

NEWSLETTER

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University Issue # 11, December 2013



“We are all one in Christ Jesus”

Before the opening of the 6th Ecumenical Social Week “Diversity and Respect,” an ecumenical prayer took place on October 1, 2013 in St Archangel Mykhail Churh. The prayer was conducted by Bishop Venedykt, Auxiliary Bishop of Lviv Archeparchy of UGCC.

This year, the following people were praying along with Bishop Venedykt: special guest Archbishop Thomas Edward Gallikson, Apostolic Nuncio in Ukraine, Rev. Rafail Strontsiyskyi (UGCC), Rev. Vasyl Sahan (UAOC), Rev. Roman Fihas (UGCC), Rev. Taras Kohut (UGCC) and Rev. Oleksandr (RCC).



During the prayer, the Gospel of Luke was read (17. 11-19): Jesus healed ten lepers, only one of whom turned back and thanked Jesus. “Today we very often betray God, but the Lord accepts all of us as we are. We also need to let the other person live and walk in the sun, as God allows. Accepting someone we accept God,” – such was the basic idea of Bishop Venedykt in his sermon after the Gospel.

Archbishop Thomas Edward Gallikson shared his thoughts about the 6th Ecumenical Social Week: “I believe that it’s good to start the forum standing before the altar of God. You can be sure that Roman Pontiff Pope Francis has given his blessing.”

Otherness as a gift: challenges of modern life in Europe and Ukraine



The forum “Diversity and Respect” was officially opened in the session hall of Lviv Regional Council on October 1. That was one of the biggest events of the 6th Ecumenical Social Week, which accumulated interesting thoughts of authority figures.

At the beginning of the event, the following people gave welcome addresses: **Rev. Bohdan Prakh**, Rector of the

Ukrainian Catholic University, **Valeriy Pyatak**, Deputy Head of Lviv Regional Council, **Vasyl Kosiv**, Deputy Mayor of Humanitarian Affairs, **Oksana Yakovets**, Deputy Chief of Social Welfare Department at Lviv Regional State Administration, **Bohdan Morklyanyk**, Vice President for Academic Work and Social Development at Lviv Polytechnic National University. Also, Cardinal **Lyubomyr Husar** sent his address to the participants of the 6th Ecumenical Social Week.

At the plenary session, the participants listened to interesting speakers, in particular, the Apostolic Nuncio in Ukraine, Archbishop **Thomas Edward Gallikson**, President of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University **Rev. Ivan Datsko**, Advisor for Culture and Cooperation of the Embassy of France in Ukraine **Eric Tosati**, Ambassador of Austria to Ukraine **Wolf Dietrich Heim**, Vice-Chancellor of Austria (1991-1995) **Erhard Busek** and lecturer of the Hellenic Open University **Dr. Eleni Kasseluri-Hatsivassiliadi**,

Archbishop Thomas Edward Gallikson pointed out: “The basic catechism motivates my choice or obligation to see the other as a gift not on the basis of our ‘otherness’, but because we are more similar than different. I honestly fear that there are many things that prevent – even today in our enlightened world – real and proper respect for differences. A smart social project requires the commitment of all parties to seek the other, to make a step to the other and establish something common with the other.”



President of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University **Rev. Ivan Datsko** said that it was necessary to talk about heterogeneity, not about differences. “We are conducting the Ecumenical Social Week in the festive year of the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, which very clearly started talking about unity in variety. The Church spoke both about the universality and the locality. Both the Ukrainian Church and the Ukrainian government should be united in their particularity,” said Rev. Ivan Datsko.

“A lack of spiritual dimension and spiritual prayer are some of the reasons for slowing down a theological and ecumenical dialogue,” Rev. Dr. Ivan Datsko

During the 6th Ecumenical Social Week, the round table “Interfaith Dialogue: Between Searching for Unity and the Protection of Values” was held on October 2. The event was attended by both clergy and scholars of various Christian denominations.



Their thoughts with those present shared **Rev. Dr. Ivan Datsko**, President of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University, **Bishop Venedyct (Aleksiychuk)**, Auxiliary Bishop of Lviv Archeparchy of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, **Antoine Arjakovsky**, the founder of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies and co-director of the Department “Society. Freedom. Peace” at the Bernardine College (France), **Ihor Derzhko**, Doctor of Philosophy, Head of the Department of Philosophy and Economy at Lviv National Medical University, **Hubert de Gabori**, Secretary General of L’Oeuvre d’Orient, **Helen Zorgdrager**, Professor of Systematic Theology at the Protestant Theological University of

Amsterdam and a fellow of the Department of the Mission of Protestant Church in the Netherlands, **Oleksandr Dobrouer**, Director of NGO European Institute of Social Communications.

