



**CATHOLIC
HOME
MISSIONS**

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma



The Ukrainian Eparchy of St. Josaphat supports tens of thousands of parishioners spread across 11 different states.

How do a bishop, 35 priests, and 16 deacons minister to more than 10,000 people spread over 300,000 square miles in 11 states? It sounds almost like an algebra problem, but the solution lies with the Holy Spirit, not the answer key at the back of the textbook.

Bishop Bohdan Danylo of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma, Ohio, says ministry to his growing flock is inspired by the Acts of the Apostles. Moved by the Holy Spirit, the Apostles invited others into their community to share in the breaking of the bread. As Acts shows us, “People are encouraged to come to a community that cares,” Bishop Danylo says.

“As a Catholic church, we have to break through the shell of the individual human being who is searching for community. People often don’t see what they already have,” he says.

Catholic Home Missions supports the Eparchy of St. Josaphat with grants for basic operations, seminary and priestly education, and youth ministry.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church is one of several Eastern Catholic Churches that enjoy the same dignity, rights, and obligations as the Latin Church. Eastern Catholic Churches have distinctive liturgical and legal systems that reflect the national or ethnic character of their region of origin. Eparchies and archeparchies in the Eastern Catholic Church are akin to dioceses and archdioceses in the Latin Church.

Bishop Danylo describes the first wave of Ukrainian Catholics who immigrated to the United States in the 1880s. “People came from Galicia in western Ukraine to work in the coal mines and steel mills. The first churches were established in Pittsburgh and Cleveland,” he says. The first Ukrainian Catholic bishop was named in 1906 to serve the nascent Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

Newcomers have continued to flee war and persecution in Ukraine. “This is a church that witnessed martyrdom in the 20th century. Bishops were killed or sent to the gulag,” Bishop Danylo says. In 2001 Saint John Paul II beatified 28 ordained, consecrated, and lay Ukrainian martyrs.

The Eparchy of St. Josaphat was established in Parma in 1983. Retired Ukrainian miners and steelworkers had resettled in Florida in the 1970s, and a later generation of Ukrainian immigrants left Ukraine in the late 1990s for job opportunities on the Eastern seaboard. The eparchy now includes western Pennsylvania, Ohio, and nine states in the American South.

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Neighbors

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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM MISSION AMERICA

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the hot summer months, the pace of life slows down: crops are in the ground and growing to be harvested in the autumn, school is out, and families travel for vacations. The

mission of the Church, however, continues even in these slower days. The season reminds us especially of the Parable of the Sower, which illustrates the hopes and challenges the Church faces in bringing the Good News of Jesus to our brothers and sisters.

The hot summer sun reminds us of the seed that “fell on rocky ground” and “was scorched...for lack of roots.” We also know, though, that “some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit.” (Mk 4:6-8). We know by faith that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our labors will be productive at harvest time.

Our Catholic Home Mission dioceses reveal this in a special way; while the faith of the people in these dioceses is abundantly strong, the practical challenges faced by these communities are compellingly real and give the appearance of rocky ground. These challenges include limited resources, small or widely dispersed populations, and small numbers of priests and religious to serve. Yet, the faith and generosity of our donors is helping to make a difference. The rocky ground represented by these challenges is becoming rich soil that brings forth good fruit, as our Home Mission dioceses respond to these burdens through your generosity.

In this issue, we see how the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat ministers across 11 states. By embracing both new immigrants and reaching out to neighbors in their communities, and through the support of Catholic Home Missions, their Eparchy sends priests to new parishes, establishes pastoral programs, and brings together youth from across the eparchy for retreats.

Please pray for all our Home Mission dioceses and eparchies, that their mission to establish rich ground continue. Through your prayers and support, we can look forward with great joy and hope to a bountiful harvest.

In the Heart of Christ,

Paul D. Etienne

Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Anchorage

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Bishop Danylo, age 47, is one of the youngest bishops in the Catholic Church in the United States.

“We are confronting two realities: how to sustain parishes in well-established areas and how to reach out throughout the South,” Bishop Danylo says. “The Church is a pilgrim church, moving from place to place and planting seeds where the Church was not present 50 years ago. We want to be an example to others”.

“The generosity of Catholic Home Missions allows me to send priests to new places where we’ve been asked to establish parishes. They really are missionaries,” Bishop Danylo explains.

The Eparchy of St. Josaphat has one full-time employee and two part-time staff and operates on an extraordinarily slim budget. The bishop reflects, “It would be lovely to have more funds, but when you have just a little bit, you tend to spend it on pastoral programs. We see fruits at the parish level.”

