

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 Two Degrees



Pani Maria Freishyn Chirovsky and Fr. William Rupp

On the morning of May 3, 2010 faculty, staff, family and friends gathered in the chapel of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary for a Moleben (Prayer Service) in honor of SS. Cyril and Methodius, the patrons of the Seminary. At the conclusion of the service, Metropolitan Basil conferred diplomas upon two graduates of this spring, Deacon William Rupp and Maria Freishyn Chirovsky.

William Rupp, a seminarian from SS. Peter and Paul parish in Erie, PA completed four years of theology and received his Master of Divinity degree (MDiv) - *magna cum laude*. When asked what his thoughts were upon completing his years of study and formation, he replied, "In my seminary years I was able to meet a variety of

people who were my support: faculty, spiritual director, clergy, field education supervisors and fellow seminarians. They were always there for me, and I am grateful to them."

Will was quick to say he knows almost every priest and deacon in the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh which occurred through the many clergy who visited during his years at the Seminary and also by visiting various parishes. He also pointed out: "My parochial ministry in the summers were very important to me. They enabled me to work at diverse parishes in different areas of the Archeparchy: Portage and Uniontown, PA and Warren, OH."

When asked to sum up his four years of theology at the Seminary, Will quickly

answered: "My time here increased my desire to learn and to serve." Will looks forward to his ordination to the presbyterate in May.

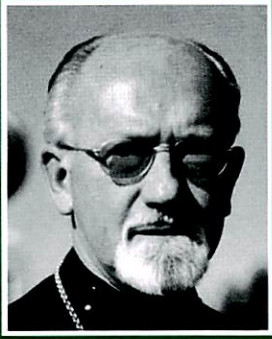
Pani Maria Freishyn Chirovsky received a Master of Arts in Theology degree (MAT) - *magna cum laude* - with a concentration in Liturgy and Scripture. She has the distinction of being the first woman to receive a degree from the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. She commented enthusiastically on this characteristic; "I am happy to be the first woman, but I certainly hope that I am not the last!"

Pani Maria is the wife of Fr. Ivan Chirovsky who is pastor at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Southside Pittsburgh. She and her husband have two teenage children, Antony and Taisa.

It took Maria four years to obtain her degree while raising a family and serving with her husband in the parish. Maria said, however, "It didn't seem like work at all, in fact, going to classes was like raising a child, all joy." When asked what her favorite course of study was, Maria replied that she didn't have one class that she *didn't* like!

Maria's future plans are to train to be a hospital chaplain. She will begin her studies for this position at the end of May.

Rector's Message



It happens each year. After going through the long Pittsburgh winters, the Great Fast slowly and solemnly leads us into Great and Holy Week, and this culminates in the glorious feast of Pascha. Then it is like an explosion! The weeks after Pascha are bursting with new life! Trees begin to bud, the first flowers emerge from the newly thawed earth, the sights and smells of spring fill our senses, the reading of the Acts of the Apostles at the Divine Liturgy offer a fresh look at the young Church and hope seems to abound everywhere.

In the midst of all this, here at the Seminary life is filled to the brim. Research papers are due, exams are around the corner, end of the year dinners show our appreciation to our extended staff, students are preparing for the summer, the annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Lecture brings together friends old and new once again, important meetings take place and the building is usually brimming with guests. It is indeed a celebration of life.

As always, we are grateful for all those who touch our lives. This year we look forward to greeting the priests who will be here for the Year for Priests gathering. We are also excited about the newly-formed Alumni Association of the Seminary and its first reunion this year. You will read about the Association and some of the activities of our alumni in this edition of *Joyful Light*. And to you, our friends and benefactors, we extend our heartfelt thanks for all that you do for our Seminary.

Father John G. Petro, Rector

Alumni Association Up and Running

Under the leadership of Fr. Tom Wesdock (96-00), the Seminary has formed an Alumni Association, defined its mission, begun to identify leadership and plan regional alumni events and conducted its first alumni survey.

