



# EPARCHIAL NEWSLETTER

## Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Van Nuys

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### **MOST REVEREND WILLIAM C. SKURLA ORDAINED AND ENTHRONED AS THIRD BISHOP OF VAN NUYS**



*Most Reverend William C. Skurla*

Kuzma, DD, retired Bishop of Van Nuys. The three Consecrators presented the Bishop-Elect with the vestments and symbols of the Office. In attendance was the Papal Nuncio, Most Reverend Gabriel Montalvo, JCD, who read aloud the decree of the Holy See of Rome.

Present at the ceremony were 16 Archbishops and Bishops both of Eastern and Roman diocese: Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of the Philadelphia Archdiocese; Archbishop Michael Sheehan of Santa Fe; Archbishop Roger Schwietz OMI of Anchorage, Alaska; Bishop John Elya and Nicholas Samra both of the Melkite Catholic Diocese of Newton, MA; Bishop Basil Losten of the Stamford, CT Ukrainian Diocese; Bishop Robert Moskal of

the St. Josaphat Diocese of Parma, OH; Bishop Thomas O'Brien of Phoenix; Bishop John Pazak, CsSR of the Slovak Eparchy of SS Cyril & Methodius of Ontario, Canada; Gerald Kicanas and Francis Quinn from Tucson Diocese and Very Rev. Archpriest John M. Kudrick, Administrator of the Pittsburgh Byzantine Eparchy, and presently Bishop-Elect of Parma. Priests, Deacons and religious Sisters and Brothers from all sections of the States numbered more than a hundred, and representatives from family and relatives, the Greek Catholic Union, the Knights of Columbus, the Secular Franciscan and laity from all the parishes of the Eparchy of Van Nuys as well as from other churches also attended.

Most Reverend William C. Skurla was ordained to the Episcopacy and Enthroned as third Bishop of the Eparchy of Van Nuys in a ceremony rich with the traditions of the Eastern Church on April 23, 2002 in St. Helen Roman Catholic Church in Glendale, Arizona. A Byzantine square altar and Icon screen were installed for the ceremonies.

Principal Consecrator was the Most Reverend Andrew Pataki, JCL, Administrator of the Metropolia and Bishop of Passaic, assisted by Most Reverend Basil Schott OFM, Bishop of Parma, and Most Reverend George



*The Bishops who gathered for the ordination and Enthronement*

# VERY REVEREND JOHN M. KUDRICK APPOINTED BISHOP OF PARMA



*Bishop Elect John Kudrick*

His Holiness John Paul II appointed Very Reverend John M. Kudrick Bishop-elect of Parma at the same time as Bishop Schott's elevation, and it was announced by the Papal Nuncio, Most Reverend Gabriel Montalvo, JCD.

Friends who know the two men, elevated at the same

time, say they share many similar qualities. Both Bishop Schott and Father Kudrick are products of Franciscan spirituality; both evidence ability for administrative detail and pastoral concern. One priest in the Pittsburgh area tells the story of a cousin, injured in a fall from a roof, whose pastor, Father Kudrick, arrived at the hospital to see him almost before the ambulance bringing him there.

Bishop-designate John Kudrick was born December 23, 1947 in Dunlo, PA. He entered the Third Order Regular of St. Francis in 1967. He attended St. Francis College in Loretto, PA where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics in 1970. He made perpetual profession of vows in 1972. Continuing his studies at Indiana State University, he received a Master of Science degree in math in 1975 and later in the same year of Master of divinity from St. Francis Seminary, Loretto.

Father John was ordained to the priesthood in 1975 and began serving on the Faculty of St. Francis College as Assistant Professor and Director of Computer Services. He also served as director of postulants for his Franciscan order from 1976 to 1980 and ministered in the parishes of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. He was incardinated in the archeparchy in 1987 and served in several parishes, the latest being the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Munhall as protopresbyter. He has also been serving as administrator of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh since the death of Metropolitan Archbishop Judson Procyk.

The ordination and enthronement for Bishop-elect Kudrick is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, 2002 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Parma, OH, at 2:00 p.m.

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## Bishop William Visits Denver, Tucson, and Gilbert Parishes

Bishop Skurla was able to make a brief visit at Holy Protection Parish in Denver, Colorado.

While there he blessed the Tabernacle and Baptismal Font in the church, and had an opportunity to meet the parishioners and see the general area of the parish.

His second visit was to return to St. Melany Church in Tucson as Bishop for a Divine Liturgy and a banquet. Several gift for liturgical use of the Bishop were blessed. The third visit was to St Thomas Church in Gilbert to bless the icon screen.



*Rev Chrysostom Frank (Holy Protection Denver) and Bishop William*

## BISHOP BASIL SCHOTT NAMED FOURTH METROPOLITAN OF PITTSBURGH



*Metropolitan-Elect Basil Schott  
along with Bishop Andrew Pataki  
and Bishop George Kuzma*

Most Reverend Basil Schott, OFM, was named Archbishop of Pittsburgh and Metropolitan of the Byzantine Metropolitan Church there by Pope John Paul II on May 3, 2002. The appointment was made known by the Apostolic Nuncio, Very Reverend Gabriel Montalvo JCD.

