



NEWSLETTER

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies Ukrainian Catholic University

№ 3 – December, 2009

- **The 2nd Ecumenical Social Week in Lviv**



The Institute of Ecumenical Studies, together with its co-organizers – Ukrainian Catholic University, the Lviv City Council, and the Lviv Oblast Council and Administration – organized the 2nd Ecumenical Social Week (ESW) in Lviv.

This year's week-long event lasted from October 5-11. The main theme of the event was Social Responsibility. It was a gathering of well-known Ukrainian and foreign politicians, leading religious figures, and workers in the social sector. Among the famous guests at the event were the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Charitable Fund Ukraine 3000, Kateryna Yushchenko; the Vice-President of the Social Weeks of France, Bernard Chenevez; the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ukraine, Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth; the General Secretary of the Commission of Episcopal Conferences of the European Union, Fr. Piotr Mazurkiewicz; the Ex-President of the Commission of Episcopal Conferences of the European Community, Josef Homeyer, the member of the Supervisory Board of the RENOVABIS foundation, vice-president of the Central Committee of the German Catholics (ZdK) Magdalena Bogner, the Protestant pastor Heleen Zorgdrager (Kerk in Actie) and others.



“We have great expectations for the ESW. This initiative will go forward from Lviv. We need to learn to be responsible for those around us. This is the message of this Week – Social Responsibility,” said Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi during his speech at the opening ceremony. This opinion was also supported by Kateryna Yushchenko. She is convinced that the ESW needs to become a Ukraine-wide event, at which representatives of social organizations from throughout the country could gather.

This year, several German partners took an active role in organizing the ESW: Renovabis, the Robert Schumann Foundation, and the Evangelical Church of Germany.

<http://www.esw.org.ua/foto>

http://esw.org.ua/novini_est/pidsumki_2_go_ekumenichnogo_social_nogo_tizhnya_u_l_vovi

- **The Expert Commission of the ESW prepared two legislative projects: on percentage philanthropy and on the support of non-profit organizations by legal entities**



Specifically for the 2nd ESW, an Expert Commission worked for almost a year. The result of its work was the preparation of two legislative projects: “Percentage Philanthropy” and “Support of Non-Profit Organizations by Legislative Entities.” Both initiatives were universally supported by all the representatives of the leading Ukrainian parties. Deputies assured participants of their support for the furthering of these legislative ideas.

Percentage philanthropy is an innovative legal norm in the countries that have joined the EU. The principle of percentage philanthropy consists of the thought that a taxpayer has the right on the basis of his or her annual tax declaration to direct the tax authorities to transfer up to 2% of the taxes paid for the benefit of a certain non-profit organization.

Stepan Kurpil, a national deputy from the BYuT party, who is a member of the committee on questions of European integration, believes that such a bill is important to submit for examination by the Verkhovna Rada, but it is necessary to find a justification for the loss of budget funds. "The prime minister supports the idea of such legislation. In order to hasten its adoption, we need to engage a group of deputies to finalize the legislation," asserted Kurpil.

Volodymyr Stretovych, a national deputy from the community movement "National Self-Defense" emphasized that this legislation is very important for Ukrainian society. "Percentage philanthropy is one step towards the building of a civil society," said Stretovych.

http://esw.org.ua/novini_est/vidsotkova_filantropiya_sche_odin_krok_do_pobudovi_gromadyans_kog_o_suspil_stva_nardep_volodimir_stretovich

- **During the 2nd ESW, First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko presented the exhibition "Repressed Spirituality"**



During the 2nd ESW at Ukrainian Catholic University, Kateryna Yushchenko presented the scholarly-documentary exhibition "Repressed Spirituality: the Communist regime's destruction of religion, the Church, and traditional rituals in Ukraine." The exposition was created by the International Charitable Foundation "Ukraine 3000" as part of their program "Lessons of History" and was presented during the conference "Speaking about the past for the sake of the future: historical truth about the Soviet period." The

exhibition contains 20 posters and is composed of three thematic sections. The first section is a tour through history, showing the conditions of the loss of the Ukrainian metropolitanate and the nascence of the Moscow Patriarchate. Also presented here is the attitude of the Bolsheviks towards the Church, as well as the methods and reasons of the anti-church terror.

The second section covers the themes of the ruination of the churches and their later fates, the liquidation of the UAOC and the UGCC, the repressions of the clergy, the mechanism of the ruination of traditional Ukrainian ritual and the imposition of a new Soviet ritual, the pressures on the Church during the thaw, the underground activity of the UGCC, and the Ukrainian resistance to the anti-church measures taken by the Soviet authorities.

