

Institute of Ecumenical Studies of Ukrainian Catholic University,
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People in UCU prayed for Christian unity and peace in the country

Ecumenical prayer service for the peace in Ukraine and unity of Christians was held in the chapel “Candlemas” of UCU on January 21st. It united laity of Lviv and representatives of Christian youth organisations under the slogan “Is Christ divided?” (I Corinthians 1, 1-17).

The event took place within the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which each year lasts from January 18th to January 25th.



This year's Ecumenical prayer service was special because people prayed in two intentions: for Christian unity and peace and God blessing for Ukrainians. “This initiative brought together representatives of different churches together to ask God that we could come up with a pure heart to one another. Today we are witnessing a great tension in our country. Thanks to God, churches have united many times to attest their position on important issues. It's great that they were able to stand together to defend the dignity in our life. Today we pray so that we could fight not against each other, but with a pure heart start joining prayer at altar”- appealed to parishioners Fr. PhD Bohdan Prah.

“The whole life of the church is a unity that is God's special value. Today we pray for all Ukrainian people and the moral values that “Maidan” defends, because people at “Maidan” stand not for the individuals but for certain values. I appeal to all for a pray for peace and the peaceful settlement of conflicts in the country”, - said to the



participants of the prayer service Fr. Vasyl Sahan, Dean of Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church in Zolochiv.

Representatives of the Roman Catholic, Orthodox Autocephalous, Greek Catholic Church and the Church of Christians of Evangelical Faith attended the prayer.

After the prayer service students of the Catholic University visited the chapel with the Christmas Nativity about “Euromaidan”.

Institute of Ecumenical Studies of UCU together with the Students council of Lviv were the organisers of the prayer.

MPSS - The way that helps free heart of the child to be born in every person

In the beginning of February, the Ukrainian Catholic University celebrated the fourth graduation of the students in the Certificate Program “Medical and psychological and social support for people with special needs” of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies.

The graduates traditionally started the event. They gave a performance, showed a film about the program called “Password” Benevolence”, recited poems and sang songs.



“When we finished this course we came out with completely different ideas and hearts, moreover, all who attended our course are connected by an invisible thread” - shared her memories a graduate of the program.

The co-founders and teachers of the program congratulated the graduates.

Michelle Dormal, director of the curriculum for assistants of the French department of the International Federation “L’Arche”, Coordinator and Supervisor of the Certificate Program called herself “the Godmother” of the program. She compared it with the means that helps the child to be born free in every heart. “Many of you said that at the beginning of training there was a wall before everyone, through which it was



necessary to go through. And I thought it was rather a stone that covers the source, because life is really here”- said Michelle.

Supervisor also said that since November she prayed for Ukraine daily and at the end of the event she sung a prayer, which asked peace and freedom for our country that were as she believed inscribed in the heart of our nation.

Online lectures for MPES students

New studying methods, online video lectures, are introduced for students of the Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies.

The first two video lectures with Alexander Dobroer (the city of Odessa) on current state of inter-religious dialogue were held on March 11th.

Later in this format, students visited the course of lectures of Pavlo Smytsnyuk “Introduction to Orthodox and Oriental Churches.”



Lectures were in specially equipped room of Ukrainian Catholic University, which allowed online communicating between students and the teacher.

Spiritual renovation in Stradch



On March 30th, teachers, students and staff of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, travelled to one of the pilgrimage centres of Ukraine – the village of Stradch in Lviv region.

Pilgrimage to Stradch became a practical implementation of the ideas of interfaith dialogue, which in the series of lectures “Christian mission in the XXI century and

Ukraine” expounded to the students the Pastor of the Reformed Church of the Netherlands Dr. Helen Zorgdrager.

The key event was the Liturgy of the pilgrimage, during which all those who were present had a chance to think over the words of Jesus from the Sunday Gospel “For

whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and My Gospel will save it” (Mark 8:35) and honoured the victims of the Heavenly Hundred. Afterwards, pilgrims went through the Way of the Cross, which was very crowded. Among participants of the walking pace there were elderly people, people with special needs and parents with small children. For everyone the Way of the Cross was a prayer for forgiveness of sins, healing and sacrifice for the remission of punishments of souls in purgatory.



