



Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation
Rebuilding the Church in Ukraine

Ukrainian Catholic NEWSLETTER

Students Minister at American Parishes

During the school year, Maria Makovetska dedicates her free-time to helping Ukraine's needy. Now in her fifth year at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv, Ukraine, this summer she learned how to help them better. Makovetska and 16 seminarians, students and staff of UCU traveled to North America as part of the UCEF's Summer Internship Abroad program.

Makovetska is the head of UCU's Student Charity Center, where she organizes frequent visits to children in institutions and other similar ministry activities. So an internship helping at the St. Vincent de Paul Society center in Madison, Wisconsin was a natural for her.

The system of thrift stores impressed her: "It's great how they work together with the Church and cooperate with volunteers from the parishes," she said.

Makovetska also visited the Society's shelters for homeless men and for abused women and their children and its food pantry. A newer program of the Society, in which donors get a tax break for donating an old car or other items, was also of interest to her, since Ukraine has nothing like it.

Pastoral apprentices

The UCEF's Internship Program also brought over seminarians to help at Roman Catholic parishes in the U.S. Yulian Sheremeta, now in his seventh and final year at Holy Spirit Seminary in Lviv, apprenticed with Fr. Tom Milota, administrator at Sacred Heart Church in Lombard, Illinois, near Chicago.

Along with Deacon Roman Rytsar, an UCU staff member, Sheremeta visited the sick and accompanied Fr. Milota on his other daily tasks, learning about pastoral ministry, American style.

In addition to learning by doing, Sheremeta and Deacon Rytsar were called upon to teach their hosts about life in Ukraine. "We gave presentations to the parishioners," notes Sheremeta, "who were very interested. They asked me about my priestly vocation, my plans for the future." Since Sheremeta is involved in a fledgling military chaplaincy program, people also asked about Ukraine's army.



Lviv Seminarian Yulian Sheremeta (left) was a pastoral intern at the parish of Fr. Tom Milota (right) in Lombard, Illinois.

In fact, 40 interested parishioners visited Sts. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Chicago to attend an Eastern-rite Liturgy at which Deacon Rytsar assisted the priests.

Across the Continent

The UCEF would also like to thank St. Benilde Parish in Louisiana and Human Life International in Virginia for hosting seminarians. Two nuns who graduated from UCU and are now teachers there attended the Harvard Ukrainian Summer School. A student and a staff member of UCU took courses at St. John's University in Minnesota.

In Canada, three UCU students and a seminarian attended the Theology Summer School offered by the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute, and UCEF director Fr. Michael Loza provided pastoral training for two seminarians.

Heartfelt thanks to all our North American hosts. And a request to our donors: Please contact the UCEF if you know of good internship opportunities for summer 2005!

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Update from Ukraine

Volodymyr Turchynovskyy is director of the Department of Planning and Development of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine, one of the main institutions that the UCEF supports. (See elsewhere in this issue for a brief biography.)



“Reviving Stewardship”

Thanks be to God, the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) has seen great growth since it renewed its activities, under the name Lviv Theological Academy, in 1994. Since 1999, seminarians, nuns, and other students have been receiving Vatican-accredited bachelor's degrees in theology. Ukraine's government recently accredited UCU's new history program, and the Congregation for Catholic Education will soon be accrediting UCU's licentiate (graduate-level) degree program in theology.

And the university's institutes provide great help to the Church. The Catechetical-Pedagogical Institute, for example, has trained hundreds of catechists and teachers of Christian ethics, and the Institute of Church History is recording for posterity the underground life of the Ukrainian Catholic Church under Soviet persecution.

None of this would have been possible without the financial, and spiritual, support of many people and organizations outside Ukraine, in particular the UCEF.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church is so very grateful for supporters from abroad. And UCU is also happy to announce plans to start cultivating donations in Ukraine. For example, in September the Church had the first collection for UCU in parishes in Ukraine.

We are happy to have made this very good first step, but I must explain something to my friends in North America. Unfortunately, the mentality of giving was degraded and, essentially, ruined by so many decades of communism. It did once exist in parts of Ukraine, but these traditions have been almost completely uprooted.

