

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

Seminary Unveils Programs in its Community of Ongoing Formation!



Spring at the Seminary filled with hope for the success of new programs.

Earlier this year, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Pittsburgh, PA announced Continuing Education and Pastoral Formation Opportunities for Clergy. These unique opportunities are as follows:

1) Formation for Priests seeking Bi-ritual Faculties

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary's program for priests seeking bi-ritual faculties is an on-campus program lasting one academic year (or first semester of one year and second semester of another year). The convenience of living at the Seminary in a community of formation with a complete schedule of liturgical services, food service, and housing in a private room/bath of the Seminary annex provides adequate comfort for necessary learning and rest. Attendance at liturgical services together with the following required courses (taken for credit or audited) constitutes the structure of this program.

- Introduction to Dogmatics
- Introduction to Liturgy/Sacraments
- Foundations of Spirituality
- Introduction to Music
- Chant I
- 4 Liturgical Practicum courses
- Comparative Liturgical Calendars and Canon Law – East and West (*may be directed independent study*)

Application is made online via our website (www.bcs.edu) after the 1st of April. A letter of good standing/background clearance and of support to prepare for bi-ritual faculties from the priest's bishop or superior is required in the application process. Applications are due by May 1st for the following academic year.

Housing is offered to priests in this program at a 10% discount. Food service cost is equivalent to that charged per seminarian. Tuition is charged for courses as given in the academic catalog. Some tuition rates are dependent on whether a course is taken for credit or audited.

2) Sabbatical Program for Priests

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary's sabbatical program for priests is structured to offer convenience and support. The convenience of living at the Seminary in a community of formation with a complete schedule of liturgical services, with brother priests who are part of the Seminary staff and faculty, food service, and housing in a private room/bath of the Seminary annex provides adequate comfort for necessary rest and study. The support of the Seminary community along with the library and media services and the opportunity to take desired courses allow for ongoing formation and renewal. The nearness of various parishes and renowned theological libraries provides additional resources and opportunities for some degree of liturgical ministry.

Application is made online via our website (www.bcs.edu) after the 1st of April. A letter of good standing/background clearance from the priest's bishop or superior is required in the application process. Applications are due by May 1st for the following academic year. A priest may apply to be on sabbatical at the Seminary for the fall semester or an entire academic year.

Housing is offered to priests on sabbatical at a 10% discount. Food service cost is equivalent to that charged per seminarian. Byzantine Catholic priests may audit classes for free or take courses for credit at a 10% discount. An additional fee is required of priests who elect to attend the 4-day Byzantine Catholic Clergy Retreat during the fall semester.

3) Research Sabbatical for Alumni

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary's research sabbatical for alumni is structured to offer *Continued on page 2*

Rector's Message

When most people hear the word "Seminary," they properly envision a building occupied by men who are being formed to serve as ordained priests. This is very much at the heart of what we do at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. Our mission, however, includes our being a theological center of learning with men and women who study with us both on campus and online. Could there be even more than this? Priests, themselves, are in need of ongoing formation. Saint John Paul II in his post-synodal exhortation *Pastores Dabo Vobis* ("I will give you shepherds") wrote that "permanent formation is a requirement of the priest's own faithfulness to his ministry, to his very being. It is love for Jesus Christ and fidelity to oneself. But it is also an act of love for the People of God, at whose service the priest is placed." With this edition of *Joyful Light*, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary is pleased to unveil its Community of Ongoing Formation and invite to join us for a period of time those priests desiring a sabbatical or a time and place to do academic research, or any Roman Catholic priests seeking bi-ritual faculties. Please read more in this edition and feel free to respond with your interest or comments. We look forward to accepting students in Fall 2016.



Father Robert M. Pipta

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convenience and support. The convenience of living at the Seminary in a community of formation with complete schedule of liturgical services, food service, and housing in a private room/bath of the Seminary annex provides adequate comfort for necessary academic work. The support of the Seminary faculty along with its library and media services allow for significant research to be accomplished on campus. The nearness of other seminaries and renowned theological libraries provides additional resources. Such will be of benefit to a student working to complete a doctoral dissertation or thesis.

Application is made online via our website (www.bcs.edu) after the 1st of April. The application process should not begin until the dissertation or thesis topic has been approved by the institution granting the degree. (n.b. the Byzantine Catholic Seminary is not accredited to grant doctoral degrees). A letter of good standing/background clearance from the priest or deacon's bishop is required in the application process. Applications are due by May 1st for the following fall semester. Applications are due December 1st for the following spring semester. A student may apply to be on research sabbatical at the Seminary for the fall or spring semester or for one entire academic year.

