

NEWSLETTER

of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of the Ukrainian Catholic University № 9 - December 2012



The 5th Ecumenical Social Week, as is traditional, began with ecumenical prayer

The opening of the 5th Ecumenical Social Week on September 25 began with an ecumenical prayer service led by Bishop Borys Gudziak, rector of UCU. Representatives of various churches and denominations of the city prayed together.



The prayer was attended by: Fr. Dr. Iwan Dacko, president of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of the Ukrainian Catholic University; Bishop Leontius, assistant of Archbishop and Metropolitan of Lviv Mieczysław Mokrzycki (Roman Catholic Church); Fr. Vasyl Lutsyshyn, Mitred Archbishoppriest, rector of the Lviv seminary of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church; Deacon Armen Akogyan (Armenian Apostolic Church); Pastor Andry Hamburg (German Evangelical Lutheran Church).

During the sermon, Bishop Borys Gudziak noted: "It is very important that we begin to pray in an ecumenical way, with a deep faith that the Lord's power works. As it worked in history and led our nation, our churches, out of the house of captivity. It will work the same way in the future. And perhaps most important is that we not obstruct it. It is significant that once again the Ecumenical Social Week is being held in Lviv, an idea which we have inherited from France. This idea in a very quiet way unites dozens of organizations and hundreds of hearts. Let this prayer define the spirit with which we will walk together this week."

<http://esweek.org.ua/index.php/uk/ekumenichnij-cotsialnij-tizhden/5-est/novini.html>

About the future of democracy in Ukraine - ecumenically and socially

The academic conference "The future of democracy in Ukraine" was held during the 5th Ecumenical Social Week on September 25.

Among the honored guests of the conference were: Arseny Yatsenyuk, head of the Board of the United Opposition (Motherland all-Ukrainian union); Jerome Vignon, president of the Social Weeks of France (SWF); Iryna Bekeshkina, head of the Democratic Initiatives Fund; Yaryna Turchyn, director of the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, Lviv Polytechnic; Antoine Arjakovsky, founder of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of UCU, co-director of the Society/Freedom/Peace Department, Bernardine College (France); Tatiana Shapovalova, head of



the presidium of the Scholarly-Methodological Commission on Social Security of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Ukraine, director of the Luhansk Institute of Labor and Social Technologies of V. Dahl East Ukrainian National University.

The reports inspired varied discussions among the participants of the academic conference.

During the discussion about the future of democracy in Ukraine, speakers shared their

experiences and made forecasts about the economic, political, cultural and religious dimensions of democracy. Jerome Vignon stressed that nothing prevents us from creating a type of democratic community based on religious beliefs.

"Justice and truth will overcome the fear of millions and the decline of democracy in Ukraine," thinks the head of the Board of the United Opposition (Motherland all-Ukrainian union) Arseny Yatsenyuk. However, Antoine Arjakovsky noted that the crisis of democracy in Ukraine emerged from a misunderstanding of what democracy is.

<http://esweek.org.ua/index.php/uk/ekumenichnij-cotsialnij-tizhden/5-est/novini.html>

Thanks to the Ecumenical Social Week, a new microcredit project was created

The seminar "International and national experience of partnership among sectors," which was comprised of co-reports on "New microcredit projects for people in difficult life circumstances" (Canada-France-Ukraine), was held as part of the 5th Ecumenical Social Week.

In 2011 participants of the Ecumenical Social Week initiated the creation of a group that developed a project for developing microcredit in Ukraine. Maria Nowak, president of ADIE (France), singled out a problem faced by the organizers of the project in Ukraine: banks have a monopoly on credit and, to create a bank, large capital is needed. This was the situation in France before ADIE changed the banking laws of France. According to Ms. Nowak, "we can all help by raising funds and defending such projects."



In his report "Supporting organizations on their way to establishment," Lionel J. Quesnel, doctor of philosophy, director of the corporation HQS Consulting Services (from Winnipeg, Canada), stressed: "Through work we become recognized and properly valued in society. If we withdraw from the group, we become vulnerable. Microcredit helps ensure the group's power."

Also participating in the discussion: Dr. Nina Hayduk, head of the Social Work Section, Lviv Polytechnic; Herbert Bitter, worker of the Emmaus community in Holland; Olesya Sanotska, head of the NGO community Oselya ("Refuge"); Rostyslav Dzungza, Caritas-Ukraine.

