On September 30, 2018 the 87th Annual Pilgrimage to the Mother of God was hosted by the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great in Fox Chase Manor, Pa. The main celebrant and homilist for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was Bishop Benedict Aleksiychuk of the Eparchy of St. Nicholas in Chicago. Concelebrants included Bishop John Bura, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia; Bishop Paul Chomycky, OSBM of Stamford; Bishop Bohdan Danylo of Parma; Msgr. Peter Waslo, Chaplain; the Very Rev. Roman Pitula; and Fr. Stepan Hlushak. Seminarians from St. (continued on next page)
Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington, D.C., were the Altar Servers for the Divine Liturgy. The responses were led by the choir from Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church, Perth Amboy, N.J.

Bishop Benedict’s homily at both the Divine Liturgy and Moleben stressed how important it is to live in the present moment – giving praise to God at all times. When God is first in our life, then everything else will fall into its appropriate place; when God dwells in our heart, in his home, then it is only He who fills us with joy and happiness.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Provincial Superior Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, thanked all the pilgrims for attending and invited everyone to stay, mingle with friends, partake of the delicious food being served in the complex courtyard, and join in the processional to the shrine of Our Lady of Pochaiv where a Moleben to the Mother of God was celebrated at 4 p.m.
by Bishop Benedict Aleksiychuk and clergy from the Archeparchy of Philadelphia. Throughout the day, pilgrims also had an opportunity to see relics and other items on display, attend workshops on prayer, go to confession, and pray at Holy Trinity Chapel.

Every year we are blessed to have the Mothers in Prayer adding their voices with the recitation of the Rosary in Holy Trinity Chapel and at the Grotto. Youths from Plast and CYM led the procession into the auditorium for the Divine Liturgy. The freshman class of Saint Basil Academy processed with the Bishops, clergy and Sisters to the Grotto.

The Sisters are grateful to all who made this day possible in the planning and execution of the day. This day would not be possible without all who contributed with service, goods and financial donations. Their planning and execution was invaluable in creating a day that was significant, peaceful and holy. We implore God to send His blessings upon each one of our supporters and helpers, bringing them joy and peace.
Teach them to observe all I have commanded you. (Mt.28:20)

Conference Program

9:15 am  Registration
9:45 am  Welcome - Bishop Andriy Rabi
10:00 am  Presentation  *Christ Our Pascha—An Introduction to the Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church*—Sister Ann Laszok, OSBM
11:15 am  Break
11:30 am  Presentation—R. Scott French -- *The Credible Catholic Modules*
12:15 pm  Lunch
1:15 pm  Continuation of Presentation by Dr. French -- *The Credible Catholic Modules*
2:15 pm  Break
2:30 pm  Discussion-Question and Answer Session
          Sharing of available catechetical resources
3:30 pm  Closing comments

To register: email (ibah@aol.com), fax (215-627-0377) or send to:

*Catechetical Workshop, 810 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19123*
Філадельфійська архиєпархія УГКЦ
Релігійне Товариство українців католиків «Свята Софія» США
Катедра Непорочного Зачаття

Запрошуєть молодь віком 12-16 років до участі у конкурсі декламації

БОГ ПРЕДВІЧНИЙ НАРОДИВСЯ

Неділя, 16 грудня 2018 р.Б.

Зала Катедри Непорочного Зачаття
804 N. Franklin St.
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Прохання з кожної парафії відделегувати максимум 3 учасники та надіслати до 1 листопада реєстраційну форму (додається) на електронну пошту: st.sophiara@yahoo.com

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НАРОДИВСЯ

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Катедра Непорочного Зачаття, Філадельфія, ПА

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Catechetical Sunday at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Northampton, PA on Sunday- September 23, 2018 with Fr. John Seniw
Pastoral visit of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Brunswick, NJ

A Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated by Most Rev. Andriy Rabiy, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia on October 7, 2018 at 11:00 AM at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, New Brunswick, NJ. The pastor of the parish is Father Orest Kunderevych.
Bishop Andriy visited St. John the Baptist parish in Newark to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and 10th anniversary of Mothers in Prayer parish group

A Celebration in Newark, New Jersey, USA

On October 14, 2018 at St. John the Baptist Church where the Redemptorist Fathers serve the parish, the prayer group “Mothers in Prayer” celebrated their tenth anniversary. Bishop Andriy Rabiy, Apostolic Administrator of our Philadelphia Archeparchy, had come to celebrate the Solemn

(continued on next page)
Bishop Andriy visited St. John the Baptist parish in Newark to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and 10th anniversary of Mothers in Prayer parish group

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A Short History of the Prayer Group “Mothers in Prayer”

The movement “Mothers in Prayer” had begun in England in 1995. At that time two women, Veronika and her sister-in-law Sandra, had personally decided to pray for their children. During prayer, they were enlightened that Jesus wishes that all mothers would place their children under His guidance and would offer their maternal sorrows to Him. The Lord in turn would send His manifold blessings upon their children. This movement “Mothers in Prayer” has spread throughout the world.

In 2008 the present Metropolitan Emeritus Stefan Soroka along with Bishop Paul Chomnitsky had founded the prayer group at St. John’s in Newark, NJ. The Archbishop had named the newly-formed prayer group in honor of the blessed Priest-Martyr Nicholas (Mykola) Charnetsky, whose relics are preserved and honored at the Parish Church.

The Prayer Group meets every First Friday of the month. They pray for their children and grandchildren, for those who have no parents (family) and for those whom no one prays. The Prayer Group brings them closer to God, or even moreso God becomes closer to them. Their faith opens to them the road to the Creator.

On the First Friday a Divine Liturgy is also

(continued on next page)
celebrated for this given
noble intention.

Rev. Mykola Bychok,
Redemporist
October 15 2018

Translated into English
from an article on
http://cssr.lviv.ua/
 novyny/publikacii/
 svyatkuvanvya-v-
 nyuarku-ssha

Bishop Andriy visited St. John the Baptist parish in Newark
to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and 10th anniversary of
Mothers in Prayer parish group
(continued from previous page)

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OPEN POSITION
Applications are invited for the position of an Administrative Assistant
at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception,
Philadelphia. Duties include handling all daily office responsibilities,
assisting with the operation of St. Mary’s Cemetery (arrangements
with funeral directors, communications with people relating to
cemetery, record keeping), and maintaining church financial records.
Knowledge of QuickBooks, and a working knowledge of Ukrainian and
English languages; hours flexible; salary negotiable. Contact Very Rev. Fr. Roman Pitula at 215-
922-2845, or send resume to 819 N 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123.
2018 Ukrainian Christmas Bazaar

DATE:
Sunday, November 18, 2018, 10am - 4pm

LOCATION:
Immaculate Conception Cathedral Hall
Corner of Franklin & Brown Streets
(For GPS directions, use: 814 N. Franklin St., Phila., PA 19123)

HOMEMADE FOOD/PASTRIES
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HOURLY CATHEDRAL TOURS
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See old friends, classmates, our Missionary Sisters, and fellow parishioners
Have fun! See St. Nicholas! Shop, eat, and win prizes!
On Friday, October 5, the Assumption Catholic School community in Perth Amboy, NJ gathered to honor the memory of the innocent victims of the Holodomor, the famine-genocide of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine that killed unknown millions of men, women, and children. Assumption Catholic School joined the 85-day international action of the Ukrainian World Congress and its partners — Light a Candle of Remembrance — dedicated to the 85th anniversary of this catastrophic event in Ukraine.

