



Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Consistory Circular

January–March, 2015

Office of the Consistory President



PASCHA 2015

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

As I write these few lines I am conscious of the fact that I am writing this on one side of Pascha Sunday, while you will be reading this on the other side of Resurrection Sunday. This is a fact I cannot ignore. There is a practical problem about this, if you read something which seems out of date, the human inclination is to think it irrelevant and not read on. Authors must always be aware of publication dates and try to write something which will still sound relevant and interesting even when it is being read at a later date. This need to write for the perspective of the reader crops up over and over again in daily life whenever anyone writes anything for later publication. It's not an unusual problem, but it takes on a special relevance when the intervening event is Pascha (Easter) Sunday.

The Christians claim that nothing can ever be the same again after the first Pascha (Easter) Sunday. The Disciples of Christ thought they had lost a friend and master and teacher in the cruelest of ways possible. They thought His death was entirely unnecessary and avoidable. Many of them had given up everything to follow this amazing man, and now that He was finally crucified, dead and buried, they felt they had nothing left. The desolation which the death of our Lord brought to their lives is easily felt as you read the end of the Gospel narratives in the Bible. The events of Holy Friday turn their world upside down.

But then on Pascha-Easter Sunday, their world gets turned over yet again in an even more radical way! The Disciples discover that the tomb in which the body of Christ Jesus was

buried is empty. And some of the Disciples begin to report that they have seen Jesus alive again! And gradually the truth dawns on them all that the most amazing thing has happened. Jesus Christ has risen from the dead! Now they frantically re-tell to one another all the stories and teaching which they had heard from their Lord and Master. They discover in the teaching of our Savior that He was constantly instructing them about His coming death, and about His resurrection and eternal glory. Before Easter they could not understand it, they were deaf and blind to the meaning of Christ's teaching. Now, however, those same words come alive with meaning which was hidden to them before. Not only words seemed to have different meanings. Now their lives become transformed by new purpose, new power, new understanding, new ways of living and hoping.

Christians share in the Resurrection message of Jesus Christ. You and I are the 2015 Disciples of Christ. Just like the first Disciples we must live this Pascha event. We ought to be living transformed, upside-down lives full of hope and energy just like those first Disciples. The annual celebration of Pascha serves to remind us of the impact the Resurrection ought to have on our lives.

Christ is Risen!

With prayers for each and every one of you,

+ Daniel

Your bishop and brother in Christ

**MEETING
OF THE PERMANENT CONFERENCE
OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX BISHOPS
BEYOND THE BORDERS OF UKRAINE**

Following the week long trip to Ukraine, marking the First Anniversary of the Repose of the Heavenly Hundred during the tragic events of February 18-20, 2014 in Kyiv, Ukraine and still being moved by the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and throughout the world, the hierarchs of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine convened their annual meeting on 2-4 March, 2015 in Clearwater, FL.

The meeting was hosted by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, the Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and ruling hierarch of the Eastern Eparchy, along with His Grace Bishop Daniel, President of the Consistory UOC of USA and ruling hierarch of the Western Eparchy. The bishops in attendance were His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, the Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and the Ruling Hierarch of the Central Eparchy of UOCC, His Grace Bishop Ilarion, the Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of UOCC, His Grace Bishop Andriy, the Ruling Hierarch of the Eastern Eparchy of UOCC. His Eminence Archbishop Ioan of Australia and New Zealand and His Eminence Archbishop Jeremiah of the Eparchy of South America were not able to be present for the meeting.

Among the various topics discussed at the meeting were the reports on the ongoing political, economic and ecclesiastical difficulties that exist in Ukraine, Middle East and in other countries, where Ukrainian Orthodox Christians live outside of their ancestral homeland. The daily reports of conflicts, turmoil, bloodshed and violence can leave no one indifferent and unconcerned. The bishops stated that they share a special bond with their brothers and sisters in Ukraine, especially with the clergy who continue to guide their precious faithful and care for them in the most difficult of circumstances.

**HIERARCHS OF THE UOC OF THE USA
MEET WITH THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH**

Following the conclusion of the plenary sessions of the annual meeting of the Permanent Conference of the Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine, the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA traveled to the ancient city of Constantinople in order to hold an audience with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I on March 16-18, 2015.

