



Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation
Rebuilding the Church in Ukraine

Ukrainian Catholic NEWSLETTER

Young Theologians Celebrate New Center

A new Theological Center for the Ukrainian Catholic Church, including new premises for Holy Spirit Seminary, was inaugurated in Lviv, Ukraine, on August 28. To celebrate the event, 250 graduates of the seminary and the Ukrainian Catholic University held a theological conference called *Kairos*, classical Greek for “the crucial time.”

Donors of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation like you provide continuing support to educate seminarians, nuns, and future lay Catholic leaders at the seminary and university. UCEF donations are also supporting the construction of the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology Building, to be inaugurated at a later date, where the center’s main classrooms will be located.

Most of the participants of the conference were in their 20s or 30s, religious, priests, and laity. Since graduation, many have received advanced degrees or are still working on them in Vatican-based institutions in Rome, and schools like the University of Notre Dame, the Catholic University of America, and even Oxford. Some of the young scholars are now working in church institutions, like the university.

Lasting Activities, in Peace

“The Church needs you,” said Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, to the participants of the *Kairos* conference. “The theologian doesn’t exist for himself. He ponders over divine revelation and tries to understand and pass this on to his neighbors... Today, we begin anew with hope that this time our activities will be more lasting and left in peace.”

The pre-war Lviv Theological Academy was inaugurated in 1928, but shut down by the Soviets in 1944. Many of the priests who studied there became leaders in the underground Church that existed under Communist persecution. And seven of the new Ukrainian Catholic martyrs beatified by Pope John Paul II were students and staff at the academy. The academy was revived in 1994 and inaugurated as the Ukrainian Catholic University in 2002.



Religious and lay graduates of the Ukrainian Catholic University gather for a conference of young theologians.

Between the closing of the pre-war academy and its revival in 1994, Ukrainian theological study went through a crisis, with only a handful of stalwarts entirely dedicated to “the scholarly harvest,” as UCU alumnus Markian Filevych puts it. “Against such a more than humble background,” adds Filevych, “the beginning of the 21st century looks like it has much promise.” Filevych now teaches iconography and sacred architecture at the university.

A Gift for the Church

On the first night of the conference, the young theologians made a gift to Cardinal Husar: their dissertations, published reference works, and journal articles.

Among their accomplishments, the graduates successfully ran the Christmas Together project, bringing eastern and western Ukrainians together to celebrate in Lviv in January 2005. They helped develop communities for the mentally disabled. They have also organized numerous summer programs, including evangelization projects throughout the country, and done many translations of theological literature.

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Reflections from the UCEF President

John F. Kurey, Esq., president of the UCEF, reflects on 2005.



“You did it!”

*“What is whispered in your ear,
proclaim from the roofs.”
Matthew 10:27*

Dear Friends in Christ:

Your generosity, and the generosity of donors like you throughout the United States, is achieving miracles and continues to defy the skeptics. In a year with so many other needs you supported the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation more than ever and immensely helped the Church!

The result? Your gifts paid for over half of the operating expenses of the Ukrainian Catholic University in 2004 and in 2005! You helped educate hundreds of seminarians, nuns and lay students at the first Catholic university founded on the territory of the former Soviet Union. And the education that these seminarians, nuns and lay students receive at the UCU cannot be provided anywhere else in the world! You made this possible! Thank you!

One example of this incredible support was the reception that greeted Fr. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University, when he visited New York City, Chicago and Detroit in November of 2005. In each city, hundreds of people turned out to meet Fr. Gudziak and responded to his appeal for help. In the end, over \$450,000 was collected at these events – enough to pay for the cost of running the university for *four full months!*

Another wonderful development in 2005 was achieved through television. “Light in the East: The Ukrainian Catholic University,” an original program created by EWTN Global Catholic Television, aired in November 2005. The host was Cardinal Francis George, Roman Catholic archbishop of Chicago, who traveled to Ukraine last summer. Over 10 million viewers worldwide saw the program, and we have received many phone calls.

