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Christ the Bridegroom
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Holy Annunciation Monastery
Byzantine Carmelite Nuns
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Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate
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Basilian Fathers of Mariapoch
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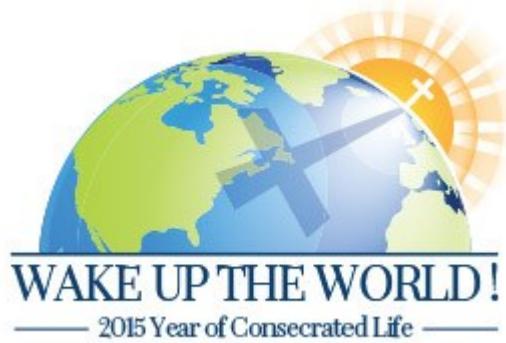
Benedictine Fathers
St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church
105 Kohler Avenue
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Celebrating the Gift of Religious Life

In the Byzantine Catholic Metropolia of Pittsburgh



Dear Faithful:

We continue to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life. We raise up the generations of men and women who have given their lives to the service to the Church as religious and monastic sisters, brothers, and priests. Their commitment has made the church possible.

Personally, the example of sisters in elementary school and of the religious priests and brothers during my formation and seminary training are responsible for my knowledge and for the spiritual life that I have today. Likewise, the monastics and religious have shaped the life of our Byzantine Catholic Church in the United States.

In the teaching from the Second Vatican Council, religious and monastics have made the choice to follow the more perfect way of life. All else is secondary to the life of prayer and action in service of the Church.

During this year we raise up our religious in prayer to the Lord. If you are able, tell or write to the sisters, brothers, or priests who have helped you to thank them for their service to you and to your families.

The choice to follow the vowed life has always been the less traveled path through life. The choice of the few has changed and will continue to change the Church and the world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D.
Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

Women's Religious Communities



Christ the Bridegroom

Christ the Bridegroom Monastery is a women's monastic community in the Eparchy of Parma. In January 2008, Bishop John Kudrick outlined his vision for the foundation of a monastery as a response to St. John Paul II's call for the revitalization of Eastern Monasticism. The Sisters live in the former convent of the Social Mission Sisters, across from the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch in Burton, Ohio, since April, 2009. The following year Bishop John

received the community as a Private Association of the Faithful. At present there are five members; the community continues to work towards full canonical establishment as a monastery.

The nuns live in and draw others into the spousal love of Christ through a life of prayer and hospitality. They communally pray the daily liturgical services of the Church, spend time in personal prayer, and seek to pray without ceasing with the help of the Jesus Prayer. The nuns eagerly accept prayer requests, and they pray especially for the eparchy and its clergy. The nuns encourage personal and group visits to the monastery and provide opportunities for retreats, girls' camps and other events such as work days for families.



Byzantine Benedictine Sisters

The Benedictine Sisters of Queen of Heaven Monastery desire to share their Benedictine monastic charism and their love for Eastern Catholic liturgical prayer and spirituality. By their ministries, they invite others to experience the richness and depth of the Eastern Church's theology and approach to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Most important are the sisters' common life and prayer. These lead to ministry, "that in all things, God may be glorified."

The Sisters daily faithfully pray for the needs of the Church and the entire world. Over the years, the sisters have catechized or taught at numerous Byzantine Catholic Schools in Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania. The sisters helped establish the Eparchy of Parma Office of Religious Education, and presently direct the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Office of Religious Education. They have also coordinated Safe Environment training for the Archeparchy. In addition, they have done GED programs, piano lessons, tutoring, child care, retreats for adults, youth ministry, spirituality days, food service, parish office work, Hospice volunteer work, visitation of the sick, Women's Days, Spirituality Days, parish cantoring and volunteer work in Appalachia. At present they continue to minister at Saints Peter and Paul Church, Warren, Ohio, SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, and the Pittsburgh Archeparchy's Office of Religious Education.

WAKE UP THE WORLD!



Duchovny Dom

Duchovny Dom Byzantine Catholic Men's Monastic Community enjoys the protection of the Bishop of the Eparchy, Holy Protection of the Mother of God of Phoenix, Arizona. Inspired by the Apostolic community of the Acts of the Apostles and the example of the early desert experience of the fathers and the teaching of the Golden Age of the Fathers, through prayer and asceticism it seeks the "pearl of great price", deification of the individual monk and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Fathers speak of monasticism as the barometer of the spiritual life of the church. The development of the Christian community was accomplished in the first thousand years as monastic communities spread across

the horizons both east and west. This growth was inspired by the quiet prayerful lives of men and women who lived their commitment to Christ and His Holy Church. Today's minimalism is a threat to that full commitment of the Mystical Life of the Holy Trinity dwelling with each of us through Sacramental Grace. It is a threat to the existence of the ethos of not only the Eastern Churches, but a vulnerable world at war with itself.