On this occasion the Teacher of the Master Program in Ecumenical Studies Dr. Helen Zorgdrager said: “In the Netherlands we don’t go through the Way of the Cross as you have it here in Ukraine. We pray in the church, read passages from the Holy Scripture according to

each of the stations, and then we walk outdoors and think about the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. In Ukraine even elderly and infirm people participate in the Way of the Cross, which requires a lot of efforts. Their spirituality and faith are inspiring.”

The travel ended with a picnic, where, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, employees of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies shared their impressions of the travel and also exchanged thoughts about Ukrainian and European Christian traditions and rituals.

Mission - a testimony about God through dialogue

From 25th to 31st of March Dr. Helen Zorgdrager, Pastor of the Reformed Church of the Netherlands, visited the Institute of Ecumenical Studies. The Pastor read a course of guest lectures on “Christian mission in the XXI century and Ukraine” for students of the Master Program in Ecumenical Studies.



Dr. Helen presented 6 basic models of missionary activity. The first is the Early Christianity based on the Apostle Paul’s preaching among the heathen nations. The second is a model of the Eastern Church where the mission was carried out in the community through participation in the Liturgy, Holy Communion. Roman Catholic missionary activity was carried out through the Jesuits. A Protestant model included the integration of local culture and centred on the reading of the Scriptures. The fifth model of the

Epoch of the Enlightenment and it was performed by Baptist, Methodist Church. Its basis was the spread of Christianity among the nations not through integration into the local culture but through a change of culture - Europeanization. And the most modern model, presented by Dr. Helen Zоргdrager, is the Postmodern or Ecumenical model, according to which all cultures and the churches are equal, so there is a dialogue between them, and the main thing in this missionary activity is respect for others.

According to Dr. Helen Zоргdrager the mission is: “The testimony about God through dialogue. The basis of this dialogue is a deep understanding, every religion, confessions in their faith, religious practices and respect for others. So, the religion of another person should be seen as a complete system without its division into good or bad elements (what we like and what we don't like). However, none of the religions is exclusive, and only God knows the truth”.

Recollections: better to visit once than to hear a hundred times



Traditionally during the Lent students of Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies and staff of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies participated in the recollections. They were held at the first weekend of April in recollections-resort complex of Lviv archdiocese of UGCC (Bryukhovychi).

Fr. Roman Fihas, researcher at the IES, performed the recollections. Fr. Vasyl Sahan, Dean of Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Zolochiv, also gave a spiritual guidance.

The subject of the recollections dealt with the importance and meaning of the Liturgy. “From Greek” liturgy “means” joint act”- the first truth that I found out for myself. I have always been a supporter of individual prayer, which Apostle Matthew wrote about, however Fr. Roman explained that it is very important to feel and to be a part of a community, feel that together we can do much: to be strong, persistent, not to be alone”- shared her memories Nina Polishchuk, a student of MPES.

Recollections made it possible for the students and staff of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies to obtain renewal, learn a lot about the liturgy and open it for oneself in a new way.

“Recollection is an event which is better to see once than to hear about a hundred times. After all, in order to glue the valuable highly artistic vase called Soul professional craftsmen and art critics are needed”- says Nina.

Scholarship of Illia Onoprienko is founded for the students of MPES



Illia Onoprienko’s friends together with the Methodist Church in Lviv decided to establish scholarship in the name of Illia Onoprienko to honour his memory. Since Illia studied on the Master Program of Ecumenical Sciences in the Institute of Ecumenical Studies along with the undergraduate program at the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology at UCU it was decided to allocate a scholarship specifically for the master students of ecumenical sciences.

