



EPARCHIAL NEWSLETTER

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Van Nuys

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HOLY FATHER ORDAINS BISHOPS FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN, UKRAINIAN EPARCHIES

Ordinations were held at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome on Monday, January 6 (Theophany) for two Bishops of the Byzantine-Ruthenian Rite. They, along with ten others, were ordained to the episcopacy by Pope John Paul II.

The newly ordained hierarch, Bishop Jan Babjak, SJ, is now Bishop of Presov, Slovakia. Bishop Babjak, age 49, was born in Slovakia on October 28, 1953. He studied theology at SS Cyril and Methodius in Bratislava. In 1978, after his ordination to the priesthood, he was incardinated into the Eparchy of Presov. He continued his studies at the Pontifical Orientale Institute in Rome and earned a licentiate degree in spirituality and doctorate. Before his appointment as Eparch, he served as the director of The Michael Lacko, SJ East-West Spirituality Center in Kosice and taught Eastern spirituality at the Theological Faculty of the University of Trnava.

Most Reverend Milan Sasik, CM, was ordained bishop of the Eparchy of Mukachevo, Ukraine. Bishop Sasik, a former official at the Vatican Embassy in Kiev, was born on September 17, 1952 in Lechoti, Slovakia. He entered the Congre-

gation of the Mission on July 31, 1971. On June 6, 1976, he was ordained to the priesthood. He served as a pastor, a chaplain, and held various offices within the order. Prior to his appointment as Eparch of Mukachevo, Bishop Sasik served as pastor in Perechyn in the Transcarpathia region, serving the Latin and Byzantine Catholics. The Mukachevo Eparchy is the mother eparchy of the Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh.

Bishop Milan Sasik succeeds Bishop Ivan Semedi, who recently retired and Bishop Babjak succeeds Bishop Jan Hirka, who also recently retired.

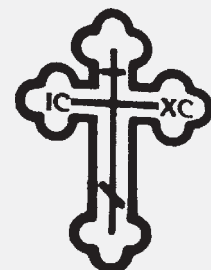
The Holy Father's message to the bishops, "*The proclamation of the saving love of God...*" is the mission entrusted to them. He continues, "*Make the beauty of the Gospel, the compendium of divine charity, shine before the eyes of the flocks entrusted to you. Offer the whole Christian people a clear witness of holiness. Be always the epiphany of Christ and His merciful love, and nothing will prevent you from bringing this mission to completion.*"

Bishop William's 2003 Lenten Message

We prepare for the celebration of Easter during the season of the Great Lenten Fast. Since the time of prophets, fasting has helped to discern mission to his people and to receive insight into God's plan for them.

This Lent, our nation will be standing on the brink of war or be at war. We begin each celebration of the Divine Liturgy praying for peace. We always pray for the men and women who defend our country and for our civil authorities. However, for a Christian, going to war is always the solution of last resort.

As we fast and pray for peace, we also renew our relationship with the Lord. John Paul II's Lenten message reminds us that our fasting decreases our selfishness and increases our openness to service to others. We ask the Lord to give our leaders and all of us wisdom and peace for our nation and for the world.



Eparchy of Van Nuys
Financial Statement

December -1, 2002
(unaudited)

ASSETS (as of Dec. 31, 2002)

Cash and Liquid Investments	\$17,047
Restricted accounts:	
Medical Insurance	\$100,300
Pension Account	\$602,072
Development Account	\$ 86,035
Savings	\$444,499
Seminary	\$100,380
Investment - Parish Assistance	\$404,719
Notes Receivable	\$190,224
Investment- Stocks	\$106,865
Property, Furn & Equip, Net of Dep.	\$411,080
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,463,221

LIABILITIES (as of Dec. 31, 2002)

Accounts Payable	
Parishes	\$0
Begining Proprietary Interest	\$2,027,915
Prior Period Adjustment	\$1,233
Fund Balance	\$434,073
Ending Proprietary Interest	\$2,463,221
TOTAL LIAB. & PROP. INT.	\$2,463,221

