



Mission Society of the Mother of God of Boronyavo

Autumn 2010

Parish community of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist in Dubove.

By Father Gregory Rogatskiy VI

Revival of the Greek Catholic community in Dubove after the Soviet regime goes back to 1991. One of its first initiators was Father Vasyl Nosa, a native of the village. At that time, he was still working as a medical doctor and, also being a deputy of the Village Council, he started to collect signatures for the possible registration of the parish. This idea was supported by auxiliary bishop Ivan Margitych. At that time, there were two priests, Fathers Andriy Brovdiy and Ivan Ternynko, assigned to start pastoral activity in our parish.

For seven years, Holy Liturgies were celebrated at the cemetery Cross. On December 19, 1997, we got permission to celebrate Liturgy in the Assembly Hall of the local college. It was then the idea to start construction of the new parish church was born, largely thanks to priest-activists Father Petro Krenitski and Father Andriy Brovdiy. The principle lay-activists were Ivan Omelyan, Vasil Zuber, Vasil Deket and Vasil Mezey, supported by the rest of the community.

The cornerstone of the future church was consecrated on July 7, 1999, on the Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist during the solemn Divine Liturgy celebrated by Bishop Ivan Margitych, Father Petro Krenitski, Father Andriy Brovdiy, and many other priests. Construction of the church lasted three years. It is worth mentioning the particular solidarity and sacrificial spirit of the parish faithful who, with their own hands as well as with donations, assisted the construction process. The considerable endeavors of Father Petro Krenitski helped the project to get financial support from benefactors abroad.

In 2001, Father Mykhaylo Prodanets was assigned as the new parish administrator. During his administration on September 11, 2003, on the feast of Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, Bishop Milan Sasik solemnly consecrated the new parish church.

On March 25, 2004, with the blessing of Bishop Milan, the male religious Institute of the Incarnate Word for the pastoral and spiritual care of the local parish was started. Father Gregory Rogatskiy VI became prior of the institute house and administrator of the parish and his vicar was Father Yosip Popovich VI. The Institute's missionary activity puts its primary emphasis on working with youth and children, for they are society's future, and prepares people for the Holy Sacraments. Every day, Divine Liturgy is celebrated in the parish church. Spiritual retreats are organized during



Church of the Nativity of the Mother of God, Pylpets

The parish was founded before 1463. At least two wooden churches burned in the past. This magnificent church is built of interlocking spruce logs from 1759-1762. It is one of the first churches to have an arcade porch with carved columns, and the interior is unchanged since its construction. No nails were used then or today in the wooden churches: the saying is that you can not again crucify Christ when building His Body (the church). The population remained Greek Catholic during the Orthodox era (1949-1990), and this is one of the oldest churches in the Eparchy of Mukachevo.

All support of the Mission Society's work is in addition to members' and donors' existing support of their local parish, their eparchy, and the Metropolia of Pittsburgh. Renewal of our Mother Church in Central Europe cannot mean a diminishment of our financial and spiritual dedication to the church in America.

**MISSION SOCIETY OF
THE MOTHER OF
GOD OF
BORONYAVO, INC.**

The Mission Society is an independent organization dedicated to the renewal and strengthening of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America and Central Europe.

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Great Fast and additional religious studies, educational conferences, summer camps, and concerts are arranged to bring people to the closer knowledge and love of their Creator.

The annual summer camp for children is designed to teach them the fundamental virtues of Christian life. Children also develop their talents there: drawing, singing, playing musical instruments, putting on little dramas...

At present, there is a novitiate (the first stage in monastic vocation) in Dubove. Father Yosip Popovich was appointed a magister of novices in 2006. There are constant changes in the Institute community because, after completion of novitiate, the brothers continue their studies in the Seminary of the Institute of the Incarnate Word and God sends us more candidates. Now we are five: two priests and three brothers.

On September 25, 2004, Bishop Milan also started a mission house (a formation house) for aspirants of the "Sisters Servants of Christ and Virgin Mary from Matara." Sister Maria Kordulche was appointed prioress initially but as of summer 2007, Sister Maria of the Perpetual Help has served in this office. Beside missionary activity in the parishes with children, youth, adults and charity works for the elderly, the Sisters also have a formation house for a group of the underage girls who, with parental permission, are trained (aspirants). This is the Sisters' primary work. At present, there are three sisters and five aspirants in the formation house in Dubove. †

Plea for help in finishing a parish house before the winter snows come!