The eighth-grade class solemnly processed into the church, carrying with them a simple loaf of bread. Ukraine was once called the breadbasket of Europe. This bread was symbolically placed on the tetrapod before the start of Liturgy as an offering in memory of the victims and as a symbol of hope. Fr. Ivan offered special petitions during the Liturgy for the departed victims of the Holodomor, and against hunger and intolerance.

Immediately following Liturgy, a requiem service was held to commemorate the child victims, who suffered the most because they were the most vulnerable. The eighth-grade class read aloud the names of 85 children who died during the Holodomor. It is likely that 1.5 to 4 million children died during the height of the famine-genocide.

At the conclusion of the requiem service, students, teachers, and faithful placed individual stalks of wheat in front of the icon of the Blessed Virgin, imploring her for her continued protection over Ukraine, the United States of America, and Assumption Catholic School.

May the memories of those who died during the Holodomor be eternal and may they continue to rest peacefully in the hands of our merciful God! Vichnaya Pamyat!
Meeting with Deans of the Archeparchy

On Thursday, October 11, Bishop Andriy held a meeting with the deans (Msgr. Peter Waslo (Philadelphia); Rev. Robert Hitchens (Washington); Rev. Taras Lonchyna (New Jersey); Rev. John Seniw (Lehigh-Schuykill); Rev. Archpriest Michael Hutsko (South Anthracite) and Rev. Nestor Iwasiw (North Anthracite)) at the chancery in Philadelphia. Main topics of the meeting was to discuss state of our parishes, implementation of better standards in parish management and pastor care; outreach, visitations of parishes by deans, deanery activities and events, topics for clergy retreats and conferences, etc. Such meetings will take place on a regular basis.

CELEBRATION OF THE 85th ANNIVERSARY (1933-2018) OF THE FOUNDING OF LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS (LUC) OF AMERICA

This year Niagara Frontier Council hosted members of the League from all over the tri-state (NY-NJ-PA) area as well as Connecticut, Washington, DC, and even Phoenix, Arizona, at their annual gathering at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Amherst, NY, on the outskirts of Buffalo on October 5-7, 2018.

The League had its origins in North America in 1933, Chicago, Illinois, at a meeting of Ukrainian Catholic hierarchy, clergy, and lay persons from the US and Canada for the purpose of organizing the immigrant youth and strengthening the Ukrainian Catholic faith. 1933 was a significant year, indeed. During 1932-33 in communist occupied eastern Ukraine countless Ukrainians tragically perished of starvation during the Stalin- enforced famine (Holodomor). Few survived to tell the story. And for decades their names - adults, children, infants – were unspoken. Eighty-five (85) years later, the Candle of Remembrance, initiated this year in Ukraine travels the world to shed light on this tragedy and to remember the many who perished. During the League sponsored Panachyda service for deceased members, guests paused to remember these victims with prayer. The Candle of Remembrance was lit and remained so for the duration of the League gathering. The names of 85 children and infants were read to acknowledge these helpless, voiceless victims. Offering the Panachyda service were

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CELEBRATION OF THE 85th ANNIVERSARY (1933-2018) OF THE FOUNDING OF LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS (LUC) OF AMERICA

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Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Eparch of Stamford, Rev. Marijan Procyk, National Spiritual Director of the League, Rev. Mykola Drofych, Convention Spiritual Director, and Rev. Andrew Onuferto of Ottawa, Canada, event keynote speaker.

The program of weekend activities continued with the members’ formal greeting of Bishop Paul marking the 30th jubilee of his priestly ordination. Bishop Paul was gifted with an icon, Christ the Teacher; a copy of the traveling icon of the LUC. Other gifts included a beautiful (and delicious) korovai specially baked by Niagara Frontier Council member Anna Melnyk, and two framed pictures, one of Bishop Paul’s original graduating class from seminary and the other of Bishop Paul himself during that time.

A workshop entitled, “Behind Closed Doors – Hidden Rituals and Prayer” was presented by the accomplished speaker Sophia Scarpelli Shchur. Sophia’s presentation was enhanced by visuals and the actual prayers, spoken by Rev. Marijan, used in preparation for the Divine Liturgy; a behind-the-Iconostasis look of a priest’s preparation for the Divine celebration every Sunday.

Of course no visit to Buffalo is complete without a tour. In this case a boat tour on the Buffalo River and a historical narrative of the many grain mills that line the river banks. During tour, the blowing winds were right for one to smell the roasting of grain for the General Mills cereal of the day, which this day was Lucky Charms. Who knew that Buffalo was once the hub of all grain shipment activity? The narrator described that part of the city’s history with many colorful anecdotes, in addition to viewing the original structural start of the Erie Canal.

Those who have attended past League gatherings know that no banquet dinner is complete without a worthy MC, and Buffalo’s own Diana “Danusia” Chutko graced the guests with her good-natured banter and humor, and had the honor of introducing the keynote speaker. That evening at the hotel, Rev. Andrew Onuferto spoke on the theme of the gathering, “Embracing a Vibrant Parish Through Liturgy and Prayer”. However, in order to prepare for his speech, Rev. Onuferto had to learn a little bit about the League itself, and what better way than to read its newsletter, The Action. Upon

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CELEBRATION OF THE 85th ANNIVERSARY (1933-2018) OF THE FOUNDING OF LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS (LUC) OF AMERICA

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completion of his review of the newsletter, Rev. Onuferko was surprised to learn that the League was “the first Vibrant Parish organization”, embracing all - young and old alike and accepted the invitation to be the keynote speaker. The League strives to serve as an invaluable resource as a library and repository of materials and methods for religious education, parish activities on all levels, interaction, reflection, prayer, charitable activities and individual and communal support. In a word, the LUC actively pursues its constitutionally stated Purposes. His speech was both thought provoking and inspiring.

Rounding out the weekend was Sunday Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Buffalo with Pastor Rev. Marijan Procyk concelebrating with Rev. Ray Palko, and Rev. Onuferko. For those unable to attend, the service was live streamed and will be available for viewing on YouTube shortly. Afterwards, the farewell brunch was held in the church hall filled with League guests and parishioners. The food was delicious, the desserts scrumptious, and the impromptu entertainment unequalled. Anna Tklich, an accomplished singer and a parishioner of St. Nicholas, performed a solo rendition of Ave Maria in Ukrainian, set to the music of Bach, to thunderous audience applause of approval and delight!

