

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

On Saturday, June 22 the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great in Fox Chase gathered to celebrate the jubilee of five Sisters: Sister Theodosia Lukiw and Sister Laura Palka, 70 years; Sister Chrysostom Lukiw, 65 years; and Sisters Ann Laszok and Monica Lesnick, 55 years. At the Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving, Rev. John Ciurpita, chaplain, warmly greeted the Sisters and offered his best wishes and prayers. After Liturgy the Sisters were feted at a celebratory dinner for their many years of service. Congratulatory remarks were offered to each.

Sister Joann, who spent many years in ministry with Sister Theodosia, reflected that she has "... witnessed her as an ever-available listener, a mentor, and a wise woman." Commenting further, Sister Joann shared, "As a young teacher you mentored me and many others at Saint George School in New York City. Immigrant parents entrusted their children into your care and leadership until you became a cornerstone of the school and the New York Archdiocese. You have touched the lives of many who entrusted their most sacred treasures to your care."

Sister Miriam Claire, Motherhouse Superior, spoke about the wonderful gifts and traits Sister Laura has shared with the community but also with the wider Church. She especially noted Sister's gifted contribution to liturgical music and gave special mention to Sister's musical composition for the Cathedral of Saint George.

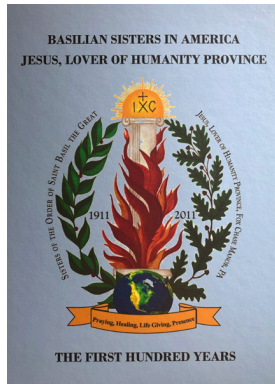
Sister Theodora spoke lovingly of Sister Chrysostom's disposition and ready smile. Sister's teaching ministry extended to Saint John the Baptist in Newark, Saint Nicholas in Chicago, Immaculate Conception in Hamtramck, SS Peter and Paul in Cohoes, Saint John the Baptist in Syracuse, Saint George's in New York City, and Saint Josaphat in Philadelphia. Sister served as both principal and teacher.

Sister Dorothy Ann, Provincial Superior, offered congratulatory words to Sisters Ann and Monica, focusing on their years of ministry and contributions to the Ukrainian Catholic Church and community. She commented, "The years you have lived as Sisters toiling in the vineyards of the Lord have never been humdrum or boring; they have been filled with spirit, laughter, and gifts from God too numerous to mention. Through these fifty-five years you have accentuated and underscored your finest qualities and your greatest gifts in your ministries. You have discovered what it means to be alive, to be in love, to be on the right path. For you it has been fifty-five years of hilarity and learning to be alive rather than simply living."

The five Sisters whose lives and endeavors were celebrated at this special event are the spiritual descendants of the first Basilian nuns who came to the New World in 1911 and laid the physical and spiritual foundation for those to come. We honor them and are grateful for the special gifts bestowed on others within the Basilian community, to those they have taught and mentored, and to the lay community at large. Mnohaya Lita!



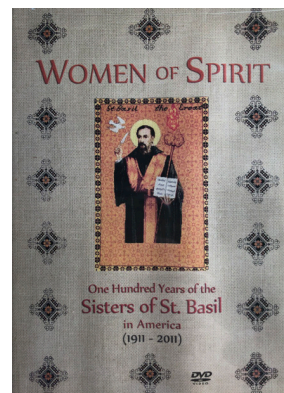
ORDER BASILIAN PRODUCTS



Centennial Book (\$25). Published on the occasion of the Sisters' 100th anniversary in the United States, this book is a once-in-a-lifetime treasure full of photographs, artifacts, and testimonies from their history.

Women of Spirit Centennial Documentary (\$25). Filmed by Mykola and Oksana Yaremko of Red Eft Entertainment in collaboration with Sister Ann Laszok, OSBM, this documentary is a captivating record of the Sisters' American ministry in DVD format.

Both products are available for purchase online at StBasils.com or by mail. If you could like to place an order by mail, please send a check to the Sisters at 710 Fox Chase Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046 and specify the number of copies desired.



CONTACT US

Please feel free to contact the Sisters' Development Office at (215) 379-3998 or by email at Development@StBasils.com. We always enjoy hearing from you!

Leaving a Legacy

The Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great invite you to join your legacy with theirs by becoming a member of the **Mother Helena Langevych, OSBM Society**. Membership is reserved for generous souls who remember the Sisters in their will or estate plan. Your bequest ensures your lasting participation in the Sisters' work.

Suggested wording for a bequest is as follows:

"I give and bequeath to the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great - Jesus, Lover of Humanity Province, located in Fox Chase Manor, PA, ___% of the residue of my estate [or the sum of \$___]."

