

# 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*

## *Seminarians Reflect on Role in Pilgrimage*

Thousands of Byzantine Catholics gathered to participate in religious services, educational opportunities and discussion forums at the 73rd Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA over Labor Day weekend. Countless pilgrims have offered their prayers before this revered icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, which was given to the Sisters of St. Basil in Uniontown by Pope Pius XI.

The seminarians of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary play an integral role in the Pilgrimage. Third-year seminarian Daniel A. Forsythe of Hopedale, OH, shares his thoughts on his third pilgrimage: "Fr. John, our Rector, emphasizes that we go to Uniontown as servant-pilgrims. It is with this attitude that we participate in all the events. There are many wonderful people I look forward to working with each year behind the scenes."

"Participating in the liturgical services throughout the pilgrimage is a magnificent experience. I especially like the smaller and less-attended services. This year I helped to cantor at Matins each morning. I was amazed to see how young the Matins crowd was. Teenagers who had been up till 2 a.m. made it out of bed for Matins at 7:15! It is a heartening sign of the dedication and energy of some of the youngest pilgrims. It is inspiring to see so many young people like myself enthusiastically participating in a service



*Will Rupp & Diodoro Mendoza carry icon.*

that seems to have been forgotten by our churches for too many years.

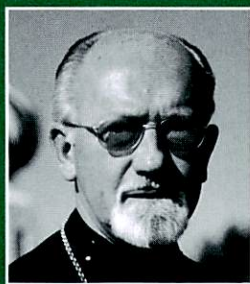
"Pilgrimage is always a time of spiritual refreshment nourished by hard work, prayer, a tremendous amount of fun, and most importantly, the common experience of Christ dwelling in our midst."

Diodoro Mendoza, a first-year seminarian from Las Vegas, reflects on his first pilgrimage: "My experience at the 2007 pilgrimage exceeded any imaginable expectation. What most impressed me was being a part of the largest Divine Liturgy, seeing thousands of pilgrims gather to receive the Eucharist. The movement of the priests as they made their way through the people on the grounds amidst the canvas of

trees in the background brought to mind the image of what it will be like one day to be partakers in the Kingdom of Heaven as the multitudes gather to receive God.

"It is evident the Sisters of St. Basil embark on an incredible endeavor to facilitate the pilgrims' spiritual needs. Confessions, Matins, Vespers, Akathist, Panachida, candlelight processions, and the many other devotions to our Lord and the Theotokos were beautifully orchestrated. As a first-time pilgrim there was time for meditation, relaxation and fellowship. It was especially motivating to see the country's eparchies represented at a single event like one huge family reunion. Glory to Jesus Christ forever!"

# Rector's Message



For several years you have read about our steady progress on the road to accreditation. It has been an exciting and challenging journey thus far. Recently another significant milestone has been achieved. From 23-26 September 2007, a team of four people from other accredited theological schools, along with two observers from The Association of Theological Schools, visited the Seminary. They interviewed all the constituents of the Seminary, reviewed all the records and documentation, and generally studied the Seminary to determine if it is worthy of accreditation.

They will soon make their recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on accreditation, and the Board will vote on the Seminary at its January 2008 meeting. Let us all continue to work and to pray for a successful culmination of this process.

*Father John G. Petro, Rector*

## Seminary Welcomes New Staff

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary is pleased to announce the appointment of **Sandra A. Collins** as the Director of the Library. Sandra, a Ph.D. candidate in Religious Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, came from the Gumberg Library of Duquesne University, where she was a reference librarian. She is an Adjunct Faculty member of Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, and a Teaching Fellow in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. She holds a BA in



*Sandra A. Collins*

Anthropology /Biology from the University of Pittsburgh; an MA in Christian History/Biblical Languages from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; and an MLS degree from the School of Library and Information Science, University of Pittsburgh.

Notes Sandra, "Since coming to the library at BCS, I see only opportunities. I am really looking forward to automating the collection, sharing our resources locally and virtually, and working more collaboratively with the local Pittsburgh theological library community."

**Susan Seiden Carlino** has been appointed Director of Development of the Seminary. Susan has worked at the Seminary since



*Susan Seiden Carlino*

March 2005 as the secretary to the ATS Self-Study. She holds a BA in Journalism and Political Science from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Susan has experience as a Press

Secretary for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives; as a freelance writer and editor; as a press chief for the U.S. Olympic Committee; and as a Shooting Sports Information Coordinator for the National Rifle Association.