Now our university faces the challenge, not just to find the funds to continue its activities and to grow. We also are called to revive stewardship, to restore this tradition of supporting education in our country.

We are working, and praying, that this will happen in Ukraine. In the meantime, my department in Lviv is looking for increased support from Western Europe.

And we are, of course, ever grateful for the continuing support of Ukrainian and Roman Catholics in North America, and all people of good will who have realized that God is doing something good at UCU.

Rectors to Visit North America

The UCEF is sponsoring a trip of the rectors of the Ukrainian Catholic University and Holy Spirit Seminary in Lviv to the East Coast and Chicago this fall. Fr. Borys Gudziak and Fr. Bohdan Prach will invite American donors to help in the rebirth of the Catholic Church in Ukraine.

Martyr's Relics Returned to Ukraine

The relics of Msgr. Peter Verhun, martyred on Russian territory in 1957 and beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2001, were returned to Ukraine on July 26. Blessed Peter's relics were ceremonially venerated in his home-town, Horodok, Lviv region, on August 29.

Building on Kyiv Cathedral Continues

Work on the construction of a new Ukrainian Catholic cathedral in the country's capital, Kyiv, continues. The cornerstone of Resurrection Cathedral was consecrated in October 2002. A chapel where services are now held daily was consecrated earlier this year. The Ukrainian Catholic Church is moving its administrative center to the capital, and its spiritual center will be there as well. Donations for this worthy cause can be sent to the UCEF and marked "for Kyiv Cathedral."

Evening Theology School Has First Graduates

The Catechetical-Pedagogical Institute of the Ukrainian Catholic University held graduation ceremonies on June 12. Among the 44 diplomas granted, 7 were to students of the institute's Evening Theology School, the first graduates, who began their studies four years ago. In addition, diplomas were granted to students of the extension program, who will teach catechism in parishes or Christian ethics in public schools.

Bishops Caution before Elections

The Ukrainian Catholic Bishops' Synod has advice for Ukraine's voters before the October 31 presidential election. "The Church is not a political organization and should not interfere in the election campaign," the hierarchs wrote, but they warned against possible abuses, including media coverage heavily influenced by directives of the present government, buying votes, and falsifying election results.



Ukrainian Catholic Newsletter

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Monk Studies to Enlighten His Countrymen

“Our society has a very poor religious culture,” says Brother Arsenius Zanin, from the Monastery of St. Theodore the Studite in the western Ukrainian village of Kholodiyivka. The monk hopes to enrich that culture with his good theological education. He graduated in June at the top of his class with a bachelor’s degree in theology from the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv. UCU is one of the major beneficiaries of the UCEF’s fundraising efforts.

“People often turn to those of us in religious life asking questions, about fortune-telling, divorce, and so on,” the monk explains. Religion was officially forbidden for so many decades in Ukraine that people often have very distorted ideas about any number of issues of the faith. “In general, when people in a village find out that one of the youth is studying at UCU, they come to them with questions.”

Because of his personal experience, Brother Arsenius is particularly well-suited to approach those in Ukraine who are searching for religion. “I don’t come from a believing family,” he confesses. “When I was younger, I tried to find some meaning in life with human philosophy. But human philosophy ends with the death of the human being.”

The monk grew up in southwestern Ukraine’s Transcarpathia region, where he got acquainted with some underground priests of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. He eventually heard his calling to devote his life to Christ and entered the monastery. “My mother has since become a little more religious. My father is an intellectual, and it’s still difficult for him,” he says. Communist propaganda mocked religion, saying that it was an instrument to manipulate uneducated peasants.

A talented student, Brother Arsenius was sent to Zagreb, Croatia to study, but the situation there was difficult, and he



Brother Arsenius (left) carries the UCU banner during the 2004 UCU graduation procession.

soon returned. His abbot then sent him and a fellow brother to the Lviv Theological Academy, now the Ukrainian Catholic University.

The monastery where Brother Arsenius is based was started in 1997 by then-Bishop Lubomyr Husar, now cardinal and head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and himself a Studite monk. “The idea was to renew contemplative monasticism in Ukraine,” Brother Arsenius explains. “But because the country has such great spiritual needs, helping at parishes, conducting retreats, and so on, has become part of the monastic life as well.”

