

WESTERN DIOCESE NEWSLETTER

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA

From The Administrator ...

“Entering the Ecclesiastical Year!”

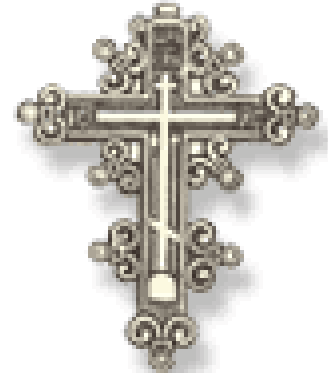
“For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord, and there is no other.” (Isaiah 45:18)

It is very appropriate as we enter the new Ecclesiastical Year on September 14 to remember the words of the Lord, as recounted here by the Prophet Isaiah. The passage is a clear expression of the uniqueness, supremacy and omnipotence of God. It also communicates the indisputable truth that God alone created our world with the specific purpose that it be inhabited by us, whom He created out of His love. Indeed, there is no other God.

As we enter another Ecclesiastical Year, our Holy Orthodox Church continues to remind us of the uniqueness, supremacy, and omnipotence of God through its rich and vibrant liturgical life. Through the sacraments, hymns, prayers, and petitions of the divine services, we praise and honor the Triune God who has created the universe, given order to the entire cosmos, and fashioned each one of us in His image, giving us a life of communion with Him. On Sundays, special feast days, and throughout the entire year, we acknowledge the Divine work of God, and His plan for our salvation. We remember the eternal significance of His Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, and His continued presence and work through His Body, the Church.

Our life within the Church, and specifically within the liturgical cycle of the year, is guided by the celebration and commemoration of what God has and will continue to do in our world and within our souls as He leads us toward our redemption. Thus, our participation in the services and ministry of the Church is very critical in a world that may seem chaotic. Through our worship and prayer God affirms that our lives and this world were not created in vain, but that all of His creation has a divine purpose. This purpose is to know and experience the love of God. This is not a love that results in chaos or disorder we may see around us. It is a love that transforms lives that are lost, confused, and suffering. It is a love that renews our awareness of God’s redemptive plan. It is a love that gives our lives meaning, direction, and purpose; for without the love of God, everything we do is done in vain. Let us put our differences aside! Let us *“love one another”* as God *“loved you.”* *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one life for his...*

Con't on page 3...



Western Diocese Website!

<http://www.uocc-wd.ca/>

Will be officially launched before the Diocesan Conference. Check out our website!

Other Websites:

<http://www.uocc-stelia.ca/>
<http://www.uocc-stjohn.ca/>
<http://www.stvlads.com>



Inside this issue:

From the Administrator	1
From the Diocesan Office	2
Determining Levies	3
More Diocesan Office	4
Around the Diocese	4
UOCC News	5
Western Diocese Council	6

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada Website

<http://www.uocc.ca>

The UOCC website provides a vast amount of information under subsections:

- > Orthodox Faith
- > About UOCC
- > Search
- > Church Goods
- > Visnyk
- > Photos
- > News
- > Links
- > Contacts

Under the section—“Search” there is photo display of our UOCC parishes, providing a digital photo had been sent to the Consistory. For example:



All Saints, Bellis, AB.



Holy Trinity
Lethbridge, AB

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Winnipeg, MB R2W 1G8
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From The Diocesan Office ...

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Highlights

Levy payments received for the 2006/2007 fiscal year have been exceptional.

Regretfully, our membership continues to decline.; though the Holy Trinity Parish in Lethbridge showed a substantial increase in membership this past year.

The Parochial District of Two Hills has the distinction of being the first to fulfill their budget levy obligations for the fiscal year.

The appeal for donations towards the purchase of icons for the chapel was a great success. All thirteen icons have been donated.

Response to the appeal for financial assistance to offset operating expenses has been well received. Donations were received by the Ukrainian Self-Reliance League—Alberta Branch (\$1000), Alberta Prov. TYC (\$1000) and Alberta Benevolent Cantors Assoc. (\$5000). This will have a great impact on our year-end financial picture.

We strongly encourage parishes to send delegates to the Western Diocese Conference which will be held October 25 - 28. Your attendance and participation is of the utmost importance.

Budget Levy Increase

At the June 9, 2007 meeting of the Western Diocese Council, a motion was passed to accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee to increase the operating portion of the budget levy by \$2.00.

The operating portion of the budget levy has remained at \$7.00 per member for a number of years, resulting in a deficit in the past two years.

Operating costs in maintenance, utilities, insurance and property taxes have steadily increased with indications of further increases in the future.

This proposed increase will be presented with the 2007/2008 at the Fall Conference of the Western Diocese for approval by the delegates.