Illia began his studies at the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, which, however, was never completed. “July 10th, 2012, Tuesday - that day will remain forever in the memory of many people. That day our classmate and friend Illia Onopriyenko tragically died. Illia just received a Bachelor Degree in Theology. It is difficult to describe the horror everyone felt. Illia was extremely positive and cheerful person always willing to help all who needed him”- said Illia’s friends. That time he was helping to repair the premises of the youth interfaith community “Youth for Jesus”. During the repair work the ceiling fell down. Illia and a few more people were in the room at that time.

The scholarship will be given gradually. In the next semester (autumn 2014) the scholarship will receive two MPES students who are successful in learning on the Program and are actively engaged in IES projects. Illia was not only a good disciple of ecumenism he lived and witnessed it all over the place where he was.

Photo: Illia Onopriyenko (on the right).

Responsibility of a Christian in today's society

Student research and practice seminar on the topic “Responsibility of a Christian in today's society” was held on April 11th in the Ukrainian Catholic University. Students of the Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv National Ivan

Franko University, Institute of Ecumenical Studies of UCU and the National University “Lviv Polytechnic” took part in the seminar.

The moderators were: Taras Kurylets, PhD student of the Faculty of Theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas “Angelicum”, head of projects and programs of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of UCU; Andriy Dahniy, Candidate of Philosophy, Associate Professor of the history of philosophy of Ivan Franko Lviv National University; Halyna Sohan, Associate Professor of Lviv Regional Institute of Postgraduate Education, Candidate of Philology and R. Fihas, PhD student at the Pontifical Oriental Institute.



Father Mykhailo Dymyd, teacher at Master Program in Ecumenical Studies of IES, gave an opening speech to the students. He appealed to surprise ourselves, identify the evil, smile and said that “Maidan” should be in our hearts. “Do not let us be the champions of the word, if we are not able to implement our declarations” - warned Father Mykhailo and finally added: “If even one thought of those that I said to you today could be implemented, then each of us would be a worthy member of our society and would bring salt in the ground that it becomes best and gives the most beautiful flowers in the world”.

Students- presenters revealed the issue of interreligious conflicts, abortions, famines and coverage of these topics in the media, discussed the problems of implementing inclusive education, employment therapy and social work, and also the responsibility of journalists, their spiritual values and orientations.



Each speech generated a lot of questions and extensive discussion among members of the student seminar.

After summarizing, all students-presenters received certificates of participation in the seminar.

Preparations for the Seventh Ecumenical Social Week has started

A meeting of the Advisory council of the Ecumenical Social Week was held on May 27th in the Ukrainian Catholic University. Participants discussed the seventh Ecumenical Social Week, which will last from September 29th to October 4th in Lviv.



The topic of this year's Forum and the preliminary program of events that will take place during the week were presented for the discussion.

Coordinator of the seventh ESW Mariya Kandyba discussed in details the concept of the chosen topic: "Relevance of this topic is illustrated with modern social and political situation in Ukraine. Our society needs active, thinking, spiritually rich person who would feel responsible for the social, political and economic development of the country and the preservation of the spiritual heritage of the people. During the revolution there was high activity of citizens, many initiatives appeared and without them qualitative changes in the country would be impossible. The emergence of new leaders, high self-organization and self-awareness of the public is a catalyst of changes in society. Therefore, the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of the UCU plans to devote the seventh Ecumenical Social Week to the topic "Responsibility of a Christian in today's society", focusing on how every citizen can and should influence the creation of highly civil society."

According to the topic, participants of the seventh Ecumenical Social Week will focus on issues of responsibility in various spheres of society. Also within the 7th ESW an academic conference devoted to two documents of the Second Vatican Council - a "Decree on Ecumenism" and "Decree on the Eastern Catholic Churches" will be held.

Members of the Advisory council, namely, representatives of the National University "Lviv Polytechnic", Lviv City Council and Lviv Regional Council, noted the relevance of the chosen topic, made comments and recommendations on the content of the forum and discussed the engagement of each co-organiser in the events of the ESW.

