

# JOYFUL LIGHT

*Joyful Light is a semi-annual publication of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius, 3605 Perrysville Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214 • (412) 321-8383 • www.byzcathsem.org • byzcathsem@verizon.net*

## *Fr. George Gallaro* *Brings a European “Accent” to the Seminary*

Even though some of the faculty at the seminary speak several languages, it is unusual to hear an Italian accent in the halls every day.

That accent belongs to Fr. George D. Gallaro, a native of Pozzallo, Italy, Dean of Students and Professor of Canon Law and Ecumenism. While he is the newest resident faculty member, Fr. George has been teaching at the seminary for eight years as a “commuter.”

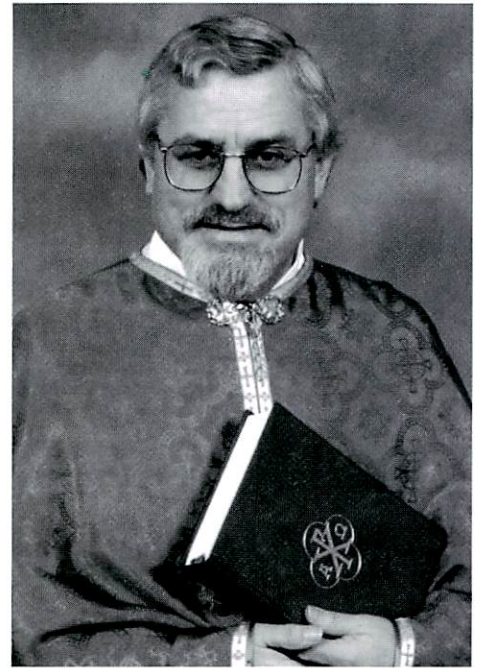
Fr. George has a wealth of teaching experience. He has served as Instructor of Catechetics for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, as Lecturer of Canon Law at Boston Theological Institute, and as Director of the Diaconate Formation Program and Coordinator of Continuing Formation of Clergy for the Eparchy of Newton and Rector of St. Gregory the Theologian Seminary in Newton, MA.

As Fr. John G. Petro has noted, “In addition to his obvious academic and professional expertise, Fr. George brings a delightful presence to our seminary community. His pleasant and congenial spirit adds an upbeat dimension to our daily life.”

Significant spiritual influences in Fr. George’s life were his parish priests in Pozzallo. He attended the diocesan seminary in Noto, Syracuse, in Sicily

before moving to Los Angeles, CA, for further theological studies. Ordained a Deacon in 1971 and ordained to the Presbyterate in 1972, Fr. George earned a doctorate from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome as well as degrees in Ecumenism from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (Angelicum) and in Liturgy from the Pontifical Liturgical Institute of St. Anselm, all in Rome. He served for two years on the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity at the Vatican and has participated in various ecumenical dialogues and conferences. Additionally, Fr. George is a member of the Canon Law Society of America and the Society for the Law of the Eastern Churches in Vienna, Austria.

The son of John and Josephine Gallaro (both deceased), Fr. George has six siblings. Describing his ministry at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, Fr. George said, “Working with the formation of future ordained ministers is always very challenging and very important. I encourage readers to become informed about their seminary, to sustain the men in their preparation to ordination, pray for them periodically, encourage possible candidates to visit the seminary, and, if necessary, support them financially.”

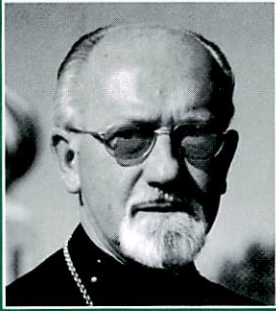


Father George Gallaro

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*-Fr. John G. Petro*

# Rector's Message



Every academic year brings into our lives new people, opportunities, and dreams. In the seminary this year, we have two new seminarians to join the returning five and eleven other students in the School of Theology. Among the opportunities this year will be the Apostolic Visitation of all American seminaries and theology schools. The goal of this Visitation is to evaluate the formation program of the seminary.

We look forward to the visit as an opportunity to learn more about ourselves, just as we have learned much through the visitation of other governing bodies, such as the Pennsylvania Department of Education and The Association of Theological Schools. We continually strive to improve upon the educational and formation programs at the seminary, and the Apostolic Visitation will further this goal.

