



WESTERN EPARCHY NEWSLETTER

WESTERN EPARCHY
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF CANADA

Issue 18: Winter 2016

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NATIVITY GREETINGS FROM HIS GRACE BISHOP ILARION

З нами Бог!

**Вітаю вас з
Різдвом Христовим!**

**Новий Рік нехай
принесе нам усім
добре здоров'я,
добробут, душевний
спокій, та радість
у Христі Ісусі.**



God is with us!

**I greet you on this
occasion of the
Great Nativity Feast.**

**May the New Year,
Bring us all good
health, prosperity,
inner peace, and joy
in Jesus Christ!**

ON FREQUENT COMMUNION

Our Orthodox faith demands frequent Confession and Communion, not just once a year. Where a greater number of faithful confess and commune, the community becomes stronger.

+Metropolitan Ilarion, Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

Those who partake of this blood stand with the angels and the powers that are above, clothed in the kingly robe itself, armed with spiritual weapons. But I have not yet said anything great by this: for they are clothed even with the King Himself.”

+St. John Chrysostom

“In your Bread is hidden a Spirit not to be eaten,
You your Wine dwells a Fire not to be drunk.
Spirit in your Bread, Fire in Your Wine,
A Wonder set apart (yet) received by our lips!
See, Fire and Spirit in the womb that bore you!
See, Fire and Spirit in the river where you were baptized.
Fire and Spirit in our Baptism;
In the Bread and the Cup, Fire and Holy Spirit!
Your Bread kills the Devourer (death) who has made us his bread,
Your Cup destroys death which was swallowing us up,
We have eaten You, Lord, we have drunk You,
Not to exhaust You, but to live by You.”

+St. Ephraim the Syrian



**Excerpt from: ARCHPASTORAL REMARKS TO THE 56TH ASSEMBLY OF THE WESTERN EPARCHY
by His Grace Bishop Ilarion**

It is an honor and pleasure to greet you, the delegates of the 56th assembly of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada.

As the Sacred Psalmist said: “behold how beautiful it is for brothers to dwell together.”(Psalm 132) It is immense spiritual joy to see all of you, especially those who come from far, from BC and from our rural parishes. In our Western Eparchy we try to “to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4.3), bearing witness that “we who are many, are one body” (1 Cor. 10.17), one body of Christ, one Church.”

I would like to thank all of you for your love and devotion to our Church which you express through the active participation in the liturgical life of the Church and through other activities which support your Church. Our presence here is very important for all of us; as Apostle Paul said: “But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavor more eagerly, to see your face with great desire.” (1 Thess. 2:17)

We live in a world that is losing faith in God and is becoming more secular; globalization is taking over, and people are able to find a place for God in their lives less and less often. The Church is a sacred institution. As such, we cannot implement the rules of a corporation, a private club, or a museum into the fabric of the Church. The rules and laws of the Church are the laws of love, compassion, and forgiveness. The Church has only one goal – to bring people to salvation. That can only be realized through the Divine Liturgy and participation in Holy Communion. The Holy Eucharist is the centre, the heart of Church life. There is no ordination or fundamental ministry of the Church that takes place outside the Divine Liturgy. We don't come to the Church to be spectators, but to participate in the mysteries of the Church and partake of the Holy Eucharist. There is no purpose to attend church if you go just to watch what is going on, instead of taking part in what is going on. We do not come to Church to see, but to do.

I am very happy that in many parishes in our Western Eparchy, we have positive trends of faithful coming to the Holy Chalice more frequently. This gives hope for the future of our eparchy and for those parishes. No other way for growth of the parish exists. All other activities are important, but cannot replace, or be used instead of the Holy Eucharist. Only through the Holy Eucharist we can bear spiritual fruit. As our Lord said : “ I am the true vine and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away.” John 15:1 “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire; and they are burned.”(John 15:6)

Those who are not serious and do not approach the Holy Chalice often, slowly move to spiritual death. They do not see the effect and benefit of Holy Communion in their life. We can see that in those parishes where people rarely or infrequently participate in Holy Communion, their parish slowly declines. This is the reality of spiritual life. These people do not bear spiritual fruit. They are like the withered branch. As our Lord said: “They are going to be thrown into the fire and they will burn.” And all of you who come here as delegates to the Western Eparchy Assembly should have frequent participation in the Holy Eucharist and show a personal example to others in your parish. In the Church we don't need experts in Robert's Rules who are involved in all kinds of meetings, but never or rarely approach the Holy Chalice. We need people who are spiritually rich; as one Saint said: “Save yourself, and 1000 will be saved around you.” We don't need to save the Church; we need to save our self in the Church. I encourage all of you to participate in the Holy Eucharist this Sunday with our Primate, His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij presiding at the Cathedral of St. John so that “with one mouth and one heart” we can express our unity with God and with each other as one family through the one Holy Chalice. It is a great joy for me as the bishop of the Western Eparchy that for the first time, all four Edmonton parishes have expressed their willingness to join us in this unity and they will not have a Divine Liturgy in their churches.

May God help all of us in our Eparchy to bear spiritual fruit in unity and love.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES – YOUTH SUMMIT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT BANQUET



The Western Eparchy Assembly highlighted activities for our youth.

Top: Youth Appreciation Banquet (All youth who serve in the Church in various ways were acknowledged.)

Centre: His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, His Grace Bishop Ilarion, Fr. Timothy Chrapko and youth who attended the Youth Summit.

Bottom: Fr. Timothy Chrapko speaking to youth at the Youth Summit; Youth making blankets to donate to the homeless.





LETHBRIDGE- The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity
Sunday, November 1, 2015

WESTERN EPARCHY FULL COUNCIL 2015-16

His Grace Bishop Ilarion

Rev. Fr. Timothy CHRAPKO, Member at Large
Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Taras KROCHAK, 2nd Vice Chairman
Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Alexandre PALAMARCHUK
Rev. Fr. Chad PAWLYSHYN
Very Rev. Archpriest Georg PODTEPA, Ist Vice - Chairman
Rev. Fr. Mykhaylo POZDYK
Rev. Fr. Wasyl SAPIHA
Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Stephan SEMOTIUK
Rev. Fr. Yuriy SUCHEVAN
Ted CHOLOD
Marshall KACHMAR, Treasurer
Dave KORZAN, Building Manager
Diana MAUCH
Katherine MISKE
Geraldine NAKONECHNY
Vivian SKAKUN, Member at Large
Eugene TOPOLNISKY
Judy WILLIAMS
Ex officio:
Rev. Fr. Peter HAUGEN
Very Rev. Archpriest Slawomir LOMASZKIEWICZ
Rev. Fr. Cornell ZUBRITSKY
Stephania LUCIUK
Walter PYLYPCHUK
Donna REED

ORPHANAGE PROJECT IN UKRAINE

Many needed items were purchased in 2015.
More assistance will be provided in 2016.
Tax Receipts for Revenue Canada will be issued.

**THANK YOU FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT
RECEIVED THROUGH YOUR GENEROUS
DONATIONS.**

WESTERN EPARCHY LEVIES 2016

Levies for 2016 will remain at \$15.00 per
member (based on membership as of
December 31, 2015.)
Levies are payable now.

SECOND PLATE COLLECTION

All parishes are reminded to hold a second
plate collection during the Nativity Season for
funds for the Western Eparchy. **We thank the
parishes and districts that made donations in
2015.**