

# 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 Achieves ATS Accreditation*

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS Cyril and Methodius has been granted accreditation by the Commission on Accrediting of The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) at their meeting in January 2008.



Some of the faculty, seminarians and MAT students at the Seminary

The initial accreditation of the Seminary is for a term of five years, until the fall of 2012. The Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Arts in Byzantine Catholic Theology (MAT) programs were approved.

Metropolitan Archbishop Basil, President of the Board of Directors of SS Cyril and Methodius Seminary stated, "It is with great gratitude that I congratulate the rector, faculty, staff and students of our Seminary for their efforts in having achieved accreditation by The Association of Theological Schools. They, along with the Board of Directors, Advisory Council, and special committees worked tirelessly for this accomplishment which begins a new time of academic possibilities and potential growth for seminarians and other scholars and for our Metropolitan Church in the United States as well."

Accreditation is a primary means of quality assurance in North American higher education. By seeking this designation, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary agrees to hold itself to mutually accountable agreed-upon

standards of educational quality. These standards emphasize the importance of institutional and educational effectiveness. Degrees issued by the Seminary will now be recognized and accepted at other fully-accredited institutions.

"This accreditation is the result of many years of effort by our faculty, staff, Board of Directors, Advisory Council and countless volunteers," said Fr. John G. Petro, the Seminary's Rector. "With this honor, the Seminary will continue to grow in excellence and quality, and be nationally recognized as a true center of learning in the Byzantine Catholic Tradition."

Dr. Betty Radvak Shovlin of Pittsburgh served as the Director of the Self-Study.

*"The benefits of accreditation will open new doors for the Seminary ..."*

"The Seminary underwent a close scrutiny of its life for years to identify the qualities of excellence that already existed and those that needed to be achieved," she noted. "The standards it must adhere to for institutional strength and educational effectiveness were high. It is so satisfying to see how people from many disciplines with many talents worked together to achieve this goal."

Accreditation is governed by standards adopted by the member schools of the Commission. These standards cover a broad

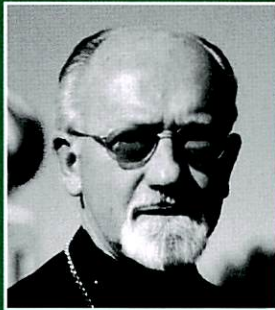
range of institutional issues and require the approval of degree programs offered by member schools.

The benefits of accreditation will open new doors for the Seminary. Accreditation allows the Seminary to begin the process of applying for eligibility in federally guaranteed student loan programs, so students can apply for financial aid. Accreditation assures supporters of the Seminary and the wider public that it is engaged in appropriate educational effort, thus allowing the Seminary to begin applying to institutions and foundations for grants and matching funds.

The ATS Commission is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and by the nongovernmental Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) for the accreditation of graduate, professional theological schools in the United States. The Commission, through its Board, works cooperatively with regional accrediting associations in the U.S., other professional associations, state departments of education, and other allied organizations in Canada and the United States.

The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) is a membership organization of more than 250 graduate schools that conduct post-baccalaureate professional and academic degree programs to educate persons for the practice of ministry and for teaching and research in the theological disciplines.

# Rector's Message



Another successful academic year is now concluded, and, in these pages, you will read about some of the exciting events that have taken place at the Seminary. Three men have completed their studies and received degrees this year: Seminarian Frank A. Hanincik and Fr. Michael P. O'Loughlin received the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree, and Mr James A. Silvestri received the Master of Arts in Byzantine Catholic Theology (MAT). An inspiring presentation was made by Rev Dr John Chryssavgis at the annual SS Cyril & Methodius Lecture entitled: *"Remembering Sacred Silence, Variations on Solitude, Silence and Stillness"*.

In summary, this year has been a very rich and rewarding year on many levels. The quality of both seminarians and students in the School of Theology has been exceptional. The spirit in the seminary community remained consistently high. The faculty is both highly dedicated and deeply committed to the Seminary. A core of support staff has been established, and they contribute a rich variety of gifts, each in her or his own area. The achievement of the initial accreditation is the realization of both a dream and challenge of the Advisory Council. Now, there are many new avenues of professional procedures that must be learned and implemented. And the Seminary is committed to approach these in a timely and organized manner.

*Father John G. Petro, Rector*

## Planned Giving

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary operates to a large extent through the generosity of our donors. Planned giving offers friends and benefactors the opportunity to practice Christian stewardship and make a difference in their lives and the lives of others through estate planning and bequests.

