



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

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PASCHA 2004

## Letter from Blessed Theodore Romzha Seminary

*Christ is risen!  
Greetings from Uzhorod!*

Dear Friends,

I can't believe that we are already well into our second semester and coming to the Holy Cross and Resurrection. I have been blessed to be part of this second spring for the Church here in Uzhorod. There is so much going on and such a great sense of renewal and hope building that it energizes me. I am happy to serve here in the seminary and get a close up view of life in the Church as it struggles to move forward with hope and confidence.

The needs here are overwhelming. But the work continues and with God's help and the help of many beneficiaries progress continues. It is amazing how much can be done here with a little help.

Our seminary has 112 students. So many of these young men come from poor families. I interviewed the first year students to try to see their financial need. Of the 25 seminarians in the first year the fathers of six students are deceased. Many of them live with only their mothers or grandparents. Many of those from the remote areas or the mountains have no other family income except what they make from their small piece of land. There is just no opportunity for employment.

The cost of educating a seminarian here is approximately \$125.00 a month. The students are asked to pay \$10.00 a month. About one third can't even do that.

Our seminary is in the final stages of completion of the original building and the renovation of the existing rooms. The cost to renovate a small room here is about \$500.00 and a large room \$750.00. It has cost about \$4000.00 a room to complete the new building. There are still 11 rooms that need to be completed. I admire Fr. Taras' faith and courage. He became rector at the end of last February. The immediate need was to complete the seminary. We will do it. God will help us and show us the way. On this faith and confidence the seminary was completed. I am always overwhelmed by the faith and generosity of our faithful who offer their prayer and support to help the Church here in Zakarpattia.

The Eparchy itself has no diocesan meeting center or no catechetical centers. This year they are beginning or are in different stages of completing 65 new churches. They are just beginning to start building rectories. Of the 365 communities only about 60 have rectories. The priests have to find their own living quarters.

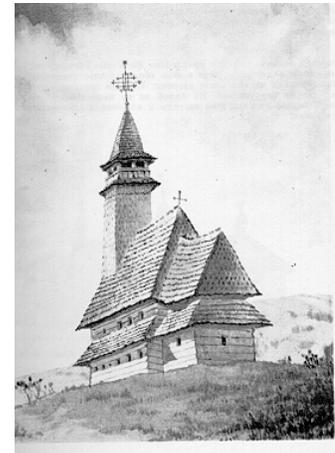
Fr. Ivan Isajevich has finally won the battle to start an orphanage in Korelevo. One of our priests from America sent him enough money to install gas heaters in the orphanage building. He is looking for a way for the sisters who will maintain the orphanage to be self-supporting. He is looking for start up money for them

to start a greenhouse so that they can sell flowers. One of the great needs is for people to find employment. The Church here is looking for funds to help people in villages to start up a new business so that they can begin to provide work in the area.

When I look at all the energy and the blessing of vocations I see the future here bright with hope. When I look at the progress that the Church here has made I thank God for the many benefactors who have come to the aid of this Church that has suffered so much for the faith and witnesses to the power of faith.

May the Lord bless all of you for your continued zeal to help the Church here move forward in faith and hope.

God's blessing and Christ is risen!  
**Fr. John Zeyack**



**Saint Nicholas church, built in 1428 in the Rakhiv District, eastern Trans-Carpathia.**

Courtesy of Uzhorod University.

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  
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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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## Letter from Father Vitalii Shelemba, Bereg County

Dear Father Christopher.

I am very glad to receive from you your message. Now is the time of the Great Fast and I always am very busy. Practically every day I go to the district village Gorbok. On Wednesday and Friday I serve the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy. On other days I have other services.

It is very hard to go every day. I try to equip in the house of district one room for sleeping and cooking so that I could remain there to spend the night. Certainly, it is not simple, but I think, that I will manage to make with the help of the God it.

By us it is still very cold, and people have no work on fields, therefore the temple almost every day is full with people. I am very glad to see this.

I pray for you that the God has enabled us will meet. And once again thanks for Liturgy intentions.

Your brother in the Christ, Father Vitaly.