Bishop Basil, the third Bishop of Parma, was born July 21, 1939 in Freeland, PA, the son of the late Mary (Krusko) and Michael Schott. He is one of 5 children, his sister being Sister Helen of the Sisters of St. Basil of Uniontown. He was baptized Myron and attended catholic schools in Freeland and Hazleton.

Following graduation from St. Gabriel High School, Father entered the novitiate of the Byzantine Franciscans in 1958 and made profession of vows in 1959. He then attended Immaculate Conception College in Troy, NY, St. Mary Seminary, Norwalk, CT, and Post Graduate Center, New York.

From these academic studies, he holds a Bachelors degree in philosophy and theology and a Masters in theology and pastoral counseling.

Father Basil was ordained a priest on August 20, 1965, by Bishop Stephen Kocisko at the Franciscan Monastery in New Canaan, CT. Since then he has held various offices within the Byzantine Franciscan Order. Among these were: Major Superior, Director of formation, Director of vocations, Councilor, and Treasurer. In 1988 he was appointed a member of the General Visitation Team by the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor, to conduct visitations for various custodies in the United States.

In addition to these, Father had much experience in pastoral ministry in parishes in the Ruthenian, Ukrainian and Melkite Eparchies. He has given retreats, renewal programs and workshops throughout the United States and taught in Byzantine



*Metropolitan-Elect Basil Schott*

Catholic High in Parma and Bishop Hafey High in Hazleton.

The enthronement for Metropolitan-elect Basil is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2002, at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, PA at 2:00 p.m.



*Rusyn dancers performing at the Bishop's Ordination in Glendale AZ*

# STATEMENTS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF OUR METROPOLIA

## ON THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR NEW METROPOLITAN



*Bishop Pataki the principal consecrating Bishop giving Bishop William the Pastoral Staff*

With joy we received the announcement of the appointment of the Most Reverend Basil M. Schott, OFM, presently the Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma, succeeding the Most Rev. Judson Procyk of blessed

memory, as the fourth Archbishop of Pittsburgh and Metropolitan of the Byzantine Metropolitan church *sui juris* of Pittsburgh.

Through this appointment His Holiness, Pope John Paul II has placed his confidence in him that he will fulfill these two distinct offices of Archbishop and Metropolitan with responsibility, making every effort to serve the best interest of our Metropolia.

In the name of our Metropolia, as the Administrator, I sincerely congratulate Archbishop-elect and Metropolitan-elect Basil M. Schott, OFM, and assure him of our prayers and wholehearted support. The appointment is awesome and important, and the responsibilities are equally awesome and important.

May the special concern for the members of the Council of Hierarchs,

and clergy, and the beloved faithful of our Metropolia have the greatest priority, so that our church will flourish and progress under his leadership as we give greater honor and glory to Almighty God.

The Council of Hierarchs of our Metropolia, the clergy and religious assure our Archbishop-elect and Metropolitan-elect of our prayerful concern, asking the Holy Spirit to guide him in the fulfillment of his responsible ministry as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Metropolitan of our Metropolitan Church.

May the Lord grant him many happy, spiritual, and faithful years as he assumes these important offices and responsibilities. Na mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

## ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW BISHOP OF PARMA

In my capacity as Administrator of the Byzantine Metropolitan Church *sui juris* of Pittsburgh, it is my privilege and honor to announce that His Holiness, Pope John Paul II has appointed the Very Rev. Archpriest John M. Kudrick as the fourth Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma, succeeding the Most Reverend Basil M. Schott, OFM. Through this appointment His Holiness, Pope John Paul II has placed his confidence in him that he will responsibly fulfill this important office.

The Council of Hierarchs of our

Metropolitan Church, devoted clergy, and faithful extend our gratitude to His Holiness for his kindness and special concern for our Metropolitan Church, and especially the Church of Parma, through this appointment.

The confidence of His Holiness in Bishop-elect John M. Kudrick will assure the Eparchy of Parma the needed leadership and qualifications to shepherd this flock in imitation of Christ, the true Shepherd.

The Bishops, Council of Hierarchs of our Metropolia, the clergy and devoted faithful ensure

Bishop-elect Kudrick of our prayerful support, invoking the Holy Spirit to guide our new Bishop in the fulfillment of his responsible ministry, service and pastoral guidance as Shepherd of the Church of Parma.

May the Lord God grant him many happy, spiritual and faithful years as he assumes this important office as the successor of the apostles serving the clergy, religious and devoted faithful in the Eparchy of Parma for the honor and glory of Almighty God. Na mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita.

Most Rev. Andrew Pataki, JCL, D.D..