Parishes of the eparchy include people with a Ukrainian background, but they welcome others who are drawn to the beauty of the Divine Liturgy of the Eastern Church, Bishop Danylo says. “We invite all Catholics to visit us for a different perspective on prayer life in the Catholic church.” The parishes often conduct liturgies in English.

Established and new parishes are small enough that priests and parishioners have an opportunity to get to know one another, function as a cohesive community, and reach out to their neighbors, Bishop Danylo says.

Youth ministry is flourishing in the eparchy. Local and eparchy-wide events include Lenten “lock-in” retreats, summer youth days, and an annual convocation of teenagers ages 15 to 17. “They know one another and enjoy being together, and I try to be there each year,” Bishop Danylo says.

Of the 35 priests and two seminarians in the eparchy, half are American-born and the others are from Ukraine. Bishop Danylo says the average age of the priests in his eparchy is late



While the parishes welcome people of all descents the interiors often resemble those found within Ukraine.

40s, and the younger priests are married, a practice allowed in the Eastern Catholic tradition.

Describing the positive interaction between Ukrainian and Roman Catholic parishes, Bishop Danylo says some of his priests have bi-ritual faculties that allow them to preside at both Eastern Church and Latin Church liturgies. They also serve as chaplains in hospitals and parochial schools. Some Roman Catholic bishops invite Ukrainian Catholic parishes to use local church buildings for their services.

In the near future, Bishop Danylo hopes to grow the burgeoning communities in the South and form new ones so worshippers “can feel the presence of Christ where they are.”

Reflecting on new immigrants, he says, “It’s a blessing that people are coming to the Church, but it’s also sad because sometimes they are leaving a place to which they will never return. They are trying to raise their families in peace, but they’re losing the opportunity to have their church where it has been for years.”

“The people who help Catholic Home Missions are often people we have not met. We thank you and we pray for you,” Bishop Danylo concludes. ☺

PROFILE: FATHER MARK SHUEY

“I love this church. I’ve never been so happy in my life!” Fr. Mark Shuey says.

“If you can go places where the Word has not been preached in a while and people are gathered who haven’t heard it in years, it transforms their lives,” he explains.

And he’s giving all the credit to the Holy Spirit, without whom, he says, “we would muddle it all up.”

In fact, Fr. Mark and others in the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat have used prayer, word of mouth, demographics, and advertising to grow the Ukrainian Catholic Church in North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee during the past decade.

People who heard there was a mission at one location asked for one closer to them— “and it snowballed,” he explained. “The Holy Spirit kept pushing us along.”

Fr. Mark says, “You can’t start a mission without people.” So, he helped develop a “playbook” that uses demographic data, social media, newspaper ads, and parish bulletin announcements to identify and invite people of Ukrainian descent to meet, worship, share a meal, and perhaps form a new community.

The result of this consistent approach is “a really amazing experience,” Fr. Mark says, in which people are excited about being part of a vibrant worship community.

Fr. Mark was raised Roman Catholic in California. His second-generation Ukrainian wife, Dawn Beznar, was raised Lutheran, but her Ukrainian grandmother instilled in her many of the religious and ethnic traditions of her homeland. “When she went to a Ukrainian Catholic liturgy after we were married, it was like coming home for her,” Fr. Mark says.

And when Dawn decided to embrace her grandmother’s faith, her husband joined her. The former engineer was ordained in 2007. Now he is pastor of a parish in Cary, North Carolina, and administrator of missions in Augusta, Georgia, and Canton, North Carolina. The couple has five children.

Fr. Mark echoes Bishop Danylo’s focus on evangelization and mission for the eparchy. “We have to move from maintenance to mission, through corporal works of mercy and outreach to those who have left,” he says. “We have to get out of our comfort zones and preach the Word of God. It’s not just theory, but boots on the ground.”



Father Mark Shuey was ordained in 2007 and is now pastor of a parish in Cary, North Carolina.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma, Ohio, was established in 1983. It covers 300,000 square miles, including part of Pennsylvania and all of Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Florida.
- The eparchy serves 10,875 parishioners in 38 parishes and 7 missions.
- The eparchy is served by 33 diocesan priests, 2 international priests, 16 deacons, 2 women religious, and 2 seminarians.
- Bishop Bohdan Danylo was born in Poland and completed his theological studies at the Catholic University of America. He was ordained a priest for the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford in 1996 and was consecrated the second bishop of St. Josaphat in Parma in 2014.
- The average age of priests in the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma is late 40s. At age 47 Bishop Danylo is one of the youngest bishops in the Catholic Church in the United States.



Strengthening the Church at Home

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READ ABOUT HOW the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma, Ohio is ministering to its growing flock.



Your generosity to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal supports essential ministries in poor dioceses across the United States and its territories.

THANK YOU for being part of our efforts to strengthen the Church at home.

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