The needs of the Church in Ukraine are very great, but the opportunity to do the Lord’s work there is also very great. Your generosity means everything to the cause in Ukraine. Thank you for your ongoing support for rebuilding the Church in Ukraine.

May God bless you!

Spring 2006 Events

March 19: Rector’s Luncheon
North Port, Florida

March 26: Rector’s Luncheon
Parma, Ohio

April 1: Rector’s Dinner
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Watch your mailbox for details! Or feel free to call the UCEF office in Chicago at (773) 235-8462!

New Director for UCEF Canada

Welcome to Lada Darewych, UCEF Canada’s new administrative director. She comes to the UCEF from the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada and has also worked on events for the Canadian Olympic Committee and the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Centre in Toronto. Outside of her administrative and fundraising experience, Ms. Darewych is an accomplished actress and musical theatre performer.

University Rector is Guest at U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Fr. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University, visited parts of the U.S. and Canada in November. In addition to attending fundraising dinners with predominantly Ukrainian audiences in New York, Chicago, and Detroit, Fr. Gudziak was a guest at the meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops held in Washington, D.C.

Newsletter Editor Honored

Matthew Matuszak, editor of this newsletter, was recently honored by the Catholic Press Association. His story on a married Ukrainian Catholic priest and his family, “Serving Church and Family,” published in the January-February 2004 issue of *ONE*, the magazine of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, received an Honorable Mention in the category “Personalities.” The UCEF, the Ukrainian Catholic University and Holy Spirit Seminary, and CNEWA have had an ongoing partnership for a number of years.



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Publications Mail No. 40884051

Ecumenical Institute Works for Reconciliation



Dr. Konrad Raiser, former secretary general of the World Council of Churches (left), meets Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church (right), at the Ukrainian Catholic University.

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies of the Ukrainian Catholic University was just inaugurated in June. But, since the inaugural conference, Director Antoine Arjakovsky has already met with Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, leader of the Anglican Communion, and Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople (on November 7).

The institute's work has the Catholic world's attention, as well. Though unable to attend the inauguration, Pope Benedict XVI was there in his thoughts. Speaking on June 23 to a Rome gathering of organizations that aid the Eastern Churches, the Holy Father said: "foster all that encourages reconciliation and brotherhood among the Christians of beloved Ukraine."

Earlier that month, 300 participants, Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant, gathered in Lviv, Ukraine, to work for reconciliation.

Family Institute Speaks out

Hundreds of thousands of abortions are performed in Ukraine yearly. "So many abortions shows the ruin of traditional family moral values," said Petro Husak of the Institute of Marriage and Family Life of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU). The institute's latest major effort was co-organizing a national conference, Abortion: Denying the Right to Life.

Held in Kyiv (Kiev), the country's capital, on December 3 at the prestigious Ukrainian House, the conference gathered more than 100 specialists in abortion's influence on the female organism and the psychic, demographic, economic and other effects of abortion on society. Among those taking part were doctors, lawyers, psychologists, and theologians.

Also, at the invitation of the institute, Victoria Thorn, founder and president of Project Rachel, visited UCU and other sites in western Ukraine in June. Project Rachel is the post-abortion counseling service of the U.S. Catholic bishops.

The institute is also involved in ongoing research and publishing, organizes UCU's pro-life group, and teaches extension classes on Christian family values and natural family planning in three cities, with hopes to teach in Kyiv, if funding can be found. UCU students go to local schools and talk with teenagers about family values, chastity, and the evil of abortion.

"Ukraine can become 'a laboratory of unity,'" said Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, greeting the conference. "But for this to happen, it needs to get rid of political, economic and other factors that put obstacles in the way of mutual understanding... People happily welcome meetings and joint prayers by hierarchs of different denominations. So what are we lacking to achieve unity? I believe we are lacking a concrete idea of what we are looking for. People have a desire, but don't have a specific description," he emphasized.

