

*Sint* by Pope Saint John Paul II, strengthened the Importance for the Eastern Catholic Churches to reestablish their long-held traditions, liturgical practices, and theology.

Throughout the years there have been

several attempts for unity among the Christian churches. A certain schizophrenia exists as not every attempt has been accepted. We need to follow the leadership of Patriarch Sviatoslav, who stated in his dialog with Archbishop Williams, that

the mission of the Eastern Catholic Churches is to foster unity of all Christians. We need to be a church for everyone, not only those of Eastern European ethnicity.

*Henry Peresie, Ph. D., CECS*

## The Second Bishop of the Eparchy of St Nicholas

With the death of Bishop JAROSLAV (Gabro), the see became vacant. When Innocent Lotocky was first asked to become the Eparch of St. Nicholas, he turned it down. Later when he was asked about that, Bishop Innocent answered that the pope, through his apostolic delegate, had requested that he accept the job, and that he had been elected by the Synod of Bishops and Patriarch Joseph.

Born in Stari Petlykivtsi, Buchach region, Ukraine on November 3, 1915, the feast of St. Hilarion the Great and named after that renowned third-century monastic of the Palestinian desert. His parents were Stefan and Maria (*nee*) Tytyn.

At age seven his parents enrolled him in the village elementary school, and in 1928 he was admitted to Basilian High School (gymnasium) in Buchach. Four years later he entered the Basilian Order as a novice in Krekhiv, western Ukraine.

On July 20, 1934, he took the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and was given the name Innocent. Three years later, on August 8, 1937, Brother Innocent was solemnly professed taking the same vows becoming a full-fledged monk of the Order of St. Basil the Great. Noting his intellectual capabilities, his superiors sent him for higher studies, and for the next eight years he enrolled in courses in the fine arts and philosophy at the Basilian Lavra in Dobromil and Krystynopol, western Ukraine, then in Vienna, Austria, and in Olomouc, Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic.)

World War II had begun when on November 24, 1940 Brother Innocent knelt before the saintly Bishop PETER PAUL (Gojdich) of Preshov and felt his ordaining hands imparting the mystery of Holy Orders on his person. Two months later Father Innocent went to Vienna, where he continued his theological studies and earned his doctorate with his dissertation "The Holy Spirit in the Divine Liturgy."

After the war, the priest-monk was assigned to spiritual and pastoral work among the displaced Ukrainians in Belgium, in 1946 his superiors sent him to the United States, where he immediately became the superior and master of novices in the Basilian Monastery in Dawson, Pennsylvania. Five years later the 36-year-old priest became the superior of the American Province of the Order of St. Basil the Great.

In 1953 he took over pastoral responsibilities of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City. The parish had grown to extremely large proportions after the influx of tens of thousands of Ukrainian immigrant families. He was a father and pastor to all of them. His term as pastor ended in 1958, and he became novice master in the Basilian Monastery in Glen Cove, New York

Obediently he, a good monk, accepted responsibilities as superior and pastor of the burgeoning St. Nicholas parish in Chicago. But his tenure was to be brief, hardly two years (1960-61), because St. Nicholas became the cathedral church for the new Eparchy of St. Nicholas in Chicago for Ukrainians. Father Innocent was then given the task of pastoral care of the faithful in Immaculate Conception Parish in Hamtramck, Michigan which he held until January 29, the date he was appointed bishop. During this pastoral experience, he also carried on work for his Basilian community. In 1963 he was a Delegate to General Chapter of Basilian Fathers in Rome. Then from 1962-1980 as a Member of Provincial Council of Basilian Fathers in Rome.

On December 22, 1980 it was announced Father Innocent Hilarion Lotocky, OSBM, was named the eparch to replace Bishop Jaroslav. He was consecrated a bishop by Patriarch JOSEPH (Slipyj) in St. Sophia Cathedral in Rome on March 1, 1981. The co-consecrators were Bishop BASIL (Losten) of Stamford and Bishop NEIL (Savaryn), OSBM, of Edmonton. On April 2, 1981 the new Bishop was solemnly installed as the second bishop of St. Nicholas Eparchy at St. Nicholas Cathedral.

The installation was conducted by Archbishop STEPHEN (Sulyk) who had been installed only two days earlier as metropolitan for Ukrainian Catholics in the United States. The ceremony and subsequent divine liturgy were attended by fifteen Ukrainian Catholic hierarchs from the United States, Canada and Argentina, ten Roman Catholic prelates led by Cardinal John Cody of Chicago. Many prelates, clergy, nuns, faithful and representatives of various church and community organizations walked in a procession from St. Nicholas School to the cathedral, which was filled to capacity. Among the participants were Archbishop-Metropolitans MAXIM (Hermaniuk) of Winnipeg and STEPHEN J. (Kocisko) of the Byzantine Archeparchy



of Pittsburgh; the Archbishop-Coadjutor MYROSLAV IVAN (Lubachivsky) and Bishop ANDREW (Sapelak) of Buenos Aires.

