



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

JOYFUL

LIGHT

Spring 2019

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 Board Chair Robert Grip



At its January meeting, the Board of Directors of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary elected Robert Grip as the new chair. Bob spent nearly fifty years in the field of

communications, beginning his radio career in 1970 before entering Boston College, where he received a degree in Communications. He earned a Master's Degree in Journalism from Ohio State University, then moved into television as a reporter. His experience in Norfolk, Virginia and Mobile, Alabama includes working as a producer, news director, and anchor, the last thirty-four years anchoring his Mobile station's main evening newscast.

A lifelong Byzantine Catholic, Bob drew on his Slavic background to engage St. Pope John Paul II in conversation twice during the production of a documentary at the Vatican. Later, he returned to Rome with his wife and two daughters for a private audience with the Holy Father.

Bob is now in his second term on the Byzantine Catholic Seminary Board of Directors and is encouraged by the growth in the number of seminarians and other students who attend classes in person and online. Bob states, "The Seminary offers the perfect setting to discern future service to the Church. I'm particularly encouraged that we are offering education to not only seminarians, but also to Catholics who wish to learn more about the Eastern churches. Generous donors who respond to the Seminary's appeals and who remember the Seminary in their estate planning continue to sow the seeds of future success for our Church and the faithful we serve."

Seminary fills role of Director of Human Formation

Metropolitan William Skurla has appointed Fr. Joel Barstad of the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix as the new Director of Human Formation of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. This appointment is to be effective July 1, 2019.

Having been appointed to the Seminary faculty in December of 2016, Fr. Joel now makes use of his extensive formational background to serve as the head of the Seminary's human formation pillar and as the prefect of seminarians.

Fr. Joel Barstad, M.A. Catholic University of America, Ph.D. University of Notre Dame, was raised in the Scandinavian Lutheran tradition where he developed a love for sung liturgy and the richness of a liturgical calendar. As a result of his encounter with the writings of the Greek Fathers during college, he and his wife Leslie were led into the Catholic Church in 1985. The fascination with the Christian East drew them further in until they decided in 1994 to make the Byzantine Catholic Church their canonical home. As a boy in the Lutheran church, Fr. Joel heard the call to serve the Lord Jesus and his Church in pastoral ministry, but as a Catholic the path to the priesthood was not cleared until 2014 when Pope Francis lifted the remaining restrictions on the ordination of married men in the Eastern jurisdictions.

Nonetheless, Fr. Joel was offered ways to put his gifts as a teacher at the service of the Church and its ministry. Since 2002 he has been a full-time faculty member at Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, Colorado. In 2015 he was appointed Academic Dean at Saint John Vianney. With his recent ordination to the priesthood in October 2018 and his appointment as Director of Human Formation at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, he is excited to add a more pastoral dimension to his work, and especially to serve men preparing for the priesthood in the Byzantine tradition. Fr. Joel and Pani Leslie have raised seven children and take delight in their grandchildren, whose number is steadily growing.



Rector's Message

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Lenten greetings from the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. I pray that your journey through the Great Fast is off to a good start and that the hope of resurrection inspires you not only during these forty days, but throughout your entire life.

God's transformative power to sustain life, to heal, and to restore touches us deeply, often in invisible ways. The transformative journey of formation is what the Byzantine Catholic Seminary is all about, with positive growth and development occurring slowly and gradually and in ways not always immediately evident.

While formation and discernment result from the Holy Spirit moving persons individually in the interior life, outward manifestations of one's capacity to be a gift for the Church is necessary. This is the great joy of my work – seeing the outward signs of such gifts emerging from the mysterious work of God occurring in the seed bed of our Seminary formation program.

It's through the goodness and generosity of our many friends and benefactors that we can house such a program, both on our campus in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and virtually through our online delivery system.

We are grateful for the huge success of our recent Christmas Appeal which brought in over \$70,000. Eight percent of these funds has been used to enhance our seminarians' exercise room. They've made prudent and safe equipment choices and have embraced the work of cleaning and organizing the room on their own. The bulk of the funds will help us complete what little remains of our building pointing project and also fund needed structural and mechanical upgrades.

Maintaining our healthy, safe, and functional Seminary program is possible because of the annual magnanimous generosity of the G.C.U. and gracious donors like you. We remain grateful to God and to you for allowing us to make the Seminary a positive and transformative presence in the world today.



Father Robert M. Pipta



Enhancing our Seminarians' Exercise Room.

Under the Dome

Sandra Collins, Ph.D., Director of Information Services and Professor of Scripture, represented the Seminary at the fall board meeting of the Washington Theological Consortium in Washington, DC. In January, she served as moderator for the webinar *Spiritually Thinking: Books for the Mind, Body and Soul*, produced by Library Journal. Her article, "The Pleasure of Sarah: Recovering Eden Again" has been accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of *Conversations with the Biblical World*. In addition, she continues to write a review column for *Library Journal*.

Matthew Miner, Ph.L., Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy and Moral Theology, had a translation and commentary of "Remarks Concerning the Metaphysical Character of St. Thomas's Moral Theology, in Particular as it is Related to Prudence and Conscience" by Fr. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange published in the winter volume of the journal *Nova et Vetera*.