Rev. Dr. Ivan Datsko in his report plunged into the history of the establishment and development of the ecumenical movement in the world, closely connecting it with the situation of inter-faith relations in Ukraine. “We must know what unites us rather than separates. However, we are looking not for godly things but only for human things in our lives, not the Lord’s grace, but power and money, and it is not in tune with the teachings of the Gospel. The lack of spiritual dimension and spiritual prayer is one of the reasons for slowing down a theological and ecumenical dialogue,” said Rev. Dr. Ivan Datsko.



Antoine Arjakovsky in his report highlighted the difficulties of interfaith dialogue, because “there are too few of those who believe in the power of truth, the reality of the unity of God and the Church of Christ. After all, churches don’t work much with independent university structures. These difficulties, whatever they may be, are significantly smaller than those with which churches have to face in the future, with the powerful influence of secularization, the fragmentation of society and new ideological ambitions of states.” The main directions for further regular joint interfaith meetings should be work with historical sources, joint pastoral (educational) work and social improvements.

Inspired with the example of the People of the Book

The photo exhibition “The People of the Book,” dedicated to the major events in the life of the Jewish people, was opened on October 2 in the Ukrainian Catholic University.

The photo exhibition was held within the framework of the 6th Ecumenical Social Week. There were 61 photos of **Borys Bukhman, Roman Vilenskyi, Vitaliy Oplachka, Yevheniya Ilyina and Shlomo Nizin**, that depicted two cycles of the Jewish life: the cycle of human life and the liturgical calendar cycle. Both of them focused around the most precious treasure that has been preserved by the Jewish people for millennia – the Bible, the Torah.



The event was attended by representatives of the Jewish community of Lviv, and the official word on the occasion of the opening was given by the leader of the Charitable Foundation “Caritas Odesa – UGGC” **Rev. Vasyl Kolodchyn**. He emphasized that “Pope John Paul II called the Jews our ‘elder brothers in the faith.’” And according to Pope Francis, the Jews still remain for us a sacred root from which Jesus grew up. “We are here to ponder during the week on diversity and respect, on the topic of how not to do to others what we do not want for ourselves. So, inspired with the example of the People of the Book, we will go on learning!” – commented Rev. Vasyl Kolodchyn.

Necessity of overcoming conflicts within the country discussed in Lviv

Political scientists, diplomats, historians, educators and interested people from various countries gathered at a round table in the Ivan Franko Lviv National University to share their experience and discuss key aspects of overcoming internal conflicts in the country.

The event took place within the 6th Ecumenical Social Week. The topic of the round table was “**From opposition to complementarity: Ukrainian context, European experience.**” The participants emphasized that the discussion on such a high level was important before the crucial summit of Ukraine-EU in Vilnius to be held in November, 2013.



During the round table a number of important issues were raised. In particular, participants discussed the problems of preservation of national identity and overcoming historically caused conflicts in international relations, methods of establishing relations between different groups within the same country. Ukrainian researchers focused on aspects of national reconciliation between the neighboring countries. The process of seeking the Polish-Ukrainian agreement was analyzed in detail and new models of searching for dialogue was presented to the participants.

Representatives of EU, including **Erhard Busek**, Vice-Chancellor of Austria (1991-1995) and **Wolf Dietrich Heim**, Austrian Ambassador to Ukraine, shared the experience of European countries in establishing mutual understanding between different ethnic, cultural or religious groups within a country. The speakers stressed that the simplest method for finding mutual understanding was cultural co-operation.

The ideas of the representatives of EU were supported by well-known Ukrainian historian **Yaroslav Hrytsak**. In his speech, he stressed that in the Ukrainian context, internal reconciliation of the Ukrainian nation was more important than reconciliation with neighboring countries, since the nation was divided as a result of certain historical circumstances and the more recent artificial speculations; further development of Ukraine as a European country was not possible without such reconciliation. Yaroslav Hrytsak told the participants about three tested models of European experience to overcome internal conflicts – Spanish, German and Anglo-Saxon. The speaker noted that none of these models could be copied in the Ukrainian case due to the specific features of the Ukrainian environment.

During the round table, there was a **presentation of the book “Ukrainian-Austrian Meetings”** published with the support of the Department of Education and Science of the Austrian Embassy in Ukraine.



The book “Ukrainian-Austrian Meeting” is a collection of essays by prominent Ukrainian and Austrian scholars, politicians, writers and intellectuals, including Professor of History of Eastern Europe **Andreas Kappeler**, Doctor of History **Yaroslav Hrytsak**, Candidate of History **Oleh Turiy**, writers **Yuriy Andrukhovych** and **Oksana Zabuzhko**. The authors tried to define the Ukrainian cultural and political potential in the modern German-speaking world.

