



BYZANTINE CATHOLIC SEMINARY  
OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS  
FORMING FUTURE LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH

# JOYFUL

# LIGHT

Spring/Summer 2017

*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

## Theotokos Conference

Through a generous donation, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary will host the **Byzantine Perspectives on the Theotokos Conference** on May 15-16, 2017 at the Seminary. Mariologist Mary B. Cunningham of the University of Nottingham will deliver the keynote address, “The Intercessory Power of Mary, the Mother of God: the Byzantine View” on Monday evening, May 15.

Students, academics, independent scholars, priests and lay individuals are all welcome to attend some or all of this unique and dynamic conference. Registration includes meals. Limited accommodations at the Seminary as well as nearby hotels are available.



For more information, visit the registration page at:

<http://www.bcs.edu/theotokos-conference/>

## Words from our new Director of Spiritual Formation: Rev. Will Rupp

I grew up in Erie, PA as the youngest of four children—all boys. My parents, Clarence and Patricia, are living in Erie as well as my brother Dave and his wife Melissa with their three children David, Ava, and Olivia. I have a brother Steve in Melbourne Beach, FL who lives with his wife Gina and their two children Adrian and Eliza. My oldest brother Mike lives in Kumamoto, Japan with his wife Machiko and their son Leon. My home parish is Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Erie. I lived in Erie and was educated there until entering Seminary in 2006. I am a graduate from Erie Cathedral Prep High School (Class of 2002) and Gannon University (Class of 2006). Metropolitan Basil Schott, OFM ordained me to the priesthood in May 2010, and then assigned me to St. John’s Cathedral in Munhall as an assistant.

In October of 2010 and until recently, I was assigned to serve our cluster of parishes in central Pennsylvania (St. John the Baptist in Hawk Run, Dormition of the Mother of God in Clarence, St. Basil the Great Mission in State College, and the Catholic Campus Ministry at Penn State University). I am going to miss this assignment after having spent most of my priesthood worshipping with and serving them! At the same time, I’m excited to be back at the Seminary, now to help with the formation of our future priests.

My focus here at the seminary is the spiritual life of the seminarians. The goal of every Christian is to live in an intimate and unceasing union with God. For a priest, his prayer life is especially important because if he is distant from God he cannot lead his flock. Without intimate prayer with God priests become “blind guides” (Mt. 15:14). I will

never forget what Metropolitan Basil said when he preached at my ordination. His words have been rooted in my mind since that day. He said, “*A priest that doesn’t have time to pray, doesn’t have time to be a priest.*” Throughout my priesthood, I often had to be reminded of what he said. My vision for Spiritual Formation here at the Seminary is to help our future priests seek this intimate communion with the Holy Trinity. An intimate life with God must be the foundation of a priest’s life for his ministry to bear fruit. If our seminarians develop a deep prayer life, it will help make them good listeners, bold preachers, caring pastors, and



*Father Will Rupp with Bravo and Jamie*

diligent teachers. I am hopeful that as the hearts of our priests are set on fire for God, that the same will happen to the faithful. My hope is that the Seminary’s Spiritual Formation will ignite and develop this dynamic and life-changing process of sanctification in our future priests.

# Rector's Message



*Father Robert M. Pipta*

Christ is Risen! I hope you like the fresh, new, distinctive look and feel of Joyful Light – this semi-annual update coming to you from the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. Our publication is named after the hymn central to the celebration of Vespers (i.e. evening prayer) in the Byzantine Christian tradition. No fewer than four times a week during Lent here at the Seminary did we gather for this service and sing “O Joyful Light of the holy glory of the Father Immortal ... it is fitting at all times to raise a song of praise in measured melody to you, O Son of God, the Giver of Life.”

Our Seminary, taking care not to be presumptuous, embraces this title of Christ in naming our communication to you because it expresses our resolution: Living a life of labor, study, prayer, and joy, we seek to witness to humanity that “Christ is among us.”

When Philip calls Nathanael to “Come and see,” he’s directing Nathanael to recognize the Light who has come to enlighten everyone. That Light is the risen Christ and his light brings joy to the world.

When our seminarians call young adult men to “Come and see” at their annual weekend of discovery and discernment held each fall, they are calling them to come and see the risen Christ present and at work in this community of mentors and students forming future leaders for the Church. I greatly desire that our Seminary succeed in forming priests and other Church leaders who will be the presence of Christ, the light of faith, and the joy of the gospel for a world in such desperate need. Your prayers and ongoing acts of support motivate us and allow us to pursue our purpose. For this I sing the glory of God and say to you how truly grateful we are. Christ is Risen!

## Under the Dome

**Sandra Collins, Ph.D.**, Director of Information Services and Core Professor (Scripture), had her article, “Breathing with Two Lungs: Eastern Catholic Resources,” published in the December 2016 issue of *Catholic Library World*. Her column, “Collection Development: The Islamic Experience,” is slated for publication in *Library Journal* later this spring. She continues to contribute a quarterly column on new books in spirituality and religion for *Library Journal* as well. In February 2017, she traveled to Catholic University in Washington, DC to formally accept satellite membership in the Washington Theological Consortium on behalf of the Seminary’s distance education program, Byzantine Online.

