



Metropolitan Constantine of Blessed Memory! 1936-2012

Вічна йому пам'ять!

Мау ніз мемогу ве етерна!

Metropolitan Constantine
1936 2012



Митрополит Константин

Вічна йому пам'ять!

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UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA
CONSISTORY OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
PRESS RELEASE

Metropolitan Constantine of Blessed Memory: 1936-2012

Dearly Beloved Brother Hierarchs, Clergy and All Orthodox Faithful:

It is with a profound depth of sadness that we hereby inform you of the repose, in the morning of 21 May, 2012 in the 76 year of his earthly pilgrimage, of His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine, the Ruling Hierarch of the Central Eparchy and the Primate of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

His Beatitude was stricken with a serious illness just a few weeks ago and was released only three days ago from a local Pittsburgh hospital, which enabled him to participate in the celebration of his 40th anniversary of Archpastoral ministry among the faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. This celebration took place at the Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Orthodox Church in McKees Rocks, PA with the presence of his brother Ukrainian Orthodox hierarchs and visiting bishops of other Orthodox jurisdictions, his family from the United States and his beloved spiritual children, the clergy and faithful of the UOC of the USA, South America and Europe.

O God of spirits and of all flesh, Who has trampled down death; You have overthrown the devil and have given Life to Your world: now give rest, Lord, to the soul of Your departed servant Metropolitan Constantine, in a place of light, a place of refreshment and a place of repose, where there is no sickness, sighing nor sorrow. As You are a Good God, Who loves mankind, pardon every sin, which he has committed, whether by word or by deed or by thought, for there is no man who lives and has not sinned. You alone are sinless, Your Righteousness is Eternal and Your Word is Truth. For You are the Resurrection, the Life and the Repose of your newly presented servant, Metropolitan Constantine, Christ our God and we give glory, together with Your Father, Who is Eternal and Your All-Holy, Good and Life-Creating Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen!

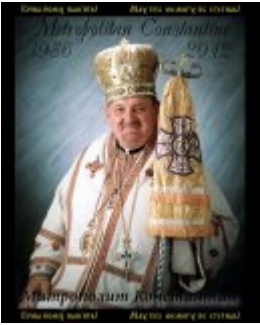
In our Lord's abundant Love,

† Antony, Archbishop

† Daniel, Bishop



Biography of His Beatitude +METROPOLITAN CONSTANTINE (SECULAR – THEODORE BUGGAN)



Theodore Buggan was born to parents Stanley and Catherine Buggan on 29 July 1936. His family home a prayerful one in which he witnessed the Love of God in action on a daily basis – from caring for the needy of the community to assisting new immigrants from Ukraine seeking a better life than they had known under atheistic regimes in their homeland. That Love spread beyond the confines of his home into the life of his beloved church – St. Vladimir Parish, just across the street from the family home – where his spiritual nurturing and inspiration were further developed. From the earliest days of his life he heard the priests assigned to his parish, such as his mentor Fr. Theodore Bilecky, pray during Divine services that our Lord would call forth young men to serve His Holy Church and His faithful people and his heart and soul opened up to the Lord's call. He knew from a tender age that his would be the responsibility to serve at our Lord's command.

Following his high school education he enrolled in 1955 at St. Andrew College, the Seminary of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, the only Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary in the free world at the time. He found himself facing an enormous challenge, especially so far from home and immersed in a completely new and unfamiliar where only the Ukrainian language was spoken and utilized in



classroom instruction and daily life. He quickly adapted to this new existence and successfully completed the entire course of studies with some of the most renowned Ukrainian Orthodox scholars and theologians in the world. In particular, he was awed by Metropolitan Ilarion (Ohienko) one of the most respected Orthodox theologians in the world, who had a profound influence on young Theodore's life and priestly service. Metropolitan Ilarion was so often quoted by Theodore – Father and Bishop Constantine – that many who heard him began to feel that they knew the great Metropolitan themselves.

