



NEWSLETTER Of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, Ukrainian Catholic University

№ 4 – June 2010

- **The Institute of Ecumenical Studies has taken part in the Edinburgh 2010 Conference**



The Edinburgh 2010 Conference, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the ecumenical movement, took place from June 2 until June 6. The five-day conference commemorated the World Missionary Conference of 1910, and began with Christian songs and hymns from all the world. 297 delegates from 60 countries registered as participants, and over 100 visitors and staff of the University of Edinburgh joined them.

Edinburgh 2010, themed “Witnessing Christ Today,” welcomed Christians of different traditions, including Protestants, Orthodox, Catholics, Anglicans, Evangelists, and Pentecostals.

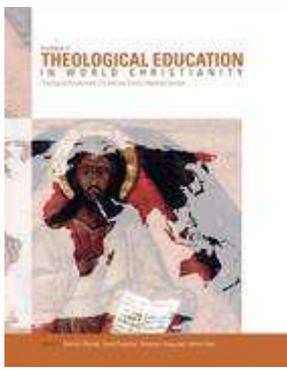
Antoine Arjakovsky, Director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, took part in the Edinburgh 2010 conference as the only delegate from Ukraine, and as the representative of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies.

The conference concluded in a “**Common call**” by all participants of the conference, which begins with the words: «As we gather for the centenary of the World Missionary Conference of Edinburgh 1910, we believe the church, as a sign and symbol of the reign of God, is called to witness to Christ today by sharing in God’s mission of love through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit».

Full text: [COMMON CALL](#)

- **Handbook of Theological Education in World Christianity presented at the Edinburgh 2010 Conference**

The Handbook of Theological Education in World Christianity presents theological trends and a religious survey of sixty countries. Olav Fykse Tveit, Secretary General of the World Council of Churches, said that “[the handbook] is a world-class resource for all of us who feel a need for continuing ecumenical formation. The editors and authors are first-rate interpreters of the role of



theological education in the churches' quest for unity in witness, dialogue and closer cooperation. Among the practical features of the handbook are timely lists of links to organizations engaged in every region and at every level of this essential work.”

Desmond Tutu, the Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, described the Handbook saying, “With this prestigious research and publication project, which has brought together more than 90 expert contributions on recent developments, challenges and trends in theological education in all regions of World Christianity, a new stage has been reached in the important history of ecumenical cooperation and learning in the area of theological education. The Handbook provides a very important resource and world survey which should enable regional associations of theological schools, mission boards and church leaders in Christianity to become aware again of the crucial importance of theological education for the renewal of the church’s mission and service.”

The Handbook’s chapter on “Theological education in East Central Europe” features IES Director Antoine Arjakovsky’s article “Theological Education in Ukraine: the case of the Master’s Program in Ecumenical Studies in Lviv”.

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/eng/a/article/1634/handbook-of-theological-e-1.html>

- **Percentage philanthropy: legal bill presented on supporting non-profit organizations**

On June 3, the Institute of Ecumenical Studies organized a press-conference in Kyiv dedicated to the topic “Percentage philanthropy as a mechanism of state support for non-profit organizations.” Nataliya Alekseyeva, deputy director of the “Council Secretariat” administration of the Lviv City Council and Svitlana Kuts, head of the board of the Information and Analytical Center for Philanthropy, participated in the event. National Deputies Volodymyr Stretovych (“Our Ukraine – People’s Self-Defence”) and Stepan Kurpil (National Deputy and member of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc) were also participants.



The mechanism outlined in the bill “On introducing changes to several Laws of Ukraine regarding support for non-profit organizations,” is known in many countries of the world as “percentage philanthropy.” The bill gives the taxpayer, who pays the income tax of **physical persons**, the right to redirect a percentage of the tax (already paid to a special budget) to social causes – i.e., directly to an organization dedicated to dealing with a social problem.

The bill is already registered in the Supreme Council (Parliament) by National Deputies S. Kurpil (Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc), P. Pysarchuk (Party of Regions) and V. Stretovych (Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defence Bloc).