During the presentation, the Ambassador of Austria to Ukraine Wolf Dietrich Heim emphasized: “The publication of this book was an attempt to underline the historical continuity of Ukrainian-Austrian cooperation, showcase its achievements and define prospects of dialogue – especially cultural – between the two countries.

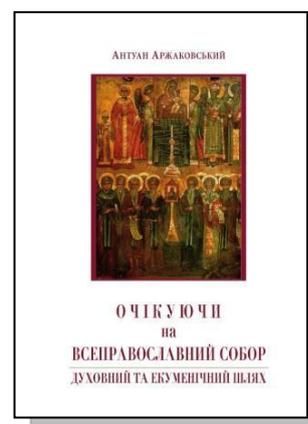
Ecumenical council: vain expectations or the nearest reality?

The book by Professor Antoine Arjakovsky “Waiting for a Pan-Orthodox Council” was presented during the 6th Ecumenical Social Week.

Co-reporters were the author’s colleagues, Candidate of Philosophy Konstantyn Sihov and Rev. Mykhaylo Dymyd. The moderator was the chairman of the Lviv Stavropigion Fraternity of St Andrew the Apostle of UAOC Taras Dmytryk.

Professor Arjakovsky called for openness in dealing with the problems of separation: “It is important to get engaged and talk about ourselves, because it concerns us. As Francis Pope said we must speak the same language, not different ones.”

Konstantin Sihov compared the territorial distance between Lviv and Paris with a mission to convergence between faiths. The speaker drew attention to the disease of theorizing and qualified it as the reason why Orthodox council has not taken place yet.



Rev. Mykhaylo Dymyd emphasized that the chapter of the book that impressed him most of all was about understanding of the authority in the Orthodox Church. An apt thought was the maxim that people are separated not by fences but by different spiritual experiences. Therefore, we have to do fruitful work in this sphere.

One of the most interesting comments from the audience was the following: “Love your neighbor as yourself. This commandment has to be the most important. Then there will be no accidents and misunderstandings. Isn’t it so?” To what the author responded, in quite an literary way, comparing the three major world religions with the days of the week: Islam is Friday, which is faith, Judaism is Saturday, with is hope and Christianity is Sunday, which is love. The meaning of Christianity is the warmest attitude towards the neighbor, and certainly he agreed with the comment: this precept need to be fulfilled in the first place.

After the presentation, the audience had the opportunity to buy the book and have an informal chat with the author. There were expressed hopes for a similar meeting in a few years and for the Orthodox Council to take place in the near future.



The Institute of Ecumenical Studies prepared the book for publication, having done the scholarly and theological editing.

Five-year achievements of the Ecumenical Social Week

During the 6th Ecumenical Social Week, the round table “Ecumenical Social Week: Five-Year Achievements and Prospects” was conducted on October 2.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the working groups from different cities of Ukraine: **Halyna Bokhonko**, Deputy Director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, the Ukrainian Catholic University, **Oleksandr Oliynyk**, Vice President of the Association of Benefactors of Ukraine, **Mariya Kandyba**, coordinator of the Ecumenical Social Week, **Tetyana Shapovalova**, Director of Research Institute for Labour and Social Technologies of the V. Dal Eastern National University, an academic of the Academy of Economic Sciences of Ukraine, **Dr. Yaryna Turchyn**, Director of the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences at Lviv Polytechnic University.

The organizers and participants discussed the experiences and results of the previous ESWs and they talked about the National Network of Ecumenical Social Weeks in Ukraine that was joined by partners from Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhya, Luhansk, Sumy and Odesa. A collection of reports from the forums of 2008-2012 was presented during the round table.

Also, the working group on percentage philanthropy reported on their work. Oleksandr Oliynyk commented on the prospects for the bill on percentage philanthropy. “Such a law will have the effect of direct action, because money will flow to organizations not through an infinite number of ministries and institutions, but directly and automatically to the account of an organization selected by a citizen.”

Women’s migration as “serving a family”

During the 6th Ecumenical Social Week, the panel discussion “Social Consequences of Female Migration” was held on October 3.

The event was attended by academics, human rights defenders and public activists: Professor of the Goethe Frankfurt University **Helma Lutz**, junior scientific staff member of the Institute of Ethnography of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, project manager of the Commission of UGCC for Migrants, editor of the migration portal “Naviator” **Svitlana Odynets**, chairman of the Commission of UGCC for Migrants **Hryhoriy Seleshchuk**, president of the international women’s rights centre “La Strada-Ukraine” **Kateryna Levchenko**, Candidate of Sociological Sciences **Victoriya Volodko**, director of the NGO “West Ukrainian Center “Women’s Prospects” **Marta Chumalo**.



