



WESTERN EPARCHY NEWSLETTER

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THE WESTERN EPARCHY
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF CANADA

Winter, 2012

GREETINGS from HIS GRACE, BISHOP ILARION



**CHRIST IS BORN!
LET US GLORIFY HIM!**
**ХРИСТОС РАЖДАЄТЬСЯ!
СЛАВІМ ЙОГО!**

God is with us!

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

**May the New Year, 2012, bring us all good health,
prosperity, inner peace, and joy in Jesus Christ.**

З нами Бог!

**Вітаю вас з Різдвом Христовим! Новий 2012-ий Рік
нехай принесе нам усім добре здоров'я, добробут,
душевний спокій, та радість у Христі Ісусі.**

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT -- ORPHANAGE PROJECT IN UKRAINE

Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This fall, the 52nd Eparchial Sobor of the Western Eparchy of the UOCC passed a resolution to organize a mission trip to Ukraine, with the goal of assisting a local orphanage tend to its young community. This was in response to Bishop Ilarion's report and his encouragement to organize this as an eparchial youth activity. He is Bishop of our Youth in the UOCC appointed by the XXII Sobor.

The Western Eparchy Council is now actively organizing such a trip for late summer 2012. A small mission team will accompany Bishop Ilarion to Ukraine, where they will work at the orphanage with the children resident there, and will assist orphanage staff to purchase needed goods and supplies(basic necessities such as food, clothing and some items to aid in adequate shelter) with monies donated by our eparchy. Participants will also have an opportunity to visit Ukraine's holy sites and historic places, such as Pochaiivs'ka Lavra, Kyivo-Percheska Lavra, Vydubys'kyj Monastery and others.

We now call upon the assistance of our congregations to ensure this project is a success.

FIRST, we ask that you make donations to this project. Please make donations to: **Orphanage Project in Ukraine, c/o The Western Eparchy**. Please send your donations to the Western Eparchy Office, 11404-112 Ave. Edmonton, AB. T5G 0H6

SECOND, we would like you to identify possible candidates for participation in the trip. They should be youth, who are at least eighteen years of age, active in the church, exhibit good social and leadership skills and have an interest in mission work. Sponsors of candidates or interested candidates are asked to contact our office for additional information.

We are very excited about this mission endeavour in our ancestral homeland and are confident this will become a long term mission of our eparchy. This can only be accomplished with the loving and active participation of our entire eparchy. Please help us by your prayers and actions.

From the office of His Grace BISHOP ILARION

Inside this issue:

Greetings from His Grace, BISHOP ILARION	1
Orphanage Project in Ukraine	1
Ukrainian Traditions, Christmas Eve Holy Supper	2
Activities in the Western Eparchy	3
Western Eparchy Sobor 2011	4

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UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY SUPPER — SVYATA VECHERA

By Pauline Lysak

Among Ukrainians, wherever they may be, the most beloved of all festivities is the Christmas Eve Holy Supper (SVYATA VECHERA). The supper on Christmas Eve, (SVYAT VECHER) differs from other evenings having 12 Lenten dishes symbolic of the 12 Apostles of Christ. The meatless dishes are prepared with a vegetable oil or shortening omitting animal fat and dairy products because Christmas (RIZDVO) was preceded by a period of advent which ends on Christmas Day.

Christmas Eve (SVYAT VECHER) is the most colourful, reverent and is the main event during the Christmas celebrations, when the family gathers to partake of the Holy Supper (SVYATA VECHERA) The festive table is prepared by spreading a handful of hay under the richly-embroidered tablecloth, to symbolize Christ's birth in the manger. In the center of the table a lit candle is placed on the traditional braided breads called " KOLACHI" which may be oblong or circular ones, symbolizing prosperity with no beginning and no end, significant of eternal life.

The lit candle represents the star of Bethlehem also a symbol of Christ being the light of the world. Some people place three kolachi which symbolize the Holy Trinity.



