

NEWSLETTER

of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University № 10 - June 2013



Orthodox, Greek Catholics and Armenians united in mutual prayer



As part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, interdenominational prayer for Christian unity was held on January 23 in the chapel of the Ukrainian Catholic University. The prayer was organized by the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at UCU.

The event was attended by representatives of four Ukrainian denominations: UGCC Auxiliary Bishop of Lviv Venedykt (Aleksiichuk); Deacon Armen, representative of the Armenian Apostolic Church; UOC-KP presbyter Mykolai Bobyk of the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lviv; and Fr. Vasyl Kulynych, priest of the UAOC's Assumption Church.

Bishop Venedykt during his sermon stressed: "The Church is divided into certain parts. All somehow became accustomed to live in this state. We have become accustomed to this, but it's not normal. Christ prayed for the Church to be one, and therefore all the churches are responsible. We must do everything possible to achieve reconciliation."

The representative of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Deacon Armen, also emphasized that Christian unity depends on us, and God would gladly help us to be together. We should only wish for that.

The common prayer ended with singing Christmas carols performed by the choir of the Stauroregion Brotherhood of Andrew the First-Called-Apostle (UAOC) from Lviv.

Third step and third graduation of the MPSS Certificate Program

On February 2 at the Ukrainian Catholic University, students of the program Medical-Psychological and Social Support for People with Special Needs of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies were awarded graduation certificates. This is now the third graduation of students from the certificate program.

The festivities began with a pantomime play performed by graduates. Afterwards, guests had the opportunity to become acquainted with the graduates and the life of the program through a film summarizing what they learned.

The following greeted the graduates: Oksana Vyniarska, pedagogical director of the certificate program Medical-psychological and Social Support for People with Special Needs; Oksana Mahura community leader of L'Arche in Ukraine; and teachers of the program, Nina Haiduk and Oleh Romanchuk.

The honorary guest of the event was Michele Dormal, director of the educational program for assistants of the French department of the International Federation L'Arche, coordinator and supervisor for the certificate program Medical-psychological and Social Support for People with Special Needs in Ukraine from L'Arche International.

The coordinator and supervisor of the program compared a graduate certificate with a plane ticket and gave three tips for this trip: "Firstly – be yourselves, because to be yourself is a big secret. Secondly - meet people and don't withdraw into yourself. And thirdly - listen and look. Have a nice journey!"

The event was organized by the Institute of Ecumenical Studies.



«When one is educated, one is armed» - Paraskoviia Dvorianyn

On February 11 the Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies of IES-UCU began a new school year.

The following greeted the students: the Executive Director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, Halyna Bokhonko; the coordinator of the journalism specialization, Taras Lylo; and the coordinator of the specialization Medical-psychological and Social Support for People with Special Needs, Oksana Vyniarska.



On behalf of the administration of the Ukrainian Catholic University, Pavlo Khobzei, vice-rector for scholarly and pedagogical work, welcomed MPES students and passed out student identification cards. A guest at the event, Paraskoviia Dvorianyn, chief editor of the TV and radio company Lux, delivered a lecture on "The crisis in journalism."

According to Paraskoviia Dvorianyn, journalists today simplify news stories and make them sensational to attract the attention of the reader, viewer, listener. That's why she focused on the point that journalistic material "should always have a choice and hope for a person, and the concept of justice. If there is black, there is white, moreover there are semitones." She expressed her wish that the students go their own way, have their own principles and values and study much.

After the celebrations, at 11:30 in the chapel of UCU a Liturgy was held.

Guest lectures by Dr. Dagmar Heller (Ecumenical Institute of Bossey, Switzerland)



Pastor Dr. Dagmar Heller, professor of ecumenical theology at the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey (Switzerland), visited the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at UCU from April 7 to 12.

Guest lectures by Dr Dagmar Heller were read for the students of the Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies (IES). She also participated in a seminar for lecturers of the theology department.

Biographical information:

Pastor Dr. Dagmar Heller studied Protestant theology at the church faculty of Bethel, and at the universities of Göttingen and Heidelberg from 1980 to 1985. In 1988/89 she finished her doctoral studies at the University of Heidelberg in the field of church history with a dissertation on "The interpretation of Scripture and spiritual experience in the works of Bernard of Clairvaux." In 1990 she was ordained in the Protestant Church of Baden in Germany and served as a pastor in several parishes in the Black Forest area. From 1993 to 2000 she was executive secretary for the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland. From 2001 to 2007 she was executive secretary of the Evangelical Church in Germany for ecumenical relations and for relations with Orthodox churches. Since April 2007 she has taught ecumenical theology at the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey, Switzerland, which belongs to the World Council of Churches and is in association with the University of Geneva, and she serves at the same time as dean for academic affairs.

