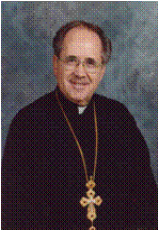


St. Andrew's Outreach Newsletter



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF PASTORAL SERVICE



On Sunday, September 30th, the St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish will commemorate the **40th Anniversary of the Ordination into the Holy Priesthood of Right Rev. Mitred Archbishop Victor Lakusta.**

The day will begin with the arrival and greeting of His Eminence Metropolitan John (9:15 a.m.) followed by Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Thanksgiving Moleben.

Erin Niawchuk will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the Dinner Program. Speakers during the program will include His Eminence Metropolitan John (Primate of the UOCC), Rev. Bohdan Hladio (Chair of the Presidium of the Consistory of the UOCC), Rt. Rev. Mitred Archbishop Stephan Semotiuk (Edmonton Mission District of the UOCC), Ernest Skakun (President of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish) and our distinguished guest: the Honourable

Ed Stelmach, Premier of Alberta

A DVD presentation will provide an overview of Father Victor's pastoral life including some of the following highlights:

After graduating from the Andrew High School in 1963, Fr. Victor enrolled in the Faculty of Theology Studies at St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Prior to his ordination in 1967, Fr. Victor met and married Marusia Holinaty of Swan River, Manitoba. They were blessed with two sons: Andriy and Anton. Their family now includes daughter-in-law Andrea and two grandsons, Jacob and Nicholas.

Following his ordination, Fr. Victor began his pastoral ministry in Manitoba from 1967 - 1974. From 1974 - 1984, he served as an Assistant Priest at St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral here in Edmonton. During this time, he provided pastoral service to the newly established Mission Parish in Edmonton — St. Anthony's. From 1984 - 1988, Fr. Victor was assigned as pastor to St. Anthony's Ukrainian

Orthodox Parish.

In 1988, Fr. Victor and family moved to Vancouver to fulfill his assignment to Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. On August 1st, 1995, Fr. Victor took charge of his pastoral responsibilities here at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish — where he still serves today.

Amongst Fr. Victor's notable contributions such as serving four terms as a Consistory Board member of the UOCC (18 years), numerous Executive positions on the Western Diocese Council and the Edmonton Mission District; he was most recently appointed as Administrator of the Western Diocese of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada.

In 1984, Fr. Victor also coordinated a tour to the Middle East ("*The Holy Land*") which included visiting several biblical sites.

We wish to congratulate him on his forty years of achievements and pastoral service in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. May health and happiness follow him in his calling!



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Websites:

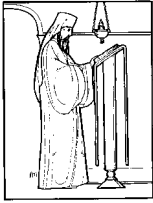
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada:
www.uocc.ca

Western Diocese
www.uocc.wd.ca/

St. Andrew's Parish
www.uocc-standrew.ca/



LITURGICAL



Liturgical Scripture Readings...

October 2007

Sunday, October 7th

19th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Cor. 11:31-12:9;

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36.

Sunday, October 14th

20th Sunday After Pentecost

*"The Protection of our Most Holy
Lady the Theotokos and Ever-
Virgin Mary" (Pokrova)*

Epistle: Hebr. 9:1-7,

Gal. 1:11-19;

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42, 11:27;

Luke 7:11-16.

Sunday, October 21st

21st Sunday After Pentecost

*"Memory of the Holy Fathers of
the 7th Ecumenical Council"*

Epistle: Gal. 2:16-20,

Hebr. 13:7-16;

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15;

John 17:1-13.

Sunday, October 28th

22nd Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Gal. 6:11-18;

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES AT ST. ANDREW'S

Sunday, October 7th

Bilingual

Sunday, October 14th

Bilingual

Sunday, October 21st

English

Sunday, October 28th

Bilingual

Confession @ 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy commences

@ 10 a.m.

WORSHIP SERVICES AT ST. ANDREW'S SELO

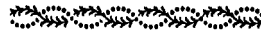
Tuesday, October 9th
*Rest of Holy Apostle &
Evangelist John the
Theologian*
(Thanksgiving)

Wednesday, November 21st
*Synaxis of the
Archangel Michael*

10 am - Divine Liturgy
Fellowship Coffee & Lunch
to follow every Divine
Liturgy.