Niagara Frontier Council member and National Board Treasurer, Elaine Nowadly closed out the weekend event with farewells and an ‘until we meet again next year’. League President, Marion Hrubec, reminded departing guests that “after 85 years, many would be thinking in terms of end of life... however, it is not so for the League of Ukrainian Catholics as an organization – 79 conventions and 85 years of existence is only the beginning.”

The article was written by Marion Hrubec, President and Helen Fedoriw, Vice President.
BUS TRIP - Scranton

Scranton’s St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is sponsoring a Christmastime bus trip to New York City on Saturday, December 8, 2018. The 55 passenger Martz bus will leave from St. Vladimir Church, 428 North Seventh Avenue at 8:00am and departure from New York City for home will be at 8:45pm. A portion of the proceeds will be given again this Christmas to the orphans of St. Nicholas Orphanage in Kolomyia, Ukraine. Cost is $42.00 per person. For additional details and reservations contact Paul Ewasko at 570 563-2275. Check should be made out to St. Vladimir Church and mailed to Paul at 55 Waterford Road, Dalton PA 18414.

Save The Date 2018

OCTOBER 21   ANNUAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WITH A DIVINE LITURGY AT THE CATHEDRAL CELEBRATED BY BISHOP ANDRIY RABYI FOLLOWED BY A DINNER RECEPTION FOR THE ANNIVERSARY COUPLES AND THEIR GUESTS

OCTOBER 27   CATECHETICAL CONFERENCE AT THE CATHEDRAL SOCIAL HALL IN PHILADELPHIA, PA

OCTOBER 28   100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. VLADIMIR UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, PALMERTON, PA.

DECEMBER 9   ANNUAL DIVINE LITURGY OF THANKSGIVING FOR BENEFACTORS OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA, UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PHILADELPHIA.

DECEMBER 9   PRAZNYK OR FEAST DAY OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PHILADELPHIA.

DECEMBER 25   CHRISTMAS - NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. YOUR PRAYERFUL PARTICIPATION IN THE DIVINE LITURGY IS YOUR BEST GIFT TO JESUS, TO YOURSELF AND TO OTHERS!
October 10, 2018

Letter to the People of God, Clergy and Religious of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia

Sin directs the heart of the wicked man; his eyes are closed to the fear of God.
For he lives with the delusion: his guilt will not be known and hated.
Empty and false are the words of his mouth; he has ceased to be wise and do good.
On his bed he hatches plots; he sets out on a wicked way; he does not reject evil.

Psalm 36:2-5

Dear Brothers and Sisters in our loving Lord, Jesus Christ,

Слава Ісусу Христу!

We have all read or heard in the media about the Grand Jury Report of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regarding the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults. For those who have read it, it is an understatement that it is difficult to read. It is, to say the least, an embarrassment to read what was done and perpetuated against the victims by the Catholic Church, which, by Her nature is to bring comfort, joy and salvation rather than pain, abuse and trauma.

Many justly wonder how did we get that far to not care when innocent people were exploited? The report shows us that the number of abuse cases was underreported and minimized. What is even worse is that some bishops of the Church attempted to shield themselves against any blame, to keep scandal at arm’s length and to protect themselves from any criminal or civil litigation. That is the truth of the matter.

Some attempt to explain why this happened, what should have been done, even trying to put a cultural or epochal spin on it. Wrong! The bottom line is, it never should have happened!

Nonetheless, it did happen and was widespread like a cancer or virus. Do people sin? Yes. Do people make mistakes? Yes. This issue of sex abuse goes deeper than that. The sex abuse that occurred is as the Psalmist said, Sin directs the heart of the wicked man; his eyes are closed to the fear of God. For he lives with the delusion: his guilt will not be known and hated.
This surely is the crux of the matter which faced the Church back then and faces the Church today. The Church has two natures just like our Lord, Jesus Christ. There is the human nature that involves the day to day interaction of human lives which the Church has been commissioned to bring to salvation. This nature is what failed the People of God. Instead of living a life directed to do the Will of God, those in positions of authority took it upon themselves to perpetuate the abuse rather than seek to root out the evil that it is.

The other nature, the Divine Nature, was pushed aside if you will, so those who were abused may not attain justice, may not find hope, and may not find healing in the Healer of all.

> Wait a little, and the wicked will be no more;  
> look for them and they will not be there.  
> But the poor will inherit the earth,  
> will delight in prosperity.  
> The wicked plot against the righteous  
> and gnash their teeth at them;  
> But the Lord laughs at them  
> because He sees that their day is coming.  
> Psalm 37:10-13

It is this Divine Nature of the Church that we look to, to seek and to hold onto so we may have hope. The injustice suffered by so many cries out to the Lord for justice, reparation and for healing. In spite of our human nature, God is there, first weeping that His dear children are in such agony. Only God can understand what they are going through. Second, God is willing to comfort those who were abused and us who are trying to understand why this happened. As difficult as it may seem, God wants to embrace us, to heal us and to cry with us. It is understandable that some may not trust God now because of what successors of His Apostles (Bishops) and clergy imposed upon them and us.

It is not God Who has done this. It is the men who, as wolves in sheep clothing, preyed upon those whom God loves. If anything, God is justly angry. So, if God can be angry, we have every right to be angry also.

The Church in the United States and, in particular, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, has undertaken significant measures to insure the past not be repeated again. The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is working diligently to provide for victims and to assist the Dioceses and Archeparchies so they are vigilant in meeting the needs of the faithful who have suffered. Amidst the Grand Jury Report, the Church is different today than it was in the recent past. Procedures will be in place to hold Bishops accountable to the same level as everyone else under the civil and church (canon) law, which was not present in the past. Cooperation with evil will not be tolerated again.

Concerning our Archeparchy of Philadelphia, we, to this date have not had an incident or allegation made against our clergy. This is not to be proud that we are better than others. It is a time to reflect and to be grateful. Have incidents of abuse occurred? Maybe. If so, we encourage that person or you, if you are a victim, to step forward so we may correct the wrong one may have suffered.

Our Archeparchy is just as human as the next Eparchy, Archdiocese or Diocese. We strive and promise to be that Divine Nature that seeks to help the abused be whole. This would involve us crying with the person, hearing the person, seeking their healing and be Jesus Christ so they may know they are loved as Our Lord loves them.
This also would involve us to weed out the evil in our midst. There is no excuse to let someone abuse another and to let that continue with others if the abuser is moved. This will not happen in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia!

At this time, I ask that all remember that the Church belongs to Jesus Christ. It is His and even though we have failed miserably, may we return to Him and be with Him, just as the Apostle Peter did. Humans fail, Jesus Christ does not. If we, especially the Hierarchy and clergy, turn our will to Him, we will see blessings that we have not been able to see or do on our own.