«Social Partnership Initiatives in Working with Socially Vulnerable Groups»

The experience of cooperation of NGOs, municipal authorities and churches was discussed in Dnipropetrovsk during the roundtable “Social Partnership Initiatives in Working with Socially Vulnerable Groups” held on April 4, 2013. The event was initiated by the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University in conjunction with the Dnipropetrovsk City Organization For Medical and Social Rehabilitation of Children with Disabilities – Volition - under the auspices of the [National Network of Ecumenical Social Weeks of Ukraine](#).



Roundtable participants – representatives of local government, business and civil society organizations of Dnipropetrovsk and Lviv – learned about the experience of social work in the cities, focused on the relevance of cooperation between various sectors and pointed out that social projects necessary for the community can be implemented only through joint efforts.

The coordinator of the Ecumenical Social Week, Mariia Kandyba, presented the five-year achievements of the forum in working with socially vulnerable groups and legislative initiatives aimed at supporting the socially unprotected population.

Moreover, Lily Durnyak, the public relations coordinator of the L'Arche Community in Lviv, shared the experience of community life, presented products which were made by friends at L'Arche workshops, and described the way they live in a common house and build and develop relations between assistants and friends.

The experiences shared were extremely exciting and important for the colleagues from Dnipropetrovsk. Indeed, one of the questions discussed during the roundtable was creating a center for rehabilitation of disabled adults in Dnipropetrovsk and the need to consolidate the efforts of local authorities and NGOs for joint implementation of the project.

The organizers of the round table are confident that such events will facilitate cooperation among cities and the creation of new projects, sharing the experience of ESW and enhancing community activity.



Easter Retreat: Hear, Israel

The ability to listen is the hardest but the most necessary skill for a human being. When listening we learn something new, yet get to know ourselves. For three days - from 12 to 14 April – students of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies had the opportunity to attend a retreat in the Retreat Center of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Briukhovychi, Lviv Region, with the spiritual guidance of MPES teachers Fr. Ihor Petsiukh and Pastor Heleen Zorgdrager.



During the time of the retreat, the community experienced a variety of emotions – some cried, some devoted more time to silence, and some had an incredible experience of prayer. For each in different way but in general for all these days were not in vain.

Listening to Fr. Ihor's spiritual talks, the participants reflected on the problems of human pride, fear of what has been done, and love of neighbor, were important. As the students acted out, in simulated situations, examples presented by the priest, everyone could see themselves in the case of their own life. Equally interesting was the experience of wandering through the circle of life offered to students by Pastor Zorgdrager. Each analyzed their attitude to God, to himself, to the desert of life, love, death and their own resurrection. In certain parts of the circle participants pondered upon gratitude to Lord, the greatest sufferings of their life, the best pleasures and evidences of the greatest beauty.

Each of us experienced a change of heart in learning to listen to the voice of a priest and a fellow man. And in these words, sounds, and silence, the voice of God was found.

«The Role of Key Social Institutions in the Education of Youth»

On 5 April, as part of the 3rd Forum of Cross-Sector Partnership at the initiative of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University, as part of the National Network of the Ecumenical Social Week and supported by the NGO UkrProstir (Zaporizhzhya), a panel discussion on “The role of key social institutions in youth’s education” was held in Zaporizhzhya.

Students and teachers of Zaporizhzhya State Engineering Academy, representatives of NGOs, local authorities and the clergy of the city of Zaporizhzhya participated in the panel discussion.



The panellists discussed problems and barriers in society which young people encounter. They also considered the role of social institutions in the education of young people, ways for the Church to be closer to a young person and become a moral authority.

For example, a representative of the Service for Children of the Zaporizhzhya Regional Administration presented a positive experience of cooperation of the region with community and religious organizations in the implementation of various programs and projects in support of orphans and foster care, to combat violence in the youth environment.



The importance of involving the Church in the education of young people was noted, including through cooperation with educational institutions, school institutions and social organizations. And the need to support the family’s care of children and young people and the formation of a new system of school education was emphasized.