IV all-Ukrainian contest "Reporters of Hope in Ukraine" has begun

The journalistic contest "Reporters of Hope in Ukraine" has begun. This is a contest for the best article, report or program that is "information - carrier of solutions", not only reveals the problems of modern society but also shows how



to solve them and encourages people to take actions. The contest is held in Ukraine for the fourth time.

The organiser of the contest is the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of the Ukrainian Catholic University.

To participate in the contest the one should fill in the form and send the materials regarding solving urgent problems of modern society in economics, religion, culture or social issues. Materials submitted for the contest must be published, voiced, showed on any Ukrainian media (in Ukrainian or Russian) and placed on the on-line broadcast media during the period from June 6th, 2014 to June 7th, 2015.

Best works will be chosen in four categories: “Society”, “Economy”, “Culture” and “Religion”.

Materials for the contest are accepted throughout the year till June 7th, 2015, inclusive.

The awards ceremony will take place immediately after the announcement by the members of the jury (during the VIII Ecumenical Social Week in October 2015). The four authors who will take the first place in each individual category will receive cash prizes in the amount of 3,000 UAH and participation honour certificates. Authors of two following places will get prizes from sponsors and diplomas. Finalists will receive diplomas.

Details about the contest:

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

UCU celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Patriarch Myroslav Ivan (Lubachivsky)



The 100th anniversary of the birth of Myroslav Ivan (Lubachivsky) was celebrated in the Ukrainian Catholic University on June 24. The celebration began with a Pontifical Divine Liturgy in St. George Cathedral, headed by Archbishop of Lviv Ihor (Vozniak) and continued in a solemn academy “Shepherd in a day of great

expectations” in the conference hall of UCU.

Metropolitan Ihor (Vozniak), Father Rector Bohdan Prah, representatives of Lviv city and regional councils and Mayor of the city of Dolyna (the birthplace of Blessed Myroslav Ivan (Lubachivsky)), greeted the participants of the celebration. Bishop Borys (Gudziak) greeted the guests through video connection.

At the beginning of the solemn academy the Institute of History of the Church presented a film about Myroslav Ivan (Lubachivsky).

The event was divided into two sections. In the first section of “Patriarch and Cardinal of the Universal Church” Fr. Rafail Turkonyak, Fr. Ivan Dacko, Fr. Myron Bendyk and Fr. Yuri Avvakumov shared their memories about the blessed Ivan Myroslav.

In particular, Fr. Ivan Dacko, co-worker with His Beatitude, president of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, said that Myroslav Ivan (Lubachivsky) entered into eternity as one of “the most devoted brothers in arms of the patriarchal structure of the Church”. But Fr. Ivan said that His Beatitude was modest and humble. “We have to be grateful to Myroslav Ivan and pray that we remained as modest as he was, because “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6)”. This quote from the Scripture was one of Patriarch Myroslav’s favourite.

In the second session, “Father and Head of the restored UGCC” the years of work and meeting with Patriarch Myroslav Ivan were mentioned by: Fr. Taras Bublyk, Bohdan Troyanovskyy, Fr. Yaroslav Tsaryk, Anita Prokopovych and Fr. Mykhailo Dymyd.

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies and the Institute of History of the Church were the organisers of the celebration.

40th issue of the online edition of “Dukhovnist” has appeared

40th issue of the online edition of “Dukhovnist” appeared in April. The magazine is updated monthly. On its pages readers can learn about interesting events of social and religious life and get information about new projects, initiatives launched in Ukraine and abroad or explore the values of young people.



Since January 2014 the web-site has completely updated its interface and founded new subheadings. Now you can read blogs, communicate with fathers of different

religions, ask for advice or prayer support, and even see the schedule of services in churches of the city.

The edition is bilingual, published in Ukrainian and Russian. “Dukhovnist” was founded in 2010 by the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of Ukrainian Catholic University in cooperation with the social and political newspaper “Vysokyy Zamok”. Since then the project has successfully developed, attracted new authors to the cooperation, and encouraged students of the Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies to write.

