



EPARCHIAL NEWSLETTER

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Van Nuys

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Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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World Youth Day 2005



“We have come to Worship Him!”



Young adults and staff from the Arch/Eparchies of the United States began their pilgrimage to Germany for World Youth Day 2005 from Newark International Airport on August 15, feast day of the Holy Dormition of the Mother of God. Pilgrims from America arrived many hours later by plane after crossing the Atlantic and then by bus from Brussels to reach the site of this year’s event in Cologne.

Two years ago, with reference to the Youth gathering in Cologne, Pope John Paul II cited what the Evangelist Matthew said about the Three Wise Men: *“We have come to Worship Him.”* (Mt 2:2). The pilgrims attending World Youth Day 2005 did come, from near and far.

The week’s organized events of prayer, catechesis, and celebrations were filled with once-in-a-lifetime experiences. The unforgettable memories of the papal message, processions, music, and chants from the various nations continue to echo in the pilgrims’ minds.

On his first trip to Germany since elected, Pope

Benedict XVI was greeted by a flotilla of ships on the Rhine River carrying youth and over 750 hierarchs from each continent of the world. Bishop William C. Skurla from the Van Nuys Eparchy was among those on board the North American ship that sailed into Cologne. After landing, the Pope’s motorcade went to the Cathedral of the Three Kings and passed in front of Hotel Good Sleep where the group of Byzantine Catholic young adults and staff were staying. The hotel was just blocks from the Cathedral, the center of the Youth Day celebrations.

The young adults attended days of Catechesis where the hierarchs of the Church spoke on topics important to young adults. They answered questions which were of major concern to those in attendance. Our group attended the English speaking sessions together with others from many areas of the world.

The Cross and Icon of the Theotokos was carried in procession to the main events. An estimated one



WYD 2005 pilgrims represented Byzantine Catholic Eparchies of Van Nuys, Parma, Passaic and Archeparchy of Pittsburgh.



million youths and thousands of clergy and religious gathered at Marienfeld Esplanade on Saturday, August 20 for the concluding evening services. Candles that illuminated the three-story hill and field for several miles, stretched to the horizon. Eastern Catholics and Orthodox were present from several continents.

Pope Benedict returned to Marienfeld on Sunday morning where he presided at Holy Mass (Liturgy) for the conclusion of World Youth

Day 2005. *“Do not be deterred from taking part in Sunday Mass, and help others to discover it too.”* Pope Benedict’s message to the world’s youth delivered in many languages challenged them to live their faith authentically in union with the Church and to grow ever closer to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

The Holy Father also reached out to the other religions of the world. He continued by saying, *“Anyone who has discovered Christ must lead others to Him. A great joy cannot be kept to oneself. It has to be passed on.”*

Planning is already underway for the new World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008.



ALIVE IN CHRIST in Gallup, NM

“Alive in Christ” is an annual ascetical Byzantine Catholic boot camp held in Northwestern New Mexico. This year, fathers and sons from throughout the eparchy met in Gallup from July 14-17. It was the largest attended camp since its inception in 2003. Participants traveled from as far as Annunciation Parish in Homer Glen, IL (Eparchy of Parma) and from the Romanian Catholic parish of St. George in Aurora, IL.



At the Great Entrance during Divine Liturgy, Father Robert Pipta processes with the Holy Gifts.

In the Zuni Mountains of New Mexico, the campers experienced an intense life of holy services, prayer and spiritual talks. Those attending learned of the great sacrifices of Blessed Bishop Gojdic in a talk by Father Christopher Zugger, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Albuquerque, NM. The boys’ fathers discovered how the Seventh Ecumenical Council, denouncing the iconoclast heresy, was the culmination and perfection of the teachings set forth in the six previous councils.



The young campers, fathers and team leaders participated in an all-night vigil in front of the temporary iconostasis in the middle of the forest. During the vigil, the icon and relic of Bishop Gojdic were venerated. Throughout the night, voices sang praise to God with psalms and hymns.

The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Bishop William on Sunday morning. Families of many of the campers attended the Liturgy. A pot-luck dinner was hosted after Liturgy by the Gallup outreach members.

“Alive in Christ 2006” is scheduled next year for June 22-25, 2006.

Vocation Committee meets in Florida

The Metropolitan Vocation Committee met with Bishop William while in Florida for the National Conference of Vocation Directors. The Friday, September 23rd meeting was held at Saint Therese Byzantine Catholic Church (Eparchy of Passaic) in St. Petersburg where Very Reverend Robert Evancho is pastor. Appointed Clergy and Religious members of the commission represent Byzantine Arch/Eparchies of Van Nuys, Parma and Passaic and Pittsburgh. Vocation Sunday (January 8) and Vocation Awareness Week (January 9-13) were among the events being planned for 2006.

