

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.bcs.edu • office@bcs.edu

Full Speed Ahead!!!



First row: Deacon Michael Mandelas, Lewis Rabayda, Steven Galuschik, Deacon Brian Escobedo; Second Row: Kenneth Malley, Benjamin Crow, John Russell, Michael Bezruchka.

Five years ago, under the leadership of Fr. John G. Petro, the seminary received accreditation for the first time from The Association of Theological Schools (ATS). With that accreditation came recommendations from ATS evaluators for continued growth and development of the seminary. These helped to form the basis of the seminary's Strategic Plan that has been the guide as the seminary strives to reach the high standards of ATS.

ATS is a membership organization of more than 250 graduate theological schools in the United States and Canada. It endorses post-baccalaureate

professional and academic degree programs to educate persons for the practice of ministry and for teaching and research in the theological disciplines. The Commission on Accrediting of ATS accredits institutions and approves degree programs offered by accredited schools. The seminary offers two graduate degrees: The Master of Divinity Degree to prepare candidates for the priesthood and the Master of Theology Degree to prepare students for lay leadership as well as for future doctoral-level study.

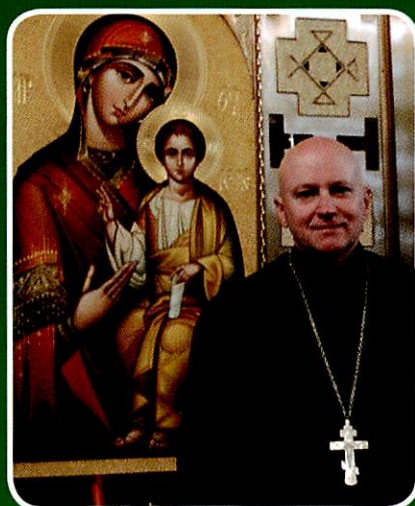
The Self-Study Committee (28 people composed of faculty, clergy,

along with other experts in specific fields) has been actively involved in the self-study process. They examined every area of operation: curriculum, faculty development, outcome based instruction, student life, finance, facilities, the role of the Board of Directors and how the seminary is evolving to meet the needs of a changing world. This effort was directed by Dr. Betty Radvak Shovlin along with the former Rector, Fr. John G. Petro and the present Academic Dean, Fr. Joseph Raptosh who formed a steering committee. The faculty played a significant role in evaluating current needs in their area of expertise and then writing the report which was presented to ATS. Concurrently, specialists in finance, development, physical resources, technology, law and internal environment volunteered their time to assess current practices and recommend changes leading to the fulfillment of goals and outcomes that the seminary plans to achieve.

The major report has been sent to ATS and now all the constituents await an evaluating team of professionals chosen by ATS to visit on November 26-29, 2012. This team will interview and assess the status of the seminary compared to the standards of ATS, review what has been found in the report and interview representatives

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New Rector Appointed



Fr. Kurt Burnette

Fr. Kurt Burnette, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Albuquerque, NM has been appointed by Metropolitan William C. Skurla to succeed Fr. John G. Petro as rector. Fr. John resigned in October for health reasons. We thank Fr. John for his 17 years of dedicated service and leadership.

Fr. Kurt, an alumnus of the Seminary, has extensive teaching experience in mathematics and theology both prior to and after ordination.

Fr. Kurt also received a degree in Canon Law from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome in 2000 and has worked in matrimonial tribunals of three eparchies/dioceses.

We welcome Fr. Kurt and look forward to working with him as we continue our mission of forming priests and dedicated lay men and women for ministry.

Seminary Faculty and Staff

Library Catalog Online



Megan Topolosky

Currently, the library is busy organizing and cataloging our somewhat disordered periodical holdings. Earlier this year, we added as many title records for our journal holdings as possible to the online catalog. It then fell to the Library Assistant Megan Topolosky to put in accurate holding information, which would better reflect what volumes and years we actually housed here in the library. She has spent the last few months detailing the span of years and volumes for all the current as well as past journal issues held in the circulating collection. It's labor-intensive work but by the end of the year, Megan hopes to have a more complete periodical listing of titles and holdings for anyone interesting in researching at the library.

We are also blessed to have a new volunteer in the library. Jeff Mierzejewski, webmaster for the Metropolitan Cantor Institute, is

currently working to get a handle on our extensive musical holdings, many of which have been gifted to us as photocopies, mimeographed books or boxes of disorganized sheet music that reside in our Rare Book Room. With his considerable music background as well as language skills, Jeff is beginning the slow work of taking this morass of music and converting to catalog records that can better represent the wealth of musical materials that the Byzantine Catholic Seminary library holds.