COPIES OF "THE
HANDMAIDEN" & "AGAIN"
MAGAZINES ARE AVAILABLE @
\$6.00/COPY AT THE ENTRANCE
TO THE CHURCH, OR
SUBSCRIBE
@ \$5.00/COPY.



Liturgical Gestures

Orthodox worship is characterized by a complete utilization of the senses sight, smell, hearing, speech and touch. We see the candles, icons, frescoes, etc., we hear the sounds of singing and reading, at times lifting up our own voices, and we smell the characteristic odor of incense. The whole of the human person is involved in worship, and important among the certain types of bodily movements are utilized to reinforce this sense of reverential piety we stand during the services, we make bows and prostrations, and with great frequency, we make the Sign of the Cross. Accordingly, there are several types of Bows, depending on the solemnity of the moment.

Prostration (*Great Metanoia Great Poklon*):

Here the worshipper prostrates the whole body, throwing the weight forwards onto the hands and touching the ground with the forehead.

Bow (*Small Metanoia Poklon*):

The worshipper bows from the waist, touching the ground with the fingers of the right hand. Both Prostrations and Bows are preceded by the Sign of the Cross.

Reverence

At certain times the worshipper merely bows the head; sometimes this is accompanied by the Sign of the Cross.

QUESTION: *What are the clerical offices in the Orthodox Church and what is their significance?*

ANSWER: The Orthodox Church has the three classical Christian offices: bishop, priest (or presbyter) and deacon.

The bishop is the highest office since the bishop is the one responsible to guide the life of the Church, to guard the faith and to preserve the unity of the churchly body in truth and love. Bishops are traditionally taken from the monks, and by a regulation dating from the 6th century, must be unmarried. A widowed priest of any unmarried man can be elected to the office of bishop.

The priests (or presbyters) carry on the normal pastoral functions in the Church and lead the local parish communities. They are usually married men. They must be married prior to their ordination and are not allowed to marry once in the priestly state. Single priests or widowers may marry but in this case, they are no longer allowed to function in the ministry.

At the present time, the diaconate in the Church is usually a step to the priesthood, or else it exists solely as a liturgical ministry. The deacon may also be a married man, with the same conditions as those for the married priesthood.





OUR PARISH BULLETIN BOARD



In Memoriam!

Our apologies to Emilie & Steve Gorgichuk and Family for missing the announcement about the repose of Steve's brother, Fred Gorgichuk;

To Gloria & Walter Hladun and Family on the repose of Walter's uncle, Walter Hrynchuk.

For those of you wishing to have your loved ones' names included in this section, please contact Robyn or Stephanie in the Church Office to ensure our information is accurate. Thank you!

The 40-Day Service:

From Earliest times, the Church had commanded that the departed be commemorated during the course of forty days and on the fortieth day itself, 'for so did the people lament Moses' after his death. This is also done in remembrance of the victory of Christ over Satan after He had spent forty days in fasting and prayer. The Church also commemorates the departed on the yearly anniversary of death and, in some places, on the twentieth day, and the third, sixth and ninth months, as well. It is also customary to commemorate the departed on their birthdays and patronal saint's days.

Koliva (grain or rice, cooked with honey or sugar, sometimes mixed with plums, raisins and other sweets) is often offered on these days of

Commemoration. The grain and fruit signify that the dead will again rise from the grave by God's might, for both the grain (sown in the ground) and the fruit (which falls on the ground) decay first and then afterwards bring forth abundant, ripe and whole fruit. Sugar and honey signify that after the Resurrection of the righteous, there will come a joyful and blessed life in the Kingdom of Heaven, rather than one bitter and sorrowful.

As Simeon of Thessalonica says:

The [Third Day Service] is celebrated for the reason that [the departed one] received his being through the Trinity and having passed to a state of good being and being changed he shall [at the Resurrection] appear in his original state or one superior. The [Ninth Day] is celebrated that his spirit dwell together with the holy spirits — the angels — being immaterial and naturally similar to them — for these spirits are nine in number and by them [the orders] they triply proclaim and praise the God in Trinity — and so that he may be united with the holy spirits of the Saints. The [Fortieth Day] is celebrated because of the Savior's Ascension — which came to pass after so many days after His Resurrection — in the sense that [the reposed], as it were, having also risen and ascended ... being caught away in the clouds, shall meet the Judge and thus being united with Him, he should ever be with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:17)... see p.4

NEXT PYROHY SUPPER!

