

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

“Celebrating the Future...”



Seminarians Bryan Scotton and Thomas Moses

We are delighted to welcome our two newest seminarians to the Byzantine Catholic Seminary – Bryan Scotton (left) and Thomas Moses (right). Bryan Scotton is from the Eparchy of Parma. Bryan grew up in a Byzantine Catholic family with his parents Julianne and David and a younger brother Alex in Independence, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. His undergraduate education was at Case Western Reserve University where he received a Bachelor of Science in Music Education with a concentration in choral music.

His calling to ministry began when he was young. He recalls always wanting to teach. While he was working towards a degree in Music Education, he was seriously discerning the priesthood. As Bryan became more involved in the Church and observed and experienced the many facets of the priesthood, he realized that he may have a calling to this vocation. He also realized that his talents and gifts in music and education could be used in the priesthood. Through prayer, work, and the support of others, Bryan decided to apply to the Seminary.

Now that Bryan is at our seminary, he is most looking forward to learning more about his faith. Bryan said “Just in the first few weeks that I have been here, I have already learned so much. I am enjoying my classes, and I cannot wait to learn more.” While Bryan is at the

Seminary, he asks that the Church help him by praying for him. Bryan adds “Please pray that I may do God’s will, whatever that may be.”

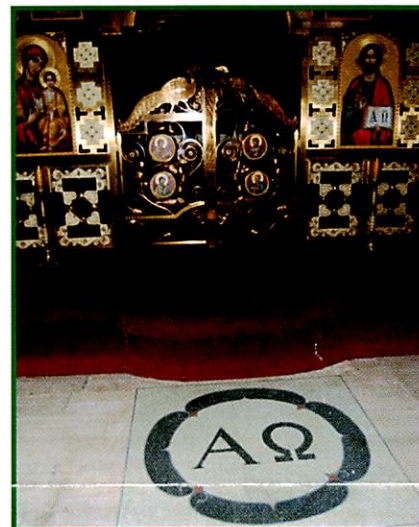
Thomas Moses comes to the seminary from the Melkite Greek Catholic Eparchy of Newton. Both of Thomas’ parents grew up in Boston, Massachusetts, where his great grandparents had settled after coming to the United States from Lebanon. His family is a mix of Antiochian Orthodox, Melkite and Maronite. Thomas’ father is Melkite, so his immediate family was raised Melkite Catholic.

Thomas attended a Catholic high school in Nashua, New Hampshire and received a BA in Philosophy from Saint Anselm College also in New Hampshire. After graduating in 2010, he worked for 2 and a half years as the assistant manager of a food pantry in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Shortly before Thomas entered the Seminary, he taught religion to sophomores in the Catholic high school he had attended.

Thomas said “After taking my faith for granted during high school and really losing contact with church outside of school, I began to see that the possibility of God’s existence

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...Appreciating the Past”



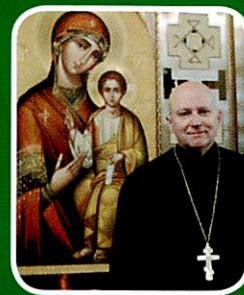
Alpha and Omega Symbols in our Chapel

In 1975, during the 25th anniversary of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, improvements were made to the Chapel. The walls were painted, the icons were re-touched and new carpeting was installed. The carpeting down the middle of the Chapel was meant to reflect or mirror the color and magnificence of the Chapel ceiling. The softer and warmer feeling was a welcome change as the Seminary celebrated its anniversary of vocational ministry. Fast forward to the summer of 2013. After almost 40 years, leadership at the Seminary wanted to update the Chapel. In making the updates, new paint was applied and the old carpeting was removed. As the old carpeting was being removed, workers uncovered a beautiful sight. The Alpha and Omega symbols were revealed as part of the original flooring. The symbols will remain uncovered for all to enjoy. As we begin a new year at the Seminary, we are thrilled to welcome new students and have a new appreciation of the Seminary’s past.

