



# Ukrainian Catholic

## NEWSLETTER

Published by the UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## UCU Prepares for Consecration of New Residence

The new “collegium,” residential college, of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv will be consecrated by His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, on Sunday, August 26.

The opening of the new collegium will address the problem of housing students who hail from distant parts of Ukraine. At present, the university can only provide lodging for approximately 50 students. The rest are left to fend for themselves, as rental rates increase, though wages do not keep pace. The new collegium will house some 200 students and staff.

In addition, for perhaps the first time in the world, a group of developmentally disabled young people will be integrated into a student dormitory. This is in conjunction with the L'Arche Community,

**Priests residing with the students will be able to engage in daily spiritual guidance, evangelization, Bible studies, and youth meetings.**

a new movement in Catholicism founded by Canadian layman Jean Vanier, which fosters friendships with people who have physical and mental disabilities.

UCU Rector Fr. Borys Gudziak has said that contact with the handicapped ought to be an integral part of theological formation. L'Arche, according to Fr. Gudziak, is a perfect fit for a society recovering from the systematic deception



▲ Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk and UCU Rector Father Borys Gudziak join UCU students on the site of the new campus.

and lack of trust associated with the Soviet period, because, he asserted, “the handicapped do not have masks.” He refers to the young people of the L'Arche Community as “our ambassadors and professors of human relations.”

UCU students will also be joined by some staff members and their families. According to Fr. Ihor Boyko, dean of UCU's Theology Department, who

himself will be living there: “Priests residing with the students will be able to engage in daily spiritual guidance, evangelization, Bible studies, and youth meetings. This includes non-UCU students, particularly those from the nearby National Polytechnic University dormitories.” The university chapel, the Church of the New Martyrs of Ukraine, has been reaching out to the community for three years now. It is the only church

in the area and is a parish for non-UCU faithful as well.

A small community of nuns of the Redemptorist order will also reside on the premises.

**Please contact the UCEF office if you would like to be a part of the festivities for this joyous event on Sunday August 26.**

“But celebrations will continue into September,” noted Dr. Taras Dobko, UCU's senior vice rector. “UCU will hold a symposium to discuss the importance of

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## UPCOMING UCU/UCEF EVENTS

- ➔ **AUGUST 24** Ceremonies at UCU marking 100th anniversary of founding of Plast, Ukrainian scouts
- ➔ **AUGUST 26** Blessing of new collegium (residence)
- ➔ **AUGUST 28** Dormition (Assumption) Pilgrimage to Univ Major Monastery
- ➔ **SEPTEMBER 2** Light of Justice Award for moral leadership
- ➔ **SEPTEMBER 3** Women's Studies Inaugural Lecture



## Did you know?

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- Birthday
- Name's day
- Anniversary
- In memory of a loved one
- Health

Please contact us with your requests:

In the US:

matuszak@ucef.org  
**Matthew Matuszak**, 773-235-8462

In Canada:

kulynych.ucef@gmail.com  
**Oksana Kulynych**, Toll Free (in Canada): 866-871-8007

# Silent Art Auction Raises Funds for UCU



Photo Courtesy: CHRYSTYNA CZAJKOWSKY

▲ A group of young professionals (from left), Dan Saval, Ulyana Bardyn, Tamara Tershakovec, Andrew Lencyk (a member of the UCEF Board), and Roman Chwyl enjoy the art auction.

A silent art auction to benefit the Ukrainian Catholic University was held in late March at the prestigious Ukrainian Institute of America along New York's Museum Mile. Featuring the works of such renowned Ukrainian-American, Ukrainian-Canadian and Ukrainian artists as Sviatoslav Hordynsky, Liuboslav Hutsaliuk, Mykhaylo Demtsiu, Heorhiy and Serhiy Yakutovych and Anton Kashay, the charity evening brought in over \$20,000 to support the funding of UCU's diverse educational programs.

Besides the beautiful oils, watercolors and graphic art pieces, the show was complemented by icons, Ukrainian embroidery, books about Ukraine and

Ukrainian culture, magnificent pieces of jewelry by Ukrainian artisans, and a Euro 2012 soccer ball and jersey.