May those who seek to destroy my life
be shamed and confounded.
   Turn back in disgrace
   those who desire my ruin.
Let those who say to me “Aha!”
   Be made desolate on account of their shame.
While those who seek You
   rejoice and be glad in You.
May those who long for Your salvation
always say, “The Lord is great.”
Though I am afflicted and poor,
   my Lord keeps me in mind.
You are my help and deliverer;
   my God, do not delay!
Psalm 40:15-18

I ask for everyone’s prayers for our Archeparchy and the Church as a whole. May we continue to be vigilant so no one may be abused or hurt in any manner. May we respond properly in cooperation with Our Lord. May we help those desperate for the justice, support and love they so deserve.

+Andriy Rabių
Apostolic Administrator for the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

AP/оακ
Saint Demetrius lived in the fourth century in Macedonia, Greece. His parents were good Christians who taught their son to love God and follow God's teachings. At that time, there were not very many Christians. Often Christians had to keep secret their belief in the one, true God because the ruler of the country was a pagan. A pagan is someone who did not believe in the one true God. He falsely believed in many gods. The pagans were fearful of there being too many Christians. Thus, they tried to stop them from believing and loving God and keeping His Commandments. The pagans punished the Christians by torturing and killing them.

Saint Demetrius was a wealthy and educated man. Maximian, who was the ruler, ordered Demetrius to work for him. He wanted Demetrius to find out which people were Christians and desired they be killed. When word reached Maximian that Demetrius was not following these orders and that Demetrius himself was a Christian, the ruler became very angry. He had Demetrius put into prison.

While Demetrius was in prison, he prayed to God. One day an angel appeared before him. The angel comforted Demetrius, telling him not to be afraid. The angel promised that he would soon be happy with God in heaven.

Maximian forced the Christians to fight with a very strong, huge, giant-like man named Lee. This giant was so strong that he could easily lift a man high up in the air and then fling him down on sharp spikes which had been laid, points up on the ground. Lee brutally killed many Christians.

There was a young Christian named Nestor. Nestor wanted to destroy Lee, but he could not because he was not strong enough. Nestor went to the prison where Demetrius was jailed. Nestor asked Demetrius to pray for him that God would bless and protect him.

Nestor then fought Lee. The ruler Maximian and the other pagans laughed heartily when they saw Nestor because he appeared to be weak. How amazed they were when Nestor picked up Lee, lifted him high, and threw him onto the spikes, thus killing him. The people realized that Nestor’s strength came from God.

Maximian became very angry. The ruler knew that God had heard Demetrius’ prayer giving Nestor the power to defeat Lee. He ordered that both Nestor and Demetrius be put to death. This occurred on October 26 in the year 306.

Christians buried Demetrius. However, they kept his coat and ring. They were used as relics, often curing the sick by touching this coat or ring. In this manner, God showed the Christians that He was pleased with Demetrius. Later on, a beautiful church was built at the site of Demetrius’ burial. People came from far and would pray to God in this church, asking that Demetrius intercede for God’s blessings and divine help. Sometimes they prayed for good health, for protection from enemies, or for relief from starvation.

Ukrainians honor Saint Demetrius for hundreds and hundreds of years. Our Church has designated October 26th as his Feast Day. He is an example for each of us to follow. Demetrius loved God so much that no one could frighten him nor turn him away from God. Earnest prayer God hears. We must remain strong in our faith and not let others dissuade us from keeping the Ten Commandments given to us by God Himself. Others may ridicule and laugh at us for trying to do the right thing. Nonetheless, when that occurs, let us then pray to God, asking for His blessing and divine help. Just as God heard Saint Demetrius’ prayers, so shall He hear ours.

Adapted from Our Saints, MSMG
Pope Francis received the Apostolic Nuncio in a private audience

8 October 2018

In the morning of Saturday 6th October, His Holiness Pope Francis received in a private audience H.E. Msgr. Claudio Gugerotti, Titular Archbishop of Ravello, Apostolic Nuncio in Ukraine, the Apostolic Nunciature in Ukraine reports.

The Holy Father wanted to be informed on the issues regarding the situation in the Country. Informed about the conclusion of the action “Pope for Ukraine”, he showed appreciation for the work done and expressed profound concern for the sufferings which still endure. The Pope assured that he is assessing the possibility of establishing new assistance to the victims of this tragedy, especially the children and the most vulnerable.

Pope Francis sends his Apostolic Blessing to the Catholics and to all those living the Country, assuring his daily prayers for peace, civil and moral progress and the fraternity of all the believers in Christ.

https://risu.org.ua/en/index/all_news/catholics/apostolic_nunciatura/72950
Even though we sometimes lose the purpose of life, it does not mean we have to lose a life itself, Head of UGCC about depression

Saturday, 06 October 2018

Youth is the most important period of life when we can reveal and realize our vocation. Once we comprehend that someone needs us, and we do something really significant – depression (and even suicide) won’t longer threaten us.

That was an opinion formed by His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Head and Father of UGCC in interactive program “An Open Church” of “Zhyve.TV” on the subject of “Youth: the way to Church”.

“Being young is the best period in our life. Nevertheless, when young people face new challenges and problems, they may lose hearts”, Head of UGCC pointed out.

“In spiritual life depression is sometimes considered as despair. From the perspective of spirituality, despair is evil’s temptation. Thus, the first advice is not to succumb to temptation! Life is extremely beautiful. Even though we sometimes lose the purpose of life, it doesn’t mean we have to lose a life itself. We have to search for its sense!”, Head of Church assured.

Head of Church assumes that there are no hopeless undertakings, and probably, the way out is somewhere across.

“If you really get into a situation when you feel you want to give up – I encourage all of you to talk to God, talk to other people. Don’t close into yourselves!”

Head of Church signaled that a contemporary world is hyperemotional, and youth lives in virtual environment. And when people feel they lack emotions it looks like emptiness. “Cherish human’s relationships. Overcome loneliness with a help of a community!”, His Beatitude Sviatoslav highlighted.

The UGCC Department for Information

http://news.ugcc.ua/en/news/even_though_we_sometimes_lose_the_purpose_of_life_it_does_not_mean_we_have_to_lose_a_life_itself_head_of_ugcc_about_depression_84092.html

Head of the UGCC: Youth is not a problem: it simply needs answers to complex questions

Tuesday, 02 October 2018

Youth is not a problem. It is a very important, wonderful period in the life of every person. Everyone remembers with nostalgia his youth when the whole world seemed to be full of life.

This was stated by the Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church His Beatitude Sviatoslav in the “Live TV” interactive program “Open Church” on the topic ”Youth: the Way to the Church”.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav believes that young people need communication, attention. Young people need help finding answers to complex questions when it comes to making vital decisions - how to understand your vocation in life, whether I am called to create a family, how can I recognize which person should I marry? Young people are very concerned about the issue. And they wait for an answer.

