacon training program to provide for additional parochial deacons. To help his flock pray, and to pray with understanding, he compiled and published *The Sacrifice of Praise*, probably the most complete prayerbook with music to appear to date; and he also published a bilingual text of the rites of Initiation (Baptism, Chrismation & Eucharist).

To better enable his clergy to assist him in his ultimate responsibility to teach and sanctify, he established a ministerial conference which usually meets twice a year, in the spring and in the autumn. As a bishop must teach his people, he established the Pastoral Ministry Office which, in turn, set up a certification program for catechists, a training program for lectors, arranged for adult education classes in the parishes and a prayer ministry, set up a website, and produced books and videos and DVDs on the Mysteries and Divine Liturgy. Through these collaborators, the bishop led his flock to the nourishment of the faith.

An extension of the bishop's responsibility to teach is his mandate to evangelize. Bishop Robert established new parishes in North Port, FL, Conyers, GA, Raleigh, NC, Apopka, FL and Charlotte, NC, and is in the process of establishing even more new foundations to meet the needs of Ukrainian Catholics who, in the second and third generation, are migrating from the old centers to new opportunities in other parts of this country.

Bishop Robert was also active in works of social concern. He spearheaded the construction of Sheptytsky Arms and St. George Close, both in Pittsburgh, PA, as well as Shevchenko Manor in Parma, OH. These facilities provide housing for senior citizens of limited means and for the disabled.

Beyond all this, the bishop is the principal pastor of the eparchy, its shepherd and high priest. He must visit the parishes and see to the proper life of worship and stewardship there. He is often called upon to mediate disputes, or to enforce discipline as the Gospel demands. This is often a thankless job.

Because the bishop usually works through a «front man», a local priest or religious, he is not always visible in these many endeavors, and yet he is essential to them all. Once he has these programs and institutions up and running, it is the duty of the bishop to supervise (the literal meaning of the word bishop *episcopos*: *e*pi + *s*copos, to over + see) that they are maintained and that they operate in an efficient and fruitful manner. It is a very demanding responsibility. Bishop Robert has certainly done much to fulfill his charge. We are confident he can give a good account of the way he has looked after our souls in this eparchy.

Na mnohaya lita, Vladyko!

Eastern Catholic Churches Gather



The Eastern Catholic Bishops of Canada and the United States of America, along with the General Superiors of Religious Foundations, and eparchial priests and deacons, monastic priests, nuns and brothers and laity gathered in the Marriott O'Hare Hotel in Chicago from October 30-November 3, 2006 for an *Encounter of the Eastern Catholic Churches* in Canada and the United States of America. The 125 participants, gathered from Australia, Belgium, Italy, Ukraine, Canada and the USA, focused on the theme *Evangelization Through the Celebration of the Mysteries* [Sacraments].

Bishop Nicholas Samra, chair of the Encounter coordinating committee, emphasized that the Encounter participants gathered first to pray together in order to share the wealth of Eastern traditions, and secondly to encounter each other in charity in order to deepen that experience and recognize the common mission of proclaiming the Good News.

His Beatitude, Lubomyr Cardinal Husar, Major Archbishop of Kyiv, commented in his keynote address that in this endeavor of evangelization there was much work to be done and that no one else but the Eastern Catholics themselves will be able to accomplish such a work.

Many distinguished national and international speakers contributed their thoughts and practical solutions to the evangelistic efforts of the Eastern Churches in these two North American countries. Fr. Andriy Chirovsky proposed that evangelization through the celebration of Baptism, Chrismation and

Eucharist be realized through a renewal of beauty and reverence in these rites. Fr. Charles Joanides addressed the need to assist the Christian faithful through a renewal of beauty to embrace a full and rich Christian perspective on marriage. Fr. Jobe Abbass, OFM Conv. spoke on the common priesthood and lay ministry. Fr. Deacon John Chryssavgis offered a reflection on Repentance and the change of heart as a means of evangelization. Archimandrite Michel Van Parys, OSB, former abbot of the famous Chevetogne monastery, and Sr. Alphonsa Donavich, OSBM presented ideas for evangelization through the living of the monastic and religious life. Fr. David Petras spoke of the celebration of the Divine Liturgy as representative of the stages of spiritual development. Fr. Damon Geiger, OSST, addressed the role of the clergy in evangelization efforts, and spoke of the need for clergy to rouse all baptized members to collaborative ministry as the clergy evangelize the faithful, so the faithful evangelize the world.

