



BYZANTINE CATHOLIC SEMINARY
OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS
FORMING LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH

JOYFUL

LIGHT

Fall 2024

Joyful Light is a semi-annual publication of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius
3605 Perrysville Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214 • (412) 321-8383 • www.bcs.edu • office@bcs.edu

Discover God's game plan at "Come and See"!

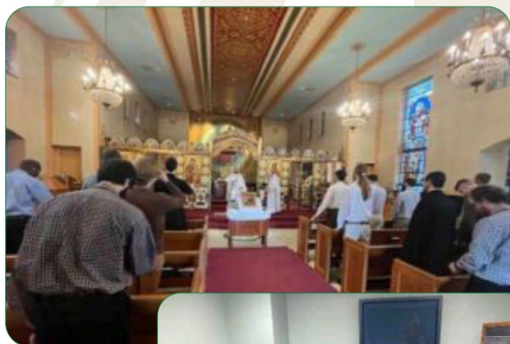
**Men 18-35 invited to weekend retreat from
Friday, 8 November until Sunday, 10 November, 2024**

To be a priest ... don't you have to give up everything - your family, your friends, the things you enjoy? Don't you have to be super holy, super smart, or somehow "different"? "Come and see" can help!



Every young man eventually must make some hard decisions - college, career, marriage, family, religious life. How do I know what's right? Does God care what I decide? If you've ever thought about the priesthood, it's worth taking a weekend to learn how to listen for God's plans for your future. The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius is hosting a "Come and See" weekend retreat for men ages 18 to 35 who may be considering a vocation to the priesthood in the Byzantine Catholic Church. The event runs from 5:00 pm (EST) on Friday evening, 8 November through 4:00 pm (EST) on Sunday afternoon, 10 November, 2024 at the Seminary (3605 Perrysville Avenue) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The weekend retreat is free of charge and will include sharing liturgical worship services and meals with the Seminary community, an introduction to the Seminary's Program of Priestly Formation, a tour of the Seminary, gatherings with the Seminarians, talks, and a panel discussion. The retreat is conducted in a "no pressure, no hard-sell" environment. The atmosphere is prayerful, positive, and fraternal.

Any man seeking further information or wishing to register for this "Come and See" weekend retreat of discovery is encouraged to contact his vocation director and use the online registration at <https://bcs.edu/come-and-see-2024/>.



**Seminary group photo
for the 2024-2025 Academic Year**

MATCHING GIFTS

Do you or your spouse work for (or are you retired from) a company with a matching gift program? If so, your gift can, in most cases, be doubled, even tripled!

Please check with the company's Human Resources Department and see if this benefit is available.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive the *Joyful Light* newsletter electronically, please email your request to: development@bcs.edu.

From our Rector

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear friends and benefactors:

It is hard to believe that it has been a year since I was named rector of our Seminary. It has been an incredible year of learning for me, especially when it comes to the various aspects that keep our Seminary progressing along in its mission. I have also come to appreciate that the summer is not a season where our Seminary stands still but rather it is a time for completing all that the previous school year entailed, as well as preparing for all that this coming school year promises.

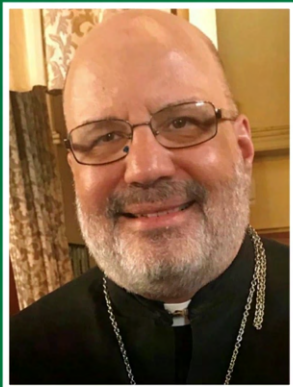
In this issue you will see some of the initial results of such preparation. For example, it was immediately evident that the five new (some of whom attended the 19-21 April, 2024 Come and See Weekend Retreat) and five returning seminarians immediately drew themselves together to form a strong fraternal community. This was first made clear in their working together so closely at the Annual Pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina on Labor Day Weekend.

One area that our Seminary community is especially proud of is the reactivating of the participation of the Melkite Eparchy of Newton, Massachusetts, and its bishop, the Most Rev. Francois Beyrouiti, in our Program of Priestly Formation. Through constant collaboration throughout the summer, including a personal meeting between our Seminary Formation Staff and Bishop Francois, a “Melkite Week” was established at the Seminary wherein Melkite clergy came to provide liturgical worship services, classes, and individual conferences for our two new Melkite seminarians who are in their first year of our Aspirancy Program.

I ask for your continued prayers and support that you have so lovingly given to our Seminary community, as a whole. With deep gratitude to Almighty God for His many blessings, and a deep appreciation for your prayerful and material support, I remain...