If approved, the new budget levy would be as such: \$9.00 General Operating Fund, \$2.00 Mission Fund, \$1.00 Christian Heritage & Education Fund, and \$1.00 Property Research & Maintenance Fund—for a total of \$13.00 per member.

-Treasurer, Finance Committee
Western Diocese of the UOCC

Read the Visnyk/Herald regularly for current UOCC News!

From the Administrator...

Continued from page 1 ...

More Parish Photos!



All Saints
Kamloops, BC



Holy Transfiguration
Grassland, AB

Definitions!

At a recent meeting of the Consistory Presidium a UOCC policy was considered on defining a parish, parochial district, mission, and heritage church. The following definitions have been adopted:

Parish—a community or congregation of Orthodox Christians who adhere to the faith, dogma, doctrine and rites of the Church, have organized for religious worship and instruction, are affiliated with the UOCC and who have a building or facility for their own house of worship.

More definition to come!

friend (brethren).” (John 15:12f) Otherwise we will fail as Christians.

At the inception of the Ecclesiastical Year, I ask each one of you to deepen your commitment to the liturgical life of our Orthodox Church. I ask this, knowing that the purpose and order you seek in your life will be found in strong unwavering communion with God. I also ask this because we must be witnesses of righteousness, truth, and a divine order that will lead our fellowman to salvation. Through our faith and our life within the Church, our lives and lives of others will be constantly transformed and will become “hymns of glory to God the Creator and Lord.” “As we sow so shall we reap”, the saying goes!

Not only should we be pro-active liturgically, but our Christian walk-in-life should also include active

participation in the ministry of the church. As we celebrate the uniqueness of our faith we are obligated to share this faith with our fellowman through the various ministries of the church, keeping in perspective God’s love for us. We are to be supportive of all aspects of the ministry and encourage others, by example, to do so. As members of the Church we must willingly invest our time, effort and finances in support of whatever ministries we choose to implement.

Therefore, entering the new Ecclesiastical Year, let us work towards a common goal, putting aside personal agendas and strive to achieve the common objectives of developing our parishes to be the communities God intended us to be.

-Rt. Rev. Victor Lakusta
Western Diocese Administrator

Determining Parish Levies!

Levy calculations are based on your membership roll as of December 31st of the previous year. For example: “A parish has a membership of 100 individuals as of December 31st, 2007. The levy assessment for 2008 would be based on the membership count of the previous year (100 individual members). Therefore, based on 100 members that parish’s 2008 levy to the Western Diocese would be \$1300 (\$13.00 x 100) and to the Consistory of the UOCC it would be \$5800 (\$58.00 x 100).” (Note: The example

above is subject to change and/or approval of the levy assessment for 2008.)

Remember: Levies for the current year are based on your membership roll as of December 31st of the previous year. Levies are not calculated on your current membership roll. This year’s membership will be the basis for next year’s levy calculation.

See to it that your parish submits its “Annual Reports to the Western Diocese & the Consistory of the UOCC” early into the new year (2008).

New “Good Shepherd” Prayer Book is Now Available! This new bilingual prayer book may be ordered from the Consistory Church Goods at the cost of \$39.95 + S/H + GST. To order call: 1-204-586-3093, Ext. 229 or 230.



“Let us ask the Lord to give us the love necessary to do His will, and the ability to imitate his humility, so that we may allow His light to shine in us, and to glorify the Holy Trinity in everything—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

From The Diocesan Office...

The **Annual Western Diocese Conference for Clergy and Laity** will be held on Oct. 25th - 28th, 2007 at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish (9831—75 St., Edmonton) “Conference Packets” are being mailed out. Select your delegates and pre-register as soon as possible. On Thursday, October 25th, 7:00 p.m. the **Blessing of the Diocesan Chapel** will take place, followed by a **Open House Reception**

Completion of Chapel...

In addition to the thirteen icons purchased, two icons for the **icon stands** and **coverings for the altars** have also been purchased. Donations will be graciously appreciated.



Unused Church items...

Does your parish have any old church articles, such as Chalice & Paten sets, Gospel

Books, Censers, Hand Crosses, Altar Crosses & Candle Holders stored away in some cupboard or box no longer used? If there are, keeping in mind that these items had been blessed at some time for liturgical use; therefore they should not be lying around in musty or dusty place but brought in to the Western Diocese Office for appropriate storage. This also includes any archival documents, records and old liturgical books.



Around the Diocese...

“What every Orthodox Christian should know” - refer to the **Brief Catechism in the new prayer book: “The Good Shepherd”**, p. 48 to 75



Church School Conference will be held on September 28th - 29th at St. Anthony's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish Complex (6103—172 St., Edmonton) **Theme** “Reinvigorating Your Church School Program” **Keynote Speaker:** Kh. Linda Funk > Sharing Best Practices > Collaboration

> Display of Materials
> Inspiration
Registration:
\$20.00 per person (includes coffee & lunch)
Contact:
Sandy Sawchuk
(780) 430-6926
sandy.sawchuk@epsb.ca



In our Diocesan newsletter we intend to have an ongoing section publicizing parish related events around the Diocese. We

encourage your parish to submit such announcements or brief reports of special events in your parish. The next Diocesan newsletter will be in January, 2008.