"As a result of the 80-year-long activities of the Soviet authorities, there was a complete repression of the clergy and laymen of the UAOC, 50% of Greek Catholic priests were liquidated, and those who were spared were forced to emigrate in order to save their lives, or to continue their activities underground. Hundreds of churches were destroyed; they had not only spiritual but also artistic meaning as monuments to Ukrainian heritage. We want to demonstrate all this in this exhibition, these enormous losses experienced by our spirituality and traditional culture," stated the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Charitable Fund "Ukraine 3000," Kateryna Yushchenko.



3000," Kateryna Yushchenko.

The final section acquaints the viewer with the results of the antireligious policy of the Soviet authorities for Ukrainian spirituality, with the history of the resurgence of the UGCC and

the UAOC in Ukraine in 1988-1989, and with the reasons and conditions for the creation of the UCC – Kyiv and Moscow Patriarchates. According to the well-known community activist Ivan Hel, the Muscovite occupiers destroyed the Ukrainian intelligentsia en masse, not even speaking about the universally known fact of the genocide, the Holodomor, as a result of which more than 10 million Ukrainians died.

That same day, during the 2nd ESW, there was a presentation entitled “We Have Returned,” which was dedicated to the memory of the priests that were victims of the cruel terror of the NKVD and were tortured within the prison walls. It is significant that this exhibition took place at the memorial museum “Prison on Lontskoho Street,” where mass executions were carried out in Soviet times.

http://esw.org.ua/novini_est/katerina_yuschenko_prezentovala_vistavku_represovana_duhovnist

http://esw.org.ua/novini_est/povernennya_v_tyurmi_na_lonc_kogo

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• **The Day of Trust : a meeting of the young people of Taizé in Lviv**



On October 10, 2009, during the 2nd ESW, a meeting was held of the young people of Taizé – a Day of Trust. Participating in the organization of this event was the French ecumenical community of Taizé, which was represented at the meeting in Lviv by Brother George. Not only Ukrainian young people, but also guests from Russia and Belarus, took part in the Day of Trust.

The young people prayed together in different churches of Lviv and also participated in a series of meetings and seminars, which took place in churches of various confessions – Greek and Roman Catholic, Orthodox (UOC-MP, UOC-KP, UAOC), and the Armenian Apostolic Church.



The meeting finished with a Christian concert, with performances by young performers and musicians from Lviv, Vinnytsia, Kyiv, Moscow, and Paris.

However, this was not the only concert that took place during the 2nd ESW. Also interesting and moving was a concert of choral music and performers with special needs, which took place October 8 in the Building of Organ Music.

http://esw.org.ua/novini_est/pro_spil_nu_dorogu_do_boga

http://esw.org.ua/novini_est/hto_spivae_toj_dvichi_molit_sya

- **The IES has opened a new academic program on supporting people with special needs**



The new academic program is called “Medical-psychological and social support for individuals with special needs.” It was created on the basis of the program of the International Federation L’Arche, which has been operating successfully in France for 10 years already; however, this variant is adapted to the Ukrainian context.

This is an international, inter-university project, developed by the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of Ukrainian Catholic University, the Lviv Polytechnic National University, and the International Federation L’Arche.

The uniqueness of this program is its interdisciplinary approach to the study of various questions. That is to say, each of the six spheres of study in the program will include medical, psychological, pedagogical, social, and legal aspects. An important component is the practicum. Besides this, thematic meetings with the communities of “L’Arche-Kovcheh” and with the parents of children with special needs will be organized. Foreign specialists have been invited to give guest lectures.

Oksana Vyniarska, the pedagogical director of this program and a specialist at the instructional-rehabilitation center “Dzherelo” emphasizes that the most important thing about the program is that it places the accent on the individual, on a new understanding of the human being. “Support is not a way of pulling someone behind you, but rather giving them the choice of how they want to live,” she stated. “Our conception needs to shift from inadequate to disabled, partial ability. Because each of us has our own disability, and they unite us. And value comes only from being a human being.”

- **Second graduating class of the MPES**



On July 4, 2009, a graduation ceremony for the second graduating class of the Master’s Program in Ecumenical Studies was held. Five students received their diplomas as masters of ecumenical studies. These graduates are specialists in religious journalism and Christian ethics. The presentation of diplomas was preceded by the successful defense of master’s theses.

The majority of works were dedicated to the examination of the question of Lviv Oblast during the period of the emergence of the UGCC from its underground existence and following the independence of Ukraine. Students of the Christian ethics specialization researched the topic of new methodologies in religious upbringing of the developing generation.

At present, 40 students are studying in the MPES. They take an active role in all the projects of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, which allows them to gain interesting experience, which is so necessary in their future work.

- **The new 2009-2010 academic year has begun for the DMPES**



A week after the opening session (http://www.dmpen.org.ua/Nashi_novini/CHas_dlya_znajomstv_o_bminu_dosvidom_ta_spilkuvannya), students of the Distance Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies began their new on-line semester.

