



WESTERN EPARCHY NEWSLETTER

WESTERN EPARCHY
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF CANADA

Issue 32: Summer, 2019

The Service of the renovation of the temple, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of
St. Michael the Archangel,

Camp Bar-v-Nok, Pigeon Lake, AB June 2, 2019



UOCC YOUTH RETREAT



His Grace Bishop Ilarion was present at the **UOCC Youth Retreat in Banff, Alberta from May 3 - 5, 2019**. Fr. Timothy Chrapko, assisted by Fr. Michael Maranchuk, organized a very inspiring retreat for our youth, ages 10 and up.

IN THIS ISSUE:

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THE COURT OF CONSCIENCE – St. John Chrysostom

Why has God set in the mind of every one of us such a continuously watchful and sober judge? I mean the conscience. For there is no judge, no judge at all among men as sleepless as our conscience. External judges are corrupted by money, influenced by flattery, and induced by fear to give false judgements: and many other factors spoil their upright decisions. But the court of conscience cannot yield to any of these influences. Whether you give bribes, or flatter, or threaten, or do anything else, the court will bring forth a just judgement against your sinful intentions. He who commits sin himself condemns himself even if no one else accuses him. He does this not only once, or twice, but often, and continues through his whole life. Even if a long time passes, the conscience never forgets what has happened, but even during the commitment of sin, and before and after it is committed, the conscience stands against us as a vehement accuser—especially after the commission.

From: **DAILY READINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**, Light and Life Publishing, Minneapolis, MN. 1988

THAT INNER VOICE

St. Paul writes in Romans 2:14-16, “When the Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written in their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness...” They had a God-implanted instinctive knowledge of right and wrong within their hearts, the law that was written not on tablets or books but in the heart, i.e., the conscience.

The “still small voice” of sensitized conscience—that is how the Lord spoke to Elijah; that is how He speaks to me.

Somewhere in the universe there is a God – as moral God- who wants us to do good and to avoid evil. He has given us many hints that each one of us. One such hint is the voice of conscience which He planted in each of us. This inner voice of conscience which He planted is standing behind it: Someone who is intensely interested that we do what is right.

The cock always crows when we deny life—as it crowed when Peter denied Jesus. We are always warned by that inner voice—conscience.

When a person sins, conscience reacts like a broken bone. As a broken bone hurts because it is not where it ought to be, so conscience hurts and pains us when it is not where it ought to be—in a right relationship with God.

God allows conscience to trouble us for one reason: to awaken us, to bring us to repentance, to guide us to a better way. A hurt conscience is God speaking to us, telling us that we have denied life, we have disobeyed Him. What pain is to the body (a warning that something is wrong, urging us to seek medical help), that is what a hurt conscience is to the soul.

The purpose of conscience is to lead us from the negative to the positive. It is God calling us to new life.

Conscience is a safe guide only when it is properly educated and safely guided by the Holy Spirit.

Our conscience is like a fiddle which ,must be constantly in time with God and set according to His standard, which is His will.

St. Paul wrote: “Herein I also exercise myself *to have a conscience void of offense toward God and man.*” We know what conscience can do. It can guide. It can warn. It can instruct. It can haunt. It can bless. But there is one thing conscience cannot do. It cannot undo the wrong we have done. It cannot heal the wounds we inflict. It cannot eradicate guilt. It cannot forgive sin. Only Christ can do that. Only the blood of Christ can purify our conscience. Only He can forgive and heal and erase the past to bring to conscience “ the peace of God which passes all understanding,” to make us experience in conscience the joys of heaven.

FROM: TOOLS FOR THEOSIS, Becoming God-like in Christ, by Anthony M. CONIARIS, Light and Life Publishing, Minneapolis, MN. 2014.



20th Anniversary of the parish of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas, Red Deer, May 19, 2019



25th Anniversary of the temple of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of All Saints, Kamloops, BC. June 30, 2019



Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Athabasca, AB. -- July 14, 2019





ORPHANAGE PROJECT IN UKRAINE



We continue to do humanitarian and charitable work in our homeland Ukraine by helping some of the most vulnerable children, the orphans, especially in these times when a war rages in the eastern part of their country, they are in an unstable environment, and their basic needs are difficult to meet at this time. But they have us, the generous and thoughtful people in the Western Eparchy who have informally adopted them and help them.

We continue to provide much-needed assistance.

Please make donations to the Western Eparchy UOCC, and state: **orphans in Ukraine** in the memo line.

Tax Receipts for Revenue Canada will be issued.

**THANK YOU FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF
THE ORPHANS IN UKRAINE**

“The rich man is not one who has much but one who gives much. For what he gives away, remains his forever.”

... St. John Chrysostom

*“May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet.
May everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you.”*

SECOND PLATE COLLECTION

We thank all parishes and individuals who contributed to the Paschal and/or Nativity second plate appeal for funds for the Western Eparchy.

Two Hills Parochial District
Lac La Biche Parochial District
Surrey, BC – UOC of St. Mary
Edmonton – UO Cathedral of St. John
Vegreville – UOC of St. Vladimir
Lethbridge – UOC of Holy Trinity
Redwater - UOC of Holy Trinity
Athabasca - UOC of Sts. Peter and Paul
Camrose - UOC of All Saints
Edmonton – UOC of St. Anthony
Calgary- UOC of St. Vladimir

**WESTERN EPARCHY FALL ASSEMBLY
October 25 – 27**

**WESTERN EPARCHY UOCC
YOUTH SUMMIT
October 26 – 27**

**YOUTH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BANQUET
October 26**

**AT: The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and
St. John’s Cultural Centre, Edmonton, AB.**

WESTERN EPARCHY LEVIES 2019

Levies for 2019 will remain at \$15.00 per member (based on membership as of December 31, 2018) Parishes may choose to add \$ 5.00 per member and submit \$ 20.00 per member (as per Resolution passed at WE Assembly 2018).

Levies are payable now.

THANK YOU to all parishes that have already paid their levies.