"I enjoyed working at the Seminary, helping with the ATS Self-Study process. It is a wonderful opportunity to continue on in development to implement the recommendations of the Self-Study and advance the Seminary as a center of learning," Sue commented.

## The Cost of Running a Center of Learning

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary incurs annual costs of \$49,000 in **utilities** alone to keep its doors open. This does not include faculty and staff stipends, repairs and maintenance, insurance costs, office supplies, food service, telephone and internet service, upkeep of building and grounds and many other services. Anyone who owns and maintains a home will quickly understand what it takes to keep it up.

The primary mission and purpose of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary is the formation of men to become the spiritual leaders of the Church. Beyond this, the Seminary serves as a center of learning for Byzantine Catholic Churches in North America, embraces those seeking academic and pastoral formation, makes graduate-level theology in the Byzantine Catholic tradition available to all, and supports other educa-

tional and formational programs to serve the Byzantine Catholic Church and the wider community.

Seminarians and some faculty study, teach and live in the Seminary building. Theology students attend classes here. Others come here for personal enrichment in theology and spirituality. The Deacon Formation Program and the Metropolitan Cantor Institute are both based in the Seminary. >>>

>>> The Seminary's Board of Directors and Advisory Council hold their meetings here. Liturgical services are regularly held in the chapel, where the Ambrose-Romano singers occasionally give a concert, and the community is welcome to attend. The Archieparchial Office of Religious Education is housed in the Seminary and offers many programs, including workshops for catechists' enrichment, the Safe Environment Program and Days of Prayer for catechists. In addition, a variety of committees for Archieparchial programs also meet here. The Seminary provides focused training for those clergy preparing to serve in the Byzantine Catholic Church as bi-ritual priests.

Presbyteral Council meetings are hosted at the Seminary, and neighborhood community groups meet in Seminary classrooms. The library holds resources used by visiting scholars. Adult education classes and workshops in the Byzantine tradition are held in the evening.

In short, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary serves Byzantine Catholics and the wider community as the only free-standing, English-speaking Byzantine Catholic Theological Seminary in North America. In its 57 years of existence it has prepared over 300 men to serve as priests,

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*Donor support is vital to the life of the Seminary, and we are indebted to our donors.*

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and has supported countless others through educational and formational programs.

Won't you please consider a gift to the Seminary to ensure its continued success as a center of learning in the Byzantine Tradition? The future of the Seminary depends upon the involvement of donors to carry it

through to self-sufficiency. Donor support is vital to the life of the Seminary, and we are indebted to our donors. If there is no seminary, there will be no priests, and if there are no priests, there will be no Byzantine Catholic Church.

## Under the Dome

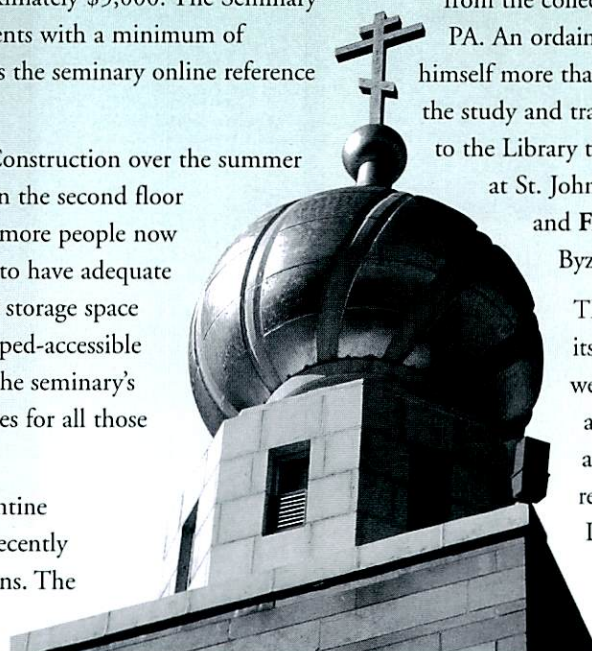
• **Access PA and Millennium:** Sandra Collins, Director of the Library, arranged to place the library's holdings into a statewide database of all libraries in Pennsylvania. Users outside the seminary's campus can now view the library's holdings. A state grant of \$5,000 will convert the library's card catalog materials and everything in Library World to machine-readable formats. **Access PA** membership allows the seminary to purchase software through the state, giving the library a state-of-the-art, fully-online catalog with the added benefit of automating every function within the library. The online catalog service, Millennium, is sold to universities for roughly \$45,000, with an annual cost of \$12,500. With a state grant, the cost to the seminary will never be more than \$2,000 yearly; the start-up cost is approximately \$5,000. The Seminary Library will meet ATS requirements with a minimum of expenditure, and **Access PA** gives the seminary online reference and literature resources.