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Ron Barusefski
Rector



Faculty Doings

Sandra A. Collins, PhD, Professor of Sacred Scripture, Director of Information Services, served as faculty for the Washington Theological Consortium’s week-long Abrahamic Faith course offered in January 2024. In April, she presented a two-part webinar on women in the Bible for God With Us. In June, she worked with Fr. Deacon John Harden in presenting a Bible training worship offered through the Office of Religious Education of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. She continues to teach in the University of Pittsburgh’s Osher program, offering a course called *Which Christianity: Denominationalism and the Church* in the spring and another on *Comparative Religion* this fall. She also serves as a reviewer in religion and spirituality for *Library Journal*.

Fr. Christiaan Kappes, PhD, SLD, Professor of Liturgical and Dogmatic Theology, Academic Dean, Director of Intellectual Formation, authored a chapter entitled “The Eastern Catholic Churches” in Frederick C. Bauerschmidt, James J. Buckley, Jennifer Newsome Martin, Trent Pomplun (Editors). *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Catholicism*, (March 2024, 2nd edition).

Fr. Hryhoriy (Gregory) Lozinskyy, SSD, Adjunct Professor of Sacred Scripture, has been named editor for the biblical section of the journal *Open Theology*, De Gruyter. He presented a paper virtually entitled “Calendar of Numbers 28–29: Status Quaestionis, Problems, and Perspective of Studies” at the annual meeting of the European Association of the Biblical Studies in Sofia, Bulgaria on 16 July, 2024; and, presented a paper entitled “Festival Legislation in the Pentateuch and Beyond: Status Quaestionis” at the Catholic University of America, D.C., on 5 August, 2024.

Matthew Miner, PhD, Professor of Philosophy and Moral Theology, began work as the Managing Editor of the *Encyclopedia of Catholic Theology* (ect.org). His articles include: “Dogmatic Development” for the *Encyclopedia of Catholic Theology*. He delivered a paper on “*Ens Intentionale: The Prime Analogate of Created Being*” at the June conference held by the *Sacra Doctrina Project*, “All Things That Were Made: On Creation, Creatures, and Their Creator” at St. Paul Roman Catholic Seminary, St. Paul MN; and translated Volume 3 of Jean-Hervé Nicolas, *Catholic Dogmatic Theology: A Synthesis* (On the Church and the Sacraments), published by The Catholic University of America Press. He also gave an invited lecture on ecclesial authority, tradition, and scriptural reception for a course “Contemporary Issues in Muslim-Christian Dialogue” offered by the Center for Muslim and Christian Studies (Oxford and Houston).

Fr. Stelyios Muksuris, PhD, Professor of Liturgical and Sacramental Theology and Languages, delivered a paper, entitled: “Liturgical ID, Please! Identity’s Ontological, Relational, and Experiential Properties in the Worship and Prayers of the Church” at the annual national Orthodox Theological Society in America (OTSA) conference, held at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston, MA, from 6-8 June, 2024. Fr. Stelyios also authored the introductory chapter to the large tome, *Christianity: The Illustrated Guide to 2,000 Years of the Christian Faith*, a multi-scholar collaborative effort published out of Elanora Heights, Australia in 2009.

Fr. Paul R. Varchola West, MFA, MDiv, Adjunct Professor of Spirituality, was appointed a member of the Seminary faculty, effective 23 July 2024.

Melkite Week at B.C.S.

On 16-19 September, 2024, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius hosted a “Melkite Week” to enhance the formation of our two new Melkite aspirants, as well as our entire Seminary community. Bishop Nicholas Samra, Bishop emeritus, and Fr. Philip Raczka, the Protosyncellus of the Eparchy of Newton, were present to offer conferences, liturgical worship services, guidance, and fellowship. Pictured are scenes from the week as well as of the celebration of the Divine Liturgy according to the Melkite Tradition.



The 1 August, 2024 meeting of our Formation Staff with Bishop Francois Beyrouti of the Melkite Eparchy of Newton



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Hierarchical Divine Liturgy for the Opening of the Seminary School Year on 27 August, 2024

ONLINE DONATIONS

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Founded in 1950, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius is a free-standing, English speaking theological seminary, welcoming all those seeking the knowledge possessed by the Eastern ecclesial traditions.

We are authorized to grant graduate degrees by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools.

We offer the following degree programs approved by the Commission on Accrediting:

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We operate as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in Pennsylvania, and are governed by a Board of Directors under the leadership of the Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh.

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