Stepan Kurpil said, “This bill has been supported by representatives of the three largest entities in the Supreme Council, which guarantees that it can gain support of the majority, [and] not

[merely] the opposition parties.” According to Kurpil, the passing of this bill into law will not be easy, as the pro-government coalition will first have to be persuaded of the bill's importance. He also stated that “the government, and the tax administration will also need to be persuaded that this is an important bill, and a step – even if a small one – towards Ukraine's European integration.”

The participants of the event called on the political elites and the general public to realize that a well-developed third sector is indispensable to a civilized society.

In the course of the II Ecumenical Social Week, a legal bill titled “On introducing changes to certain Laws of Ukraine regarding the support for non-profit organizations” was developed. The bill followed the initiative of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies with participation of organizations of the civic sector.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novyny-instytutu/2010/06/08/869>

• **III Ecumenical Social Week in Lviv to start October 7-10, 2010**

The III Ecumenical Social Week will take place in Lviv, as is tradition, on October 7-10. The central motto for this year's Ecumenical Social Week is “Trust. Responsibility. Philanthropy.”



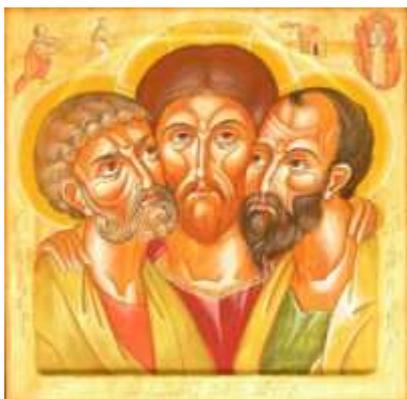
Events planned for the Week include an academic conference, roundtables, and cultural events. Some notable events include a charity concert, an exhibition and fair of social organizations of “Ukraine, Trust Day” (developed in cooperation with the Christian ecumenical community of Taize, France), a film screening, among others.

The Week will host a presentation of a new project, entitled “Observatory of Successful Initiatives.” The objective is to create the best-realized projects in the fields of philanthropy, ecumenism, and the social sphere, thereby uniting the efforts of the government, churches, civic organizations, and business structures. These projects aim to improve the life of certain population groups, and to promote the development of a democratic, human, and civic society in general.

This year's Social Week will be attended by guests from all over the world, carriers of different cultures, representatives from many confessions and social organizations, renowned philanthropists and ecumenists, representatives of government and business structures, and famous scholars.

Watch the [website](#) for information on the program of the III Ecumenical Social Week.

- **Introducing the online liturgical calendar**



The Ukrainian internet space can now boast an online liturgical calendar for traditional Byzantine-rite Churches. Now the busy modern man or woman can live in accordance with the rhythms of the Church, provided they have access to the internet.

The calendar was created with the support of the representatives of Orthodox Churches, and the Greek Catholic Church. It provides the basic elements of prayer life: liturgical services, prayers, biblical readings, remembrance of the saints and holidays, spiritual reflections by the Holy Fathers – common for Byzantine-rite churches.

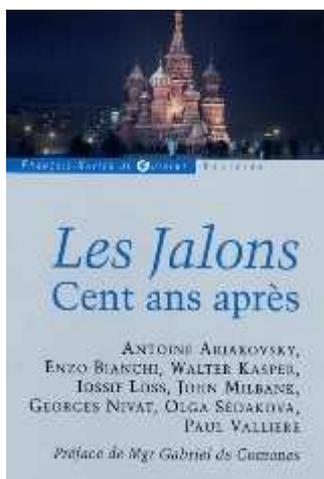
Rev. Roman Fihas of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, the project's coordinator, said “The calendar is not oversaturated with theological terms, because it is aimed at a wide circle of users, not merely at theologians and liturgists.”

Archpriest Bohdan Ohulchanskyi of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Secretary of the All-Ukrainian Orthodox Pedagogical Society, described the usefulness of the website for the faithful, saying, “The life of every person is connected with time. So also with religious life. Thus, every year we experience the birth of Our Saviour, and other events that remind Christians of truths they believe in.”