<http://esweek.org.ua/index.php/uk/ekumenichnij-cotsialnij-tizhden/5-est/novini.html>

Sharp corners of freedom in Ukraine

As part of the 5th Ecumenical Social Week, on September 26 in Lviv famous Ukrainian journalists discussed the crisis of freedom of speech.



Media expert Andriy Kulykov talked about pressure points on journalists like pressure from the authorities, colleagues, and audiences. The journalist advised colleagues to resist bribes to produce negative p.r., but advised them to listen to criticism, which can cleanse the media of errors. The Institute of Media's representative, Olha Shalayska, noted that in an underdeveloped advertising market of bribes for p.r. ("jeans"), especially before elections, this is the only source for earning money. And according to Paraskovya Dvorianyn, chief editor of Lux TV

and Radio Broadcasting, journalists often violate the criterion of accuracy and balance and substitute their own comments for facts. Taras Antoshevskyy, director of the Religious Information Service of Ukraine, talked about the relevance of religious freedom in religious media.

Participants of the discussion also discussed the quality of professional training for journalists and how to improve their work and the work of leading media.

<http://esweek.org.ua/index.php/uk/ekumenichnij-cotsialnij-tizhden/5-est/novini.html>

The church and civil society - ways to cooperate

At the round table held as part of the 5th Ecumenical Social Week on September 26, representatives of various churches of Ukraine and laity from Ukraine and abroad were brought together to discuss controversial issues of the role of the churches in the development of civil society.



The speakers of the roundtable were: Bishop Borys (Gudziak), rector of UCU; Fr. Dr. Iwan Dacko, president of UCU's Institute of Ecumenical Studies; Archdeacon Ioann Didenko, head of the Philanthropy Department at the Kyiv Eparchy of the UOC and director of the Faith-Hope-Love Foundation; Bishop Filaret (Kucherov) of the UOC-MP; and also the head chaplain of St. Nicholas Church of the UOC at the University of the State Tax Service of Ukraine in the city of Irpin, Fr.

Andriy Kliushev.

To better explain the current relationship between the church, the authorities and society, Bishop Borys (Gudziak) referred to the historical experience of the UGCC: "There was a fire which scorched and burned away a great part of the Greek Catholic phenomenon in the postwar period. It also strengthened an element of this Church ... This strengthening led to a forced confrontation. There was no other choice. When you remained Greek Catholic, you were marginalized. And there could be no question about any cooperation, any integration with the civil authorities."

However, Bishop Filaret (Kuchеров) explained: "We must build a relationship between church and state in which the church will be free. If the church today does not influence society, then we will not see good fruits from the activity of our country."

Also, during a roundtable discussion Fr. Dr. Iwan Dacko referred to the question of the unity of the churches and said that our problem is: "We are used to this status quo, used to being separated."

All roundtable participants drew attention to the role of the younger generation in the development of society and the church.

<http://esweek.org.ua/index.php/uk/ekumenichnij-cotsialnij-tizhden/5-est/novini.html>



The path to democracy through equal opportunities

The session "Development of a democratic society through equal opportunities" was held as part of the 5th Ecumenical Social Week. The main theme of this session was the idea that democracy should bring equality.



Participants of the session talked about how to help people with special needs feel needed in society. During the session Michele Dormal, director of curriculum for assistants of the French department of the L'Arche International Federation, shared her experience of working with people in France. She also presented a film produced in France about people with special needs, which reflects the views of people on the realities of our time: money, politics, peace and love.

Also during the session, Lionel J. Quesnel, doctor of philosophy, director of HQS Consulting Services, spoke about the features of democracy and the notion of "inclusive democracy." Yaroslav Hrybalskyi, representative of the National Assembly of the Disabled in the Lviv Region and regional coordinator of the project Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs in Ukraine, and Halyna Herasym, lecturer of the Department of Sociology and Social Work of Lviv Polytechnic, talked about the challenges of involving persons with disabilities in a socially active life.

The work of Vytaniya ("Bethany"), the first house in Lviv, and in Ukraine, to support the accommodation of persons with special needs, was presented by coordinator Maria Zaverukha and Oksana Mahura, head of the L'Arche community in Lviv.

<http://esweek.org.ua/index.php/uk/ekumenichnij-cotsialnij-tizhden/5-est/novini.html>

Guests of the 5th ESW visited the Oselya and L'Arche communities

Participants of the Social Week acquainted themselves with the social work of the Oselya ("Refuge") community, which has been in Lviv for 10 years and belongs to the international Emmaus movement, which helps the homeless all over the world.