A specially invited guest, Professor Helma Lutz made a speech entitled “From Euro-integrators to Euro-orphans: female migrants and denial of good motherhood”, in which she said: “Very often, data on migration cannot be accurate because of not all migrants can be tracked. However, Ukraine is welcoming to migrants from other countries. Ukrainian migrant women are usually well educated, learn a foreign language very quickly and adapt to society.”

Marta Chumylo, a representative of the West Ukrainian Center “Women’s Prospects,” emphasized the problems of family separation due to migration. The participants noted that

although economic factors were important, the difficult socio-economic situation makes women to migrate. Migration is seen as the only way to solve the problem, so-called “service for the family.” She suggested that migrant women with a successful experience in business should be exempt from taxes for three years in Ukraine.

Vulnerable groups have a right to fulfilment

During the 6th Ecumenical Social Week, the round table “Diversity and Respect: Self-Fulfilment of Vulnerable Groups” was held on October 3 in Lviv. In discussing the problems of people with disabilities, children from socially vulnerable families, the elderly and the homeless, examples of positive solutions were shown and new ideas how to implement them were proposed.



The event was attended by **Michelle Dormal**, community “L’Arche”, France, **Olha Momot**, deputy director of the Foundation “Caritas - Lviv UGCC, **Nataliya Okhrimenko**, head of the press center of Luhansk Regional youth public organization “Association of the Young Disabled of Eastern Donbas- East”, **Alla Soroka**, psychologist of the American NGO “This child here”, Odesa, **Ruslan Zhylenko**, director of the Carpathian Foundation, **Wolfgang Schindele**, organisation AWO. The discussion at the roundtable was moderated by **Yuriy Lopatynskyi**, head of public organization “People’s Aid” and social bakery “Horikhovyi dim.”

After the presentation of a film about life, self-fulfillment and self-realization of people with intellectual disabilities called “Testing Words”, Michelle Dormal said: “These people are really very ill and undergo many sufferings and sorrows. But they have the same soul as we do. That’s why we have to know what they think about and how they live. I believe that through listening to these people, respecting them, touching upon the differences between them and us, we can change the world.”

Initiative within community



Within the framework of the 6th Ecumenical Social Week, the round table “Initiative Within the Community as a Factor of Considering Diversity and Respect in the Establishment of Civil Society” was held in Lviv on October 3. The event was attended by academics and everyone interested in the current state of social and political institutions of various levels in Ukraine, particularly in Lviv.

Their thoughts of those present shared **Dr. Nina Hayduk**, head of the section of Social Work, Assoc. Prof. of the Department of Sociology and Social Work, the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences at Lviv Polytechnic University, **Dr Liliya Klos**, curator of the socio-medical component of social work training, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Assoc. Prof. of the Department of Sociology and Social Work, the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences at Lviv Polytechnic University, **Oksana Vynyarska**, Pedagogical Director of MPSS of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, Ukrainian Catholic

University, **Svitlana Belyaeva**, supervisor of social projects and programs, chief psychologist and co-founder of the NGO “West-Ukrainian Center “Women’s Prospects.”

Nina Hayduk spoke about the international project of Lviv Polytechnic University and the University of Manitoba (Winnipeg) on training programs of social workers as a striking example of initiatives within the community. “This initiative was aimed at developing civil society and reforming social services in Ukraine through the development of education in social work, support of social services based on the community, including a special emphasis on organizations for people with disabilities, and the development of partnerships between universities and institutions of social life.”



After the discussion of social issues at the round tables, the participants were able to see in practice how work with disabled persons was implemented. To do that, they visited the social organization of the city – a workshop of the community L’Arche for people with intellectual disabilities “Bdzhilky” (Bees) and the center for integrated care for women in crisis situations.

To consolidate all heard on October 3 during the 6th Ecumenical Social Week, a workshop for social workers according to the method of a Balint group. A supervisor of social projects and programs, psychologist Svitlana Belyaeva worked with the participants.

All interested persons had an opportunity to watch the training session, which was attended by representatives of social services. During the workshop, a specific “professional problem” of social workers was discussed, and all participants by brainstorming offered ways to resolve it. “A Balint group provides group training which aims to improve the professionalism of experts and avoid emotional burnout due to the reduction of professional stress,” – explained Svetlana Belyaeva, who is an experienced coach of Balint groups. “Training involves creating an emotionally safe space and thus participants receive emotional support from colleagues.”

Promotion of charity with the help of public campaigns

Within the framework of the 6th Ecumenical Social Week, the round table “Promotion of Charity Through Public Events” was held on October 3 in Lviv. The event was organized by the Philanthropists’ Association of Ukraine together with the Institute of Ecumenical Studies.