After completing studies at St. Andrew College in 1959, Theodore felt a need to enhance his education by enrolling at St. Vladimir Seminary in New York, where he once again was exposed to some of the greatest of Orthodox theologians who were confounded by the abilities and talents of this young Ukrainian student and the certainty of his belief that he would one day be a bishop of Christ's Holy Church. In fact, there were three students at the seminary at the time who eventually became Metropolitans – our own Constantine and two others from the Orthodox Church in America – Theodosius and Vladimir.



Theodore decided to continue his graduate education at Duquesne University, just across the river from his home in downtown Pittsburgh, earning his Bachelor's Degree in 1965. He was able here to remain close with his family and began his association with the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA and was eventually ordained as a Subdeacon by Metropolitan John (Theodorovich) the first Metropolitan of our Holy Church. During this time Theodore also began his ten year long chairmanship of the Clergy Candidate Commission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA, which administers the Metropolitan John

Scholarship awarding scholarships to theology students from our Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Finally, on 23 July 1967, Theodore was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in his home parish of St. Vladimir in Pittsburgh. He was immediately assigned as assistant pastor to his mentor – Fr. Theodore Bilecky – who was pastor of St. Vladimir Cathedral, Chicago, IL. He spent nearly two years learning at the feet of a man he dearly loved along with Matushka Nina, who was just as influential as her husband on the newly ordained priest. Fr. Theodore spent two years working especially with the youth of the parish, establishing a chapter of the Ukrainian Orthodox League and a developing the parish's weekly radio broadcast to the thousands of Ukrainian Orthodox faithful in Chicagoland. All those young people remained his “kids” and “students” throughout their and his lives – even though many of them were very close to him in age.

St. Nicholas parish in Troy, NY was Fr. Theodore's first parish assignment in 1968 as a pastor on his own. This was a match made in heaven and his relationship with the faithful entrusted to his care was a loving one, which sustained him throughout not only his priestly life, but all through his hierarchal service to our Lord. Here he also spent enormous amounts of time with the youth of the parish, educating them and through them, their parents, thus completely changing the spiritual atmosphere of the parish family. He was beloved by the parish board of administration, the sisterhood, the church choir, the church school, which molded his character more completely – convincing him of the necessity of reaching out to people when and where they needed it – even when they sometimes thought that they did not need it. His parish life caused him to begin questioning what he thought was his path to episcopal consecration. His humility grew and he felt that he could be happy and content to nourish this family forever.





Such was not the Will of God, however, and Fr. Theodore was called by our hierarchs Metropolitan John and Archbishop Mstyslav and the Sobor of our Church to candidacy for the holy episcopate. He was tonsured as a monastic in his parish in 1971 and given the name Constantine, by his tonsuring bishop. On 7 May 1972, Monk Constantine was consecrated in St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA as the first American born bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. It was an enormous step in the life of our Church, which proved to be most positive when the young Bishop Constantine won the hearts and love of those who had resisted the idea of electing a third generation American Ukrainian individual as bishop.

His Grace, Bishop Constantine, became the Bishop of Chicago and found himself once again united with his life-long mentor, Protopresbyter Theodore Bilecky, but now as Fr. Theodore's superior. The Bishop set out to build the Chicago See and to unite all Ukrainian Orthodox Christians in true commitment to our Lord and faithful in their desire to not only preserve our specific Ukrainian Orthodox spirituality, but to enhance it and pass it on intact to successive generations. The Bishop's work was not confined to the Chicago area. He visited parishes throughout the USA, Europe, Australia and South America representing our church well and encouraging the faithful in all places – always concentrating on the youth and their role in the future of the Church.



In addition to all this, Bishop Constantine conducted retreats for youth and young adults throughout the USA – especially involving the Education Commission of the Ukrainian Orthodox

League. He was instrumental in the establishment of St. Sophia Seminary, which opened its doors in 1975 and the UOL effort to purchase campgrounds in Western PA in 1977 to conduct our own youth and young adult encampments. For his devoted service, Bishop Constantine was elevated to the rank of Archbishop in 1987.

