



WESTERN EPARCHY NEWSLETTER

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THE WESTERN EPARCHY
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF CANADA

WESTERN EPARCHY

Summer, 2013

988 AD



2013 AD

**Святий Рівноапостольний Великий Князь Володимир
Просвітителі України**

28 липня

Тропар, голос 4

Уподобився єси купцеві, що шукає доброї перлини,
славновладний Володимире, що сидиш на високому
престолі матері городів -

Богобереженого Києва. Досліджуючи і посилаючи до
царського городу, щоб пізнати православну віру, знайшов ти
неоціненну перлину - Христа, що вибрав тебе, як другого
Павла, і отряс сліпоту у святій купелі разом душевну і
тілесну. Тому святкуємо твоє успіння ми, люди твої. Молися,
щоб спастися душам нашим.

**HOLY EQUAL - TO - THE - APOSTLES,
THE GREAT PRINCE VOLODYMYR**

July 28

Тропар, Tone 4

You were like a merchant who searches for a precious pearl, O
glorious sovereign Volodymyr, sitting on the high throne of the
mother of cities, God protected Kyiv, searching and sending to the
imperial city to know the Orthodox faith, you found the priceless
pearl - Christ, Who chose you, as a second Paul, and shook off
your physical and spiritual blindness in the holy font. Therefore we,
your people, celebrate your falling asleep. Pray that our souls be
saved.

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**1025-ліття Хрещення України в Святу Православну Віру
1025-th Anniversary of Baptism of Ukraine into Holy Orthodoxy**





1025-ліття Хрещення України в Святу Православну Віру

1025-th Anniversary of Baptism of Ukraine into Holy Orthodoxy



988 - 2013

The beginning of Christianity in Ukraine dates back to Apostle Andrew who travelled through the region. Christianity in Ukraine spread gradually. Ukraine was slowly preparing for baptism since the days of Askold and Dir. Byzantine Mauritius (582-602 AD) described the people of Ukraine as “freedom loving, strong, and not subject to slavery or foreign power, very humane in their relation to prisoners and foreigners.” In the second half of the ninth century, Kyivan Rus was already a strong state. The Christian religion was further spread by Princess Olga who travelled to Constantinople in 945 AD, attended church, and decided to become Christian. Patriarch Theophylact baptized Princess Olga who was given the name Helen. Her godfather was the Emperor Constantine. Returning to Ukraine, Princess Olga accelerated the development of Christianity. She built a church in Kyiv, the church of St. Nicholas, on the grave of Prince Askold, the first prince of Kyiv who was a Christian. She set the stage for the baptism of Ukraine. The spread of the Christian religion continued when St. Cyril and Methodius translated the gospel from Greek to the Slavic language.

St. Olga's grandson, Volodymyr began his reign in 978 AD. He was a pagan but he soon began to doubt the veracity of the pagan gods. His representatives travelled to Constantinople and met with elders there. “As we came to the Greeks, and we entered where they serve their God, we did not know, standing in the temple, if we are in heaven or earth. Every person tasting the sweet, does not want to eat the bitter, and we can not wish for other faiths as soon as the Greek faith.” His grandmother was wiser than all men when she accepted the Orthodox faith.

Prince Volodymyr wanted to convert to Christianity but did not want to be dependent on the Byzantine empire. He travelled to the Greek city of Korsun. He was baptized by the Bishop of Korsun with the participation of many clergy. He returned to Kyiv and prepared his people for baptism. He ordered the destruction of idols. After the destruction of the idols, clergy and nobility were baptized. Prince Volodymyr ordered August 1, 988 AD. as the day for the baptism of many people in Kyiv in the Dnipro River. Almost the entire city of Kyiv showed up on the banks of the Dnipro for the baptism by Metropolitan Michael. Prince Volodymyr prayed to God: “God is great, who made heaven and earth. Have mercy on these new people and give them, Lord, to know Thee, the true God.”

After the baptism of Prince Volodymyr, he became a changed man. He was merciful with the cruel. He began to care for the poor. He began to build churches and monasteries and founded schools. The Holy church later took him to the assembly of the saints.

Christianity in Ukraine spread quickly.



UOCC—WESTERN EPARCHY YOUTH RETREAT 2013

The second annual UOCC-Western Eparchy Youth Retreat took place on May 10-12, 2013 in the scenic setting of Banff, Alberta. The sessions were held at Irwin's Mountain Inn in Banff, Alberta.



A total of 28 youth from across Alberta participated in the Retreat. Parishes that participated included: St. Vladimir's - Vegreville, St. Paul District, St. Anthony's – Edmonton, St. Andrew's - Edmonton, St. John's Cathedral - Edmonton, St. Elias - Edmonton, St. Vladimir's – Calgary, and Holy Trinity - Red Deer.

The theme of the Retreat was: "Becoming Bearers of the Light." Fr. Cornell Zubritsky was the guest speaker. In addition to inspirational talks and discussions, activities included: 1) A Hike to Bow Falls, 2) A trip to the Upper Hot Springs, 3) Adventures around Banff and 4) A film discussion on: "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"

On Sunday, May 12, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated by His Grace Bishop Ilarion at the Fenlands Recreation Complex. The retreat concluded with a group photo taken outside the complex. Many Youth expressed interest in not only attending the Youth Retreat next year, but also in attending the Western Eparchy Youth Summit in October (held in conjunction with the Fall Assembly.)



Comments from youth participants:

The best thing about the Youth Retreat...

- " I liked Bishop Ilarion's sermon and the sessions with Father Cornell. "
- " ...learn about different saints."
- " ...being close to mountain scenery which means closer to God and His creation."
- " ...is understanding my relationship with God."
- "... it was a lot of fun and I met new friends and learned more about my faith."

Something that I would like to learn more about is...

- "...all the saints."
- " ...Christian standpoints on common controversies."
- " ...rules stated in the Bible."
- " ...why they do parts of the Liturgy."
- " ...learn more about God and more about His life."
- " ...how to get closer to God."



HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY

His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij, His Grace Bishop Ilarion, His Grace Bishop Andriy, and clergy celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of St. John The Baptist, Edmonton, AB. on June 9, 2013



**Western Eparchy Full Council Meeting
June 15, 2013**



**54th WESTERN EPARCHY ASSEMBLY
And
YOUTH SUMMIT
October 24 - 26, 2013**

Will be held at St. John's Cultural Center
10611-110 Avenue, EDMONTON, AB

YOUTH APPRECIATION BANQUET
on **SATURDAY, October 26**

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.

Tax Receipts for Revenue Canada will be issued.

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

ROOM at ST. JOHN'S INSTITUTE

The Western Eparchy is renting a room that is available to people in need of temporary accommodation due to family illness, hospitalization, or other crisis.

Please contact the Western Eparchy office if you are aware of anyone who is in need of the use of this room.

Please Phone: 780 455 1938

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.