This Encounter also provided opportunity for participants to offer support for those churches experiencing oppression, persecution and suffering throughout the world.

Participants of the Encounter were from the following Eastern Catholic traditions: Armenian, Chaldean, Maronite, Melkite, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Syriac, Syro-Malabar and Ukrainian. Srs. Ann and Olga Marie attended the Encounter and were honored for their work with the Eastern Catholic Diocesan Directors (ECDD) and God With Us Publications (GWUP) these past 30 some years.

Generations of Faith Launched at Sts. Peter & Paul

On December 6, 2006, parishioners at Sts. Peter & Paul Church in Ambridge, PA participated in the first Eastern version of *Generations of Faith*. *Generations of Faith* is an intergenerational event-centered approach to faith formation for the whole parish. Officially called intergenerational catechesis, the goal of the program is simple: to bring people of all ages in the parish to learn about aspects of their faith together.



Parishioners came together at 6 pm to share a light meal before gathering in church to learn about the upcoming Nativity of Our Lord. After a brief talk about the meaning of the Nativity by Fr Water Wysochansky, the people were divided into various groups. One group experienced the music center lesson about the meaning of the «Z Nami Boh» (God is With Us) during Compline while another group went downstairs to experience a traditional «Sviat Ve chir» (Holy Supper). The learning centers helped present information in a way easily understandable to the whole audience, which ranged from first graders to senior citizens. As a finale the children enacted the Nativity Icon as Paul Palka narrated.

Participants were given reminders of the topics covered to take home. «Everyone was sent home with a folder filled with prayers, activities, an icon and readings to help enhance their Christmas», said Michael Cross, Sts. Peter and Paul Director of Religious Education. «And parishioners continued to share the experience after the program was over by making scrapbooks and decorative stars to be given to shut-ins and others».

One parishioner commented, «I thought it was simply beautiful....It was a wonderful evening and I enjoyed every part of the of the session».



Father Michael Polosky thanked all the parishioners for their presence at this historic first Eastern version of «*Generations of Faith*». As the people left for home armed with their Nativity icon, prayer cards, etc they were asking about the next session already. For many participants the event was not only a way to prepare for the Nativity of Our Lord, but an opportunity to get to know other parishioners.

The Generations of Faith format was developed by John Roberto of the Center for Ministry Development of the Roman Catholic Church. All the initial resources were in the Latin Tradition. However, the Eparchies of the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches are collaborating on developing the Eastern Christian version with all the resources and lessons from the Byzantine Tradition. This model expands the traditional vision of faith formation «for children only» to include adult catechesis, ongoing faith and sacramental formation of young people, and parish-wide activities.



Around the Eparchy

(Below) Sisters joined in the celebration of Chicago Cathedral's Centennial



Zack Sudiak accepts his Award from Bishop Robert at the Bishop's Ball in Parma, OH (more about the Bishop's Ball in the next Diocesan Newsletter)

Sr Ann Laszok, OSBM was invited to do a presentation on the Eastern version of Genera-tions of Faith to the Metro-po-litan Catechetical Commission of Canada.

The three day meeting was held in Winnipeg, Canada on Dec 13 - 15, 2006. Sr Ann shared with all the Directors of Religious Education the history and development of the Genera-tions of Faith collaboration that was taking place in the USA among the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Chur-ches.



Sts. Peter & Paul Church (Ambridge, PA) held its 2nd Annual VBS on August 7 - 11, 2006. Forty-three children celebrated God's Word through song, fellowship and learning around the theme «Fiesta».

