

Perth Amboy Native Son to be Ordained Priest on May 16, 2010 at 2:30PM in the Cathedral

A "Final Jeopardy" answer for the category **Priests of the Archeparchy** might read: He is the only Ukrainian Catholic priest to have trained on a US Navy Nuclear Attack Submarine. The correct response, in the usual question format, would be: Who is, the soon to be ordained Father Paul Jason Makar, who trained as a midshipman for a month on the USS Albany? Christ calls men from all different walks and ages of life, and so He has called Paul Jason Makar, 37, of Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

Jesus' command and invitation to the Apostle Philip, "Follow me (John 1:43)," is one that goes out to many

a man, but only a few respond who are willing to leave their boats, families, belongings, and careers behind, as the fishermen: Peter, Andrew, and Philip did, and the soon to be newest priest of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia on May 16, 2010, Father Paul Jason Makar, will, in order to follow Jesus and to minister to His flock. As we sing on Pentecost Sunday the troparion, "Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending them the Holy Spirit; through them You caught the entire world. Loving Master, glory to You," Jesus has called another fisherman to go out in to the deep waters of the world to catch that miraculous net full of those souls who will be entrusted to Fr. Paul's care.



Deacon Paul Jason Makar, soon to be ordained priest of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

Deacon Paul Jason Makar is the son of Deacon Paul Makar and Anna Makar of Perth Amboy, NJ, born October 12, 1972. He has been a lifelong member of the Perth Amboy, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, where the Rev. Roman Dubitsky is pastor. Paul attended the parish school for eight years and Bishop Ahr High School graduating in 1990. An interesting piece of history is that Paul was baptized and chrismated by then, Perth Amboy pastor, Msgr. Stephen Sulyk, and later Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk, who also ordained Paul's father, Deacon Paul, a subdeacon and later a deacon. Paul's family also includes his brother; Nicholas, husband of Stephanie and nephew, Nicholas; and his brother, Michael.

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Having seen and experienced a great part of the world, dating and being a bachelor living the good life and owning his own home on the Central Jersey seashore, Paul began to notice and sense that there was something else missing from his life and after talking with his pastor, Fr. Roman Dubitsky, he decided to enter and begin seminary studies at St. Josaphat Seminary and at the Catholic University of America in 2004 at the age of 32. Prior to that, Paul was a commissioned officer holding the rank of lieutenant in the United States Navy serving on various ships, including a guided missile frigate, the USS Crommelin, based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as communications and gunnery officer; the USS Dubuque and USS Juneau as main propulsion engineering officer in Sasebo, Japan. Later, he served in the United States Navy Reserve and worked in various engineering capacities including brewery operations at Anheuser-Busch, Newark, NJ.

While studying at St. Josaphat Seminary and the Catholic University of America, Paul discerned and made a commitment to forgo his right to marriage so that he would be able to better serve and minister to the People of God entrusted to his care totally and completely. It is an unselfish act, in freedom, that Paul chose to dedicate himself entirely to the service of the Lord, so that he would imitate more closely, Jesus Christ, who, "Being entirely consecrated to the will of the Father, Jesus brought forth this new creation by means of his Paschal Mystery; thus, he introduced into time and into the world a new form of life which is sublime and divine and which radically transforms the human condition, (Paul VI, Encyclical Letter *Sacerdotalis Caelibatus*, n. 15.)"

This sacrifice is one that is offered by a priest so that his vocation will not be divided. The priest lives in this new way of life, "Wholly in accord with this mission, Christ remained throughout his whole life in the state of celibacy, which signified his total dedication to the service of God and men (Paul VI, Encyclical Letter *Sacerdotalis Caelibatus*, n. 17.)" It is not that a priest is alone and that he does not have a family, but that by his choice and by the grace and blessing of God upon



Deacon Paul incenses at the Divine Liturgy celebrated by Bishop Losten.



Deacon Paul (right) assists at the Great Sanctification of Water on Jordan at the UCNS Holy Family, Washington, DC, with Fr. Wasyl Kharuk, Spiritual Director of St. Josaphat Seminary (left) and Fr. Robert Hitchens, Rector (center).



Deacon Paul helps to clean up at a parish event, a sign of service as a deacon and even a priest who is not afraid to work and get his hands dirty, along with Seminarian Walter Pasicznyk, also studying for the Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

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the priest, "In a similar way, by a daily dying to himself and by giving up the legitimate love of a family of his own for the love of Christ and of his Kingdom, the priest will find the glory of an exceedingly rich and fruitful life in Christ, because like him and in him he loves and dedicates himself to all the Children of God (Paul VI, Encyclical Letter *Sacerdotalis Caelibatus*, n.25.)" Thus, the title given to all priests, "Father" is lived out in a way that the priest is able to be a spiritual father to all those entrusted to his care, who indeed are all of the Children of God, that is to say that he is father to all whom he encounters and can give himself completely without a divided heart.

Paul also during his time of formation earned a Licentiate Degree in Philosophy, and will also graduate from the Catholic University of America with a Master of Divinity Degree later in May. He had already earned a Bachelor of Engineering Degree from the State University of New York Maritime College in 1994. Paul received the minor orders of acolyte, lector, cantor, and was ordained a Subdeacon by Bishop John Bura in November 2008. He was ordained a deacon by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka in May 2009.

In addition to his academic preparation Paul completed a 400 hour Clinical Pastoral Education program as a chaplain-intern at the Reading Hospital and Medical Center, West Reading, PA, where he ministered to those in crisis as well as to their families. He was also exposed to ministering to and working with people of other faith traditions. He also spent two summers in Ukraine at the Ukrainian Catholic University Intensive Ukrainian Language program in Lviv to become more conversant in Ukrainian. As a seminarian, Subdeacon, and later as a deacon, Paul served summer assignments at Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, Shamokin, PA. and Assumption BVM Parish Centralia, PA; Holy Ghost Parish, West Easton, PA and St. Nicholas Parish, Great Meadows, NJ; Nativity BVM Parish Reading, PA; as well as assisting at his home parish, Assumption BVM, Perth Amboy, NJ, and the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family Parish, Washington, DC. He looks forward to serving the people of the Archeparchy wherever Archbishop will assign him after ordination.

Deacon Paul Jason Makar will be ordained a priest at the hands of Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka on Sunday, May 16, 2010, at 2:30 p.m. in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia, PA. The prayers of the entire Archeparchy are needed for him and for those who also might be considering a vocation to be a priest. If you think that you might be being called, take a chance and also answer the invitation to "Follow Me (John 1:43)" as the soon to be Father Paul Jason Makar did and many more before him did; then contact Msgr. Peter Waslo, Vocation Director, Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia at 215-627-0143 or email him at ukrvocations@catholic.org.



Deacon Paul (back row left) and Deacon Claudio Melnicki (back row right) with (front row l-r) Mary Superata, Sarah Superata, Christina Curtis, and Julia Hetmanský at the inaugural Generations of Faith at UCNS Holy Family on the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God which served as Deacon Paul's Pastoral Leadership Project for his Master of Divinity degree program.