*Father John G. Petro, Rector*



Deacon Nicholas Daddona

## *Deacon Nicholas Daddona an Experienced Educator*

"My wife and I were raised as Roman Catholics," said seminary Advisory

Council member

Deacon Nicholas Daddona. "But, twenty-four years ago we looked at the Byzantine Catholic tradition and practice, and the rest, as they say, is history."

Born and raised on New York's Long Island, Deacon Nicholas and his wife, Maureen, joined the Byzantine Catholic Church after much reading and introspection.

"We were always interested in Eastern Catholicism," Deacon Nicholas said.

"The theology made great sense. After we looked closely at the Church, we didn't hesitate to join."

Deacon Nicholas has made a life of reading and study. He graduated from St. Francis College in Brooklyn and Hofstra University

on Long Island and began a 31-year career as an educator, primarily with the Sewanhaka Central High School District where he taught reading to students with reading deficiencies. He continues to teach now, after his retirement, at Nassau Community College, in both credit and non-credit reading courses.

"My life as an adjunct professor and as a deacon keeps me very busy in my retirement," Deacon Nicholas said.

"But, I enjoy what I'm doing, especially my religious ministry."

Deacon Nicholas was ordained deacon in 1988 after having studied in the Melkite Deacon Program at St. Gregory the Theologian Seminary in Newton, MA.

A member of St. Andrew Byzantine Catholic Church in Westbury, NY, Deacon Nicholas finds serving at the Divine Liturgy and taking Communion to the sick as the most rewarding aspects of his service.

"I particularly enjoy visiting the sick and bringing them the Eucharist," he said.

"These are the people who were there for me when I first joined the Church and when I studied to become a deacon.

Now I can return the service, especially to those unable to come to church for any of the services."

As a deacon, he has the full support of his wife, the former Maureen Neillo, a Ph.D. in genetics who teaches at Nassau Community College. They are the parents of three children: Alessandra, a speech pathologist and mother of two boys; Adriana, a high school math teacher; and Nicholas, a medical technician. Both Deacon Nicholas and Maureen know a lot about education.

"Before the seminary began the process of seeking membership in The Association of Theological Schools," Deacon Nicholas said, "I thought it was odd that it wasn't

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# Seminarians Return for a New School Year

After a summer of much activity, the seminary has welcomed its seminarians back to campus. They include two new men, one from the Eparchy of Passaic and one from the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh.



Left to right: Matthew Gaydos, Christian Tran, Frank Hanincik, Br. Jerome Wolbert, Adam Lowe, Daniel Forsythe, Andrew Nagrant.

Matthew Joseph Gaydos comes to the seminary from Drums, PA, just north of Hazelton. A graduate of Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, he focused on Business Administration and Sociology. Among those influencing his vocation, he cites both former pastors as well as his current pastor, Monsignor Nicholas Puhak. About his forthcoming seminary experience, Matthew said, "I hope to attain much knowledge, wisdom, and a fruitful prayer life."

Daniel Aaron Forsythe grew up in Hopedale, OH, a small town near Steubenville. Daniel spent his childhood in the Assembly of God Church. After graduating from high school, he entered Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH. He then spent a semester abroad at Franciscan University's Austrian campus where several students introduced him to the Catholic Church.

As Daniel said, "Over several months I sought God's will for my life and his guidance to find the Church which Christ had founded. During my first experience of the Divine Liturgy, I became convinced of the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist. At that point, I decided to become a Catholic. After a period of preparation, I received Baptism, Chrismation, and the Eucharist from Fr. Edward Lucas, pastor of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Weirton, WV. During the following year, I began discerning a vocation to the priesthood."

Five students from last year's classes return as well. These "veterans" include: Frank Hanincik, Adam Lowe, Andrew Nagrant, Christian Tran, and Brother Jerome Wolbert. Eleven other students attend classes at the seminary, pursuing either an M.A.T. degree or personal enrichment. Of course, many other educational and learning activities happen at the seminary, including the Deacon Formation Program, the Metropolitan Cantor Institute, many Religious Education programs, and many Archieparchial and community meetings.

"We have become a year-round hub of activity," Fr. John G. Petro, rector, said. "This is in keeping with our vision to become a Byzantine Center of Learning. We never forget our primary purpose, however, and that is to form the men who will become the spiritual leaders of our Church, our priests and deacons."