• **New Restroom for Library:** Construction over the summer has resulted in a new restroom on the second floor near the library. With more and more people now using the library, it is important to have adequate facilities available. An underused storage space was transformed into a handicapped-accessible unisex restroom. This is part of the seminary's ongoing effort to upgrade facilities for all those who come here.

• **Library Donations:** The Byzantine Catholic Seminary Library was recently enriched by several large donations. The

private library of the late **Fr. Michael Shear**, ('64), including recordings of Byzantine chant, choral music and Slavic folk music, was donated earlier this year. The late **Fr. Julius Kubinyi**, a native of Transcarpathia who last served in the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, donated his rich collection of books on Ruthenian culture and history of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. **Msr. Frank Korba**, ('67) contributed music manuscripts and recordings of **Andrew Petrin**, cantor and choir director at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Whiting, IN. This collection documents the work of individual cantors and choir directors, necessary for studying the local chant traditions of the Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Church. Several hundred liturgical books in Church Slavonic, Ukrainian, Serbian, Romanian and Greek, and a wide variety of materials on monasticism and out-of-print liturgical studies now reside at the Library from the collection of the late **David T. Fritz** of Wilkes-Barre, PA. An ordained lector in the Orthodox Church, he taught himself more than a dozen languages and devoted his free time to the study and translation of liturgical texts. His collection came to the Library through the kindness of **Stephen Kozich**, cantor at St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church in Wilkes-Barre, and **Fr. Carmen Scuderi, OFM**, pastor of St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church in Hazleton, PA.

This generosity allows the library to expand both its general and special collections. The Seminary welcomes gifts and bequests of books, periodicals and other resources that support the curriculum and goals of the Seminary. If you wish to make a resource donation, please contact Sandra Collins, Library Director, at (412) 321-8383 or [bcs.library@verizon.net](mailto:bcs.library@verizon.net).



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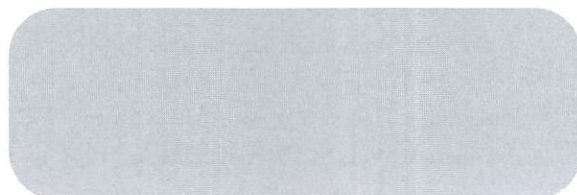
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## Spring Lecture Being Planned

The Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis from Brunswick, Maine will deliver the 8th Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Lecture on Friday, May 2, 2008. Fr. Chryssavgis, a well-known Orthodox theologian, will speak on “Remembering Sacred Silence,” touching on the subtle variations on solitude, silence and stillness in the *Letters* of Barsanuphius and John.



Fr. Deacon Chryssavgis holds a degree in Theology from the University of Athens, a diploma in Byzantine Music from the Greek Conservatory of Music, a research scholarship to St. Vladimir’s Theological Seminary, and a doctoral degree in Patristics from the University of Oxford. He is the author of several books and numerous articles on the Church Fathers and Orthodox Spirituality. He is currently the theological advisor to the Ecumenical Patriarch on environmental issues. Notes Fr. Chryssavgis, “Silence and prayer mean creating space for those moments in our life where integrity and beauty and justice and righteousness reign.”

“The Seminary is honored to welcome Fr. Deacon Chryssavgis. He is an impressive addition to the list of lecturers at this annual event,” said Fr. John G. Petro, rector of the Seminary.

## ATTENTION ALUMNI of the Seminary

If you or someone you know attended the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we want to hear from you. Our list of alumni needs updating, so please contact us with the years you attended and your contact information.

The Seminary would also like to hear (and share) your news. Beginning with the next issue of *Joyful Light*, we would like to run a column dedicated to BCS alumni. Achievements, milestones, and anything else newsworthy would be welcome. Look also for a new alumni page in the near future on the Seminary’s website, [www.byzcatsem.org](http://www.byzcatsem.org).

Please send all information to the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, 3605 Perrysville Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, Attention: Alumni, or email it to [sue.bcsdevelopment@verizon.net](mailto:sue.bcsdevelopment@verizon.net). If you are willing or have an interest in serving on the Alumni Committee, please let us know.