An extra place is set for the deceased members of the family, in the belief that their souls visit the home on this Holy Night. A lit candle is placed in the window as a sign to the "HOMELESS" – someone without a family inviting him to partake of the Holy Supper (In this age it is a risk and rarely done.)



Two decorations, the sheaf and Christmas tree, are prominently displayed in the home. The sheaf of wheat "DIDYKH" is placed in a corner near the Holy Icons adorned with an embroidered ritual runner "RUSCHNYK". The tightly bound sheaf represents prosperity, close unity of the family and of all the ancestors.



The children in the home watch for the first star  to appear in the eastern sky, the star of Bethlehem, to start the meal.

Each member of the family is dressed in the best holiday or embroidered attire awaiting the customary ritual opening.

The head of the family blesses the meal and the family. At times, incense is used (symbolizing the gifts brought by the three wise men to Baby Jesus.) Then the family begins the meal with the Lord's Prayer. The head of the family takes the first spoonful of food, wheat " KUTYA" and greets everyone with the traditional Christmas greeting, "**Christ is Born**", (KHRYSTOS RODYVSYA – **ХРИСТОС РОДИВСЯ**). The family replies, "**Let us Glorify Him**," ("SLAVIM YOHO – **СЛАВІМ ЙОГО**.") Then the head of the family raises a spoonful of kutya and wishes to all -- health, happiness, and success in the coming year.

The kutya is a ritual dish of cooked wheat dressed with honey, poppy seeds, and nuts. The kutya (symbolizes life) may be followed by delectable dishes: borscht, varenyky,(pyrohy dumplings), holubtsi (cabbage rolls), various preparations of fish, vegetables, such as broad beans, mashed beans, dried peas, sauerkraut, and mushrooms. Finally, dessert of stewed, dried fruit called "OOZVAR" or compote, fruit varenyky and Christmas pastries such as pampushky is served.

After the meal the whole family joins in singing Christmas carols, and merrymaking, with one of the oldest being "God Eternal" - "BOH PREDVICHNAY" and others. The family would then attend a special Christmas Eve service enriched with beautiful choral singing.

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WESTERN EPARCHY HIGHLIGHTS

HOLODOMOR COMMEMORATION Edmonton City Hall, November 26, 2011



His Grace BISHOP ILARION along with clergy commemorated the HOLODOMOR by celebrating a Panakhyda (Memorial Service) at City Hall, Edmonton on Saturday, November 26, 2011.

SPOTLIGHT ON RURAL PARISHES

His Grace BISHOP ILARION continues to visit and celebrate The Divine Liturgy and get acquainted with his rural parishes and parish members.



Redwater - The UOC of The Holy Trinity



Andrew - The UOC of Sts. Peter and Paul



Two Hills—The UOC of The Holy Trinity



Mamaestie— The UOC of the Holy Trinity

**FOCUS ON YOUTH**

His Grace, BISHOP ILARION and the Participants of the Youth Rally, held in conjunction with the WE Sobor 2011

Full Council Members 2011-2012**His Grace BISHOP ILARION**

Fr. Benny Ambrosie	Judge Russell Dzenick
Fr. Timothy Chrapko	Marshall Kachmar (Treasurer)
Fr. Peter Haugen	Dave Korzan
Fr. Taras Krochak (2nd Vice Chairman)	Katherine Miske
Fr..Alexandre Palamarchuk	Dr.Geraldine Nakonechney
Fr. Nicholas Rauliuk (1st Vice Chairman)	Yvonne Panchuk (secretary)
Fr. Mykola Sawchenko	Joanne Rak
Fr. Deacon Roman Shiyan	George Tkachyk
Fr. Yuriy Suchevan	Ted Yarmuch
Ex-Officio:	
Fr. GeorgePodtepa	Ms. Stephania Luciuk
Fr. Cornell Zubritsky	Ms. Donna Reed Ms. Audrey Sojonky Mr. Ihor Triska

ATTENDEES AT THE 52ND WESTERN EPARCHIAL SOBOR

Attendees: 17 Clergy, 60 Delegates (Laity), 6 Guests (Laity), 15 Youth – AB and BC

