



Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

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NEWS *from the Office of Communications*

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DATE: May 14, 2012 SUBJECT: *Ad Limina* visit in Rome May 14-20

Region XV of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) are in Rome for their *ad limina* visits with Pope Benedict XVI. Region XV includes all Eastern Catholic Bishops in the United States. Metropolitan William C. Skurla (Pittsburgh), Bishop John M. Kudrick (Parma), and Bishop Gerald N. Dino (Phoenix) of the Byzantine Catholic (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church in the USA join their fellow Eastern Catholic bishops for the May 14-20 visits with Pope Benedict XVI and other Vatican officials. Former Administrator of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Very Reverend Eugene P. Yackanich also is accompanying newly-enthroned Metropolitan William, who assumed his Archieparchial duties April 18.

The formal term for the visits is *ad limina apostolorum*, which means “to the thresholds of the apostles.” All Catholic bishops worldwide are required to make a pilgrimage to the tombs of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, who were martyred in Rome, and to meet with the pope to report on the status of their diocese/eparchy. In 1585 Pope Sixtus V issued the Constitution *Romanus Pontifex*, which set forth the norm for visits *ad limina*. On December 31, 1909, Pope Pius X stated in a Decree for the Consistorial Congregation that a bishop needs to report to the pope an account of the state of his diocese [eparchy] once every five years; the practice commenced in 1911.

During these quinquennial visits, each bishop presents a report on his respective arch/diocese or arch/eparchy. Areas of report include family, education, demographics, stewardship, vocations, priestly formation, and a number of other aspects of Catholic life. Bishops of the fifteen USCCB regions began their visits in November 2011.



Very Rev. Eugene Yackanich and Metropolitan William Skurla pictured at the Vatican May 14.