Housing is offered alumni on sabbatical at a 10% discount. Food service cost is equivalent to that charged per seminarian. When the Seminary provides the director and second reader from its faculty, the charge is based on 2.7 credits of directed independent study.

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.

Please Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity with the Byzantine Catholic Seminary – secure an income which is guaranteed for life and, at the same time, provide future support of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary

By acting now, you can begin to receive:

- A rate of return much higher than CD's, bonds or other guaranteed investments
- Income that is tax free
- An income tax deduction for a portion of your gift
- No up-front capital gains tax due when funding this with appreciated securities
- The knowledge that your gift will help you now and also provide valuable resources to the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

For more information on the Byzantine Catholic Seminary's Charitable Gift Annuity Program and to receive a no obligation illustration of the benefits, please email the Development Office at development@bcs.edu or complete the form below and return it to us.

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Dates of Birth: 1st Annuitant _____ 2nd Annuitant _____

I am considering a Gift Annuity of \$ _____

Phone _____ Email _____

- Please send me language for my will that will be helpful in leaving a legacy gift to the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

Current Annuity Rates in Effect

Married Couple		Single Person	
Age	Rate	Age	Rate
60/60	3.9%	60	4.4%
70/70	4.6%	70	5.1%
75/75	5.0%	75	5.8%
80/80	5.7%	80	6.8%
85/85	6.7%	85	7.8%

Minimum age for an immediate payment Charitable Gift Annuity is 60 years. Gift annuities not available in all states. Must be 59 1/2 years old to participate in this program. A minimum investment for one life annuity is \$10,000.

Please call David Dix, Development Consultant, at 412-321-8383 ext. 36 if you would like to discuss ways you can help the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

Matching Gifts

Do you or your spouse work for (or are retired from) a company with a matching gift program? If so, your gift can, in most cases, be DOUBLED. Maybe tripled! Please check with your company's Human Resources Department and see if this benefit is available.

Seminary Library Update – Opening a New Chapter of Opportunities

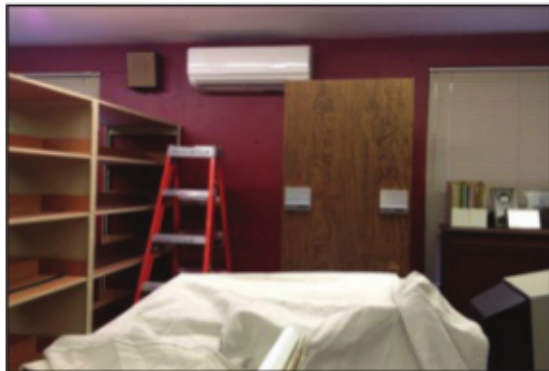
This spring, the Seminary library finds itself awash in a multitude of upgrades, both technological as well as material. Since the fall, we have worked to install climate control throughout the library. This work also includes the Rare Book Room where climate as well as humidity control are essential to the long-term preservation of some of our rarest and most unique items. This work should be completed this spring when we will also begin reorganizing the Rare Book Room into a more user-friendly space.

Our technological upgrades have been focused on making our collections more visible to the outside world as well as enhancing the research capabilities for our students and faculty. Since the fall, we have been loading our holdings into Worldcat, a national database of all member library holdings. This allows researchers to see our library holdings, including those unique or rare items that would be virtually invisible to non-affiliated scholars of Eastern Christianity.

The library has also been authorized to purchase subscriptions to two full-text electronic databases: *ProQuest Religion* and the *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*.

- *ProQuest Religion* covers formal theological studies and commentaries as well as more general interest religion works from a variety of religious publishing bodies and nondenominational organizations. Nearly 80% of the works found in *ProQuest Religion* are available full-text.
- The *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae* has collected and digitized most literary texts written in Greek from Homer to the fall of Byzantium in AD 1453. Its goal is to create a comprehensive digital library of Greek literature from antiquity to the present era.

Both of these databases will be instituted for the upcoming academic year. Much of this is due to the generosity of our donors. It would not be possible to do this work without the financial support of our faithful partners in the community.