Parishes: Luzan - St. Demetrius, Edmonton - St. Andrew's, Edmonton - St. Elia, Edmonton- St. Anthony's, Edmonton - St. John's Cathedral, Edmonton- St. Michael's, Smoky Lake- Willingdon Parochial District, Two Hills - Holy Trinity, Parksville - St. Mary the Protectress, Calgary- St. Vladimir, Lac La Biche Parochial District, Red Deer - Holy Trinity, Victoria-Parksville, Camrose- All Saints, Vegreville- St. Vladimir's, Sarraill - Sts. Peter and Paul, Lethbridge- Holy Trinity, Kamloops- All Saints, Vancouver- Holy Trinity, Vegreville Parochial District, Surrey - St. Mary, Myrnam - Holy Trinity, Radway Parochial District, Kelowna - Sts. Peter and Paul, Bonnyville- St. Elias, Two Hills Parochial District, St. Paul - All Saints

RESOLUTIONS PASSED**II. RESOLUTIONS OF ACTION**

- 2.1 WHEREAS good stewardship requires review, from time-to-time, of existing practices in order to assess the effectiveness of our work, and WHEREAS, changes in demographics and population trends in the Western Eparchy are quite dynamic,
BE IT RESOLVED, therefore, that the newly elected Eparchial Council consider the effectiveness of current parochial boundaries and report their conclusions to the 53rd Sobor of the Western Eparchy.
- 2.2 WHEREAS parish report information is vital to appreciating the current reality of the parishes in the Western Eparchy in any given year, and such information is vital for setting goals and planning programming in the Western Eparchy, and
WHEREAS the degree of response to requests for said reports has been unacceptable for the past several years, and
WHEREAS compilation of said reports requires a significant amount of time, therefore
BE IT RESOLVED that the Western Eparchy Office send questionnaires/parish report forms to each parish and priest 90 days prior to the annual Eparchial Sobor, and that parishes submit said reports to the Western Eparchy Office 60 days prior to the annual Eparchial Sobor, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Western Eparchy Council follow-up on parish reports not submitted to the 52nd Western Eparchy Sobor and distribute, subsequently, a more comprehensive summary within 60 days following this Sobor.
- 2.3 WHEREAS the 52nd Sobor of the Western Eparchy heard, in the report of our ruling bishop, His Grace, Bishop Ilarion, who also serves as Chaplain for Youth in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada that His Grace's intent in 2012 to assist orphans and others in need in Ukraine, and
WHEREAS such a project offers great opportunities and benefits for the development and education of youth within our eparchy,
BE RESOLVED that the Western Eparchy Council, take immediate steps, a) to organize an eparchy-wide collection of materials mentioned for the Sea-Can container, and b) to consider available funding and resources to assist His Grace in organizing a trip to Ukraine in summer 2012 to deliver these goods, specifically engaging the youth of our Church.
- 2.4 WHEREAS the 52nd Sobor of the Western Eparchy has, during the course of its deliberations, recognized the importance of enhancing our educational and evangelization activities within our eparchy, primarily to those of our community who are not presently visible and active in our congregations,
BE RESOLVED that the Western Eparchy Council, take immediate steps to form a Christian Education and Evangelization Committee and formulate a plan and terms of reference for education and evangelization initiatives and that said plan be presented at the 53rd Eparchial Sobor, and
BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that the theme for the 53rd Sobor of the Western Eparchy be - Education and Evangelization.

LEVIES FOR 2012

The Western Eparchy Sobor voted to maintain the fee of \$15.00 per member for the 2012 year. Levies are payable now, based on membership as of December 31, 2011.

CHRISTMAS SECOND PLATE DONATIONS

Once again, we are appealing to our members to donate to the Christmas Second Plate Funding request. The Funds are collected in your parish for mission work in the Western Eparchy. If individuals so wish, they may also send their donations directly to the Western Eparchy Office.