The event was part of the [National Network of Ecumenical Social Weeks](#) with the help of the NGO UkrProstir (Zaporizhzhya)

Cooperation of Government, Public Organizations and Church



As part of the Lviv City Days in Sumy, the round table “Inter-Sectoral Partnerships to Address the Needs of Local Communities. Cooperation of the Government, Civil Society and the Church” was held on 22 April 2013.

Representatives of local authorities, business, NGOs, as well as the clergy and members of youth groups and the media of Sumy participated in the round table.

The people of Sumy became acquainted with Lviv initiatives and also presented their own projects.

Vasil Kosiv, Deputy Mayor of Humanitarian Affairs, presented the work of the social and cultural sphere, emphasizing: “... if we in Lviv have been successful in a particular area, it is only in cooperation with NGOs and the Lviv community as a whole.”

Serhiy Panchenko, Deputy Mayor of Sumy, outlined the achievements and problems of cooperation of the Sumy City Council with NGOs, having proposed solutions to urgent issues and urged NGOs to cooperate with the city.

Non-governmental organizations such as Selfreliance (Lviv), the Berry Bunch Center for Support and Development of the Family (Sumy), and the Sumy Region Association of Christian Teachers also introduced their projects.

Round table participants also raised the issue of spiritual education of the younger generation and the involvement of churches to implement social initiatives and constructive interdenominational dialogue and cooperation.

The event was held at the initiative of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University as part of the project [the National Network of Ecumenical Social Weeks](#) and Lviv City Days in Sumy

Bent their heads to the "valley of death"

"Passer-by, stop! Bend your head! You are at the place of the former Yaniv death camp! Here the earth groans! Here are the murdered and mistreated, shot and sent to the gas chambers. May the memory of the innocent never be lost! Eternal damnation on the executioners!"

With these words began a tour of Jewish places of Lviv organized by MPES teacher Heleen Zorgdrager for students of the Master's Program of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies.

The history of this nation has always been considered controversial. And often we lack the "fresh" look of unbiased people to build our own attitude towards historical processes. So Mrs Zorgdrager spoke about the history of the Lviv Jews presented in her book *The Jews of Lviv*, and thus was able to overcome many stereotypes about problem areas in the history of Ukrainian-Jewish relations.

The Yaniv death camp ... Over two and a half years, more than 200,000 Jews were lost there. Out of the city's Jewish community of 135,000, about 800 people were left alive. Time seemed to stop for students here. The student community honored the souls of the dead with prayer

and for a long time looked in silence on the "valley of death."



Afterwards the young people actively combined the useful with the pleasant in the company of Mrs Heleen Zorgdrager. Walking around the former Jewish districts of Lviv, the students visited the Jacob Rapoport Jewish Hospital, the Jewish theater, the Jewish synagogue which is now the Sholom Aleichem Community of Jewish Culture on 3 Vuhilna Street in Lviv, and visited the monument to the victims of the Lviv Ghetto on

Chornovolya Avenue. Forever they put in memory the words engraved on the monument: "Remember and keep in heart ..."

International scholarly practical conference “Social Responsibility of Higher Education: Availability, Quality, Competitiveness”

The international scholarly practical conference “Social Responsibility of Higher Education: Availability, Quality, Competitiveness” was held on 15-16 May 2013 in the city of Luhansk.

The event was held at the initiative of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of the Ukrainian Catholic University as part of [the National Network of Ecumenical Social Weeks](#) project with the support of the Training and Research Institute of Labor and Social Technologies of V. Dal All-Ukrainian National University (City of Luhansk).



Representatives of the authorities, education system, Church and public organizations gathered for discussions and exchange of experience in the area of improvement of the quality of education in higher educational institutions. In particular, the participants presented the activity of social projects in Lviv, namely, the Ecumenical Social Week Forum and the Certificate Program Medical-Psychological and Social Support of Persons with Special Needs of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, as examples of social responsibility of education in Ukraine. The participants also discussed ways of reforming spiritual higher education in Ukraine, the role of innovations in establishing competitive higher education institutions, problems of introducing inclusive education and a system of professional training for social workers. Dr. Bradley D. McKenzie, Professor at the

Faculty of Social Work of the University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Canada), was an honorary guest of the event. He gave a report entitled “Reorientation of children and youth services to the support of families: Consequences for organizational changes, upbringing and education.”