Thanks to the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, Brother Arsenius will now be able to use his fine intellectual and spiritual formation to reach out to Ukraine’s faithful, and to those who are still searching.

Head of Congregation for Catholic Education Visits UCU

Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, prefect of the Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education, recently visited the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv. “I have headed the Congregation for Catholic Education for five years now and have visited many Catholic education institutions throughout the world, which amount to more than 1,200,” said the cardinal. “However, today’s visit makes me particularly joyful, because I understand that theology and Catholic education were extremely belittled and neglected in this country. Now they are born for a new life in the Ukrainian Catholic University.”

Cardinal Grocholewski got acquainted with different UCU departments and branches. He was particularly impressed with the UCU library, which has the greatest collection of theological literature in Ukraine. In addition, Cardinal Grocholewski met with the administrators and students of UCU and Holy Spirit Seminary in Lviv.

In 1998, the Congregation for Catholic Education accredited the Lviv Theological Academy, now the Ukrainian Catholic University. Today the congregation continues to work on the accreditation of newer programs offered by UCU, including a licentiate (graduate degree) in theology.

In the Mission Fields

UCEF Volunteer Confronts Culture of Death

Editor's note: The following account was written by UCEF volunteer Charles Neubecker. Neubecker has taught at the English-language Summer School of the Ukrainian Catholic University, served as a consultant on one of the University's building projects, and has solicited financial support for Ukrainian students from his local Knights of Columbus council. He is also involved in the pro-life movement, so he decided to attend a pro-life prayer service in Ukraine recently.

I had a remarkable experience in Lviv, Ukraine.

Recently, I spent a month in Ukraine teaching management workshops at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv. On my last day before returning to Dallas, the UCU pro-life club decided to pray the rosary and stations of the cross at a major maternity hospital that also does many abortions. This was the third such rosary they have done there, inspired by pro-life organizations in the U.S.

Unlike under U.S. law, in Lviv we were able to enter the hospital and stand in front of the interior door of the rooms where they perform the abortions. Almost like the symbolism in the Gospel, there were two doors: the door on the right leading to the normal maternity services, and the door on the left leading to the rooms where only abortions are done. We formed a semi-circle facing the doors and said the rosary, during which many hospital staff and patients passed, many making the sign of cross as they did so. (Lviv is probably the most Catholic city in Ukraine.) These staff members only entered the "right door," but we don't know if the staff is shared between the abortion rooms and the hospital. One male staffer stood next to me to join in one decade of the rosary.

"Dangerous to Enter"

The UCU pro-life leader is not a student but an adult man and head of its Institute of Marriage and Family Life, which includes pro-life and Natural Family Planning. He is a former Soviet army officer and not shy. On the door of the abortion offices there is a written notice giving their office hours. He wrote in Ukrainian over their notice something along the lines of "Dangerous to enter: They will take the life of your baby."

A woman in civilian clothes approached him and in a long conversation told him how much she agreed with his note and what we were doing. Ten minutes later, she reappeared in a nurse's uniform and entered the abortion door. My teeth just about fell out! She worked there! Afterwards they explained to me, since I don't speak Ukrainian, that she is unhappy working there and is looking for another job. She also said many of the abortionist doctors working there are alcoholics.

After saying the stations of the cross, we talked more with other people passing by and left. There were no abortions performed during the two hours we were there.



Two students of the Ukrainian Catholic University pray before the inside door of the Lviv abortion center with a Ukrainian Catholic priest.

The students praying with me said that the people were "honoring" a holy day.

In the Killing Fields

Then I went with Frank Lyon, a British friend who now lives in Lviv, to the site of the former Nazi concentration camp in Lviv, named Yanovska. Coincidentally, it is located between a cemetery and a railroad track. In World War II, 180,000 Jews from Lviv and surrounding towns passed through the camp. It was used primarily as a slave labor camp but many Jews were killed there. Most were later sent to the extermination camp at Treblinka, Poland, only an hour away by train. We met two rabbinical students from the U.S. there, who were visiting Ukraine, taking a break from their studies in Jerusalem. We had a very nice conversation.