We call out for a few good men who long for God to join us in consecrated life, for the advancement of the world and the advancement of the Kingdom of God to come!



Franciscan Friars

Franciscan brothers and priests formed Holy Dormition Monastery in 1947 so they could serve the Byzantine Catholic Church. Franciscan Friars belong to a Gospel-centered way of life, in a form inspired by St. Francis of Assisi and centuries of his followers.

The community in Sybertsville, Pennsylvania, has a monastery, a chapel and retreat facilities. The Byzantine Franciscans have sponsored retreats and parish missions and have assisted in parishes in various

Eparchies. They have been a resource for Franciscans and others interested in experiencing the Byzantine Catholic tradition.

Men's Communities



Basilian Fathers of Mariapoch

The Basilian Fathers of Mariapoch established their community in New Jersey in 1964. The Fathers' plan was to be a monastic community which would replicate the Basilian Fathers' monastic community in Mariapoch, Hungary. Rev. Basil Rakaczky, Rev. Stephen Skinta, and Rev. Joseph Erdei were the founders who moved to the United States for this purpose.

The Fathers promoted devotion to the Blessed Mother under the title of Our Lady of Mariapoch. In the town of Mariapoch, Hungary, her icon wept three times and brought many miracles. In Matawan, New Jersey, the Fathers built the Basilian Community Center for spiritual renewal and sponsored retreats and pilgrimages. A new monastery, chapel and social hall were built in 1981. Rev. Joseph Erdei continues to serve there while Rev. Basil Rakaczky serves in Mariapoch, Hungary.



Benedictine Fathers

Holy Trinity Monastery was the first Byzantine Catholic Monastery in the U.S. to live according to the Rule of St. Benedict. Bishop Basil Takach hoped for a men's monastic group within his Exarchate. In 1926, the Benedictine Abbey of St. Procopius in Lisle, Illinois, was selected as the monastery of North America to concentrate on outreach to the Eastern Churches. In 1934, the first two Byzantine Catholics professed vows at this Abbey. By 1948,

there were enough monks to establish a Byzantine Catholic Benedictine monastic community, at first in Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania. In 1955, the community moved to a 395 acre farm south of Butler, Pennsylvania and established a thriving cattle farm.

The monastery flourished for the next 50 years. From the monastery many Benedictine priests served in Byzantine Catholic parishes. The monks ran a summer camp for boys and operated a religious book store and printing press. The Benedictine priests preached missions and retreats throughout the country as well as at the monastery. They hosted a Pilgrimage at the monastery for many years. Eventually, the few remaining members left the Butler property and relocated with the permission of Archbishop Skurla.

WAKE UP THE WORLD!



The Sisters of St. Basil the Great

The Sisters of St. Basil the Great, an international Order of Byzantine Catholic Sisters, serves in 14 countries. The community headquartered in Uniontown Pennsylvania., Our Lady of Perpetual Help Province, began in 1921 to serve the Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Church. In 1934, with the blessing of the monastery at Mount St. Macrina, the Sisters initiated the Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Over the past 94 years the Sisters cared for orphans, established a system of 22 parochial schools, taught Christian formation and assisted with pastoral care in numerous parishes, provided ecclesiastical vestments, served in eparchial administration and religious education, youth ministry and child protection offices. Since the 1940's the Sisters have been providing retreats, sponsoring a cemetery, administering religious gift and card shops, served also in the seminary as staff and administration. In 1950, the Sisters opened a nursing home in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania and continue health ministry today at Mount Macrina Manor, built in 1971. The Sisters also serve in Pittsburgh, Erie, Wilkes-Barre, Phoenix and Las Vegas.



Byzantine Carmelite Nuns

Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, Pa. belongs to the Eparchy of Passaic, New Jersey.

A monastic community of 14 nuns, they are dedicated to the contemplative life, that is seeking God through prayer, sacred reading, obedience, penance, stability and conversion of manners. The following of Jesus Christ, is our Baptismal obligation and privilege.