One hundred people attended the auction, which also featured a 10-minute video about the University, titled "A Mustard Seed," emphasizing the mission of this institution of higher learning, which is to promote an "open academic community living the Eastern Christian tradition and forming leaders to serve with professional excellence in Ukraine and internationally - for the glory of God, the common good and the dignity of the human person."

The video also documented how the

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**Contributing Writers:** Marta Kolomayets, Matthew Matuszak; • **Editor:** Matthew Matuszak  
**Designer:** Vasil Nazar

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## UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

### IN THE USA:

2247 W. Chicago Ave.  
 Chicago, IL 60622  
 Tel: (773) 235-8462  
 Fax: (773) 235-8464  
 Email: ucef@ucef.org  
 Web: www.ucef.org

### IN CANADA:

263 Bering Ave.  
 Toronto ON M8Z 3A5  
 Tel: (416) 239-2495  
 (866) 871-8007  
 Fax: (416) 239-2496  
 Email: ucef@ucef.ca  
 Web: www.ucef.org  
 Publications mail:  
 No. 40884051

## Silent Art Auction Raises Funds for UCU

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university has grown, from the first modest adobe for a handful of students in the mid 1990s to the new Stryiskyi Park campus, which will include a residential college for 200 students. That building is scheduled to be consecrated by Patriarch Sviatoslav on August 26.

Speaking at the New York event, Prof. Olena Dzhezdhora, UCU's director of international academic relations, explained that the University is faced with a number of tough challenges. High on that list is the fight to reverse the negative effects of Communism, which had people living in a godless society, the after effects which to this day have people living in fear, people living without trust.

Ms. Dzhezdhora, who has taught at the University for almost 20 years (she



Photo Courtesy: CHRYSTYNA CZAJKOWSKY

▲ Adrianna Melnyk-Hankewycz admires the art.

began teaching when it was still the Lviv Theological Academy) recalled her first meetings with Father Borys Gudziak, who was then a doctoral student and a layman.

“He has a deep unmistakable faith that helps him trust others and to teach people to trust each other. I could also see that this was more than a university he was trying to establish. It was the birth of a new nation. I also experienced a rebirth myself, and I learned many things about



Photo Courtesy: CHRYSTYNA CZAJKOWSKY

▲ UCU supporters Stephanie Whittier and David Budinger discuss the university's future plans with UCEF Development Director Daniel Szymanski, Jr. & UCEF Executive Director Alex Kuzma.

culture and religion,” she said.

The silent art auction has become a popular fundraising venue for UCU. It began five years ago in Lviv with an ethnic folk ball, called a “perelaz,” and was later adopted for the annual Kyiv banquet which is traditionally held in one of Kyiv's grandest downtown hotels.

The tradition of a silent art auction has now also been transported to the United States,

where silent auctions have been held in New York City and Chicago over the last two years.

But the idea of promoting art, culture and education for the dynamic development of the Ukrainian Church was first inspired by one of the 20th century's greatest leaders, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, who is the founder of the Greek Catholic Theological Academy in 1928, the predecessor to today's UCU.

Metropolitan Sheptytsky was a true aristocrat of the spirit, a rare type in Ukrainian society at the beginning of the 20th century, a person of great personal culture and a thorough European education, who always underscored the importance of education, art and philanthropy.

Today, UCU is building its own art collection with the belief that art at UCU is a daily phenomenon, not an accidental glance, and that this integrated and authentic experience will enrich the lives of students, staff and visitors to UCU. ✠

► Olena Dzhezdhora, Director of UCU's International Academic Relations Department, speaks at the Silent Art Auction.



Photo Courtesy: CHRYSTYNA CZAJKOWSKY

# Gospel of Life Preached on Squares and in Schools of Ukraine



▲ Seminarians and other UCU students prepare to do pro-life counseling at hospitals.

The teachings of the Church regarding human life are in the forefront of the efforts of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU). Members of the pro-life group go out to abortion centers to counsel women with problem pregnancies. They also bring the Gospel of Life to downtown Lviv. And, at the academic level, the university's School of Bioethics has guest professors who include a physician who was formerly the head of the Lviv Region Department of Health and a specialist in molecular biology from McGill University in Montreal.

