

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

Degrees Conferred at Seminary



Geoffrey, Archbishop William and Deacon Musil.

Following a Moleben in honor of SS. Cyril and Methodius, patrons of the Seminary, Metropolitan Archbishop William, Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, conferred diplomas upon two graduates of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary on May 11, 2012. Faculty, staff, family and friends were in attendance as diplomas were conferred upon Deacon Musil Shihadeh and Geoffrey Mackey.

Deacon Musil Shihadeh, a seminarian from St. John the Baptist Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Northlake, IL completed four years of theology and received his Master of Divinity degree (MDiv) - *cum laude*. He summed up his four years of study and formation at the Seminary by saying: "Hard work is a necessary element for any vocation, but it needs to be joined with constant self-reflection to be effective. I endured a lot of challenges in my four years, not only academically, but personally. In attending Seminary, I have learned to be a better man and a better minister to others. While I still need to grow, I know that my zeal to work hard will never go away. And this zeal, present in me since I was small,

has been and may be an inspiration for others in the future."

Deacon Musil particularly enjoyed his study of Liturgy at the Seminary. He discovered through this study that life surrounding the worship of the ancient Christian was tedious and challenging. However, he said that the more he studied Liturgy, the more he fell in love with the worship history of the Christians and began to make intimate connections with the past and their zeal.

Summer assignments in parishes in the Melkite Eparchy of Newton helped Musil to understand what parish life is truly like. He commented that it was interesting to visit people in their homes and at the hospitals. Learning different styles of liturgy helped him realize that flexibility in ministry is a positive in order to meet the needs of the people. He considered this a good starting point to learn what his future life would be like.

When asked how his learning at the seminary will help in ministry, Musil replied: "Growth is possible and it comes

with time and experience. As a young man who is about to be 'thrown to the wolves,' so to speak, I learned that having patience with myself and others will help me develop my ministry and help me to continually grow in holiness. I also learned that a proper balance is necessary in one's life: continued education helps stimulate and challenge one's mind and development of leisure allows time for personal needs which help the mind to regroup. Furthermore, a life of prayer and discipline is inseparable from the priesthood, and the Seminary helped me build a stronger prayer life."

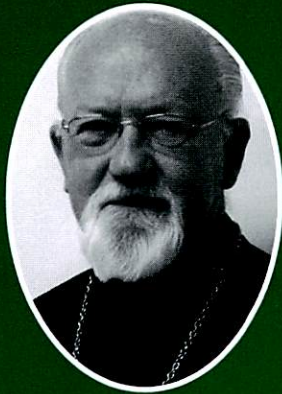
Some personal thoughts noted by Musil upon completing his years of study and formation are that he is proud that his vocation is becoming a reality. He clearly says that "it was a good road to take and I do not regret anything in my years here." Deacon Musil will be ordained to the presbyterate in October, 2012.

His hopes as he moves on to parish ministry are to motivate others in living a life of balance and courage, to encourage them to develop their relationship with God and to perform his ministry with zeal as he deepens his own relationship with God and with the people whom he serves.

Geoffrey Mackey received a Master of Arts in Theology degree (MAT) – *summa cum laude* – with a concentration in Liturgical Theology. His thesis was entitled, "*Today the Virgin is Present in the Church: Toward a Byzantine Liturgical Mariology.*" Geoffrey is a parishioner of St. Nicholas Chapel in Beaver, PA. He and his wife, Erin, have two children, 6 year old Gabriel and 6 month old, Alexandra.

When asked what made him decide to pursue an MAT degree, Geoffrey answered, "I was particularly interested in sacramental and liturgical theology, primarily the Eastern approach to the sacramental (Continued on page 4)

Rector's Message



Spring is a beautiful time at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh. After a very mild winter, and one of the warmest on record, the luscious greenery brings the whole Seminary grounds to life. And we are especially blessed to have a wonderful rustic city park, Riverview Park, literally in our backyard. It is a great place to walk, jog or bicycle in all seasons, but especially in the spring when all the greenery is so fresh and luscious. The beauties of God's gracious creation surround us and remind us that beauty is a major part of God's plan of creation for us.

Inside the building, there is so much more going on. In addition to all the classes, conferences, programs and lectures, the Seminary has been a beehive of activity in preparation for its re-accreditation. Yes, it has been five years since our initial accreditation, and now we are completing the two-year Self-Study to review our accomplishments, our responses to the recommendations that were given to us and our plans for future development. Under the careful guidance of Dr. Betty Radvak-Shovlin, Director of the Self-Study, over 30 people have been reviewing, analyzing and making recommendations in all areas of Seminary life. This is to ensure our continual growth and development and to keep us on par with all the other theological schools in the United States and Canada. The Comprehensive Visitation for our re-accreditation by The Association of Theological Schools will take place in November 2012.