Rector's Message

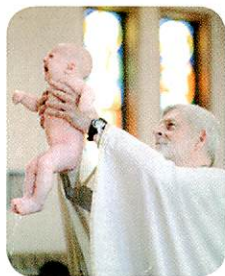
As you read this Rector's Message, I will have begun my new responsibilities as Bishop of the Eparchy of Passaic. I am humbled by and grateful for the support and encouragement I have received. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here working with the Board of the Seminary. Their enthusiasm and passion for the work of the Seminary is encouraging. Conferring four Masters of Divinity as well as several Orders has been a highlight of my time at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. My daily interaction with our fine seminarians fortifies my confidence in the future of our church. Father John Petro, Sister Margaret Ann Andrako and the entire faculty and staff established a professional and respected educational organization. It has been an honor and privilege to extend their work and the mission of the Seminary. I have peace of mind as I leave the Seminary in the hands of Rector Pro Tem Father George Gallaro, the Board and you, our supporters and benefactors that the standard of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary will be upheld.

Please continue to keep the seminary in your prayers. Support our Seminary for the future of our Church. As Pope Francis reminds us of the compassion and mercy of God, I depart this place that formed me as a young priest with hope and serenity.



Fr. Kurt Burnette

A New Person on Campus: James Hess, O.Carm.



Father Jim at the baptism of Alexander Petteway

In Bolivar, PA, life was about silence, prayer and work. The rhythm of each day was accentuated by chanting, praying the psalms and the daily services of the church. Little did I know, that Our Lord was preparing me, to go back to one of my favorite places, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

In 2007, once again from a time of silence,

the Lord, first introduced me to the beauty of the Eastern Church and now after five years living and serving in the Archeparchy, Archbishop William Skurla has asked me to be the Spiritual Father of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary. I can't tell you how humbling it is to walk with those preparing to serve the Ruthenian Church, as priests. Our seminarians invite me to return to a time in my life, so many years ago when I was asking God, how, he wanted me to live my life and serve His people. The call is the same, but the times are so different. From high school seminary, college, novitiate and theology, there were never less than fifty other young men preparing alongside me. Today, a seminarian has five additional companions making the journey. Never did I hear of a church closing. Today closing churches are a fact of life.

As I began seminary, Pope John XXIII was leading the church. I was so close to him and his vision for the renewal of the Church. People from all walks of life were drawn to him. The times were exciting and hopeful. Today, we are also blessed with a beloved pope, Pope Francis.

The task now is to help these young men to discover the awesome call to follow Christ, as a priest. Many of the supports are gone, many look upon the priesthood in a very different way today but Pope Francis is opening a new chapter in the life of the church. Without rejecting the past, he is inviting us, as St. Francis did during the Middle Ages to rebuild the church. Pope Francis's person is so compelling

and while, right now, there are not many seminarians. They are a very special group of young men that I find also very compelling. We just finished the yearly retreat under the direction of Fr. Stephen Wojcichowsky of the Eparchy of Edmonton. He is a married priest with children and grand-children. He invited our seminarians to be men of hope. I could see in their faces a willingness to accept the challenge to be men of hope, rebuilding the church but also those who will restore the traditions and customs of the Eastern Church. To be asked to walk with them is a huge honor. I hope to mentor them into a life of holiness and service. They breathe new life into me, as I walk in the autumn of my life. Together let us hear the Master calling, Come follow me.

Seminary Accreditation

By Dr. Betty Radvák Shovlin,
Director, Seminary Self-Study

With gratitude to God and to all who worked so diligently to bring it about, BCS has been reaccredited by The Association of Theological Schools for seven years. In a letter to the Rector, Fr. Kurt Burnette, the Board of Commissioners, at their meeting in August, 2013, wrote, "To reaffirm accreditation of Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius for a period of seven years (fall 2019)."

The first accreditation occurred in 2007 for a five year period. This new term indicates approval of the progress the Seminary has made and the trust of ATS that the Seminary will continue its progress, thus extending the time for the next self-study and reaccreditation in 2019.

The ATS Standards for effective theological schools drive the work of the seminary to examine its status with regard to its mission, programs, curriculum, students, faculty, library, board of directors and administrative operations.

