



WESTERN EPARCHY NEWSLETTER

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THE WESTERN EPARCHY
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF CANADA

WESTERN EPARCHY

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The Greatest Teacher of all

Greetings for the New School Year from His Grace Bishop Ilarion, Chaplain of Youth for the UOCC

Багато очікувані літні канікули для багатьох з вас закінчилися, час швидко промайнув. Для багатьох з вас це літо принесло нові враження, знайомство з новими друзями, пізнання чогось цікавого і незабутнього.

Літо закінчилося і осінь розпочалася, а з нею - новий шкільний чи академічний рік. Ви повернулися до своїх аудиторій і класів, щоб збагатитися новими знаннями, які ніколи не є непотрібними в житті, а стануть тим важливим фундаментом на якому буде будуватись ваше щасливе і успішне доросле життя.

Нехай початок нового навчального року буде наповнений не тільки радістю зустрічі з друзями по навчанню, але й ентузіазмом, очікуваннями і надією на покращення і успіх у навчанні.

Я молюся, щоб для всіх наших учнів і студентів, цей навчальний рік був Богом благословенний і успішний. Нехай Господь вам допомагає в ваших стараннях в навчанні.

Як б заняті ви не були, не забувайте знаходити час для Церкви і свого духовного вдосконалення як невід'ємну частину вашого навчання і життя. Дбання про душу і тіло приносить людині гармонію, щастя і мир найперше з самим собою і зі всіма, тільки тоді знайдете своє місце в житті і все в вас вийде.

З Богом! Удачі вам!

Many of you looked forward to summer vacation, and this summer brought new adventures, new friends, and new learning experiences that were interesting and memorable. However, time passes quickly. As summer draws to a close and autumn begins, a new school or academic year commences. Many of you have returned to your perspective classrooms and classes and have begun to enrich yourselves with new knowledge which is never useless in life and can serve as an important foundation on which you can build a happy and successful adulthood.

Let the start of the new school year be filled not only with the pleasure of meeting friends with whom you can study, but also with enthusiasm, great expectations and hope for improvement and success in learning.

I pray that during this school year, all students be blessed by God and achieve success.

God bless you all in your efforts to further your education.

As busy as you become with your studies, do not forget to find time for the Church and to keep the development of your spiritual life an integral part of your learning and your lifestyle. Remember that care for both the body and the soul brings harmony, happiness, and peace first within ourselves, and also with all. Only then will you find your place in life and all will be well with you.

God help you! Good luck to all of you!

+Ilarion,

Bishop of Edmonton and the Western Eparchy
Chaplain of Youth for the UOCC

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CONTACT INFORMATION

The Western Eparchy

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

11404 - 112 Ave.

Edmonton, AB . T5G 0H6

Ph. 780 - 455 - 1938

Fax. 780 - 454 - 5287

Website:

www.uocc-we.ca

Email;

admin@uocc-we.ca





The Orphanage Project in Ukraine — A Project of the Western Eparchy, UOCC

(* Comments from youth participants in *italics*)

The First Trip to Ukraine

The concept of a trip to Ukraine to visit and help in orphanages was first introduced to the Western Eparchy by His Grace Bishop Ilarion at the annual Western Eparchy Assembly in 2011. The idea met with enthusiasm and hope that people in Canada, specifically in the Western Eparchy, could and would get involved in charity work in their ancestral homeland. The focus was on taking youth to Ukraine and there were many benefits; not only to introduce our youth to the different ways in which people live their lives, but also to learn about the historic and religious sites in the homeland from which their grandparents came many years ago. People in Canada today enjoy many comforts, comforts that were gained because of the hard work and sacrifices made by the pioneers who helped build this nation, particularly the western part of this nation. Now it is time for us to give back, to extend our good life and fortune here back to the country where many of us still have roots. And the Western Eparchy wholeheartedly endorsed this new direction. Soon after the Assembly was over, the real work began.