As always, we are grateful to you our loyal supporters and look forward to your continued prayers, support and also the promotion of the Online Learning Program. It is one of our ways of reaching out to the larger community who have asked for our Seminary faculty to share their expertise well beyond the Seminary walls and the Pittsburgh region.

Dr. Lewis J. Patsavos Addresses Lecture Participants

Dr. Lewis J. Patsavos, Professor Emeritus of Canon Law and former Director of Field Education at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA, delivered the 12th Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Lecture on Monday, May 7, 2012, at the Kearns Spirituality Center, in Allison Park, PA.

Professor Patsavos gave an enriching and thoughtful talk on the theme of *Canonical Challenges Facing the Orthodox Church in America*. He spoke at length about the importance of the Church's canonical tradition as a rudder to guide communities and individuals in securing the authentic Christian life. The Holy Canons seek to interpret authentic theory and to translate it into authentic practice by always projecting "the spirit of the Law" above and beyond "the letter of the Law." Among the issues covered were: monasteries, the charismatic participation of the laity in the life of the Church, the challenge of ethnic allegiances, the challenge of Pan-Orthodox unity, and the theme of the Eucharistic community as the basis for the resolution of one bishop per diocese.

The event concluded with an array of insightful comments and motivating questions, posed to Dr. Patsavos by several of the attendees in the audience, clergy and laity alike. Also present were the newly-enthroned Hierarchs from both the Byzantine Catholic and Orthodox churches – His Eminence Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh and His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh. The audience included faculty, staff, and seminarians from the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. Several guests from the greater Pittsburgh area, as well as friends and supporters of the academic community, likewise attended. Following the lecture, the guests enjoyed refreshments and fellowship with one another.

Serving as Professor of Canon Law and Director of Field Education at Holy Cross Seminary since 1974, Dr. Patsavos continues to teach at Holy Cross in a limited capacity. A world-renowned scholar and authority in the field of Canon Law, Dr. Patsavos has lectured at universities in

the United States and abroad. He has authored several articles and four books, his last study entitled: *A Noble Task: Entry into the Clergy in the First Five Centuries* (Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Press, 2007).

He is currently completing a textbook on Orthodox Canon Law based on his over 35 years of academic research and teaching. A prominent and noted scholar in his respective field, Dr. Patsavos has served as a consultant on canonical affairs to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the Carpatho-Russian Diocese of America, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople. He has also served as a former member of the North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological

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Dr. Lewis J. Patsavos

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.

BCS Online Courses Continue

Jeff Mierzejewski, instructor of the Spring 2012 Chant History Course through the Byzantine Online distance learning program, said that it was a great joy to teach the course. He noted, "A dozen students met with me online to look at the origins and development of our Church's liturgical singing, from its origins to the present day. Several of the students had stories to tell, some going back quite a few decades, and the level of participation was excellent!"



He pointed out that with help from Dr. Sandra A. Collins, our seminary librarian and Director of Online Learning, he was able to incorporate materials from the library's Rare Book Room into the course, including some very early settings of the Divine Liturgy in English. Over the course of this year, Jeff will be cataloging the music materials in the Rare Book Room in order to make them more easily available to seminary students and researchers.

Under the Dome

Dr. Sandra A. Collins, Librarian/Director of Online Learning, gave a number of presentations: in December, 2011, she spoke to Temple Ohav Shalom's Adult Religions group on spirituality and discipleship in the Bible; shared with attendees of the St. Nicholas Day Dinner about changes and developments at the Seminary and delivered a talk on Elizabeth and Zechariah at the Christmas Day of Reflection at Mount Macrina House of Prayer. From January through May, she returned to Mt. St. Macrina Monastery to offer two conferences on models of biblical women for the Sisters' annual St. Basil Day of Prayer; addressed the Observatory Hill Garden Club; gave a presentation on discipleship as part of St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church's Lenten series; spoke on biblical models of marriage to deacons' wives attending the Deacon Retreat at Antiochian Village; and addressed the Eparchy of Pittsburgh's clergy at their Presbyteral Days on "Change as a Christian Constant." In November, February and May, respectively, she attended the Information for Advancing Catholic Scholarly Research Symposium at Duquesne University; Save Pennsylvania's Past conference sponsored by Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts at the Heinz History Center; and Pittsburgh Interpretation Conference sponsored by The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools.