## Fr. Zugger's Summer Plans

Our chaplain and Newsletter editor, Father Chris Zugger, has been invited to Eastern Europe, and he will be going for nearly three weeks after Pascha (Easter), with the assistance of Mark Wansa, whose father came from a small village in northeastern Slovakia, Varadtka. Father will be lecturing at the International Theological Institute in Austria; the Bishop Gojdich Seminary in Presov, Slovakia and the East-West Center in Kosice, Slovakia; and the Ukrainian Catholic University and Institute of Church History in L'viv, Ukraine. He will spend his 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of ordination at the Shrine of the Weeping Madonna, Our Lady of Mariapocs, in Hungary. He will be lecturing on the history of our Church in America; of the Russian Byzantine Catholics in the USSR; and missionary work in the Byzantine Catholic Church in America. He will also be conducting interviews with Byzantine and Roman Catholic survivors of the Communist prison systems, and visit sites that the Mission Society has been helping in Slovakia, Ukraine, and Hungary. He is currently in physical rehabilitation. The trip will extend from April 20 – May 13. Your prayers for his physical progress and spiritual preparation will be appreciated. ✚



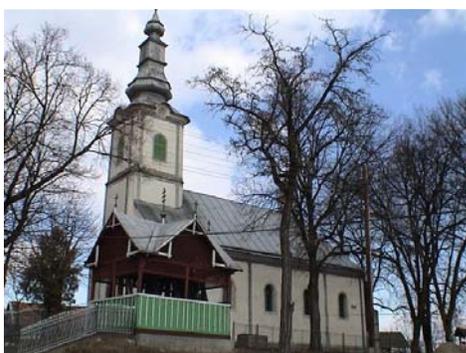
**Gorbok parish construction work done by children, teen-agers, and adults. Your contributions this Easter will help them finish the job and provide a good parish center for Saint Michael's church.**



**Parish House under construction in Gorbok, Trans-Carpathia, for Saint Michael Parish served by Fr. Vitalii Shelemba. All the work from digging the basement up to the roof has been done by both adults and children for the past year.**



The Carmelite monastery in Koritnany is doing well. The Sisters were able to attend the procession of the relics of Bishop-Martyr Theodore Romzha, and were deeply moved by the size of the crowds and their devotion. The Sisters wrote that they are doing well in their house and garden, and hoping for more vocations. Remember these brave Carmelites in your holy prayers please!



**St. Michael's Parish in Gorbok**



**Interior of St. Michael's**

**See special box in this issue to help this parish. The entire village remained Byzantine Catholic, and this is the first time that they have requested help from us.**

**Please be generous.**

## **A SURPRISING EVENT: RETURN OF OLD GREEK- CATHOLIC CHURCHES TO THE EPARCHY OF MUKACHEVO.**

Bishop Milan Shashik, CM, Administrator of the Eparchy of Mukachevo, was able to celebrate Divine Liturgy at the church of Osii, Irshava county, Trans-Carpathia. The Orthodox who ran the church after 1949 built a new church and decided to give the old one back to its former owners.

Bishop Shashik reports that four other Orthodox parishes in the villages of Velyki Lazi, Bedykivtsi, Zariche, and Sasovo will return their churches to the Greek-Catholics. At present, there are 150 Greek-Catholic communities with no church at all, or sharing use of an old church with a Russian or Ukrainian Orthodox community. In some places, services are still held in overcrowded houses and even outdoors.

This movement on the part of the Orthodox Churches will help relieve tensions in the villages. About 25% of the population of Trans-Carpathia belongs to the Eparchy of Mukachevo today. The Orthodox faithful are divided among the Russian Patriarchate, Ukrainian Autocephalous, and Ukrainian Kyiv Patriarchate.

There is still room for missionary work – tens of thousands have no religious identity as a result of 50 years of communist propaganda, and need to know Jesus Christ.

**One – third of the 112 students cannot afford to pay \$10 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!

**Father Vitalii travels back and forth over mountain roads to serve Saint Michael’s church in Gorbok.** \$100 would help to furnish a room decently for him. Or, give a donation for the completion of the parish house, which stands 80% completed with no outside help at all. Support these hard-working farmers in keeping our Church alive!

**I wish I had more to give, but I can’t afford much now. How else can I help?**

- PRAY – for vocations in America, and for the building up of our Church in the nations of Eastern Europe.
- Organize a pancake breakfast at your parish after Divine Liturgy, with your pastor’s permission, and round up volunteers for shopping, cooking, serving, and cleaning up. It doesn’t take much work to raise enough to renovate a room or pay for a seminarian’s tuition.
- Hold a garage sale at your home. Get other people to donate items. Post a sign that all the income goes to help seminarians in Uzhorod, Ukraine. Put notices about the sale in the regular newspaper notices, and in church bulletins around your area.

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**I want to donate \$10 every month for the support of a poor seminarian. Please send me envelopes. Enclosed is my first donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

**I am sending \$100 \$200 \$300 \$400 \$500 \$750 other amount \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the renovation of one of the eleven unfinished bedrooms in the seminary.**

**I want to donate for the new orphanage in Korolevo and am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Please use this for the greatest need \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Liturgy Stipends (\$5 for each Divine Liturgy - please state your intention clearly)**

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