The community provides shelter and employment for people who find themselves in difficult circumstances, involving them in the process of changing their own lives. Residents of

the community support themselves by working with their own hands: gathering clothes from people, household items, working in shops, repairing furniture, and working in a charity store.

Later, the participants of the the Jubilee ESW visited buildings of the L'Arche and Bethany communities, where developmentally disabled persons can live together with volunteers and assistants. The L'Arche community has existed in Ukraine since 2008 and has 71 persons with special needs. The particulars of this community is the basic five-day programs/workshops held in various parts of the city. In these workshops "friends" (which is what the disabled people in this community are called) make various products: cards, jewelry beads, decorative candles, and icons.

<http://esweek.org.ua/index.php/uk/ekumenichnij-cotsialnij-tizhden/5-est/novini.html>

"Silver Land" - a good example for healing the wounds of the past

A session of "Healing the Wounds of the Past" during which participants watched the documentary "Silver Land: Chronicle of Carpathian Ukraine, 1919-1939" was held as part of the 5th Ecumenical Social Week on September 27.

Director Taras Khymych, producer Taras Czolii, composer Lyubomyr Solomchenko, sound producer Roman Mikulsky, and narrator Pavlo Nechytailo presented 20 years of history in a 75-minute film. Work on the film lasted two years. According to Taras Czolii, the film is multicultural and balanced in terms of both providing information, chronicles, documents and artistic adaptation.

The position of the creators of the film started a broad discussion concerning the "Ukrainianness" of Carpathian Ukraine, especially among foreign visitors. Still, the producer was able to convince the audience that the film also presents the position of the Hungarian and Czech people. More than 20 witnesses, natives of Carpathian Ukraine, were interviewed for the film. The filmmakers intended not only to highlight the history of Carpathian Ukraine, but also recalled that experience when Ukrainians managed to unite themselves for a common cause.



<http://esweek.org.ua/index.php/uk/ekumenichnij-cotsialnij-tizhden/5-est/novini.html>

Democracy through the eyes of youth

The Youth Day of the 5th Ecumenical Social Week began on September 28 with a workshop "Democracy through the eyes of youth," moderated by Iryna Husir and Oleksandr Papp.



The workshop consisted of creative acquaintance and interactive questions and answers about democracy, values, and the church's role in a democratic society and group work.

Also during the workshop, Kateryna Klyuzko, director of the youth initiative Heart in the Palms, presented the project "On - life! Values of Ukrainians" and described Heart in the Palms.

Helen Zorgdrager (from the Netherlands) also participated in the event and introduced three models in contemporary theology, expressing the role of the church in building a pluralistic state.

The highlight of the workshop was the Skype-message of Dr. Maureen Flaherty, professor of the University of Manitoba (Canada), about how to study democracy through the eyes of young people in Ukraine.

Also, two students of the Master's Degree Program in Ecumenical Studies, Maria Dmytriv and Lydia Batih, showed the participants of the 5th ESW the film "Democracy through the Eyes of Youth," made together with their fellow students (Yulia Hnativ, Iryna Vasylyk) and graduates of the MD PES (Sviatoslav Motren, Taras Zadorizhny) with the support of the administration of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies (IES).

To make this film the authors used various statements of famous people regarding respect for the principles of democracy; they explained its theoretical aspects, asked for comments from Ukrainian and foreign experts, interviewed people of all ages and social status. According to Sviatoslav Motren, the aim of the project is to show how people understand democracy, with what they associate it, how deeply they are aware of its essence and what they expect from it in reality.

<http://esweek.org.ua/index.php/uk/ekumenichnij-cotsialnij-tizhden/5-est/novini.html>



Emphasize the importance of each person

Ten social organizations of Lviv and Kyiv gathered Saturday, September 29, in the city center to acquaint citizens and visitors with their activities.



The fair was a great opportunity for social organizations to merrily and unobtrusively talk about themselves. The organization Oselya offered passersby its magazine "Under the open sky," published by the community. Representatives of the L'Arche community sold jewelry and souvenirs made by people with disabilities. The Emmaus Center of Spiritual Support for Persons with Special Needs had a happy time: representatives of this organization sang songs and invited passersby to join them. Volunteers from Alcoholics Anonymous talked about their activities,

destroying myths and stereotypes that exist in society. A children's favorite stand was Doctor Clown, where volunteers in costume kept kids entertained.

