

# NEWSLETTER

## of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of UCU

### The Institute receives a blessing from the Pope Francis



On September 12–14 (in Rome), in the framework of the Meeting of Eastern Catholic Bishops of Europe, the President of IES, Dr. Iwan Dacko, asked for a blessing from Pope Francis for all employees of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies. Pope Francis gladly conferred his blessing upon the IES team, emphasising that ecumenical work, aimed towards achieving full communion between the Churches, should be a priority for the Ukrainian Church.

### Dr. Pavlo Smytsnyuk – a new IES' Director



Dr. Pavlo Smytsnyuk became the new **IES' Director in autumn, 2019**. Pavlo studied Philosophy and Theology in Rome, Athens and St. Peterburg and obtained a doctoral degree from Oxford University. His professional interests lie in ecumenism, modern Orthodox thought, inter-religious dialogue and political theology. The new Director shared his plans: "As the Director of this Institute, I will work for the Institute to become a laboratory of ecumenism on a European scale."

### Longstanding Coordinator of the Ecumenical Social Week (ESW) Forum Iryna Kitura returns from maternity leave

Upon her return, Iryna shared her thoughts regarding the preparatory work of the Forum: "We are starting work on the 13<sup>th</sup> ESW and new ideas, formats and horizons await us. Together with enthusiastic IES team, we will spread the values and ideas of the Forum across cities in Ukraine and attract new partners. There is a lot of interesting and inspiring work ahead that will foster ecumenical cooperation, and develop social dialogue and lay cooperation."



### The 100<sup>th</sup> Jubilee issue of the online magazine "Spirituality"

**ДУХОВНІСТЬ**

In November 2019, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Volume of Spirituality online magazine was published – a project of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of UCU. This project aims to present the key events in the social and religious life of Ukraine and the world from an ecumenical perspective.

Over the last 9 years, the magazine has included over 800 unique author texts and blogs, receiving approximately 230,000 reader views. The publication has managed to preserve its uniqueness – to inform the reader about religious life, church events, and ecumenical initiatives in clear and comprehensible language.

The publication are available in both Ukrainian and Russian.

## Director of IES participates in the Ecumenical Conference in Bose (Italy)



On **23-26 October**, an International Ecumenical Conference took place in Bose, Italy, dedicated

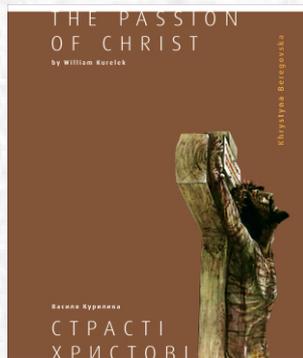
to the theme *Theology of Freedom*, and organised by the Community of Bose in partnership with the Biblical Theological Institute of St. Andrew (Moscow). Pavlo Smytsnyuk, the Director of IES, gave a presentation entitled "Freedom from Fear: Can a Wounded Church Heal a Wounded World?" The paper explores the relationship between freedom and fear.

Read more at [www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/](http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/) and at FB Institute for Ecumenical Studies and FB Spirituality.

## *The Passions of Christ* by William Kurelek / Ed. By Khrystyna Beregovska, Intr. by Iwan Dacko– Lviv, Apriori, 2018. – 396 p.

The Passion of Christ is the first book dedicated to the art of Kurelek in Ukraine.

William Kurelek is the only artist to illustrate the Passion of Christ verse by verse according to the Gospel of Matthew. The series consists of 160 works currently stored in Niagara Falls Museum, Canada. In the album, all the texts are presented in four languages - Ukrainian, English, French and Spanish.



## EVENTS

## Charitable event “Believing in Life”: funds raised for the needs of prematurely born babies



On **September 6**, a charity master-class in paper cutting was held by the artist Daria Alyoshkina. Guests used sketches prepared by Daria in creating their paper cuttings, dedicated to the general idea – of "Tree" as a symbol of life. This session was organised within the framework of the 12<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Social Week. On the third day of the Forum, on October 4, the paper cuttings were sold at a charity auction. The event was attended by performers and those who wanted to buy these paper cuttings, all in aid of helping prematurely born babies. The funds raised at the auction amounted to UAH 42,000, which was donated to the Charitable Foundation “Nemovlia” for the purchase of an automatic washing-disinfecting machine.

This machine provides effective washing and sterilisation of medical diagnostic equipment and utensils for feeding young patients, reducing the risk of infection.



## Ecumenical Social Week: we expand our vision



On October 2-4, the 12<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Social Week, dedicated to the theme "Responsibility vs Populism" was held in Lviv. Series of events, dedicated to the topic of populism, responsibility and values of a modern human being, took place within the forum in Lviv. Special attention was also paid to the topic of inter-confessional reconciliation.

According to Forum participants, populism is not a one-way movement, but primarily a two-way communication. The speakers of the event believe that the populism cannot be completely eliminated; it can only be reduced. That is why all of us should be able to take responsibility first and foremost for ourselves and our actions and develop critical thinking.

The final thesis of the Forum, dedicated to the Youth as the Driving Force of Society, was expressed by UCU Rector Rev Fr. Dr. Bohdan Prach during a "good talk": "Let us think of young people not through the prism of critique or imposition of our own visions. They need to have our personal testimony. There is no other way to work with the Youth."

### Read more:

- ☞ <http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/>
- ☞ <http://esweek.org.ua/ua/>
- ☞ <http://dukhovnist.in.ua/uk/>

## Unity through simultaneous Communion



On October 3, the International Seminar of the Ukrainian Christian Academic Society "Models of the Unity of the Kyivan Church: On the Path towards Restoration of Communion" was held. The seminar discussed the problems of the unity of Christians of the Kyivan tradition, in particular the unity of Ukrainian Orthodoxy after the canonical recognition of the autocephaly of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, the authority of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Another important point in the discussion was the perspective of restoring unity between the Orthodox and Greek Catholics through simultaneous communion.



Read more about the thoughts expressed during the UCAS seminar on Spirituality

## Ecumenical Prayer for Christian Unity and Peace in Ukraine – January 22, 2020



On January 22, a traditional prayer for Christian unity and peace in Ukraine took place. The event is held within the framework of the World Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, whose slogan for this year is: "They showed us unusual kindness." (Acts 28, 2)

## Celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Certificate Program “Social Support for Persons with Special Needs” (MPSS)

On February 8, 2020, there will be a celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Certificate Program MPSS, a joint project of IES and the International Federation “L’Arche”. The event will be held at the conference hall of the UCU’s Faculty of Philosophy and Theology and will gather not only this year's graduates of the program, but also teachers and students of past years.

The festivities will commence at 11am.

Follow our announcements at

[www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/](http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/)  
<http://esweek.org.ua/ua/>  
 and pages : Institute for Ecumenical Studies and Ecumenical Social Week

## Distance Learning Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies (DLMPEs) (for English speaking students) [www.iesdistance.org.ua](http://www.iesdistance.org.ua)

- provides a Master's-level theological ecumenical program through online studies;
- provides a high level of academic knowledge in theology, church history and ecumenism;
- allows students to take individual courses without enrolling to the entire program.



This program is designed for English speaking students

## Support the Institute

Friends, we work on each project for you with great inspiration and joy. Your financial support will be very helpful in our work.

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