2007 Upcoming Events

January 7, 2007 - Opening of Ss. Peter & Paul's Centennial Year, Ambridge, PA

January 7, 2007 - At St. George's, Pittsburgh, PA, following the Divine Liturgy: Nativity play given by St. George's Church School with Prospora

January 11- 23, 2007 - Retreat at Assumption BVM Church, Miami, FL given by Sr. Ann

January 14, 2007 - The Ukrainian Cultural Trust Choir of Western Pennsylvania will perform at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church (Pittsburgh, PA).

January 21, 2007 - «*Prospora*» at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Parma, OH

January 28, 2006 - *Generations of Faith* (Ambridge, PA) - «*The Presentation of the Lord*»

January 28 - February 3, 2007 - Catholic Schools Week.

February 11, 2007 - At St. George (Pittsburgh, PA), St. Valentine's Spaghetti Dinner

February 11, 2007 - Eastern Christian Formation catechists and children will host a «Carnival Sunday» afternoon at St. John the Baptist (Pittsburgh, PA).

February 18, 2007 - Spaghetti Dinner at Holy Trinity Church (Carnegie, PA) from 12 - 5 pm

February 23 - April 6, 2007 - Fish Fry every Friday at St. Andrew's, Parma, OH

March 1, 2007 - «*Synoptic Gospels*» taught by Msgr Appleyard on the Thursdays of March at Holy Trinity U. C. Church, Carnegie, PA

March 4, 2007 - The Holy Mystery of Confession will be available for Eastern Christian Formation catechists and children in grades 5 and 6 at 9:30 am at St. John the Baptist (Pittsburgh, PA)

March 10 -14, 2007 - Lenten Mission at Ss. Peter & Paul in Ambridge, PA

March 11, 2007 - The Holy Mystery of Confession will be available for Eastern Christian Formation catechists and children in grades 7 and 8 at 9:30 am. at St. John the Baptist (Pittsburgh, PA)

March 18, 2007 - Eastern Christian Formation catechists and children will be making and sending out cards for the Homebound of their parish at St. John the Baptist (Pittsburgh, PA)

March 24 - March 25, 2007 - Fr. Bohdan Lukie CSsR will be the *guest preacher at all the Liturgies this weekend* at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church (Pittsburgh, PA)

March 24, 2007 - Retreat in Sloatsburg, NY sponsored by LUC

March 25 - 28, 2007 - Lenten Parish Renewal for Easter at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church (Pittsburgh, PA) conducted by Fr. Bohdan Lukie, CSsR. Confession will be available before and after services in the mornings and evenings.

April 1, 2007 - Eastern Christian Formation catechists and children will take part in Pysanky Classes at St. John the Baptist (Pittsburgh, PA), .

April 15, 2007- «Sviachene» at John the Baptist (Pittsburgh, PA)

April 16, 2007 - «*Inexhaustible Delights: The Holy Mysteries*» in the Byzantine Church, St. Josaphat School Annex, Parma, OH facilitated by Sr. Judith, OSBM

April 22-26, 2007 - NCCL at Columbus, OH

May 5, 2007 - 40th Anniversary Dinner/Dance (ticket required) at St. Andrew's in Parma, OH

May 6, 2007 - Liturgical Celebration of St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church 40th Anniversary

May 7 - 10, 2007 - Orientale Lumen Conference EuroEast II, Constantinople, «Liturgical Worship of the Byzantine Church»

May 20, 2007 - Last day of classes for Eastern Christian Formation at St. John (Pittsburgh, PA)

May 21 - 24, 2007 - ECDD Meeting, Elberon, NJ (Long Branch, NJ)

May 27, 2007 - St. Andrew's (Parma, OH) Pentecost Picnic

June 18 - 21, 2007 - Orientale Lumen XI East - Washington, DC Icons - Expressions of Our Faith's

June 24, 2007 - «Patronage Picnic/Dinner» of St. John the Baptist (Pittsburgh, PA)

June 25 - 28, 2007 - Orientale Lumen XI West - San Diego, CA Icons - Expressions of Our Faith's

July 2 - 3, 2007 - Community Days for the Sisters of St. Basil, Fox Chase Manor, PA

