



WESTERN EPARCHY NEWSLETTER

WESTERN EPARCHY
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF CANADA

Issue 22: Winter 2017

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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!**

Excerpt from: ARCHPASTORAL REMARKS TO THE 57TH ASSEMBLY OF THE WESTERN EPARCHY by His Grace Bishop Ilarion

It is an honor and pleasure to greet you, the delegates of the 57th Assembly of the Western Eparchy of the UOCC.

I thank God that we are all gathering today: bishops, priests, and laity, in the name of the Lord, for the good and benefit of our God-beloved and God-protected Western Eparchy of UOCC. May God's blessings and love bind us together in the unity of peace, bearing witness and confirming that; "we, though many, are one body; for we all partake of one bread" (1 Cor. 10:17). We are one Church. I thank each and every one of you for your presence today and for your love and devotion to the Church. I welcome you all with immense joy.

We live in the third millennium after Christ. Our Church has many challenges, such as insufficient spiritual growth, as aging membership. I know that you are worried about the future of our Church, and some will say that we don't have a vision for our Church. Sometimes, it is we who are disoriented and lack vision, but we say that it is the Church that lacks vision, not that it is ourselves.

Many people have different views and approaches to resolving a problem in the Church and sometimes they try to solve it by themselves. But the Church is not a secular organization or business or corporation, but is a special institution here on earth that unites people and God. The Greek word for Church is "Ecclesia" means "those who have been called out". A Christian in one who has been called out of the world and belongs to God.

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Excerpt from: ARCHPASTORAL REMARKS TO THE 57TH ASSEMBLY OF THE WESTERN EPARCHY
by His Grace Bishop Ilarion

In our day, people who truly seek God do not seek a religious community that is financially rich or gives easy answers to concerns about God or gathers thousands of people in stadiums who want to listen to easy messages that are pleasant to their ears. They can say that God is their friend, that He loves them, He forgives them and they don't need to do anything serious and sacrificial in their life to be "saved" as the common saying goes. They want to take the wide gate and the broad way to God, rather than the narrow gate and difficult way (Matt 7:12) as is said in the Holy Gospel. But the Orthodox Church is not spiritual fast food, and the proper way to God is the way of Golgotha, the way of sacrifice, the way of limitation in life. The way of slow spiritual growth is the way to God; as the Lord said: "Take up your cross and follow Me". This is the way of the cross which leads through Golgotha to Resurrection. For this, the Feast of Feasts of the Eastern Orthodox Church is Pascha, not Christmas, like Western Christians celebrate. But as His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew said: "The Orthodox Church is distinguished from other Christian churches in that she has preserved unadulterated the first and most ancient ecclesiastical tradition and teaching, has avoided innovation and personal interpretation of the Holy Scriptures and dogmas of faith, and is administered according to an ancient synodical system under local bishops in collaboration with the faithful" (**Encountering the Mystery** by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew). As we say in the Sunday of Orthodoxy vespers: "this is the Apostolic faith, this is the faith of our Fathers, this is the Orthodox faith, this faith has established the universe". Our Orthodox Church has a very rich spirituality that expresses and experiences itself in worship; and people who come to our Church can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in our temples as representatives of St. Volodymyr felt when they travelled to Constantinople and were present in the Divine Liturgy in St. Sophia. They told St. Volodymyr that "we entered where they serve their God; we did not know, standing in the temple, if we were in heaven or earth. Only this we know, that God dwells there among people".

Orthodoxy is not a philosophy, not a theory, not an ideology, but a way of life, that should be lived, that should be experienced. As we sing in the communion hymn: "Taste and see that the Lord is good". All our efforts, concerns, activities and ideas, should have one goal - to bring us to the Holy Chalice, to unite us with God and to achieve salvation. Sometimes, it is we who are disoriented because we don't know the reason why the Church exists. The Church has one goal - through the Holy Sacraments of the Church, especially Holy Communion, to achieve salvation.