Our next "Pyrohy Supper" will be held on




Friday, October 5th
from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Bring Family & Friends!

Dine In or Take Out!

DONATION ENVELOPES

Should you require more "Offering Envelopes" contact Gene Luchka (465-1736) or Mark  Bartko (469-9921) or fill out the request form in the Church vestibule entrance area.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIPS

The Sunday Fellowships are greatly appreciated by the worshipping congregation; therefore we would like to thank those who sponsored or provided these fellowships.

A most heartfelt thank you to:

... the months of **September** sponsors:

Helen Quelch, Sophie Sydor, Eva Strilchuk (Sept. 2nd); Church School Parents (Sept. 9th); Walter & Roslia Nikiforuk Fellowship (Sept. 16th); Maria Karasiuk, Gloria Pundick, Mary Boratynec, Vivian Skakun & Adele Krewusik (Sept. 23rd); Father Victor's 40th Anniversary Celebration of Ordination (Sept. 30th).

Those who had made the effort to sponsor or provide a Fellowship Lunch have to be commended.

At the same time **we invite other parish members** to also sponsor an occasional Fellowship.

If you are so inclined, please sign-up on the displayed sheet or contact **Stephanie** (469-1463 or 469-5293). Thank you!

SPECIAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special thank you goes out to the following men who have been so kind as to help in picking up cabbage for the Ladies Auxiliary (to be steamed for cabbage rolls):

John Krewusik, Wally Yadowski and Peter Kushner.



-Ladies Auxiliary

LADIES AUXILIARY & MEN'S CLUB BBQ

"Hugo" — thank you for the attendance at the Annual Steak BBQ.

Special thanks also goes out to Stephanie, Ollie, Nancy, Liz & Gord, June & George, Carol & Bob, Fedor, Alex, Steve, Peter, Marshall and whoever else helped in preparing the wonderful mean, table settings, and assisted with clean-up, dish washing, etc.

Extra thanks to the two "Dr. Harrys" for a great job with the steaks!

Your dedication and endless support made this event a success once again!!!

Social Director
-Wally Yadowski



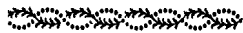
MORE PARISH BULLETIN BOARD!



IN MEMORIUM -*Con't*
from p. 3 ...

Now the third, sixth and ninth months are also celebrated as proclaiming the Trinity, the God of all, and to His glory in behalf of the deceased, for by the Trinity a man is fashioned, and when loosed from the body he returns to Him, and by the Trinity he hopes to receive resurrection. But the end of the year is celebrated because it is the consummation, and our God, the Trinity, is the Life of all and the Cause of being, and shall be the Restoration of all and the Renewal of human nature [*On Things Done for the Departed*].

In general, the custom of observing prayers for the dead has been held by the Orthodox Church since earliest times. The Divine Liturgy has always been celebrated in memory of the departed and, on these days, many have increased and continue to increase their offerings in the Church, assisting the poor and needy brethren out of love for their departed ones.



Parish Thanksgiving Celebration:

Sunday, October 14th

Dinner to follow the Divine Liturgy



GREETERS' ROSTER

Listed below is a roster of those who have confirmed their participation as "Greeters/Hosts/Ushers" for this month:

October 7th - Thanksgiving long weekend

October 14th -
Marie & Wallace Mailman

October 21st -
Pauline & Alex Lysak

October 28th -
Emilie & Steve Gorgichuk

Many thanks to those of you who have already volunteered for this ministry.

MORE GREETERS NEEDED

If you are interested in acting as a Greeter, please contact Pauline Lysak (434-4826) or Father Victor (440-4822).

GUEST SPEAKER FROM LVIV, UKRAINE

On Sunday, October 21st, Father Bohdan Bilas will be our Guest Speaker during Fellowship. Fr. Bohdan is engaged in missionary and pastoral work as part of an Interfaith Committee dedicated to the betterment of social conditions for the people of Ukraine and finding a solution to the travesty of human trafficking. We hope you can join us!

WESTERN DIOCESE NEWS!

Our Sobor Parish of St. Andrew will be hosting this year's Pastoral & Diocesan Conference.