<http://esweek.org.ua/index.php/uk/ekumenichnij-cotsialnij-tizhden/5-est/novini.html>

Occupational therapy eliminates barriers for the disabled

On November 13 a training seminar on the topic "What is occupational therapy?" was held at the Ukrainian Catholic University. The meeting was led by Alma Dender, occupational therapist, lecturer from Curtin University (Perth, Australia), who came to Ukraine with a group of students.

The speaker described herself in occupational therapy terms through the roles that she plays in society. So, with several photos, Ms. Dender explained that she was a daughter, sister,



granddaughter, mother, wife, mother-in-law, and soon would be a grandmother, and in addition she was a teacher and friend....

Ms. Dender also stressed that the essence of occupational therapy is to eliminate barriers that do not allow disabled persons to do what they want. These obstacles arise from the activity and environment in which the person is. Occupational therapists create conditions to ensure that people with certain disabilities have the opportunity to help

themselves. They also help in rehabilitation and provide psychological support.

In the second part of the seminar, Ms. Dender gave advice in the field of pediatrics and encouraged the audience to use play in raising children, both healthy and disabled, and also to have both groups of children play together. In this way, she said, they can better understand each other and develop communication. "When you have fun, children also have fun, and everyone's day is better," said the occupational therapist.

The participants of the seminar tried to practice the principles of occupational therapy. They watched a story about Terry Wu, a boy with two diseased hands and a foot amputated due to an accident while playing basketball. Then they worked in groups to identify barriers in the life of Terry put by his society and his activities, as well as his development opportunities.

The event was held at the initiative of Curtin University, Perth, Australia, with the support of UCU's Institute of Ecumenical Studies as part of the Ecumenical Social Week and the Department of Sociology and Social Work of Lviv Polytechnic.



Note:

Occupational therapists work in the fields of pediatrics, gerontology, rehabilitation, hand therapy, head injuries, neurological rehabilitation, evaluation and support at home, in general medicine, rehabilitation based on the community to provide emergency assistance and long-term care.

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

At the 34th international inter-confessional meeting in France the IES was represented by Taras Dmytryk, director of the MDPES



From July 12 to 18, the Protestant community of the Pomerol monastery in the south of France, near Tarascon, hosted the participants of the 34th International inter-confessional meeting of religious leaders.

This year's meeting brought together 68 participants of three Christian denominations from 21 countries. Such events take place every two years, alternately in the Catholic, Orthodox or Protestant community.

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies was represented at the meeting by Taras Dmytryk, director of the Master's Degree Program in Ecumenical Studies. He presented a film about the IES.

The speakers at the meeting were: Rev. Roland Schlumberger (president of the Reformed Church of France);

Archimandrite Grigorios Papathomas (professor of theology of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Athens, Greece); Father Benoit Standaert (well-known Biblicist, monk of the Benedictine monastery of St. Andrew in Bruges, Belgium); and Michel Camdessus (former president of the International Monetary Fund, France).

Participants of the event practiced together *lectio divina*, the reading of Scripture. So in addition to ecumenical issues they discussed problems different churches experience in understanding Scripture, as well.

Before their departure the participants held a general assembly of EIIR (the International and Interconfessional Association for Meetings of Monks and Nuns). These international meetings are always held under the aegis of the EEIR, which is registered in Spain. So amendments were made to its constitution as required by Spanish legislation. New leadership for the association was also approved and it was decided that the city of Assisi, Italy, will be the site of the next meeting, the group's 35th.

Note:

International inter-confessional meetings were started by Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Emilianos Timiadis and Spanish Catholic Father Don Julian Garcia Hernando, responsible for ecumenism at the Spanish Bishops' Conference. Their goal was to organize meetings for the clergy, religious and laity throughout Europe and various Christian denominations, Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox. During these meetings they discuss common problems faced by all the churches of Europe, where there is a particularly strong anti-clerical and anti-Christian spirit.

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

A preparatory session was held in Lviv for students of the MDPES

A preparatory session for students of the Distance Learning Master's Degree Program in Ecumenical Studies, conducted before the beginning of their first semester, was held at UCU from August 6 to 17.

