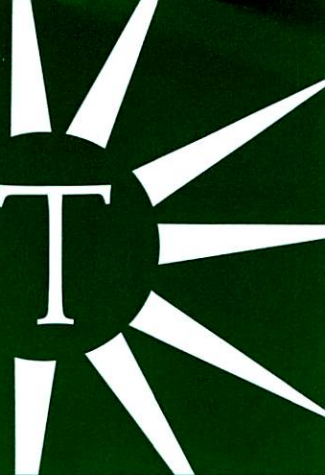


JOYFUL LIGHT



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 Introduces New Instructor of Chant

Coreen Poklembo, a voice major with a degree in Music, has been named as the new Instructor of Chant at the Seminary.

Mrs. Poklembo, a resident of Derry, PA, is a lifelong Byzantine Catholic who has been involved with music for most of her life. Her home parish is St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Bradenville, PA, where she has served as Cantor since 1986. Since 2005, she has also served as the vocal and general music instructor at Aquinas Academy in Greensburg, PA.

She is an active member of the Westmoreland Music Educators Association, the American Choral Directors Association and the Catholic Teachers Association. Mrs. Poklembo has served as a vocal music instructor at the Metropolitan Cantor

Institute since 2005, teaching vocal technique and diction to the participants.

“The seminarians have an appreciation for music; they know it’s important. Because liturgy is the central focus of our worship, our worship is music. It is an honor for me to help in the development of these future priests,” said Mrs. Poklembo.

Diódoro Mendoza, a second-year seminarian from the Eparchy of Van Nuys, notes that Mrs. Poklembo is a “very passionate, motivating and inspiring instructor. She identifies our strengths and weaknesses and acknowledges that everyone has a potential singing voice. She has enduring patience because she loves her work.” Diódoro is currently taking Chant II.

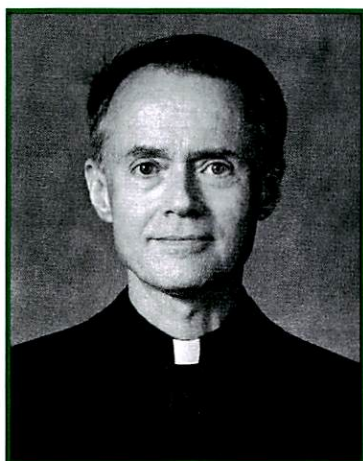


Coreen Poklembo

Mrs. Poklembo lives in Derry, PA with her husband, Jeff, and daughter, Sarah Rose.

Save the Date

The 9th Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Lecture will be at St. Paul’s Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA on May 4, 2009.



Rev. Ronald G. Roberson

Rev. Ronald G. Roberson will speak on “Catholic-Orthodox Relations: Hopes for the Future.”

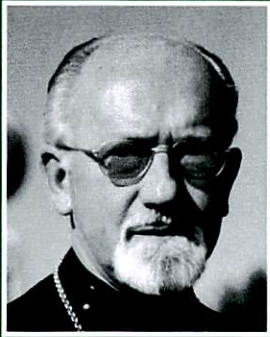
Fr. Roberson was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1977. Traveling extensively in Eastern Europe and the Middle East in 1982, he became interested in the Eastern Churches of Greece, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey. In 1988, Fr. Roberson was appointed to the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (Eastern section) in Vatican City. He was responsible for relations with the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Orthodox Churches of Greece, Cyprus, Romania and Finland, and the orthodox in the diaspora. He has been participating in conferences on ecumenism and Catholic-Orthodox relations since 1993.

Fr. Roberson received the “James Fitzgerald Award for Ecumenism”

bestowed by the National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers “for outstanding contribution and service in the work of Christian Unity.” He has served as the Associate Director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops since 1995. In 2005, Walter Cardinal Kasper named Fr. Roberson as a Catholic member of the International Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches. He is also the author of numerous publications, including “East and West, Healing the Rift.”

Fr. Roberson received his doctorate (S.E.O.D.) in Oriental Ecclesiastical Sciences from the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome; an M.A. in theology from Catholic University; and his B.A. in Political Science at the University of Kansas.

Rector's Message



The Mission Statement of the Seminary says that we wish to be a center of learning for Byzantine Catholic Churches in North America. Another major step in reaching for this goal is taking place this year. Archbishop Cyril (Bustros) of the Melkite Greek Catholic Eparchy of Newton has chosen to send the Melkite seminarians to the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. This year we are happy to welcome two seminarians from this Eparchy along with one student from the Romanian Catholic Eparchy of Canton who is doing a special year of pastoral formation. These men add to the diversity of our Seminary community and bring many new perspectives into our lives. Truly the Seminary is becoming a center for the Byzantine Catholic Churches.

