



WESTERN EPARCHY NEWSLETTER

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THE WESTERN EPARCHY
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF CANADA

WESTERN EPARCHY

Winter, 2013



God is with us!

I greet you on this occasion
of the Great Nativity Feast.
May the New Year, 2013,
bring us all good health, prosperity,
inner peace, and joy in Jesus Christ.

**Nativity Greetings
From His Grace Bishop Ilarion**

**ХРИСТОС РАЖДАЄТЬСЯ!
CHRIST IS BORN!**

З нами Бог!

Вітаю вас з Різдвам Христовим!
Нехай Новий 2013-ий Рік принесе нам
усім добре здоров'я, добробут,
душевний спокій, та радість
у Христі Ісусі.

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ПОДЯКА



Єпископу Іларіону Руднику
Та Західній Єпархії Української
Православної Церкви в Канаді
Адміністрація Буківського дитячого будинку-інтернату
в особі директора Куць Ярослава Васильовича висловлює
Вам щирю подяку за надану благодійну допомогу в придбанні
котла "PROTERM - 100", для потреб дітей-сиріт, вихованців
будинку-інтернату. Спасибі Вам за добре серце.
Зичимо здоров'я і успіхів у Вашій благочинній справі.
Директор будинку-інтернату
- Куць Ярослав Васильович

CONTACT INFORMATION

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THANK YOU

HIS GRACE BISHOP ILARION RUDNYK
and The Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
The Administration of the Bukivskoho Orphanage represented by Director Yaroslav Kuts Vasylovich extends a Thank You for providing charitable assistance to purchase the boiler (furnace) "PROTERM - 100" for the needs of orphans in the orphanage home. Thank you for your kind heart. We wish you health and success in your charitable work.
Administrator, Bukivskoho Orphanage
- Kuts Yaroslav Vasylovich.



**Arch pastoral Remarks to the 53rd Western Eparchial Assembly**

by His Grace Bishop Ilarion



Your Eminence, Metropolitan Yuriy, Honourable Fathers, Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

It is an honour and a pleasure to greet you, the delegates, of the fifty-third Assembly of the Western Eparchy of the UOCC. I have seen many of you during my arch pastoral visits to your parishes this year. Every parish, big or small, is equally important to me. It doesn't matter if there are 100s of members or less than 10. I try to ensure that every parish receives attention and care. I have visited some of them several times, some of them a few times, some I have visited only once, some I have not even visited yet. But my goal is to visit as many parishes as I can and I hope to visit every parish as soon as it is possible.

I am very encouraged by the faithful who take care of their congregation and make it a part of their life. They worry about the future of their parishes and try to do what is best for their parish. From my position, I will try to support and cooperate with everybody who wants to improve and who works for the benefits of our church. It is not only necessary to worry about the material and financial part of our church, but we should remember that the church is a spiritual institution so that people will understand that our church is the home of prayer, of love, of forgiveness, and of spirituality.

We all, Bishops, priests, and laity are members of one body, the body of Christ. Everybody has different roles, rights, and responsibilities, but we all are responsible for our church. As Saint Paul said: I Cor. 12 "There are many members, yet one body" in Christ. We should face all challenges fully trusting in God and God will help us. Today's Assembly should express our unity in God, and unity among us. It should be easily seen that we are all one family - Bishop, priests, and laity. We should all pray and work together for the good of our Eparchy and for the Glory of God.

1. I would like to begin by focusing on our youth.

We all worry about the future of our church and in private conversations and at different meetings at the parish or eparchial level, we express our worries about the future of our church. The future of our church is in our youth. We should work with our youth in our churches and we should support them. Our youth should feel that they are a valuable part of the Western Eparchy, and of the church as a whole.

Here in the Western Eparchy, we try to take care of our youth by providing them with opportunities to grow and develop in the faith. We do this in a number of ways:

This was evident last May when we hosted a Youth Retreat in Banff which was open to all our youth. For the third year now, we have included activities for our youth during our Western Eparchy Assemblies. This year, we have also added the Youth Appreciation Banquet on Saturday evening, sponsored by The Western Eparchy. Our youth are visible, included, and valued.

We have expanded our programs with youth to include the young people in our native homeland, Ukraine. This past summer, seven youth participants from our parishes traveled to Ukraine. The goal of this project was two-fold: first, it gave our youth an opportunity to enhance their spiritual life by visiting religious and historic sites in Ukraine. Our youth were able to visit many churches and monasteries, and to gain a better understanding of the spiritual life that their grandparents and great grandparents brought to Canada, many years ago. They were given an opportunity to see the links between the church life in Canada and in Ukraine. The second goal was for our youth to visit and bring help to children in orphanages in Ukraine. Our youth became more aware of the need for care of the poor orphans in Ukraine and they could evaluate and compare the living conditions and the hardships of some children in Ukraine to their own life conditions. You can hear about their experiences Saturday morning when they do their presentation. You can also read about the Orphanage Trip to Ukraine in our current newsletter found in your folders, including comments made by youth participants.