Promotion of charity is one of the key objectives of the Philanthropists’ Association of Ukraine. To achieve this objective, the Association conducts a variety of activities, including public events that contribute to promoting charity. President of the Philanthropists’ Association of Ukraine **Oleksandr Maksymchuk**, Vice President of the Philanthropists’ Association of Ukraine **Oleksandr Oliynyk**, coordinator of the social campaign “Good Deeds”, specialist of the Department of Youth, Family and Sports of Lviv City Council **Oksana Ivasyna**, founder and chairman of the Lviv NGO



“SAMI” **Andriy Porodko** talked about the character of the events, what they aim at, what results they bring and what instruments are to be used by philanthropists to motivate business to charity.

“Charity is a public process. We have to talk about those who do good deeds. Because this is not only respect for philanthropists, but also a school of excellence, school of good deeds. In addition, there are some new technologies that move the charity sector and they should be promoted,” – said the moderator of the meeting Oleksandr Oliynyk.

Threats and prospects of charity in Lviv

During the 6th Ecumenical Social Week, the round table “Charity in Lviv: Threats and Prospects” was held on October 4 in Lviv within the framework of the conference “Social Lviv”. The event was organized by NGO “SAMI”, CF “Wings of Hope” and the Institute of Ecumenical Studies.



Participants of the meeting, in particular the chairman of NGO “SAMI” **Andriy Porodko**, head of CF “Wings of Hope” **Nataliya Lipska** and head of the Committee for the Youth of the Lviv Archeparchy of UGCC, director of “The Foundation of Spiritual Revival” **Rev. Taras Mylyan**, discusses the issue of the emergence of foundations and organizations in Lviv that speculate on charity and use the trust of the community for their own enrichment.

Director of CF “Wings of Hope” Natalya Lipska said that there is a great threat of charity illusion, the appearance of fraudulent boxes for charity donations. “We conducted an Internet research (group “Ghostbusters”) to monitor such processes. We found nine funds that were engaged in fraudulent activities. Two of them have been held criminally responsible. Therefore, we prescribed the principles of transparent charity,”

Education of Christian youth

Within the framework of the 6th Ecumenical Social Week, the round table “The process of educating the leading Christian stratum in Eastern Europe” was held on October in Lviv. The round table was moderated by Taras Kurylets, Master of Theology, Doctor of St. Thomas Aquinas Pontifical University.

The advantages of Christian education of young people were discussed by **Rev. Bogdan Prakh**, Rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University, **Rev. Ihor Boyko**, Rector of Holy Spirit Seminary, **Rev. Mykolay Baranov**, representative of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the Commission on Christian Ethics and Education, **Volodymyr Shnayder**, Head of the Department of Youth, Family and Sports of Lviv City Council, **Dr. Luiza Tsyupa**, Director of the Catechetical-Pedagogical Institute at the Ukrainian Catholic University, **archdeacon Ioan Didenko**, director of ACF “Faith. Hope. Love,” **Rev. Hryhoriy Draus**, chief prison’s chaplain of the Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine, **Halyna**



Sohan, Candidate of Philology, Associate Professor of the Lviv Regional Institute of Postgraduate Education.



“To serve to protect life,” – this is how Rector of the Lviv Holy Spirit Seminary **Rev. Ihor Boyko** defined the primary focus of educating of young Christians: “If in the world of today, according to Pope John Paul II, there is a ‘culture of death’, the education of students of the School of Bioethics is to spread the ‘culture of life.’”

Director of All-Ukrainian Charity Foundation “Faith. Hope. Love.” **Archdeacon Ioan Didenko** talked about interactive methods of parenting a teenager. “The problem of today’s children is a problem of parents. In the camp we had 90% of the believers, and we faced the fact that the children told their fathers that they were lonely. Therefore they spend time in social networks. The problem is with parents who care about their own lives only,” assured Archdeacon Ioan.

Volunteers from various countries shared their experience of work with Ukrainian students



Within the framework of the 6th Ecumenical Social Week, the training session “International youth cooperation in the field of non-formal education” was held in October 4. Trainers and foreign volunteers working in Ukraine shared skills and experience in the field of voluntary cooperation and non-formal education.

The training session consisted of two parts – theoretical and practical. During the practical part of the event, **Olena Hrabovska** was a trainer, **Natalya Pavlyuk** was a moderator, who not only told about volunteering and non-formal education, but also demonstrated the practical elements of such activities. The present students were asked to develop their own program of voluntary activities in small groups to demonstrate methods of non-formal education. Trainer Olena Hrabovska said, “When we talk about non-formal education, based on voluntariness and responsibility, we talk about what we learn through experience and interaction with other members of the learning process.”

Volunteers from Slovenia, France, Poland and Germany engaged in volunteer activities in Ukraine participated in the discussion. The participants shared their experiences of volunteering and impressions about our country. The workshop took place in an atmosphere of active interaction thanks to the active work of the trainer and moderator, and openness of volunteers and students to discussion.