Having arrived to Istanbul the bishops of the UOC of the USA, representing the brother hierarchs of the Permanent Conference met with the Members of the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and in informal gathering reflected upon the current set of circumstances in the life of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in North America and especially in Ukraine. During the lengthy audience with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony along with Bishop Daniel shared with the Patriarch reflections on the most recent trip to Ukraine and meetings with the repre-

The hierarchs at length reflected on the most recent trip to Ukraine and meetings with the representatives of various jurisdictions of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine. The bishops expressed their concern over the continued ecclesiastical division in Ukraine in spite of an opportunity as the nation is under attack and call upon the hierarchs of various Orthodox jurisdictions in Ukraine to live out the Words of the Gospel in order to bring unity and healing to the wounded Body of Christ. Once again, the history presents an opportunity to come together as one united family in the Name of the Savior, putting aside the differences. Yet another opportunity must not be lost!.. The hierarchs of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine prepared an address to His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople, addressing the circumstances of ecclesiastical division and the possible ways of resolution to the conflict.

In addition, the bishops discussed various social, secular and moral issues that continue to affect the parishes of their Churches on the North American continent.

The hierarchs discussed the upcoming Centennial Celebrations of both the UOCC and the UOC of USA, which will take place in 2018. The organizing committees will be appointed by the Primates of Churches in order to share in the witness of Ukrainian Orthodoxy in North America and the possibility of a combined celebration in addition to the separate celebrations that will be held in both Churches, or at least significant participation of the clergy and faithful of both Churches in the separate celebrations.

The meeting of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine concluded with the adoption of various letters to the religious and secular leaders in order to bring healing to the world of uncertainty – especially in Ukraine. The bishops extended their blessings to their entire flocks and look forward to many more years of joint celebrations and meetings for the benefit of the faithful.

representatives of various jurisdictions of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine as well as with the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko.

The bishops expressed their concern over the continued ecclesiastical division in Ukraine, sharing with the Patriarch the observations of the hierarchs of various Orthodox jurisdictions in Ukraine about the logical and pastoral solution to the ongoing ecclesiastical disunity that exists in Ukraine. While yet another historic opportunity presents itself for political and economic renewal in Ukraine, the Church must claim and remain to be the moral conscience of the nation, - yet this noble and sacred concept is constantly under the attack by the circumstances of the ecclesiastical division.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch, with parental love and concern received the reflections of the hierarchs of the Permanent Conference of the Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine and reassured the bishops of his constant prayer and attention that is dedicated to Ukrainian ecclesiastical division and the ways in which the anomaly may be resolved.

ENCOUNTER OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX & UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS

A fraternal encounter of the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches of North America was held from March 3-5, 2015 in Clearwater, FL. It was the first such meeting in three years.

Taking part in the meeting from the Churches in the United States and Canada were: Metropolitan Antony, Ukrainian Orthodox Church – USA; Metropolitan Stefan, Ukrainian Catholic Church – USA; Metropolitan Yuriy, Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Canada; Metropolitan Lawrence, Ukrainian Catholic Church – Canada; Bishop David, Ukrainian Catholic Church – Canada; Bishop Paul – Ukrainian Catholic Church – USA; Bishop Richard, Ukrainian Catholic Church – USA; Bishop Ilarion, Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Canada; Bishop Andriy, Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Canada; Bishop Daniel, Ukrainian Orthodox Church – USA; Bishop John, Ukrainian Catholic Church – USA; Bishop Bohdan, Ukrainian Catholic Church – USA. A guest participating in the Encounter was Bishop Basil (Losten) – Ukrainian Catholic Church – USA.

The hierarchs held discussions and exchanged information on topics of common concern ranging from liturgical, pastoral, doctrinal and administrative matters. Much time was spent in discussing the current situation in Ukraine and how our Churches in the Diaspora can more effectively provide for the spiritual and material needs of our suffering Ukrainian people. Of primary concern to the hierarchs was the present state of ecclesiastical life in Ukraine in all jurisdictions and the fate of the Churches under the present threat of further war escalation in Ukraine.