Work on this calendar has just begun, and it will undergo changes that will both deepen and widen it. More information on the lives of the saints, both of the Ukrainian Tradition and of the whole Church, will soon be provided.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novyny-instytutu/2010/05/03/726>

- **“Russian Religious Thought and its Contemporary Reception” Roundtable in Paris dedicated to the *Landmarks: One Hundred Years Later (Les Jalons. Cent ans après)* collection**



The College des Bernardins in Paris, in partnership with the Francois-Xavier de Guibert publishing house, hosted a roundtable entitled “Russian Religious Thought and Its Contemporary Reception.” The roundtable was held on May 31st, as part of the Year of Russia in France. The event was dedicated to the publication of the *Landmarks: One Hundred Years Later (Les Jalons. Cent ans après)* collection.

Among the participants of the roundtable were IES Director Antoine Arjakovsky (one of the authors of the compilation); Jean-Battiste Foucault, expert on unemployment issues and head of the Democracy

and Spirituality Association; and Mykhailo Yelchaninov, member of the editing board of the Philosophy Magazine.

The publication of the original *Landmarks* compilation in March 1909 in Moscow constitutes an important moment in the history of Russian thought. Seven prominent intellectuals (including Nikolai Berdiaev and Sergei Bulgakov) had gathered to express their concern with the radical and nihilistic turn in the evolution of their colleagues, and their worries that such an evolution could lead to an unprecedented crisis.

The collection was immediately resonant, and is to this day a **landmark** for Russian intelligentsia. A hundred years after the publication of the original collection, eight intellectuals of various nationalities and Christian traditions, have decided to commemorate this anniversary.

Audio files of the conference:

http://www.collegedesbernardins.fr/index.php/rencontres-a-debats/audio/conferences.html?mode=detail&audio_id=111

- **Conference: “The Christian Personalism of Dietrich von Hildebrand: Exploring His Philosophy of Love” in Rome**

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CONVENED BY THE
Dietrich von Hildebrand Legacy Project

**The Christian Personalism
of Dietrich von Hildebrand:**
Exploring His Philosophy of Love



DATE & LOCATION
Rome, May 27-29, 2010
Pontifical University of the Holy Cross

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS
Roberta Green Ahmanson, Charles Morand, OP
Joseph Bottani, Michael Novak
Rocco Buttiglione, Josef Solter
John F. Crosby, Robert Spaemann
Hanna-Barbara Ciel-Falkovitz, Michael Waldstein
Alice von Hildebrand, John D. Zizioulas

ABSTRACT DEADLINE
April 1, 2010

LIVE WEBCAST
Conference will be broadcast live
via our website.

STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST
Up to 5 contestants will be invited to
present their papers at the conference
and will receive an award that covers
all meals, lodging, and travel expenses.

For more information and submission guidelines visit: www.hildebrandlegacy.org



On May 27-29, the Pontifical Institute of the Holy Cross, School of Philosophy, organized a conference entitled The Christian Personalism of Dietrich von Hildebrand: Exploring His Philosophy of Love.

The recent years have seen a renewed interest in the thought and persona of Dietrich von Hildebrand. This re-emergence of a large intellectual and spiritual heritage is partly due to the project’s exploration of Dietrich von Hildebrand’s legacy. Started in 2004, this project aims not only to translate and publish Hildebrand’s works in English, but also to make his considerable contributions more accessible to a wider readership.

Antoine Arjakovsky, Director of the IES, delivered a paper at the conference entitled, “Dietrich von Hildebrand and Contemporary Philosophy of Love.”

<http://www.hildebrandlegacy.org/main.cfm?id=76&r1=0.75&r2=1.10&r3=0.00&r4=0.00&eid=169>

- **Meeting of the Deans of the Theology Departments of Catholic universities in Beirut**



The meeting of the Deans of the Theology Departments of Catholic universities took place in Beirut, Lebanon from April 30 until May 1. The topic of the meeting was “Religious studies: theological context.”

Representing Ukraine in Beirut was IES Director Antoine Arjakovsky.

Report from the meeting:

<http://www.fiuc.org/COCTI/COCTImeetings/Reports%20from%20the%20Regional%20Assembly%20in%20Lebanon%281%29.pdf>

- **Distance Master’s Program in Ecumenical Studies now on Facebook**



From now on the DMPES also has a Facebook page. The page features DMPES news, photographs, and other useful information. The page also provides a forum for the program’s students and faculty. The DMPES is represented on Facebook as a program of online study of theology, history, and religious journalism through an ecumenical and interdisciplinary approach. This is the first academic program in Ukraine, and in the world, to provide a Master’s level theological ecumenical education through the means of online education. The program provides an elucidation of the questions of theology, history, and ecumenism that, on the one hand, provides good academic knowledge, and on the

other hand, cultivates the love of one’s own Church, while simultaneously encouraging the acknowledgment of other Churches, opening the path to overcoming interdenominational splits and conflict through openness, cooperation, and friendship among Christians. The DMPES was inaugurated by the Institute for Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University.