## Seminary Happenings

### *Seminary Welcomes Pitt Library Student*

This past summer, Karen Liljequist, a Master of Library and Information Sciences student from the University of Pittsburgh, completed an independent study for course credit under the direction of Cynthia Schwartz, the seminary librarian.

Focusing her studies on digital libraries, Karen completed the independent study with a document that outlines a plan for a library intranet. This includes both design and content, a written review of the library's current technology and its needs for short- and long-term improvements. Information gathered will be applied to help the library achieve its part for accreditation in The Association of Theological Schools.

Seminary librarian Cynthia Schwartz spoke highly of Karen's work saying, "Karen did outstanding work for the library's project and received full credit and a glowing review to the Department of Library and Information Sciences."

### *Vancik Book Collection Placed in Library*

Fr. Vladimir Vancik (1910-2001) lived in a world of books. He was particularly interested in the writings of the Fathers of the Church and had many volumes in his personal library. When Fr. Vancik was called home to the Lord on April 29, 2001, the Eparchy of Parma inherited his vast library. In order to make these resources available to students and scholars, Bishop John (Kudrick) arranged in 2005 for more than a thousand of the most important volumes to be transferred on permanent loan to the seminary. Each book will be identified with a special bookplate designating it part of the "Eparchy of Parma, Fr. Vladimir Vancik Collection."

### *Self-Study Progresses*

The seminary is progressing in the multi-year journey of a Self-Study that will lead to a full accreditation with The Association of Theological Schools. Five committees, who form the nucleus of the Self-Study, have begun to meet in person, through conference calls and on the Internet, to thoroughly examine the seminary's degree programs; its faculty, staff, and students; and its financial, physical, and human resources. They are evaluating how the seminary corresponds to or exceeds the standards established by ATS and how it might improve in others.

The forty-one committee members and chair people from all over the country are demonstrating their belief in the seminary as an outstanding center of learning for the Byzantine Catholic Church. Their willingness to sacrifice their time and share their talents and skills reveals their faith in the seminary. Through this work, they will help the seminary achieve the high standards of ATS, whose mission is "to promote the improvement and enhancement of theological schools to the benefit of communities of faith and the broader public."

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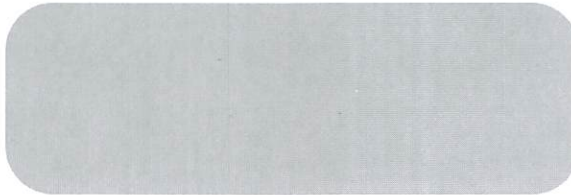
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## *Noted Professor to Present 2006 Lecture*

A woman, well known for her scholarship in “Women in Byzantine Liturgy,” will deliver the 6th Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Lecture on May 8, 2006.

Valerie A. Karras, Assistant Professor of Church History at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, will join Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia, Rt. Rev. Robert F. Taft, S.J., and Very Rev. Thomas Hopko and others who have spoken at the seminary’s annual lecture.

The first woman to be featured speaker at this yearly program, Dr. Karras received her Ph.D. from The Catholic University of America in 2002, her Th.D. from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 1991, a M.T.S. from Holy Cross Greek

Orthodox School of Theology in 1982, and her B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis, 1979.

Specializing in Patristic (early Christian) theology, Byzantine church history, and Orthodox theology, Dr. Karras has focused her research on women in the Byzantine liturgy, gender in Greek patristic thought, Orthodoxy and feminist theology, Orthodoxy in ecumenical and inter-religious contexts, Greek patristic anthropology, and soteriology.

About Dr. Karras, Fr. John G. Petro, rector of the seminary, said, “We at the seminary are delighted to have a speaker of her background join the impressive roster of lecturers at this annual event.”

*Deacon Nicholas Daddona from page 2*

accredited. That’s the ‘Gold Standard.’ Anyone interested in seminary studies asks first, ‘Is it accredited?’ I’m glad we can soon say yes to that.”

When asked how he envisioned the future of the seminary, Deacon Nicholas said, “The seminary will become a Center of Learning. We have begun the process, and I believe that we can further it by building a Distance Learning program. Men who want to be deacons can benefit from such an approach to education. After that we can reach out to all of the lay people who would love to connect to the seminary as a Center of Learning. Having accomplished these things, we will continue to be a valuable Church resource into the future.”