EXPENSES

Cash in/out	\$5,100
Assessments	\$2,657
Bishop's Appeal Distribution	\$53,874
Diocesan Salaries, Compensation	\$95,403
Insurances	\$127,153
Meeting: Eparchial	\$2,301
Liturgical	\$301
El Camino Property	\$349
Retirement Benefits	\$35,950
Residence-Macrina Manor	\$70,335
Residence-Bishop	\$29,629
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	\$24,341
Supplies, Postage, etc	\$9,524
Religious Education	\$3,900
Seminary	\$24,003
Special Collections	\$18,427
Taxes	\$3,825
Travel: Diocesan	\$2,624
Travel: Mission	\$3,115
Travel - car & ins	\$2,386
Utilities,	\$5,300
Donations	\$2,791
Telephone	\$3,352
Maintenance-Renovation, etc	\$200
Pastoral Center Rent	\$14,400
Legal Matter	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$541,240

REVENUE

Cash In/out (MISC)	\$0
ABCM	\$100,000
Bishop's Appeal	\$224,994
Cathedraticum	\$235,554
Gifts-Donations	\$279,491
Matrimonial Tribunal	\$2,500
Medical Insurance	\$97,500
Pension	\$26,100
Special Collections	\$15,468
Publications & Liturgical Supplies	\$100
Residence -Real Estate	\$8,400
Seminary - Reimbursement	\$24,591
Investment Income	\$19,830
Intinc -CD income/inv. interest	\$8,839
Unrizd Gain/Loss	(\$68,054)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$975,313

REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

\$434,073

FATHER PHILLIP ACQUARO HONORED AT LUNCHEON

Father Phil Acquaro, CSB, JCL was honored recently for his years of service as Police Chaplain to Central City Precinct, Phoenix, AZ. He was presented with plaques by Departmental, Precinct and Past Precinct Commanders for his dedicated service.

Since 1990, Fr. Phil has been a "constant, visible presence..." at the city precinct offices. "Many times he brought treats--such as homemade cookies that his Mom made--for the officers. He blessed houses, baptized nearly a hundred babies, and performed nearly fifty marriages." He was hailed as a counselor, friend and spiritual guide to many.

ted: "He has made a difference in our lives and has become a permanent member of our police force."

Fr. Phil is pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle parish in Gilbert, AZ. He also serves on the Tribunal for the Diocese of Phoenix.



The officers and staff members showed their gratitude to Fr. Phil for his twelve years of service and sta-

Fr. Acquaro, recipient of Central City Precinct distinctions, is flanked by past precinct commanders from the City of Phoenix.

Bishop's Appeal 2003

PARISH	PASTOR	FAMILIES	\$ GOAL	
Albuquerque, NM	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Rev Zugger	83	\$ 16,600
Anaheim, CA	Church of the Annunciation	Msgr Vida	101	\$ 20,200
Anchorage, AK	St. Nicholas of Myra	Rt Rev Izer	45	\$ 9,000
Denver, CO	Holy Protection	Rev Frank	56	\$ 11,200
Fontana, CA	St. Nicholas of Myra	Rev Hutsko	35	\$ 7,000
Gilbert, AZ	St. Thomas the Apostle	Rev Acquaro	50	\$ 10,000
Las Vegas, NV	Our Lady of Wisdom	Rt Rev Vivona	40	\$ 8,000
Las Vegas, NV	St. Gabriel the Archangel	Rev Pipta	91	\$ 18,200
Los Gatos, CA	St. Basil the Great	Rev Hernandez	25	\$ 5,000
Olympia, WA	St. George	Rev Perry	33	\$ 6,600
Phoenix, AZ	St. Stephen Pro-Cathedral	Rt Rev Washko	130	\$ 26,000
Portland, OR	St. Irene	Rev Burnette	21	\$ 4,200
Sacramento, CA	St. Phillip the Apostle	Rev Izzo	23	\$ 4,600
San Diego, CA	Holy Angels	Rev Rybarczyk	74	\$ 14,800
San Luis Obispo, CA	St. Anne	Rev Idranyi	43	\$ 8,600
Seattle, WA	St. John Chrysostom	Rev Stanichar	84	\$ 16,800
Sherman Oaks, CA	St. Mary Cathedral	Msgr Moran	100	\$ 20,000
Spokane, WA	SS. Cyril & Methodius	Rev O'Brien	35	\$ 7,000
Tucson, AZ	St. Melany	Rev Rankin	52	\$ 10,400
TOTAL:	19 Parishes		1121	\$224,200