We ask that you please inform us if you have remembered the Sisters in this special way so that you can be formally enrolled in the Mother Helena Langevych Society and enjoy the benefits of membership.

If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact our Development Director, John F. Kurey, Esq., MBA. He may be reached at (215) 379-3998, Extension 34 or developmentdirector@stbasils.com.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The summer and fall were busy times for the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great in Fox Chase, PA. It was a time to recognize accomplishments, celebrate milestones, and plan for the coming year at the Province-sponsored institutions: the Basilian Spirituality Center, Manor College, and Saint Basil Academy.

In May and June graduation took place at Manor and SBA. To refresh themselves after a busy year, the Sisters set time aside for their annual retreat at either the Motherhouse or a local retreat center. The community retreat was conducted by Very Reverend Archpriest Ivan Kaszczak who spoke on Monastic Life—a Call to Deification. At the end of the retreats, Sisters were honored for their service in community—Sister Theodosia (70 years), Sister Laura (70 years), Sister Chrysostom (65 years), Sister Ann Laszok (55 years), and Sister Monica Lesnick (55 years).

After Community Days with the theme "Untying God's Hands," I, along with Sisters Miriam Claire Kowal and Ann Laszok, departed for Rome to attend the General Chapter—an event that comes every six years in order to elect a General Superior for the Order and to set a vision for the next six years. You will read about our new General Superior Mother Marcela Runcan in this edition of our newsletter.

Our annual Pilgrimage to the Mother of God on Sunday, October 6, nurtured the spiritual life of the pilgrims who attended. Hundreds came to partake of the spiritual and ethnic food served. We were honored to have Archbishop Borys Gudziak as the homilist at both the Divine Liturgy and Moleben. His homily touched the hearts of all, especially the youth from SUM, Plast, and Saint Basil Academy.

We are grateful to the many volunteers who assisted with the Pilgrimage and who make continued efforts to help us bring God's word to those we serve. May God continue to bless them for their generosity of spirit and time!

We hope you enjoy this edition of *Gladsome Light!* You, our friend and benefactor, hold a special place in our hearts and prayers. May God continue to bless you with good health, happiness, and prosperity.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM
Provincial Superior



ENCOUNTER OF RELIGIOUS & CLERGY AT FOX CHASE

On June 4, Archbishop Borys Gudziak was enthroned as the seventh Metropolitan-Archbishop of Philadelphia at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Enthronement Ceremony was a beautiful occasion with thousands in attendance, and it served as the liturgical highlight of a week-long schedule of events taking place June 2-9. The week's theme was "From Heart to Heart."

The day after enthronement, on June 5, religious and clergy from around the world convened at the Motherhouse grounds, including the new Metropolitan-Archbishop and His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk. The day included a meeting of members of monastic orders in the morning, two afternoon conferences, hierarchical vespers in Holy Trinity Chapel, and a barbecue. Freshly baked Ukrainian pastries and other desserts were also served. The tone was joyful and full of camaraderie, with old friends reconnecting and new ones being made.

The Sisters, aided by many volunteers, were thrilled to welcome everyone to the Motherhouse. And it was fitting that the week include a stop at Fox Chase since it was thanks to Archeparch Bohachevsky that the Sisters acquired the property in the mid-1920s. Following the barbecue a number of attendees headed to Washington for a conference at Saint Josaphat Seminary.



Sister Dorothy Ann with Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys and members of the Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God enjoying the barbecue on June 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

Roles of Women in the Catholic Church
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Ukrainian Catholicism: Survival under Communism
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Icon Writing Workshop with Fr. Damian Higgins
TUESDAY, MARCH 17 - FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020

Estate Planning Seminar
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020 | 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Annual Lecture on the Blessed Mother
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM



Jubilarians

70 YEARS

Sister Theodosia Lukiw, OSBM
Sister Laura Palka, OSBM

65 YEARS

Sister Chrysostom Lukiw, OSBM

55 YEARS

Sister Ann Laszok, OSBM
Sister Monica Lesnick, OSBM

Necrology



Sister Mary Bernarda Arkatin
(1922-2019)



Sister Bohdonna Podney
(1916-2017)



Sister Gabriel Suszko
(1922-2017)

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GENERAL CHAPTER MEETS IN ROME TO ELECT NEW LEADERSHIP

The Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great held their Eleventh General Chapter in Rome from July 8 to July 19, 2019. Forty-three international delegates representing thirteen provinces, vice-provinces, and delegatures of the Order of Saint Basil the Great attended. The meetings were held at Saint Josaphat Ukrainian Collegium in Rome. The theme of the Chapter was "New Wine in New Wineskins," adopted from the Vatican document, "New Wine in New Wineskins: The Consecrated Life and Its Ongoing Challenges since Vatican II." The Chapter motto was Jesus' words from John 19:28, "I thirst."