The consensus of opinion of the Encounter participants, having heard from the Orthodox hierarchs about the recent visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to Ukraine, was that it was a positive event, which can result in consequences beneficial to all Christianity in Ukraine. The Catholic hierarchs shared their experiences in relationship to their brother hierarchs in Ukraine. The hierarchs of both Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic Churches are of one mind in the belief that the Church must reclaim its place as the moral conscience of the Ukrainian nation – a role denied to the hierarchs – or abandoned by some – during the long, dark night of communist subjugation. The Encounter participants agreed to explore the ways in which both the Churches of Constantinople and Rome can be encouraged to promote the stabilization and independence of ecclesiastical life in Ukraine, particularly in light of political aggression of neighboring Russia.

As in the past, a lengthy discussion was devoted to a thorough examination of Church life in both the Orthodox and Catholic Churches in North America. The hierarchs concluded that there is an enormous need to devote much more prayer and time contemplating and focusing upon the manner in which the Church gives witness in an ever-changing society.

The time spent together during this Encounter was deeply valued by all the hierarchal participants, who departed with a new sense of purpose and relationship in the Name of the Lord. At the conclusion of this year's encounter the hierarchs agreed to meet again next spring in Winnipeg, Canada.

UOC OF USA ASSISTS UKRAINE IN THE TIME OF WAR

In the recent Statement of the Council of Bishops of the UOC of the USA regarding the tragic war related events in Ukraine, the hierarchs stated: "...We remain in solidarity with our Orthodox, Catholic and other Faith leaders in Ukraine who have proved their devotion to their flocks in their steadfast prayer and ministry to those who sat on the cold cobble-stoned Maidan. We have personally delivered material support to the hospitals caring for the injured and the families of those murdered. Today, however, we call upon all our brother Hierarchs of Orthodox Churches throughout the world to utilize their God-give authority, including those in Russia itself, to call for the cessation of the attack of Orthodox brothers against their own in the Faith! We call upon Christians of other denominations and adherents of all religious Faiths around the world to urge their followers to speak up and help to avoid a cataclysm for a nation that has endured far more such cataclysms than it should have been able to endure..."

The Consistory of the Church, fulfilling the mandate of the Council of Bishops and the Appeal for Financial Aid from St. Andrew Society (central organization of the UOC of the USA), reached out to the refugees, survivors and relatives of the fallen Maidan victims, as well as the wounded soldiers and provided material assistance of over **\$200,000.00**, which was donated by the faithful and friends of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Bishop Daniel (assisted by Very Rev. Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha and Very Rev. Fr. John Haluszczyk) have traveled numerous times to Ukraine and personally met with the refugees, wounded soldiers and family members of the Maidan victims and soldiers - providing all of them with the financial assistance from the Church.

For more information on the distribution of funds, please visit www.uocofusa.org to read articles in the official publication of the Church - Ukrainian Orthodox Word from 2014 and the most recent January/March 2015 issue.

NEW PARISH FAMILY IN NEW MEXICO

A new Ukrainian Orthodox Parish Mission is established in Los Alamos area of New Mexico to serve the spiritual needs of Orthodox Christians and be an outreach to those seeking entry into the Holy Orthodox Church.

His Grace Bishop Daniel recently traveled to Los Alamos, NM to meet with the faithful of the community and following the discussions at the Consistory Meeting and with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, a new parish of Venerable Job of Pochaiv was formally established in Los Alamos, NM.

Rev. Fr. Theophan Mackey was appointed as the pastor of the newly-formed parish and the first liturgical services were offered during the sacred season of Nativity of our Savior.

Visit the web site of the UOC of the USA to learn more about the new parish, as the first Archpastoral visit of His Grace Bishop Daniel is being planned.

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COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLIA COMPLETES ANNUAL MEETING

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony called the Annual Council of the Metropolia meeting to order on Thursday, 5 February in the HEC Exhibit Annex of the Ukrainian Cultural Center and led the members in prayer for all the clergy and faithful of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Following the invocation, His Eminence offered a meditation for consideration by the Council members, which was meant to guide the decision making process of the meeting.

