



SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS PARISH CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Cary, NC

Photography by Jacquelynn Buck

The parish family of Saints Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Church, Cary, NC, under the guidance of current pastor, Father Richard Rohrer (1994-present) celebrated 25 years of being together. Bishop Kurt made the journey from New Jersey to celebrate this milestone on the weekend of Thomas Sunday, April 2 and 3, 2016.

The celebration started Saturday afternoon, April 2nd, with a re-dedication of the Right to Life Monument and Project Rachel Memorial Garden on the grounds of the church. The service was led by Bishop Kurt, accompanied by Father Rick, and assisted by Father Mark Shuey of the Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Mission Parish. The Knights of Columbus, who sponsored the erection of the memorial, were also present. During the closing, Father Rick said that in this Year of Mercy, there is comfort to the parents who have buried letters in the Memorial Garden, to the souls of 600 little ones, who, like young shoots cut off before they could bloom, are planted by Christ in paradise. Afterwards, Project Rachel and Birthchoice hosted a Tea and Pascha Pastries reception. Vespers for Saint Thomas Sunday

was celebrated by Father Rick, parishioners and visitors, and presided over by Bishop Kurt. A traditional Eastern European dinner, music and dancing at the Fallon Center in Raleigh, capped off Saturday's celebrations.

On Saint Thomas Sunday, in a joint celebration, the parishes of Saints Cyril and Methodius and Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Mission, welcomed Bishop Kurt for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Bishop Kurt, along with Concelebrants Father Rick and Father Mark and Deacons David Thomas and Joseph Kibbe, led the service. During Bishop Kurt's homily, he recited the Paschal Homily of Saint John Chrysostom and spoke of the

importance of knowing the early church in the Acts of the Apostles. He also spoke about Jesus' life being the best-documented event in the world, even more than any other "historical" event. He concluded by telling the parishioners how blessed they are to believe even though they weren't able to see or touch what Saint Thomas did when he encountered Jesus so many years ago. At the service's end, Bishop Kurt distributed copies of the Novena to Saint Theresa and asked the parishioners to pray for priestly vocations. He also distributed medals from his recent trip to Rome, which were blessed by Pope Francis. Father Rick thanked Bishop Kurt and thanked the parish for being a loving family to each other. After

the service, the celebration continued outdoors with *cascarones* (confetti eggs) showering participants. After a blessing by Bishop Kurt, everyone enjoyed feasting on Southern favorites and Mexican dishes, traditional sides, and delicious desserts, while being entertained by a Mariachi band. Following the agape meal, Bishop Kurt presided over the Divine Liturgy in Spanish, celebrated by Father Rick.

The following day, Monday, April 4th, parishioner Dan Pope accompanied Bishop Kurt to view the Eparchial Farm in Clarksville, VA

Photography for the event was graciously provided by Jacquelynn Buck, a former parishioner now residing in Arizona.