There are about 20 students from different regions of Ukraine, and also from Belarus and Brazil, studying in the program. The Ukrainian-language division of the DMPES began their semester on September 1. They will have the opportunity to take several historical, theological, and ecumenical courses. In particular, first-year students will be able to familiarize themselves with scholarly disciplines such as the History of Religion, Metaphysics and Theodicy, Eastern Christian Spirituality, Introduction to Biblical Studies, Introduction to Theology, and Patristics. For those who are in their second year of study, the following subjects are offered: Trinitology, Ecclesiology, The Churches about Mass-Media, Methodology and Practice of Religious Journalism, and others. The unique feature of the second year of the program is that students will immerse themselves further in the field of religious journalism and will undergo a practicum under the guidance of the director of the Religious Information Service of Ukraine, Taras Antoshevsky. Also over the course of the second year of study, students will be writing their master's theses, the defense of which is scheduled for June 2010.

http://www.dmpen.org.ua/Nashi_novini/Rozpochavsya_novij_2009-2010_navechal_nij_rik_na_DMPEN

- **Students of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies took part in a summer academic course “Rome and Byzantium” at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome**



The Institute of St. Klyment Papa at UCU in Rome organized a summer academic course, “Rome and Byzantium,” which ran from June 28 to July 13, 2009. Its participants were dozens of professors and instructors, as well as young scholars and students from Ukraine, Poland, and Italy. They prayed together and held spiritual and intellectual conversations, the main theme of which was how to work together to build bridges of understanding between the Christian East and West. Among the participants of this course were two students of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies – Olesya Stohniy and Volodymyr Olshanskyi.

This unusual journey became possible thanks to the director of the course, the president of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies Fr. Ivan Dacko, who renewed the tradition of conducting summer academic courses. Under Patriarch Iosyf Slipyi, UCU in Rome organized 16 such courses, where instructors and students of the Ukrainian diaspora came together. And three years ago, the first academic course “Rome between East and West” was successfully carried out, which laid a new foundation for work between scholarly and spiritual powers in Ukraine and Rome.

http://ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/ukr/activity/rome_byz/

- **Students of the MPES served as volunteers in France**



This summer, the Institute of Ecumenical Studies in the partnership with the Mary sanctuary of La Salette (Iser department) organized for ten its students one month serving in France for the purpose of getting to know the spiritual and the cultural life of the French people and the language practice. For all of July, students of the Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies were volunteers at Notre Dame de La Salette, which is located in the highest region of the French Alps. They participated in a variety of tasks, helping to receive pilgrims in the Marian sanctuary. Besides Ukrainians, there were also

Russians, Belarusians, Poles, Romanians, and Hungarians there. Such national diversity created a congenial multiconfessional and international atmosphere.

From July 26-30, students took part in the fourth annual international conference "Paths of Reconciliation in Europe." This year, its main theme was "Hungary and its neighbors." This event gave young people the opportunity to better acquaint themselves with the history, culture, and traditions of Hungarians.

http://ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/ukr/activity/our_students_fr/

- **New academic semester for the Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies**



On September 7, the new academic semester for the Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies began. Forty students are concentrating in two areas: religious journalism and Christian ethics.

The current session for journalism students is practical – the majority of academic hours are dedicated to the acquisition of practical knowledge and habits in various media outlets and information centers, thanks to participation in the projects of the IES.

A significant number of hours are dedicated to a radio internship. Specifically for this, the leadership of Radio "Resurrection" in Lviv created a practical study program for the students. Myroslav Pavliuk, the director of Radio "Resurrection," is convinced that such a practicum is a good start for the development of the professional level of future journalists.

And the students who chose to specialize in Christian ethics have practical lessons in different schools around Lviv. They visit lessons held by already practicing teachers, after which they carry out lessons on their own, and also prepare lessons.

- **In Minsk, a scholarly conference on the theme of Christian-Jewish dialogue**



From November 9-11, 2009 in Minsk, there was held an international scholarly conference entitled “Christian-Jewish dialogue: religious values as the basis of mutual respect in civil society during the global economic crisis.” The Institute of Ecumenical Studies was represented at this event by Fr. Roman Fihas, the coordinator of the Distance Master’s Program in Ecumenical Studies.

The organizers of the conference were the Institute of Religious Dialog and Interconfessional Communication under the auspices of the Synod of the Belarusian Orthodox Church and the Christian Educational Center of Sts. Methodius and Cyril. The gathering was organized with the blessing of Metropolitan of Minsk and Slutsk Filaret, the Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus.

The conference was a place for meetings of representatives of Christian and Jewish traditions, where they spoke about their points of contact and their common roots. Both the Jews and Christians agreed that their fundamental values are deeply Biblical. The participants also emphasized the necessity of fostering and developing these traditions and their popularization in contemporary society.