Gift of love – a fair of social organizations

Within the framework of the Ecumenical Social Week, a fair of social organizations was held on October 5 on Rynok Square in Lviv.

The results of their activities were presented by such social organizations as “Store of Goodness” of the Commission on Youth of the Archdiocese of Lviv UGCC, Lviv City Center of Social Services for Families, Children and Youth, Foundations for Freedom, The Foundation of Spiritual Revival, NGO “Oselya”, CF “The Center for Down’s Syndrome ‘Prominchyk””, the center for people with special needs “Emaus”, L’Arche Community.



All interested people had an opportunity to buy children’s and spiritual literature, periodicals of social organizations hand-made cards, multi-beaded necklaces, colored candles of various shapes and icons on wooden bases, hand-made bags made by artists of the community “L’Arche” at “Dzherelo.” Also, the public became acquainted with the character of “The School of Christian Animator” of the Spiritual Renaissance Foundation, which for the past five years has been engaged in educational activities with the active youth and children in the parishes.

Ecumenical cooperation for solving social issues

In the Ukrainian Catholic University, the round table “The ecumenical dimension of social service” was held on October 8 within the framework of the 6th Ecumenical Social Week. Захід відбувся з ініціативи Комісії УГКЦ сприяння єдності християн та Інституту Єкуменічних Студій УКУ.



The participants of the round table – the President of the alliance “Ukraine without orphans” (Kyiv) **Roman Korniyko**, senior priest of the parish of St Varvara of UOC-MP (Kherson) **Rev. Serhiy Dmitriev**, Head of the Social Affairs of the Patriarchal Curia of the UGCC (Kyiv) **Rev. Andriy Nahirnyak**, Head of the UGCC for Promoting Christian Unity **Rev. Ihor Shaban** – were looking for answers to the question what the ecumenical dimension of social service was, shared the experience of

cooperation between churches and social organizations and offering concrete steps to address the issues of custody of orphans, prisoners, HIV-infected people and patients with tuberculosis in our country.

Rev. Serhiy Dmitriev shared his own experience of ecumenical collaboration to address social issues: “When we faced the social problems, we understood that we ourselves wouldn’t be able to cover the full range of work. We created a platform to which we invited social workers regardless of their belonging to a particular denomination, as long as people were professional in their field. And that was an ecumenical component.”

Rev. Andriy Nahirnyak, Head of the Social Affairs of the Patriarchal Curia of the UGCC (Kyiv), gave an overview of activities carried out by the Commission for Social Service of the Ukrainian Council of Churches in Ukraine, including Kyiv, and emphasized: “Very often ecumenical dialogue is based on an ordinary human understanding.”

“Contest that inspires to live”

In Lviv, in the University Catholic University, the ceremony of awarding the winners of the contest “Reporters of Hope in Ukraine.” The journalists that took the 2nd and 3rd places were given diplomas of participants and prizes. The winners whose works received the 1st places were awarded with the certificates for 3,000 UAH and statuettes.

The awards to the winners in four categories of “Religion”, “Culture”, “Community” and “Economy” were handed by the jury: **Tetyana Solntseva**, editor-in-chief of the online edition of Zaxid.net, **Victor Zhukovskyi**, head of the Department of Theology at UCU, editor-in-chief “The Christian and the World”, **Iryna Tsytsak**, editor-in-chief of the newspaper “Lvivska poshta”, **Yuriy Zaliznyak**, Assistant Professor of New Media at the Ivan Franko Lviv



National University and radio presenter at “FM Halychyna”. Materials were evaluated also by an expert on mass media, host of the program “Freedom of speech” (ICTV) **Andriy Kulykov**.

The award ceremony started with the welcome speech of last year’s winner **Oksana Senyshyn** (TRC “Lux”). She thanked journalists that they are bearers of hope: “In the Bible, Jesus Christ said to his apostles: ‘You are the light of the world which cannot be hidden’. So also you, the journalists, are this light and you carry the hope into the world. And a world that sometimes seems sad and ruthless actually becomes clear as God planned it, full of hope, faith and love.”

The first place in the nomination “Religion” was given to a journalist of the newspaper “Den” (Day) **Nadiya Tsyachna** (Kyiv), which prepared the material “To be involved in changes in someone’s life is a great privilege” about a pastor of the Protestant Church of Good Changes, Hennady Mokhnenko who shares his experience of adoption. Today he is the father of 34 children, three biological and thirty one adopted.

In the nomination “Society” the best material was of **Victoriya Dvoryanyn** “Seeing with the heart” (newspaper “Lvivska poshta”) about a blind girl who goes to a regular high school, along with healthy children. “When you meet with the people who are called disabled, when they start telling you about their life, you realize that we are actually disabled, but they are not. Indeed, these people are able to enjoy life much more,” said the journalist.