The mission of the Alumni Association is to support, assist and promote the Seminary in the formation of candidates for priestly and diaconal ministry and laity in service in the Eastern Catholic Churches and as a Center of Learning for the study of Eastern Christianity and to celebrate community among the alumni of the Seminary throughout North America. The Association is working to establish a network of alumni, graduates and associates and provide a forum to support the Seminary's mission.

Identifying and promoting alumni was one of the recommendations of The



*Fr. Michael Hayduk,
John Biros,
Fr. Eugene Yackanich,
Dr. Andrew Bulazo,
Fr. John G. Petro,
Jack Miller,
Fr. Tom Wesdock*

Association of Theological Schools when it granted accreditation to the Seminary. Toward that end, an alumni section has been added to the Seminary website and a survey conducted to identify alumni interested in playing an active role in the Association, which is open to any former student who was enrolled for at least one semester.

In addition to Fr. Tom, current leadership of the Alumni Association includes: John Biros, Dr. Andrew Bulazo, Fr. Ed Cimbala, Deacon James Danovich, Fr. Michael Hayduk, Fr. Gary Mensinger, Fr. John G. Petro, Deacon

Dennis Prestash, Deacon Michael Sullivan and Fr. Eugene Yackanich.

Meetings occur at the Seminary and are fully inclusive via conference call. Persons whose survey responses indicate an interest in promoting the Alumni Association will be contacted about playing a more active role on the leadership team.

For more information on the Alumni Association of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, please contact Jack Miller at bcs.development@verizon.net or 412-321-8383, ext. 28.

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

Alumni Updates

Fr. Jim Batcha ('85) reports that he is presently the Finance Officer for the Eparchy of Parma, where he served on the Marriage Tribunal, was the Director of Evangelization, and is part of the Parma CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Program and Chaplain for the Sons of the American Legion Post 572.

John Biros, ('62) is currently Associate Professor Information Systems at the Marshall University Graduate College in South Charleston, WV.

Paul M. Graycar ('59) MEd, LPC, NCC is Pastoral Bereavement Counselor with Catholic Hospice in Wexford, PA.

V. Rev. Archpriest Daniel L. Gurovich ('74) has served as pastor at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Parish in Bethlehem, PA for 23 years. He has also performed chancery and tribunal work at both the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma and Philadelphia Ukrainian Archdiocese for 35 years.

Fr. R. Anthony Hernandez ('98) is pastor at St. Basil the Great Parish in Los Gatos, CA and Director of Religious Education for the Phoenix Eparchy.

Stephen P. Kowalchik ('70) is a music composer, arranger and choir director at St. David Roman Catholic Church in Willow Grove, PA. He has taught beginning band and orchestra for 35 years, adult choir for 34 years and is available as a music consultant.

Fr. Richard Lambert ('75) is pastor at St. Mary Church in Youngstown, OH. He is also a protopresbyter and consultor for the Archeparchy and a member of the Seminary and GCU (Greek Catholic Union) Board of Directors and serves as National Spiritual Advisor for GCU.

James Silvestri ('08) resides in Monroeville, PA and is close to completing a study of the feasts of the Theotokos which he hopes to promote as an adult education program. He is currently seeking opportunities in religious education at the high school or undergraduate college levels.

Fr. Tom Wesdock (2000) is currently pastor at St. Gregory Nazianzus Parish in Upper St. Clair, PA and plans to attend Duquesne University in the Fall of 2010 to begin studying for a doctorate in Systematic Theology.

