



In Touch

Mary, Hope of all Generations



The theme for the 84th Annual Pilgrimage is *Mary, Hope of all Generations*.

Throughout the centuries, Mary has been an icon of great hope to all generations, especially the powerless, the exploited and the downtrodden. As many of us, Mary went through great suffering in her lifetime. Yet, she remained the ever-supporting mother of Jesus. As we face many challenges in today's world, Mary continues to be our source of hope.

An article outlining the plans for the annual Pilgrimage is on page 5.

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Sr. Sylvia Burnett Named Associate Directress

Sr. Sylvia was recently named Associate Directress. In her new position, she will give direction and support to the clusters of Associate Communities across the country.

Sister is currently in ministry at the Marriage Tribunal for the Diocese of Erie and a member of the Provincial Council of the Sisters of St. Basil.

"My goal is to develop and grow the Associate Communities commitment to the Gospel way

of life that they more and more become the praying, healing and life-giving presence in the world today," said Sr. Sylvia.

During the process of becoming an Associate, which is about one year, applicants attend orientation and spiritual enrichment sessions. They are also encouraged to attend prayer with the Sisters of St. Basil where and when possible, as well as attend the Regional Associate Community regular meetings.



Sr. Sylvia Burnett, OSBM

Anyone interested in becoming an Associate, may contact Sister Sylvia at 1022 Tilden Dr., Girard, PA 16417.

A Message from Sister Ruth

SPRING 2018



GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

Dear Friends,

I never tire of watching the awakening of spring and new life. It seems that every day there is something new and beautiful to observe. The empty branches suddenly show a hint of wispy green. The robins return searching for the perfect place to build their nests. The stems of the early blooming flowers quietly pop out of the softening earth.



All these earthly happenings serve to strengthen my faith in the new life that awaits all of us as we deepen our relationship with Jesus. Our eyes and ears serve to connect us with spiritual realities—the unfailing love Jesus has for us, the countless ways that He watches over and protects us, the many unexpected and undeserved blessings that await us each day.

As you awake each morning to the dawn of a new day, may your eyes and ears be ready to catch these blessings. You must be truly alert or you can miss them – a lovely sunrise (or sunset if you're not a morning person!), an unexpected kind word from someone, the grace to face something difficult....

These are ways we can find hope and peace in a world which seems to be so unsettled and chaotic. They remind us of the words Jesus spoke to his disciples, “Do not be afraid...I am with you always.”

Please know that we continue to support you with our daily prayers.

With our love and prayers,

Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM

Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM
Provincial

In Touch

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Annual Appeal

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,
for those who are called according to his purpose. - Romans 8:28*

This year, we ask for your assistance to help meet the needs of caring for our Sisters. Just as in your own households, expenses for everyday needs continue to grow – healthcare, utilities, repairs, etc. At the same time, only a few Sisters are able to remain in active ministries with our median age reaching 84.

We consider it no small miracle that you have enabled us to be in service to our Church for 97 years of our province history. We ask for your continued assistance through your donation and prayers and know that you have our heart-felt gratitude and prayers,

Sister Ruth & Sisters



Sr. Maria Completes Her Journey



Sr. Maria Petruska, OSBM

+Sr. Maria Petruska (formerly Sr. Juvenalia) fell asleep in the Lord late in the evening of April 11.

The daughter of the late Andrew and Mary (Ciparik) Petruska, Sr. Maria, was born in the village of Ruska Nova Ves in what is now Slovakia. She entered the community from St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Mahanoy City, Pa., on Jan. 15, 1942 and made her Final Profession of Vows on Jan. 8, 1950.

Her life in active ministry was teaching elementary and secondary students within the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Province. At the college level, she taught at Penn State - Fayette Campus. Her teaching ministry on the college level then led her to seek broader

experiences, taking her to Bethlehem University, to Guam, Japan and Tanzania. These experiences of teaching in foreign countries were among her fondest memories.

Sr. Maria then became involved as a tutor at the Intermediate Unit I Adult Learning Center in Uniontown. Sr. Maria had a great love for her Byzantine Catholic heritage in all its aspects, and she took great care in passing on this love to her students. She wanted to be remembered for this, and indeed, she was by a number of those she taught.

Sr. Maria was preceded in death by her parents, her sisters, Helen and Margaret Petruska, and her brothers, Rev.

Gregory Petruska and Andrew Petruska. In addition to her members in community, she is survived by her brother, Rev. Christopher Petruska, her sister Theresa (Bill) Ortmann and several devoted nieces and nephews and their families.

Sr. Paula Dzurisin Called Home



Sr. Paula Dzurisin, OSBM

Sr. Paula was called home on April 28.

Sr. Paula (Anna) Dzurisin was born in Pittston, Pa., the daughter of the late George and Mary (Kizlin) Dzurisin. A member of St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Parish in Pittston, Pa., she entered the Sisters of St. Basil the Great on June 23, 1947. Sr. Paula made her Final Profession of Vows on Aug. 28, 1953 in the presence of the late Bishop Daniel Ivancho.

As with many of those who entered at the time, Sr. Paula spent a good number of years as a teacher and principal in the parish schools of the Metropolitan Province of Pittsburgh. She also taught business courses at Mount Macrina Academy.

After almost a half century in the teaching ministry, Sr. Paula returned to the Monastery where she spent a year volunteering in pastoral visiting at the Manor. She was a great conversationalist, and her interest in people was mutually enriching in this ministry.