Pastoral Visits

Continue:

St. Anne San Luis Obispo, California

A pastoral visit was made by Bishop William to St. Anne's parish of San Luis Obispo, CA during the weekend of January 18-19, 2003.

Bishop toured the Old Mission San Luis de Tolosa, visited the Museum and stopped at a local university. On Sunday he celebrated the Divine Liturgy assisted by the pastor, Reverend Edmund M. Idranyi. After the Liturgy he was introduced to the parishioners of St. Anne. A pot luck luncheon followed.



Bishop William Skurla, Fr. Edmund give the blessing prior to luncheon at parish.

Deacon Candidates Announced

The following deacon candidates have been approved by the Eparchy of Van Nuys:

Mr. Joel I. Barstad	<i>(Holy Protection, Denver, CO)</i>
Mr. John F. Bradley	<i>(St. Anne, San Luis Obispo, CA)</i>
Mr. Marc Brown	<i>(Annunciation Parish, Anaheim, CA)</i>
Mr. James V. Danovich	<i>(St. Stephen Pro-Cath., Phoenix, AZ)</i>
Mr. Brian Escobedo	<i>(Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Abq., NM)</i>
Brother John Gray, BBSF	<i>(St. Francis Monastery, Redlands, CA)</i>
Mr. Michael J. Hanafin, Jr.	<i>(St. Stephen Pro-Cath., Phoenix, AZ)</i>
Mr. Michael J. Mandelas	<i>(St. John Chrysostom, Seattle, WA)</i>
Mr. Michael V. Mina	<i>(Cathedral of St. Mary, Sherman Oaks, CA)</i>
Mr. Michael Sullivan	<i>(St. Thomas the Apostle, Gilbert, AZ)</i>
Monk Moses Wright	<i>(Holy Resurrection, Newberry Springs, CA)</i>

May the Lord richly bless each of them and their families as they begin their studies at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA in June.

God Grant them Many Years!

DEATH OF BISHOP EMERITUS ANNOUNCED

The Eparchy of SS Cyril and Methodius, Toronto, Ontario, Canada announced the death of Bishop Emeritus, Michael Rusnak, CSsR. He fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, January 22, 2003. Funeral Liturgy was held at Cathedral of the Transfiguration, Markham, Ontario, Canada on January 25, 2003.

ETERNAL MEMORY!

EPARCHY OF VAN NUYS

2003 BYZANTEEN YOUTH RALLY

“ON HOLY GROUND”

June 26 - June 29, 2003

St. Melany Byzantine Catholic Church
Tucson, AZ

Watch for further information...coming to your parish soon!

www.byzanteen.com...the official ByzanTEEN ebsite!



Around the Eparchy:

St. John Damascene Icon Workshop

Saint John Damascene Icon Workshop began at St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church in Seattle, Washington under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Weber of Olympia, WA. The writing of icons continues today under the guidance of Mrs. Judit Crow and Father Joseph M. Stanichar and with the collaboration of experts.

Holy Icons are necessary to continue the work of the Archetypal Icon, the Holy Incarnation. Icons become an embodiment of the energy of their divine source and reflection of His Word in pigment and paint. The nature and function of the icon is the content and composition of sacred tradition and faith. It is a labor of love to properly write an icon. The holy icon is always the work of the Holy Spirit.

Many beautiful icons have been produced in the workshop over several years. Icons from the workshop grace homes, chapels, and churches across the United States. None are for sale and commissions are discouraged.



Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Joseph Stanichar is pictured “writing” icon in his studio at St. John Damascene Workshop, Seattle, WA.

Those wishing to study at St. John Damascene Icon Workshop are welcomed on the following conditions: they are willing to pray with the iconographers; they can accept criticism of their work and they will follow the precise guidance of the teachers. Fasting is required. Through fasting and prayer, the Holy Spirit will guide the hand and heart in every effort.

Rooted in the liturgical meditations of the Byzantine Tradition and the Holy Images, God reveals Himself.

ALBUQUERQUE’S OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CELEBRATES WINTER BREAK WITH BYZANTEENS

ByzanTEENS were welcomed in New Mexico by Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish of Albuquerque. Several parishes from the west participated in a five day winter retreat including St. Stephen Pro-Cathedral (Phoenix,

AZ), St. Thomas the Apostle (Gilbert, AZ), St. Melany (Tucson, AZ) and St. Nicholas (Fontana, CA). A guest participant joined the group from Eparchy of Parma’s Annunciation Parish in Lockport, IL.



ByzanTEENS hosted in New Mexico by Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish, Albuquerque, NM.

The youth spent time participating in prayer, liturgical services and workshops. Rev. Chris Zuger, pastor of OLPH, along with Seminarian Michael O’Loughlin and Mr. Brian Escobedo organized the retreat for the 13 – 22 year-olds. Presentations included: the defense of basic Byzantine Catholic practices, criticisms of the Catholic Church and peer pressure. Moral choices, prayer and how the Holy Mysteries support us through life rounded the programming.

ByzanTEEN agenda includes a yearly Eparchial retreat each summer. The winter retreat was the first of its kind and was met with enthusiastic response by the teen members, adult chaperones and clergy.

The Holy and Great Fast 2003

Fasting Regulations

Strict Fast forbids the use of meat, eggs, dairy products and condiments made from animal fats and is observed on Pure Monday—the first day of the Great Fast—(March 3rd) and on Good Friday (April 18). The use of synthetic substitutes violates the spirit of the Great Fast.

Simple Fast forbids the use of meat and meat products and is observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast and on Holy Saturday.

All Byzantine Catholics are to keep the Fast. Infants, expectant and nursing mothers, and those who are seriously ill or in poor health are exempt from the Strict Fast.

For grave and particular reasons, pastors and religious superiors may dispense their subjects of the responsibilities of observing the Strict Fast, but should replace it with another penitential practice.

Liturgical Directives

Divine Liturgy

1. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated on the Sundays of Great Fast.
2. Bright vestments, except on the Third Sunday when red is used for the Holy Cross, are used on the Sundays of the Great Fast.
3. On the weekdays of the Great Fast, the celebration of the Divine Liturgy is forbidden.
4. In place of daily Divine Liturgy, one of the Lenten Hours is to be celebrated in each parish.

Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

1. Beginning no earlier than 5:00 PM and no later than 9:00 PM, the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts is celebrated on Wednesdays and/or Fridays of the Great Fast.
2. It may also be celebrated on Pure Monday and on the Fifth Thursday of the Great Fast (Andrew of Crete) and is also celebrated on Tuesday and Wednesday of Great Week.
3. On Tuesday and Wednesday of Great Week it may be celebrated as early as Noon.

All Souls' Saturdays

The All Souls' Saturdays are to be celebrated with Divine Liturgy on the specific Saturdays with the reading of the Diptychs for the deceased. The reading of the Diptychs or the celebration of the All Souls' Divine Liturgy may not be anticipated on Friday evening.

Let us begin the time of this bright Fast, giving ourselves over to spiritual struggle. Let us sanctify our soul and purify our flesh. Let us not fast only from food; let us also abstain from every passion and cultivate spiritual virtues. And let us faithfully persevere in this, so that we may be worthy to see the holy Passion of Christ our God and the joy of His holy Resurrection.

--Cheesefare Sunday, Vespers