The DMPES also has an [English version](#) on Facebook.

- **Start of new academic year at the Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies**

The festive opening of the new academic year of the MPES took place on February 8 in the



UCU chapel. 27 new students started their studies with the MPES this year. Twenty of these chose to study journalism, thirteen elected in favor of the Christian Ethics program, and two decided to specialize in MPES newest academic offering, the “Medical-psychological and social support for persons with special needs.” It should be noted that this year’s students come from different confessional backgrounds: Orthodox, Greek Catholics, and Protestants. The present company of students represent the MPES' fifth class.

The new MPES students were greeted by words of welcome from UCU Rector Rev. Borys Gudziak. He expressed the hope that the MPES students would be people strengthened by adverse circumstances, rather than given pretty promises about the lightness of life, thus teaching them to face and speak the truth.

Andrii Nakonechnyi, Deputy Dean of the Philosophy Department of the Ivan Franko National University in Lviv, welcomed the new students on behalf of the rectorate of that Institution. He was joined by Liuba Sorokina, long-time journalist with the Television News Service at the 1+1 TV channel, and director of the Talan Production Studio. Liuba Sorokina delivered a lecture on “Social responsibility, or complete lack thereof.”

The new academic program dedicated to the Medical-psychological and social support for persons with special needs started on February 13 in Lviv. This pioneering program for Ukraine and the Ukrainian context was created on the basis of a similar program developed by the International L’Arche Federation, which has been successfully implemented in France for the past 10 years.

This international inter-university project was developed by the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University, with the Lviv Polytechnic National University and the International “L’Arche” Federation.

The program currently includes twenty students. About half of them are already involved as assistants and coordinators of L’Arche workshops. The other half also have connections to working with special needs persons. They include volunteers from the “Faith and Light” society, the Dzherelo Rehabilitation Center, and people serving at the psycho-neurological boarding school.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novyny-instytutu/2010/02/09/325>

- **IES Director Antoine Arjakovsky delivers lectures for Le Chemin Neuf Catholic society in Lyons**

IES Director Antoine Arjakovsky delivered lectures to the Le Chemin Neuf (“New Way”) Catholic community of Lyons on January 19-20. The objective of Le Chemin Neuf is to build unity.



The lecture’s topic was “The Ways of the Divine Wisdom as a Way to Rapprochement”. The event took place in the chapel where Rev. Paul Couturier began his prayers for Christian unity. It was attended by nearly four hundred people.

Note:

In the early 1930s, Rev. Paul Couturier (1881-1953), a Catholic priest from Lyons, suggested a new form of prayer which was not prayer for other confessions. Rather, he advocated prayer together with other confessions, on conditions left by Jesus in the Gospel “that all may be one.” This was a very bold innovation. Prayers were accompanied by meetings and specially prepared services. In this way, starting from 1935, common prayers have begun. This practice can be considered the root of the modern Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

- **DMPES student participates in International Consultations on “Christian Mission in the Twenty-First Century: Orthodox Perspective” in Minsk**



International consultations, entitled “Christian Mission in the Twenty-First Century: Orthodox Perspective” took place from February 4-7, 2010. The consultations took place in Minsk, Belarus, with the blessing of Metropolitan Filaret of Minsk and Slutsk.

The consultations took place at the Sts. Cyrill and Methodius Institute for Theology at the Belarusian State University. The consultations celebrated the 100th anniversary of the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh in 1910 (www.edinburgh2010.org). DMPES student Nataliya Matsipura participated in the event.

