



# WESTERN EPARCHY NEWSLETTER

WESTERN EPARCHY  
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
OF CANADA

Issue 20: Summer 2016

## MESSAGE OF THE HOLY AND GREAT COUNCIL OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

*To the Orthodox people  
and to all people of good will*

† Bartholomew of Constantinople, Chairman; † Theodoros of Alexandria; † Theophilos of Jerusalem; † Irinej of Serbia; † Daniel of Romania; † Chrysostomos of Cyprus; † Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece; † Sawa of Warsaw and All Poland; † Anastasios of Tirana, Durres and All Albania; † Rastislav of Presov, the Czech Lands and Slovakia

\* \* \*

*To God, "the Father of mercies and all comfort," we address a hymn of thanksgiving and praise for having enabled us to gather during the week of Pentecost (18-26 June 2016) on Crete, where the Apostle Paul and his disciple Titus preached the Gospel in the early years of the life of the Church. We give thanks to the Triune God who was well pleased that in one accord we should bring to a conclusion the work of the Holy and Great Council that was convoked by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew by the common will of their Beatitudes, the Primate of the local Orthodox Autocephalous Churches.*

*Faithfully following the example of the Apostles and our God-bearing Fathers we have once again studied the Gospel of freedom "for which Christ has set us free" (Gal. 5: 1). The foundation of our theological discussions was the certainty that the Church does not live for herself. She transmits the witness of the Gospel of grace and truth and offers to the whole world the gifts of God: love, peace, justice, reconciliation, the power of the Cross and of the Resurrection and the expectation of eternal life.*

(General summary on page 2)

## THE CONSECRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS Red Deer, Alberta - July 31, 2016





**THE HOLY AND GREAT COUNCIL OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH  
(general summary)**

- 1) The key priority of the Council was to proclaim **the unity** of the Orthodox Church. Founded on the Eucharist and the Apostolic Succession of her Bishops, the existing unity needs to be strengthened, to bear new fruits, and to continue the Church as confessed in the Creed and confirmed by the teaching of the Church Fathers. Our Church preserves the prominence of the Holy Eucharist. In regard to the Orthodox Diaspora, the institution of Episcopal Assemblies will continue at this time. The importance of the Synaxes of the Primates was emphasized and the proposal was made for the Holy and Great Council to become a regular Institution to be convened every seven or ten years.
- 2) By participating in the Holy Eucharist and praying for the whole world, we must continue the 'liturgy after the Divine Liturgy' and give the **witness of faith** to those near and far, in accordance with the Lord's clear command before His Ascension, "And you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth (Ac. 1: 8).
- 3) In response to her obligation to witness to the truth and her apostolic faith, our Church attaches great importance to **dialogue**, primarily with non-Orthodox Christians as a means for others to know more precisely the authenticity of the Orthodox Tradition, but never imply a compromise in matters of faith.
- 4) The explosion of fundamentalism observed within various religions leads to **inter-religious dialogue** which helps to promote mutual trust, peace and reconciliation to heal wounds and not to rekindle the fire of military conflicts. The Orthodox Church strongly condemns the extension of military violence, persecutions, the expulsion and murder of members of religious minorities, forced conversions, the trafficking of refugees, the abductions, torture, and executions. We address our appeal particularly to those in positions of power to act so that peace and justice may prevail in the countries of origin of the refugees.
- 5) Modern secularization seeks to separate people from Christ and from the spiritual influence of the Church. Western civilization, however, is marked by the contribution of Christianity. The Church, moreover, highlights the saving significance of Christ, the God-man, and of His Body, as the place and manner of life in freedom.
- 6) In contrast to the contemporary approach to **marriage**, the Orthodox Church regards the binding relationship of man and woman as "a great mystery... of Christ and the Church". Similarly, she calls the family unit which springs from this as the only guarantee for the upbringing of children in a "little church".  
*Apart from the specific topics about which it decided, the Holy and Great Council notes in brief the following important contemporary issues:*
- 7) In regard to the matter of the relations between Christian faith and the natural sciences, the Orthodox Church thanks God who gives to scientists the gift of development of the **natural sciences** and of technology which bring changes to our life. There are many negative consequences such as changes to freedom, traditions, the natural environment, and the questioning of moral values. Scientific knowledge does not always motivate man's will or give answers to serious moral issues such as the search for the meaning of life. These matters demand a spiritual approach, which the Orthodox Church attempts to provide. Along with her respect for the freedom of scientific investigation, the Orthodox Church points out the dangers concealed in certain scientific achievements.
- 8) It is clear that the present-day **ecological crisis** is due to spiritual and moral causes connected with greed, avarice and egoism, which lead to misuse of natural resources, pollution, and climate change. The Church never ceases to emphasize that future generations also have a right to the natural resources that the Creator has given us. For this reason, the Orthodox Church takes an active part and has ordained September 1 as a day of prayer for the protection of the natural environment.
- 9) Against the dehumanizing of people that is prevalent, Orthodoxy proposes **respect for the particular characteristics** of individual peoples. The progress of mankind is not connected only with an increase in living standards or with economic development at the expense of spiritual values.
- 10) The Orthodox Church does not involve herself in politics. Our Church believes in the obligations and responsibilities of the citizens and politicians for the improvement of society. And above all she emphasizes that the **Orthodox ideal** is for people to look beyond human rights and to practice "greatest of all is love", as Christ revealed and as all faithful who follow Him believe. She insists that it is a human right to protect religious freedom.
- 11) The Orthodox Church addresses herself to **young people** who seek a fulfilling life. She invites them to join themselves consciously with the Church of Him who is Truth and Life; to come to the Church. Young people are not only the future, but also the dynamic and creative present of the Church, both locally and globally.
- 12) The Holy and Great Council has **opened our horizon** towards the contemporary diverse and complex world. The Orthodox Church preserves intact her Sacramental character and is sensitive to the concerns of people of the world. She daily "proclaims the good tidings of His salvation, announcing His glory among the nations and His wonders among all peoples" (Psalm 95).