This year students represented various parts of Ukraine: Zhytomyr Region, Vinnytsia, Poltava, Uzhhorod, and Lviv. Students from Kyiv, Kherson and other places also started this semester. During the preparatory session students attended three courses: "History of Christianity in Ukraine," lecturer Taras Antoshevskyy; "Christian ethics," lecturer Halyna Sokhan; "The church and public relations," lecturer Olena Kulyhina.

The purpose of this session was also to present Lviv as a meeting place of various cultures and religious traditions. So, as part of the session, ecumenical visits took place: to Ukraine's largest publishing house of religious literature, Svichado; the Raphael pilgrimage center; the Studion restoration workshop; the Lviv branch of the Hesed Arieih all-Ukrainian Jewish charitable fund; the western branch of the Ukrainian Bible Society; also to the Armenian Cathedral, Assumption Cathedral, and the St. Andrew Brotherhood of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

As the program involves distance learning, this preparatory session was the only opportunity for students and lecturers to meet each other and spend some time together.

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



The Institute of Ecumenical Studies continues its cooperation with theological universities in the Netherlands

From October 14 to 19 a delegation of the Ukrainian Catholic University with one worker of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies visited theological schools of the Netherlands.



The visit took place as part of the program of establishing international partnerships and academic cooperation with European theological institutions. The delegation visited Tilburg University, including the School of Catholic Theology, Cardinal Willebrands Research Centre (Utrecht), Protestant Theological University in Amsterdam, the Institute of Eastern Christian Studies in Nijmegen, and the Protestant charitable organization Kerk in Actie ("Church in Action").

The director of projects and programs of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, Pavlo Smytsnyuk, commented about the visit to the Netherlands: "Although the churches (both Catholic and Protestant) in the Netherlands are not experiencing the easiest days, they are open to active cooperation and interest in learning the experience of the churches of Eastern Europe. With the help of contacts with partners in the Netherlands, our students are already involved in exchange programs and get valuable learning experience in a multicultural, international environment."

According to a participant of the delegation, representatives of theological schools of the Netherlands are actively interested in short-term programs of the IES for international students, particularly in the English-language Master's Degree Program in Ecumenical Studies.

We note that in December last year the workers of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies already had a previous introductory meeting with Dr. Adelbert Denaux, dean of the School of Theology at Tilburg University (the Netherlands), and discussed issues of cooperation.

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

Youth care about Ukraine's democratic future

At the initiative of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies in collaboration with the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences of Lviv Polytechnic and the Department of Foreign Press and Information of Ivan Franko University, the student conference "The Christian in the public sphere of a young democracy" was held on November 14 at the Ukrainian Catholic University.

More than 50 students from various parts of Ukraine presented their theses during the event. Participants worked in five sections dealing with the subject of the media, civil society, conflict of civilizations, and today's challenges.

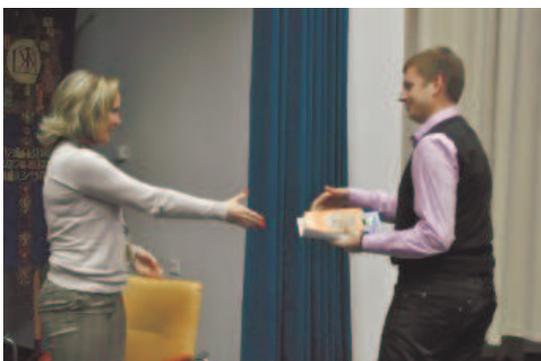


In the section "The Christian and civil society" students considered the question of the influence of the church on the formation of the national idea, democratic values in Ukraine and

women's role in their formation, as well as a new dimension of religious life in social networks. In particular the latter topic, highlighted by Bocharov Hlib from Luhansk, evoked a lively debate on the issue of confession over the Internet.

Participants of the section "Student initiative as an indicator of the development of civil society" presented their projects concerning the integration and rehabilitation of people with disabilities, new educational opportunities for disabled children, the volunteer's role in social work with children, and attitudes toward blind people and their integration into society. "We considered the question why we remain human beings and are not indifferent to others ... We would like to remind society of its duty to help people develop their potential," said section moderator Nina Hayduk.

In the afternoon section "The media and Christian values," students discussed issues of journalistic ethics while writing materials on religious themes and prejudice in depicting church life in Ukraine. A student of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, Yuliana Lavrysh, gave some advice to journalists on religious ethics: "We must move away from denominational interests. We should not only focus on the problems of our church, and we should understand what we are writing." Also, according to the speaker, the journalist should think about the results of reporting. "Our material should build up, not tear down," said Ms. Lavrysh.