Thirty-three highly credentialed people were invited to come to the seminary to study progress in all of these areas since the last accreditation. They volunteered their time and professional expertise to note what had been effectively accomplished, what remained to be completed, what new goals had

been developed and made recommendations. This committee then wrote a self-study report which was sent to ATS in September, 2012.

ATS then sent a comprehensive evaluation committee from ATS and from other theological schools for a four-day peer review of the Seminary. They interviewed all Seminary constituents, studied the Self-Study Report and wrote an evaluation of their visit with recommendations for continuing what is effective at the Seminary and what should be done to continue the growth as a highly effective school of theology. The report of these evaluators is given to the ATS Commissioners who read all materials and vote on the reaccreditation status and set the time for the next accreditation.

The faculty and staff of the Seminary are now responsible for planning how recommendations and improvements will be implemented in the next seven years.

This continuous process is designed to keep the seminary on a path of improvement and excellence for all of its students and for how the high quality of training of these students ultimately affects their service to the people of the entire Metropolia.

Deep appreciation is extended to all who participated in the self-study and to the faculty who have the tremendous responsibility of fulfilling the expectations of accreditation.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We again wanted to thank all of our contributors and active promoters of the Day of Giving fundraising event held on Thursday, October 3, 2013. This was an opportunity for donations to the Seminary to be matched by the Pittsburgh Foundation during a 24 hour period. We are thrilled to report that the total amount we received from The Pittsburgh Foundation (including the match of .13 cents for every dollar donated) was over **\$7,000!** Donations from across the country were received during this event!

Thank you to all of the generous participants for your support of our Seminary and for your support of our mission. The Pittsburgh Foundation 2014 Day of Giving will be taking place on Tuesday, May 6, 2014. *Mark your calendars!*

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.

Article from Deacon Formation Program

by Michael Paul Tisma
Byzantine Catholic Seminary
Deacon Formation Program

During the 2012 summer session of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary's Deacon Formation Program, Scripture professor, Dr. Sandra Collins, posed the following question to the candidates in her Synoptic Gospels class: *All three Synoptics include a scene of Jesus calling the disciples (Matt. 4 [18-22]; Mark 3 [13-19]; Luke 5 [1-11; 27-28]). What is significant and unique to these narratives? What is Jesus saying? How does this relate to me as a future deacon in the Byzantine Catholic Church?*

When I began to meditate on this, what struck me was the nature of Jesus' call. It was too easy, too simple ... He just said "Follow Me." Was I missing something? To follow Him, did Jesus not call the Apostles first to the prophet's way of conversion and repentance? Surprisingly my answer had to be "no." Jesus did not say, "Repent of your sins, reform your lives and **then** come follow me." He simply said "**Follow me**" just as you are! The more I reflected I found two particularly common elements here.

First, each narrative begins with Jesus taking the initiative, His going out in search of those who were willing to trust Him and to answer Him: "As **he walked** by the Sea of Galilee, **he saw** two brothers ... and **he said** to them,

"Follow me" (Matt. 4:18a, 19a); "**He went up** to the mountain **and called** to him those whom **he wanted** ..." (Mark 3:13a); "**Jesus was standing** beside the lake ... **Jesus said** to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people'" (Luke 5:1a, 10b); "**He went out** and saw a tax collector ... and **he said** to him, 'Follow me'" (Luke 5:27).

Second, Jesus personally called together ordinary men out of their daily normal lives to follow him on a totally unknown journey, to give up their livelihood and families; the Apostles did not know what Jesus had in mind or how they would survive. He did not call these men because of their extraordinary talents, impressive credentials, academic degrees, major accomplishments in life, idealized programs and missions, projects and techniques, charitable works and ministries. He called them just as they were in order **to form them into what He wanted them to be**. He invited, in a most personal and silent way, a completely diverse group of common everyday simple men who were total strangers: fishermen, a zealot, a tax collector, a skeptic and even a betrayer. Jesus' undemanding and open invitation simply asked these men to put their absolute trust in Him to perpetuate His mission of salvation: "You did not choose me but I chose you; and I appointed you to go and bear fruit" (John 15:16).

To Read More of Michael Paul Tisma's article, please visit our website at www.bcs.edu or call us for a copy of the article.

Under the Dome

Dr. Sandra A. Collins, Librarian/Director of Online Learning, gave a number of presentations: In May 2013, she spoke to the Adult Forum at Calvary Episcopal Church in Shadyside, PA. The title of her talk was "Mrs. Zebedee." In October 2013, she taught an information resources and research methods seminar to an environmental writing class at the University of Pittsburgh. In the library at the Seminary, we are in the midst of shifting about a quarter of the library collection to the 3rd floor space. Our hope is to expand into this additional space in the near future. This summer, the library staff finished bar coding the circulating and reference collections. The next task at hand will be the Rare Book Room.

Fr. Joseph Raptosh, Academic Dean, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology, Director of Pastoral Placement, was named as an Associate Faculty member of Pittsburgh Psychoanalytic Center (PPC). The PPC is a training and educational institution affiliated with and accredited by the American Psychoanalytic Association. It is one of more than 70 psychoanalytic societies and institutes worldwide. PPC offers extensive training programs and educational opportunities to mental health professionals, psychiatric residents, and members of the community. These programs are designed to further the practice of psychoanalysis and psychodynamic psychotherapy, a form of therapy that focuses on the whole person using non-judgmental attitude, empathy, caring, and understanding in order to help the individual resolve his/her symptoms with aims in developing confidence, self-definition, and improved interpersonal relationships.

Fr. George D. Gallaro, Coordinator of Student Life, Professor of Canon Law and Ecumenical Theology, attended the 21st International Congress of the Society for the Law of the Eastern Churches in Bari, Italy, on September 10 - 13, and was elected as its Vice President; he also attended the annual Melkite Clergy Conference in San Antonio, Texas, on September 23 - 27. His articles, *Married Priests: A Divine Vocation* appeared in *Sophia* 43 (2013) 26-27; *Carrellata biblica sul diaconato*, in *Odigos* 32 (2013) 29-30; *Remarriage in the Orthodox Church Challenges Catholic Church* in *Studia Canonica* 47 (2013) 119-143. Review of the book on Archbishop Elias Chacour, *Blessed are the Peacemakers*, by Patricia Griggs was also published by *Sophia*. Shorter articles have also appeared in *Sophia*, the Journal of the Eparchy of Newton, MA, in *Byzantine Catholic World*, the Newspaper of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, and in *New Star*, the Newspaper of the Eparchy of Chicago.

Fr. Stelyios Muksuris, Ph.D., Professor of Liturgy at the Seminary, delivered a paper at the Orthodox Theological Society in America (OTSA) annual meeting, held on the campus of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA, from September 19 - 21, 2013. His paper is entitled: "*E Duobus Unum* in America: Rethinking the Mutual Influence between Monastic and Cathedral Liturgy."

Fr. Stelyios' doctoral dissertation has also been published as a book by Holy Cross Orthodox Press (Brookline, MA, 2013) and is available for purchase. It is a voluminous study entitled: *Economia and Eschatology: Liturgical Mystagogy in the Byzantine Prothesis Rite*.

Fr. Jason DelVitto, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor of Dogmatic Theology at the Seminary, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at Duquesne University on February 13th, 2013. The title of his dissertation is: ENCOUNTERING EUCHARISTIC PRESENCE WITHIN A POSTMODERN CONTEXT: A DIALOGUE AMONG CHAUVET, SCHMEMMANN AND ZIZIOULAS. Fr. Jason was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy Degree from Duquesne University dated May 3, 2013.

Fr. Jason DelVitto and his sons, Gregory, Steven and Daniel, participated in a pilgrimage to Russia, August 13 - 27th, 2013. The pilgrimage was led by His Grace Bishop Nicholas, Auxiliary Bishop of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. The pilgrims spent nine days in St. Petersburg and five days in Moscow visiting the various Orthodox churches and holy sites in each city. In St. Petersburg, their itinerary included: The Church of the Resurrection also known as the Church of the Savior on the Spilt Blood, the Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan, St. Alexander Nevsky Monastery, St. Isaac Cathedral, St. Nicholas Cathedral, the Church of Blessed St. Xenia, St. Nicholas Naval Cathedral in Kronstadt, the naval base from which St. John of Kronstadt ministered to countless faithful and SS. Peter and Paul Fortress Cathedral. They also spent a day visiting Catherine's Palace and a day at Peterhof, the summer residence of Peter the Great located on the Gulf of Finland, as well as a tour of the Hermitage and many other sites of the city.