Later we visited the former Jewish Ghetto in Lviv. Lviv has about 3000 Jews now, a very small and impoverished community. I met one of their leaders a few weeks earlier. One of UCU's directors, a survivor of the Soviet Gulag, has close relations with Jewish leaders, since he knew them when they were in the anti-Soviet dissident movement together. I have now been at Nazi killing fields and Soviet killing fields in Ukraine. (There are mass graves of Soviet victims in the cellar of the church in the town of Zhovkva and in the salt mines of Dobromyl.) They are much the same, and similar to the feeling one gets before abortion centers in Dallas: a feeling of coldness, sterility.

Afterwards Frank and I agreed we really had a day confronting the culture of death, past and present. May the risen Lord inspire the perpetrators, past and present, to reform and give grace to all now living to reject the culture of evil in any form.

University's Development Director has Unique Philosophy

Volodymyr Turchynovskyy was trained as a philosopher, but the needs of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv, Ukraine have called him to other areas. Since 2003, he has been director of planning and development for UCU. The UCEF is helping him establish this department. A devout Ukrainian Catholic layman, he is working to help the university answer the question of "how to keep the spiritual dimension and the academic in harmony."

Turchynovskyy was one of the founding members of the revived Ukrainian Catholic Student Association, *Obnova* (Renewal). Fr. Borys Gudziak, current rector of UCU, came to Ukraine in 1990 for an assembly of Ukrainian Youth for Christ and inspired a group of college students to continue gathering for Christian fellowship. "We had the confidence, strength, and courage to interact with other students," recalls Turchynovskyy, "knowing that we were not alone. We were achieving something, we had common prospects, common goals."

Obnova grew and Turchynovskyy had the opportunity to study philosophy, with a definitely Christian emphasis, at the International Academy of Philosophy in Liechtenstein. After he finished his master's-degree studies, he returned to Ukraine in 1998 and began to work at the Lviv Theological Academy, forerunner of UCU.

He started as a teacher of philosophical anthropology, branched out into student affairs, and eventually also became an administrator, responsible for developing institutional policies.

"Part of university policy is to form Christian identity and nourish spiritual growth, and that demands serious efforts," explains Turchynovskyy. At UCU, for example, no classes are scheduled during the daily noon Liturgy, and students are required to learn about pastoral work in theory and practice.



John Kurey, Esq., president of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (left), and Volodymyr Turchynovskyy, director of the Department of Planning and Development of the Ukrainian Catholic University (right), met in May with Cardinal Francis George, archbishop of Chicago and a member of the UCEF's advisory council (center).

Turchynovskyy has been to the U.S. two times already, where he visited some large Catholic universities. He looked very closely at what he found at U.S. Catholic institutions. "There is a great temptation to ignore spirituality and instead use that time for professional development," he says.

In post-Soviet Ukraine, where the very mention of God was forbidden for so many decades, UCU has its own mission: "to manifest some new models, ways of looking at the world, people, God, relations between God and people. This is the university's task, and it's particularly difficult."

On future trips to the U.S., Turchynovskyy hopes to learn what he can from Western efficiency, and perhaps to remind his Western partners of the place of religion in human life.

Donor Helps Materially and Spiritually

Like many other faithful donors, Martha Wiegand makes a financial contribution several times a year to the UCEF. But she recently decided that she wanted to bring the UCEF's message to her friends and community. Mrs. Wiegand is spreading the word about the new Ukrainian Catholic martyrs, speaking about them at various gatherings.

In 2003, Mrs. Wiegand named the UCEF as the beneficiary for a tax-deferred annuity that she established. She also makes automatic monthly contributions from her bank account through a simple procedure known as Electronic Funds Transfer. "It's easier that way," she says.

Just as Mrs. Wiegand shares her earthly treasure to help rebuild the Church in Ukraine, so she wants more people to know of the great spiritual treasures that the Church has to offer. She has a special devotion

to Blessed Father Emilian Kowcz and Blessed Abbot Clement Sheptytsky, both of whom have been featured in the *Ukrainian Catholic Newsletter*. She has spoken about them to a church senior group and a Ukrainian National Women's League group. "I'm always looking for more material on the new martyrs," she notes, "so that I'm better prepared to talk about them."

For more information on the Ukrainian Catholic martyrs, stay tuned to the *Ukrainian Catholic Newsletter*!