Over 50 Orthodox missiologists and practicing missionaries from Belarus, Russia, Bulgaria, Poland, Ukraine, Kenya, USA, Finland, guests from Great Britain, Austria, and Italy gathered to discuss questions posed to Christian mission by practical activity and the experience of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The participants' speeches dealt with themes of Christian

witness in conditions of atheism and totalitarian society, as well as secularism. Other prominent themes included renewing humanity as a condition for Christian mission, the personality of the missionary, the Church community and the mission, and missionary service in a multid denominational and multireligious environment.

Over the course of the conference, Rev. Martin Rizzi, Executive Director of the Orthodox Christian Missionary Center (USA) held meetings with students of the Minsk Spiritual Seminary. Famous Belarusian Orthodox activist Aliaksandr Ohorodnikov also met with parishioners of the Icon of Our Lady – Comfort of the Afflicted.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novyny-institutu/2010/02/16/427>

- **“Ecumenical Studies and Conflict Resolution”**



This meeting took place between IES Director Antoine Arjakovsky and students of the Jesuit Pedagogical Research Institute Centre Sèvres in Paris.

The students were young people from many different countries, including, but not limited, to Lebanon, South Korea, Mali, Burkina-Faso, Chile, and the USA. The students drafted the text of a response to the international declaration by the World Council of Churches on the tenth anniversary of overcoming violence, entitled “Glory to God in the Highest, and Peace on Earth, Good Will to all Men,” which they sent to the WCC Secretariat.

This declaration will be discussed on May 17-25, 2011 at a future conference in Kingston, Jamaica. The conference will be a time for drawing conclusions of a decade-long struggle against violence, and the role of Churches in this struggle.

(<http://www.overcomingviolence.org/resources/documents/declarations-on-just-peace/drafting-group/initial-statement.html>).

- **Presentation of handbooks on Christian Ethics**



The Institute for Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University is a member of the Lviv Regional Council Committee for Matters of Teaching Christian Ethics and Education.

Members of the Committee have met to present handbooks on Christian Ethics and to plan the development of new ones.

[Video with Halyna Sokhan](#)

- **MPES Students participate in ecumenical retreat**



MPES students took part in a spiritual renewal retreat March 19-21 in Bryukhovychi near Lviv.

Throughout these three days, the students reflected on the meaning of Christianity. Rev. Ihor Petsiukh, UCU pastor, was the retreat leader. He gave five talks for the students, speaking on the love commandment with regard to enemies, the need to rise above worldly things, what he called the difference of Christians, and the transformation of the old person into the new.

The students also met with archpriest Volodymyr Hentsior of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church. During the discussion, the participants of the retreat were given answers to many questions regarding the attitudes of the Orthodox Church towards ecumenical problems and current issues (women's priesthood, the clergy and politics). The discussion took place in the spirit of ecumenical dialogue.

At the end of the second day, the participants of the retreat gathered for common Taize prayer, where they sang songs in Ukrainian, English, and Latin.

This retreat provided a spiritual rest, an introduction into the world of Christianity, renewal of strength, and a source of support in the time of the Great Lent.

[Photo report](#)

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novyny-institutu/2010/03/26/664>

Lecture on “Philanthropy as an Important Socio-Cultural Factor of Society’s Development” takes place on April 8



Svitlana Kuts is the head of the Board of the Center for Philanthropy in Ukraine, a member of board of directors of the European Fundraising Association, and a representative of DVV-International Ukraine. Kuts delivered a lecture on April 2010, entitled “Philanthropy as an Important Socio-Cultural Factor of Society’s Development” as part of the study visits of the IES.

In her lecture, Svitlana Kuts attempted to clarify the differences between mutual support, charity, and philanthropy, which are frequently equated. The speaker also outlined how these three concepts manifest and embody themselves in various confessions and religions.



As such, the phenomenon of philanthropy is still unknown to many in Ukraine. Svitlana Kuts said that the institutionalization of good works and working to prevent rather than merely solve problems is indispensable to philanthropy. Both issues, according to Kuts, are given little thought in Ukraine today. Ukrainian benefactors give away most of their funds to orphans, the disadvantaged, children (over 20 per cent on average), while donating less than two percent to ecological, artistic, or human rights causes. As a result, problems in the latter areas only grow. Kuts said that because of the inefficient organization structures, the general population's mistrust thereof, the lack of implementation of current legislature, and the “trendiness” of Ukrainian philanthropy today, the very phenomenon of philanthropy in Ukraine now appears to be something extraneous and unnatural.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novyiny-institutu/2010/04/09/680>

• French Ambassador visits UCU



Jacques Fors, Ambassador of France to Ukraine, visited UCU with his delegation on February 19, as part of his first visit to Lviv.

