

UKRAINIANS ABROAD: NEWS AND VIEWS #139

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*** Veselykh Sviat to those of you celebrating Christmas on 7 January! A Happy New Year to all!

1. Argentina. “120 Years of Ukraine in Argentina” *Ukrainian Dance World*, no. 4, November 2017-February 2018.

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Danya Pidlisetska

The first Ukrainian families arrived in Argentina in 1897. Since then, the Ukrainian diaspora in this South American country has been tirelessly working to preserve, promote, and develop their ancestral heritage.

Ukrainian culture in Argentina has been maintained by organisations which nurture all things Ukrainian. From Ukrainian language schools, to dance groups, choirs, political and social clubs, there isn't anything in North America they haven't also thought of down south.

UKRAINIAN HUBS

Estimates put the number of Ukrainian Argentinians at up to half a million people, that's 1% of the entire population. Most reside in the Greater Buenos Aires area, with the provinces of Misiones (the “historical heartland of the Ukrainian immigration to Argentina”) and Chaco taking up a good chunk.

Misiones and Chaco were not only the provinces of the first Ukrainian settlements, but they were also the first hubs of the local Ukrainian church. Ukrainian Catholics in Argentina had no clergy of their own following the first 10 years of immigration, with failed attempts to convert the locals to Roman Catholicism or to the Russian Orthodox faith. For years, this meant that baptisms, weddings, even funerals were done independently. It wasn't until 1908-1909 that the foundations of church life in Misiones were laid, when, at the instruction of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, Basilian priests were sent from Brazil. Where the provinces of Misiones and Chaco have their Ukrainian communities pursue activities through the church, there is a second hub in Buenos Aires that looks to organisations Prosvita, Vidrozhennia (Renaissance), as well as Plast and CYM to maintain strong cultural and social bonds. Stepan Danylyshyn, a Ukrainian dancer from Prosvita, says that for many Ukrainian diaspora like himself, being part of such institutions is a means of staying connected with the community, and is a sign of deep passion for the Ukrainian lifestyle.

DANCE AS A DOOR

Today, many Ukrainian descendants participate in various activities with various organisations, but dance, in many ways, is the most effective and popular medium. “Ukrainian dance is the

door that the Ukrainian community uses to open their culture to Argentinian society; through this door we can demonstrate ancient Ukrainian traditions and culture, as well as show our support for the people of Ukraine,” explains Ivan Taras Dmytrow, another dancer with Prosvita. Danka Yuziuchuk, who also dances with the Buenos Aires group, says that knowing the Ukrainian language may prevent someone from joining a Ukrainian choir or band, but anyone can dance: “Dance, unlike anything else, attracts and inspires the youth, forming bonds across the community.”

Unlike Ukrainian dance companies in Canada, the US or the UK, groups in Argentina work as part of bigger organisations rather than autonomously. By offering a variety of activities for different interest and age groups, organisations like Prosvita and Vidrodzhennia have evolved into institutions where whole families – children, adolescents, and adults – can be equally involved.

UKRAINIAN SPIRIT ACROSS BORDERS

Similar to representatives of other diasporas across the globe, Ukrainians first moved to Argentina in search of a better life, a better future for their children, or as an escape from oppression or political persecution. While these people found a new home and adopted local traditions and customs, at the same [time] they never forgot their roots or the homeland.

“I have Ukrainian blood running through my veins, but I was born in a country that gave me bread, peace, and work. So I’m proud to be born in Argentina,” relays Sergio Jaremko, Director of the Prosvita Association of Ukrainian Culture. He believes that their cultural background is key to defining their identity. “A person is the product of their past and present, and great communities are those that don’t forget their traditions,” he says. “They grow up with the future in mind, but never forget their cultural background.” Yuziuchuk likes the fact that she feels comfortable in the Ukrainian community, no matter where she goes. “It’s my second home,” she says. Her friends are part of this circle and she knows she can count on anyone in the Ukrainian community if necessary. “For that I’m really grateful,” she says.

Alejandro Pinio, another dancer with Prosvita, doesn’t think culture should be forced on anyone, regardless of where you come from, but for him it’s important. Like many others he believes that his generation will continue learning from the leaders of the community to follow in their steps – teaching the language, songs, and dances of Ukraine to new generations.

UKRAINIAN DANCE GROUPS IN ARGENTINA

Barvinok (Ober[a], Misiones)

The group has been dancing for 37 years and has more [than] 100 dancers.

Dunai (Avellaneda, Buenos Aires)

Created in the 1980s, the group boasts both a children's group as well as an ensemble.

Kalyna (Obera, Misiones)

Founded by Joseph Oliynik in 1969, Kalyna has a children's group as well as an ensemble.

Kolomeya (Posadas, Misiones)

The group has been operating for three decades, and consists of a Ukrainian folk ensemble, a children's ensemble, as well as a theatrical group.

Lviv (Buenos Aires)

Created in 2008, the group has 26 dancers aged 15-40.

Prosvita (Buenos Aires)

Created in 1961, 60 dancers round out this performing ensemble.

Roksolana (Aristóbulo del Valle, Misiones)

Two groups – children and senior dancers – make up this group of 70 strong, founded in 1994.

Vesna (Apóstoles, Misiones)

Founded in 1957, they are the longest-running group in the province of Misiones, and are 100 strong.

Zhuravli (Buenos Aires)

Three groups make up this ensemble of 50 which was founded in 1984.

2. Argentina. “Ukraine’s Economic Development Minister Meets with Ukrainian Diaspora in Argentina,” *News from Ukraine*, 11 December 2017.

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First Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine - Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine Stepan Kubiv met with the Ukrainian community of the city of Buenos Aires.

According to the website of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine, Kubiv thanked the Ukrainian people in Argentina for their help and solidarity with Ukraine in extremely hard times for our state.

He also expresses hope that the Ukrainian community in Argentina will continue to be a united front in support of the foreign policy course of the state and the implementation of domestic political reforms in Ukraine aimed at overcoming the consequences of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and ensuring the sustainable development of the country.

The Ukrainian government delegation headed by First Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine - Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine Stepan Kubiv is paying a visit to Argentina to participate in the 11th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which will last till December 13.

3. Australia. “Senate of Australia Passes Motion to Mark Anniversary of Holodomor in Ukraine,” *News from Ukraine*, 29 November 2017.

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The Senate of Australia has passed a motion to mark the beginning of the 85th anniversary commemorations of the Holodomor in Ukraine in 1932-33.

“Today my motion to mark the beginning of the 85th anniversary commemorations of the Holodomor famine in Ukraine in 1932-33 passed the Senate,” author of the motion, Senator Catryna Bilyk posted on her Facebook page.

Thus, the Australian Senate condemns the actions of the Stalinist regime aimed at destroying the national, cultural, religious and democratic aspirations of Ukrainians and also recalls that up to seven million Ukrainians starved to death as a result of Stalin's policies in 1932 to 1933 alone.

In addition, the Senate recognizes the importance of remembering those terrible events to ensure that such crimes against humanity are not allowed to be repeated. The Senate of Australia calls for honouring the memory of those who lost their lives during Holodomor and also pays its respects to the Australian Ukrainians who lived through this tragedy. “The Senate joins the Ukrainian Australian community and the international community in commemorating this tragic milestone under the motto, Ukraine Remembers -The World Acknowledges,” the document reads.

4. Australia. “The Oldest Ukrainian Church in Australia Marks Its Jubilee,” *RISU*, 20 November 2017.

In Australia, the 50th anniversary of St. Michael’s Church in Quebec (UGCC) was marked by the solemn Liturgy. The event was attended by representatives of the Ukrainian Embassy in Australia, the Consulate General of Ukraine in Sydney, the high representative office of the UGCC in Australia and the numerous Ukrainian community of the Australian capital region, Ukrinform reported.

“It is great that so many Ukrainians gathered for today’s holiday. St. Michael has a special place in Ukrainian history. Churches named after him have repeatedly been fortresses in defense of freedom and independence of Ukraine. The nearest historical example is St. Michael’s Golden-Domed Cathedral, which became the main citadel of the heroes of the Revolution of Dignity,” said the Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia, Mykola Kulynych.

Vyacheslav Spesvyi, the head of the Ukrainian community of Queanbeyan, reminded us of the history of the temple built by the Ukrainian emigrants in 1967 with his own hands.

“There are about 40 families who came to Australia after the war, many of them had no homes of their own, but sacrificed their time, labor, or savings to build a church behind which the community would unite,” he said.

The years-long church pastors, Fr Oleg Stefanyshyn and Fr. Dmitry Senov also shared their memories of the ministry in St. Michael church.

Julian Romanyk, head of the United Ukrainian community of Canberra and Queanbeyan, stressed that St. Michael church was the basis for the rise of an organized community in the capital of Australia, and for a long time, until a church in Canberra was build, it had been the only center of Ukrainians in the metropolitan region.

“Significantly, the Ukrainian church in Australia still remains the place where Ukrainians gather the most often,” he said.

As part of the celebration, they organized an exhibition of photographs about the history of the construction and the activities of the church.

[Religious Information Service of Ukraine.]

5. Australia. “Speaker of South Australian Parliament Wears Vyshyvanka in Support of Ukraine,” *News from Ukraine*, 16 November 2017.

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Speaker of the South Australian Parliament Michael Atkins chaired the session wearing a vyshyvanka Ukrainian national embroidered shirt.

This is reported by an Ukrinform own correspondent with reference to Chairman of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations Stefan Romaniw.

“I am wearing the vyshyvanka, the national shirt of Ukraine, because it is three years since the Russian army invaded Ukraine. People die in Donetsk and Luhansk every day, and it should not be forgotten,” Michael Atkins commented.

Representatives of the Ukrainian community praise the positive attitude of the politician towards Ukraine, regular support for the initiatives of the Ukrainian community of the state, repeated participation in the activities of the Association of Ukrainians in South Australia, especially at the time when the politician was the minister of multiculturalism of the state.

6. Brazil. “Dnipro, Brazil Launch Tourism Program for Ukrainian Diaspora,” *News from Ukraine*, 29 September 2017.

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Brazil and Ukrainian city of Dnipro are launching a joint program to attract members of the Ukrainian diaspora in the South American country to visit Dnipropetrovsk and Ukraine as a whole.

This was reported by the press service of the Dnipro City Council.

“The number of ethnic Ukrainians in the Federal Republic of Brazil is quite substantial. They managed to preserve their culture and traditions, observe Ukrainian customs and all hang together. Therefore, I’m sure they should be interested in a special tourism program that includes a visit to the city of Dnipro, its region and Ukraine as a whole, their ethnic and historical homeland,” Honorary Consul of Brazil in Dnipro Mr. Oleg Vasylenko.

Arrangements for a joint tourism program were reached during his meeting at the Ukrainian-Brazilian Center with the head of the tourism direction of the Dnipro Development Agency Anna Koleda and their partners, the University of Customs and Finance of Dnipro and a group of representatives of travel companies.

7. Canada. “Surrey MLA Commemorates Ukrainian Holodomor,” *Peace Arch News*, 27 November 2017.

Tom Zytaruk

Bruce Ralston in Whalley honoured victims of 1932-33 Ukraine genocide/famine Sunday afternoon

Surrey-Whalley MLA Bruce Ralston honoured victims of Holodomor — the genocide and famine in Ukraine in 1932-33 — during a special ceremony Sunday afternoon at St. Mary’s Ukrainian Centre at 13512 108th Ave. in Whalley.

“For generations, British Columbians of Ukrainian descent have helped to build this province culturally, economically and politically,” said Ralston, B.C.’s minister of jobs, trade and technology. “Their families have lived with the horrors of Holodomor and will never forget them. I ask every British Columbian to join me in commemorating the victims of this tragic event so we can ensure nothing like it ever happens again.”

Holodomor — or death by hunger, in Ukrainian — saw millions of Ukrainians starve in 1932-33 resulting from Soviet policies including collectivization of agriculture and brutal grain quotas imposed by Joseph Stalin. As many as 10 million died, roughly one third of them children. When the grain quotas could not be met, the remainder was confiscated by the state. The seizure of land and crops resulted in widespread starvation.

The provincial government has proclaimed Nov. 25, 2017 as Holodomor Memorial Day in B.C. The memorial day is honoured each November.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Mary, at 10765 - 135A St. neighbouring the centre, is located on land purchased for \$700 on Feb. 11, 1947 by farmer Bruce Burroughs and the local Ukrainian community then raised \$3,500 to build the church, which was completed in 1955.

A Holodomor commemoration was also held on Parliament Hill on Nov. 20 to mark the 84th anniversary of the famine and genocide. To learn more about this tragedy in Ukrainian history, check out the Holodomor National Awareness Tour Mobile Classroom at holodomortour.ca

8. Canada. “Exhibition Shows How Ukrainian Immigrants Braved the Cold in Canada,” *CBC News/Saskatoon*, 22 November 2017.

Outerwear on display from Ukrainian Museum of Canada’s collection of 20,000 artifacts

Shannon Boklaschuk
Web writer with CBC Saskatoon

Even with modern-day conveniences such as furnaces, water heaters and insulated jackets, Saskatchewan residents know it can still be difficult to stay warm in frigid winter weather.

Which raises the question: how did people survive the elements here 100 years ago?

The Ukrainian Museum of Canada in Saskatoon provides some answers with its current exhibition, Braving the Cold: Winter Wear of Ukrainian Pioneers, which showcases 24 pieces of outerwear from years gone by.

“As a museum we wanted do to something to bring our history alive and also to meet the magic of the season, too, and show that winter was very colourful and very beautiful,” said museum director and CEO Janet Prebushewsky Danyliuk.

The oldest pieces on display are a felt coat dating back to 1867 and a sheepskin coat from the 1870s. The most recent pieces are nearly 100 years old, from the 1930s.

Prebushewsky Danyliuk said the exhibition shows how immigrants used the handmade, traditional clothing they brought from Ukraine to adapt to the Canadian winters. Long coats made of felt, sheepskin, fur and wool helped keep the immigrants warm in their new home.

Clothing passed down in families

“We chose things that were worn in Canada upon either immigrating or once they were here, before the influence of contemporary Western fashion took hold,” she said.

Some of the pieces are heavy — such as the buffalo coat that is on display. Wearing these pieces, along with layering, would have provided protection from the elements.

Children often wore long coats that touched the ground until they grew taller, since clothes stayed with a person for a long time, and pieces were often passed on to other family members or sold to neighbours, said Prebushewsky Danyliuk.

Clothing tells stories

“The way these things were constructed, too, they would last forever. Some of the pieces in here are 150 years old,” said Prebushewsky Danyliuk.

“The other thing about an exhibition like this is the stories the clothing tell — or the artifacts tell — is just so intriguing. It can be really magical. Sometimes we don’t have information. But when we do, it really gives a piece of history, of course, and a story about the owners who wore it through the years.”

The felt coat dating back to 1867, for example, was made by a 13-year-old girl for her wedding. Since the priest would not allow her to marry at that age, she wore the coat a couple of years later, at the age of 15, when she married a different man.

Coat worn by teen to community dances

One of the coats on display was made for a 17-year-old girl in 1937 from raw sheep wool gathered by her parents. The wool was taken to a man in the village of Kutty, near the western Ukrainian city of Kosiv, to have a very heavy wool material made. That heavy material was then taken to a tailor near the city of Kitsman to make a popular design.

The coat was worn by the teen when she went to community dances, and she attached a yellow ribbon to it so she could easily find it amongst a stack of jackets. The ribbon remains on the coat to this day.

Prebushewsky Danyliuk said the exhibition provided a way for the museum to showcase some of the 20,000 artifacts in its collection. Some of the pieces on display are “timeless,” she said, and some of the shorter jackets “could easily be worn now.”

“The tailoring and the construction has really stood the test of time, when you think of how harsh the conditions were when these items were worn,” she said.

Interested in seeing the artifacts in person? The Ukrainian Museum of Canada, located at 910 Spadina Cres. E., is holding an open house from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Dec. 14. Admission is free.

Braving the Cold: Winter Wear of Ukrainian Pioneers runs at the museum until Feb. 10, 2018.

9. Canada. “First Ukrainian-Canadian Day Celebrated on Sept. 7,” *Fort Saskatchewan Record*, 28 September 2017.

Leanne Delong

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Alberta's first annual Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Day was celebrated in Edmonton Sept. 7 and Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville MLA, Jessica Littlewood played a huge part in seeing this occasion come to life.

Littlewood chairs the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations (ACAUR), which was established to continue strengthening the bond between Albertans and Ukrainians and to provide strategic advice and recommendations to the government on how to manage relations with Ukraine.

"I am honoured to continue the work of the advisory council on Alberta-Ukraine relations. I recognize the importance of being able to identify and promote how Alberta and Ukraine can cooperate on matters of mutual interest," said Littlewood.

Bill 26, the Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Act, was passed unanimously by MLAs from all parties at the Alberta legislature in November 2016.

To celebrate the day, on Sept. 7 the Ukrainian flag was raised at the Alberta legislature in Edmonton with Premier Rachel Notley and others in attendance.

"Our government is proud to recognize the remarkable contributions that Albertans of Ukrainian heritage have made to our province. From business and industry, to academia, public service, culture and sports. Ukrainian-Albertans have played a pivotal role throughout Alberta's history," said Notley.

The first two documented Ukrainian settlers, Ivan Pylpiw and Vasyl Eleniak arrived in 1891.

Today Alberta is home to more than 350,000 Albertans of Ukrainian descent, which is the largest population of Ukrainian-Canadians in Western Canada.

"Many of our ancestors made their journey to Alberta fleeing strife and even persecution; they overcame incredible hardships for a new start. As a Ukrainian Albertan, I'm proud that we are honouring all that they did to help build our prosperous province and keeping their memory alive for future generations," said Economic Development and Trade Minister, Deron Bilous.

Bilous and Littlewood also spoke about this newly celebrated day at Littlewood's annual harvest zabava on Sept. 15.

"For those of us in the room of Ukrainian descent, last year we were very proud to declare 2016-17, as Alberta's year of Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage year, which we proclaimed at the Ukrainian Heritage Village and Jessica went on to introduce a bill in the legislature that would recognize every year from now, moving forward, the incredible sacrifice that was made by the first and early Ukrainian settlers," said Bilous.

"We represent a lot of Ukrainians in this constituency, but it's a part of our history, it's a part of our culture, it's a part of our heritage," added Littlewood.

10. Czechia. “Ukrainians Are Largest Labour Diaspora in the Czech Republic,” *News from Ukraine*, 7 September 2017.

Ukrainians have become the largest labour diaspora in the Czech Republic.

Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy of the Czech Republic Tomas Petricek said this during the Economic Forum in Krynica Zdrój, Poland, the Yevropeiska Pravda online newspaper reports.

“At the moment, we have 300,000 applications from Ukrainians who want to work in the Czech Republic and about 200,000 vacancies for employment of Ukrainians. This means that the number of Ukrainian workers in the Czech Republic will grow, even though they already are the largest labour diaspora in our country,” Petricek said.

According to the official, the policy of his state is aimed at facilitating the employment of Ukrainians.

11. Egypt. “Ukrainian Diaspora of Egypt Celebrates the New Year,” *News from Ukraine*, 27 December 2017.

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The Ukrainian people living in Egypt and their families have taken part in the New Year celebration, which was organized at the Embassy of Ukraine.

This has been reported by the press service of the Embassy of Ukraine to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

“Children were singing and reciting, participated in numerous games and competitions, prepared nice drawings for the festivity. Everybody was happy to receive sweets and prizes delivered from Ukraine,” the report reads.

The event was organized by active members of the Ukrainian community and the Embassy’s personnel.

12. Estonia. “Estonia: Head of Ukrainian World Congress Thanks 4 IRL Members,” *Baltic Daily - Political/Social News*, 11 October 2017.

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TALLINN, Oct 11, BNS - President of the Ukrainian World Congress Yevhen Choliy on a visit to Tallinn awarded four members of the Pro Patria and Res Publica Union (IRL) for their longstanding support of Ukraine.

Choliy on Wednesday recognized Tunne Kelam and Mari-Ann Kelam for their longstanding support of Ukraine’s aspirations towards Europe. IRL MP Tarmo Kruusimägi and party member

Aivar Kivisiv were recognized for the pickets organized in support of Ukraine in front of the Russian embassy, IRL spokespeople said.

During the two-day visit, Choliy attended meetings at the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Culture, in the parliament and at the diplomatic representations of Ukraine and the United States in Estonia.

Choliy also visited the Ukrainian Culture Center in Tallinn where he met with representatives of the Ukrainian community and non-governmental organizations helping Ukraine, including Mondo and Free Ukraine.

Choliy's visit was held in the framework of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Ukrainian World Congress. The congress brings together over 50 organizations in 38 countries and represents an Ukrainian diaspora of 20 million people.

Vasyl Yakovenko, deputy of the Ukrainian ambassador in Estonia, and Vira Konok, head of the Ukrainian Congress in Estonia, also attended Choliy's official meetings.

13. General. "Over 4 Mln Ukrainians Live in Russia, 1.2 Mln Each in Canada and Poland - Expat Insider," *Interfax: Ukraine Business Daily*, 1 December 2017.

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KYIV. Dec 1 (Interfax-Ukraine) - The largest number of Ukrainian migrants live in Russia, Canada, Poland, the United States and Brazil, with more than eight million Ukrainians living in them in 2017, according to an Expat Insider survey.

According to the survey, 4.4 million Ukrainians live in Russia, 1.2 million each in Canada and Poland, 940,000 in the United States, and 500,000 in Brazil. At the same time, 231,000 Ukrainians live in Italy and 230,000 in Germany.

At the same time, according to a 2015 survey, 72% of Ukrainian migrants note that they are satisfied with their lives abroad.

The results of the study do not show whether the issue concerns migrants of recent years, citizens of Ukraine, or statistics include those who received citizenship from the countries of residence and people who arrived many years ago, or their descendants who were born abroad.

According to the InterNations survey, most Ukrainian migrants are women at the age of about 32 years. Some 57% of Ukrainians abroad work, 7% are in search of a job, and 6% are students. A total of 18% of Ukrainians are engaged in the IT industry.

Ukrainian migrants, as a rule, are well educated and speak foreign languages. According to Ukrainians abroad, the main reason for their migration is the search for better living conditions. At the same time, most Ukrainians state that abroad they earn much more than at home, which allows them to transfer more money home.

“In the first quarter of 2017, migrants working in Poland (90% of them are Ukrainians) sent more than 4.3 billion zlotys via the TransferGo online service - almost two thirds more than last year... It's just a record amount that exceeds by almost two billion zlotys the amount of money transfer to Poland,” Head of Business Development at TransferGo Tomas Snitka said.

14. General. “Reasons Why Ukrainian Population Shrinks,” *Ukrainian Independent Information Agency*, 15 October 2017.

This year the population of Ukraine has already decreased by 100,000 people, while the figure may double by year-end. UNIAN has polled a number of experts on the trends and reasons for the demographic drop in Ukraine. Ukraine's population has been shrinking, and that's a fact.

Today we are talking about 42.5 million Ukrainians, while by 2050, the demographers say the population will drop to 35-37 million people. One of the reasons for this reduction is considered to be emigration. According to the official information of the State Statistics Service, Ukraine has a positive balance of migration (from January to July more than 192,000 left Ukraine and more than 195,000 arrived). However, the experts are skeptical about the objectivity of these data, based only registration papers in local migration offices.

“Our state statistics, usually, take a better account of those who arrive than those who leave. Moreover, people often fail to even report on their departure,” says CEDOS analyst Oleksandr Slobodyan. The experts are convinced that for Ukraine, labor migration is a stable process that reflects the phenomena that have long prevailed in Ukraine: lack of good jobs, insufficient wages, etc. In 2015, there were about 700,000 Ukrainian labor migrants abroad. Mostly, these are people aged 18-44 working in construction, agriculture, trade, production, and services, that's according to a study by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for 2014-2015. The updated research is scheduled to be released in the coming weeks.

However, a spokesperson for the IOM office in Ukraine, Varvara Zhluktenko, has already reported that, compared with previous years, the number of labor migrants from Ukraine has increased. IOM is inclined to link this fact to the consequences of the latest crisis. It should be noted that the mentioned IOM study puts in TOP 5 migration destinations for Ukrainians such countries as Russia (accepting the largest share of migrants), Poland, the Czech Republic, Italy, and Belarus. An expert at Europe Without Barriers, Yekateryna Kulchytska, unfortunately, even today, although the Ukrainians have gradually begun to shift their focus onto the European countries, Russia has not ceased to attract Ukraine's labor migrants. The analyst explains this by two factors. First, the lack of a language barrier is important: “If someone speaks Russian, they will have no language barrier in Moscow, while in the Czech Republic they will experience certain difficulties, and this can be a decisive factor.” And, secondly, the “networks” set up earlier also have their influence - people choose destinations where they can meet some of their friends, neighbors or relatives. The main destination for Ukrainian labor migrants in the European Union is Poland. This is mostly due to Poland's geographical proximity and little language difference. Besides, a huge number of Ukrainian and European firms today offer employment in this country.

Yekateryna Kulchytska notes that Poland allowed Ukrainians in the framework of a visa-free regime, to cross into their territory with a biometric passport with no work visa requirement if a work permit or an invitation from the employer is available. It should be recalled that the visa-free travel for Ukrainians does not give them a right to work in the EU countries, only implying short-term travels. But in case with Poland, if a Ukrainian finds a legal job there and submits on time an application for a temporary residence permit, a permanent stay, or a long-term EU residence permit, their passport will be stamped accordingly, allowing them to stay in Poland after 90 visa-free days expire, until the application is fully considered. Also, some can, for example, simply come to visit their relatives, live there for two weeks, and directly find a job with the employer. After that, they return to Ukraine, file all necessary documents, and legally enter Poland with a corresponding visa as a labor migrant, according to Kulchytska.

Europe without Barriers also notes that in countries like Italy, Spain and Portugal, where migrants from Ukraine often work for a long period of time, they prefer to settle completely. And this happens quite often. Experts note that this trend has persisted throughout the past decade, therefore it is not connected with the deterioration of the economic situation in the country or the war. “Moreover, then such a labor migrant is somehow reunited with his family from Ukraine. As we can see, the number of issued residence permits is increasing, not for the purpose of employment, but for the purpose of family reunification,” says Oleksandr Slobodyan.

According to IOM estimates, some 40% of Ukrainians working abroad do so without official registration. However, IOM assesses migration as a process that cannot be stopped, but there can be attempts to regulate it with maximum benefit for the migrants themselves, their home countries and the countries they are seeking to move to. To this end, it is primarily needed to spread information about the risks of unregulated migration, for example, the potential threat to fall victim to human trafficking.

Secondly, to exchange relevant information about actual demand in labor markets between countries of migrants’ origin and destination. Thirdly, to encourage “pendulum labor migration” (it is also called circular labor migration): people move prepared, with proper documents, and after their contract expires, they return home with their money earned, knowledge and skills. “We also need favorable conditions in the country, in general, and in the place of residence of migrants, in particular. That’s for them to see the opportunity to invest the money earned and develop their own small businesses or farms, settle their life and the life of their families here in Ukraine,” says Varvara Zhluktenko. According to the already mentioned IOM study, the total amount of private money transfers to Ukraine in 2014, the year which was really difficult for the country, was at \$2.8 billion. Another \$4 billion was the volume of savings of Ukrainian labor migrants abroad. “And 21% of these people would like to invest their money in Ukraine. Of course, that’s given the necessary conditions and a favorable investment climate,” says Zhluktenko. In July this year, Ukraine adopted a new Strategy for State Migration Policy, developed with the participation of the IOM.

The document provides, in particular, for the promotion of repatriation and encouragement of the return of people of Ukrainian origin to Ukraine. “Implementation of this strategy will require the adoption of additional legislation, certain financing, and administrative apparatus, as well as successes in improving the investment, legal climate, healthcare and education systems - that is,

all those reforms that concern any citizen of Ukraine or a foreigner, not just migrants,” stressed the press-secretary of the IOM office in Ukraine. Incidentally, as for foreigners, experts do not undertake to assess whether migrants compete with the Ukrainian population for jobs in Ukraine. At the same time, experts disagree with the statement that Ukrainian migrants take jobs away from residents of EU countries. “In fact, there are jobs that the locals just don’t want to do,” says Oleksandr Slobodyan.

The second factor of a significant reduction in the number of Ukrainians is the natural decline in the population (people die much more often than they are born). From January to July 2017, just over 209,000 babies were born, while more than 340,000 people died (the data are provided without taking into account the territory of the temporarily occupied Crimea and Donbas). The very birth rate is getting lower every year (in the same period last year, there were 227,000 newborns reported) and, according to demographers, this trend will prevail. lastrada.org.ua A senior fellow at the Institute of Demography and Social Studies Svitlana Aksyonova calls “demographic waves” the dominating factor of this worrisome prospect. The essence of this phenomenon is very simple: a decrease in the birth rate in a given period of time causes a reduction in the birth rate after a certain period in the future. In the 20th century, Ukraine survived World War 2, after which there were very few newborns. Then, a generation later, few children were born in the 1980-1990s (up until 2001, there was a collapse in the birth rate due to different crises). “Now the children who were born in the 90s are entering their active child-bearing age. But there are a few of them, too... And we can’t claim that the birth rate can compensate for this somehow,” Aksyonova said. “As of today, the total fertility rate is about 15 children per 10 women. And we see no trends toward the increase in this intensity,” she complains. It is curious to note that in recent years, up to 2016, there has been an increase in the birth rate among 35-39-year-old women. While in 2001, only nine out of 1,000 women of this age group decided to give birth (including first births, second, and third as well), by 2015 there were already 27 such women, so their share has tripled. Unfortunately, since 2016, the intensity of fertility began to decline for women of all age groups.

In fact, a lot of factors affect the decision of a typical Ukrainian couple to make children, postpone the issue to more favorable times, or not to make kids at all. Economic and political instability, the housing problem, infrastructure issues, as well as difficulties in finding a place for a child in a kindergarten and school – all these factors repel the plans for procreation.

However, demographer Svitlana Aksyonova notes that it would be unethical and illegal to coerce, control, or somehow stimulate an increase in the birth rate. Each couple has the right to decide for themselves. “At the same time, the government’s task is to create all conditions for the family to realize its plans, so that the pairs feel the strength and see an opportunity to raise and educate children the way they want it,” Aksyonova said. Also, the scientist is convinced that the state should continue to allocate social payments for children. Today the premiums amount to UAH 41,280 – that’s the same sum for the first, second, and next newborn. This amount does not depend on the number of children in the family and is paid within 3 years. It is worth noting that in matters of making children, Ukrainians tend to focus on European models. Back in the 1990s, many young people reconsidered their vision of the number of children in a family. Pairs wanted to have fewer children only to be able to provide their kids with a better start in financial terms. Among other things, there is a tendency in Ukraine toward the increase in the age of mothers

giving birth for the first time. Modern women try first to get education, assert themselves in their profession, and only then to realize themselves as mothers. Of course, compared to European countries, where women give birth at an average age of 31, Ukrainian mothers are still below on this scale with just an average age of 27 years. But it is likely that the age of childbearing in Ukraine will continue to increase, albeit more slowly than in Europe. “After all, Ukrainian women are attached to the family. Creating a family and giving birth to a child is one of their main values,” Aksyonova said. By the way, the migration factor also affects the birth rate, even if it is not about moving for good. “In any case, people planning to move, even just for education purposes with the view to return, postpone their childbearing plans for a later period,” the demographer notes. Given the latest data on the positive balance of migration, it is logical to assume that the composition of the country’s population is actively changing. But without a census, it is impossible to assess the scope of changes objectively, as well as other demographic processes.

Experts are convinced that only a census can clearly show the real trends and factors affecting them. The United Nations recommends that such an assessment be conducted at least once every ten years. It’s a shame though that the officials don’t seem to care: the first and so far the only census in independent Ukraine was carried out back in 2001.

15. Jordan. “Ukrainian House in Jordan Celebrates Its First Anniversary,” *News from Ukraine*, 1 November 2017.

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Ukrainian Cultural Center “Ukrainian House in Jordan” has celebrated the first anniversary of its establishment.

“October 26, the festive concert of Ukrainian songs and poetry was held in the premises of the Zaha cultural center on occasion of the first anniversary of establishment of the Ukrainian Cultural Center ‘Ukrainian House in Jordan,’” reads the statement on the Facebook page of the Ukrainian House in Jordan.

Children’s music band UA Kids, activists of the Ukrainian House in Jordan and the Club of the Ukrainian Song took part in the concert.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Serhiy Pasko and officials of the Ukrainian diplomatic mission, Ambassador and employees of the Azerbaijani Embassy, journalists of the Amman Newspaper, the Ukrainian community and local residents attended the celebration.

The event was held with the support of the Embassy of Ukraine in Jordan and the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine.

16. Kazakhstan. “Forum of Ukrainians in Kazakhstan to Be Held in Karaganda,” *News from Ukraine*, 4 October 2017.

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On October 13-14, the Forum of Migrants will be held in the city of Karaganda, Kazakhstan, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the deportation of Ukrainians to Kazakhstan.

This is reported by the press service of the Pastoral Migration Department of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC).

“The forum is intended to consolidate the public life of Ukrainians in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia and to promote the life of the church and public organizations,” the statement said.

A two-day event will feature the presentation of books, documents and memoirs on the deportation of Ukrainians to Kazakhstan, the opening of an exhibition dedicated to deportation and a concert-requiem.

The event is supported by the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

17. Kyrgyzstan. “The Book ‘Legend of Manas’ in Ukrainian Language,” *Kabar News*, 1 December 2017.

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Bishkek, Dec.1, 2017. /Kabar/. The book “The Legend of Manas, Semetey and Seytek” in translation into Ukrainian will be presented in Bishkek on Dec. 4. The ceremony will be held in the Republican Library for Children and Youth named after K. Bayalinova. The author of the work is a famous writer of Kyrgyzstan Mar Baidzhiev.

The book was published at the request of the Ukrainian diaspora in Kyrgyzstan “Bereginya” in the framework of the project to strengthen common citizenship, interethnic harmony and social integration.

Financial support for the publication of the book was provided by the State Agency for Local Government and Ethnic Relations.

18. Poland. “Ukrainian Migrants Make Up for Workforce Shortage in Europe,” *Polish News Bulletin*, 30 November 2017.

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In an interview published by Polityka weekly, the President of the Inter-Enterprise Trade Union of Ukrainian Employees in Poland Yuri Kariagin speaks about the migration of workforce from Ukraine to Poland and Europe.

As the societies in Europe are ageing, workforce migration from Ukraine seems to be a solution to the problem.

It is estimated that there are 5 million Ukrainian people working abroad. They send home about EUR5bn per year. However, the problems which affect Western Europe are also experienced in Ukraine. Due to the high migration level, the country is depopulating too. Workforce shortages occur in some industries.

Ukrainian workers migrate to Poland, but also to other EU member states, especially Germany. Russia is also regarded as an important destination for economic migrants. Ukrainian workers are looking for jobs, but also for stability, which they cannot find in their home country.

How many Ukrainian workers are employed in Poland?

More than one million. Some estimates suggest that the number reaches 1.2-1.3 million. However, it is difficult to make a precise estimate. Many people travel between Poland and Ukraine, undertaking short term employment. The legal basis for employment of Ukrainian people in Poland varies.

There are only 400,000 foreign employees registered in the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS), which would suggest that many Ukrainians undertake employment illegally.

This is a problem for us too, as those who are employed illegally can easily fall prey to fraud and abuse.

Are you able to help them?

We do what we can. Sometimes, we intervene with employers and this helps. The Interenterprise Trade Union of Ukrainian Employees in Poland has operated for a year.

It has 2,500 members. We are experiencing problems, especially with funding. Fortunately, we are getting help from the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions (OPZZ) and other institutions.

Where did the idea of the trade union originate from?

We came up with it in the Ukraine-Poland Association, following the example of Polish people working abroad. For the time being, we only operate in Poland, however, we hope to establish representations in other EU member states. Some Ukrainian workers employed by Polish firms are sent to work in the EU. Sometimes Polish employers who post them there refuse to offer them help when problems arise.

Is this not related with employment by agencies?

Admittedly, workers in Ukraine are recruited by different firms, not always legally. Sometimes the recruiters prove to be criminals. These are not just Polish organisations, they can be Ukrainian, Lithuanian or Russian.

Is the language barrier a serious problem to Ukrainian workers in Poland?

It is; it makes their lives harder and limits their chances to work in certain professions. Another problem is the lack of recognition of Ukrainian qualifications.

Does the Polish government show interest in your activity?

Unfortunately, none of the Polish ministers has shown any interest in our work. We also have no contact with the Polish government, which I consider very regrettable. I think the terms of issue of work permits should be simplified, as the current regulations are taken advantage of by criminal organisations. I also think that Poland should declare amnesty for person working illegally.

19. Poland. “Number of Ukrainian Migrants to Hit 1.2 Million at Year-End,” *Polish News Bulletin*, 14 November 2017.

At the end of 2017, the number of Ukrainian immigrants in Poland will total approximately 1.2 million and will grow by 0.2-0.3 million per year, announced representatives of the Economic Analyses Department in the Central Bank of Poland (NBP) during a conference. In their opinion, the 500+ family support scheme will contribute roughly 0.5 percent to GDP in 2017. In years to come, the scale of migration from Ukraine will start to decrease, with the number of migrants seen growing by 200,000-300,000 each year, says the department’s deputy head Jack Kotlowski. There is approximately one million Ukrainians on the Polish labour market, 300,000 of whom are insured with the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS). That means that the remainder work on contracts for specific works or without any contracts at all, according to Personnel Service CEO Krzysztof Ingot.

20. Portugal. “Ukrainians Living in Portugal Become Influential There – Poroshenko,” *Interfax: Ukraine Business Daily*, 19 December 2017.

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KYIV. Dec 19 (Interfax-Ukraine) – Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko met with the Ukrainian community of Portugal in Lisbon and expressed confidence that Ukrainians living in this country have become influential there, the press service of the Ukrainian president has reported.

“The Portuguese president, prime minister and Portuguese government are reckoned with the Ukrainian community,” Poroshenko said, adding that he heard only good words from these people about the Ukrainian community.

He said that Portugal had never earlier so decisively spoke in support of Ukrainian sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence. Since March 2014, the priority topic for the country has been retaining of unity of the European Union and solidarity with Ukraine.

Poroshenko said that Portugal was one of the initiators of sanctions against Russia due to annexation of Crimea, aggression in the east of Ukraine and the non-implementation of Minsk agreements.

“This has become possible thanks to your position, as well as throughout Europe. And this is one more thing which I want to thank for,” he said.

The Ukrainian president said that active position of Ukrainians in Portugal allows seeing positive result of efforts of Ukrainian diplomats, Ukrainian soldiers and Ukrainian diaspora, among other things.

“There is no more important task that to retain the country – protect it from aggression and win, as truth is with us and God is with us,” Poroshenko said.

21. Russia. “Website of Ukrainians in Russia Complains of ‘Ethnocide,’” *BBC Monitoring Ukraine & Baltics*, 6 October 2017.

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Text of report by Ukrainian website Telekrytyka on 5 October

The editorial staff at the Kobza website of Russia’s Ukrainian community has sent a statement to Russian State Duma lawmakers regarding their reaction to the recently adopted Ukrainian law “On education”.

The Russian MPs passed a resolution on the “inadmissibility of an infringement on the fundamental right of the indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities in Ukraine to be taught in their mother tongue”. It calls on the parliaments of Bulgaria, Hungary, Greece, Moldova, Poland and Romania to join forces to protect Ukraine’s indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities against the “forceful assimilation and imposition of any forms of discrimination” and take the necessary measures to restore the rights violated.

“Having familiarised ourselves with your angry and peremptory statement regarding the fact that Ukraine, in its 27th year of independence, at last passed a decision that the national education system should adopt the state language of tuition, we, for our part, are indignant at both the resolution and the hypocrisy oozing from it... [ellipsis as published] Let us look at how the rights of a significant part of the Russian population, Russia’s Ukrainian community of nearly two million, are not being ‘infringed’,” the statement reads.

The journalists noted that in Russia there is not a single full-format Ukrainian school or a single Ukrainian media outlet, either a printed one or an electronic one, while two nationwide Ukrainian organisations - the Union of Ukrainians of Russia and the Federal National-Cultural Autonomy of Ukrainians of Russia - have been liquidated.

“Such is the state of affairs in your country, where, according to the 2010 census, there are almost 2m ethnic Ukrainians. And in 2003 there were three million. The Russian government’s ethnic policy has led to the Ukrainian community shrinking and assimilating. This is proof of a real ethnocide, not the one you allege is happening,” the statement reads.

The website's research group plans to compile an analytical note about the language, media and religious affairs of Russia's Ukrainians, as well as about the observance of human and civil rights and rights of ethnic minorities in Russia.

Source: Telekrytyka, Kiev, in Ukrainian 5 Oct 17

22. Turkey. "Istanbul to Host Kyiv Days on September 22-23," *News from Ukraine*, 22 September 2017.

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The Ukrainian community is invited to join the Kyiv Days in Istanbul event, which will take place on September 22-23.

"The purpose of this event is to popularize the city of Kyiv as a modern European city among representatives of the tourism market of Turkey and the citizens of Istanbul, which will contribute to the development of the tourist attractiveness of the city and the promotion of Kyiv and Ukraine abroad, particularly in Turkey," the report reads on Facebook page of the event.

The program includes souvenir fair, food zone with Ukrainian national cuisine, concert by Ukrainian diaspora.

In addition, the guests will be able to get full information on tourism in Kyiv and Ukraine at the information desk working the whole day.

The Ukrainian Society in Istanbul and the Consulate General of Ukraine in Istanbul are among the organizers of the festival.

23. United Kingdom. "Ethnic Minorities Don't Come Much Smaller Than North Staffordshire's Ukrainians," *Sentinel*, 25 November 2017.

Pages 4-5

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ETHNIC minorities don't come much smaller than North Staffordshire's Ukrainians, who've been here for more than 50 years yet remained almost invisible.

Even in the late 1940s when they arrived as refugees to work in the mines, there was never more than a few hundred of them.

I met some survivors from that almost-forgotten era one Saturday night nearly 15 years ago. They were among a small but lively crowd at the Ukrainian Social Club in Newcastle, housed in a nondescript building which formerly belonged to the Electricity Board.

These old comrades, I learned, had been meeting there every weekend since 1961.

These hospitable people were also determined that I should enjoy their company. Within minutes of arriving I was drinking a glass of vodka. I think they expected me to down it in one go, but I failed miserably.

My companions included a retired newsagent from Sneyd Green, a company director from Loggerheads and a professional chef. We were soon talking about the Ukraine. They had little time for either the Russians or the Germans.

In particular, they could never trust the Russians, not even with President Gorbachev in charge.

We had another vodka, or it might have been a drink called a krupnik, and my new friends told me about their early days as ‘displaced persons’ living at miners’ hostels in Trentham, Knutton and Smallthorne. The local people weren’t at all happy.

It was difficult to get across to their English hosts why they were here when the war was over. They put up posters in the clubs showing Russian concentration camps, but people didn’t believe their stories about persecution.

With some, it was a toss-up whether they stayed or went back home. They were still struggling to learn English and it was a time of much brooding in hostel dormitories. In the end, nearly all of them stayed and integrated into the British way of life.

All the same, I knew that some of the old comrades would always be Ukrainians in their hearts. The walls were filled with Ukrainian scenes and the centrepiece was a portrait of a 19th-century poet called Taras Shevchenko, who was obviously regarded as a national hero.

One of my companions summed up their feelings. They weren’t what you’d call professional immigrants, he said. They were a bit like the Irish. They only came here to survive.

As we raised yet another glass of strong drink to their homeland, I felt they had survived very well.

24. United Kingdom. “Church Leader’s Goal to Promote Reconciliation Towards the East,” *Catholic Times*, 17 November 2017.

By Tony Leliw
Page 7.

The leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church has called his visit to the UK to celebrate 60 years of his church in this country a moment of grace and thanksgiving.

Speaking at the Cathedral of The Holy Family in Exile, in Mayfair, London, he said: “The Church after the Second World War did not have an easy time at the beginning – but it is now vibrant and has the challenges of newcomers – who not only need space for prayer but pastoral attention.”

His Beatitude Major-Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, who is known by his five million followers in Ukraine and the diaspora as patriarch, visited parishes and community centres in London, Manchester, Stockport, Bradford, Bolton, Wolverhampton and Halifax, during his trip last month.

He also met with members of the Ukrainian Religious Society of St Sophia in London, where he laid flowers at the statue of St Volodymyr, who in 988 brought Christianity to Kyivan Rus.

As the Belarusian Mission is under the omophor of Bishop Hlib Lonchyna, eparchial Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy in London, who helped organise the trip, he took the opportunity to spend time at a newly-constructed church, the first wooden one put together in the capital since the Great Fire of London.

There he met with Rev Siarhiey Stasievich for a homily in the church that was built as a memorial dedicated to the victims of the 1986 Chornobyl (Chernobyl) nuclear disaster.

Ties with the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church were further strengthened by meeting the Very Rev Mitred Archpriest Bohdan Matwijiwczyk, and taking part in a Requiem Service at the Holodomor Memorial, dedicated to the memory of the millions of Ukrainians who perished from an artificial famine created during Stalin's time.

About his meeting with Westminster's Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Major-Archbishop Shevchuk said: "We shared our own concerns about the challenges of the Church – not only in British society – but in Europe as well.

"Because of the occasion of this 60th anniversary, we held the annual gathering of the Eastern Conference of Europe in Welwyn Garden City, and our main topic was how we could proclaim the word of God in today's society."

Major-Archbishop Shevchuk was invited to speak at Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs).

"My main point of discussion was that the Western media spoke only about the bad news – the aggression of the Russian Federation towards Ukraine – the annexation of Crimea, the ongoing war in Eastern Ukraine's Donbas region – my message was a positive one.

"A free and independent Ukraine is fostering the original ideas that laid the foundation of a United Europe as envisaged by its founders Konrad Adenauer (first chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany) and Robert Schuman (architect of the European Integration Project)."

He went on: "There is a similarity between Adenauer and Schuman speaking about forgiveness and reconciliation between France and Germany even before the end of the Second World War and what's happening in Ukraine.

“We have fostered Polish-Ukrainian reconciliation and it is our duty now to promote this towards the East. Hopefully in the future we will prevail over the war in Ukraine and start to pray for a Russian-Ukrainian reconciliation which is not an easy task and idea yet.”

Major-Archbishop Shevchuk said he was surprised by the interest of Church leaders, intellectuals, politicians and journalists in UK towards Ukraine.

“They understood better than us the importance of Ukraine as a European country,” he noted.

“Ukrainian soldiers were giving up their lives for those European principles – their solidarity, empathy with the pain and struggle for the people of Ukraine struck me and encouraged me.”

Another issue closer home has been Rome’s refusal to officially grant Major-Archbishop Shevchuk the title of patriarch.

Aged 47, I asked whether this could be achieved in his lifetime.

He smiled and replied: “We are a Patriarchal Church because each Eastern Catholic Church is self-governing. We are progressing to Patriarchal dignity, so we are growing towards a Patriarchate.

“This is not a matter of a personal aspiration of the title, but a question of the maturity of the Church. Maturity is its own identity, tradition and for our Church to serve not only those in Ukraine but worldwide.”

While on the subject of titles, I asked whether he thought that one day there might be a Ukrainian Pope and a young one at that.

He chuckled and gave a vehement yes. “The Holy Spirit surprises us. When I was elected as Major Archbishop, I was the youngest bishop at the synod of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Everything is in the hands of God and let his will be done.”

With Christmas being round the corner, I asked Major-Archbishop Shevchuk what his views were on moving the calendar to December 25. He didn’t seem to be against the idea.

“The biggest part of our diaspora has already moved to the Gregorian calendar,” he said. “When I was bishop in Argentina we celebrated all our feasts according to the Gregorian calendar.

“In Ukraine there are some different sensitivities and we have to respect them. The issue of calendar is not one of dogma or identity, but of church discipline. We have to be careful not to provoke any kind of division inside our Church and not to make new obstacles for ecumenical dialogue, as Catholics are a minority in Ukraine.

He added: “It would not be wise to create a new obstacle for the future possible unity of the Kyivan Church on the calendarian issue.

“For us it would be easier and I would be the promoter to foster that possible change if we were able to agree it with our Orthodox brethren.”

25. USA. “Saints Peter and Paul Reflects on 100 Years of Ukrainian Orthodoxy,” *River Reporter*, 29 November 2017.

The Saints Peter and Paul Church stands at 329 High Rd. in Glen Spey, and currently showcases a centenary banner.

By IAN PUGH

GLEN SPEY, NY — “Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Glen Spey was established on June 17, 1971 by Ukrainians who emigrated to this country during World War II and wanted to continue to practice their faith,” says Nadia Rajs, vice-president of the church board. “They particularly settled in the Glen Spey area as second homeowners because this area reminded them of the country they left behind due to the war and communist persecution... We are under the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bound Brook, in New Jersey, [and] we’re celebrating [the] 100th year anniversary of the Ukrainian Orthodoxy in America—you’ll see the banner in front of the church if you drive by.” The Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which follows the Julian calendar instead of the modern Gregorian calendar, will celebrate Christmas on January 7.

The Ukrainian community in Glen Spey blossomed with specifically-tailored events and summer camps, including a three-day Ukrainian festival hosted throughout the 1980s and ‘90s by the former Verkhovyna Resort; the resort’s owner at the time, the Ukrainian Fraternal Association of Scranton, PA, donated property for the parish. However, despite that history and focus, the church boasts parishioners from a number of backgrounds, including Belarusian and Russian. “We’re here every Sunday to worship together,” says Rajs. “We provide assistance in any way that we can to our parishioners—if they need language interpretation, or sometimes they need transportation, because we know in Sullivan County that’s a huge issue. If somebody needs a ride to the store, to the doctor, if they need something done in their home—we don’t do it 24/7, but we try to do it when we can.

“The majority of our parishioners are a little elderly—I happen to be one of the younger ones, in my 60s—and then of course we have the younger ones, like my daughters, and their kids. We have a full spectrum of ages.” Rajs describes the church’s constituency as “small but dedicated,” and that dedication can be found in formal activities as well: “In July of every year, we celebrate our Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul with our traditional church picnic and festival, during which we sell our traditional foods like Ukrainian pierogies, stuffed cabbage, kapusta and kobasy. Our picnics are supported by the local community as well as Ukrainians from other parishes and communities.

“Years ago, we had over 600 families. If you looked up the last census—somebody was telling me that we were, percentage-wise, the sixth-largest Ukrainian community in the nation. But that’s percentage-wise, because Lumberland has fewer than 2,000 people. I’m not sure what our status is now, but we did hold that for a while....”

While the scope of the church has changed over the years, its priorities remain the same. “We had a very big Ukrainian community through the years—it’s kind of dwindling because of the economy, and people are passing on and not being [replaced] by newcomers coming in. So that’s where we are—but we do continue our traditions. It’s very important to us.”

Saints Peter and Paul can be found at 329 High Rd. in Glen Spey. For more, visit the church’s Facebook page at facebook.com/StsPeterandPaulGlenSpey/.

26. USA. “Diaspora in United States Ready to Promote Ukrainian Cultural Projects,” *News from Ukraine*, 25 October 2017.

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The Ukrainian diaspora in Los Angeles are ready to present in their programs the interesting Ukrainian cultural projects, including the Charity Viennese Ball to be held in Kyiv on October 27-28.

This was stated by executive secretary of the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Los Angeles Olha Starova, an Ukrinform correspondent learnt from the organizing committee of the Charity Viennese Ball.

“We are very happy that we can show Americans the cultural life of Ukraine. Ukrainians in the United States seek to help young talents in different areas. We dream of a stronger Ukraine,” the Ukrainian community representative said.

She assured that those Ukrainians in Los Angeles, who cannot go to the ball in Kyiv, really want to see this event on video and plan to show it in the center’s programs in the US.

She noted that the American Ukrainians make efforts to bring the two countries closer and want to establish closer cultural ties between the diaspora and representatives of Ukrainian artistic circles.

27. USA. “UCI to Honor Martha Namyniuk,” *Dickinson Press*, 16 October 2017.

The North Dakota Ukrainian Hall of Fame will celebrate the induction of Martha Namyniuk, 85, of Belfield during a ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the St. Bernard’s Parish Center. The reception starts at 4:30 p.m. with the evening meal at 5:30 p.m.

“It’s something I never expected -- it was kind of a shock,” Martha said from her farm home.

She is well-known within the Belfield community. Described as having a playful nature, she always has a special hug for the children at UCI events, as stated in a news release.

Martha raised her family of three daughters and two sons (one daughter has died). She has a love of the outdoors, animals, antiques and Ukrainian cultural foods, traditions and language.

The daughter of Ukrainian immigrants Felix and Maria Malkowski, Martha and her nine siblings were raised on a ranch in the Badlands north of Belfield. Martha and Elko Namyniuk were married in 1946 and moved to the farm Elko had grown up on. She worked alongside him until his death in 1984.

In 1974, the farm where Martha has lived for over 65 years, won the Conservation Award. In a 2009 interview with Farm and Ranch Guide, Martha said, "It is peaceful here. I wake up in the morning, and the birds are singing, and the wild bunnies are running around. I never want to live anywhere else."

Martha is part of a generation of farm women who worked hard and didn't know or care that it could be any different. She exemplifies that image of the farm grown woman who makes life in the country her career.

"I lived on a tractor for 10 years -- that was my staple vehicle," she said. "Life has been amazing, it's been fun. I can't say I didn't have a good life. It was a lot of work, but I guess nobody ever died from working."

Whenever there was a community event, she did a lot of the black-up work.

"I was butchering chickens, making sauerkraut and pydoha. Without the backup people there wouldn't be any work done," she said.

Martha was a finalist in the Farm Woman of the Year in 2009 and 2010. After Elko died, she learned to run the family farm. She saved the farm from foreclosure during the difficult years when many other farmers lost theirs. She operated farm machinery, took care of a cattle herd, filled out FHA, Bank, IRS and Dept. of Agriculture paperwork, and still made time to play with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was elected to serve three terms on the Stark and Billings County Farm Service Agency Committee.

Martha has worked as an Artist in Residence for North Dakota State Council of the Art. She is a master bread and master wheat weaving artist. She is also certified as a pysanky artist. She and Betty Baranko traveled to schools around the state to teach the traditional arts of egg-decorating (pysanky), wheat weaving and making ethnic breads. She also decorated Ukrainian Easter eggs and makes traditional Ukrainian ethnic breads. Her sewing talents have been put to good use making traditional Ukrainian costume pieces for dancers in the annual Ukrainian Festival in Dickinson.

Martha is a member of the ND Department of Agriculture Pride of North Dakota with her Dakota harvest creations, wheat weavings and Christmas decorations. She has had her work displayed in Washington, D.C., and on the North Dakota Christmas tree featured at the capitol in Bismarck. She was also a featured artist in the 1997 edition of ND Council of the Arts, "From the Wellspring: Faith, Soil, Tradition", highlighting folk arts from the Ukrainian Culture in North Dakota.

Martha is an active member of St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church, serving many years as a trustee. She sings in the church choir and served in the women's auxiliary. She is also a member of the Ukrainian Cultural Institute and has served on UCI's Board of Directors.

"God has been very good to me -- I'm blessed with beautiful friends and people who were always there for me when I needed them," Martha said. "I can't complain. My parents worked very hard to raise a family and I never remember going hungry."

Over the years, she's learned to take every day as it comes.

I don't make plans -- they never work out anyway. My plans go down the tube," she said, but added, "Maybe today I'll take a long walk and see what's going on outside."

28. USA. "New Ukrainian Catholic Bishops in U.S. Envision a Missionary Church," *CatholicPhilly.com*, 31 August 2017.

By Mariana Karapinka • Catholic News Service • Posted August 31, 2017

LVIV, Ukraine (CNS) — With the appointment of two new Ukrainian Catholic bishops in the United States, church leaders are hoping to reach out to church members in the diaspora.

"We are used to thinking about our church in the U.S. as a stabilized and settled church. However, it still is a missionary church," said Bishop-elect Andriy Rabyi, who will be ordained in Lviv, where he was born, Sept. 3. He will serve as auxiliary bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

"Our parishes established a hundred years ago are not as strong as they used to be because people had moved," he told Catholic News Service. "They go where the jobs are. And in these new places we don't have our parishes and missions. We need to examine carefully these migration processes and go where our people are."

Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Benedict Aleksychuk, former auxiliary bishop of Lviv, was enthroned as the new head of the Eparchy of St. Nicholas in Chicago June 29. He, too, told CNS he felt the need to reach out to his people.

"My eparchy, for example, includes California with its Silicon Valley," he said. "Many Ukrainian IT professionals work there, and the majority of them are not acquainted with the life of church. We need to go to them."

Bishop Aleksychuk said he has decided to establish a new department in his curia to be responsible for mission and strategy.

"This department will not deal with the routine challenges but will look in the future, will keep the hand on the pulse and will be constantly looking for the new ways to talk to people about God — the God they seek, sometimes unconsciously," he said.

Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kiev-Halych, Ukraine, the leader of more than 5 million Ukrainian Catholics worldwide, entrusted Bishop Aleksiychuk with the task of mission at his enthronement when he said, “We are a Ukrainian church, but not a church for Ukrainians.”

In the late 19th century, the Ukrainian Catholic Church, a Byzantine church, sent priests to the United States to minister to its members who had migrated. Churches, parishes, and eparchial or diocesan structures were established later in what is known as the diaspora.

Archbishop Shevchuk told CNS that church leaders decided to ordain Bishop-elect Rabyi in Lviv “as a symbol of unity of the global Ukrainian church.”

“All the bishops of our church from different countries and continents will be present, as this day we start our annual synod,” he said. “Therefore, the ordination will be the event not for one eparchy, but for the whole church.”

“These bishops were born in Ukraine but will serve our people in the diaspora,” he added.

“That’s an important sign of unity and exchange of gifts within the church. When the (Ukrainian Catholic Church) in Ukraine was getting out of catacombs after the collapse of Soviet Union and started restoring its structures, our clergy and laity from the diaspora helped immensely sharing their resources — financial, human, expertise, etc. Now it’s time for the mother-church to share.”

Father Mark Morozowich, dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington and a Ukrainian Catholic priest, said his church in the U.S. “needs dynamic pastors who will engage the people into the life of Christ and will stimulate the Christian life of the laypeople in our parishes.”

“We have to bring our unique tradition to the world,” he said noting that people of many different races view the Ukrainian Catholic Church as “their spiritual home.”

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