In the nomination “Culture” the winner was **Antonina Kucherenko** (newspaper “Porto-franko”, Odesa) with the material about the boy called Davyd who got out of developmental deficiencies thanks to a local library, “A Library Brings Up a Man”. “This contest inspires to live, - said the winner. – Communicating with different people, you know that they have such problems that your own seem trivial to you.”

In the nomination of “Economy”, the best work was of **Dmytro Boyarchuk** “How much is the state?” (web-site “Ekonomichna Pravda”). This material, according to the author, was an attempt to show in figures why the rights of taxpayers are legitimate, and why in fact an ordinary Ukrainian, not industrial giants or oligarchs, with an average salary of two-three thousand UAH was the main “sponsor” of the state.

Also during this year’s contest, 6 journalistic projects and materials were rewarded with special awards. Among these are the following: “**Unmovable lying**” (journal KANA) by Ivanka Rudakevych in the category “Religion”, the documentary “**Kvitka Cisyk: single copy voice**” (TV channel “Inter”) by Lesya Vakulyuk and Natalya Kovalyova, the program “**Factory of Ideas**” (Kharkiv State Television and Radio Company, Channel OTB) by Anna Prokayeva,



newspaper “**Iskorka**” (publisher of pupils of Novoaydarska grammar school) by Oksana Martynova, the columns “**Waiting for you**” (TRC Lux) and “**Alone with a book**” (radio studio “Noviy Dvir”) Ruslana Fedyuk.

The evening finished with watching the movie “**Kvitka Cisyk: single copy voice**,” which excited much interest in the audience. One of its authors, Lesya Vakulyuk, who attended the ceremony, shared her vision of the role of the documentary: “It was not just a story of an extraordinary woman different from others. Its purpose was to give hope to those who faced a severe incurable diagnosis. Indeed, the closing credits include an announcement of fundraising for the purchase of a mobile mammograph.”

National network of Ecumenical Social Weeks includes Poltava

On September 2, 2013, the round table “Inter-sectoral partnership can solve issues of local communities” was held within the framework of the Days of Lviv in Poltava.

Representatives of government officials and NGOs shared their experience of cooperation. Poltava citizens got acquainted with Lviv initiatives and presented their own projects. The student council of V.H. Korolenko Poltava National Pedagogical University took an active part in the round table.

During the round table Mayor of Poltava Oleksander Mamay urged the public and the city, particularly the students, to be more active.

“Today I had a long conversation with the Mayor of Lviv Andriy Sadovyi, who tme about how the city council works with NGOs,” said Oleksander Mamay. “If the government does something wrong, it is the public who chose the government should help find the right solutions to the problem. It’s hard to find a Poltava citizen who would not want our city to become the best. But it is necessary to work for it, it will be difficult, but we have chosen a worthy goa,” said the Mayor of Poltava.

“That city is successful where cooperation of wisest people is the most intense. Also, it is desirable that there are many these wise people. That’s why NGOs are helping the city municipal authorities, as we were able to pull down the wall that separates government and the public. The

public is the source and the main driving force behind the development of the city, so you need to work with them," said Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi.

Vasil Kosiv, the Deputy Mayor for Humanitarian Affairs of Lviv presented the work of the city in the social and cultural sphere, and coordinator of the Ecumenical Social Week, Mary Kandyba, presented a five-year achievements of Ukrainian public forum "Ecumenical Social Week" in inter-sectoral cooperation in the implementation of social initiatives.

All in all, during the panel discussion, the representatives of NGOs of Lviv shared their experiences with their colleagues from Poltava on ways to implement their own ideas and possible ways of cooperation with local authorities in the social, cultural, sports, educational, religious, and other areas. The event was held on the initiative of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, the Ukrainian Catholic University, within the framework of the project National Network of Ecumenical Social Weeks.

Faith in the Public Sphere

6 - 9 November in Chisinau took place the annual International Conference organized with the support of missionary organization «Kerk in Actie» (Netherlands, Utrecht) and in cooperation with the St. Andrew Biblical Theological Institute (Moscow), hosted by a public CO "Filokaliya" (Chisinau, Moldova). Taras Kurylets, the coordinator of Distance Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies (for Ukrainian speaking students) visited the conference.



The theme of the conference was "Faith in the Public Sphere." This theme was chosen because, "in modern Western society religious faith to a considerable extent became a matter of the private sector. Everyone has the right to follow their own religious beliefs, but on condition that it should not affect his or her activity in the public sphere ... "

On the other hand during the last decades we can observe the awakening and intensification of religious life among ordinary lay people as well as the growing interest in religion in general, caused by a spiritual hunger and search for the meaning of life in society, focused mostly on consumerism and entertainment.

