

September, 2007

ST. ANDREW'S OUTREACH EXTRA

From Our Parish President ...

Cont'd from p. 7 of the "Outreach" Newsletter

Comments:

The process for developing the budget has evolved over the years. During Dr. Bert Hohol's tenure as president, he established the Budget and Finance Committee that is responsible for the financial aspects of the Parish as well as determining how the financial aspects are to be sustained in the future. Starting in October 2005, committees and affiliated and related organizations were asked to outline their roles and responsibilities, confirm their members, and develop plans including resources and funding for the 2006 and for the next two years. This was done for several reasons - 1) improve communication between everyone - Committees, Organizations, Board, Parish Members; 2) develop an approach to budgeting that involves the Parish's Committees and the related and affiliated organizations; and 3) develop plans for Parish sustainability. To date, committees and organizations have done an admirable job of outlining roles and responsibilities and developing plans, and specifying required resources and funding. On behalf of the Board, I commend all of your contributions to the process.

However, one of the areas that we have not addressed and one that I struggle with is the matter of Parish sustainability - who are we as a Parish and what do we want to be in the coming years. The matter of Parish Sustainability is a complex matter.

In spite of Mr. Lawrence Dary's report on "Sustainability Planning Report for St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish and Related Organizations", we really have not made much progress. As a starting point, at a Board meeting in September 2006, the Board agreed to the following - 1) develop a statement of our mission, vision, and values, because Parish activities should be directly linked to the statement (A draft of a mission, vision, and values statement is available from the Church Office); 2) develop plans that focus on three initiatives - 1. recruiting new younger members but not exclusively, 2. revitalizing CYMK, and 3. developing programs on Christian Orthodoxy education. With respect to long-term goals on Parish Sustainability, this is a work in progress; this is a topic that is open for discussion in terms of need and process. It is my belief that perhaps what is required is some outside help in the form of leaders to take us through workshops and or focus groups activities. However, having said that, I would urge all of us as we begin the New Church Year and as we embark on planning for 2008 and beyond, to read or reread Mr. Lawrence Dary's report on "Sustainability Planning Report for St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish and Related Organizations".

God Bless!

-Ernest N. Skakun
Parish President



PASTORAL REFLECTIONS!

Cont'd from p. 8 of the "Outreach" Newsletter

... 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 a parish we must willingly invest our time, effort, and funds in support of whatever ministries we choose to implement. At the National USRL Convention, I recently attended, approximately 105 youth delegates were in attendance. Their presence and participation was truly noted. In speaking with some of the youth leaders/advisors, I was surprised to learn that the parishes that had the best youth representation were the parishes that invested the most time, effort and funds in the youth ministry. For example: one parish in Eastern Canada budgets \$10,000.00 annually for their youth program; by which music and dance instructors are hired, a special youth club room has been developed, activities and travels are funded, and the sort. They see "youth" as their future, and therefore consider this to be an investment in the sustainability of their church and faith. Not withstanding, there are other areas of ministry whereby we can maintain the uniqueness, supremacy, and omnipotence of God: venues, whereby the Love of God can be expressed!

Entering the new Ecclesiastical Year, let us work towards a common goal, putting aside personal agendas and strive to achieve the common objective of developing our parish to be the community God intended it to be.

- Fr. Victor