Under the Dome

Fr. George D. Gallaro, Coordinator of Seminarian Life and Professor of Canon Law & Ecumenical Theology, on February 12-14, 2010 presented "The Eastern Churches sui iuris in the Catholic Communion: Notion, Status, Identity" to the international symposium on "The Sacred Canons – 20 Years of Experience after the Promulgation of the Eastern Code" held at Sandomierz, Poland, under the auspices of the Catholic University of Lublin. He has written "Liturgical Spirituality of the Christian East" for *Studi sull'Oriente Cristiano* 14 (2010) published in Rome; "Oikonomia and Marriage Dissolution in the Christian East" has also appeared in *Folia Canonica* 11 (2008) a Review of Eastern and Western Canon Law published by the Catholic University of Budapest, Hungary. His translation of Basilio Petra's "Married Priesthood: Some Theological Resonances" was published by *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 50 (2009); by *Nicolaus: A Review of Greek-Byzantine Studies* 36 (2009); and by *Studi sull'Oriente Cristiano* 13 (2009). His review of Lewis Patsavos' book, *A Noble Task: Entry into the Clergy in the First Five Centuries*, has also been published by the *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 54 (2010) and by *Orientalia Christiana Periodica* 74 (2008). In June he presented "The Ecumenical Councils: Theological and Canonical Resonances from the Past" at the *Oriental Lumen* XIV Conference in South Orange, NJ.

Sandra Collins, Ph.D., Academic Dean, gave a presentation to the Byzantine Serra Club in January. In March she presented a paper

on the female heroic to a conference entitled, Jewish Woman and Her Body, sponsored by Jewish Studies Department at Youngstown State University. **Sandra** was asked to contribute a presentation to an upcoming issue of *Nashim*, a journal of Jewish women's studies and gender.

Rev. David M. Petras, Professor of Liturgical Studies, published an article, "Eschatology and the Byzantine Liturgy," in *Liturgical Ministry* (Winter 2010). **Fr. David** gave an address: "Holiness in the Priesthood," (Byzantine perspective) - to the National Organization of Diocesan Directors of Continuing Education for Priests, San Francisco, CA in February 2010 (unpublished). Recent meetings he attended include the Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation, Washington, DC, October, 2009 and the North American Academy of Liturgy, Milwaukee, WI, January, 2010.

Fr. Stelyios Muksuris, Ph.D., adjunct professor of languages and liturgical theology, gave three lectures at the 2009 OCF College Conference at Antiochian Village Retreat and Conference Center in Ligonier, PA, on Dec. 29, 2009. The talks were entitled: "We Are the World – We Are God's Children: The Eucharistic Community of the Kingdom." **Fr. Stelyios** also gave a Lenten lecture at the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Pittsburgh, PA, on Feb. 28, 2010, entitled: "Lenten Solemn Vespers - *Katanyktikos Hesperinos*: Its Liturgical Structure and Theology of Transition."

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Byzantine Catholic Seminary
3605 Perrysville Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15214

Rector

Very Reverend Archpriest
John G. Petro

Copy Editor

Margaret Ann Andruko, OSBM

Editor/Development Consultant

Jack Miller, CFRE

e-mail byzcathsem@verizon.net

website www.byzcathsem.org

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Development Update

The financial stability of the Seminary is dependent upon the generosity of our donors. Estate-related gifts have been helpful in balancing our annual budgets. So far this year, we have received two charitable gift annuities and alumni have notified us that they have included the Seminary in their wills. It is reassuring to know that the Lord of the harvest continues to work through our benefactors to assure that the seeds of our faith are planted here for future harvests.

To learn how you can leave a legacy through your will, or make a gift that can also provide you with income for the rest of your life, please contact Jack Miller at 412-321-8383, x28 or bcs.development@verizon.net.



SS. Cyril and Methodius Lecture on CD

The Very Reverend John H. Erickson, former Dean and Professor Emeritus of Church History at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Yonkers, NY, delivered the 10th Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Lecture, on Monday, May 3, 2010. Fr. Erickson gave an edifying and thought-provoking talk on the theme of "*Baptism in the Eastern Christian Tradition: Ecclesial Context, Faith Content.*"

The Lecture is available on CD. Check www.byzcathsem.org website for more information and to order.

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