**Fr. Stelyios Muksuris, Ph.D.**, Professor of Liturgical Studies and Languages, was credited as theological consultant for a new video currently being produced by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Department of Religious Education (to be released later this year). The video is on the Rite of the Proskomide and is essentially scripted upon the research he conducted for his book, *Economia and Eschatology: Liturgical Mystagogy in the Byzantine Prothesis Rite* (Boston: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2013).

**Fr. David Petras**, Adjunct Professor of Liturgy, presented at an Adult Catechesis in Annunciation Church in Anaheim, CA and in October he participated in the Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation in Baltimore, MD. Finally, in November and February, he participated in an Inter-eparchial Liturgy Commission Meeting in Phoenix, AZ.

**Abouna Justin Rose**, Adjunct Professor, continues to work on his dissertation to earn a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from

the University of California. His work focuses upon medieval and contemporary Byzantine Christian faith and culture. In Fall 2016, Abouna Justin facilitated a Master’s class online in Pastoral Leadership. In the past few years, he taught certificate classes in the Desert Monastics, Byzantine History and Social Justice. This summer, he will teach an undergraduate course in Comparative Scripture at the University of California.

## Families in the Seminary Family

The presence of families of some of the seminarians has brought a welcome dynamic to Ss. Cyril and Methodius Seminary. Some of the seminarians’ wives, acknowledging their unique and temporary opportunity to be close to the Seminary’s spiritual richness, requested help in growing spiritually while here with their husbands who are in a similar pursuit.



*Sister Barbara Jean*  
*photo by Mary Seamans, The Catholic Accent*

In October some of them began monthly personal spiritual direction meetings with Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM, from Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer. Sr. Barbara Jean entered the Sisters of St. Basil the Great at Mount St. Macrina

in Uniontown, PA in 1963. The religious order was founded in the fourth century. The Uniontown community, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Province, is part of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. Sister Barbara Jean has served her community as an elementary teacher in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Connecticut and Illinois; a parish minister of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church in Uniontown; a member of the order's vocational provincial leadership team; and a House of Prayer staff member. Sister Barbara Jean has visited every country where the Sisters of St. Basil minister, including Brazil, Argentina and Australia.

The Seminary community is blessed to have Sr. Barbara Jean meet with the seminarians' wives after a morning of orientation spent together. Sister travels to Pittsburgh to meet for an hour with each one, or, if need be, spends this time with her on the phone. The wives have expressed gratitude to have found assistance in bringing a personal focus to their very enriching and challenging experience here. The women attended a retreat at Mount St. Macrina on March 3 and 4.

Sister Barbara Jean said. "Each one blossomed very shortly after we began our meetings. These are God-chosen women in my opinion. It's beautiful to see God's grace at work!"

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For more information on the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Charitable Gift Annuity Program and to receive a no obligation illustration of the benefits, please email the Development Office at [development@bcs.edu](mailto:development@bcs.edu) or complete the form below and return it to us.

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Please call David Dix, Development Consultant, at 412-321-8383 ext. 36 if you would like to discuss ways you can help the Seminary and its mission. Please consult with your legal and tax advisor.

### Current Annuity Rates in Effect:

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Rates established by the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) effective January 1, 2012

### Matching Gifts

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

### Electronic 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](mailto:development@bcs.edu).

### Your Donation is Tax Deductible

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary operates as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in Pennsylvania, and is governed by a Board of Directors under the leadership of the Metropolitan of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh.

# JOYFUL LIGHT

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You're invited to the

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Lecture

sponsored by the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of  
Ss. Cyril and Methodius  
Pittsburgh, PA

*Hosted by Saint John Byzantine Catholic Cathedral*



Our Guest Speaker:  
Very Rev. Peter Galadza, Ph.D.

**TOPIC:**

*Vatican Guidelines for Church Music:  
Eastern Christian Prospects and Problems*

The sacred music of the Eastern Churches is among the great gifts bequeathed to them by Tradition. In several documents, among them the Vatican II Constitution on Sacred Liturgy, Church authorities have attempted to sensitize the universal Church to the importance of singing in worship. Fr. Peter Galadza will review some of these documents and discuss where Byzantine Catholics are and where they can be when it comes to using this gift. The talk will be illustrated with audio and video clips from several Eastern Catholic churches.. For a more detailed biography of Fr. Peter, please visit our website at [www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu).

**When**

Thursday, May 11, 2017  
Lecture at 7:00 pm  
Reception to follow

**Where**

St. John Cathedral Center  
210 Greentree Road  
Munhall, PA 15120

**This event is FREE but due to space limitations  
registration is required by May 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Please complete the form below and mail it to the Seminary

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