In Moscow and surrounding areas, the churches visited were: The Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra, the churches in Red Square including St. Basil's Cathedral and the Cathedral of the Dormition, the Novodevichy, "New Maiden Convent," Christ the Savior Cathedral, and the Danilov Monastery. At the gracious invitation of His Eminence Archbishop Niphon, the Antiochian Orthodox representative in Russia, the participants celebrated the Divine Liturgy with His Eminence at his Church of the Archangel Gabriel which was followed by a visit and luncheon hosted by His Eminence. Among many other destinations, they visited and prayed at the chapel and Church of the Resurrection in the town of Butovo, where more than 20,000 people were shot and buried from August 1937 through October 1938, during the reign of Stalin. This place of the martyrs, also known as the "Russian Golgotha," is visited by many pilgrims to offer prayers for those martyred for the faith and to ask for their intercessions before the throne of God.

Sue Seiden Carlino, joins the Seminary Staff after being away for a few years. In 2009, Sue worked at the Seminary in the Development Office. She now returns to the Seminary to help Helen Kennedy and Father Joseph Raptosh with the Seminary accreditation process. With her attention to detail and interest in helping the Seminary, Sue also is assisting with recent updates to the computer software at the Seminary. We are thrilled to welcome Sue back to the Seminary.

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Celebrating the Future...

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was strong and that the demands that would make on my life must be significant." Thomas had a desire to see the church of his youth, Our Lady of the Cedars in Manchester, New Hampshire. "I fell in love with the Liturgy all over again" Thomas said. He began attending church more and more frequently and he started praying often and exploring the writings of the Church Fathers and many modern monastics. Thomas' favorites are St. Theophan the Recluse and Elder Paisios.

After college Thomas visited with a career advisor from his college and completed a personality test. The three careers that best suited his interests and personality were teaching, counseling and clergy. Thomas realized "I would love to teach, or be a counselor, but I believe I can do both of those things in a much more effective and holy way either as a theologian or clergy." Thomas continues "I am finding seminary is a good environment for me to ask questions and find their answers."

While at the seminary, Thomas has thoroughly enjoyed the academics so far. He is looking forward to working in a parish or being involved in ministry. Thomas said "Finally I am immersed in readings I look forward to and papers I joyfully write. My experience has been more than anything I could have dreamed of; the prayer life, the academics, the community, and the churches I've been to have all been spiritually invigorating."

To help him in his studies and the work he is doing while at the Seminary, Thomas has asked for the Church to help him by praying for him. "I have felt the prayers of our parishes already. Also any kind of support and encouragement through letters or hospitality are always welcomed," Thomas said. He continues "Encouraging more vocations

among our young men would help us to have a larger community at the Seminary making all the work and studies here even more fulfilling."

We welcome Thomas and Bryan to the Seminary and we thank God for their dedication.

Saint Nicholas Celebration An Annual Byzantine Catholic Seminary Benefit

The Annual Saint Nicholas Charity Event celebrated its 57th Anniversary this year. The 2013 annual dinner, which was held for the benefit of Saints Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary, took place on Sunday, Dec. 8 at Saint John's Cathedral and Center in Munhall, PA.

We have seen a great amount of success over the past several years and this year's event was glowing with success as well. Over 400 guests attended the event, the Christmas gift donation to the Salvation Army helped nearly 300 children, and the program was enjoyed by all. Support of this special event from attendees and especially from the Greek Catholic Union is always greatly appreciated.

Matching Gifts

If you or your spouse 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 benefit.

Newsletter

If you would like to receive the Joyful Light newsletter electronically, please contact the Seminary Development Office by calling 412-321-8383 x36 or email development@bcs.edu