Father John G. Petro, Rector

Planned Giving at the Seminary

In the last *Joyful Light*, an informational chart with a brief explanation of the various types of planned giving was included. Planned giving offers our friends and benefactors the opportunity to practice Christian stewardship and make a difference through estate planning. In this issue, we present a closer look at the Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). With a CGA, a donor can realize higher annuity payments for life, while fulfilling philanthropic goals. The CGA makes it possible to receive higher returns on an asset for life. It may also result in a charitable contribution on your federal tax return.

It is simple. The Seminary can send you a CGA Agreement in exchange for your contribution (check, stocks or bonds).

Each year, the Seminary mails payments to you. Or, if you prefer, the agreement can run for the lives of you and your spouse.

To illustrate this, Mary has savings in certificates of deposit, among other things, using the income in her retirement. She is unsatisfied with the low interest rate her CDs are paying. Speaking with her advisor, Mary learns about the benefits of gift annuities, and contacts the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

Mary discovers that, based on her age, a gift annuity would pay 8%. She would also receive a tax deduction, and part of the income the Seminary would pay her each year is tax-free. She transferred

\$20,000 from one of her CDs into a CGA with the Seminary. She is delighted with the additional income and her advisor is pleased that the charitable deduction will save her more than \$3,000 in taxes this year.

Everyone's personal circumstances are different, so please consult your tax advisor concerning the use of qualified retirement funds. If you are interested in helping the Byzantine Catholic Seminary through planned giving, we would be happy to work with you in researching strategies that most benefit your personal needs. For questions, please contact Susan Seiden Carlino at the Seminary, (412) 321-8383 ext. 28, or via e-mail at sue.bcsdevelopment@verizon.net.

Seminary Pursues Grant for Smart Classroom

With accreditation from The Association of Theological Schools, the Seminary is now able to apply for grants to further its educational goals. High up on the Seminary's "wish list" are electronic resources for local and eventual distance learning. To that end, the Seminary

applied for a \$25,000 grant from the Koch Foundation to cover the purchase of hardware, software, lighting, electrical and cosmetic upgrades to convert an existing classroom to a smart classroom.

This technology, used in elementary schools, high school and universities,

will allow the Seminary to further develop as a center of learning. These tools, which will enable distance learning, are indispensable to making programs available beyond the Pittsburgh area.

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BE A PART OF OUR FUTURE If you would like to remember us in your will, our official title is: Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius, 3605 Perrysville Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214

Alumni Day

Last month at the Seminary, seven former seminarians gathered for an inaugural "Alumni Day." The Seminary is attempting to reach out to alumni, keeping them informed of the changes, advances and opportunities available at the Seminary. It is also an opportunity for alumni to speak out and let the fledgling Alumni Association know of their needs.

The returning alumni toured the Seminary, shared lunch and stories with current seminarians, heard from instructors, and were re-introduced to the treasures in the rare book room of the library. The day ended with a service in the chapel. As Fr. John Petro told the returning alumni, "We are very proud of the direction the Seminary is taking, and we want to showcase our highlights. And you, as an alumnus, are in a position to be one of our best advocates for our programs."

The day was well received by the attendees, who were all in agreement that changes have greatly improved the Seminary. One pointed out the role the Alumni Association should fill: a two-way street, where the Seminary benefits from the role of alumni, and the alumni receive spiritual support from the Seminary.

The Alumni Association will be meeting in the near future to discuss planning additional Alumni Days. If you are interested in attending, please let us know by calling the Seminary at (412) 321-8383, by writing, or via e-mail: byzathsem@verizon.net.



