

About Vision and Mission of the Ukrainian Catholic University

Love science, nurture and enrich it with your work and your knowledge, be its servants! Erect temples of science, fires of spiritual force of our Church and Nation, remember that a full life of the Church and Nation is impossible without our own science. Science — is our breath of life!

Patriarch Josyph (Slipy). “Testament”

The Ukrainian Catholic University is an open academic community, which lives by the Eastern Christian tradition and raises the leaders of the nation, professionals, for the ministry both in Ukraine and abroad – in the name of God’s glory, common good and human dignity.

Introduction

As befits the occasion, I would like to address you with the inauguration word in which I want to briefly describe the vision and mission of the newly-born Ukrainian Catholic University. At the beginning, I would like to mention that it is not an author’s text. Its thoughts belong to the whole academic community.

Some features of the UCU portrait

Having entered the third millennium, we start to realize that one of the biggest treasures we take along — is the young generation of Ukraine, which spent all their life in a society where a totalitarian and impersonalizing ideology is gradually coming to an end, and which, breathing in with the full breast the air of freedom, wants to pave its own way into the future.

Evangelization Mission of UCU

It is symbolic that UCU appeared in the time when the memories are still fresh about the Holy Father John Paul’s II visit to Ukraine, who consecrated the cornerstone of UCU exactly a year ago. He — a true intellectual, with this step manifested again the importance of education in a Christian’s life and in the performing the evangelizing mission of the Church.

Enriching the academic discourse

As fullness and richness of the eternal world of every person is measured by the depth of his interpersonal dialogue, in a similar way the life of every university is measured by its openness to inter-university communication. UCU expects a close collaboration with other universities both of Lviv and Ukraine and those from neighboring and further countries.

Interdisciplinarity and ethical perspective of academic research

Not long ago, the question “What is the ultimate destination of human life?” “Can a person talk with God?” “What is exactly the communication with God?” “How does it affects a person?” were eliminated from the life of the Ukrainian education and science. Such an obstruction not only marginalized theological searches, pushing them into obscurantism and fundamentalism, but also rendered a disservice to the disciplines themselves.

Learning the truth and University’s upbringing

“You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” UCU’s task must become a constant manifestation of the inextricable connection between ministry to the truth and a person’s freedom. A scientific research, free from the abundance of pragmatic speculation and ideologic manipulation,

can remain as itself only when its ultimate goal will be revealing the truth and serving a human being on the basis of acknowledging the sanctity of his life and respect for his personal dignity.

The school of ministry

UCU regards spreading the Christian ethics of work and study as one of its main tasks. This means not only uncompromising struggle with all forms of malpractice in education and studying, but also filling the studies and future work of students with the spirit of ministry and solidarity. We want our employees and students to constantly experience the ministry to God and a person, that is why the academic and research practice of UCU will always have practical-pastoral and social dimensions.

Global context

We are convinced that further development of Ukraine as a modern European country can only benefit when the rich heritage and spiritual experience of Kyiv's Christianity will be thought over, researched, and studied at the proper academic level. Learning, enriching and opening before the whole world the priceless treasures of the Eastern Christianity, UCU also wants to make its contribution in the world's ecumenical and cultural dialogue between the Christian East and West.

Plans for work and development

According to the above-mentioned principles, we are going to view the academic and educational processes in UCU, set priorities in the academic activities and plan the development of the University. The main emphasis in UCU's work will be humanitarian education. The background for this education must become the nurturing of the Christian outlook, in particular through including the theological component into the curricula of various disciplines.

Conclusion

UCU in Ukraine has become a symbol of maturity and readiness of the Ukrainian Christianity for the challenges of the new era, its readiness to spread the good news about Christ to the educated man of the third millennium, who goes on looking for God in his life in the secular world. May this event, born from the deep and sacrificial faith of numerous faithful of the UGCC, become one more manifestation of the resurrection of our Church and God's blessing for its pastoral ministry to the Ukrainian nation.

Father Doctor Borys Gudziak, Rector

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