Metropolitan Antony and His Grace Bishop Daniel presented detailed reports on the life of their respective Eastern and Western Eparchies of our Church here in the USA. On a positive note, the bishops stressed the positive fact of the establishment of new parish communities and the plans for more. We have been blessed with funds contributed by St. Mary Parish in Hicksville, NY, which dissolved over ten years ago. These funds were placed in a permanent endowment fund with the income utilized to support the development of new missions for the first year of their existence. This support has been very effective and continues to serve as a living memorial to all the faithful of St. Mary Parish.

The bishops further reported on the various issues presently being dealt with by various parishes, whether it be legal matters, mission parish growth and maturity and events that took place in parishes and deaneries of their eparchies with an emphasis of the many anniversaries of parish foundation and other milestones, including the anniversaries of ordination and elevations of parish priests and hramotas (certificates of honor) granted to various parish members and organizations.

Following the Eparchy reports, Bishop Daniel in his capacity as President of the Consistory presented his annual report on the work of Consistory Offices of Ministry. The work of each of the offices is regularly detailed in news articles on the UOC of USA website.

The Church and the Historical and Educational Center have been beneficiaries of a number of estates over the past year. Some of these are still in process and we are uncertain what the terms of the estate are and the gifts involved.

Fr. Robert Holet, the outgoing Treasure of the UOC of the USA, presented the budget for the current fiscal year 2015 for the consideration of the Council. After much discussion and comparison to the actual figures from the previous fiscal year, the budget – a basically balanced budget – was approved. Concerns were expressed by Council members about the need for a marketing agent and efforts for strategic planning were necessary elements of a successful future. In conjunction with our efforts to educate our faithful about stewardship and tithing in support of the Church, Fr. Holet suggested that the Consistory set a positive example for the parishes and faithful in beginning a “First Fruits” model as depicted in the newly commissioned icon of the First Fruits – Sts. Volodymyr and Ol’ha holding a model of the Church of the Tithes – Desyatyna Tserkva – built in Kyiv as their offering of first fruits – a percentage of their income to God. The Church of the Dormition of the Mother of God was destroyed centuries ago, but much talk recently has indicated that it may be reconstructed.

The Council decided that beginning with this fiscal year a percentage of all income to the Consistory will be dedicated as “First Fruits” and used for charitable work in the Name of Christ our Lord. *In conclusion of the report, the Metropolitan presented to the Council members a new Treasurer of the UOC of the USA - Very Rev. Fr. Stephen Hutnick.*

A strategic planning committee was appointed, to be chaired by Dr. Gayle Woloschak. This committee will prepare a preliminary report for the next Council meeting in July of 2015 defining the scope of work for this committee. The committee will research the possible assistance of a professional in strategic planning to assist in this effort.

Metropolitan Antony expressed his gratitude to all the Council members for their dedication to our Holy Church and for their positive contributions to the annual meeting. He reminded the members that they bear a responsibility to visit the parishes in their specific regions of the country whenever possible to share a positive message about our Church and urging the faithful to maintain their faith in the presence of Christ among them and the power of the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their lives – the same Spirit they received in fullness at the moment of their Chrismation.

2015 UOC of the USA CAMPING MINISTRY

Summer is around the corner which means it is time to fill out and send in your summer camp applications. Our Ukrainian Orthodox Church sponsors three outstanding programs for our youth: Teenage Conference, Diocesan Church School Camp and Mommy & Me/Daddy & Me Camp. All three camps will be developing the Consistory's Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry Theme: I AM!

(For Info about encampments contact Consistory Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (412) 488-9664)

Diocesan Church School Camp - 21 June - 3 July, 2015
All Saints Camp - Ages 9-13

Teenage Conference - 5 - 18 July, 2015
All Saints Camp - Ages 13-18

Mommy/Daddy and Me Camp - 27-31 July, 2015
All Saints Camp - Ages 4-8 + Parent(s)

May their memory be eternal...

Protopresbyter Michael Kudanovich - 28 February, 2015
Mrs. Anastasia Hrybowych - 5 March, 2015

We extend most sincere condolences to the family members of our departed brethren. May they rest in the bosom of our Lord where there is no more pain, nor suffering, nor sorrow - but life everlasting.