The Catholic bishops of Ukraine recently caused some controversy by issuing a statement calling for abortion to be illegalized in the country. The statement "achieved its goal," said Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. "Society has started discussing the difficult social problem of abortion." Since independence in 1991, Ukraine's population has decreased from 52 to 47 million, and, reads the statement "according to the State Committee on Statistics, in Ukraine the

number of deaths exceeds the number of births, in some regions by almost three times."

UCU addresses these problems at various levels. For example, members of UCU's pro-life group, which includes students from other universities as well, stood in the December cold of winter near downtown Lviv's monument to Taras Shevchenko to remind passersby of the fate of unborn children. "St. Nicholas wants to bring gifts to all children, but he can't find many, for they were not allowed to be born. That's the motto of this event," said Dr. Petro Husak, assistant director of UCU's Institute of Marriage and Family Life. Husak has involved the students in joint efforts with a local Baptist youth group and himself spoke before doctors in another region of Ukraine.

The pro-life group also organized an effort in which members go inside hospitals where abortions are performed to talk to pregnant women and even to the staff. When he was head of the Lviv Region Department of Health, Dr. Ihor Herych told his staff to support similar

efforts. And now, though he is in another position, he is also a guest professor at UCU's School of Bioethics, lecturing on ethics to fellow medical professionals.

Dr. Yury Monczak of McGill University is both a financial supporter of the school and a regularly visiting professor. In April he delivered open lectures on bioethical problems in genetics and molecular biology. Fr. Ihor Boyko, PhD, the director of the school and the dean of UCU's Faculty of Philosophy and Theology, is also a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life. In February he took part in an assembly of the academy held in Rome on the diagnosis and treatment of infertility.

Fr. Boyko said that during this year's assembly rather sad statistics were publicized regarding the use of assisted reproductive technology, including in vitro fertilization. "From 1978 to today about 4.3 million children have been born through this technology, but more than 120 million children (human embryos at



▲ Dr. Yury Monczak lectures at UCU

an early stage of development) have died due to imperfections in this method. This is several times higher than the number of deaths from AIDS. Since 1981 about 60 million people have contracted this disease, and 25 million have died from it," said Fr. Boyko.

UCEF thanks you for helping UCU bring the Gospel of Life to those who need to hear it, at the local, national, and international level! ✠

# Catechists Teach the Faith throughout Ukraine and in the Diaspora

Migrant workers from Ukraine and their families now living in Spain were glad to receive a visit from representatives of UCU's Catechetical-Pedagogical Institute. Members of the institute also travel across Ukraine, recently holding training for catechists in the capital, Kyiv, and the eastern city of Donetsk. And even children in the country's government-run schools benefit from Christian ethics textbooks that the institute prepares.

Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians have left the country since independence in 1991, seeking a better life for their families. Spain is one of the countries that they have gone to, and so the institute helps the Church by ministering to their spiritual needs. Institute staffer Nazar Duda in March did Christian leadership training for teenagers and youth in Madrid. They learned about Christian values and the specifics of teamwork. The youth were preparing to conduct Christian summer camps for Ukrainian children and teenagers in Madrid and Alcalá.

A gathering of families was also part of the visit, as Father Bohdan Tymchyshyn explained an icon of the Holy Trinity as an example that Christian families should strive to follow. "To grow in faith," said the priest, "it is important for Christian families to read the Bible and reflect on its meaning."

In Kyiv and Donetsk, catechists learned better how to teach about the sacraments. "Prayer, instruction, interaction, sharing experience, work in groups, witnessing, drawing pictures, humor – these are the generous gifts of God that we received during this time which was not spent in vain." So said Liudmyla Fedoriachenko, a catechist from far eastern Ukraine's Donetsk-Kharkiv exarchate (mission diocese) who participated in the institute's



▲ Fr. Bohdan Tymchyshyn of UCU's Catechetical Institute explains the Liturgy to children.

training sessions. "With this spiritual treasure house we're ready to respond to the Lord's call 'go and teach.'"

In Lviv, the institute offered a seminar helping catechists bring the sacraments into Christian summer camps. "Teenagers learn at the summer camps why the sacraments are important for a full life and the spiritual growth of the Christian," said one of the instructors. "The program gave a detailed description of a day at camp: prayer, group meetings, spiritual and recreational activities."