Reverend Father!

I turn to you again with the request, if would not be possible to get some financial support for the construction of the parish house in Storoznica. Since August, I have been living in the seminary because a new Roman Catholic parish priest came to Storoznica and there's no room for me in the Roman Catholic parish house, where I was only guest.

We are almost finished with the first floor of our Byzantine Catholic parish house. It can be finished in 3 months but we still need 8 thousand euros. Since I've been in Storoznica, I've raised 11.200 euros and was able to begin the project but it is still not enough. The second floor will be probably never finished because, after first floor is ready, we need to plaster the church and repair its roof. These two tasks we will be able to do with our own forces but nobody finds a donation for the parish house. This is the heritage of 40 years of communism.

Thank you in advance,

Hieromonk* Makarii Medvid.

*A hieromonk is a monk who is also a priest.

- ✎ The priest of the Transfiguration parish in Uzhorod (Tseholnaya district) is concerned about his parishioners facing yet another winter of worshipping outdoors—as they have since 1991. Perhaps your parish could sponsor a pancake breakfast or rummage sale, or simply ask for donations to bring these people under a roof this winter? Please contact us if you have questions and thank you for your assistance! Mark “Construction of Churches” in order to support this and similar projects.
- ✎ The American dollar is very strong in Ukraine. Ten dollars can buy groceries for a priest’s family, gasoline for a car or tractor, or bricks for a wall. Sponsor a pancake breakfast by a children’s group like the “Knights of St George” in Olympia, WA, and \$265 is raised for a church or parish house. Get friends together for a yard sale, put up a sign that the proceeds are going to build a church, and watch how people will support the cause! Ask your pastor for permission to hold a fund-raiser, and you will be amazed at how far your donations will go.
- ✎ A parish house contains living space for the priest on an upper floor; library and religious education classrooms on lower floors; and often a chapel. The chapels are especially important if there is no full-time church available. The garden of the parish house is planted with fruit trees and vegetables to provide food for the priest or the poor, and it is bordered with lilac bushes, irises and roses to provide flowers for the altar. A concrete cross with Christ Crucified faces out to the roadway. Every centimeter of space is put to use!

Consider donations for these specific intentions (please indicate your intentions):

Mukachevo Eparchy (Transcarpathian Oblast, Ukraine)

- Construction of New Churches
- Construction of Parish Houses
- Korolevo Orphan Homes for Boys and Girls
- Seminarian Assistance

Slovakia: Presov Archeparchy and Kosice and Bratislava Eparchies

- Construction of New Church in Petrzalka
- Sisters of Saint Basil the Great Novitiate

Please Give My Donation to the Area of Greatest Need

DIVINE LITURGY CARDS: full-color icon cover with an inside page to write out the intention, and information on the Mission Society on the back; matching envelope provided. Minimum offering of \$5 per Liturgy is requested. The Holy Sacrifice of the Eucharist is surely the greatest gift anyone can give, or receive! Please let us know how many you would like: _____

*Pray for the full restoration of our Church in
Transcarpathia and Slovakia!*

Seminary tuition is \$300 a year. One-third of the 112 students cannot afford to pay \$25 a month for their studies. Can you? Mark your donation Seminary and indicate if you will be contributing monthly. Or you can send one check in a particular amount for the support of a seminarian over the span of several months!



Renovations of the parish house in Oleshnyk (Father Vasyl Brovdi)

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

Dear Father Chris,

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to the Mission Society of the Holy Mother of God of Boronyavo for the first donation of \$1,187.00 and second donation \$1,368,85 (total sum \$2,555,85) for Mukachevo Seminarians tuition: for students who are not able to pay tuition. May the Blessed Theodore, Martyr for the Greek Catholic Church, bless your generous gift and support for our seminary as we carry out our mission to teach and form young men studying for the holy priesthood to serve the Eparchy of Mukachevo.

As rector, I am grateful for your continued support and care of our seminary. I assure you of our continued prayers and asking of God's blessing upon your meritorious work.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Taras Lovska,
Rector



LIST OF SEMINARIANS

In the first row:

Oleksandr EGRESHI; Ruslan KEDYK; Vasyl BANYK; Ivan SVITLYK; Ivan GOLINKA

In the back row:

Mykhaylo KISH; Ivan LOVSKA; Andriy KENYJZ; Vasyl MATSUR; Ladyslav POPOVYCH