Myroslav Marynovych, first Vice Rector of UCU, acquainted the ambassador with UCU's history, as well as its mission and activities.

Antoine Arjakovsky, Director of the IES, described UCU's and IES' current cooperation with France and the French embassy in Ukraine, and spoke of IES' projects directly concerned with France. Antoine Arjakovsky invited Jacques Fors on his next visit to Lviv to visit the building of UCU's Philosophy and Theology Department, the Lviv Holy Spirit Seminary, and to view construction projects for UCU's new student campus. Ambassador Fors gladly accepted the invitation and promised to come.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novyiny-institutu/2010/02/19/486>

- **IES calls to common celebration of Christ's Resurrection on April 8, 2012**



Before Easter, the Institute for Ecumenical Studies turned to Christians of various denominations with a call to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ on April 8, 2012.

“Today Christians all over the world celebrate the great holiday of Easter on two different dates – the Address says – This is an obvious sign of the divisions tearing Christian confessions. On April 4, 2010, and on April 24, 2011, Easter falls on the same date in

all confessional calendars, by accident. For this reason, the Institute calls upon Christians of all denominations to use this period as preparation for the common celebration of Easter on April 8, 2012, on the day that corresponds to the rules and means of calculation agreed upon in the consensus reached by the Catholic, and the various Protestant and Orthodox Churches in 1997. One advantage of this way of calculating Easter date, that was recognized by all sides, lies in the fact that it makes relevant the rule established by the First Universal Council of Nicea.”

It should be recalled that in May 2009 the IES held an [international interconfessional seminar, entitled «A common Easter date is possible: the Aleppo consensus of 1997»](#). Representatives of the World Council of Churches, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and various Christian denominations of Lviv had participated in the event. The summary communique, signed by all participants of the seminar, stated: “The participants of the seminar encourage all Christians to join in the discussion of these issues, and to put every effort into ensuring that such coincidences turn from exception into rule, so that the Churches of the Christian East and West could celebrate the blessed holiday of Easter together, which would become another real step to regaining full communion in the future.”

[Call to common celebration of the Resurrection of Christ on April 8, 2012](#)

[Communique 2009](#)

- **“Myrna Nazour, messenger of Christian unity: Conversations on events in Soufanieh, Damascus” - a new book by Antoine Arjakovsky**



Antoine Arjakovsky has published another book, entitled “Myrna Nazour, Messenger of Christian Unity: Conversations about Events in Soufanieh, Damascus”.

The book was published in French.

In April 2008, Myrna Nazour visited Ukraine. She visited the IES, and led a week-long retreat for students of the MPES with her spiritual advisor, Rev. Elias Zakhlawi of the Syrian Catholic Church.

From 1984 onwards, Myrna Nazour has witnessed the Holy Virgin Mary five times. As a result, she has received numerous stigmata – wounds on her body, which appear periodically, leaking myrrh.

Another strange miracle was witnessed when a small reproduction of the icon of Our Lady of Kazan, printed on regular paper, size 6X8 cm, which Myrna's husband Nicolas bought in August 1980 in Bulgaria, later began to ooze oil. Nicolas' and Myrna's family itself is an example of reconciliation and understanding between Churches: Myrna herself belongs to the Melkite Church (Greek Catholic), while her husband is Orthodox. The spiritual occurrences in Soufanieh have received much personal recognition from many bishops and Apostolic Nuncios; and Myrna and Nicolas' house has become a place open to pilgrims from all over the world. Pope John Paul II blessed Myrna during his visit to Syria in 2001.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novyny-instytutu/2010/04/21/696>

- **Presentation of book by Wilhelm de Vries, *Orthodoxy and Catholicism: Opposite or complementary?***

Wilhelm de Vries' book *Pravoslav'ya i katolytstvo: Protystoyannia chy vzayemodopovnennia?* was presented at UCU on April 20.

The book was presented by both IES President Rev. Ivan Datsko and author of the preface to the Ukrainian translation of the book.