The brief installation ceremony began. First, the papal bull designating Bishop Innocent as eparch of Chicago was read in both Ukrainian and English. As Metropolitan Stephen presented the new bishop with his crozier, the symbol of his authority, the 100-voice Andrew Sheptytsky choir directed by Juriy Jarymowycz sang "Axios" (he is worthy). The newly-installed eparch then pledged his loyalty and cooperation to the Metropolitan and to His Beatitude, Patriarch Joseph.

The homily delivered by Bishop Innocent at the end of the liturgy was based on the motto he chose for his episcopal work, "Tend my flock." The bishop said: "My life, time, health and prayers belong to you, members of my eparchy." He promised to be a true pastor, to celebrate liturgy in the church, to preach and to hear confessions. He also expressed his dedication to the Ukrainian Catholic Church headed by Patriarch Joseph and stated that he would be "pleased if all of (us) bishops work together within one patriarchate for the Church in Ukraine and abroad."

As eparch, he ordained thirty-five men to the diaconate; some of those deacons were among the twenty-one priests he ordained. Additionally, in 1983 he was the principal consecrator of Bishop VLADIMIR (Tarasevych), OSB, as bishop for the Belarusian Church, also in Chicago, along with co-consecrators Archbishop Daniel Kucera, OSB, and Bishop EMIL (Mihalik) of Parma. Subsequently Bishop Innocent was a co-consecrator of bishops ROBERT (Moskal) 1981; MICHAEL (Kuchmiak) 1988; WALTER (Paska) 1992; and, in 1993, his successor as eparch of St. Nicholas, Bishop MICHAEL (Wiwchar), CSsR.

Another significant event was a gathering for the Youth for Christ for over 400 young people at the fiftieth anniversary of the first Youth for Christ gathering in Lviv in 1933 under the patronage of Metropolitan ANDREW (Sheptytsky).

On July 2, 1993, at age seventy-seven after years of dedicated service he retired. After 20 years of retirement at age ninety-seven, he was the oldest bishop in the Ukrainian Catholic Church worldwide. Bishop Innocent was relatively active until just before his passing. The retired eparch died on July 4, 2013. His funeral services and burial were July 12-13 in Chicago at St Nicholas Cathedral and the parish cemetery. .

*Fr Jonathan Morse*



## His Beatitude Greeted Bishop BASIL (Losten) on 50th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination

His Beatitude Sviatoslav, personally and on behalf of the Synod of Bishops of the UGCC, congratulated Bishop BASIL (Losten), Bishop Emeritus of the Eparchy of Stamford, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his episcopal ordination.

"The celebration of your jubilee," says the text of the letter, "is for all of us a sign of God's great blessing, which through your ministry, like anointing oil, flows to the God-loving people of our Church."

"For hundreds of thousands of the faithful, you have become a good father, a zealous preacher of the truth of Christ. Thanks to the cooperation with the laity, you managed to carry out a number of important projects, one of the largest of which was the opening of St. Olha's Chapel in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, which marked the unchanging unity of our Church with the Apostolic See," the letter reads.

"All this testifies to you as a man of great faith, who sincerely cares for the development of our Church," concluded His Beatitude Sviatoslav, wishing the merciful Lord to thank the bishop for his grace and accept his gift of service.

Bishop Basil was born on May 11, 1930, in Chesapeake City, Maryland. His priestly ordination took place on June 10, 1957, by Bishop CONSTANTINE (Bohachevsky), Metropolitan of Philadelphia. On May 25, 1971, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, Fr. Basil was ordained a bishop.

*Information Department of the UGCC*

## Bishop MYKOLA (Bychok) Flew to Australia

On May 24, 2021, after almost a year of waiting for Covid-19 restrictions to subside, Bishop MYKOLA (Bychok) flew from Kyiv to Australia to serve for our faithful in the Eparchy of the Prime Apostles Peter and Paul in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania. His ordination was June 7, 2020

Before leaving, Bishop Mykola shared his experiences and expectations:

"Looking at the pages of Scripture, Jesus and His disciples were constantly in motion. In the 10th chapter, the evangelist Matthew very clearly states the purpose of the apostles' journey: 'Go and preach, saying that the kingdom of heaven is near' (Mt 10: 7). This call of Christ to preach the Kingdom of Heaven was to me like a lamp showing what I should do.

"Everyone knows the feeling before departure—joy, sadness, and a certain excitement. On the one hand, there is