In another section students considered the questions of the conflict of civilizations, the Islamic and Christian worlds, xenophobia, racism, fundamentalism and multiculturalism (its negative and positive meaning). One of the speakers was an Italian, Marco Rezzidori, a student of Ivan Franko University. He studied the work of Oriana Fallaci and her influence on the formation of xenophobic views regarding Muslims. "The main objective of her work was to present the Western world and to make an examination of conscience, which we have not

done," concluded the speaker.

Interesting and informative topics were considered by the participants of the section "Christianity and today's challenges." They focused on issues of inter-confessional dialogue in Ukraine, the Christian roots of Europe, mental health and environmental issues, and the coexistence of Christianity and psychology. Students of Yuriy Fedkovych National University in Chernivtsi offered the Christian dimension of challenges and responses to environmental challenges. The moderator of the section, Viktor Zhukovskyy, summed up thoughts on the theme: "You must be, and then act. Be yourself, and in order to be yourself, you need to be in dialogue with society, but we must start with ourselves".

In summary, the moderators of each of the sections identified the best speakers. The winners received awards.

"All the presentations that we had the opportunity to hear today were very interesting and informative. Despite the fact that some participants are only third-year students, their reports had deep content and were worthy of attention. I think that in the future the participants will truly show their talents in a thorough study of the topics which they started considering," Iryna Martyniak, moderator of the section "Conflict of civilizations: Myth or reality?," summed up.

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

Clergy of Lutsk considered the issue of ecumenism

On November 6 as part of ongoing formation of the clergy, a regular meeting was held in which the question of ecumenism was considered. The guest of the meeting was Mr.



Pavlo Smytsnyuk, lecturer of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University.

After a traditional beginning, celebration of the Divine Liturgy, discussions began in which the lecturer started with the historical aspect of ecumenical efforts. The Orthodox approach to the recognition of the sacraments of different denominations was also considered. In conclusion, Bishop Yosafat thanked Mr. Smytsnyuk for his

deep explanation of ecumenism and personally wished the Institute of Ecumenical Studies fruitful work in the field of understanding among the churches.

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

Spiritual renewal of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies



Workers of UCU's Institute of Ecumenical Studies went on pilgrimage to St. Sophia Cathedral in Rome. On October 11 pilgrims traveled to Vienna, where they enjoyed the beauty of the city and the Gothic style of the cathedrals. They tried Viennese coffee and prayed in the Ukrainian Catholic St. Barbara Church.

In Rome pilgrims walked with a guide to many monuments of the city. And then they reached the purpose of their pilgrimage, St. Sophia Cathedral, built at the initiative of Patriarch Josyf (Slipyj) and

consecrated in 1969. On the eve of the Feast of the Protection, Great Vespers started, at the end of which the clergy conducted the order of blessing the restored cathedral. His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav (Shevchuk), head of the UGCC, led the service.

Mitred Archbishop Fr. Dr. Iwan Dacko, head of the Saint Sophia Religious Society for Ukrainian Catholics in Rome and president of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, addressed the pilgrims: "Patriarch Josyf (Slipyj) realized that the Catholic University located next to the cathedral cannot exist without its church. Therefore, immediately after completing the construction of the university he began to build a new church dedicated to God's Wisdom. Since that time this holy place has become a visible sign of the deep-rooted Christian faith of our nation."

The pilgrimage to the cathedral continued with the Sunday service in St. Sophia Cathedral. Some 7000 lay people from Ukraine and the diaspora participated in the liturgy. His Beatitude Sviatoslav presided. The highlight of the meeting of the Ukrainians was Ukrainian embroidery. All who wore them witnessed their belonging to their own people, their culture and traditions.

Concelebrating with His Beatitude Sviatoslav were: Patriarch of Antioch Gregory III Laham, head of the Melkite GCC; His Beatitude Mar Baselios Cleemis, head of the Syro-Malankara Church; His Eminence Jan Babjak, Metropolitan Archbishop of Presov, head of the Slovak GCC; His Eminence William (Skurla), Metropolitan of Pittsburgh, head of the Ruthenian GCC in the U.S.A.; and also Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, president emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace; metropolitans and bishops of



the UGCC from Ukraine and the diaspora; Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, president of the Bishops' Conference of Belarus; Bishop Joseph Werth, ordinary of the diocese of Novosibirsk in Russia, who is also the ordinary for faithful of the Byzantine rite in this country; and some 50 priests.