People often worry and discuss the financial situation of the Church. However, money is not everything in a Church and is not an accurate measuring stick on the success of the parish. There are parishes with \$1,000s in GICs but this does not help them in membership growth because the real reason for problems is the lack of spirituality. Sometimes we see parishes with limited bank accounts but increasing in membership, building new temples, because they have a rich spiritual life. Lack of spiritual life as true Orthodox Christians endangers a parish. For example, sometimes, in our eparchy, members of different church organizations have a BBQ banquet in their church halls on fasting days, even in fast periods, and what example are they showing to others? Very often we have committees on membership growth in the parishes, make resolutions for seminars on spiritual growth and missionary activities, discuss challenges we face in our Church at board meetings but at the same time, we do not fulfill even elementary obligations of our faith and publicly ignore them. Young people and others who want to become members of our Church may see this spiritual hypocrisy and false religiosity. Do you think they are going to join our Church? We disrespect God publicly even in the Church buildings and at the same time, we have concerns about mission in our Church. How can we speak about mission work, especially among young people, if we are such weak Christians ourselves. What example can we show them?



The Bishop's Tea – 2016. Certificate recipients this year were the Dobrodiyke who were present. The Bishop's Tea was held at the Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor of St. Andrew on Sunday, October 2.



50th Wedding Anniversary
Rt. Rev. Protopresbyter NICHOLAS and
Dobr. Jeannette RAULIUK



YOUTH APPRECIATION 2016 Children and youth who participate in the Church were honored at the Western Eparchy Assembly on October 29.



REDWATER – The 90th Anniversary of The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity, November 27, 2016



PENO – The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. John – November 13, 2016



UKRAINIAN CANADIAN HERITAGE DAY IN ALBERTA

His Grace Bishop Ilarion represented the Western Eparchy at the Alberta Legislature on November 2 and was present for the enactment of the new law - The Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day in Alberta Act. Photo courtesy of CBC news release.



Alberta will now designate September 7 as Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Day, starting in 2017

WESTERN EPARCHY LEVIES 2017

Levies for 2017 will remain at \$15.00 per member (based on membership as of December 31, 2016.)
Levies are payable now.

**WESTERN EPARCHY FULL COUNCIL
2016-17**

His Grace Bishop Ilarion

- Rev. Fr. Benny AMBROSIE
- Rev. Fr. Timothy CHRAPKO, Member at Large
- Rev. Fr. Michael MARANCHUK
- Rev. Fr. Chad PAWLYSHYN
- Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Georg PODTEPA, 1st V- Chairman
- Rev. Fr. Mykhaylo POZDYK
- Rt. Rev. Protopresbyter Nicholas RAULIUK, 2nd V-Chairman
- Rev. Fr. Wasyl SAPIHA
- Rt. Rev. Protopresbyter Stephan SEMOTIUK
- Michael CEPIN
- Marshall KACHMAR, Treasurer
- Dave KORZAN, Building Manager
- Diana MAUCH, Secretary
- Geraldine NAKONECHNY, Member at large
- Joanne RAK
- Vivian SKAKUN
- Eugene TOPOLNISKY
- Judy WILLIAMS
- Ex officio:
- Rev. Fr. Peter HAUGEN
- Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Slawomir LOMASZKIEWICZ
- Rev. Fr. Cornell ZUBRITSKY
- Stephania LUCIUK
- Walter PYLYPCHUK
- Donna REED

HOLODOMOR 2016



His Grace Bishop Ilarion and clergy served a Panahyda at City Hall, Edmonton on November 26, 2016 to commemorate the Holodomor in Ukraine.

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 2016.**

ORPHANAGE PROJECT IN UKRAINE

Many needed items were purchased in 2016. More assistance will be provided in 2017.
Tax Receipts for Revenue Canada will be issued.
THANK YOU FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT RECEIVED BY YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS.

RESOLUTION PASSED AT WESTERN EPARCHY ASSEMBLY 2016

2.1 WHEREAS the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada is currently, and has been for the previous five years, in a predicament of financial shortfall, WHEREAS we, members of the UOCC, are all responsible for the good stewardship of the Church **BE IT RESOLVED**, that parishes include in their programming in 2016 and 2017 a specific fundraising initiative to help eliminate debt at the national level of our Church.

FUNDRAISING TARGET: \$135 000.00