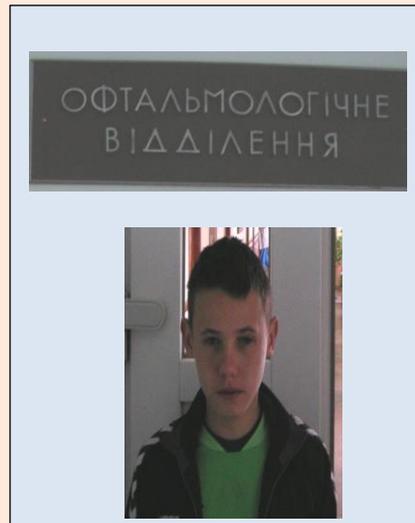
***Let us pray that "the God of all grace, who has called us to His eternal glory in Christ, will, after we have suffered a little, Himself restore, establish, and strengthen and settle us. To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 5.10-11).***



**Western Eparchy UOCC Youth Retreat 2016** was held in Canmore, AB on May 6-8. In addition to regular retreat activities, the youth prepared personal care packages to be donated to those affected by the Ft. McMurray fire.



## ORPHANAGE PROJECT IN UKRAINE



Medical support has been provided to two of the children living in the orphanage.

Left: Facial reconstructive surgery, orthodontic work, speech therapy.

Centre: Eye surgery to correct injury to eye.

Medical treatment was provided at the University of L'viv Hospital.

The Western Eparchy UOCC supports two orphanages in the L'viv Region of Ukraine - the Kornylovychi and Bukovo Orphanages. The project to install a wood heating system in the orphanage is now complete. The medical assistance to two children at the orphanage is ongoing. Regular supplies of needed items continues. The humanitarian assistance that is made possible because of Western Eparchy donations from individuals and organizations is appreciated and shows " inasmuch as you did it to one these the least of My brothers, you did it to Me." (Matt 25:40)

**More assistance is being provided in 2016**

**Tax Receipts for Revenue Canada will be issued.**

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



## THE BISHOP'S TEA

Sunday, October 2, 12:30 pm

Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor  
Of St. Andrew's  
9831-75 Street  
Edmonton

WESTERN EPARCHY FALL ASSEMBLY  
and  
WESTERN EPARCHY UOCC YOUTH SUMMIT  
October 28 – 30

YOUTH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BANQUET  
October 29

AT: The Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of  
St. John the Baptist and St. John's Cultural  
Centre  
Edmonton, AB.

The next Western Eparchy UOCC youth  
event is the **Youth Summit** which will  
be held in **Edmonton, October 28-30** in  
conjunction with the annual Western  
Eparchy Fall Assembly.

### WESTERN EPARCHY LEVIES 2016

Levies for 2016 will remain at \$15.00 per  
member ( based on membership as of  
December 31, 2015.)  
**Levies are payable now.**

## Update on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Thorhild, AB.



( photo taken on May 30, 2016.)

Construction has begun on rebuilding the Church.  
Please continue to pray for and support the parish.

All donations will receive a taxable receipt.  
Please make your donations directly to:

**Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Sts. Peter and Paul**  
**Box 153,**  
**Thorhild, AB. T0A 3J0**

## SECOND PLATE COLLECTION

**THANK YOU** to all Parishes and Districts who  
have already submitted their Christmas and  
Paschal Second plate donations for 2016.

Districts: Lac La Biche, Two Hills  
Parishes: Athabasca, Calgary, Red Deer,  
Lethbridge, Redwater, Surrey, Kelowna,  
Kamloops, Edmonton: St. John's Cathedral,  
St. Anthony's, St. Michael's, Vegreville, Victoria

Your generosity and cooperation is much  
appreciated. It is still not too late to make  
donations.



Near Two Hills, AB

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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