Fr. David Petras, SEOD, Adjunct Professor of Liturgy, attended a meeting of North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation May 28–June 1, 2018, in Contocook, New Hampshire. He was the Director of the Eparchy of Phoenix Clergy Retreat October 22–26, 2018 at the Franciscan Retreat House, Phoenix, AZ.

To Our Seminary Constituencies

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary is receiving an evaluation committee of our accreditors from the Association of Theological Schools in November of this year. Our goal is to renew our accreditation for the next ten years, which is the longest possible duration for renewal. In preparation for this important visitation and the renewal of our Seminary's accreditation, we invite comments in writing concerning the Seminary's qualifications for accreditation. These comments will be made available to the



Our Director of Assessment works with Seminary staff and faculty to review assessment requirements, especially as they pertain to our current self-study for the renewal of our accreditation.

evaluation committee from A.T.S.. Any written comments may be shared with our Director of Accreditation, Helen Kennedy, by contacting her at hkennedy@bcs.edu. We are grateful for your interest, prayers, and support.

Serving our Northside Pittsburgh Neighbors at the Light of Life Rescue Mission

by Fr. Deacon Kevin Bezner,
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma

Just returned from Thanksgiving break, not long into the Philip's Fast, six seminarians of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, including myself, joined Marc Grant, the Seminary's food service controller, in feeding about 150 hungry men, women, and children at the Light of Life Rescue Mission on the Northside of Pittsburgh. Marc said he chose Light of Life so that we could have a direct experience of serving our less fortunate Seminary neighbors.

Our experience began after lunch in the Seminary's kitchen, where we gathered to help Marc prepare and cook large trays of chicken, pasta with meat sauce, and broccoli. Once the food was ready, we loaded up our cars for the short drive to the mission. On the way, we stopped at Breadworks, a local bakery, to pick up bags of fresh baked rolls for the meal.



Fr. Deacon Kevin, John Welch, and David Vonderohe serve an evening meal at Light of Life Rescue Mission.

the joy of the children as they ate and the gratitude of the men and women for the meal we helped prepare.

While we could not help but feel heavy in heart for the suffering they endure in their daily lives, we were also filled with hope. We had heard and witnessed a number of the success stories of those who had come in for a meal, stayed for the resident program, and left with a greater sense of personal responsibility and the skills to manage and change their lives with the help of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Later, at our own evening meal of a greater amount of food in more comfortable surroundings, each of us expressed our joy in serving our neighbors as a Seminary team, and our hope that serving the less fortunate at Light of Life would become a regular pastoral formation activity for seminarians. (Fr. Deacon Kevin Bezner is in his final year of formation at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.)

After a tour of the mission we set up the food line and tables for two evening meals, one for the mission's residents and one for men, women, and children seeking a hot meal. As we served the hungry, we were moved by

Rev. Brian E. Daley, S.J. to present the 19th Annual Ss. Cyril and Methodius Lecture

Join us on the evening of Thursday, May 9 at the St. John's Cathedral Center in Munhall, PA for the 19th Annual Ss. Cyril and Methodius Lecture.

Our guest lecturer is Fr. Brian E. Daley, Roman Catholic Jesuit priest, theologian, and Catholic-Orthodox Consultation executive secretary. Fr. Daley has selected as his topic: *"Breathing Unity: Orthodox-Catholic Dialogue Today and its Promise for the Eastern Catholic Churches."*

Since many are eager to hear about the ecumenical progress and cherished hopes by the Catholic-Orthodox Consultation of North America, the Seminary expects this year's lecture by Fr. Daley to be of great interest to many seeking Christian unity.

Brian Edward Daley, S.J., is the Catherine F. Huisiking Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame (Indiana). A 1961 graduate of Fordham University (New York), he studied ancient history and philosophy at Merton College, Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, from 1961 to 1964, then entered the Society of Jesus. After theological studies in Frankfurt, Germany, and ordination to the priesthood in 1970, he returned to Oxford to complete a D.Phil. in the Faculty of Theology from 1972 until 1978. He then taught historical theology for eighteen years at the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, before moving to Notre Dame in 1996. He is the author of *The Hope of the Early Church* (Cambridge, 1991; Hendrickson, 2002); *Gregory of Nazianzus* (Routledge, 2006); and *God Visible: Patristic Christology Reconsidered* (Oxford, 2018), as well as other books and numerous articles. In the fall of 2012 he was awarded the Ratzinger Prize in Theology by Pope Benedict XVI.

The 19th Annual Ss. Cyril and Methodius Lecture is free and open to the public, with a donation very much appreciated so that the Seminary can continue to host events for the public such as this. There will be time for questions and answers and a reception is to follow. Although there is no charge, seating is limited. To reserve your seat ahead of time, registration is required by April 27, 2019. Please register online at www.bcs.edu, or call 412-321-8383, or email office@bcs.edu.

The event begins at 7 p.m. on May 9 at St. John's Cathedral Center, 210 Greentree Road in Munhall, PA.

All previous lectures are now available on our website and YouTube channel.



Fr. Brian Daley, S.J. is currently the Catherine F. Huisiking Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame and was the recipient of a Ratzinger Prize for Theology in 2012.

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3605 Perrysville Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
Phone: (412) 321-8383
Email: office@bcs.edu
Website: www.bcs.edu

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