Under the Dome

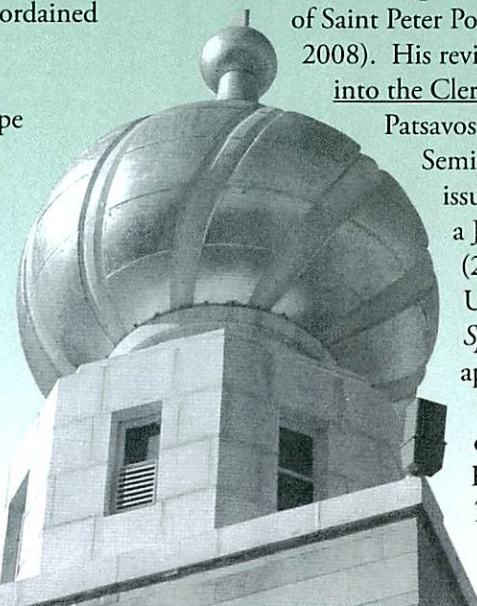
Fulfilling its mission as a center of learning in the Byzantine Catholic tradition, the Seminary welcomed new seminarians this fall. Two young men from the Melkite Eparchy of Newton, **Brian Lasky** and **Musil Shihadeh**, are attending the Seminary with the blessings of Archbishop Cyril Bustros. Brian's home parish is St. Ann's in Waterford, CT, and Musil's is St. John the Baptist in Northlake, IL. At the request of Bishop John Michael Botean of the Romanian Eparchy of Canton, **Radu Titonea** is doing a special pastoral study program at the Seminary for one year. Radu completed his seminary studies in Romania and is an ordained Subdeacon.

The "Year of St. Paul," as proclaimed by Pope Benedict, has kept Fr. **Jack Custer** busy lecturing on various aspects of St. Paul's Epistles to groups such as the catechists of the Pittsburgh Archeparchy, the Adult Catholic Education (ACE) program in Brecksville, OH, and at the annual Pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA. He attended the annual North American Patristics Conference in June, along with alumnus Steve Puluka (MA, 2007). Fr. Jack's book on St. Paul, [The Apostolic Writings](#):

[A Byzantine Perspective](http://www.byzantines.net/byzantinepress/theology.htm) is available from the Byzantine Seminary Press: <http://www.byzantines.net/byzantinepress/theology.htm>.

Over the summer **Fr. George D. Gallaro** took part in the Orientale Lumen XII conference in Detroit, where the theme was "Feast Days of the Eastern Churches." Fr. George wrote "*Oikonomia and Marriage Dissolution in the Christian East*" for *Studies in Church Law*, an Indian Canon Law Review, published by the Centre of Canon Law Studies of Saint Peter Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, India, (Jan. 2008). His review of the book, [A Noble Task: Entry into the Clergy in the First Five Centuries](#), by Lewis Patsavos [Brookline: Holy Cross Orthodox Seminary Press, 2007] appears in the same issue. "*Oikonomia*" also appears in *Logos*, a Journal of Eastern Christian studies [49 (2008) Nos. 1-2], published by Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada. "*Priestly Spirituality: A Reflection*," by Fr. George, appears in the July-September issue of *Vocations and Prayer*, a Catholic magazine on vocation ministry, published by the Rogationist Fathers of Los Angeles, and in *The Priest* magazine.

Continued on page 4



JOYFUL LIGHT



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Smart Classroom from page 2

The Koch Foundation will meet in February 2009, and the Seminary will be notified sometime in March about the grant. However, the Seminary has decided that this teaching and learning technology will enhance the formation of future priests, deacons, and all those interested in studying theology and spirituality in the

“...on the Seminary’s “wish list” are electronic resources for local and eventual distance learning.”

Byzantine tradition, and intends to pursue this goal, regardless of the outcome of the grant.

The Koch Foundation required applicants to demonstrate additional financial support as a condition of the grant.

The Seminary has turned to its alumni, clergy and

friends to enlist their support. If you care to help make this worthwhile project a reality, your donation would be welcome. Please send your check to: The Byzantine Catholic Seminary, ATTN: Smart Classroom, 3605 Perrysville Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214.

Under the Dome from page 3

Sr. Margaret Ann Andrako, OSBM, attended the first Marian, ecumenical and international congress in the USA in August at the Newman Library and Oratory in Pittsburgh, sponsored by The Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary, USA. The goal of the society is to bring together scholars from traditional Christian traditions to find union in Christ through mutual reflection on his Mother. This year’s theme was “Virgin Mary as Daughter of Zion: Mother of the New Creation.” Speakers at the congress included representatives of Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Methodist, Lutheran, Syrian, Byzantine Catholic, Anglican and United Church of Christ. One of the keynote speakers was Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, Dean of St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, NY.

Fr. David M. Petras attended the biannual convention of the Society of Eastern Liturgists (SOL) in Rome in September, where he presented a short communiqué entitled, “Liturgical Reform in the Pittsburgh Ruthenian Metropolia: The 2007 Translation, Genesis, Process and Result.” Also in September, Fr. David was named a member of the Study Group for Rites of Initiation of CHOCE (Conventus Hierarcharum Orientalium Catholicorum Europae), the Council of Bishops of the Eastern Church of Europe.