During the sermon, the Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholics proclaimed the beginning of the Year of Faith in the UGCC: "A special sign for us at the beginning of the proclamation of the Year of Faith in our Church is the renewal of St. Sophia Cathedral, which, shining in its pristine beauty, speaks to the heart of everyone who crosses its doorstep. The beauty of God's Wisdom, which shines through the beauty of this cathedral, tells us about the truthfulness and beauty of the Christian faith."

The final chord of the pilgrims' stay in Rome was a service in the main cathedral of the Catholic Church, St. Peter's Basilica. The Liturgy was presided over by Archbishop and Metropolitan of Lviv Ihor (Voznyak); and a sermon was delivered by Bishop Borys (Gudziak), who called the laity to be "living witnesses of the paschal joy... to fill the cup of our life to the brim with faith in God, and may this cup overflow and give drink to our neighbor."



On the same day staff of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies had the opportunity to attend the conference "The Second Vatican Council: Gifts of the Spirit – mystery of the Church – human witnesses,"

which was a continuation of the conference dedicated to the Second Vatican Council initiated by the IES and held in May this year in Lviv.

Bishop Borys (Gudziak) moderated the meeting in Rome. The speakers were: Mitred Archbishop Fr. Dr. Iwan Dacko, head of the Saint Sophia Religious Society for Ukrainian Catholics in Rome and president of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies; and Fr. Dr. Ivan Muzychka, a famous scholar, writer, and former rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome. According to the latter, the church should address all the laity, all people, and not just those who come to Liturgy every Sunday. "In her work the church needs those who are called the 'intelligentsia' or 'leading group' of society: teachers, professors, engineers, writers, artists and journalists. Pope Wojtyla wrote messages even to athletes! For the laity have an important place in the church. After all, they are the church," stressed the speaker. The conference was organized by the Pope St. Clement Institute in Rome.

In addition, the pilgrims visited Florence, where they prayed in the world's third largest cathedral (after St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican and St. Paul's Cathedral in London), the Basilica Santa Maria del Fiore, and the Austrian town of Graz.

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

MDPES student visits Summer Theological School in Moscow



In the summer St. Andrew's Theological Biblical Institute gathered participants from various cities of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan for its theological school. Among 40 participants there were 16 representatives from Ukraine. Among these was one student of the Master's Degree Program in Ecumenical Studies, Maria Dmytriv.

Over a two-week period, representatives

of various denominations shared their spiritual experience, cultural traditions and customs. And a scholarly approach was decisive in uniting the participants.

In private conversations and discussions, certain stereotypes that characterize a person based on his cultural, spiritual and social features were perceivable. So the first step was to overcome the barriers that existed before the meeting. For example, Lviv inhabitants explained to other participants that in Lviv people do not shoot at Russians, and that hospitality and the development of ecumenism have their place.

Lecturers who led courses had candidate degrees and doctorates in cultural studies, philosophy, history, and philology. In this regard, studies were imbued with a philosophical spirit. Theology, with this background, was expressed as one of the important elements that philosophy was talking about. In general, scholarly frameworks, a philosophical canvas with theological attributes, formed the daily lectures.

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

La Salette hosts volunteers

Students of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies spent August 2012 as volunteers in a holy place, La Salette (France). It was a month of unforgettable impressions, new encounters, interesting experiences and many pleasant emotions. La Salette bestows such riches to everyone who comes to this holy place. There is much here to benefit from, but in return you have to bring your willingness to serve hundreds of pilgrims every day with dedicated work.



People come to La Salette from all places of the earth. Every day in the basilica there are several liturgies. Depending on the nationality of pilgrims the Mass can be held simultaneously in several languages: Polish, Italian, German or other languages. Most pilgrims come here from Poland. There are many people from Western Europe, and here you can see believers from Africa and Asia.

La Salette unites all volunteers in a single unit, regardless of who comes from what country. For example, in August this year, the 120 volunteers were young people from some 20 countries: Lithuania, Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Spain, Italy, Algeria, the Philippines, Madagascar, Brazil, Belgium and others.



Piotr Rak, assistant director of the sanctuary, explained how they choose volunteers: "During the selection of volunteers in La Salette we do not give preference to certain nationalities. Here it does not matter ... In the first place is the person's spirituality, his or her motivation to help others. Here should come those who seek to serve truly, not only to make new acquaintances, to find a boyfriend or a girlfriend, or to

come on vacation."