Web-page of the online edition of “Dukhovnist” is: <http://dukhovnist.in.ua/uk/>

Ukrainian Christian Academic Fellowship is preparing for the seminar “Memory. History. Identity”

This year the Ukrainian Christian Academic Fellowship again welcomes representatives of the clergy and laity to the cooperation. During 2014 UCAF plans to focus on the implementation of several projects, including the seminar “Memory. History. Identity” within the VII Ecumenical Social Week.



“The objective of this seminar is to develop cooperation among Christian denominations in the future with the prospect of finding ways of reconciliation through discussing controversial issues. UCAF has a possibility to become the meeting place at the level of the clergy and laity intellectuals”- said Taras Dmytryk, executive secretary of the Ukrainian Christian Academic Fellowship. During the seminar, participants will discuss the impact of the “Maidan” on the prospect of reunion of Ukrainian churches.

Reference:

UCAF was founded in 2005 by the Institute of Ecumenical Studies in partnership with the European Humanities Research Centre of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

The Fellowship was founded to promote: interdisciplinary academic research on “Kyiv Church”, and the relationship between ecclesiology and anthropology; open dialogue in love and respect for each other, taking into consideration position of the other party in own judgments and commentaries and for informing Ukrainian people and Ukrainian mass media on modern ecumenical researches.

From its foundation the Fellowship has worked in spirit and in close cooperation with the members of the former Studio group of Kyiv Church, which emerged in the early 90s. It consisted of Bishop Anthony Scherba, Fr. Andriy Chyrovsky, Fr. Andriy

Onuferko, Fr. Borys Gudziak (now the ruling bishop of the Diocese of St. Volodymyr in Paris) and others.

During the years of its activity the UCAF developed the Internal Charter of the Fellowship, carried out a series of events, in particular a meeting at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, ecumenical recollection in silence “How can we together overcome suffering?” at the Univ Holy Dormition Lavra, seminar “Mykola Poltoratsky and Paris Theological School” in Odessa, etc.

Institute of Ecumenical Studies - 10 years of work in Ukraine

2014 is the anniversary year for the Institute of Ecumenical Studies. 10 years ago the Senate of the Ukrainian Catholic University decided to establish the Institute of Ecumenical Studies (IES). The President of the Institute is mitered Archbishop Ivan Dacko, the founder of IES - Antoine Arjakovsky, Doctor of History and Executive Director is Halyna Bokhonko.



IES was established to respond to the challenges caused by the church division in Ukraine and offer creative solutions to global ecumenical crisis.

Institute of Ecumenical Studies carries out scientific, research and practical activity in the field of inter-faith and inter-religious relations.

Today the Institute has two master's programs in Ecumenical Studies: full-time and distant (Ukrainian, English and French). Full-time program includes three specialisations: journalism, Christian ethics and medical and psychological and social support for people with disabilities. In addition, students can study on an annual certificate program “Medical and psychological and social support for people with disabilities”.

IES also annually holds Ecumenical Social Week, forum which is a platform for cooperation of representatives of clergy, government, business and social organisations.

Among the projects founded by the IES, which is successfully developing are: internet edition “Spirituality”, Christian online calendar, and contest “Reporters of Hope in Ukraine”.

Institute of Ecumenical Studies is the founder of the Ukrainian Christian Academic Fellowship (UCAF), which brought together educators, who belong to different

religions and academic institutions of Ukraine for successful work for Christian unity.

IES operates at Ukrainian Catholic University, is actively involved in its life, and has an autonomous status. Institute is patronised by the Honour Council.

All, who wish to be partners and/or sponsors of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies and/or support our students by becoming their "godfathers" (the annual cost for training of one student is 500 EUR), can contact the Institute of Ecumenical Studies.

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<http://esweek.org.ua/>

<http://www.dukhovnist.in.ua/>

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

<http://ecumenicalcalendar.org.ua/>