She then managed the Card Department at the monastery for the next eight years. When it was necessary to lessen her responsibilities, Sr. Paula continued to assist in that same ministry for another eight years. After this full life in active ministry Sr. Paula was admitted to the Manor due to declining health.

Sr. Paula was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Rev. Monsignor George, Joseph, Michael, and John and her sisters, Sr. M. Philip and Mary Wascavage. In addition to her Sisters in community, she is survived by her brother Paul (Dorothy) and many devoted nephews and nieces.

84th Annual Pilgrimage, Sept. 1 & 2



The Most Rev. Edward C. Malesic, J.C.L., bishop of the Greensburg Diocese will be the guest homilist at the 4:00 p.m. Sunday Divine Liturgy.

The 84th Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will be held at Mount St. Macrina, September 1 & 2, 2018. This year's theme is *Mary, Hope of All Generations*.

The planning for this year's Pilgrimage started not long after the 83rd Annual Pilgrimage. Preparation days are slated for Sat., June 2 and

Sat., Aug. 18. (See article on page 6 for volunteer opportunities and complete details).

"We look forward to welcoming Pilgrims from all of the country and beyond," said Sr. Ruth Plante, Provincial.

Those who plan on attending the Pilgrimage can choose from a variety of accommodations,

including camping on the racetrack, Pilgrim houses (first-come, first-served), hotels, motels or bed and breakfasts. Further information is available regarding camping and a complete list of accommodations can be found at www.sistersofstbasil.org

A light menu will be available at the lunch stand beginning on Friday evening.

In addition to the scheduled services, programs and events to be held on Saturday and Sunday, Liturgical prayers will be held at the Shrine Altar on Friday evening and Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Monday morning, September 3.

This year's guest homilist at the 4:00 p.m. Sunday Divine Liturgy will be the Most Rev. Edward C. Malesic, J.C.L. Pope Francis appointed Bishop Malesic to be the fifth Bishop of Greensburg, Pa., on April 24, 2015.

As Bishop of Greensburg, he is a member of the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. He also serves on the Boards of St. Vincent Seminary and St. Vincent College, Latrobe, Pa., Seton Hill University, Greensburg, Pa. and on the executive committee of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania.

Other plans for the weekend include many opportunities for participation in the Divine Liturgy of the Byzantine Catholic Church. Also scheduled are Matins, Vespers, sacrament of reconciliation, activities for teens and children, and other services in honor of the Mother of God.

The Pilgrimage holds the distinction of being the oldest and the largest Byzantine Catholic Pilgrimage in the country.

Volunteers Needed for Pilgrimage Preparations

If you are interested in volunteering to help the Sisters prepare for Pilgrimage, there are two opportunities coming up.

The first opportunity is Helping Hands Day, which is sponsored by the Greek Catholic Union of the U.S.A. Helping Hands Day efforts will take place at Mount St. Macrina this year on Sat., June 2.

The annual observance combines the strengths of young people and adults to produce meaningful results for the preparation of the 84th Annual Pilgrimage which will be held, Sept. 1 & 2.

On this day at Mount Saint Macrina, the youth and faithful of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, the GCU (a fraternal benefit society serving Byzantine Catholics since 1892), and the many friends of the Sisters of Saint Basil join together for a common cause—to



prepare the grounds for the Annual Pilgrimage. Volunteers will clear floral gardens, shrines, urns and other planting areas throughout the grounds, and then plant annuals. Other work centers will be the pavilions, which will be cleared of a winter's worth of leaves and other debris.

The GCU is pleased to partner with the Sisters of St. Basil the Great and interested youth and adults for Helping Hands Day. If you are able to participate, here are a few notes:

- The group will meet in the Trinity Center for coffee and donuts at 9:30 a.m. A brief prayer

- service will follow, and work will begin at 10:00 a.m.
- Bring lawn tools (including brooms, rakes, weed whackers, etc.) for outside work. Bring brooms, mops, dust pans, etc., for any indoor cleaning.
- Lunch will be served.

To register or for additional information, please call Sr. Joanne at 724-439-4940 or GCU at 1-800-722-4428.

On Sat., Aug. 18, there will be another organized preparation day. (The rain date will be Sat., Aug. 25). Volunteers are asked to meet at the Trinity Center at 9:30 a.m. Please bring brooms, weed whackers, blowers, weeding tools, rakes and clippers. Lunch will be provided.

For further information, please call Sister Joanne at 724-439-4940.

Manor Blessing, Rededication & Ribbon Cutting

On Sun., April 22, Mount St. Macrina was blessed and rededicated. Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla was the celebrant. Tours of the manor and refreshments followed. On Thurs., April 26, many gathered as we celebrated with the civic community and cut the ribbon. A special thanks to all who attended and made the week so successful.



In Touch

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Young Adult Retreat June 22-24, 2018 Mount St. Macrina

Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer will hold the Fourth Annual Young Adult Retreat, June 22-24, 2018 for men and women ages 18-35.

The theme is "Joyfully Adulting: Discerning, Loving, Serving." Young adults are working with Sister Barbara Jean, OSBM to prepare the program which includes conferences, break-out groups, confessions, prayer services and Divine Liturgy. Retreat begins Friday, 7:00 p.m. and concludes 12:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Offering is \$110.00 Registration is due by June 15. Call 724-438-7149.