To encourage the Ukrainians in their efforts, more than 40 guests from the U.S., Canada, France, Belgium, Poland, Switzerland, and Italy came. Among the presenters at the conference were Archbishop Antony Shcherba of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, Dr. Konrad Raiser, former secretary general of the World Council of Churches, and Archbishop Ihor Isichenko of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

"For many centuries the church has suffered from an unacceptable division," said Archbishop Ivan Jurkovic, apostolic nuncio to Ukraine. "Because of human degradation, the flock of Christ was divided and remains so today." He praised the Ukrainian Catholic University for opening the Institute of Ecumenical Studies and expressed hope that its work will add a fresh impetus to improving mutual understanding among different churches.

University Prays for UCEF Donors

On Thursday November 24, Thanksgiving Day in the U.S., the community of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv offered special prayers during the daily Divine Liturgy in the UCU chapel for all the donors of the UCEF, who make the work of the university possible. Coincidentally, that was a special day at the university, the feast of St. Theodore the Studite, and the Liturgy was celebrated in its ancient Greek-language text. And in Greek "Eucharist" means to give thanks. Thanks again to all our donors!



Fr. Volodymyr Liupak, a graduate of and now chaplain at the Ukrainian Catholic University, prays for UCEF donors at a special Liturgy.

In the Mission Fields

To Hear a Child's Prayer in the Poltava Region

The Mission Society of the Ukrainian Catholic University, sponsored by the UCEF, supports the mission trips of seminarians, nuns, lay students and graduates of the Ukrainian Catholic University to various parts of Ukraine and beyond.

Among the places evangelized in 2005 were southern Ukrainian Crimea, various locations in eastern Ukraine, and even Siberia! Among those who had the opportunity to hear the Good News were young people in Ukraine's Armed Forces, from which the name of God was banished for so many decades, and other youth from various regions who grow up often deprived of a Christian upbringing.

Iryna Kulchytska, a fifth-year student at the Ukrainian Catholic University, gives here a first-hand account of her mission trip to the village of Demenky, in central-eastern Ukraine's Poltava region, in summer 2005.

The village of Demenky, to which our evangelization group traveled, is lost in the steppes of the Poltava region. The village was established at the end of the 1950s as a settlement site for people who had come out of prison and concentration camps, and also for "Westerners," those who had been forced out of their native lands by Operation Vistula. [Editor's note: At the end of World War II, new boundaries were set for Poland and the Soviet Union. Many Ukrainians who found themselves in Polish territory were forcibly "repatriated" to Soviet Ukraine under an action called "Operation Vistula," referring to a river in Poland.]

Those few Catholic families who had initiated the founding of the parish had already moved out of the village. One family remained. A priest and his family had arrived only two weeks before us. [Editor's note: In the Eastern Catholic Churches, married men can be ordained to the priesthood.]

So, together with Fr. Andriy Buniak, the newly-appointed pastor, we were given the opportunity to create a parish community from the very beginning. Together we had to haul off some building-material debris, and we decorated the newly-built church with icons so that the first Liturgy could be celebrated the next day.

This was the first church built in the whole history of the village, and the first and only Eastern-rite Catholic church-building in the Poltava region, where there are 10 other parishes where the Liturgy is celebrated in private homes. And this happened in this tiny, far-off village, where one Greek Catholic family was left. Didn't Jesus say to leave the 99 sheep and go search for one? Perhaps God has His great plan for this family.

"Let's pray that my dad stops drinking."

One of the first adult visitors to the church was a woman in a not-entirely sober state whom the priest had simply invited

Matching gifts - an opportunity

Does your employer (or former employer if you are now retired) offer matching gift donations? Corporations will often match the amount of your donation to charity. A matching gift from your employer can double or even triple the value of your gift. The UCEF qualifies for these programs in many cases. Information about matching gifts is available from your employer or from the UCEF.



Student Iryna Kulchytska, author of the article, is here seen (front left, holding a boy) with the family of the local priest and children of a small parish in central-eastern Ukraine's Poltava region.

off the street. There is a terrible problem with alcoholism here. In their prayers children, at first in whispers and then aloud, beg: "Let's pray that my dad stops drinking."