“It was very pleasing to see,” said Fr. Roman Fihas, “that the Jewish, Orthodox, and Catholic sides were all represented by high-ranking individuals, and that many others also took part in the dialog – priests, rabbis, scholars, and members of the communities.

We remind you that the Christian Educational Center of Sts. Methodius and Cyril last year signed an agreement of cooperation with the Institute of Ecumenical Studies.

http://ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/ukr/activity/biblical_values/

- **Participants from Ukraine, and from the IES in particular, took part in the Social Week in France**



The 84th French Social Week was organized at the Seine-Saint-Denis department from the 20th to the 22nd of November, 2009. It’s 4000 participants considered the topic of new solidarity in the solving of various social problems in French society. The French Social Week and its vice-president Bernard Chenevez invited 10 Ukrainian participants, among who were two representatives of IES, a member of IXE, and also the representatives of UCU and the journalists.

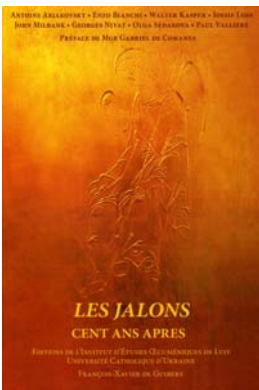
This year’s session placed its emphasis on the idea that the casting aside of another person (who does not cease being our neighbor) leads not only to the growth of the marginalization of an important part of the population, but also to the facilitation of the overall ruination of the social fabric. The problem is this: despite the increase in social protection, the number of cases of exclusion from the social environment of a part of society is continually growing.

The three days of the program presented three questions regarding these new forms of solidarity that must be found: why does society need them? How can they be achieved? Will they become catalysts for the creation of a new society? Together with the seminars, there were also six working groups, the participants of which discussed the new conceptions of the family, the development of health care, solidarity in the economy, the problem of migrants, a comparative look at rural and urban space, and the provision of housing. During the Social Week there were also a large number of exhibitions of various social organizations, which gave examples of the search for new solidarities in their countries.



Besides this, on November 22, the Ukrainian group had the opportunity to take part in a Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris, which was dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Holodomor in 1932-1933 in Ukraine. This is already the eighth time the Ukrainian community has annually come to the cathedral to pray and remember this tragic page in the history of Ukraine.

- **The IES has released its collection of articles “Milestones: After One Hundred Years”**



This year, exactly 100 years has passed since the publication of the famous collection of articles by the Russian intelligentsia, “Milestones.” To celebrate this anniversary, the Institute of Ecumenical Studies has contemporized the work with the release of its collection “Milestones: After 100 Years”, that was published in the cooperation with the publishing house of the François-Xavier de Guibert.

The purpose of this anniversary collection is threefold.

First of all, its purpose is to honor the lines of thinking, which, in spite of all of their differences and internal development, were able to pass on a spiritual and intellectual inheritance both to the new countries that appeared following the collapse of the USSR, and to the West, where these authors were carefully translated.

Its purpose is also to attest to the universality of this intellectual generation, the students of Berdiaev, Bulgakov, and their friends, bringing together contemporary thinkers, who are happy to attest to their commitment to this open and dynamic spiritual thought.

Finally, this collection is the desire to attest to the life-giving force of this creative intellectual field, sown by the 1909 collection. The authors of this collection at the present time asked themselves about the main intellectual directions, about new forms of knowledge and ideologies, about the main challenges of the 21st century.

The collection contains articles by Ukrainian and foreign authors, such as Cardinal Walter Kasper, Fr. Enzo Bianchi, John Milbank, Georges Nivat, Paul Valliere, Iossif Loss, Olga Sedakova, and Antoine Arjakovsky.

In his introduction to the book, Archbishop Gavryil Komansky, the Exarch of the Constantinople Patriarchate in Western Europe, called for the serious consideration of the intellectual advance begun by Berdiaev and his colleagues.

The collection “Milestones: After One Hundred Years” was presented by Antoine Arjakovsky and François-Xavier de Guibert in the office of the Russian Student Christian Movement Organization in Paris on the 2nd of November, 2009.

<http://ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/ukr/activity/>

- **Find the Institute of Ecumenical Studies on Facebook**



In October of this year, a group for the Institute of Ecumenical Studies was created on Facebook. Here you can familiarize yourself with the news of the Institute and also post your own. We invite you to join the group, share your thoughts and interesting information in the form of articles, news, pictures, films, etc.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=home#/group.php?gid=163950421617>

If you would like to become a partner and/or a donor of the IES, and/or support our students by becoming their Godfathers (the annual study expenses for one student amount to 350 Euro) please contact the Institute of Ecumenical Studies

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