In 1989 the world changed when the Soviet Union collapsed and in 1990 Ukraine became declared independence. Archbishop Constantine traveled to Ukraine on numerous occasions working tirelessly for the unity of the Church there and developing the relationship with our Church here in the USA. He was elevated to the rank of Metropolitan – nominated by Metropolitan (and Patriarch of Ukraine) Mstyslav at our Church's regular Sobor in 1992. In 1994 the Metropolitan was invited, along with Archbishop Antony, to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople to discuss the renewal of the more than one thousand year old relationship to the Patriarchate, from Ukraine received and was baptized into Orthodox Christianity in 988. These discussions resulted in the reception of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA as a jurisdiction under the omophorion of the Ecumenical Patriarch, thus returning Ukrainian Orthodoxy to its rightful place in world Orthodoxy. In 1996, he presided over the final unification of the two Ukrainian Orthodox jurisdictions in the USA – the UOC in America and the UOC of USA into our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. He served as Primate of our Church on SCOBA – the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of America – from 1995 through 2010, when SCOBA evolved into the new Assembly of Bishops, which include all Orthodox hierarchs, rather than just the heads of churches.



In addition to his responsibilities as Prime Hierarch of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Constantine has served for 25 years as Rector and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Sophia Seminary and lectured at the Seminary and various retreats several times a year. He has participated in the youth and young adult encampments at All Saints Camp since its inception 30 years ago. He was directly responsible through his efforts to find a sponsor for the long awaited construction of St. Thomas Chapel at All Saints Camp, which he consecrated with his brother hierarchs in the summer of 2008 on All Saints Sunday, the thirtieth anniversary of the camp's existence. He has served as the Spiritual Father of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA for 35 years. He has served as Chairman of the Commission on Liturgy for the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America since its inception in 2010.

Metropolitan Constantine will be remembered above all for his love for the youth. Throughout his 45 years of priesthood, he continually reminded the adults of the need to pay attention to their children and to bear the responsibility as parents of raising them up in the faith, serving as loving examples for them.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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Vechnaya Pam'yat, Metropolitan Constantine! Memory Eternal!

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Bishop Robert, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Dragan Filipović, Father Stevo Rocknage, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Michael Mihalick [MS], Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Cuthbert Jack, Father Elias Warnke, Father Nestor Kowal, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Deacon Dennis Lapushanski, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Joshua Agosto and his family, Mike Holupka, Eva Malesnick, Stella Peanoske, Joe Nezolyk, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, Linda Mechtly, Mary Mochnick, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Stella Cherepko, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Dave May, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Alverta, Michael Horvath, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Michael Miller, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Robert Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, John Sheliga, George & Mika Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Liz, Halyna Zelinska [Bishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Doris Artman, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Jean Stutchell, Charles & Esther Holupka, Wanda Mefford, Lynn (Bush) Gill, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Betty O'Masta, Julie Eiler, Glenn Miller, Vince Ferro, Michael Pawlyshyn, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie— young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—21-year-old with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Woloschak, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciow, Nellie Patsko, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Pete Niederberger, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John

Kennedy, Lloyd Sheakley, Diane McDaniel, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Tony Butecoff, Carl & Margaret Reed, Theodore Demopoulos, Jillian Bowman, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Karen & Peter Special, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Doug Smith [Millie Kerr's son-in-law], Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], Mel & Charlotte Malik, Paula Pasquinelli, David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, June Miller, Corey Guich, Monica Salvatore, Glenda Tickerhoof, Robert Vangrin, Juliana Leis, Susan "Billie" Mason, and Daria Masur. ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

REMINDER: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost!

Please remember James John Logue, George Senita, John Kirkowski, Matthew Machak, Michael Repasky, and ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and all American service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR "BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION" AND CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS TO CHURCH. There is a shoebox in the basement for Debbie Paouncic's class. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP!

REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please call Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday, May 27 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA, HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; SYNAXIS OF THE CARPATHO-RUSYN SAINTS; MARTYR ISIDORE OF CHIOS; MARTYR MAXIMUS UNDER DECIUS; SAINT SERAPION THE SINDONITE-MONK OF EGYPT; SAINT NICETAS-RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; SAINT LEONTIUS-PATRAIRCH OF JERUSALEM

Tone 6
Acts 20:16-18, 28-36
John 17:1-13

Litany in Blessed Memory of All Deceased Veterans—Fr. Bob
Parastas in Blessed Memory of Walter Golofski, Jr., Walter Golofski, Sr., Julia
Golofski, Helen & Steve Kowalt, the Havaran Family—Jane Golofski

Sunday, June 3 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM
EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA, PENTECOST/TRINITY SUNDAY
HOLY EQUALS-TO-THE-APOSTLES CONSTANTINE AND HELEN-HIS MOTHER;
SAINT CASSIAN THE GREEK-MONK

*******OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY!*******

*****PAGE 203 IN THE BLACK DIVINE LITURGY BOOKS*****

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann roman, Mary Maoli, Joe Karas, Walter Burlack,
Dianne Waryanka, & Maxine Kitch-Fr. Bob

*******June 3 through June 10 is a FAST FREE WEEK!*******

Sunday, June 10 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS
SAINT NICETAS-BISHOP OF CHALCEDON; SAINT EUTYCHIUS-BISHOP OF
MELITENE; MARTYR HELICONIS & DAPNI OF THESSALONICA; HIEROMARTYR
HELLADIUS-BISHOP IN THE EAST; SAINT IGNATIUS-BISHOP &
WONDERWORKER OF ROSTOV

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33,37-38,19:27-30

Litany in Blessed Memory of Daniel J. Pysh, Jr.—40 days—Fr. Bob

Monday, June 11 SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST—THE APOSTLES' FAST—
BEGINS

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 27 MAY 2012
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA, HOLY FATHERS OF THE
FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; SYNAXIS OF THE
CARPATHO-RUSYN SAINTS; MARTYR ISIDORE OF CHIOS;
MARTYR MAXIMUS UNDER DECIUS; SAINT SERAPION THE
SINDONITE-MONK OF EGYPT; SAINT NICETAS-RECLUSE OF
PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; SAINT LEONTIUS-PATRAIRCH OF
JERUSALEM

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!

Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever,
and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES "IT IS TRULY MEET..."

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.



Archpastoral Visit to Slickville, PA!

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA CONSISTORY OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS PRESS RELEASE

Archpastoral Visit to Slickville, PA!

By Alexander Popichak

I am the teenage son of an Orthodox priest serving the quiet village of Slickville, Pennsylvania. Not many things come in the way of excitement to the mining town of less than three hundred, so when His Grace Bishop Daniel visited Holy Ghost Ukrainian Orthodox Church on May the 6th, he was welcomed as only Slickville could, with a buzz of excitement and open arms. When our parish president greeted His Grace with the traditional gifts of bread and salt, Bishop Daniel had said that he had never visited Slickville, but was glad to finally be visiting for the first time.



Shortly after, Divine Liturgy was served with four students of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Bound Brook, NJ, Subdeacons Vasyl and Andriy, seminarians Yuri, and Ivan, who Bishop Daniel brought along with him, as well as two altar boys and parish pastor Father Robert Popichak.



The average age of our Slickville parish is around over 50, and the youth and energy demonstrated by four seminarians gave those in attendance a sense of hope for the present and future of the Orthodox Church as a whole.



After giving a brief talk about his personal history in the church, His Grace took a picture with our entire church family. We welcomed him, as well as his seminarians downstairs for a coffee social hour. Bishop Daniel was touched by the outpouring of hospitality our humble parish gave, and in response made it his mission to hug everyone there. The bishop and the seminarians were sent on their way eastward with bags of goodies, and muffins galore. Our parish family is extremely grateful for the visit, and can't wait for His Grace Bishop Daniel to stop by again!

See the color photos and read the article online:
http://www.uocofusa.org/news_120512_2.html

I will show you another work that can establish man firmly (on his way) from beginning to end. It is to love God with all his heart and intention and to worship Him. God will then give him great strength and joy, and all the works of God will become to him as sweet as honeycomb. So will all labors of the body become light and sweet, along with his meditation, vigil and carrying the Lord's yoke.