A child's loud "Lord, have mercy" was heard in the church for the first time. These kids are like all children: not quite nice and bickering, wounded by the alcoholism of their parents. Often they don't believe that Christian morality can take flesh in real life. But, together with these characteristics, these children are also so on fire with their own kind of sincerity and warmth that they became an example of moral behavior for us.

In Demenky we found ourselves fulfilling the obligation of these mothers and fathers who, because of their own upbringing in atheism, had not received the gift of faith themselves and were not able to bring their own children to God. When you teach a child to make the sign of the cross, you feel a kind of spiritual motherhood.

The sun shines on this village in Poltava's plains. A cherry branch bends down to your mouth. Ripe apricots turn red. In a summery way, untiring birds chirp on the trees. Hay gives off its scent. Village life is blooming in all its colors. There are so many villages like this in our Ukraine: hard-working, flowery, bearing fruit—and, at the same time, dead and thirsting for the Word of God!

A Happy 90th Birthday to a Bishop and a Friend!

Bishop Innocent Lotocky, OSBM, retired bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy (Diocese) of St. Nicholas in Chicago, recently reached the venerable age of 90. The event was celebrated by a party thrown by friends and admirers from Chicago and throughout the United States. Fr. Bernard Panczuk, OSBM, the pastor of St. George's Cathedral in New York City, who was once Bishop Innocent's assistant at Immaculate Conception Parish in Hamtramck, Michigan, flew to Chicago especially for the event!

Bishop Innocent is as active as ever in his priestly duties. He celebrates the 8:30 a.m. Liturgy at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Chicago each Sunday, and as the spiritual advisor for the local Seniors' Club he attends their weekly meetings where he delivers a homily.

In addition to his other duties, Bishop Innocent is a stalwart supporter of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation. In that capacity, he joins a number of his brethren Basilian Fathers as UCEF supporters, including Fr. Panczuk and Basilian Fathers in the Detroit and Chicago areas.

Bishop Innocent serves as trustee of the Cardinal Slipyj Trust Fund, which was established by Church supporter Yuriy Koval of Chicago upon his death in the 1990s. Mr. Koval's intention in creating the Trust Fund was to support the education of Ukrainian Catholic seminarians, particularly in Ukraine. Recognizing the immense importance of the Ukrainian Catholic University in educating hundreds of seminarians each year, Bishop Innocent made a \$10,000 grant



Bishop Innocent Lotocky, OSBM (left), in November presented Fr. Borys Gudziak (center) with a gift from the trust fund.

from the Trust to the UCEF in 2004 and 2005 during visits by UCU Rector Fr. Borys Gudziak to Chicago.

Commenting upon his execution of Mr. Koval's wishes to educate seminarians, Bishop Innocent recently remarked that "The Ukrainian Catholic University does an excellent job educating seminarians, and I am certain that Mr. Koval would have wanted his trust fund to support the UCU. I am proud to honor his intention." Displaying his trademark sense of humor, Bishop Innocent added, "And remember: I am innocent!"

Many happy and blessed years! Mnohaya I blahaya lita!

Effective Ways YOU Can Help the Church in Ukraine!

In order to help the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine more effectively, the UCEF suggests the following ways in which our donors can provide financial support.

Support Made Simpler!

Electronic Funds Transfer is a convenient way to make monthly contributions. Now you can have your contributions automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account without altering your banking relationship.

Appreciated Stocks or other Assets

The gift of an asset, often common stock or mutual fund shares, is a valuable way to make a contribution to a charitable organization and receive tax benefits based on the value of the asset(s).

Gifts of appreciated assets often involve stock, or other marketable assets, such as land, antiques, and homes, and can also be utilized as potential gifts with valuable tax benefits. However, these other assets are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Planned Giving

This is a creative way to contribute to the UCEF's work. Planned giving can involve contributing through your will, insurance policy, or retirement assets. Also, it can be a way to make a donation and to provide yourself with an income; a charitable remainder trust is one example of this.

