



WESTERN EPARCHY NEWSLETTER

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THE WESTERN EPARCHY
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF CANADA

WESTERN EPARCHY

Issue 14: Winter, 2015

NATIVITY GREETINGS FROM HIS GRACE BISHOP ILARION

ХРИСТОС РАЖДАЄТЬСЯ! CHRIST IS BORN!

З нами Бог!

Вітаю вас з Різдвом
Христовим!

Нехай Новий 2015-ий Рік
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, 2015,
bring us all good health,
prosperity,

inner peace, and joy
in Jesus Christ.

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ARCHPASTORAL REMARKS TO THE 55TH WESTERN ASSEMBLY

by HIS GRACE BISHOP ILARION

I would like to express my appreciation for your presence here today, especially those who traveled far distances beyond Edmonton, from BC, and from our rural parishes. Your presence here witnesses that you are actively participating in the life of your parishes and in our Western Eparchy and feel responsible for the present and the future of our church. You have some concerns and worries about the challenges that face your parish and our Church as a whole. I believe that we are gathered here not to criticize each other, but with the spirit of love, forgiveness, and humility, to help each other and to serve for the best in our parishes and eparchy for the glory of God.

Our gathering is not an ordinary gathering like an organization, business, or corporation, but of a special institution here on earth that unites God and people. This union with God and one another is fully expressed only through the Holy Eucharist. Unity of the Church is expressed through the one Holy Chalice that unites us with God and to each other. St. Apostle Paul said "The Church is the Body of Christ". And we can become the body of Christ only through the Holy Eucharist. All our efforts, concerns, activities, and ideas have one goal—to bring our people to the Holy Chalice, to unite them with God and with each other. You, as the representatives of your parishes, should set the example of coming more often to the Holy Chalice, of participating in the Divine Liturgy, not as spectators in the theatre, but as active participants and role models for the other people in your parish.

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A Summary of My Observations Regarding Holy Communion

By Joana Janis, age 93

The "Holy Eucharist – It's Meaning and Participation for Orthodox Christians"

Saint Paul writes to the Corinthians – "When you assemble as a church – this refers not to the building but to the nature and purpose of the gathering". EKKLISIA is a Greek word meaning a gathering or assembly. This gathering is the Eucharist – a setting wherein the Lord's supper is accomplished. At the "Eucharist – the breaking of the bread takes place". Jesus said: "Take eat; this is my body, which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of me. Then He said: This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:24-25).

Currently, there is a crisis in the church. What has changed is the perception of the Eucharist – it is near a perception of it's "almost" non existence. The crisis exists because there is a lack of understanding of the Eucharist and how it was originally perceived, understood and lived. We can almost say that there exists a frightening and spiritual danger – frightening because of division, a division and a mounting rebellion against God and His kingdom. For some reason, we have turned away from the Holy Eucharist which would take us upward in a journey that would help us to "lay aside all earthly cares" – that is, leaving the sinful world".

The Orthodox knowledge and consciousness tells us that ... "Where the church is, there is the Holy Spirit and the fullness of grace". We must remember that an Orthodox liturgy is always a communion service, not simply an altar service. To be a child or adult of God you need to partake of the Holy Communion on a regular basis – that means that EVERY liturgy that you attend with the members of your church.

A true miracle would happen if every member of your church came at the same time to partake of the Holy Eucharist, when hearing the words of Christ calling us. A few weeks after I wrote the above words..... something happened.

Lo and behold! A miracle did happen on Sunday, September 21, 2014! For the first time in my life, two of my friends and I partook of Holy Communion with approximately 160 parishioners and guests, including children. That was about 80% of all the people who attended the Liturgy at the Ukrainian Orthodox Parish of St. Anthony during their 40th Anniversary celebration. St. Anthony's Parish has set an excellent example of how all Orthodox members from five parishes could participate in the calling from Our Lord Jesus Christ when He says: "Come eat and drink of the Holy Grail". Something like the above incident has never happened at any conference or "zyizd" of the UOC of Canada or the USR League when 200-300 members were present at the Liturgy. Usually 10-15 accepted the Holy Communion. Congratulations go to Fr. Patrick and Dobrodika Kathy Yamniuk! All this happened at their parish in Edmonton.

My plea to you, the readers, is this – please try to make a point to visit each of the five UOC parishes in Edmonton once a year. Then there will always be "GOD'S BLESSING, PEACE AND LOVE" with us.

Мій заклик до читачів цієї сторінки: " Сходімося разом хочаб один або два рази кожного року і відвідуючи п'ять православних громад у місті Едмонтоні. Тоді завжди Боже благословення, згода і любов буде між нами!"

I thank God for the wisdom He granted me to research and share the knowledge about stepping up to the altar to receive Holy Communion at every Orthodox Liturgy I attend. Try it! A great change in your life will come to you and your family when you come frequently to partake of the Holy Communion!



ARCHPASTORAL REMARKS TO THE 55TH WESTERN ASSEMBLY

By HIS GRACE BISHOP ILARION

(continued from page 1)

Some people are very active and concerned about Robert's rules in church life, but they are very passive in the liturgical life of the church, meaning the participation in the Holy Eucharist. In the ancient Church when a person did not receive Holy Communion for three consecutive Sundays, he was excommunicated from the Church. I am very happy that in many parishes in our Western Eparchy here in Alberta and in British Columbia, there is a rebirth of Eucharistic life. This means that we are on a good trend. We are trying to fulfill our goals and have a future not like a dry branch in the Vineyard of Christ that is going to die, but as a healthy branch that is blossoming with a future in God. If we do not want our Church to dry up and die, we should frequently receive the Bread of Life in the Holy Eucharist for our growth and Salvation. I encourage you to participate in the Holy Eucharist this Sunday with the presiding Primate of our Church, Metropolitan Yuriy. Through the Holy Chalice we will express our unity with God and with each other. May God help all of us, our faithful and our priests in our parishes in this eparchy to bear spiritual fruit in unity and love.

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 81st. ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENOCIDAL FAMINE IN UKRAINE 1932-33

Observed at Edmonton City Hall, November 22, 2014



HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY
 The Western Eparchy Assembly
 The Cathedral of St. John The Baptist
 Edmonton, AB
 October 26, 2014



UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA
WESTERN EPARCHIAL COUNCIL 2014 - 2015



HIS GRACE, ILARION, BISHOP OF EDMONTON
AND WESTERN EPARCHY

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WESTERN EPARCHY LEVIES 2015

Levies for 2015 will remain at \$15.00 per member (based on membership as of December 31, 2014.)

Levies are payable now.

WESTERN EPARCHY UOCC
YOUTH RETREAT 2015

Banff, Alberta

May 1 - 3

Please contact: Fr. Timothy Chrapko

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Website: www.uoccyouth.com

WESTERN EPARCHY
YOUTH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 2014

The Western Eparchy acknowledged all youth who are involved in their parishes, whether as acolytes, altar servers, myrrh bearers, or assistants in other ways, by honouring them at a banquet during the Fall Assembly.



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 2014.

ORPHANAGE PROJECT IN UKRAINE

Many needed items were purchased in 2014.

More assistance will be provided in 2015.

Tax Receipts for Revenue Canada will be issued.

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