In Tampa, eparchial representatives of the commission spent time meeting with vocation directors from other Roman Catholic dioceses of the United States. Most Reverend John Kudrick, Eparch of Parma attended the Tampa conference. Bishop John is the Byzantine representative to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Vocations.

The convention gave insight for a true solution to the



Vocation Directors: (First Row) Sister Jean Marie Cihota, OSBM, Fathers Kevin Marks, Dennis Hrubciak and Dennis Bogda. (Second Row) Father Ed Cimballa, Bishop John Kudrick, USCCB Vocations Committee representative and Father Michael O'Loughlin.

Church's shortage of vocations: "Vocations come ultimately from people in the parishes as a result of prayers and encouragement," stated Father Michael O'Loughlin, Assistant Vocation Director of the Van Nuys Eparchy and pastor of Holy Protection Church, Denver, CO. "Promoting vocations is the responsibility of every Christian. What is required is to pray constantly and to encourage those who would make good and holy priests, deacons, and consecrated religious. Above all, vocations will be plentiful if they come from parishes where the clergy and religious show that they love their ministry and appreciate their parishioners, and where the parishioners show that they love and appreciate their clergy and religious."

The Vocation Corner

*O Lord our Savior, bless us, your people
with an increase of vocations
to service in the Church!*

The Eparchy is grateful to all the faithful who participated in the 2005 Pilgrim Vocation Icon program. Everyone is encouraged to continue to continue to pray for vocations.

A special word of gratitude is extended to those parishes that participated in the "Called by Name" program. Your responses will increase important communication in our Eparchy regarding vocations. The parishes responding to "Called by Name" were: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Albuquerque, NM; Saint Nicholas of Myra, Anchorage, AK; Annunciation, Anaheim, CA; Holy Angels, San Diego, CA; Cathedral of Saint Mary, Sherman Oaks, CA and Saint Gabriel the Archangel, Las Vegas.

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETS AT PRO-CATHEDRAL IN PHOENIX



Intereparchial Youth and Young Adult Commission met in Phoenix on October 26. The commission is planning the 2006 Intereparchial Byzanteen Rally (July 20-23) in Emmitsburg, MD.

Pictured, l to r: Bishop William Skurla, Eparch of Van Nuys, Revs. George Malitz, Thomas Loya, Michael Salnicki, Sister Celeste Strohmeier, OSBM, and Revs. Gary Mensinger, Robert Rankin, Bruce Riebe ("Go, White Sox!"), Joseph Hutsko.

Eastern Bishops' Statement on:
EASTERN CATECHESIS: GOD WITH US

It is our firm belief that formation, particularly catechesis, is one of the most important priorities of the parish along with worship. Christ's commission to His disciples is clear. They were instructed, "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19). The Lord did not give them an option; they were told both to baptize and to teach. He does not give us an option either.

Thirty-five years have passed since members of several Eastern Catholic jurisdictions began meeting to reflect on the status of religious education in our eparchies. Out of these informal gatherings came a movement to establish formal catechetical programs and eventually religious education departments in a number of our eparchies. This movement was marked by the commitment of several Churches to work together in the production of common catechetical materials, the first of which was the original **God With Us Series** for the Byzantine Churches.

In the Eparchy of Van Nuys, **God With Us** is the approved, official eparchial text for youth in grades preschool through Grade Eight. We encourage the continued collaboration of those working as Catechists in our Churches and we thank the clergy, religious and laity who have contributed to the development and enrichment of these programs on national, eparchial or parish levels.

The Eastern Catholic Diocesan Directors of Religious Education (ECDD) was established to produce additional material such as the three volume adult catechism for the Byzantine Churches, **Light for Life** and other adult enrichment courses.

We recognize that formation in our parishes is not primarily a matter of the classroom or of specific catechetical programs. The way the parish lives out its life is its most compelling "Catechetical Program." The way we treat one another and look at the world, the value that the parish places on the liturgical life, the way it gives young people a sense that this is their parish – all these teach members and observers more about the Church than we often imagine.

For thirty-five years we have drawn enormous support from one another in our common catechetical efforts. We believe "that God continues to grace the Church with challenges that urge us to reach deep within our lived experience of Jesus to find the practical means to introduce a whole new generation into the knowledge of and encounter with the living Jesus Christ: (US Catholic Bishops 2000)." This is our hope! This is our prayer! Together we can accomplish this as long as each parishioner, each catechist, each pastor, each bishop holds catechesis in primary importance. We thank you for your support and urge you to continue to be the eyes, ears, heart and hands of Christ in our world that needs to be transformed into the holy dwelling place of the Lord.