The opening Divine Liturgy was held at Saint Peter's Basilica at the altar of Saint Basil, where the body of Saint Josaphat is enshrined. Divine Liturgy was celebrated by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk and Bishop Dionysia Lachovich as well as several other priests. The Opening Ceremonies began with the singing of "Heavenly King" in Spanish, Slovak, Romanian, Ukrainian, and English, followed by an official opening of the Chapter by Mother Dia Stasiuk, OSBM. After approval of the Facilitator, Francis Heery, and Chapter personnel, Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski was elected Chapter Chairperson. A Chapter Steering Committee was then elected. Language groups were formed to discuss how the Sisters' gifts might be transformed into "New Wine" for the Order.

Reports by provincials and vice-provincials gave participants a deeper understanding of the lives, ministries, and problems encountered by each group. After the reports, the Sisters realized that the wealth of the Order is their Basilian spirituality within diverse cultures. They rejoiced and jointly determined to address problems as challenges to resolve creatively, by living a true gospel way of life as exemplified by the Holy Trinity. Sisters began work on relevant topics, identifying five main issues that would serve as main themes of the Chapter: communication, community, governance, finance, and collaboration. Proposals submitted by various Provinces were discussed and voted upon.

On July 17, 2019, in the presence of Bishop Gregorio Dimitri Gallaro of the Catholic Church of the Italian-Albanian Eparchy, the delegates elected a new General Superior of the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great. The newly elected General Superior is the 49-year-old Provincial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province in Romania, Mother Marcela Runcan. Mother Marcela thanked God for His guidance and for the tangible presence of the Holy Spirit. The Sisters spent the tenth day of their General Chapter completing the election process of the General Council by selecting the Assistant General Superior and two alternates for General Council. The newly elected Council includes Sister Marcela Runcan, General Superior; Sister Mariela Rotzen, Assistant General Superior and First Councilor; Sister Emanujila Vishka as Second Councilor; Sister Terenya Shynal as Third Councilor; and Sister Mykolaya Romakh as Fourth Councilor.

The eleventh and final day of the Chapter, July 19, fell on the Feast of Saint Macrina. The Installation of the General Administration and closing ceremonies included prayers for and blessings on the new General Superior and her Council and a transfer of the Order's seal and keys to the Generalate in Rome and to our hearts. Mother Marcela officially closed the XI General Chapter with words of unity and encouragement.



NEW DIRECTOR FOR BASILIAN SPIRITUALITY CENTER

Sean McLaughlin started as director of the Basilian Spirituality Center at the beginning of this year. He came to Fox Chase from Boston College where he worked in two capacities, first as Fiscal & Operations Administrator of the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies and as a Resident Minister. For the latter role Sean and his wife, Kelly, lived in a residence hall and hosted programming for first-year students. Sean is no stranger to the Sisters: his mother, Suzanne McNellis, is a proud alumna of both Saint Basil Academy and Manor College.

Sean studied at Fordham University (BA, Philosophy with a concentration in American Catholic Studies) and Boston College (Master of Theological Studies). He has worked as a catechist too, having taught the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and Adult Confirmation classes. Sean is passionate about the history of Catholicism, especially its material elements like architecture, manuscripts, and various artifacts.



UPDATES

After a quiet summer it is hard to believe we are now midway through fall. I am thrilled to report we have gained new audiences and spread the Basilian spirit in novel ways. On September 17 at the Abington Library, I spoke about the Sisters' history and legacy to an audience of about thirty. The presentation began with Macrina and Basil in the 4th century and concluded with the 21st Century Basileiad, which consists of the Academy, Manor, and the Spirituality Center. I was able to draw from the trove of old photographs held at Fox Chase thanks to our archivist, Hylena Michak, and the event was very well received.

Two days later, on the 19th, Fr. Ivan Kaszczak gave a historical reflection on Ukrainian Catholicism. Members of the Ukrainian community were among those in attendance and discussion was terrific. Perhaps most memorable was Fr. Ivan's statement that the Church is called to be faithful even at the cost of survival.

Finally, on September 28, I gave a lecture on beer in the history of Catholicism. While the topic may sound surprising, there is much to learn by using beer and brewing as entry points into the history of our faith. Did you know there are active monastic breweries in more than a dozen countries today? How about that beer is associated with the miraculous in some lives of the saints?