UCU teacher Halyna Dobosh helped spread the message by preparing a Christian ethics textbook for third-graders in Ukraine's state schools, with the title "I want to do some good." In the book, the author talks about the calling of the human person, freedom, God's commandments and the role of superiors and parents in each of our lives. Institute staff have also prepared similar textbooks for second- and eighth-graders with plans for more. ✠

## A LASTING GIFT



Have you considered including the UCEF in your will? A will is an expression of your commitment to the people and groups that you cherish here on earth. As a supporter of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, a bequest in your will ensures that the training of priests and rebuilding of the Church in Ukraine will continue after you are gone.

### ■ Suggested wording for a bequest:

*"I give and bequeath to the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, \_\_\_\_\_% of the residue of my estate [or the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_] for its charitable, educational and religious purposes."*

### In Canada:

*"I give and bequeath to the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, of Toronto, ON, \_\_\_\_\_% of the residue of my estate [or: the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_] for its charitable, educational and religious purposes."*

Donors can also make a special gift by sponsoring a seminarian or other student at the Ukrainian Catholic University this year. Please contact the UCEF for further information.

## Special Projects: Students Lead Way of the Cross at Parishes



▲ UCU students led a service of reflections on the Way of the Cross in parishes, here with their own musical accompaniment.

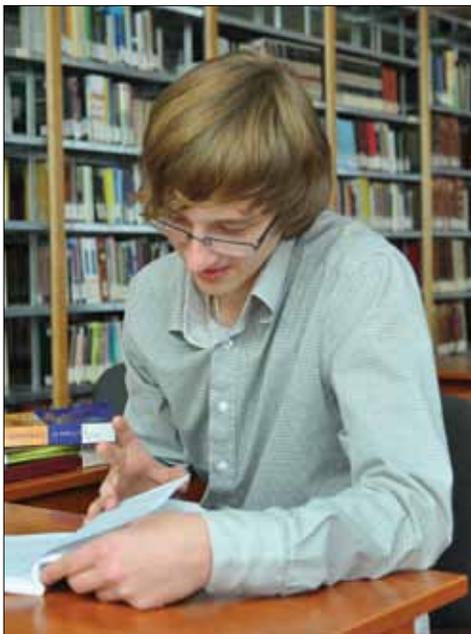
Students of the Ukrainian Catholic University led a service of reflections on the Way of the Cross at seven parishes in western Ukraine and the capital, central Ukrainian Kyiv, this past Lent. This was the second year of their United in Prayer project.

During meditations and prayers, the students focused on the most widespread difficulties and suffering of modern society. Those present had an opportunity to approach Golgotha, die to the world, and gain hope for eternal life. By this missionary activity the students want to remind all of Christ's great love for each person and to witness to their faith in a better future.

The Way of the Cross was part of retreats led by local priests. The students also conducted catechism lessons for children and youth in local schools. ✠

## Opportunity: Study Ecumenism Online!

UCU's Institute of Ecumenical Studies offers the world's only online degree in the subject. You will be taught by world class professors, from the US and Europe. The application deadline for the master's program is August 18. For more information, go to <http://www.iesdistance.org.ua/>



◀ The repair of St. Sophia Cathedral on Rome's Via Boccea is underway. The faithful will make a pilgrimage to join Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk as he blesses the restored church

on October 14. The church was built from 1967 to 1969 by Patriarch Josyf Slipyj to serve as the spiritual center for all Ukrainian Catholics throughout the world. Although the Ukrainian Catholic Church is no longer underground and there are now many Catholic churches open for worship in Ukraine, St. Sophia still holds a sacred place in the hearts of Catholics throughout the world.

## Interested in E-mail Updates from UCEF?



You can receive the latest news in a very timely fashion. Provide us with your e-mail address so that we can send you monthly e-blasts.

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# UNWLA Supports Women’s Studies with Endowment



Photo Courtesy: CHRYSTYNA CZAJKOWSKY

▲ Members of the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America met with Ukrainian Catholic Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk in the office of Fordham President McShane in November 2011.

their important roles at all levels of society,” commented Marianna Zajac, the president of the UNWLA.

“We are convinced that the women’s studies lectureship is necessary. The Ukrainian women in North America, through this endeavor, hope to bring a sense of discovery and enlightenment to women in Ukraine and have a significant impact on the Ukrainian family, and within the professional, political and business settings. Education is the only viable tool towards this end,” she concluded.

