



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

JOYFUL

LIGHT

Fall 2025

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 ages 18-35 invited to weekend retreat from
Friday, 7 November until Sunday, 9 November, 2025**

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, 7 November through 4:00 pm (EST) on Sunday afternoon, 9 November, 2025 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-2025/>.



**Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
began the new
2025-2026 Academic Year
on 26 August, 2025**



**Archbishop William greeting the
Seminary Community after the
Opening Hierarchical Divine Liturgy**



MATCHING GIFTS

Do you 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:

Where has the summer gone? It seems like it would be time to ease back a bit and relax. While there were some precious moments for that, the summer otherwise was a flurry of activity for the Seminary which no doubt contributed to its quickness of passing. There were not only significant repairs and renovations to our Seminary building, but there were also many different programs that gave the Seminary community the opportunity to share their vocation and develop their ministries.

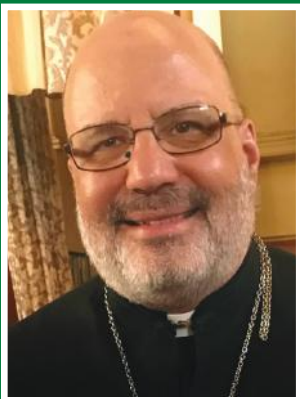
In addition to their summer parish assignments, most of our seminarians were involved in the Laboure Society, a Catholic non-profit organization that teaches seminarians the methods of vocation-sharing and benefiting from the generosity of those they serve. There was also their participation in the Byzantine Catholic Assembly (see article on page 3) in July which provided opportunities to learn, serve, and share. And we have just completed the annual Seminary orientation days for four new and nine returning seminarians which has spawned a renewed sense of fellowship. This is the largest community we have had in some time, and we proceed into this new school year with much enthusiasm and joy.

The spiritual renewal and ministerial opportunities given to us by the Annual Pilgrimage at Mount St. Macrina over Labor Day weekend, our next Melkite Week in October, and of course, our Come and See Weekend on 7-9 November are precious indeed. Even so, if Fall moves as fast as Summer, it will all be behind us before we know it!

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

Fr. Thomas Bailey, OSB, Professor of Pastoral Practice and Dogmatics, Director of Human Formation, was one of the presenters at the 20th Annual Women's Day of Reflection sponsored by the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh on 17 May. The overall theme of the Day of Reflection was "Do Whatever He Tells You," Revisiting the Wedding Feast of Cana. Fr. Thomas' talk was entitled "From Empty Jars to Overflowing Grace." In his reflection, Fr. Thomas presented several examples of early, female Christian saints together with important Holy Women in Sacred Scripture and how their examples of grace can be applied today in our world. On 11-15 August, he preached a retreat for the Sisters of St. Basil at Mount St. Macrina. Over the course of 5 conferences, he spoke on the topic of "Bearing Light: Women Monastics as Vessels of Divine Fire," highlighting the unique spiritual insights of these remarkable spiritual teachers: Amma Syncretica, St. Mary of Egypt, Amma Theodora, St. Melania the Younger, St. Catherine of Alexandria, and Amma Sarah.

Fr. Ronald C. Barusefski, J.C.D., Professor of Homiletics and Canon Law, Rector of B.C.S. and Director of Community of Aspirants, gave a presentation on "The Challenges Facing Vocations Today" on 18 July to the bishops, priests, deacons, and religious gathered at the Byzantine Catholic Assembly held at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Whiting, Indiana. A lively exchange of questions and observations followed concerning the contemporary factors that need to be addressed in fostering vocations and seminary formation.

Fr. Hryhorii (Gregory) Lozinskyy, S.S.D., Adjunct Professor of Sacred Scripture, presented at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of Catholic Biblical Association at Princeton Theological Seminary on 15 March a paper entitled "Second Passover: A Missing or Unwanted Feast from the OT Calendars?" He has also presented at the Annual Meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association at Loyola University Chicago on 5 August a paper entitled: "Is Jubilee Year a Pro-Levite Regulation?" He has published "Making Bridges in the OT: Covenant as One of the Key Concepts throughout the Texts of the OT and Beyond," *Rivista Biblica* 73/1 (2025): 3-16 and has been awarded a research grant of \$3,500.00 for his project *Laws concerning Levitical Cities: Lev 25:32-34 and Num 35:1-8 and their Relevance for Similar Texts*.