The very first step in this adventure was a dream, a dream to pursue a project that had never been done by the Western Eparchy before. His Grace Bishop Ilarion brought this dream to us and it was because of his initial encouragement and support that the dream was planted in our hearts and minds. To move this dream along required courage and faith, faith that we could pull this off. Then the plan had to be formulated. As with anything new, the plan was and still is a work in progress. We didn't have all the answers. In fact, sometimes, we didn't have any answers at all. We needed people to have patience and faith that we could take this project from a dream to a reality. There were many times of frustration, of stress, and many times when the obstacles appeared to be insurmountable, but we persevered, and with God's help, we managed to complete the first trip. We believe it was a successful trip, one that was valuable to all - both here and in Ukraine.

As with any first time venture, there were many obstacles to overcome; there was much to learn; and there was much to experience. This first mission trip to Ukraine was a learning experience in many ways. From beginning to end, we learned much— first, about how to organize and plan such a trip, how to establish contacts in Ukraine, how to choose our team, how to take care of the logistics of travel to a foreign country, one that is different from Canada in many ways.

We were inspired by the saying "Beginning is half done" – and now that we have done this once, we can build on the positive things and minimize the challenges we faced. It is difficult to begin - but once started, with faith in God and the help of many people, the dream became a reality and can continue.

These are some of the accomplishments of this first trip:

1. We visited four orphanages, in Zaporizhia, and in Sambir. *"The most memorable thing for me was the Orphanage with boys and girls in it near Sambir."*



We saw first hand what it is like to live in an orphanage. *"We saw how orphans have been getting help in Ukraine and what kind of aid they require." "This experience exposed me to a range of children both with and without disabilities." We saw the children, many of them having special needs. We saw what the children experience on a daily basis. "The most memorable thing was the performance that the orphans did for us on our last day at the girls' orphanage. There were some really good singers and despite having disabilities they all contributed in some way to make a joyful experience for everyone. "*

We were able to purchase many big items that were needed - such as a furnace, multiple sets of washers and dryers, basic personal items like diapers, shampoo, toothpaste, and more; we also donated some treats for the children. *" I learned that there are lots of orphans in Ukraine that need our help, and that things as simple as a dryer or diapers can make a positive difference in their lives."*





2. We visited numerous historic and religious sites. We visited four monasteries, many churches, and other places of religious significance.” *The most memorable thing for me was going to the tombs at Kyiv-Percheska Lavra.* “*The most significant part was meeting people with similar faiths and wanting to help out those in need.*”

3. We had a chance to see much of Ukraine, travelling from central to eastern to western Ukraine, 2000 kms of travel by boat, by train and by bus. This is just in Ukraine, not counting the huge distance we travelled from Canada to get there in the first place. We crossed through many regions, met many different people, experienced many aspects of life in Ukraine.

“*This trip showed that Canadians do care about their cultural motherland.*”

When most groups go to Ukraine, they go for a specific reason like to sing or dance or do cultural events, but we chose to do other things; to visit orphanages, to experience the history and religion of Ukraine, to participate in the liturgical and church life in Ukraine. This was a good way to experience growth in our spiritual life. “*This trip strengthened my faith in knowing that the younger generation still cares to help those in need.*”

4. We had a chance to build character, especially, patience. There were many very hot days and we had to endure hot weather. We had to travel great distances. We had to be prepared for unexpected situations. But in the end, no one was ill and no one suffered any major hardships.



5. All of the money that we used was donated by generous people in the Western Eparchy. We received donations from more than 166 individuals, 12 parishes, and 7 organizations. We received many anonymous donations as well. We also had generous parishes who sponsored youth participants as well.