August 24, 2007 - 16th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence

September 9, 2007 - 40th Anniversary Parish Picnic at St. Andrew's in Parma, OH

September, 2007 - Synod of Ukrainian Catholic Bishops - Doylestown, PA

September 22-23, 2007 - Youth Retreat at Camp Crestfield, Slippery Rocks, PA

October, 2007 - LUC National Convention in 2007 is in Stamford, CT

October 5-7, 2007 - Adult Retreat at Ss. Peter & Paul, Ambridge, PA

October 14, 2007 - 100th Anniversary Banquet, Ss. Peter & Paul, Ambridge, PA

November 4, 2007 - St. John the Baptist Centennial, Newark, NJ

December 2, 2007 - St. Andrew's (Parma) Feastday Dinner

December 8, 2007 - St. Andrew's (Parma) Cookie walk

December 9, 2007 - St. Andrew's (Parma) St. Nicholas Party

July, 2008 - World Youth Day, Australia

October, 2008 - Blessing of the Patriarchal Cathedral in Kyiv. Anyone interested in this 10 day trip call Fr. Ropke (North Cambria, PA) at 814-948-9193 or Deacon Levy at 724-443-8764

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

Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky, C.Ss.R.



Five years ago on June 27th, 2001 before a crowd of 1.5 million people in the city of Lviv, the late Pope John Paul II beatified the martyrs Nicholas Charnetsky and 24 companions.

The beatification was a moving experience for me as I stood with several thousand priests and heard the words «With our apostolic authority we permit that the Servants of God Nicholas Charnetsky and the 24 companions martyrs, from now on to be celebrated as Blesseds». In these words I heard the words of Peter, the first chief apostle and the authority he received from Jesus «Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven» (Mt.16:19). Joy filled my heart to know that our Redemptorist confrere and bishop, who had suffered so much and was buried in Winnipeg, was now to be known and venerated as Blessed Vasyl Velychovsky.

«No one lights a lamp to put it under a bushel basket; they put it on a lampstand where it shines for everyone in the house...» your light must shine». that they may give praise to your Father in heaven»... (Mt 5: 15-16) So after the beatification, preparations began to have Blessed Vasyl's holy relics exhumed from All Saints Cemetery near Winnipeg and brought into St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church where a chapel-shrine was built to receive them. On the day of the enshrinement,

thousands of pilgrims escorted the fully-intact holy body of Blessed Vasyl to the Shrine-Chapel. Then the work of the shrine began.

A shrine co-ordinator was hired. Volunteers were gathered and trained to begin welcoming the pilgrims that were coming to the Shrine. A weekly Wednesday evening devotional service began which included special prayers and an anointing for healing and blessing. Since that time, the Shrine has received pilgrims daily who come and visit the museum and learn about Blessed Vasyl's holy life. In the shrine, pilgrims spend time in prayer and intercession before his Holy Relics. Scores of groups of pilgrims have come to the shrine from across North America. Knowledge of Blessed Vasyl is slowly growing. More and more graces received through his intercession are being recorded, including some powerful healings. The Shrine has become truly a light that is shining in the darkness of our world. Blessed Vasyl has not left us orphans but is with us and intercedes for us.

Through the Shrine we are learning about the powerful presence of the Witness to Christ and the challenge that comes to each one of us to live our lives fully and in obedience to the will of God.

As we celebrate this 5th Anniversary of Blessed Vasyl's Beatification, we thank God for raising such a powerful witness in our midst and that we are honored to have Blessed Vasyl walk with us and guide us in our spiritual journey.

By Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R. (Provincial of the Ukrainian Redemptorists) For more information go to www.bvmartyrshrine.com

Collaboration for Online Courses

Several Eastern Catholic Offices of Religious Education are collaborating with Manor College to establish a Post- Baccalaureate Catechist Certificate Program. On August 25, 2006 Sr. Ann Laszok, OSBM (Eparchy of St. Josaphat), Sr. Olga Marie Faryna, OSBM (Eparchy of St. Josaphat) and Sr. Elizabeth Bertoldi, OSBM (Archeparchy of Philadelphia) met with Deacon Philip Heaney and Frank Farell (Manor College) to further discuss the Catechist Certificate program for the Eastern Churches. Dr. Barbara Lutz (Eparchy of Passaic), instrumental in developing the program with Sr Ann was unable to attend this meeting due to illness in the family.