Pastoral Update

The following assignments have taken place in our Diocese:
> **Very Rev. Petro Anhel** has been assigned as Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Surrey, B.C.

> **Very Rev. Isadore Woronchak** has been assigned as Pastor of the congregations of Kelowna and Vernon, B.C.

Our best wishes to both pastors!

THE CONSISTORY OF THE UOCC... is seeking two (2) representatives from every diocese to join the **Standing Committee for Charity, Social and Humanitarian Aid**. The struggle against human trafficking has been identified by the Consistory as a priority for this committee. Interested members of the faithful are welcome to contact: Fr. Bohdan Hladio @ 1-800—586.3093, ext. 227 or bhladio@uocc.ca for more information.

Fundraising for Feast Day Icons...

The Western Diocese Chapel located in the Diocesan Office & Bishop's Residence is in the final completion stage. In the May issue of the Western Diocese newsletter we had appealed for donations to help finance costs related to the completion of the chapel. One of those costs were **thirteen icons of the Great Feast Days** that were purchased for the chapel. In response to our appeal, all thirteen icons were graciously donated. We thank all donors as follows:

The Thirteen Feast Day Icons:

- 1} Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem—*donated by Kay Monchakowsky in memory of her husband, Bill.*
- 2} Easter— Resurrection of Lord Jesus Christ—*donated by Alex & Pauline Lysak*
- 3} Ascension of Our Lord—*donated by Joana Janis*
- 4} Descent of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost) - *donated by Michael & Olga Alexandruk on their 40th Wedding Anniversary.*
- 5} Baptism of Our Lord (Theophany) - *donated by Rt. Rev. Stephan & Dobr. Diana Semotiuk*

- 6} Meeting of Our Lord—*donated by the Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation of St. Vladimir, Vegreville*
- 7} Annunciation of the Theotokos—*donated by Katherine Yereniuk*
- 8} Transfiguration of Our Lord—*donated by Marshall Kachmar & Elizabeth Roshko in memory their parents, Mike & Olga Roshko*
- 9} Dormition of the Theotokos—*Rt. Rev. Nicholas & Dobr. Jeannette Rauliuk in memory of their parents, John & Ahafia Rauliuk and Anthony & Winnifred Sloan*
- 10} Nativity of the Theotokos—*donated by Kay Monchakowsky in memory of her parents, John & Domka Serediak*
- 11} Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple—*donated by Vira Jreniuk, in memory of her husband, Otto*
- 12} Nativity of Our Lord—*donated by Zenon & Rose Drul*
- 13} Exaltation of the Holy Cross—*donated by Emil & Orasia Yereniuk*



UOCC News ...

To: The Reverend Clergy and the Pious Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada Beloved in Christ,

As you know, 2007 marks the 35th anniversary of the repose and 125th anniversary of the birth of Metropolitan Ilarion (Ohienko). These anniversaries have great meaning for all Orthodox Ukrainians throughout the world, but especially for us as Ukrainian Orthodox in Canada. Several of our parishes, most notable St. Mary Protectress Sobor in Winnipeg and St. Vladimir Sobor in Hamilton, have already organized events in honour of our beloved Metropolitan Ilarion on a community level. In order to properly mark these anniversaries as a Church an organizing committee has been struck and plans are under way to worthily honour both the academic/theological and pastoral legacy of Metropolitan Ilarion. A learned symposium, featuring speakers from Canada, Ukraine, and Poland is scheduled for the first weekend in November at St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg. Concurrent with the symposium, plans are also underway to have the wonderworking icon of the Mother of God of Kholm (Metropolitan Ilarion's first episcopal see) visit Canada. The icon will visit as many parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada as is possible. A commemorative booklet including the akathist to the Mother of God of Kholm (translated by Metropolitan Ilarion) in bi-lingual format will be prepared, and the akathist sung in every church the icon visits. In order to realize this project we require your help. First of all, we ask your prayers for the success of this project. Secondly, we ask your participation. Please plan to attend the symposium as well as host the icon of Kholmska Bozha Maty in your parish. Thirdly we need your financial support. If you, your parish, or your organization is able to help fund this project please send a cheque to the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, with the memo "Metropolitan Ilarion Celebration". Tax receipts will be issued. Further details will be given in upcoming issues of the Visnyk. We thank you for your attention and support.

On behalf of the Consistory, Fr. Bohdan Hladio, Presidium Chair
of the Consistory Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

Western Diocese Council 2006-2007

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