The program of the conference also included visits to rehabilitation centers (Revival - the Luhansk Regional Center for the Social Rehabilitation of Disabled Children and the Luhansk Inter-regional Center of Professional Rehabilitation of Disabled People) and a private orphanage for familiarization with the activities of the city's public organizations.

Conference: “Differences and Respect”

On 21-22 May 2013, in the Kyiv City Teacher’s House, the Conference “Differences and Respect” was organized by the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of the Ukrainian Catholic University with the support of the Association of Benefactors of Ukraine, International Initiative Heart in Little Hands and the Public Organization Resource Center of Community Initiative as part of the “Ecumenical Social Week” project.

The event was aimed at discussing and exchanging experience with regard to the development of charitable



activities in the country, modern gender policy and establishment of value guidelines in modern society.

The conference included a number of events, in particular a session of the work team on interest philanthropy on 21 May. The experts had an opportunity to discuss the possibility of further development of charitable activities by improving Ukrainian law.

As a result of the session, a work team on interest philanthropy was composed of representatives of charitable foundations, public organizations, educational and religious institutions, state officials, lawyers and all interested persons.

On 22 May, the visitors participated in two round tables on the political aspect of contemporary gender reality and the values to which children and youth are oriented.



During the first round table, the participants discussed the question of the gender quota system in Ukraine and the world. Despite the fact that the experts made diametrically opposite statements both regarding the advantages and defects of such a mechanism in politics, most of them did support the call to consider the professionalism of a candidate in addition to the observance of quotas by the authorities.

The participants also presented a study on the balance and role of women in Ukrainian politics.

The next round table, "Value guidelines for youth and children in the modern world," dealt with the following issues: What values are popular with young people today? How are values formed and in what way are they affected by the environment? Who should cultivate values (in children, young people)? What lies ahead of us in 20 years? What values will the next century bring? and many others. Teachers and scholars, clergymen, representatives of public and youth organizations and students tried to answer these questions and exchange experience.

The conference ended with the master class "Circle of values" held by the International Initiative Heart in Little Hands as part of the project "On-life! Values of Ukrainians."

Economy of unity - alternative to economy of consumption



On 24 May at the Ukrainian Catholic University a meeting of two European experts in the social responsibility of business and the ethical dimension of economic activity took place - Alberto Ferucci, a member of the International Commission on Economic Community and President of the Prometheus SRL Corporation (Italy), and Martha Pancevo, Doctor of Economics and Management (Bulgaria).

"From the economy of consumption to the economy of gift" was the theme of the meeting, during which guests shared their experience of work and the effectiveness of the principle "economy of community," in which the fundamental principle is not hostility to a competitor but respect and understanding of his needs.

The event was held as part of the "[Ecumenical Social Week](#)" project at the initiative of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies and the UGCC Justice and Peace Commission.

Participants in the meeting included young entrepreneurs, students of economics faculties, and all interested in this topic.

Alberto Ferucci presented the idea and principles of an "economy of community." "Instead of the principle 'take as much as you can for yourself,' it is based on the principle 'come and it will be given to you,'" said the speaker. This economic model was created as opposed to the "consumer economy" which has not justified itself as a successful model of economic growth and prosperity.

A "gift economy" is based on the desire to help the poor, and in this case business can become an active participant in its implementation, providing jobs and financial assistance.

The report sparked a wave of discussion, remarks, exchange of experience and discussion about the possibility of such an economic model in Ukraine.

Spiritual guidance and good memories

In the middle of May, students and the Alumni Association of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies organized a retreat for graduates of the Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies and their friends.

The meeting began with liturgy in the Church of the Blessed Martyrs of the UGCC. Afterwards graduates continued interacting on the campus of the Ukrainian Catholic University. The subject of the retreat was self-knowledge and relations with neighbors.



The first lesson was led by Fr. Mykola Luchyk. In the first place he explained what it means to be a Christian. To be a disciple of Jesus Christ, to be his friend, brother, sister. But the most important thing is to fulfill the will of God and from here begins self-knowledge.

The theme of sonship and brotherhood manifests itself in human relations, according to Fr. Roman Fihas, research worker of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies. His main message for the graduates was that "our relations with people depend on our relationship with God."