We are grateful for the efforts of all those who not only work in the library but give to support our efforts. It has been especially gratifying to see our in-house materials reflected in our online catalog, which means more people are learning about the Byzantine Seminary as well as the particulars of the Byzantine Catholic faith tradition.

BE 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.

David H. Dix Joins Staff



David H. Dix

We have a new Development Consultant! David Dix joins our mission at the Seminary as we continue the mandate of our Lord, Jesus Christ, "...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you." (Mt. 28:20).

David has been in the Development field for almost 13 years. Prior to that, he was a Vice President at Mellon Bank. After 15 years at Mellon Bank, David felt called to work with non-profit organizations and help them in their development efforts. David has worked with St. Margaret Foundation and East End Cooperative Ministry in the areas

of annual giving, major gifts, planned giving and capital campaigns.

We are excited that David has joined us with his vast amount of experience. David is succeeding Jack Miller and we thank Jack for his years of dedication to BCS. We welcome David as we continue to explore ways in which you can support the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. Please know David is available to assist you in any way possible. If you have questions or an interest in personal gifts, memorial gifts, planned giving, corporate giving or tax saving opportunities, David can be reached at development@bcs.edu or by calling the Seminary at 412-321-8383 ext. 28.

Under the Dome

Fr. George D. Gallaro, Professor of Canon Law and Ecumenical Theology, addressed the 48th Melkite Convention in Detroit, Michigan, (July 5-8) and participated at the annual Melkite Clergy Conference in St. Louis, Missouri (September 24-28). He wrote *Priestly Identity and Vocation* for *The Priest* 68 (2012) 42-48; *A Calabrian in the Footsteps of the Desert Fathers: St. Francis of Paola* for *Nicolaus* 38 (2011) 219-223; *La Madre di Dio nella Tradizione Melkita* and *Sacred Icons and Church Belief* for *Odigos* 31 (2012). Several other shorter articles have appeared in *Sophia*, the Journal of the Eparchy of Newton, MA, *Byzantine Catholic World*, the newspaper of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, and *New Star*, the newspaper of the Eparchy of Chicago.

During the last weekend in October, **Sandra Collins**, director of the library and faculty in biblical studies at the Seminary, as well as director of Byzantine Online, was invited to participate in The Association of Theological School's annual Women in Leadership conference in Pittsburgh. This conference brings together female academic deans, directors and leaders in the field of theological education to discuss issues and concerns for emerging female leaders. Issues that were addressed at the conference included action plans for networking, risk taking and effective communications for women in academic leadership positions. Speakers at this conference included Maxine Clarke Beach, former dean of Drew University Theological School, Sharon Callahan, Associate Dean at Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry and Ann

Garrido, Associate Professor of Homiletics at Aquinas Institute of Theology in Kansas City. Each speaker also led a small-group discussion where participants were encouraged to share their own unique leadership issues and were invited to dynamically problem-solve together.

The **V. Rev. Protopresbyter Stelyios S. Muksuris, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Liturgical Theology, gave a lecture in the Business School of Point Park University on October 4, 2012, entitled: "Leadership Ethics: The Perspective from the Classical Greek Philosophers." **Fr. Stelyios** is also currently translating from the French the doctoral dissertation of Metropolitan Maximos Aghiorgoussis, former Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh, entitled: "The Image of God According to St. Basil the Great," which will eventually be published by Holy Cross Press, Boston, MA.

Byzantine Online will offer four courses in the spring, all of which are 8 weeks in length. All classes are slated to begin Monday, January 28, 2013. The courses/presenters are:

- History of the Eastern Church in America (*Fr. David Petras*)
- Introduction to Dogmatic Theology (*Fr. Jason Delvitto*)
- Evil and Exorcism Rites in the Byzantine Tradition (*Fr. Stelyios Muksuris*)
- A Return to the Holy of Holies: Spirituality of the Great Fast (*Fr. Daniel Forsythe*)

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of all constituencies of the seminary: Board, administration, faculty, seminarians, off-campus students, staff, alumni and committee members of the self-study. Documentation that supports all findings is necessary for the evaluators to review when they arrive. The evaluation team will present a report of their findings and recommendations to the Commissioners of ATS who will then decide the term and conditions of reaccreditation in January, 2013.

As the self-study for reaccreditation is a continuous process, the seminary will begin the next self-study by taking all of the accumulated findings and forming a five year Strategic Plan that will determine the focus for the future. The self-study is viewed as the process for all constituents to work in faith, harmony and the desire that the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius continually excels in its Mission.



Make Your Calendar Monday, May 6, 2013

A specialist in ecumenical studies, **Monsignor John A. Radano** of Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ will deliver the annual lecture. Msgr. Radano has participated extensively in ecumenical activities at the international, national, and local levels.

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. Some organizations even match gifts from spouses and retirees.