There is a tradition here to organize an international evening to acquaint other people a bit with different cultures and customs. This year students of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, together with director Iryna Nakonechna, organized a show "Ukrainian wedding." During this event they showed the ritual of engagement and the meaning of "getting a pumpkin" (being rejected). They broke bread and shared it with the audience while singing "You deceived me," which became a hit. Finally there was a treat of bread with lard and Ukrainian dumplings with

potatoes. And most importantly, the participants were dressed in embroidered shirts, arousing in the audience curiosity and admiration for their national dress.

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

MDPES students make an ecumenical visit to Transcarpathia

Together with Protestant pastor Dr. Heleen Zorgdrager, students of the Master's Degree Program in Ecumenical Studies visited a house in which old women live, a gypsy camp in the town of Berehovo, and also the diocese of the Reformed Church in Uzhhorod. The trip took place with the assistance of the Dutch Reformed Church and UCU's Institute of Ecumenical Studies.



Transcarpathia is a land rich in water springs and unique Transcarpathian wine, and is increasingly becoming a tourist highlight of Ukraine. The Reformed Church in Transcarpathia has a network of social service: a bread bakery for the homeless; a group of faithful women who prepare food for the hungry; a collection of Christmas gifts for the needy; and help for single mothers. As we were told by a pastor of the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, they do not get any help from the state and, furthermore, sometimes just the opposite.

We were told the same in the house for the aged, where a family of Baptist faithful was working. "We bring to this house those women that nobody actually needs. We found someone in a barn. The neighbors brought us someone. These old women belong to completely different denominations. One is Orthodox from Russia, the other Baptist, and this old woman came to us cursing God at every step, as if possessed by some evil, but now she is very quiet." So said a woman who for her second year is living and working in this house for the aged.

The students were amazed at how one city can show itself in a new way every time. Along with heady Transcarpathian wine and water springs, there are ordinary people who are creating initiatives from below. So a seemingly simple excursion to Transcarpathia can become a true spiritual retreat, a renewal of spirit and a powerful factor in building community.

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

The French view of women and men



The Social Week of France drew the attention of 3,500 people to a question that split French public opinion. "Men and women: New deal" was the name of the 87th French Social Week.

From November 22 to 25, 2012, one hall gathered experts on social issues, political figures, and scholars who spoke about relations between men and women in our time and the role of French social organizations in helping and supporting the family.

Participants of the Ecumenical Social Week which was held in Lviv for the fifth time this year were invited to France. In particular, students and lecturers of UCU's Institute of Ecumenical Studies (Lviv); the head of the youth initiative Heart in the Palms (Kyiv), Kateryna Klyuzko; the psychologist of the Don Bosco charitable

organization and a lecturer at the Christian Humanities and Economics University of Odesa, Alla Soroka; and the head of the civic organization Freedom (Dnipropetrovsk), Olena Danchuk. The purpose of the visit was to have a positive experience and learn about the French practice of holding social weeks.

People of venerable age, retirees, and those who belong to certain social organizations came to listen to new ideas and trends that may promote better understanding of the relations between the sexes. Unfortunately, this event does not attract the attention of young people, as the percentage of young French presence on the social weeks this year was low.

The discussion was about the French woman, who she is and what her role should be in the family and society. French experts analyzed possible factors influencing human beings in France today, especially women, trying to create a certain image of them. So, in the words which were heard in the course of the week, there emerged an approximate portrait of French women.

Today, women in France are more active than ever, because they are employed. Full employment, social security and personal independence are integral components that enable confident and comfortable living. Feminism, emancipation and gender politics have made a visible impact on the psychological and physical characteristics of women. The emphasis on sexual differences is very noticeable, but, in addition, economic, political and cultural aspects remain important. Also, from the context of the theme, the question of parents and children arose. A reply was immediately found. Children are not brought up properly because parents are not doing their duty, as they are constantly busy at work. Little attention is paid to making family life comfortable.

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

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), should please contact the Institute of Ecumenical Studies.

Institute of Ecumenical Studies
Ukrainian Catholic University
17, Il. Svetsitskoho Str.
Lviv - 79011 - UKRAINE
tel.: +38 (032) 240 99 44
fax: +38 (032) 240 99 50
ies.ucu@gmail.com
web: www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua

