

Excerpts from Some of the Greetings to the Sheptytsky Institute on the Occasion of its Twenty-fifth Anniversary

Titles and positions reflect those held by the authors of the letters at the time of the anniversary in 2011.



The 25th anniversary of the prestigious Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at Saint Paul University in Ottawa is a time of immense joy for those of us who share the conviction that the age-old apostolic heritage of Eastern Christianity deserves to be better known, revered, preserved, and propagated.

But it also a time of wry reflection in our smorgasbord post-modern culture where what (if indeed anything) one believes and lives is deemed a matter of personal preference like choosing one's lunch dessert in the cafeteria, rather than of adherence to what has been transmitted by the tradition of humanity's age-old wisdom and commitment.

For tradition, contrary to what one may think, is not the past but our present consciousness of a living heritage that has been handed on, and of our obligation to know it, nurture it, and continue to pass it on.

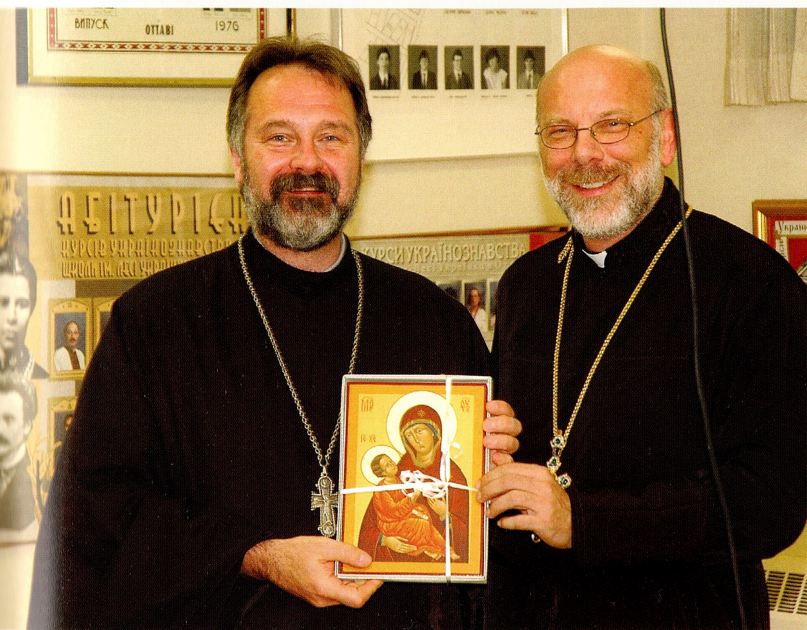
But to do so one must not just know it but also live it. And that is what the Sheptytsky Institute has done so well: not just teaching this rich heritage as arid book-knowledge, but transmitting it as a way of life in its living integrity, always in a spirit of openness and ecumenism in collaboration with the shared riches of our Orthodox Sister Churches. One sees that most clearly in the fact that the Sheptytsky Institute is not just a *learning community*; it is also a *praying community*.

My prayer is that it continue to be so, in a world where few if any do what the Sheptytsky Institute has thus far done so well.

*Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Robert F. Taft, S.J., F.B.A.
Professor Emeritus
Pontificio Istituto Orientale
Rome*

Holy Spirit Seminary Ukrainian Catholic Intereparchial Seminary in Ottawa has been forming the Ukrainian Catholic clergy of Canada, the USA and abroad for thirty years – twenty-one of those years with the Sheptytsky Institute as a symbiotic partner. Not only do we entrust our seminarians to you for excellent academic formation in our own theological tradition, we are able to work together to integrate this formation with the pastoral, human, and spiritual formation program of the Seminary. Thus, together, we fulfill to the best of our ability the ideal set by our own Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Universal Church. Our involvement with the Sheptytsky Institute also allows our seminarians the opportunity to interact not only with the Latin and Orthodox Churches, but also other Eastern Churches. I am not sure of any other institutional partnership in North America that permits such interaction.

*Fr. Michael Winn
Rector of the Seminary*



A symbiotic partnership. Holy Spirit Seminary in Ottawa celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary five years before the Sheptytsky Institute.



Eugene Cherwick, first and longtime President of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute Foundation, signs the historic agreement between the Foundation and Saint Paul University regarding the funding for and further development of the Sheptytsky Institute on June 11, 1993. At this time the creation of the first chair was announced, with the generous donation of Peter and Doris Kule. Seated from left: Fr. Andriy Chirovsky; SPU Vice-Rector, Fr. Colin Levangie, OMI; Metropolitan Michael Bzdel; SPU Rector, Fr. Pierre Hurtubise, OMI; Metropolitan Maxim Hermaniuk; Eugene Cherwick; Peter and Doris Kule. Ihor Bardyn handles the documents to be signed.

Greetings and best wishes to the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at Saint Paul University, Ottawa on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. May we all rejoice at the words of St. Ilarion of Kyiv who proclaimed: “Our Good God did not forget any corner of the world, nor us; He desired and saved us and brought us to true understanding.”

*Very Rev. Fr. Roman Bozyk
Dean of Theology and Acting Principal of
St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg*

Your faculty have worked to make available the rich heritage of Eastern Christianity; your undergraduate and graduate programs, online offerings, and study days, have helped many students advance in the life of faith and understanding; and your publications have disseminated your work to an ever greater circle. As an institution, you provide a living witness to the value of dialogue between Eastern and Western Christianity and have



September 1994. Fr. Andriy Chirovsky delivers a riveting lecture during his installation as first chairholder of the Peter and Doris Kule Chair in Eastern Christian Theology and Spirituality. Seated on the platform are University officials and members of the Sheptytsky Institute Foundation.

On behalf of the faculty, associates, and staff of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, I wish to express our most heartfelt congratulations to the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies on celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. As a centre of higher learning, research, and prayer, the Sheptytsky Institute has fostered ecumenical understanding among Eastern Christians as well as between Eastern and Western Christians. Its academic efforts – lectures, conferences, and publications – have made a major contribution to the revival of Eastern Christian studies in Canada. Well done!

The Sheptytsky Institute not only honors the faithful witness of Metropolitan Andrey but also contributes to the sharing of the rich heritage of Eastern Christianity. In so doing, the Institute serves as a distinctive centre for the encounter of Eastern and Western Christians who look towards mutual understanding and reconciliation in Christ.

*Fr. Thomas FitzGerald, Th.D.
Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
Dean, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology*

On behalf of the McGill Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR), please accept my warm congratulations on the Silver Jubilee of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at Saint Paul University, Ottawa. CREOR wishes the Institute every success in its future endeavors, and we look forward to the possibility of mutual collaboration in the future.

*Professor Torrance Kirby
Director, Centre for Research on Religion
McGill University, Montreal*



I am pleased to offer my sincere congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the Sheptytsky Institute. The Institute is a source of enrichment not only for the specific public toward which it is aimed, but to the whole church catholic as well. Vivat! Crescat! Floreat!

+Daniel E. Pilarczyk
Archbishop Emeritus of Cincinnati
(Former President of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Many years ago the Sheptytsky Institute was but a distant dream in the mind and heart of Fr. Andriy Chirovsky. However with assiduous prayer and diligent work that dream became a passionate enterprise for his Church and for growing numbers of scholars. This 25th anniversary is a wondrous attestation to the power of the Holy Spirit “who fills all things” and who enabled that dream and that enterprise to become for us today a beacon of Eastern Christian theological education throughout the world. I congratulate everyone associated with the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute on their wondrous success, but most of all I thank Fr. Chirovsky for making his dream a reality. The Church and the community of theologians, worldwide, are blessed by the wonderful gifts you have brought us all.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Myroslaw Tataryn
Vice-President and Academic Dean
St. Jerome's University
Federated with the University of Waterloo

For the past 25 years, the Sheptytsky Institute has served not only the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada and beyond, but many other Eastern Churches as well, both Orthodox and Catholic. It has provided the place to study critically, in a spirit of faithfulness to the Church, the theological traditions of the Christian East. The work of the Institute has highlighted the invaluable contribution of the Eastern Churches to the development of the Universal Church.

At the same time, we in the Faculty of Theology are proud of the ways the Institute has enriched the life and work of the Faculty. The dialogue between Eastern and Western traditions fostered by the presence of the Institute has enhanced the theological reflection of both traditions and has given the Faculty of Theology of Saint Paul



Fr. Pierre Hurtubise, OMI, rector of Saint Paul University, signs the agreement with the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute Foundation establishing the Institute as part of the University. Seated at the table from left to right: Bishop Michael Bzdel, rector Hurtubise, Metropolitan Maxim, Eugene Cherwick, President of the Foundation, and Peter and Doris Kule, whose donation provided stability for the agreement. Standing between Bishop Bzdel and Fr. Hurtubise is Fr. Dale Schlitt, OMI, future rector of the University. The Foundation's attorney, Ihor Bardyn, is standing (with documents) between Fr. Hurtubise and Metropolitan Maxim.

The Sheptytsky Institute is now a key player on the worldwide scene of Eastern Christian Studies, offering liturgical, spiritual and ministerial formation and, of special importance, highest quality academic programs preparing future leaders in various Eastern Christian Churches and institutions of higher learning. It is particularly encouraging to note that seven outstanding students have successfully completed doctoral studies through the Institute and are now teaching and providing ecclesial leadership in various institutions here in Canada, in Ukraine and, increasingly, in other parts of the world.

Sincerely yours in the Risen Christ,

Dale M. Schlitt, O.M.I.
Former Rector
Saint Paul University