"Therefore, I continue to fulfill my promise," said the Head of the Church, "which I gave during the first press conference, when I became the Head of the Church. I then promised that the youth would be the absolute priority of my pastoral attention. Therefore, whenever possible, I am looking for a meeting with young people. Visiting parishes all over the world, I ask that

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Head of the UGCC: Youth is not a problem: it simply needs answers to complex questions
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a compulsory point of each visit was a meeting with the youth, so that we could just chat and give the young people the opportunity to ask in an informal atmosphere difficult questions to the Head of the Church."

According to His Beatitude Sviatoslav, at such moments he feels that the youths see in the Church not a cold institution, but the mother community of people who want to be close and accompany them on the way to God. "When I’m offered to do a selfie, I try to be accessible in this way. I have no problems with this. If for young people this is an important emotional moment that they want to capture in a photo, then share it with others, then why not?!

The program outlined statistics that 84 percent of young Ukrainians call themselves believers. But only 15 percent of them pray frequently. And 43 percent go to church only on big holidays. And almost every tenth calls himself an atheist.

The Head of the UGCC noted that there are different statistics on the number of practicing young Christians in Ukraine. "But every young person seeks perfection, eternity, eternal love and fullness of life. We have many religious youths, but perhaps their religiosity, according to our categories of thinking, is unconventional. Man searches for God, looks for answers to questions in Him, builds his relationship with God not like his grandmother, grandfather, mom or dad. Very often young people do not know our traditional prayers, but communicate with Him in their own way," says His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

Young people, according to the Primate, often can not show their religiosity, but, rather, they are spontaneous in communication with God. However, this does not mean that the religious life of young people is less intense. On the contrary, they live an intense life, learn, work... The life of a young person is more intense than, perhaps, in other age categories.

"Even those young people who call themselves atheists, too, respond to it in a religious way. Because the denial of the existence of God is indirectly proof of the opposite that, nevertheless, a certain being, which we call God, is the subject of my interest, my search, and, possibly, my rejection," said the Head of the UGCC.

"Often, young boys and girls begin to move away from religious communities in their parish. But this does not mean that they have ceased to live a religious life. This means that they have begun a new stage in their religious life. Sometimes young people can ask a very uncomfortable, awkward question, but only because they expect serious responses," said the guest of the program. "In any case, young people need, in particular, from the Church, clear moral benchmarks that could be guides for everyday life decisions that they learn to make from the younger age and take personal responsibility for them," said His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

Department of Information of the UGCC
Youth who saw death at the frontline gets disappointed upon encounter with immature politicians, leaders or priests

8 October 2018

The Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Patriarch Sviatoslav, met with Ukrainian youth on October 7 at the Cathedral of St. Sophia in Rome.

“I would like to listen to you more and hear you more. This is what the delegates of the Pontifical Synod are trying to do today from around the world. To be at the Pontifical Synod on youth in Rome and not to meet with Ukrainian youth would be strange,” said His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

The Head of the UGCC shared his thoughts summing up the speeches of the hierarchs at the Synod who represented the voice of youth from all over the world.

“Our part of life in virtual reality really changes us a lot. It is said that those born after 2000, have a separate name – millennials, they have not seen the world without gadgets. One bishop told such a story: a small child, two years old, perfectly operates an iPod. Once they took the device from her and gave a magazine instead. She pulls with her finger, and the image does not move, and the child starts to think that something is wrong with her finger, that something is wrong with her. Artificial intelligence seems to be a model with which a young man wants to compare himself. But we are not machines,” noted the Head of the UGCC.

He also noted that today young people live in a world full of technology, while they lack regular human relationships and communication, and they often feel lonely. “We in social networks can contact the whole world, have a sea of followers, but feel a terrible thirst for a meeting with a living person,” said His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav also noticed that today the youth grows very quickly, especially in Ukraine, maybe even too fast. “Those guys and girls who saw death at the frontline return home grayish. And when they meet an immature politician, an infantile public leader … and the biggest disappointment is to encounter an immature priest,” said the Head of the UGCC.

He stressed that today the entire Universal Church is trying to understand the difficulties that young people are facing in order to find adequate answers. “The Methodology of the Pontifical Synod is this: listen, think and act. I would like us to listen to each other, and when we get out - to think and do something,” the Head of the UGCC called on the young people in attendance.

This information is provided by the Department of Information of the UGCC.

https://risu.org.ua/en/index/all_news/community/young_people/72951

Listen, Think and Act, His Beatitude Sviatoslav met with Ukrainian youth in Rome

Tuesday, 09 October 2018

His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, headed the Liturgy at the Procathedral of St. Sophia in Rome, and later met and talked with Ukrainian youth.

“I would like to listen to you more and hear you. This is what the delegates of the Papal Synod from around the world are trying to do today. To be at the Pontifical Synod on the topic of youth in Rome and not to meet with Ukrainian youth - it would be strange,” said His Beatitude Sviatoslav. The Head of the UGCC shared his thoughts on the results of the speeches of the Bishops at the Synod, who (continued on next page)
Listen, Think and Act, His Beatitude Sviatoslav met with Ukrainian youth in Rome

(continued from previous page)

represented the voice of youth from all over the world.

"A Bishop from the Philippines told us such a story. One day a boy came to him and asked to sign a T-shirt. The Bishop was surprised, but signed. In a few years he met the guy who said to him: "Master, you signed me a T-shirt three years ago, since then it has always been under my pillow. I have not seen my father for three years. And your signature, and this T-shirt, was a sign to me that I still have a daddy. I was able to see my dad because of you." When he said this - all the Bishops began to cry. I have never seen Bishops weeping ... It was the voice of the guy who longs for his dad. Perhaps his dad had left him in order to go to work, to make money. But he does not need this, he needs his father's presence," said His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

Another topic discussed at the Pontifical Synod - new types of communication, new technologies. "Our part of life in virtual reality really changes us. It is said that those born after 2000, have a special name - millennials generation because they have not seen the world without gadgets. One Bishop told such a story: a small child, two years old, perfectly knows how to deal with an ipod. Once they took away the device and gave her a magazine. She pulls with her finger but the image does not jump, and the child starts to think that something is wrong with her finger. Artificial intelligence seems to be a model with which a young person wants to compare himself. But we are not cars," noted the Head of the UGCC.

He also noted that today young people live in a world full of technology, while they lack regular human relationships and communication, and they often feel lonely. "We in social networks can contact the whole world, have plenty of followers, but feel terribly thirsty for a meeting with a living person," said His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

In addition, at the Synod, the theme of examples and models for youth is raised. "Young people around the world say they lack adults. Because an adult is someone who is mature. Now all the old ones want to be young. They look at young people, imitate them and want to be always young. But young people need to meet with a mature person," said the Patriarch.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav also noticed that today the youth grows very quickly, especially in Ukraine, maybe even too fast. "Those guys and girls who saw death at the front return home grayish. And when they meet an immature politician, a half-hearted public leader ... and when they encounter an immature priest, it is the most frustrating" said the Head of the UGCC.