Matthew Miner, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy and Moral Theology, delivered conference papers including "*Revelation Begetting Reason: On the Supernatural Aids Afforded to Christian Philosophy*" (American Maritain Association annual meeting, Ave Maria University); participated as a plenary panelist with Dr. Jon Kirwan in the *Sacra Doctrina* project (Theological College, Washington, DC), where he also presented "*Thoughts from a Byzantine Thomist Moral Theologian*;" served as a panelist on the state of Catholic theology for the *Encyclopedia of Catholic Theology*; and gave an invited paper at Mundelein Seminary, "*Sources of Revelation and Theology: Some Observations Concerning Jesuit and Jesuit-Adjacent Treatments of the De Locis Theologicis*," during the conference *Twentieth-Century Jesuit Manuals: An Assessment*. His recent publications include: "*The Ontology of the Divine Indwelling: A Hard-Headed Thomist Meets with Palamas*" (American Maritain Association / Catholic University of America Press), "*The Superanalogy of Faith*" (*Nova et Vetera*), and his English translation and introduction of Michel Labourdette, "*What is Spiritual Theology?*" (*Nova et Vetera*). He also published "*Hermetic Tradition or Catholic Tradition?*" with *Catholic Culture*. He is the translator of Charles Journet, *The Church of the Word Incarnate, vol. 2 (The Internal Structure of the Church: Christ, Mary, and the Holy Spirit)*. This fall he is leading a Lyceum Institute seminar, "*What Kind of Certainty?: Small Steps Toward Dialectical Logic*." He has spoken on "*Uniting Traditions: A Byzantine Catholic and a Thomist*" at the St. Charbel Center in Pittsburgh and discussed the Eastern Catholic experience of Vatican II with Dr. Larry Chapp on his podcast *Gaudium et Spes 22*.

Fr. Stelyios Muksuris, Ph.D., Professor of Liturgical and Sacramental Theology and Languages, was appointed co-editor of the international print journal *The Wheel* and the online blog *The Spin*, a forum for Orthodox theology, history, thought, and culture. On 1 July, Archbishop Elpidophoros of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America personally appointed Fr. Stelyios as a permanent member of the Synodal Committee for Liturgical Texts, where he will officially serve as a chief consultant on liturgical matters for both the Metropolis of Pittsburgh and the Archdiocese of America.

B.C.S. represented at North American Byzantine Catholic Assembly

Many of our seminarians from the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius participated at the North American Byzantine Catholic Assembly, held from 16-20 July at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Whiting, Indiana. It was an inspiring week of sharing among the faithful of all our eparchies, and the seminarians contributed wherever possible by serving at all the liturgical services, sharing their vocation stories, and offering information about the Seminary and its many programs. Their presence gave a sense of joy and hope for the future of our Byzantine Catholic Church to those who gathered there.



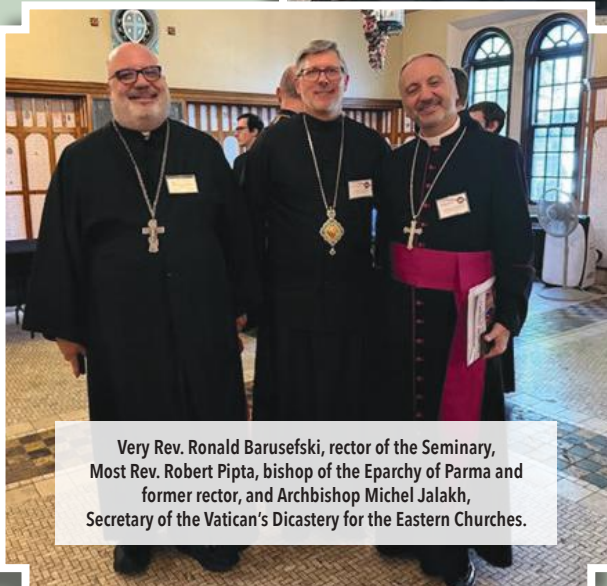
Archbishop Michel Jalakh joins the seminarians at their information table.



Exploring Whiting for dinner.



Closing Moleben at Lake Michigan



Very Rev. Ronald Barusefski, rector of the Seminary, Most Rev. Robert Pipta, bishop of the Eparchy of Parma and former rector, and Archbishop Michel Jalakh, Secretary of the Vatican's Dicastery for the Eastern Churches.



Procession through the town.

JOYFUL LIGHT

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Hierarchical Divine Liturgy for the Opening of the Seminary School Year on 26 August, 2025

ONLINE DONATIONS

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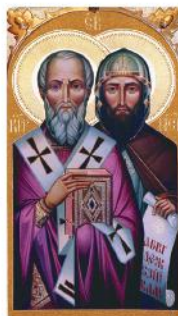
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Founded in 1950, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius is a free-standing, English speaking theological seminary, welcoming all those seeking the knowledge possessed by the Eastern ecclesial traditions.

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:

Master of Divinity; Master of Arts in Theology.

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.