For more information on tax-deferred annuities, Electronic Funds Transfer, and related questions of giving to the UCEF, in the U.S. please contact Michael Mollet at (773) 235-8462 or e-mail mollet@ucef.org. In order to help the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine more effectively, the UCEF is proposing new ways in which our donors can provide financial support.

Modern Martyrdom Unites Christians and Nations

“The Blood of the Martyrs is the Seed of the Church” was an international, interdenominational conference held at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv on May 7 and 8. Eastern and Roman Catholics and Orthodox gathered to reflect on examples of Christian martyrdom in the recent history of Europe and Africa.

“At the end of the second millennium, *the Church has once again become a Church of martyrs.*” So wrote Pope John Paul II in his apostolic letter *Tertio Millennio Adveniente* (“As the Third Millennium Draws Near”). Ukrainian Catholics, with countless martyrs to Nazism and Communism, told His Holiness about their own experience of martyrdom when he came to Ukraine in 2001.

Martyrdom “Sown” throughout the World

In May, Ukrainians learned the truth of the Pope’s words, “The persecutions of believers — priests, Religious and laity — has caused a great sowing of martyrdom in different parts of the world.” For example, martyrs died for Christ in African Rwanda in the 1990s; and, as UCU Vice-rector Myroslav Marynovych recounted from his personal experience, faithful from many nations suffered for their religious beliefs in the Soviet gulag through the 1980s.

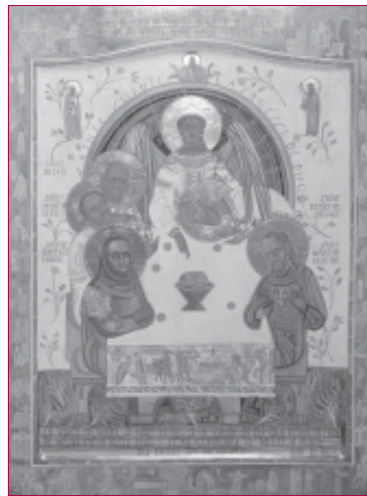
UCU Professor Antoine Arjakovsky witnessed to another observation of the Holy Father: “The witness to Christ borne even to the shedding of blood has become a common inheritance of Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants.” Arjakovsky’s grandfather, Fr. Dimitry Klepinin, an Orthodox priest, was declared a saint on Feb. 11, 2004 by the Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople. Fr. Klepinin died in a Nazi concentration camp, sentenced for helping Jews in France during World War II.

A French citizen, Arjakovsky invited his fellow countrymen to participate in the Lviv conference, which was co-organized by UCU and the charitable organization Aid to the Church in Need-France.

Martyrs: Witnesses of the Single God

At a Divine Liturgy during the conference, an icon of Orthodox martyrs recently canonized by the Patriarchate of Constantinople was presented. According to Marynovych, it is important that Orthodox, Eastern and Roman Catholics prayed together before the icon, which was painted by Ivanka Krypiakevych-Dymyd, herself the granddaughter of an underground Ukrainian Catholic priest. “Martyrs are beyond denominations, because all of them are witnesses of the single God,” emphasized Marynovych.

“My mother was 5 when she last saw her dad,” recounts Arjakovsky. “His death was a tragedy for her. It was a tragedy for all Orthodoxy. A battle against Christ was happening.



Fr. Dimitry Klepinin, an Orthodox priest, was martyred by the Nazis for helping Jews in France in the 1940s. His grandson Antoine Arjakovsky, a professor at the Ukrainian Catholic University, attended the blessing in May of this icon depicting Fr. Klepinin (bottom right) and other new martyrs.

The German officers told grandpa that they would let him go, if he would stop helping the Jews. But he showed them a crucifix and said: ‘Do you know this Jew?’ He decided to remain Christian and to witness to a new ‘logic of the Spirit.’

“From childhood, I felt the presence of Grandpa like a friend in my life,” continues Arjakovsky. “When the priests came out with the icon of the new martyrs, I was so joyful, because Grandpa’s intercession, which I have felt for a long time, is now given to everyone. I want to share this joy with UCU, because here the spirit of this witness is continued, the witness that my grandfather and the martyrs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church gave.”

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.