

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

Seminary Awards First Masters Degrees

“We have seen a dream come true!” said Fr. John G. Petro, rector of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. “Many people worked for many years to make this moment a reality, and we are very proud!”

Fr. John was referring to the ceremony at the 6th Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Lecture on May 8, 2006 when Seminarian Adam Lowe and Fr. Innokentij Stikhin became the first to receive Masters Degrees from the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

Adam Lowe received the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree, *magna cum laude*. Originally from Liverpool, England, Adam earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Liverpool University in Oriental Studies (Egyptology) in 1997 and also studied Counseling and Theology. He is now a candidate for the priesthood with the Byzantine Catholic Ukrainian Archeparchy of Winnipeg, Canada.

When asked about his seminary experience, Adam said, “It has been an untold blessing. The seminary had all the resources I needed to further my studies, and it enabled me to study Eastern Christianity in all its richness. The vision the seminary embodies today is priceless and its forward-thinking attitude very inspiring.”

At the ceremony, Fr. John also told the gathering that Fr. Innokentij Stikhin, who was unable to attend, was being awarded the first Master of Arts in Byzantine Catholic Theology (M.A.T.) degree from the seminary, also *magna cum laude*. Fr. Innokentij currently serves as the administrator of St. George Church in Bay City, MI, and as the administrator of St. John the Baptist Church in Omer, MI.

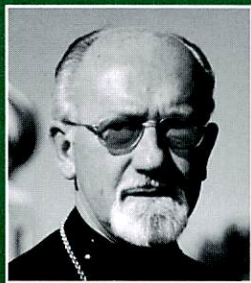


Adam Lowe

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Adam Lowe

Rector's Message



Continue to be thankful for God's blessings to the seminary. He has brought together a community of students, faculty, staff, volunteers, and donors to help us do the work of preparing people to be the heralds of the Good News.

We invite you to visit the seminary. Here you will find this community of committed people in all its variety and vigor. You will find infectious enthusiasm; you will see the work you have chosen to support. We cannot thank you enough for having decided to become part of the seminary

Father John G. Petro, Rector

Fr. Gerald Dino *Lives a Life of Service*

The Very Rev. Gerald N. Dino is presently pastor of St. George Byzantine Catholic Church in Linden, NJ. He is also the Protosyncellus of the Eparchy of Passaic, NJ.

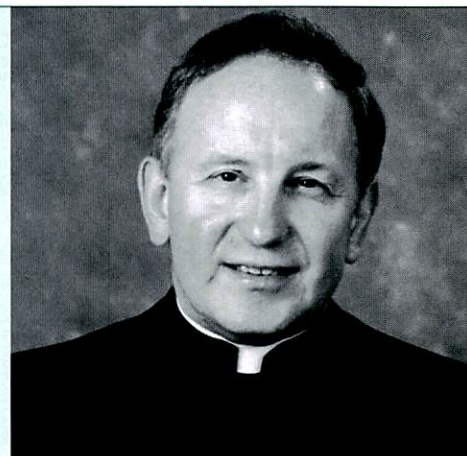
Fr. Dino was born and raised in Binghamton, NY. His parents were Nicholas and Mary (Murin) Dino, of blessed memory. Both parents worked in the Endicott Johnson Shoe Corporation for most of their lives. Father's older sister, Joyce, presently lives with her husband, Robert, in Johnson City, NY. A younger brother, James, works as a postal employee in Houston, TX.

After graduating from Woodrow Wilson School and from Binghamton Central High School (with honors) he entered SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA to begin his philosophical studies, which was done in conjunction with the Philosophy Department of Duquesne University. He received his B.A. Degree from Duquesne University in 1961, graduating *cum laude*, and then completed his theological studies for the priesthood at the seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood on March 21, 1965 by Bishop Stephen J. Kocisko at St. Michael's Cathedral in Passaic, NJ.

One of the greatest influences on Fr. Dino's priestly vocation was the Sisters of St. Basil the Great from the Uniontown, PA Province. They taught the Religious Education classes at his home parish of Holy Spirit in Binghamton, NY. Two Sisters, among many, who especially stand out in Father's mind are Sr. Mary Ann and Sr. Christopher. "Frequently the Sisters," he said, "asked my sister, Joyce, and me to help them clean the new church on Saturday mornings, which we did faithfully for many years."

After ordination, Fr. Dino served as both assistant and pastor before being asked to go to Rome for further studies in Eastern Christian Dogma and Patrology. He earned a Licentiate Degree in 1972 from the Pontifical Oriental Institute, graduating *magna cum laude*. Then he was appointed the Academic Dean and Professor of Dogma and Patrology at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

In July of 1979, Fr. Dino was appointed pastor of Holy Ghost Church in Jessup, PA, where he remained for 17 years. In 1992, he became one of the three founding pastors of LaSalle Academy, the only inter-ritual parochial school in the United States. At the time, it was considered



"I believe the Council has laid a foundation for a very bright future for the Seminary." Fr. Gerald N. Dino

unique and so successful that the Academy won recognition from the National Catholic Education Association, which showcased the school in its magazine MOMENTUM.

Having spent more than 20 years in the field of educating young people, Fr. Dino decided to shift his interests to the other end of the "scale of life", i.e., the "older" people. He is now the President of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Golden Age based in Scranton PA. The organization has about 150,000 members nationally.