I offer a heartfelt thank you to all who made donations. We received very generous support for this trip. I would like to thank the parishes who sponsored youth participants. We received donations from more than 170 individuals, 12 parishes, 7 organizations, and many anonymous donations too. We purchased one furnace, 3 sets of washers and dryers, and many basic personal items.

This project is good for all of us because in this way we can express our love for the homeland of our parents by providing help to those who really need our help. And I believe this is our responsibility. Our youth now have stronger ties with their parishes, with Ukraine, with the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada at the present time and hopefully in the future. They will never forget this trip.

With God's help, this will be a permanent goal of our Eparchy for many years to come.

A special thank you to the Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta who used their Christmas Carol Concert to collect donations for the Orphanage Project in Ukraine. By honoring our project with donations, they have shown us that the Ukrainian community in Edmonton appreciates our work. We are seen as active in our community and they support us. We will continue to work with them in the future.

I would also like to acknowledge the Order of St. Andrew for the support they have given to work in the Western Eparchy. The Order of St. Andrew is sponsoring the Acolyte Appreciation part of the Youth Appreciation Evening on Saturday evening. The participants of the Youth Summit will also be included in this banquet. I hope you will attend to be present with our youth.

I offer warm appreciation and a thank you to the Order of St. Andrew who now support an orphaned student of theology in Ukraine. This is made possible with the cooperation of the Western Eparchy.

On another note, I offer a special "thank you" to the camps, who provide leadership activities for our youth - our camps Kolomayka, Barvinok, and Kiev's Ki Hi.

As the Bishop of the Western Eparchy and Chaplain of Youth for the UOCC as elected by the 22nd Sobor, I will try to do whatever is possible to work for and with youth. I will try my best to serve our youth.

2. I would like to continue by mentioning the efforts we have made to improve communication with our parishes and with our faithful.

You can see frequent updates, usually every week, on our website on the internet. These updates are a permanent way to keep you informed about the highlights in the life of our Eparchy.



—continued from page 2—

Since the last Assembly, we have revitalized the newsletter, now published on a quarterly basis, informing you about the highlights in the life of the Western Eparchy and we also attempt to answer questions that worry and concern our people.

We send newsletters to each of the more than 70 congregations regularly. We try to have contact with each congregation. We will continue to improve communication with and among the parishes and the Western Eparchy.

3. We have just started an English class for Newcomers. We hope that this will be a good way to support new immigrants and bring them closer to our church.

4. I would like to thank everybody who made the Bishop's Tea a success this year. The donations were very much appreciated and will be put to good use in mission work in our Eparchy. We will continue to do what is possible in our mission work, based on the availability of human resources and financial resources, too.

5. I would like to thank the Alberta Benevolent Cantor Association for the support they provide in preparing cantors and encourage our faithful to take training to become cantors. Cantor service is a very important part of our parish life.

6. And last but not least, I would like to acknowledge and thank the many people and organizations that help the Western Eparchy. The support for work in the Western Eparchy continues to grow.

I would like to say thank you one more time to all supporters of these many projects for their continuous help, commitment, and prayers.

I would like to express my warmest greetings to His Eminence, Metropolitan Yuriy, and wish him great spiritual and physical strength to continue his arch pastoral service for the glory of God for many years to come.

I would also like to thank Fr. Mykola Rauliuk and the Western Eparchy Council for their dedication, good work, and their willingness to help whenever the need arose.

In conclusion, may God bless all of you in our Western Eparchy for the glory of God for many years.

WESTERN EPARCHY COUNCIL 2012-13

HIS GRACE, ILARION
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**HIERARCHICAL
DIVINE LITURGY**
The highlight of the
Western Eparchy
Assembly, October
28, 2012



**YOUTH
APPRECIATION
BANQUET**
October 27, 2012



**THE WESTERN EPARCHY FULL COUNCIL
MEETING— December 8, 2012**





**50th Anniversary
of The Ukrainian
Orthodox Church of
All Saints, Camrose, AB
October 21, 2012**



HOLODOMOR COMMEMORATION

City Hall, Edmonton, AB November 24, 2012



ORPHANAGE PROJECT IN UKRAINE

Many needed items were purchased in 2012, including a furnace, multiple sets of washers and dryers, and many personal care items. **DONATIONS FOR THE 2013 TRIP CAN NOW BE MADE TO THE WESTERN EPARCHY OFFICE.**

Tax Receipts for Revenue Canada will be issued.

SECOND PLATE COLLECTION

All parishes are reminded to hold a second plate collection during the Nativity Season for funds for the Western Eparchy.

WESTERN EPARCHY LEVIES 2013

Levies for 2013 will remain at \$15.00 per member (based on membership as of December 31, 2012.)
Levies are payable now.

ENGLISH FOR NEWCOMERS—Session 2 (8 weeks)

Beginning February 2, 2013(10:00 am-11:30 am)

At the Western Eparchy Office: 11404 - 112 Ave.

For information please call: 780-455-1938

PARISH VISITS

**The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Volodymyr
Vegreville AB. September 26, 2012**



**The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Mary, Surrey, BC
October 7, 2012**



**Remembrance Day Memorial – The Ukrainian Orthodox
Church of St. Elia, Edmonton AB, November 11, 2012**