However, on account of God's love for man, He unleashes upon him adversities so as not to be conceited, but stand firm in his struggle and proceed further in his growth. Instead of strength he feels languor and feebleness, instead of joy, sadness; instead of sweetness, bitterness. Many similar things befall him who loves God. Nevertheless, he is all the more strengthened in his struggle against them and eventually overcomes them. Once he does so, the Spirit of God stands by him in all things and strengthens him so as never to fear anything evil. *St. Anthony the Great*

When you read the Gospels, Christ speaks to you; when you pray, you are speaking to Him... The Bible should be read not just for analysis, but as an immediate dialogue with the living Word Himself – to feed our love for Christ, to kindle our hearts with prayer and to provide us with guidance in our personal life. *St. Tikhon of Zadonsk*

It may be that we are angelically kind towards those who treat us with confidence and love. But once we encounter anger, criticism, hostility, this kindness is turned into its opposite. This clearly shows our complete helplessness in the face of evil, and--first of all--in the face of the evil in ourselves, which rises up in us when provoked by the criticisms of others. Reproaches and criticism are a bitter medicine for our vanity, our self-satisfaction. +Fr. Alexander Elchaninov, *The Diary of a Russian Priest*

Be at peace, and have genuine charity among yourselves. If you follow the example of the holy fathers, God, the comforter of all good, will be your helper. *Saint Columba (Columcille)*



40 YEARS OF DEVOTION HONORED

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA
CONSISTORY OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
PRESS RELEASE

40 YEARS OF DEVOTION HONORED

Metropolitan Constantine celebrates the 40th anniversary of his episcopal consecration with clergy and faithful from around the nation and the world!



It was a most joyful occasion in Western Pennsylvania over the weekend of 18-20 May as hundreds of Orthodox clergy and faithful gathered at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Carnegie, PA and Dormition of the Mother of God – St. Mary Parish, McKees Rocks, PA to express their love, respect and appreciation to our Prime Hierarch, Metropolitan Constantine, who celebrated the 40th anniversary of his consecration to the episcopacy of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox of the USA and the 45th anniversary of his priestly service to Christ's flock.

The two weeks prior to the celebration were a time of great tension and uncertainty because the Metropolitan was suddenly taken to hospital and placed immediately in the intensive care unit. His condition was updated throughout that time on our church website so that the thousands who were praying for his rapid recovery would be fully aware of the need for that prayer to continue. By virtue of those prayers and the Grace of God, that condition improved on a daily basis and he was released from hospital two days prior to the scheduled celebration. One could hear the anticipation in his voice and the return of his positive spirit in each succeeding conversation with the Metropolitan. We want to share with our readers the positive effect that the Internet can have – when utilized properly! When we first posted the news of his hospitalization on the Church website and Facebook page, we sat in the office watching as literally hundreds of responses came in – sometimes in bunches at a time – assuring the Metropolitan of sincere prayer and



much love. Those numbers just continued to rise as those who read the news posted it on their own pages. It was truly a blessing to behold and we thank all who responded in writing and in private prayer!



The 40th anniversary celebration began on Friday evening, 18 May, at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Carnegie, PA in Carnegie, PA where V. Rev. Stephen Repa is the parish priest. A Moleben for the health of Metropolitan Constantine was served in Church with many clergy and faithful present. A reception followed in the parish social center. We were worried that two gatherings so soon after the release from hospital would be too taxing for his condition, but the Metropolitan insisted on continuing with the plan. The reception was his idea and his way of thanking everyone for their prayers and support. He knew that during the official celebration of the Liturgy and the Agape Feast to follow, he would have little opportunity to simply sit and have personal conversations with his clergy and faithful. He wanted this time when there would be no rush to be in one place or another. Just one day after his hospital release, His Beatitude was weak, but thoroughly enjoyed the evening!



Divine Liturgy was celebrated the next day – 19 May – at St. Mary Church in McKees Rocks, PA, where V. Rev. Timothy Tomson is parish priest. Fr. Tim and his parish volunteered to host this official celebration because of their love for our Metropolitan and desire to properly recognize his service to his spiritual children. Four hierarchs, including His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, His Eminence Archbishop Jeremiah of our South American Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy, and our own Archbishop Antony and Bishop Daniel concelebrated the Liturgy and His Grace Bishop Melchesedek of the Western PA Diocese of the Orthodox Church of America was present and communing.