He stressed that today the entire Universal Church is trying to understand the difficulties that young people face in order to find adequate answers. "The methodology of the Pontifical Synod is this: to listen, think and act. I would like us to listen to each other, and when we get out - to think and do something," called the present girls and boys the Head of the UGCC.

It is necessary to pray not only for youth but also with youth, Head of UGCC at the Synod in Vatican

Wednesday, 10 October 2018

On October 9, 2018, His Beatitude Sviatoslav at the Pontifical Synod in Vatican spoke about the need to nourish the prayer spirit among modern youth.

Addressing the Holy Father and the Synodal Fathers, the Head of the UGCC drew attention to the fact that the Church should teach the modern young people to pray. “I recall that some of the Synod Fathers spoke a few days ago about the need to pray for youth. I would like to add: you need to pray not only for the youth, but also with the youth. We see that this need is growing very much among young people. There is an ancient tradition in the eastern world: when a young man approaches the elder, first of all he asks him to teach him to pray,” said His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

He also told the participants of the Synod of a study that was held in all dioceses of the UGCC in Ukraine and the Diaspora. The purpose of this survey was to help the Church understand who, how and when teaches young people to pray. “We discovered an unexpected and quite disturbing reality for ourselves,” said His Beatitude Sviatoslav. “Whole generations grew up who have never seen their parents pray. Some respondents answered that they participated in divine services, but never saw that the priest prayed himself or with them. Most young people responded that they learned to pray from their peers during pilgrimages. A significant part of the survey respondents said that today there are very few people who could teach them to pray.”

“That’s why we asked our monasteries and Bishops to open their homes and create schools of prayer for youth,” said the Head of the UGCC. He also thanked the ecumenical community of Taize, “which becomes the world center for prayer for youth, which creates a whole culture of prayer. Thank you for organizing prayer days in L’viv (Ukraine), where you created the atmosphere of a common youth prayer for Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants.” Participants of the Pontifical Synod responded to the speech of the Head of the UGCC with loud applause.

Secretariat of the Head of the UGCC in Rome

http://news.ugcc.ua/en/news/it_is_necessary_to_pray_not_only_for_youth_but_also_with_youth_head_of_ugcc_at_the_synod_in_vatican_84125.html

Commission members for Synod final document

10/10/18

On Wednesday, October 10, 2018, the names of the members of the commission who will draft the final document of the Synod of Bishops on Young People were made public.

Commission members included: Rapporteur General, Special Secretaries, Secretary General, those Elected by Continent, and Pontifical appointees.

The Pontifical appointees were:

Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, of Kyiv-Halych and President of Synod of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church

Fr. Alexandre Awi Mello, I.Sch., Secretary of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life (Vatican City) and Fr Eduardo Gonzalo

Redondo, Head of Vocations Ministry (Cuba)

Pope at General Audience: welcome life as God’s gift

10/10/18

Pope Francis continues his catechesis on the Commandments during Wednesday’s General Audience saying that welcoming life as God’s gift corrects a vision of life interpreted as a problem to be eliminated.

By Sr Bernadette Mary Reis, fsp

During the Wednesday General Audience, Pope Francis reflected on the Fifth Commandment: You shall not kill. When life is welcomed as a gift from God, he said, the vision of interpreting life through the lens of eliminating problems can be corrected.

Value of life
The reading from Wisdom 11:24-26 provided the inspiration for the Pope’s remarks. Pope Francis reaffirmed that the Fifth Commandment is concise and to the point.

It is “a defending wall for the foundational value in human relations: the value of life”, he said.

Gift of God, not a problem
Pope Francis then noted a contradictory approach to life: the suppression of “human life in the mother’s womb in order to safeguard other values”. It is not right to ‘take out’ a human being, no matter how little, to resolve a problem. That is like hiring a hitman to resolve a problem.

Fear is the culprit
Fear leads to violence and rejection, the Pope continued. Welcoming life as a gift of God leads to accepting life in all of its expressions. Pope Francis mentioned that parents are in need of true support should they discover that the baby they are expecting will be disabled. Then he said,

A sick child, …just as an elderly person, needs assistance…. He or she who is presented as a problem is in reality God’s gift who can draw me out of my self-centeredness to make me grow in love.

God’s love is the measure for life
The world’s idols prompt people to reject life, the Pope said. Pope Francis listed these idols: money, power, and success. He called them “mistaken parameters by which to evaluate life”. Whereas “the only authentic measure for life is love, the love that God has for it!”

Secret of God’s love
The secret of love was shown in how God’s own Son lived, the Pope continued. He became man to the point of assuming rejection, weakness, poverty and pain on the cross. In every sick child, in every weak elderly person, in every desperate migrant, in every life that is fragile and threatened, Christ is seeking our heart so as to disclose the joy of love.

Therefore, the Pope concluded:

Do not despise life! … We need to say to so many young people: do not despise your existence! Stop rejecting the work of God! You are a work of God! … For the Gospel says that ‘God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in him might not die, but have eternal life’ (John 3:16).


Ukrainian youth is a light for youth at the world level,
His Beatitude Sviatoslav

Saturday, 13 October 2018

Ukrainian youths care about spiritual values. That is why the priorities in their life are family and pure conscience. This was emphasized by the Head and Father of the UGCC,

His Beatitude Sviatoslav, on Wednesday, October 10, in an interview with Vatican News.

They say that young people are primarily looking for good work, because then they will be able to obtain financial well-being, and, consequently, stability. As a result, they will have the opportunity to create a family, take care of human relations … Instead, the Ukrainian youth placed first the family, that is, a person, and not a thing; human relations, and not material security. Only true sincere human relationships give stability to the Ukrainian youth,” stressed the Head of the UGCC.

The spiritual leader of the
Ukrainian youth is a light for youth...
(continued from previous page)

Greek Catholics shared that he had recently had the opportunity to meet and talk with the descendants of the emigrants and the young men who came to other countries from Ukraine. The Primate asked the young people which priorities they put before themselves.

According to him, the Ukrainian youth puts pure conscience and truth as an important priority of their lives. Therefore, Ukraine and the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church have unique youth. Moreover, our youths can set goals and objectives for themselves, so they are not so distressed. “Ukrainian youth is a “light” for youth at the world level. With their example and choices, they can help the lost youth from other countries to turn their way to the future,” said His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

We would like to remind you that from the 3rd to 28th of October, at the Vatican, the Synod of Bishops continues on “Youth, Faith and Recognition of Calling.” The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church at this year’s General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops is represented by the Head and Father of the UGCC, His Beatitude Sviatoslav and Bishop Bryan (Bayda), Eparch of the Saskatoon Eparchy (Canada).