Donations help the Seminary in its mission to prepare men for ordained ministry to lead the Church into the future and to serve as a center of learning in North America. Below is an overview of the many planned giving options available. As with all tax and estate planning, please consult your financial advisor to best assess your situation in giving to the Seminary. For further information, or questions, please contact Susan Seiden Carlino at the Seminary, or at [sue.bcsdevelopment@verizon.net](mailto:sue.bcsdevelopment@verizon.net).

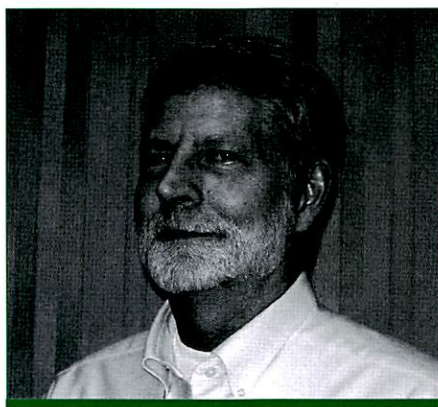
IF YOUR GOAL IS TO...	YOU MAY CONSIDER...	BENEFITS MAY INCLUDE...
Make a quick and easy gift.	Writing a check today.	Income tax deduction and an immediate impact on us.
Avoid capital gains tax on the sale of stock or real estate.	Contributing long-term appreciated securities or property, such as your home.	No capital gains tax, plus a charitable deduction.
Defer a gift after your lifetime.	Placing a bequest of cash, property, or securities in your will.	Donations that are fully exempt from federal estate taxes.
Receive a guaranteed fixed income.	Creating a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder annuity trust.	A fixed, stable income with current and future income tax savings.
Present a large gift with little cost to yourself.	Contributing a life insurance policy you no longer need.	Current and possibly future income tax deductions.
Avoid the two-fold taxation on IRAs.	Naming the Seminary as the beneficiary of an IRA.	Leaving your family assets that carry less tax liability.
Create a hedge against inflation over the long term.	Creating a charitable remainder unitrust.	Variable payments for life with tax benefits.
Make a revocable gift during your lifetime.	Naming the Seminary as the beneficiary of assets in a living trust.	Full control of the terms of the trust for your lifetime.
Donate income from assets for a time but retain the assets for yourself or your heirs.	Setting up a charitable remainder unitrust.	The asset is returned to the donor or heirs with federal estate tax savings and tax deductions for income donated.

**MATCHING GIFTS** If you or someone you know works for a company with a matching gift program, your gift to the Byzantine Catholic Seminary can be doubled or tripled. Please check with your company's Human Resources Department for this option.

# The Center of Learning

In its mission and purpose, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary seeks to serve as a center of learning for the Byzantine Catholic Church. **Fr. James Hess, O.Carm.** and **Fr. Donatus Nduluo** have taken very different routes to arrive at the Seminary to learn more about the Byzantine Catholic tradition.

Fr. Jim was born in Syracuse, NY. He entered the Middletown (NY) Carmelite Seminary for high school and his formation, and then was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1976. He spent the years since his ordination serving as a grammar school administrator, a pastor, a teacher of religion and campus minister in high schools in



Father Jim Hess

Brooklyn, NY, Boca Raton, FL, among other places. As a deacon, Fr. Jim met Fr. Elias O'Brien, O. Carm., a fellow Carmelite and a former instructor at the Seminary, who introduced him to the Byzantine Catholic Church. Later, during a visit to the Trappist Monks at Gethsemane outside Charleston, SC, Fr. Jim discovered he wanted to learn more personally about the Eastern Church. His Provincial granted him leave to spend time at the Seminary, and Archbishop Basil agreed, and thus Fr. Jim came to the Seminary in September 2007.

Continued on page 4

## Under the Dome

- **Sandra Collins**, Director of the Library, recently attended an Access PA workshop and a Millennium software workshop. The Library's Access PA membership gives the Library a state-of-the-art, fully online catalog (Millennium) and automates every function within the Library. She also presented a paper with Allison Brungard of Duquesne University's Gumberg Library at the Pennsylvania Library Association Annual meeting in State College, PA, entitled "Where Angels Fear Tread: Creating a Lean, Mean Reference Collection." At the Association for Jewish Studies' annual meeting in Toronto, Canada, Sandra presented another paper, "Weapons Upon Her Body: the Female Heroic in the Hebrew Bible." She published an op-ed piece in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* ("Windmills: To Know Faith is to Ask Questions") on Feb. 16, 2008. In April, she was an invited speaker at the Central Pennsylvania K-16 Information Literacy Network at the Schlow Centre Region Library in State College.