Eastern monasticism is the original inspiration behind Western Monasticism. For this reason this community

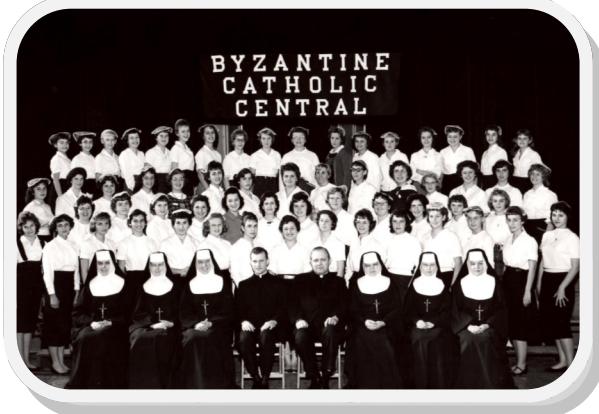
looks to the Eastern Tradition of the Desert Fathers, of St. Anthony and St. Pachomius, and St. Basil and the monastic Rules of John Cassian via St. Benedict, The Rule of St. Benedict is their basic legislation.

Because ecclesial communion is a profound reality they know that their lives of monastic consecration, by force of being, help build up of the Body of Christ, the Church. Their first concern, their primary witness are for the hierarchy, priests and faithful of our Byzantine Catholic Church.

As nuns of this 21st Century, they strive to create a harmonious balance between the interior life and self-supporting work. They want to continue the long tradition of making their monastery a sign of communion – to be truly Catholic as Monasteries were in the first millennium of the “Great Undivided Church” and a welcoming abode for those seeking God.

Women's Religious Communities (Continued)

WAKE UP THE WORLD!



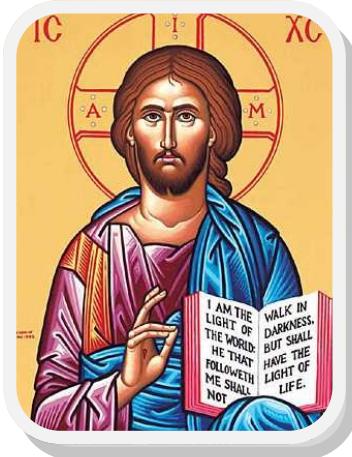
Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, the first Apostolic Eastern Catholic Congregation of Women Religious was founded in 1892 in Zhuzhel, Ukraine. The foundress of the Sisters Servants is Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskaya.

It was mainly through the graced times of the 1950's and 1970's that God graciously allowed many members of Congregation of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate to serve those

generations in the Byzantine Metropolia of Pittsburgh. In their ministries, the sisters educated the youth in the parish elementary schools of St. Michael's in Passaic, New Jersey, St. Mary's & St. Joseph's in Cleveland, Ohio, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School and Byzantine Catholic Central High School in Youngstown, Ohio. During their presence in the various parishes, seeking to minister to the spiritual needs of the parishioners, the sisters' lives were also touched by those that they came to serve.

The Provincial Home of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate is in Sloatsburg, New York, where the Sisters have hosted a Dormition Pilgrimage for the past 61 years.



Sisters of Christ the Teacher

The Sisters of Christ the Teacher were founded under the guidance of Bishop Nicholas Elko in the 1960's. The Sisters served for some years in the parochial school at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania. The community did not grow beyond the several early members. When they disbanded some of the members joined other religious communities.



Poor Clare Sisters

The Byzantine Nuns of St. Clare have contributed to the life of the Eparchy of Parma first of all by their contemplative life of prayer. The welfare of the Eparchy and its members are constantly in their prayers. The nuns also house the relics of St. Hyacinth and St. Maximina in a building on their grounds. The Parma Eparchy held a pilgrimage to the shrine of the relics on July 28, 2013.

Providing a ministry of hospitality, the nuns have welcomed groups, such as Third Order Franciscans and the Apostolate of St. Nicholas, to meet at their monastery. The nuns also had a print ministry, publishing prayer cards, etc.



Social Mission Sisters

The Social Mission Sisters, originally from a Roman Catholic order in Hungary, devoted their life to service at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch, Burton, Ohio. In addition to praying for the eparchy, for those who came to the Shrine, and having a special devotion to the Mother of God, they did everything needed to maintain the Shrine plus cooked meals to serve every Sunday and for the whole annual pilgrimage weekend. They also prepared the chapel for services (sacristan duties) and cantored the Liturgies. The Sisters took care of Father Alexander Bobak when he moved to Burton and during his last illness. Sister Flora provided a loving, listening ear to many of the women at the pilgrimages.