UGCC Department for Information
http://news.ugcc.ua/en/news/ukrainian_youth_is_a_light_for_youth_at_the_world_level_his_beatitude_sviatoslav_84145.html

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Pope at General Audience: “Indifference kills”

10/17/18

By Sean-Patrick Lovett

Pope Francis reflects on the Fifth Commandment “Do not kill”, and says that insult and contempt can kill as well.

Deeper meaning

Pope Francis said that, read in the context of St John’s Gospel, “Jesus reveals a deeper meaning of this commandment”. Even anger against a sister or brother “is a form of murder”. But Jesus does not stop at this, continued the Pope: in the same logic, Jesus adds that even insult and contempt can kill.

“It would be nice if this teaching of Jesus were to enter into our minds and hearts”, said Pope Francis, “because Jesus says to us: ‘If you despise, if you insult, if you hate, this is murder’ “.

Seek reconciliation

The Pope reminded his audience how Jesus invites us to reconcile ourselves with those who have offended us, before we offer our sacrifice in the temple. “When we go to Mass, we too should have this attitude of reconciliation”, he said. Pope Francis gave the concrete example of people gossiping about others as they wait for the priest to begin celebrating: “We chat a little and we talk badly about others. But this cannot be done.” Jesus equates insult, contempt and hatred with killing, he said.

Indifference kills

The Pope continued to provide concrete examples, pointing out how we all possess a sensitive, hidden self that is no less important than our physical self. An “inappropriate phrase”, he said, is enough “to offend the innocence of a child. To hurt a woman, a gesture of coldness is enough. To break a young person’s heart, it is enough to deny them confidence. To annihilate someone, it is enough to ignore them.” Indifference kills, concluded Pope Francis. “Not loving is the first step to killing; and not killing is the first step to loving”.

Antidotes to killing

“TheCommandment, “Do not kill”, is a call to love and mercy, said Pope Francis. “It is a call to live according to the Lord Jesus”. The Pope then invited all those in St Peter’s Square to remember and to repeat this simple phrase: “Doing no harm is a good thing. But not doing good is not good”. We must always do good, he said.

Ukraine prelate says Orthodox independence is ‘affirmation of rights’

Wednesday, 17 October 2018

ROME - As the Catholic Church’s Synod of Bishops in Rome was meeting on Oct. 11, it was another synod across the Aegean Sea in Turkey that sent shock waves around the Christian world, as the Patriarchate of Constantinople announced it was moving to recognize “autocephaly”, or independence, for the Orthodox Church in Ukraine.

The move has been rumored, speculated about and pondered for decades, but even so, the actual moment of decision still feels momentous due to its unpredictable ecclesiastical, ecumenical and geopolitical consequences.

Predictably, reaction from the Patriarchate of Moscow, which regards Ukraine as its “canonical territory,” has been sharp, announcing a formal rupture of communion with Constantinople - which some observers believe, assuming it lasts, would be tantamount to the most dramatic rupture in the Christian world since the split between East and West in 1054.

Aside from ecclesiastical and doctrinal motives, the Russian Orthodox have more practical reasons for objecting to autocephaly. Over the centuries, a large share of both the church’s priestly vocations and its faithful have always come from Ukraine, and the loss would undercut its claim to be the numerically dominant force in the Orthodox world.

Politically, there are fears the decision could provide a pretext for expanded Russian military activity in eastern Ukraine; ecumenically, some believe the move could fundamentally alter the calculus in Catholic/Orthodox dialogue, since, all of a sudden, the Russian Orthodox Church is no longer the 800-pound gorilla of Orthodoxy.

For His Beatitude Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, head of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine, the declaration of autocephaly is a natural extension of Ukraine’s desire for independence.

“What Ukraine needs now is the affirmation of its rights,” he said. “It’s not just the right to have an independent country but also to have its own interpretation of its religious past, present and future.”

Shevchuk spoke Oct. 13 in an interview with Crux at the Ukrainian Pontifical College of Saint Josaphat, home to Greek Catholic priests and seminarians in the Eternal City.

While insisting that he can’t enter into the internal affairs of other churches, Shevchuk made abundantly clear that in the struggle between Constantinople and Moscow, he finds Constantinople’s reasoning more persuasive.

“Everyone speaks of the clash between patriarchs, of juridical acts that have been cancelled, everyone talks about canonical territory,” he said. “But no one underlines that this gesture has given communion with the Church of Christ to almost 20 million Ukrainians who, in this way, feel a caress from their Mother Church.”

Moscow, he said, appears to have a different logic.

“We’ve heard the language of threats, blackmail, and also ultimatums,” he said. “It’s hard for me to say what will happen, because for me it’s hard to enter into this logic of geopolitical debate. I think in terms of the logic of the care of souls.”

Shevchuk also said he’s “serene” about the fallout from the decision in Ukraine, because the country’s “simple people” have no desire for a religious civil war.

The following are excerpts from the Crux interview with Shevchuk, which was conducted in Italian and translated by Crux into English.

Autocephaly for the Orthodox Church in Ukraine is a process with great relevance for the country, and it’s also a delicate process and one with a geopolitical impact. How is this being lived by the Catholic community in Ukraine?

I must say that in recent days we saw some historic moments that have not been seen in the Church for hundreds of years. I must admit that we haven’t yet completely understood what has happened. The Catholic community is a part of Ukrainian society, so the feelings that our faithful have are the sentiments of society. There’s a feeling that the Mother Church [Constantinople] has shown her healing instincts for her children. This is the feeling of the Ukrainian society.

I must say that as a representative of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, I don’t feel authorized to give a canonical or historic (continued on next page)
interpretation, nor am I authorized to enter in the internal affairs of the Orthodox Church to take a position on who’s right and who’s made a mistake.

But, from my observation as a shepherd to whom God has entrusted the care of souls, I must say that in these two weeks I’ve just witnessed two epochal events in Christ’s Universal Church, which, according to me, can be explained together. These are events which, without a doubt, will make history, and will be a new turning point in the life of the Church for this new moment we’re entering.

You will ask, what are these two epochal events? One is the fact that the Holy Father Pope Francis has given communion to the seven Catholic bishops of China who, until now, weren’t in full and visible communion with the successor of Peter. In fact, there’s a clandestine Church that is persecuted.

I remember still the tears of the Holy Father, who was moved during his homily in the opening Mass of the Synod [talking about the two Chinese bishops present]. Why was he moved? Because he understood that this is not about the bishops whom, as an act of mercy, he’s brought to full communion. It’s about millions of simple faithful, simple Catholic Christians in China who in this way have returned to the womb of the mother Church.

From a canonical perspective or a political perspective, many criticize the decision. But what is the sense of it? To put the well-being of the person as a supreme value above the observance of the rules. The person is more important than ideas.