The book was originally published in 1965 and is today broadly considered a classic. In its day it became a notable contribution to the development of ecumenical thought. The book's author attempts to present an unprejudiced account of the history of relations between Christianity's eastern and western branches, as well as their differences of worldview, which in conditions of mutual intolerance and exclusivism led to a schism.

According to Rev. Ivan Datsko, the book remains relevant today despite being over five decades old, as even today many Christians are ignorant of each other's confessional differences and are unprepared to accept them as enriching and fulfilling.

This publication will be of interest to theologians, Church historians, students of spiritual institutions, and all those interested in the history of relations between Eastern and Western Christianity.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novyny-instytutu/2010/04/21/698>

• Representatives of Scripture Union meet with MPES students

In the course of their annual meeting, members of the Scripture Union international movement met with students of the Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies.



The meeting took place on April 21 at the Ukrainian Catholic University.

Andrei and Karina Cherniak, Orthodox Christians from Moscow, led the group. They presented participants of the meeting, who arrived from Russia, Belarus, Armenia, England, and various cities of Ukraine. It should be noted that the participants belonged to different confessions.

The «[Scripture Union](#)» international movement was founded in 1867. Today the movement has representatives from over 120 countries, including Ukraine. The objective of the movement is to popularize Bible study among children, youths, and adults for the deeper understanding of God. In order to achieve this

goal, the members of the movement work in various fields and directions. In each country the movement operates independently as its own organization, working for the local populations and minding the peculiarities of national culture.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novyny-instytutu/2010/04/23/701>



- **“For ecumenism, we lack prayer, holiness, and theological competence,” - Rev. Ivan Datsko**

President of the IES Rev. Ivan Datsko, Dr. Theol., gave a lecture on April 22 at the Holy Spirit Seminary in Lviv. The topic of the lecture was “Orthodox-Catholic Dialogue: Challenges and Prospects.”



Rev. Ivan Datsko said in his lecture, “For ecumenism, we lack a spiritual dimension, prayer, holiness, and theological competence. The lack of these things is an impediment to the progress of ecumenical dialogue.”

“Christian unity is the testament of Christ. He left us a cloak that we, Christians, have torn apart. To sow it back together, we need holy and meek people seeking God's ends, not man's. It is precisely that meekness, holiness, and desire for unity that are so difficult to find, both among the Catholics, and the Orthodox,” he says.

He added that, in his opinion, apart from holiness of spirit and prayer, our Church needs real profound theologians, people well-versed in the sources. “The Catholics and the Orthodox have used handbooks and interpretations for too long. Instead, Christians should go to the sources. The ecumenical dialogue is too laden with politics, commerce, and personal ideas,” stressed the IES President.

Rev. Datsko also spoke about the work of the Mixed International Committee for Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodox Churches, which last convened in the city of Pathos on Crete in October 2009. “The role and place of the Bishop of Rome in the Church, the future united Church, is an important question, - the priest said, - however it is saturated with history, and human characteristics and properties. The role of the bishop in the Christian faith is not the most important issue. There are more important questions – of trinitology, Christology, Maryology, etc. However, the question of the Bishop of Rome is a matter of contention between the Orthodox and the Catholics.” According to Rev. Datsko, sadly, today most Christians are used to the schism. For the Catholics, the primacy of the Pope is one of the characteristics of the Church, while for the Orthodox it is unthinkable.

During this event, the Institute of Ecumenical Studies and Antoine Arjakovsky, presented an excerpt of the film “Catholics of Ukraine” about the Lviv Holy Spirit Seminary, which had been broadcast on French television.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novyny-institutu/2010/04/23/699>

- **“The Institute for Ecumenical Studies is one of the driving forces for reconciliation of memory in Ukraine,” - Fr. Mykhailo Dymyd**

Protopresbyter Dr. Mykhailo Dymyd gave a speech at the European Consultations on “Healing and Comfort,” which took place on May 3-6 in Sarajevo. Dr. Dymyd, who teaches a course on Ecclesiological Perspectives at the IES, spoke on “Reconciliation of Memory in Ukraine.” The event was organized by the World Council of Churches and the Center for Reconciliation of Cities between Religions and Cultures in South-Eastern Europe.