With this groundbreaking collaboration between the UNWLA and UCU, the UNWLA is in a position to play a significant role in the education of future Ukrainian women leaders.

Historically, Soyuz Ukrainok of Ukraine, founded by Milena Rudnytska in 1921, and the UNWLA, founded in the United States 87 years ago, have strongly promoted and emphasized education. This is attested by the UNWLA’s work

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The Ukrainian National Women’s League of America (UNWLA) has partnered with the Ukrainian Catholic University to launch a Women’s Studies (WS) program at this institution of higher learning.

The program, sponsored and funded by the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America, will begin on September 3,

2012, with an inaugural lecture to initiate the 2012-2013 academic year at the only Catholic university on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

“In the context of today’s political and human rights situation in Ukraine, the UNWLA realizes that it is vital to help women achieve a higher level of equality, respect and influence by enhancing

## UCU Prepares for Consecration of New Residence

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learning communities, like the collegium.”

Dr. Dobko visited UCEF in Chicago in May and gave an update on other upcoming plans at UCU. “We are working on gaining accreditation from Ukraine’s Ministry of Education for three new master’s degree programs: innovation and entrepreneurship, social pedagogy, and media communications,” he said. “We have to develop if we don’t want to lag behind,” he emphasized. “For example, today it would be more difficult for the Lviv Theological Academy to become UCU.” The academy, the university’s predecessor, was revived in 1994, before transforming into UCU in 2002.

In conclusion, Dr. Dobko noted “The role of the UCEF is critical to help us reach the goals that we have set for ourselves.” ✠



▲ Students and staff will be moving into this soon to be completed collegium (residence) after it is consecrated on August 26.

## UNWLA Supports Women's Studies

» *Continued from page 7*

with establishing pre-schools in the US, its highly developed and effective scholarship fund and its publication of books such as "A Candle in Remembrance" (2010).

As the largest and oldest organization of Ukrainian women in the diaspora with a mission to preserve Ukrainian culture, history and traditions through education, the UNWLA's cooperation with UCU in Women's Studies is an important investment in the future of Ukrainian women.

Since May 2011 when the concept was approved and endorsed at the 29th UNWLA Convention, the members of the organization have raised close to \$80,000 toward the \$100,000 endowment.

"The Women's Studies Program at UCU is a logical continuation and modernization of the best traditions of the Ukrainian women's movement, in Ukraine and the diaspora. Ukrainian women have always been right beside men as participants in the national liberation movement, as creators of Ukrainian religious,

educational, and economic institutions. In the conditions of modern, independent Ukraine, women have assumed the burden of the economic rescue of their families. We all know how often when women have been unable to find work in Ukraine; they have been forced to become migrant workers to pay for their children's education. All this has led to the rise of very difficult social problems,"



▲ The UNWLA-UCU initiative includes: Dr. Oksana Kis, program coordinator, Prof. Olena Dzhezdzhora (UCU), Marianna Zajac, UNWLA president, and (standing) UNWLA members Lidia Bilous, Dr. Marta Kichorowska-Kebalo, Sofia Hewryk.

commented Prof. Olena Dzhezdzhora, the director of UCU's International Academic Relations Department.

The program's coordinator will be Dr. Oksana Kis, who holds a doctorate in history with a specialization in ethnology and who during this past academic year, as a Petro Jacyk Scholar, taught a course on Women in Post-Socialist Transformation in Ukraine, Poland and Russia at Columbia University in New York City.

She is also the president of the Ukrainian Association for Research in Women's History.

She has taught courses on women's history at UCU in Lviv since 2005. In her new role as coordinator for the WS program, she will be responsible for the overall functioning of all aspects of the program including the advanced planning of courses, the recruitment of WS lecturers and will act as a student advisor. She will also organize monthly colloquia and recommend library acquisitions for the WS program. The WS program will be offered for credit in the history department of UCU. ✠

## Donate through CFC, United Way, Corporate Matching

A reminder: You can also **donate** to the UCEF through the annual Combined Federal Campaign, the United Way, or perhaps your company has a matching gifts program. If so, your gift to the UCEF will be doubled. Please inquire at your personnel office.



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