For more information on any or all of these options, or if you have any questions or concerns, in the U. S. please contact Mary Anne Flanagan at (773) 235-8462 or e-mail flanagan@ucef.org. In Canada, please contact Lada Darenych at (416) 239-2495 or e-mail darenych@ucef.ca

Chicago Cardinal, Pilgrims Venerate Martyr's Shrine

The shrines of the martyrs continue to draw the faithful. During his May visit to Ukraine, sponsored and organized by the UCEF, Cardinal Francis George, Roman Catholic archbishop of Chicago, prayed at the shrine of Blessed Fr. Emilian Kowcz (or Kovch), one of the new martyrs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Cardinal George addressed 1,500 young pilgrims who had stopped in the western Ukrainian town of Peremyshliany (Lviv region) as part of an annual May pilgrimage on foot to the Studite Order's Monastery of the Dormition (Assumption).

Suffering for faithfulness to Christ and Church

"Peremyshliany suffered much for its faithfulness to Christ and the Catholic Church," recalled local Bishop Yulian Gbur, speaking to the gathered pilgrims. "The crown and witness of this faithfulness is the figure of the Blessed Martyr Emilian Kowcz. He was the pastor here for many years. His heroism lay in the fact that he was not afraid to stand up for his neighbors, even if they did not belong to his flock. Fr. Emilian hid the children of strangers, in particular children from Jewish families. He died at the Majdanek Concentration Camp in Poland, remaining a pastor to the prisoners until his death."

Born in 1884, Blessed Emilian was appointed pastor in Peremyshliany in 1922. His house was a shelter for orphans and a refuge for the poor. "Angels fly over this house," said Blessed Emilian's parishioners. During the Nazi occupation of the 1940s, he fought the prevailing anti-Semitic mood. He baptized Jews who asked him to, and he was called before the Gestapo when he asked permission to enter the ghetto to minister to Jews there who had converted to Christianity. In September 1943, he was brought to Majdanek, from which he never returned.

Even while imprisoned, he served the Liturgy, heard confessions, administered Communion, and consoled his fellow prisoners. Coaxing, threats, beatings and torture, all the Gestapo's methods of persuasion, did not shake his conviction. In his last letter sent from the death camp, he wrote: "I thank God for His kindness to me. Except for heaven, this is the only place I would want to be." Decades later, his family was able to determine that he had died in the concentration camp on March 25, 1944. His body was then burned up in the ovens. Pope John Paul II beatified Fr. Emilian Kowcz and 25 other new Ukrainian martyrs during his visit to Lviv in 2001.

An example of service to God and neighbor

Speaking to the pilgrims in Peremyshliany, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, called Blessed Emilian "the beautiful ornament of this city. His life is an example of service to God and neighbor."



Chicago Cardinal Francis George (center) prays over a pilgrim in the Church of Blessed Emilian Kowcz in Ukraine.

During a moleben (prayer service) to Blessed Emilian, Cardinal George reminded the pilgrims: "In the modern world, people are often under the influence of fear. The example of the life of Blessed Emilian, however, teaches us not to be afraid to do brave deeds, for God is with us."

After the moleben, Cardinal Husar blessed the pilgrims with the relics of Blessed Emilian that are kept on the altar of the church, recently re-named the Parish of St. Volodymyr and Blessed Emilian Kowcz.

A Lasting Gift

Have you considered including the UCEF in your will? A will is an expression of your commitment to the people and groups that you cherish here on earth. As a supporter of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, a bequest in your will ensures that the training of priests and rebuilding of the Church in Ukraine will continue after you are gone.

Suggested wording for a bequest:

"I give and bequeath to the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, ____% of the residue of my estate [or the sum of \$____] for its charitable, educational and religious purposes."

You can also make a special gift by sponsoring a seminarian or other Catholic student at the Ukrainian Catholic University this year. Please contact the UCEF for further information.