“*My participation gave the children the experience of love while we were there as well as gifts that they received that will help them in their every day life.*”

It is not possible to adequately describe what the children in Ukraine received from us - not just the items we purchased, or the gifts we donated, but the warm, personal interaction we shared with them. We, too, received immeasurable warmth and joy from the children.” *The most significant part of the experience was getting to help and play with the children, as well as getting to see the roots and history of Orthodoxy in Ukraine.*”



We did not expect material gifts from them, but they certainly made up for it by giving us emotional gifts in abundance. “*This trip helped show me the roots of Ukrainian Orthodoxy and the power that faith has to the people of Ukraine; though they may not be wealthy, they are rich in love and faith.*” In the end, we received more than we gave. Now that we have laid the groundwork for Mission trips to Ukraine, we can continue building, improving, but most important of all, helping



those who need help the most. We showed that we can do it. And we can do it again, and again, with God’s will. The future is bright indeed !

A heartfelt thank you to all who donated to this worthy cause, both to the parishes who sponsored youth delegates or gave donations, to organizations and also to individuals who made generous donations as well. Your donations made a difference, a difference that cannot be measured, only treasured.



Самбірська Міська рада

08-09-2012

ДЛЯ БЛАГОЧИННОСТІ ОКЕАН – НЕ ПЕРЕШКОДА

— Оксана Хула

Зв'язки міста Самбора з іншими містами світу підкорюють все нові географічні простори.

Так, у понеділок, 6 серпня, до Самбірського міського голови завітала делегація з канадського міста Едмонтон.

Делегацію очолив єпископ Едмонтон та Західної Єпархії Канади о.Іларіон. Разом з ним прибули о.Корнелій Зубрицький, члени єпархії, серед яких, головним чином – студенти.

Основною місією делегації стала благочинна діяльність в Україні, зокрема в Самборі та районі (дитячий будинок у с.Корналовичі та ін.), оскільки у єпархії є зв'язки з українською благочинною організацією «Святої Трійці» (очолює її о.Микола Юзич). Однак, враховуючи те, що всі гості мають українське походження, не останнє місце належить й інтересу до своєї історичної батьківщини. То ж перед зустріччю з міським головою гості провели коротку екскурсію містом.

Привітавши почесних делегатів, Тарас Васильович висловив задоволення від того, що наше 771-річне місто може вітати досить чисельну делегацію з далекої Канади. Він поцікавився, яке враження справило на гостей старовинне місто та його храми. Звичайно, що враження особливі, адже Канада як країна налічує у своїй історії лише 145 років.

Гості та очільник міста обмінялися пропозиціями щодо подальшої співпраці. Тарас Копиляк висловив добродійцям вдячність за жертвну працю та пообіцяв їм всебічну підтримку самбірської міської влади. Після офіційної частини Тарас Васильович показав делегатам проект пам'ятника Степанові Стебельському, розповів про історію визвольного руху в місті та створення площі Пам'яті у Самборі. Як виявилось, делегатам теж немало відомо про національно-визвольний рух в Україні та на західних її теренах, у декого з делегатів навіть родичі були вояками УПА.

Зустріч завершилася оглядом панорами міста з площадки, що на міській ратуші. Тарас Васильович запросив гостей перед від'їздом завітати до нього ще раз, а гості люб'язно прийняли запрошення.

У вівторок та середу благочинці мали можливість побувати у сиротинцях, що у селі Букове Старосамбірського району та у селі Корналовичі Самбірського р-ну. Для дітей сиротинця, що у Букові (а їх близько сотні), зустріч виявилася воістину «теплою», адже для них канадські гості купили та передали сучасний котел для опалення. Тепер дітлахи, до яких доля виявилася не дуже ласкавою, зможуть і взимку перебувати у теплі. Для Корналовицького дитячого будинку необхідними виявилися нові пральні машинки та сушки, які їм і надали гості з Едмонтон.

Однак, зі слів делегатів ми зрозуміли, що обмін був рівноцінним, адже важить не лише матеріальний бік справи, але в першу чергу - великий дар ласки та душевної теплоти, якими такі щедрі українські діти.