Assisting the hierarchs were the following Deans and visiting clergy: V. Rev. Timothy Tomson, pastor of the host parish; Dean Protopresbyter George Hnatko, Western PA Deanery; Dean Protopresbyter Taras Chubenko, NY-NJ Deanery; V. Rev. Dennis Kristof, Penn-Ohio Deanery; V. Rev. Bohdan Kalynyuk, Chicago Deanery; V. Rev. Harry Linzinbigler, Florida Deanery; V. Rev. Bohdan Matwijczuk, President of the Consistory, Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Great Britain and V. Rev. Vitalij Derewianka, pastor of St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox

Cathedral, Genk, Belgium, along with Protodeacon Dr. Ihor Mahlay of St. Vladimir Cathedral, Parma, OH. Assisting in the Altar were seminarian Subdeacons Andrij Matlak, Vasyl Pasakas, Vasyl Dovhan, Philip Herendza, Adrian Mazur, Ioan Mazur and seminarian Yuriy Andreyko. The choir singing responses for Divine Liturgy was composed of members from several parishes in the Pittsburgh area and was under the direction of Dobrobiyka Svitlana Tomson. Metropolitan Constantine was most appreciative of the fact that the choir sang most of his favorite liturgical compositions. It was a very rewarding spiritual experience to hear what can be offered to God by the simple human voices gathered together!



During his homily, Archbishop Antony spoke of the apostolic ministry of which Metropolitan Constantine has been an integral part over the past 40 years and the importance of that ministry to not only our Ukrainian Orthodox Church but to the entire Christian world and beyond. Christ is the Head of the Church – His Body – and the clergy are the heart of the Church and have been entrusted with Heavenly responsibilities and clearly defined by St. John Chrysostom and Metropolitan Constantine has been a faithful example of dedication and devotion to fulfilling those responsibilities. He has never “place his light under a bushel”, but has “let it shine brightly before men, that they might see his good works and give glory to our Father who is in Heaven” (Matt. 5:14-16). The Archbishop stated that the Metropolitan never forgot that all he accomplished was “through Christ’s authority and not his own and by the strength of Christ sanctified souls in His name, continuing Christ’s deeds and His cause. As Christ was ONE with the Father and His Apostles, so Metropolitan Constantine has served Christ’s flock with which he is entrusted – serving to the point of sacrifice.”





Following the homily, the Archbishop, who during Holy Week had participated in the consecration of Holy Chrism at the Patriarchate of Constantinople with His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, had the honor of reading a very personal and laudatory greeting and presenting to Metropolitan Constantine a gift from the Patriarch of a beautiful Panagia bearing the image of the Holy Trinity. When the Panagia was placed around the neck of Metropolitan Constantine the clergy and faithful responded spontaneously with “Axios! Axios! Axios! – “He is worthy!” His Beatitude was visibly moved by the honor bestowed upon him and the kind words of Patriarch Bartholomew.



The entire congregation of clergy and faithful moved on following Liturgy to the famous LeMont Restaurant on Mt. Washington in downtown Pittsburgh. The entire wall of the room where the Agape Feast took place consists of glass and provides an astoundingly beautiful view for the nearly 250 guests of the entire city below – precisely where the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers flow together and form the Ohio River. The city’s sports stadiums and all the magnificent architectural structures are visible from this point of view. The Metropolitan wanted this to be the site of the banquet so that the many visitors could see his beloved Pittsburgh. His Beatitude has always been the best ambassador the city has had wherever he goes!

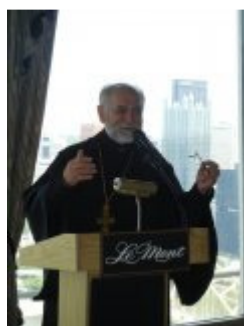




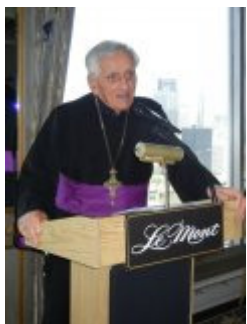
Many individuals honored the Metropolitan with greetings and expressions of their love. Allegheny County Civil Division Senior Judge Timothy O'Reilly represented Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, reading a proclamation from the city honoring the Metropolitan.