Fr. George D. Gallaro, Coordinator of Seminarian Life/Professor of Canon Law and Ecumenical Theology, directed the annual retreat for the Pittsburgh Archeparchy Deacons & Wives in Ligonier, PA (April 27-29) and that of the Passaic Eparchy at Mount Pocono, NJ (October 17-19). During Holy Week (April 4-8) he offered four reflections to the Melkite community of Greater Chicago, IL. On February 28 and March 1 he addressed the students of Canon Law at the Pazmany Catholic University of Budapest and St. Athanasius Greek-Catholic Theological Institute of Nyiregyhaza, both in

Hungary. He wrote *Sacri Canones and the Common Heritage of the Christian East* for *Studi sull'Oriente Cristiano* 15 (2011) 199-212, *Considerations on the Bishop Emeritus* for *Iustitia* 2 (2011) 295-312, *Vocation: A Glance through the Patristic Sources* for *Seminary Journal* 16 (2010) 86-90, *Pray to the Lord of the Harvest* for *Homiletic & Pastoral Review* 111 (2011) 58-63, *Maria di Nazaret e i Musulmani* for *Odigos* 31 (2012) 16-17, *Vatican II: 50 anni ed ancora attuale* for *Odigos* 30 (2011) 9-10. He also translated from Italian, Maria Fattori, *Benedict XIV and His Sacramental Polity on the Eastern Churches* for *Logos* 53 (2012) and *Ephrem of Nisibis on Ministerial Priesthood* for *Ephrem's Theological Journal* 15 (2011) 114-120. 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.

The V. Rev. Stelyios Muksuris, Ph.D., adjunct Professor of Liturgical Theology, gave a lecture on Sunday, March 25, 2012, at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Pittsburgh, PA, entitled: "The Marriage of Orthodoxy and Hellenism: Instilling and Preserving the Christian Ethos in Western Society." He also gave a presentation on the topic of "God's Modern Wonders Among the Ancients: The Newly-Revealed Saints Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene" on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at Dormition Greek Orthodox Church, Oakmont, PA.

Fr. David M. Petras, professor of Liturgy/Director of Spiritual Formation, while on sabbatical during the spring semester in Tucson, AZ worked on a complete edition of all the Old Testament readings of the Church year with a small commentary. The tentative title of this work is: *The Old Testament Lectionary of the Byzantine Church*.

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mysteries. When I learned that the Seminary's MAT program had a concentration in Liturgical Theology, it didn't take me long to decide to pursue it. I started out as a non-matriculated student, but within a couple of weeks, I realized that I was at 'home' and decided to formally apply for the MAT."

Geoffrey came to the Seminary as an Anglican, interested in sacramental theology and the Eastern Christian tradition. Although he had been studying Eastern Christianity independently for several years beforehand, he says that: "...after my first year of studies at the Seminary, I discerned that God was calling me to join the Byzantine Catholic Church. I was chrismated by Fr. John Petro at St. Nicholas Chapel in Beaver, PA in September 2009. So my experience at the Seminary has been transformative in more than one way."

Geoffrey summarizes his years of study at Byzantine Catholic Seminary: "My time at the Seminary has been rewarding both academically and spiritually. I feel that I have grown both as a theological thinker and as a disciple of Christ. I also feel that, as important as my academic experience has been, the availability of the faculty for spiritual guidance has been paramount." He also explains that his courses in Byzantine spirituality and in the Divine Liturgy were rewarding because of their relevance to the day-to-day life of the Christian person.

As the Director of Distance Learning for Trinity School for Ministry, an Anglican seminary in Ambridge, PA, Geoffrey feels that his

degree from the Seminary will assist him as he plans to continue working in graduate theological education which he finds to be very rewarding. For the future, Geoffrey said that he feels a particularly strong call to work ecumenically, "What that might look like in the future, I do not know, but I care very deeply about Christian unity and building bridges with 'separated brethren' for the sake of the Gospel." He is presently a Deacon Candidate for the Archeparchy and believes that if by God's grace he is ordained, his education in the MAT program will be helpful for teaching and preaching roles. Geoffrey is also discerning whether further graduate work in theology is on the horizon.

Dr. Lewis J. Patsavos

Addresses Lecture Participants

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Consultation, as well as a member of various Archdiocesan *ad hoc* committees and an *ex officio* member of the Archdiocesan Council of the Greek Orthodox Church in America.

The annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Lecture series is sponsored by the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. Its purpose is to invite noted scholars from both Catholic and Orthodox traditions to offer meaningful presentations within their areas of expertise and to perpetuate the theological dialogue in both the academic community and the Church.

A CD of Professor Patsavos' address is available. Check www.bcs.edu website for more information.