Protopresbyter Dymyd's speech presented the reconciliation of memory in Ukraine, spoke of its origins, touched upon the problem, perspectives, and means used in the process, and discussed the issue of unresolved conflicts.

While at the European Healing and Comfort Consultations, Dr. Dymyd named the most vibrant forces behind the progress of reconciliation of memory in Ukraine. According to Dr. Dymyd, these include the Religion and Society Institute of the Ukrainian Catholic University, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church Justice and Peace Committee, the Institute for Ecumenical Studies with their Ecumenical Weeks, the St. Volodymyr Fund, and “The Christian and Politics,” “Yi,” the independent cultural magazine, the Spirit and Letter publishing house, and the Patriarchate and Nasha Vira (“Our Faith”) magazines, and the SBU Archives.

[Text of Dr. Mykhailo Dymyd's presentation](#)

- **David Fagerberg, renowned theologian and liturgist, visits Institute of Ecumenical Studies**

David Fagerberg, renowned American theologian and liturgist, Assistant Professor and Chair of the Theology Department at the University of Notre Dame, visited Lviv on May 26. By invitation from the Institute for Ecumenical Studies, Professor Fagerberg delivered a guest lecture on liturgical theology and on his as yet unpublished new book *On Liturgical Asceticism*.



David Fagerberg has also led a meeting-seminar, entitled “Theologia prima, or what is liturgical theology,” during which he discussed the questions of the essence of liturgical theology and of ways of studying it, as well as the relation of liturgical theology to other areas of theology.

In his lecture David Fagerberg stressed that *lex orandi* creates *lex credendi*, i. e., that the law of prayer is the source of the Church's faith: “At first the three Divine Persons of the Holy

Trinity were venerated in the pious prayer of the faithful, and only then was this teaching formulated in the creeds.”

Professor Fagerberg proposed to see the world through liturgy. “Liturgy is the connection between the Church and the world. Christ did not bring us new rubrics, but life everlasting... and this life is given us liturgically. – the theologian noted. – The ceremonies and rites are the tip of the iceberg, the visible tip we can perceive. The Mystery is made visible through the sacraments.”

In conclusion, Professor Fagerberg stated that the Liturgy or liturgical theology is not the business of a handful of chosen people - a liturgical committee, musicians or scholars. Instead, it is the business of all people, who are called to divinization and entering into a new life through the mystery of Resurrection.

David Fagerberg is a leading voice in the contemporary discussions of the concept and role of liturgical theology in the life of the Church. His published books include: *What Is Liturgical Theology?* (1992), *Theologia prima: What Is Liturgical Theology* (2nd edition), as well as other books and articles.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novyny-instytutu/2010/06/01/851>

- **Institute of Ecumenical Studies proclaims Reporters of Hope in Ukraine competition**



The Second All-Ukrainian Competition, “Reporters of Hope in Ukraine”, started on June 8. The goal of the competition is to reward the article that best “provides information and solutions.” In other words, the competition seeks to award the article that not merely elucidates important problems of contemporary society, but also provides concrete answers to these problems, and point to ways of resolving them.

The competition is administered by the Institute for Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University, with support of the French organization Reporters d'espoirs (Reporters of hope). The competition is inspired by the analogous project in France (www.reportersdespoirs.org). The current competition is the second “Reporters of Hope” competition in Ukraine.

714 submissions representing all regions of Ukraine, and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, took place in the First All-Ukrainian Competition. Prizes were awarded to the winners on May 27, 2009. Awards were given for submissions of nine candidates, who took first, second, and third place in three categories: television, radio, and press or internet publication. Authors of all submissions that were admitted into the finals also received diplomas of the competition.

The Second All-Ukrainian “Reporters of Hope in Ukraine” Competition will include four thematic categories: Society, Economics, Culture, Religion. Videos up to 60 minutes in length, audio programs up to 30 minutes in length, and printed materials up to 20 thousand characters in length will be accepted for the competition.

The Competition has been publicly proclaimed on June 9, 2010 and will last until June 6, 2011.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/reportery>

Persons wishing to become partners or sponsors of the IES, or to support our students by becoming their “Godfathers” (annual cost of instruction for one student comprises 350 Euros) should address themselves to the Institute for Ecumenical Studies.

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