Metropolitan Yuriy thanked Metropolitan Constantine for his leadership of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops beyond the Borders of Ukraine and for his efforts during the rebirth of the Church in Ukraine following the collapse of the Soviet Union and Ukrainian's proclamation of independence. Bishop Jeremiah thanked His Beatitude for his fatherly advice and support in the South American Eparchy and invited him to visit the eparchy, hopefully at the next Sobor in 2013. Bishop Melchesedak praised him as a hierarch who is always willing to share his knowledge and experience with the newly consecrated hierarchs like himself rather than leave them to struggle on their own.



Very Rev. Fr. Bohdan Kalynyuk, a pastor of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bensenville, IL and a Dean of Chicago Deanery presented a beautiful set of vestments in behalf of the Chicago Deanery and a matching miter from the West Coast Deanery of the Western Eparchy of the UOC of the USA. Fr. Bohdan Matwijczuk presented a beautifully written icon of the Metropolitan's patron saint, Constantine, from the faithful of Great Britain. Fr. Vitalij Derewianka presented a gift from the faithful of Belgium.



Greetings were presented by Protopresbyter John Gido from the Carpatho-Russian Church, V. Rev. Frank Firko from the Byzantine Catholic Church and Mark Czesnakowicz, representing His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of the USA. Archbishop Antony expressed the warm greetings of Bishop Basil Losten of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, who telephoned from the airport in Connecticut early that morning very disappointed that a mechanical problem with his aircraft and the cancelation of his flight prevented him from being present. Dobrodiyka Mary Ann Nakonachny, First Vice-President of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA, represented President Martha Misko and announced the creation of a scholarship fund in the name of Metropolitan Constantine to be presented annually to a seminarian of St. Sophia Seminary. Protodeacon Dr. Ihor Mahlay, President of St. Andrew Society, presented a gift in behalf of the Society's membership. St. Sophia Seminary students presented a beautiful hierarchal walking stick to assist the Metropolitan.



Larissa Kocelko, niece of the Metropolitan, spoke to the participants in behalf of his family, expressing sincere gratitude to all for – most importantly – their prayers during his recent illness, which she believes were responsible for saving his life. She thanked the Church for honoring her uncle because she knows the depth of his commitment and love for his Church and for God Almighty.



Archbishop Antony, who served as Master of Ceremonies for the event, presented greetings received from many, many hierarchs from around the world expressing their respect for the contributions of Metropolitan Constantine has made in the Name of our Lord throughout his episcopacy. Among them were the Metropolitans of the Ukrainian Catholic Churches in the USA and Canada, who along with all the Eastern Catholic hierarchs around the world, were called to Rome for meetings. His Eminence Archbishop Ihor of Kharkiv, Ukraine expressed the in his letter the sincere love and gratitude of

the faithful of Ukraine to Metropolitan Constantine who serves as their Spiritual Father. A special greeting was read from Archpriest Myroslaw Krischuk of Albert, Canada, a classmate of Metropolitan Constantine at St. Andrew Seminary in Winnipeg, Canada.

A special treat for the Metropolitan was a performance of the Kyiv Dance Ensemble sponsored by Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Carnegie, PA under the direction of Natalie Kapeluck – the Director of the Consistory Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The traditional welcome dance and the lively Hopak literally shook the building, which is built on stilts on a high cliff on Mt. Washington! The joy in the Metropolitan's face in watching the performance was wonderful to see.

Bishop Daniel personally greeted his Beatitude as one born several months after his episcopal consecration! He expressed his deep gratitude for the trust the Metropolitan has placed in him since the day his Beatitude nominated him as bishop at our Church Sobor four years ago. Moreover, the bishop recalled the words of instructions that Metropolitan shared with then newly consecrated bishop in 2008 and called upon him to serve the flock of Christ. Bishop Daniel further had the honor, at the request of Ukraine's Ambassador – His Excellency Oleksander Motsyk – of presenting a Certificate of Honor – the highest award of the Ukrainian Embassy – to the Metropolitan for his continuous efforts in service to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the Ukrainian Nation and her people. Bishop Daniel also presented the greetings the Consul General of Ukraine in New York City, Serhij Pohoreltev, and of Ukraine's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, His Excellency Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev.