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Dr. Karras Discusses "Women in the Byzantine Liturgy" at Lecture



Dr. Valerie Karras

Addressing an audience of over 150 people at the 6th annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Lecture on Monday, May 8, 2006 at St. Paul Seminary auditorium in Pittsburgh, Dr. Valerie Karras, assistant professor of church history at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, TX, said that women have always had a prominent place in Byzantine Liturgy.

"Female deacons, for example, had many important functions," she said. "They chanted at services, chaperoned women at meetings with male clergy, kept order in the women's section of the church, assisted in the baptism of adult women, and taught the faith to converts. Their ordination was virtually identical to that of male deacons."

Lively discussions ensued at the reception following the lecture where friends, old and new, renewed acquaintances and began new ones.

This lecture and previous ones are available on CDs through the seminary office (\$10 each, prepaid).

Faculty Maintain Active Academic Lives

- **Fr. Jack Custer** (Academic Dean; Professor of Scripture) published the third book in his series on the New Testament: *The Apostolic Writings: A Byzantine Perspective* (Pittsburgh: God With Us, 2005). He was also a featured speaker at the first Symposium of the St. Paul Institute for Applied Biblical Studies, University of Steubenville, where he is a member of the board.
- **Fr. George D. Gallaro's** (Dean of Students; Professor of Canon Law) scholarly activities span the globe. He was recently invited to serve as reader of a doctoral thesis at the Australian Catholic University and presided at a session of the XVII Congress of the Society for the Law of the Eastern Churches in Urbino, Italy. He serves on the editorial board of the *Bollettino della Badia Greca di Grottaferrata* and was a featured speaker at the 10th *Oriente Lumen* Conference in both San Diego and Washington, DC.
- **Archpriest David M. Petras** (Director of Spiritual Formation; Professor of Liturgy) just published *Time for the Lord to Act: A Catechetical Commentary on the Divine Liturgy* (Byzantine Catholic Metropolia of Pittsburgh, 2006). He spoke to the clergy of the Greek Catholic Eparchies of Prešov and Košice, Slovakia in late April, participated in the Conference on the *Malyj Trebnik* sponsored by the Theological Academy, Prešov, and gave a conference on "The Catechetical Program in the American Church" in the Eparchy of Prešov. He also continues to participate in the Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation.
- **Archpriest John G. Petro** (Rector) is a sought after director of retreats for clergy, religious and laity and recently joined other seminary rectors for a workshop discussing Psycho-Sexual Integration for seminarians at the St. Luke Institute, Silver Spring, MD.
- In addition to pastoring, **Fr. Joseph Raptosh** (Director of Field Education; Professor of Pastoral Theology) is actively engaged in ongoing studies in Clinical Psychology at the Pittsburgh Psychoanalytical Institute. He participated in the winter 2006 Conference of the American Psychoanalytic Association in New York City and attended Scientific Meetings of the Pittsburgh Psychoanalytical Society and Institute, on whose planning committee he serves.
- **Cynthia Schwartz** (Librarian) teaches a Research and Information Skills course at Duquesne University and is continuing her own education in Duquesne's joint Master of Business Administration/Master of Science in Information Systems Management program. She brings back from these experiences valuable new insights into electronic resources and contemporary library management to share with the seminary community.
- **Prof. J. Michael Thompson** (Instructor of Liturgical Chant) is active in the National Association of Pastoral Musicians and directs the Eastern Christian Musicians' Institute during their national convention, where he also led over 2000 participants in the celebration of Paschal Matins. As director of the Schola Cantorum of St. Peter the Apostle, he brought the Divine Liturgy to the Diocese of Peoria's observance of the Year of the Eucharist and to the parish of St. Philip the Apostle in Northbrook, IL, for the feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius. The Schola's latest recording, "Great Vespers for Blessed Theodore Romzha," will be released in June. Prof. Thompson will travel to Užhorod in June to speak at the International Symposium on Ruthenian Chant sponsored by the Blessed Theodore Romzha Theological Academy.

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Library Donations Welcomed

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The seminary library accepts donations of books, journals and other non-print material that supports both the curriculum and research goals of the seminary. The library collection consists of resources devoted to theology, Eastern Christianity, Slavic studies and other related fields.

If you wish to make a resource donation, please contact the Librarian, Mrs. Cynthia Schwartz, at (412) 321-8383 ext. 23, or by email at bcs.library@verizon.net.

If you wish to designate a monetary amount to the library, please contact Mr. Edward Barr, the Development Director, at (412) 321-8383 ext. 28.

The Library retains the right to dispose of duplicates and unneeded materials. Items will be returned to the donor at the donor's request and expense. The request to return materials must be made prior to the donation.

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In October 1996, Fr. Dino was appointed pastor of St. George's Church in Linden, NJ and the Protosyncellus (Vicar General) of the Eparchy of Passaic, NJ.

In addition to his above stated assignments, in 2000 he was appointed administrator of SS. Peter and Paul Church in Elizabeth, NJ.

Fr. Dino commented on his role as a member of the Seminary Advisory Council, "Having been the Academic Dean and a Professor at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, I was very pleased to be appointed a member of the Seminary Advisory Council, and I am very proud to be associated with all that the Council has accomplished over these past 7 years. I believe the Council has laid a foundation for a very bright future for the Seminary."