- **Fr. Jack Custer**, Academic Dean, participated in the 15th International Patristics Conference at Oxford University in August 2007. He continues to offer an ongoing catechetical formation series on Scripture for the Eparchy of Passaic in Fox Chase, PA and Orlando, FL. He recently published two articles exploring the biblical basis of Byzantine liturgy in international scholarly journals: "Priesthood's Pledge: Eucharist and Tradition in the Byzantine Rite of Ordination," in *Gregorianum*, and "The Virgin's Birth Pangs: A Johannine Image in Byzantine Hymnography," in *Marianum*. He delivered a paper on Pope Benedict XVI's understanding of the Last Supper to the annual meeting of the Society for Catholic Liturgy in Columbus, OH.

- *Ephemerides Mariologicae*, the scientific review on Mariology edited by the Claretian Missionaries of Madrid, Spain, in its 57th volume (January-March 2007) has published an article by **Fr. George D. Gallaro**, Coordinator of Seminarian Life and Professor of Canon Law, on *The Theotokos in the Christian East and West*. This same article was also recently published in French in *Le Lien*, Vol. 72. Fr. Gallaro, who holds a Licentiate in Ecumenical Theology and a Doctorate in Eastern Canon Law, in addition to a Specialization in Liturgical Theology, presents the great titles that the Christian Tradition has attributed to Mary, the Mother of God: New Eve, Theotokos, Ever-Virgin. With an ecumenical approach, he examines the understanding that Christian theology in the East and the West has developed from the beginning of Mary's life to its completion. The theme presented is that East and West profess distinct but legitimate theologies; there is convergence in the substance, although the concepts differ.

- **Archpriest David M. Petras**, Director of Spiritual Formation and Professor of Liturgy, presented "Liturgical Life in a New World" to the bishops of the Ruthenian Church in Užhorod, Ukraine. This paper will soon be published in Slovak by the Archeparchy of Prešov, Slovakia. Fr. Petras also published two book reviews. In *Logos* he reviewed [American Eastern Catholics](#) by Fred Saato, and in *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* he reviewed [Ancient Faith and American Born Churches](#) and [The Ecumenical Christian Dialogues and the Catechism of the Catholic Church](#).

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## *The Center of Learning from page 3*

While here, Fr. Jim took classes, studied the Byzantine Liturgy, and is now able to serve as a bi-ritual priest. He continues to live at the Seminary while he awaits an assignment.

“Many times seminary is something you have to get through. SS. Cyril & Methodius is not like that,” Fr. Jim notes. “If anything, I don’t think the Seminary appreciates how good it actually is.” There is no question that his time at the Seminary has been a rewarding experience, and he feels others would benefit from time here.

“The Seminary is a very life-giving, very open place,” explains Fr. Jim. “It’s good for the emotional, intellectual and spiritual development; anyone that spends time here is going to benefit from this environment.”

Fr. Donatus, originally from the Central African Republic (CAR), was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in his home country in 1998. Fr. Donatus met Fr. Tom Schaefer

of the Pittsburgh Archeparchy in the Central African Republic and when he visited Fr. Tom in America, Fr. Donatus became interested in the similarities between the Byzantine Catholic Church, the Roman Catholic Church and African traditional religions. “There is a big richness in all three traditions as they regard Jesus Christ,” says Fr. Donatus. He is currently attending the Catholic Institute in Paris, and this similarity between the traditions is being explored for his doctorate in theology.



*Father Donatus Nduluo*

Fr. Donatus’ bishop sought Archbishop Basil’s permission for him to study at the Seminary, and Fr. Donatus spent just over a year here. “It was my good luck to work with Fr. David (Petras), Fr. John (Petro), and Fr. George (Gallaro). I learned the Liturgy and became a bi-ritual priest. I love it,” explains Fr. Donatus.

Fr. Donatus notes that the Byzantine Church was a part of the Catholic Church he never knew. He feels strongly that the entire Church must work together. “We must listen to the wisdom of the word of God,” he says. “There is only one truth: our truth is the witness of the gospel of Christ. In the Church, scripture, community and truth are our common grounds. We need to build on this and put aside our man-made separations.”

After completing his doctorate, Fr. Donatus hopes to return to the US and serve the Byzantine Catholic Church for a period of five years, as his way of saying, “Thank you.”

**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 & Methodius, 3605 Perrysville Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15214