This, however, raises the question of how this "spiritual need" - both on a personal level and at the community level - can be expressed in public discourse, i.e. how do we re-introduce religious discourse to the public sphere from which it was taken. The difficulty, however, is that it can not be done simply and directly, since any reference to religion and religious values in the public sphere leads to conflict with the secular model, on the basis of which is built modern Western society. "

The conference was attended by representatives from the Netherlands, the USA, Norway, Belgium, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Russia. This issue was addressed from different



perspectives: both in terms of view of the Western Europe and among the members of the former socialist camp.

Euro-traveling of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies



At the end of November, the Social Week was held in France. The 88th meeting was entitled “Reinventing of work” (Réinventer le travail).

Unlike previous years, this year’s forum was held at the same time in three cities – Lyon, Paris and Strasbourg. The forum gathered the largest number of foreign visitors from different European countries: Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Poland and, of course, Ukraine. The meeting was visited by the staff and students of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, at the Ukrainian Catholic

University, that have been conducting the Ecumenical Social Weeks since 2008 in Lviv.

The highway journey to Strasbourg ran through Poland, Germany, and back through the Czech Republic. It allowed us to visit cities such as Wroclaw, Dresden, Prague and pray in major European churches. In Dresden, we were welcomed by the family of Rev. Bohdan Luk, whose wife and six children gave us a tour of the city. Afterwards, Rev. Bohdan made an evening liturgy for the Greek Catholic parishioners of Dresden, which we were lucky to attend.

In Strasbourg the Ukrainian delegation was met by host families – volunteers and workers of the Social Week, that was opening the next day at the University of Strasbourg.

With the help of live video streaming the audience that gathered at the university was able to communicate with Paris and Lyon – to ask questions and participate in discussions.

The conference participants were thinking about how to address issues of employment and unemployment today, so that everyone could use their right to work.

The participants reviewed a number of initiatives, for example, such as the social and solidarity economy, new relationships between workers and companies, new perspectives on career, which can cause a real circle of changes. An important role in employment and fighting unemployment was attached to Christian organizations. Also, the world of new technologies should bring us inventions and continue to work tirelessly to put people at the center of social relations.

Therefore, the next topic of the Social Week to be held in 2014 in Lille will be new information technology, biotechnology, nanotechnology and the impact of these changes on people.



Institute of Ecumenical Studies joined the live chain for Euro-integration



Employees of IES, on November 29 went to the village of Hamaliyivka near Lviv in the Kyiv direction where they joined the community of the Ukrainian Catholic University in creating a “live chain” that was to unite Kyiv as the capital of Ukraine with one of the EU countries. During an hour, starting at 12.00 representatives of the Institute became one of the links that united our country.

“Obviously, the students and staff of the Institute, as well as all the UCU community cannot stand apart at this critical time for our country. We support those who are on the streets, together we pray for wise decisions for our people and considered steps of our government,” said the executive director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies Halyna Bokhonko.

After the completion of the all-Ukrainian campaign the participants prayed together for the future of Ukraine and our people, and the singing of “God Almighty” they completed the event. All in all, about 200 UCU employees participated in the event. Among them were teachers, staff and those students who at this time were not on the rallies in Ukraine.

Updated web-site of online edition *Spirituality* will start in January

Internet edition *Spirituality* will be released in an updated format already since January 2014. For you are waiting new headings, more dynamic, informational transparency and communication. Among the novelties: Christian calendar for every day, blogs, spiritual adviser, schedule of church services.

The Christian calendar will provide an opportunity to learn the basic elements of prayer life: liturgical services, prayers, Bible reading, the memory of the saints (especially the first millennium) and holidays, religious reflections of the Church Fathers - common for Churches. The Christian calendar – is a liturgical online-calendar of traditional Churches of the Byzantine rite.

Spiritual adviser will let you to communicate with priests of different faiths, ask them the questions that interest you, get advice or prayer support.

Also, now you can choose to visit temple for the Sunday worship that is closest to your home or vice versa in which you have never been before and to get on time to the service as on the web-site of the online edition will be published **Schedule of Services** of the largest churches in Lviv and Kyiv.

And reading the **blogs** you will be able to get closer to the various topics in the light of the views of young people.



Reference:

Internet edition *Spirituality* was founded in October 2010 by the Institute of Ecumenical Studies in cooperation with the socio-political daily newspaper *High Castle*. This is a monthly informational edition of the ecumenical character in Ukraine. It is issued in Ukrainian and Russian. The uniqueness of the media project is that it was created on the basis of social media and aims to a wide range of readers.

Internet edition [*Spirituality*](#)

If you want to become a partner and/or benefactor of the Institute of Ecumenical Society and/or support our students, having become their “God-parents” (annual expenses for education of one student are 500 Euros), please contact the Institute of Ecumenical Studies.

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