During his personal remarks while introducing our honored celebrant – Metropolitan Constantine – Archbishop Antony spoke of the 46 years he has known the Metropolitan – first as Subdeacon Ted Buggan, Chairman of the Ukrainian Orthodox League's Clergy Candidate Commission and Metropolitan John (Theodorovich) Scholarship Fund – and all the way through the present day. He spoke of the guidance and abilities of His Beatitude with which all present agreed and thanked him for the example he has set for all hierarchs and clergy in his dedication and devotion to Christ our Lord and His Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church in his willingness to stand firm in Christ's teachings and for the rights of Ukrainian Orthodoxy at many very difficult times within the family of Orthodox Churches and under the suppression of the Communist regimes.



Finally, our celebrant arose to speak to those who love him. As stated earlier, there was much concern about whether or not the Metropolitan's physical condition would be strong enough to enable his full participation in the day's celebration – especially being out of the hospital for only two days. Our fears were for naught – it seems that rather than become weakened

by the day long festivities, the Metropolitan was invigorated by them! His voice was strong and he spoke of the “finger of the Lord” experienced throughout his life – placing him in position to witness to Christ and to reach Christ or new levels of spirituality beyond all of his expectations. When he found himself doubting or questioning what his next step should be, a door always opened and/or an individual came forth to provide necessary guidance or passage along the way.

His Beatitude spoke of the individuals who profoundly influenced his life from seminary days up to the present moment. He shared his deep and abiding love for the youth of the church and his joy in participation in events during youth or young adult encampments at All Saints Camp. He was most thankful that God allowed him to be so instrumental in making possible the construction of St. Thomas Chapel at the Camp. He thanked all the hierarchs, clergy and faithful present for the honor they bestowed upon him in honoring his service to God and asked for their continued prayers for his good health and assured all present and beyond of his prayers in their behalf. At the end of the Metropolitan’s remarks, our seminarians went around to guest tables to present a gift of a lapel cross to each participant from the Metropolitan as a small gift to remember the day by.

It was pure joy on both Friday evening and following the Agape Feast to witness as hundreds of individuals came forth to express their love to the Metropolitan and thank him for his service to God and his friendship for them. Among them were people from parishes all over the USA, the members of his family and so pleasing to him – his classmates and friends from elementary school through high school, university and seminary. The Metropolitan in some way touched the individual lives of each person present at the 40th anniversary celebration and he was visibly moved by their presence and support. May God grant him continued progression toward permanent good health and many, many more years of service in His Holy Name.

NA MNOHI LITA, VLADYKO! EIS POLA ETI DESPOTA!

See color photos and read the story at:

http://www.uocofusa.org/news_120521_2.html

Wisdom from Dionysius of Alexandria, Commentary on Ecclesiastes, Chapter III: "When one thinks of the death which the transgression of Adam brought on us, it is a time to mourn; but it is a time to hold festal gatherings when we call to mind the resurrection from the dead which we expect through the new Adam"

We ask for your prayers for the repose of the soul of His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Constantine who fell asleep in the Lord on Monday morning, May 21. His Beatitude had just celebrated the 40th anniversary of his episcopal consecration and 45th anniversary of his priestly ordination last weekend.

**Vechnaya Pam'yat! Memory Eternal
Eis Polla, Eti Despota, Vladkyo!**

A short personal note...over 16 years ago, Metropolitan Constantine ordained me a deacon and sent me to serve this parish in Slickville. At that time, I had no idea how to get here! When he ordained me a priest 14+ years ago, I knew how to get here, but not where we would go. He had the vision and insight to see that I needed to be here to serve His people—for that I will always be grateful. Vladyka's love for his church, his clergy, his parishes, and his parishioners was truly from deep in his heart. He is now with his mother and dear brother Joe—in Peace! I miss you already, Vladyka! Vechnaya Pam'yat!

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.