I will be announcing the full Spring 2020 Program Schedule soon. Currently we have the Estate Planning Seminar on April 2 and Icon Writing Workshop with Fr. Damian March 17-20.

Sean McLaughlin
Director



ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR



THURSDAY, APRIL 2
6:00 - 9:00 PM

SCHEDULE

- 6:00 - 7:00 Reception
- 7:00 - 8:30 Seminar
- 8:30 - 9:00 Coffee + Dessert

ESSENTIALS OF ESTATE PLANNING

- Wills
- Trusts
- Powers of Attorney
- Advance Health Directives
- Funeral Costs
- Retirement Accounts
- Life Insurance
- Guardianships
- Tax Planning
- Charitable Giving

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Partner, Stradley Ronon, specializing in Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning

SISTERS HOST EIGHTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE HONORING THE MOTHER OF GOD

Each year on the first Sunday in October, the Jesus, Lover of Humanity Province welcomes hundreds of pilgrims to join in veneration of the Blessed Virgin. The theme for the Eighty-Eighth Annual Pilgrimage, held on October 6, was "The Unity of the Trinity: That All May Be One through the Intercession of the Mother of God." The day began at 9:00 AM with the Mystery of Reconciliation (the Sacrament of Confession). Then at 10:30, Mothers in Prayer intoned the rosary, a prelude to the procession from Holy Trinity Chapel to the Faculty House Auditorium where a bilingual Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated by the Most Reverend Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia, Borys Gudziak. Most Reverend Basil Losten, Most Reverend Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, and Most Reverend Bohdan Danylo concelebrated with the Metropolitan. The Ukrainian Catholic Shrine of the Holy Family's choir (Washington, D.C.) sang. A contingent of the Knights of Columbus served as honor guard for the procession of the Metropolitan and other Ukrainian Hierarchy.

Next was an official greeting from Provincial Superior, Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM. She invited everyone to explore the monastery grounds and to participate in the multifaceted program planned for the day. The afternoon began with Ukrainian cuisine and ample opportunity to socialize. Pilgrims enjoyed delicious holubtsi, varenyky, and baked goods while chatting with friends and pleasant strangers. Many pilgrims returned to the Basilian Spirituality Center for special presentations. The first was by Sean McLaughlin, Director of the Spirituality Center, who spoke about the Basilian Sisters. The second presentation was by Dr. Cathy Szul and focused on Family Unity and Faith Development. The day ended with two other traditional components of the annual pilgrimage: Moleben and a blessing of the cars and buses. Most Reverend Borys Gudziak directed his Moleben homily to the sixty freshmen from Saint Basil Academy. Departing pilgrims were given a tangible and spiritual "God speed"—a sprinkling of holy water and a blessing—ensuring all would arrive home safely.



A BASILIAN LEGACY CONTINUES

Sister Mary Bernarda Arkatin, OSBM (1922-2019) initiated and continued summer journeys of goodwill to the needy, orphaned, and handicapped of Ukraine for more than twenty years. Carrying on the tradition established by Sister Bernarda in collaboration with the Basilian Sisters in Ukraine, Sister Ann Laszok, OSBM along with three young women accompanied Sister Bernarda for two weeks in 2012.

That trip initiated what has now become the Basilian Volunteer Program.

The Basilian Volunteer Program expanded in 2015 into a week-long English Catechetical camp with two volunteers. In the following years, more volunteers and more camps in various regions of eastern and western Ukraine have been added. This past spring, from May 23 to June 16, nine volunteers along with Sister Monica Lesnick and Sister Ann Laszok, traveled again to Ukraine to teach at English Catechetical camps in Mukachevo, Drohobych, and Ivano-Frankivsk.

Visiting orphanages, psychiatric institutions, and half-way houses rounded off the days after classes. Dennis Drost, Helen Fedoriw, Marcia Bolesky, Kim Matto, Anya Chawluk, Joyce Cahill, David Olszyk, Teresa Danovich, Chrystyna Cech, Sister Ann, and Sister Monica arrived in Lviv from NJ, PA, OH, OR and London, UK. They quickly bonded to form a teaching team caring for more than one hundred eighty children.

The volunteers gave glory to Jesus Christ for three full weeks with their service to the needy of Ukraine! Each one brought special gifts and talents to make a beautiful mosaic of Christian work, benefiting all with whom they came in contact. Many great memories were made and much joy was received as well as shared.



Sister Ann with Arthur at House of Mercy



Gift Shop in the Basilian Spirituality Center

- Icons
- Books
- Pysanky (decorated eggs)
- Icon prints
- Rosaries, medals, and other religious goods