The Post- Baccalaureate Catechist Certificate Program will be available for the Spring 2007 semester. These courses will also be available online through Manor's website. The program of courses will be available for academic credit as well as for CEU units. The program includes courses in Eastern Theology, Hebrew Scriptures, Christian



Scriptures, History and Faith Tradition of the Eastern Churches, Liturgy and Mysteries of the Eastern Churches, Byzantine Morality and Spirituality, Catechetical Methods and Formation and Extension of Learning. For more information on this program call Sr. Ann Laszok, OSBM at 412-260-1607 or Deacon Philip Heaney at 215-885-2360.

Catechist Certification Program -Online-

CEU CERTIFICATE - ADEMIC CERTIFICATE - ASSOCIATE DEGREE
Concentration in the Holy Tradition of Eastern Christianity

CLASSES JANUARY 2007

RS 131: INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY of EASTERN CHRISTIANITY

Introduction to the major dogmatic themes of Eastern theology expressed in the Nicene Creed, presented by the Church Fathers and liturgical texts. Provides an understanding of «Tradition», i.e., Scripture, Councils, Liturgy, Iconography, Church Fathers and Creeds as a living encounter with the Paraclete.

RS 133: HISTORY and FAITH TRADITION OF EASTERN CHRISTIANITY

Survey of the history of the Eastern Church including the Apostolic Period, Ecumenical Councils, development of the Byzantine Tradition, division and reunification of the Churches, Eastern Catholics in the West and in the modern period. Includes a comparison of the Eastern and Western Catholic Churches.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

DEACON PHILIP HEANEY 215 745 3872

Scholarships may be available through respective Eparchial Offices.

philipeheaney@comcast.net



Dear Bishop,

*Could you please explain what annulments are?**Curious***Dear Curious**

There is a lot fictitious information about Church Annulments. The following are some of the more common mistaken assumptions followed by the correct information:

1. **Fiction:** Any marriage can be annulled if you know someone in the church or if you have enough money to convince the church.

Fact: A marriage that began good and healthy can not be annulled by anyone, not even by the Church. The Church is obliged to honor a sound marriage because of Jesus's teaching that marriage is sacred and lasts until the death of one of the spouses. An annulment is a declaration by church authorities that a marriage was defective from the beginning.

2. **Fiction:** If I have an earlier marriage annulled, my children will become illegitimate.

Fact: Children who were born in a legal marriage will always be considered legitimate.

3. **Fiction:** Annulments take many years to complete.

Fact: The present processing time with the Tribunal of the Eparchy of Saint Josaphat is about

18 months.

4. **Fiction:** A formal annulment in the Church costs the couple many thousands of dollars.

Fact: The present fee to process a formal annulment in the Eparchy of Saint Josaphat is \$600. If the case requires a consultant with a psychiatrist, that consultation costs the couple about \$175, per hour, which they pay to the psychiatrist. The annulment has been at that level for about thirty years. If the individual has trouble paying this fee, they can either pay over time or ask their parish for help. No person should be denied an annulment because they cannot afford it! The diocese or the church makes no profit from processing annulments. The \$600 fee permits the Tribunal to break even and not have to assess parishes for this service.

I hope that this brief article will help to dispel some of the myths or fiction that discourage people from seeking the healing and graces that can come to a person or a family when a defective marriage is officially annulled and their new marriage is blessed by the Church!



+ Robert

What good is it to me if this eternal birth of the divine Son takes place unceasingly but does not take place within myself?

And, what good is it to me if Mary is full of grace and if I am not also full of grace?

What good is it to me for the Creator to give birth to his Son if I do not also give birth to him in my time and my culture?

This, then, is the fullness of time:

When the Son of God is begotten in us. (Meister Eckhart)

Our prayer for all this Christmas season is a peace-filled world where love reigns. Christ is Among Us!

Happy New Year!

Sr Ann Laszok, OSBM & Sr. Olga Marie Faryna, OSBM



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