**The other event?**

The other one is the decision of the synod directed by the Patriarch of Constantinople to give ecclesial communion to the two structures of the Orthodox churches in Ukraine which, until now, have been called ‘non-canonical’, meaning cut off from the Mother Church, that of Constantinople and all Orthodoxy.

Everyone speaks of the clash between patriarchs, of juridical acts that have been cancelled, everyone talks about canonical territory. But no one underlines that this gesture has given communion with the Church of Christ to almost 20 million Ukrainians who, in this way, feel a caress from the Mother Church.

**How do you explain these two together?**

I cannot get into the mind of the Patriarch of Constantinople nor that of Moscow, but I see a similarity in the gestures: the well-being of the simple Orthodox Ukrainian has prevailed in the decision by the Patriarch of Constantinople. I can already imagine the tears of the Patriarch Bartholomew of all these people who, on Sunday, will celebrate this decision.

I don’t want to get into the internal affairs of the Orthodox Church, their diplomacy, nor their historical and canonical disputes. But what I perceive as a pastor is that, finally, this question has been resolved: will the members of these non-canonical churches have eternal salvation or not? Only the Orthodox had the faculties and power to respond to that. And the Mother Church of Constantinople, that is also our Mother Church, has responded in the affirmative way.

**Are you worried, serene, or a mix of both?**

I am serene because from all sides, there even is an explicit point from The Patriarchate of Constantinople to do everything so that there is no violence. Everyone in Ukraine today understands that religious peace is not only important for the churches, but for our entire nation. Who today would be interested in provoking tension, disencounter? It’s the enemy of Ukraine, to make visible the “catastrophicity” of the decision that’s been taken. But from that which I can foresee, I don’t perceive in the simple people any will to combat.

We Ukrainians are a peaceful people. We value respect of the other as a supreme value. So, I don’t believe that without inspiration, without intentionally delivered provocation, there will be clashes in Ukraine. Obviously, this decision made by Constantinople will provoke many questions. Today, after this lifting of the excommunication, we have three churches, three parallel structures in the same territory, and this is an anomaly that must be healed.

For this reason, it is said that the next step is not the publication of the thomos of autocephaly, but a period or a process of unification, unity among these three churches.

(continued on next page)
You think what’s needed isn’t autocephaly but unification?

What Ukraine needs now is the affirmation of its rights. It’s not just the right to have an independent country but also to have its own interpretation of its religious past, present and future. It’s the right to have its own voice, that can make heard not only in global Orthodoxy but also in the Catholic Church the feelings, the joys and also the fears of the Ukrainian people.

Up to this point, the only authorized party to speak in the name of Orthodoxy in Ukraine has been the Patriarchate of Moscow. The other voice has been ours, the voice of the Greek Catholics, which has always represented a different vision, an alternative way of interpreting things. Now, it would be very interesting if the voice of Ukrainian Orthodoxy itself can be added to the symphony of the Orthodox world, so that they can give witness to their own identity and also their history.

Do you think the emergence of an independent Orthodoxy in Ukraine will help ecumenical dialogue with Rome?

I have to say, this step by the Church of Constantinople has destroyed certain schemes of ecumenical dialogue that took hold during the time of the Cold War. The primary and privileged interlocutor in this dialogue in the context of the Cold War and Ostpolitik was always Moscow. Dialogue with the entire Orthodox world was understood in this direction. Now, it has to be rethought, not only in terms of how to conduct the dialogue, which has to be updated, but the entire concept has to be rethought. There are various expressions of Orthodoxy.

Perhaps this will be interesting for highlighting various forms of ecumenical dialogue. Up to this point, we Catholics often have projected upon the Orthodox world an ecclesial form that’s basically Catholic. A single Orthodoxy doesn’t exist, like there’s a single Catholic Church. What you have are various local Orthodox churches. It’s a mistake to consider one of these churches as an exclusive spokesman for all. I think the one that really has to be respected, according to the rules of the Orthodox world, is the Patriarch of Constantinople, because, he’s the first among equals.

Therefore, this gesture is also a challenge. I’ve said that these two events will mark a new period in the history of the Universal Church. I don’t believe it will be an easy period, but definitely interesting, and also an impulse of the Holy Spirit.

How do you think Moscow will respond?

The Patriarchate of Moscow thinks in geopolitical categories. We’ve heard used so far the concept of canonical territory, not the territory of the human heart or the human soul, which is the territory where God lives as the temple of the Holy Spirit. We’ve heard the language of threats, blackmail, and also ultimatums. It’s hard for me to say what will happen, because for me it’s hard to enter into this logic of geopolitical debate. I think in terms of the logic of the care of souls.

The threats that have already been pronounced involve the rupture of communion between the two patriarchates. [Note: this interview was conducted two days prior to the official announcement of the rupture.] Some extremists of the Russian Orthodox Church already have warned since Constantinople has lifted the excommunication of the schismatic Orthodox in Ukraine, that the Patriarch himself ought to be excommunicated and a new Patriarchate of Constantinople should be created because this one has fallen into heresy. This is the language that’s appeared in the press.

We’re waiting for the official position of the Russian Orthodox Church, but the logic one senses isn’t that of pastoral care of souls but that of power. I can’t talk to this logic, I don’t understand it. For me, what’s more understandable is the logic of the Mother Church that’s worried about its children, that ought to be willing to sacrifice itself for the good of a person, not for the good of the institution.

In this moment, you can’t be fighting for public image or power, for possession or control of a territory. It must be about the maternal care of a Mother Church for her children in Ukraine. Can I condemn this logic? No.


Happy Birthday!

З Днем народження!

Nov. 13: Archbishop-emeritus Stefan Soroka
Nov. 14: Rev. D. George Worschak
Nov. 22: Rev. Roman Dubitsky
Nov. 26: Rev. Wasyl Bunik

May the Good Lord Continue to Guide You and Shower You with His Great Blessings. Mnohaya Lita!

Нехай Добрий Господь Тримає Вас у Своїй Опіці та Щедро Благословить Вас. Многая Літа!

Congratulations on your Anniversary of Priesthood!

Вітаємо з Річницею Священства!

Nov. 8: Rev. Roman Pitula (20th Anniversary)
Nov. 12: Rev. Gregory Maslak 46th Anniversary)
Nov. 15: Rev. Deacon Donald Latrick (28th Anniv.)
Nov. 18: Rev. Deacon Theophil Staruch (28th Anniv.)
Nov. 22: Rev. Vasyl Sivinskyi (26th Anniversary)
Nov. 30: Rev. Wasyl Kharuk (26th Anniversary)

May God Grant You Many Happy and Blessed Years of Service in the Vineyard of Our Lord!

Нехай Бог Обдарує Багатьма Благословенными Роками Служіння в Господньому Винограднику!

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