Under The Dome

Sandra Collins, Ph.D., Director of Media and Outreach and Core Professor (Scripture), spoke to St. Gregory's Byzantine Catholic Church, Upper St. Clair, in August 2015 on "Mrs. Zebedee." She presented "The Pleasure of Sarah: Recovering Eden Again" at the Seminary Seminar series in January 2016. Dr. Collins was named religion columnist for *Library Journal* and her first column will appear in June 2016. Dr. Collins was also awarded a scholarship to attend Studium Carpatum-Ruthenorum, a Rusyn language and culture program at Prešov University (Slovakia) in June 2016.

Fr. Stelyios Muksuris, Ph.D., Core Professor (Liturgy and Greek), will be publishing a scholarly article in the academic journal *Worship* (2016), under the title, "And the Two Become One Text: Rethinking the Mutual Influence between Monastic and Cathedral Liturgy." The paper was delivered in September of 2013 at the annual national meeting of the Orthodox Theological Society in America, held at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA.

Fr. David Petras, S.E.O.D., Adjunct Professor (Church History and Liturgy), attended the regular meeting of the Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation in Worcester, MA to celebrate 50 years of dialogue. Fr. Petras made a presentation on the Eastern Churches for the clergy of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, AZ January 27, sponsored by the Crozier Fathers. He made a presentation at the Catechetical Congress held in Anaheim, CA on February 26.

Geoffrey Mackey, M.A.T., Associate Professor (Church History) received the Master of Sacred Theology (STM) degree from Trinity School for Ministry on August 26, 2015.

Recent Student and Alumni Ordinations

Benjamin Crow to the diaconate September 2015
Lewis Rabayda to the presbyterate January 2016
Bryan Scotton, to the subdiaconate November 2015
Thomas Moses to the subdiaconate November 2015
Oliver Black to lectorate November 2015
Jeffrey Mierzejewski to the diaconate January 2016
Gary Stafford to the diaconate January 2016
Brian Norrell to the diaconate January 2016
Andrew Summerson to the presbyterate December 2015
Eugene Sendarak to the diaconate November 2015

Check out our website at www.bcs.edu

- for Holy Week and Paschal Services
- See our full video of last year's Saints Cyril and Methodius Lecture Series speaker, Dr. Scott Hahn
- Alumni Association update – look for updates on website and survey

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Byzantine Catholic Seminary
of Ss. Cyril and Methodius
3605 Perrysville Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
Phone (412) 321-8383
Fax (412) 321-9936

Rector
Very Rev. Robert M. Pipta

Writer/Development Consultant
David H. Dix

Copy Editor
Jane E. Ondovcik

e-mail office@bcs.edu
website www.bcs.edu

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Helping Their Family and the Seminary – Example of a Charitable Gift Annuity

Frank and Connie, 74 and 76 years old, have seen interest rates fluctuate for years. They have not been satisfied with their money market fund currently earning 0.5% or their CD's currently earning about 1%. They have looked at ways they could get back to the 5-6% rate of return they were used to earning years ago. However, they do not want to increase their market risk by investing in securities that would fluctuate in value. They just don't want to do that.

Frank and Connie have appreciated the mission of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary to discern and nurture the gift of vocation granted by the Holy Spirit to those men called to a life of ordained ministry. One day, while attending a liturgical service at the Seminary, Connie had an opportunity to drop in on the Development Consultant and ask him if there was anything that they could do that could help the Seminary **and** provide Frank and Connie with some additional income. Connie excitedly brought back information on Charitable Gift Annuities to show her husband Frank.

Frank and Connie then came in and spoke to the Development Consultant. He explained that a Charitable Gift Annuity is a contract between Frank and Connie and the Seminary. The Seminary will promise to pay Frank and Connie a fixed rate of return for both of their lives. In this case, Frank and Connie were thinking of a \$10,000 annuity. Based on the market conditions and other factors, such as their age, the rate suggested by the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) is 5.0%. This means that the Seminary promises and guarantees to pay them \$500 a year, regardless

of changes in interest rates, for the rest of their lives. Because Frank and Connie are not using appreciated assets to fund the gift annuity, part of their payment will be considered tax-free return of principal for them.

Part of their \$10,000 is a charitable gift and therefore Frank and Connie get a charitable tax deduction in the current year. That deduction could save them money this year. These numbers do not consider any state taxes that may be applicable. The tax deduction and tax-free income mean their effective annuity rate (what they would have to earn to equal it with fully taxable income) is about 8%.

Frank and Connie are happy with the increased income, the tax savings and the security. They also are very excited that their gift will help the Seminary.



Blessed Pascha from the Seminary.