Administrator of the Byzantine Metropolitan Church *sui juris* of Pittsburgh  
Bishop of Passaic

## LAS VEGAS PARISHES MARK PROGRESS

Saint Gabriel and Our Lady of Wisdom parishes in Las Vegas celebrate stages in their progress this month. Parishioners of St. Gabriel will commemorate 25 years of existence in late May and Our Lady of Wisdom parish will witness the blessing of their second structure, a multi-purpose building.

St. Gabriel celebration involves a 3-day celebration, beginning with a trip to the Holy Resurrection Monastery in Newberry Springs, California for a day of prayer on May 21. Parishioners and guests are invited.

The second day, Wednesday, May 22 will be the Liturgical celebration, with a Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving

scheduled for 7:00 p.m., followed by a simple reception. Most Reverend William C. Skurla, newly enthroned Bishop of the Eparchy of Van Nuys, will be the principal Celebrant for the Liturgy.

The last day of celebration will include a formal banquet at the Oasis RV Resort Ballroom in Las Vegas at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Bishop William Skurla will bless the newly-constructed multi-purpose building of Our Lady of Wisdom Byzantine Catholic Church in Las Vegas on May 26 at 11:30 a.m. during the Liturgy of Thanksgiving. This will be followed by a buffet lunch for parishioner and guests.

The parish, organized in 1993 with permission of Most Rev. George Kuzma, then Eparch of Van Nuys, purchased 2 1/2 acres of land 2 years after its inception for the construction of a church. The first modular church was built in 1997, remodeled, decorated and paid for within a year. It was dedicated and blessed in 1998.

The parish was formally established in 1999 as Our Lady of Wisdom Byzantine Catholic Church for the Italo-Greeks, especially for those living in Nevada. The pastor appointed is the Right Reverend Archimandrite Francis M. Vivona, STM, JCL.

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## REVEREND JOSEPH RIDELLA MARKS 50 YEARS AS A PRIEST

The Very Rev. Joseph Ridella, will celebrate 50 years as priest this year. A native of Portage, Pennsylvania Father Ridella has been retired for 10 years here in California, but has helped out in several parishes when the need arose. He served the Eparchy for

many years mostly in the southern California parishes. He has been incapacitated recently by illness, and is thus delaying his anniversary until next year. Father has retired at 66295 Hacienda Ave, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240.



50th

**The Bishop's Appeal is over as of May 26, 2002, but pastors are asked to have their final tally and amounts due sent to the Pastoral Center no later than June 10 to receive credits for rebates.**

# EPARCHIAL CALENDAR

- May 13 – 17** Meeting of Metropolia Liturgical Commission, Parma, OH  
**May 19** St Thomas, Gilbert, AZ, blessing of Icon Screen  
**May 22** St. Gabriel 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment, Las Vegas, Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving 7:00 p.m.  
**May 23** Banquet at Oasis RV Resort Ballroom 6:30 p.m. to continue St. Gabriel's celebration.  
**May 26** Our Lady of Wisdom blessing of new multi-purpose building, Las Vegas  
**June 2** Blessing of new church of St. Philip the Apostle in Sacramento, California
- June 27 - 30** Metropolia Byzantean Youth weekend, Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA  
**July 9** Enthronement of Archbishop-elect and Metropolitan-elect Most Reverend Basil M. Schott, OFM at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, PA at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday.  
**July 10** Ordination & Enthronement of Bishop-elect John M. Kudrick at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Parma, OH at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday.  
**July 11-15** Eparchial Youth Rally, Fontana, CA  
**July 23 – 28** World Youth Day, Toronto, Canada, with the Pope.

25<sup>th</sup>

## RT. REV. WESLEY IZER, SDB, CELEBRATES HIS 25<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE

Rt. Reverend Wesley Izer, SDB, former Chancellor and Protosyncellus of the Eparchy, marked his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood this year. A Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving at Stephen Pro-Cathedral, celebrated by Father Wes and followed by a Reception in St. Stephen Hall drew a large crowd of well-wishers. A video displaying scenes of Father's life was a special attraction. Members of his family joined the parishioners from St. Stephen's and those from other parishes where Father served. Father had asked friends in lieu of personal gifts to make donations to the mission he is establishing a distance from Anchorage.

A cruise to Alaska to continue the celebration is scheduled for June. Thirty people have already indicated their interest in the trip. Beginning in Vancouver, British Columbia, the cruise will travel the Inside Passage stopping at Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Sitka before arriving at Seward, Alaska. The group or individuals may then opt to stay a few extra days in Anchorage before flying back to Phoenix. Father Izer has promised to show the vacationers some of the features of our northern-most state, where he is presently serving at St. Nicholas Church, 2200 Arctic Blvd, Anchorage AK 99503-1909.



*Thank You*

*to*

*all who attended,*

*prayed,*

*and gave of their*

*time and talents*

*to make the ordination*

*celebrations a blessed event.*

*The Clergy of the*

*Eparchy of Van Nuys*

*Clergy of the Eparchy at the First Clergy Meeting at St Stephen's Phoenix*