LAS VEGAS MORTGAGE BURNING

Our Lady of Wisdom Byzantine Catholic Church, Las Vegas, Nevada burned the parish mortgage for the Multi-Purpose building on Sunday, August 28. Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D. was the main celebrant for Divine Liturgy.

Bishop William is shown reading the thanksgiving prayer over the silver bowl in which the last mortgage payment was burned. Dinner followed at the Palace Station Hotel.

Members of the Advisory Board for the parish are: Jack Buttle, Ron Evans, Miriam Meyers, Piere Pype, Joseph Cusmano and Tony Richey. The Engineer for the new building is Trent Tolbert.



Prayers of Thanksgiving: Bishop William was present at Our Lady of Wisdom, Las Vegas for the burning of the Las Vegas mortgage.



OFFICIAL EPARCHIAL APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Josefina Danovich is relieved of her responsibilities as a member of the Finance Council of the Eparchy of Van Nuys effective November 1, 2005.

Mr. James Danovich is appointed a member of the Finance Council of the Eparchy of Van Nuys effective November 1, 2005.

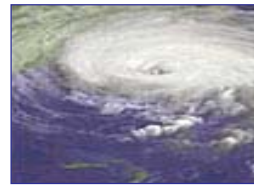
Reverend Kurt Burnette is relieved of his responsibilities as Administrator of Saint Gabriel the Archangel Church in Las Vegas, NV effective September 25, 2005.

Reverend Nils Thompson, OFM is appointed to serve as Pastor of Saint Gabriel the Archangel Church in Las Vegas, NV effective September 25, 2005.

Sister Celestine Petruska, OSBM is relieved of her responsibilities as Eparchial Treasurer effective August 31, 2005.

Sister Joanne Lickvar, OSBM is appointed Eparchial Treasurer effective September 1, 2005.

Reverend Michael O'Loughlin is appointed Assistant Vocation Director for the Eparchy of Van Nuys effective August 24, 2005.



HURRICANE KATRINA AID

Metropolitan Basil, head of the Byzantine Catholics of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, expresses his deepest gratitude to the clergy and faithful of the eparchy for the outstanding contribution of \$34,347.97 sent to the Archeparchy to aid Saint Nicholas Parish in New Orleans for damage wrought by hurricane Katrina.

Archbishop states, "It is most inspiring to receive this very generous amount from the parishes of your eparchy. The thoughtfulness and concern of your clergy and people for their fellow Byzantine Catholics in New Orleans is reflected in their cooperative effort.

It is greatly and sincerely appreciated, and they will be long remembered in the prayers of those who are the recipients of their exceptional charity."



*Wrath of Katrina:
Overturned pews in Saint Nicholas
Church shows devastation left by the
storm. Reconstruction has begun.*

2005 EPARCHIAL CALENDAR

September 2-5	Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mount Saint Macrina, Uniontown, PA
September 12-16	Eparchial Clergy Retreat El Carmelo Retreat House, Redlands, CA
September 23-30	Metropolitan Vocation Directors Tampa, Florida
October 7-9	Life Quest, Vocation Discernment - Mount Saint Macrina, Sisters of Saint Basil, Uniontown, PA
October 18-20	Intereparchial Liturgical Commission Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA
October 25	Seminary Advisory Board Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA
October 26	Metropolitan Youth Commission and Young Adult Subcommittee , Phoenix, AZ
November 4	Eparchial Finance Committee Pastoral Center, Phoenix, AZ
November 13-17	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Washington, D.C.
November 20-21	Rededication of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament , Sacramento, CA
December 4	Southern California Region Saint Nicholas Dinner Saint Nicholas of Myra, Fontana, CA
December 10	Saint Nicholas Dinner Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ
December 17	Ordination of Marcus Gomori to Minor Orders Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ
December 28-31	Eparchial Youth Winter Retreat Cathedral of Saint Mary, Sherman Oaks, CA

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*The Holy Father greets pilgrims in Germany
for World Youth Day 2005.*



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SAINT NICHOLAS CELEBRATIONS

SUNDAY, DEC 4:

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION
SAINT NICHOLAS OF MYRA
FONTANA, CA

SATURDAY, DEC 10:

SAINT STEPHEN PRO-CATHEDRAL
PHOENIX, ARIZONA