Fr. Yurii Blazhaievskyi completed the spiritual vigil with reflections on self-knowledge and the basis for it.

By drinking tea in such a spiritual atmosphere the graduates recalled their years of study at MPES, student initiatives, and what a wonderful family circle the Institute of Ecumenical Studies creates.

Cardinal Kurt Koch shares ideas on the future of ecumenical dialogue in Lviv



The Head of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Cardinal Kurt Koch, on 10 June visited the Ukrainian Catholic University and met with staff of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies (IES). The meeting was attended by: the Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Patriarch Sviatoslav; a representative of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Fr. Milan Zust; the Rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University, Bishop Borys (Gudziak); and Vice Rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University Fr. Dr. Bohdan Prakh.

During the visit to UCU, the cardinal gave a report "Prospects of ecumenical dialogue between the Catholic Church and Orthodox Churches," in which he emphasized the role of the Eastern Catholic Churches, in particular, in building ecumenical bridges. ([Full text of the lecture](#)).

During the meeting with Cardinal Kurt Koch, the Executive Director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, Halyna Bokhonko, introduced the staff of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies. The workers presented the main lines of scholarly activities of IES, namely, the distance and day master's degree programs in Ecumenical Studies, the Ecumenical Social Week Forum, and other projects.

The Head of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in his turn stressed that it is very important for the ecumenical movement to inform. "Priests and lay people in the Church should have and form ideas on ecumenical questions. It is the responsibility of the Church, since we have now over 50 years of experience of the ecumenical movement and must think about ways to make progress."

Cardinal Kurt Koch and the representatives of the institute exchanged ideas on the present status of the dialogue and the historic situation of Ukrainian Orthodoxy and its openness to ecumenism. The cardinal also showed interest in cooperation between IES and the Orthodox and Protestant churches conducted by the institute thanks to academic cooperation with representatives of other denominations by way of organizing conferences and round tables and study programs of the institute.

The meeting ended with the discussion of questions of further cooperation between the Institute of Ecumenical Studies and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

IES Project Manager spoke about correlation between church and culture at conference in Krakow

The international Conference –

"The Church and the Modern World" took place in Krakow, Poland, on 6-7 June 2013. The event's organizers were: the Department of Byzantine and Orthodox Culture of the Institute of Russia and Eastern Europe, Jagiellonian University, with the support of the Commission of Slavic Culture of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Orthodox Parish of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary in Krakow.

This is the third conference in a series of scholarly and theological meetings on the topic "Christianity in the modern world."



The conference was attended by representatives of universities, theological schools and research centers in Krakow, Warsaw, Lublin, Wroclaw, Czestochowa, Moscow, Minsk; hierarchs of the Polish Orthodox Church, Archbishop Simon of Lodz and Poznan and Bishop Yuriy, Ordinary of the Polish Army; and Auxiliary Bishop of the Krakow Archdiocese of the Roman Catholic Church Grzegorz Rys.

UCU's Institute of Ecumenical Studies was represented at the conference by project and program manager Pavlo Smytsniuk, who delivered a report on "A patriotic church and the challenges of a multi-ethnic society." In his speech Mr. Smytsniuk touched the issue of the correlation between church and culture in the post-Soviet space and presented an approach to the problems of modern Greek theology. The report stimulated a broad debate about the role of the UGCC in modern Ukrainian society.

Number 30 of online-edition *Spirituality* released

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies continues to publish the online-edition *Spirituality*. In May its 30 number saw the light. The periodical is published each month. Readers can learn there about interesting events of social and religious life and get information about interesting initiatives, projects started in Ukraine and abroad.

According to analysis conducted by the site administrators, the number of readers of the edition has noticeably increased not only in Ukraine but also in Russia, USA, Italy, Poland, Germany and elsewhere.

The edition is bilingual: it has been published in Ukrainian and Russian since October 2010. Since then the project has successfully developed, attracting new authors to collaborate and encouraging the preparation of materials by journalism students of the Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies.

Spirituality was founded by the IES-UCU together with the sociopolitical newspaper *High Castle*. All interested are able to visit the page of *Spirituality* and learn more about the spiritual life of Ukraine and the world.



Everyone who wishes to become a partner and/or sponsor of the IES, and/or support our students by becoming their "godparents" (the annual cost for the education of one student is 500 euros): please contact the Institute of Ecumenical Studies.

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