Highlights:

- Pastoral Conference - October 25th
- Blessing of Diocesan Chapel icons & Altar Tables, followed by "Open House" (7 p.m.)
- Diocesan Conference - October 26th & 27th
- Hierarchical Divine Liturgy - Sunday, October 28th, followed by a luncheon & program commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the birth of Metropolitan Ilarion.

Delegates to Diocesan Conference:

We are entitled to one delegate for every 25 individual members. If you would like to attend the Western Diocese Conference as a delegate, please submit your name to either Dr. Ernest Skakun (Parish President), or Rt. Rev. Fr. Victor.



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Reminders of upcoming events:

October 14th — Bring vegetables for blessing (Thanksgiving celebration)

October 21st — Bowling (1:30 p.m.)

October 28th — Greeting of His Eminence Metropolitan John (Western Diocese Conference); please assemble at 9:00 a.m.

Yours in Christ,

Olga Alexandruk & Marusia Lakusta



A WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

A heartfelt welcome to our new parish members:

*Matt & Dorothy Majury
Garry & Nadine Brow*

YOUNG PERFORMERS' SHOWCASE OF UKRIANIAN MUSIC

February 10th, 2008

Ritchie United Church
9624 - 74 Avenue

Deadline for registration: Dec. 31, 2007. For more information contact Luba Boyko-Bell (469-4890) or the Ukr. Music Society.



Pochaiv Safe House Update



We are excited to announce that approximately \$14,500.00 has been received in donations towards the 'Safe House'. If you have not yet donated, please pick up an envelope in the Church vestibule front entrance. Many thanks to those who have already donated to this worthy cause. Donations may be made payable to "St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish" with a memo notation of 'Pochaiv Safe House Project'. For further information contact Rt. Rev. Fr. Victor Lakusta (440-4822) or Pauline Lysak (434-4826). **Your donation can make a difference!**

Connect
Your Family and the Church

ATTENDING SERVICES

QUESTION: *I've attended services at a local Orthodox church a number of times and I always feel awkward in not knowing how much I'm supposed to "do as the Romans do" — to use a very poor figure of speech.*

I suspect that I'm the only one watching my actions, but is it wrong to not cross myself, or kiss the icons, since I'm just exploring the faith now?

I know that I'm not privileged to take communion, and respect that, but what about the kissing of the cross at the end of the service? Yikes! There is so much to learn and I fell like an oaf just sitting or standing there, and even more foolish when I try to mimic the actions of the other worshipers. Help!

ANSWER: Many thanks for your inquiry. Your situation is a rather common one, but one over which there is no need to fret! The principle thing here is not doing what is "right" or "wrong", but, rather, doing what is comfortable at this point. This, of course, helps if you are attending a community in which people are focused on the Liturgy rather than on what visitors are or are not doing.

When someone first comes to the Orthodox church, many things appear foreign and strange. As time goes by, that which seemed exotic becomes commonplace, as one grows used to observing what is being done and understanding why it is being done. For each action, it might be best to ask yourself, *"Do I understand what I am doing, or am I just mimicking those around me? Now that I know why this or that is being done, does it serve as an external expression of my faith?"*

For example, one could make the sign of the Cross every time those around are doing it. In such cases, the objective is to display conformity with those surrounding you, not to express our acceptance of Christ by "sealing" yourself with the sign of His Holy Cross. When should you begin making the sign of the Cross, for example? When you feel that it is an expression of that which you accept and believe. Then it is being done, not as a sign of conformity, but as an expression of faith.

As you journey closer to Orthodoxy, I would recommend that you begin assimilating such practices into your experience as your comfort level rises. If there is something you do not understand, simply ask the priest — he will be more than happy to explain things to you. Gradually embrace that which is happening as your level of understanding and acceptance grows. And try not to let your focus on what others are doing overshadow your focus on Christ and the Liturgy. I think you will find that this is a "natural" way to grow into the Orthodox Faith as well as a guarantee that the external expressions of our faith serve the purposes for which they are intended. Never try to "rush" things.

Often people ask, *"How will I know that I am comfortable with the Orthodox Faith?"* I often reply, *"When the incense no longer makes you sneeze!"* The point is this: that which may seem exotic or unusual at one point in time will eventually become commonplace weeks, months, or even years later.

Persevere, and I guarantee you that in time you will be helping new visitors to understand the very things you are learning now!

God bless you, and may you have a most spiritually rewarding celebration of the Divine Liturgy each Sunday.

-Father John Maturak
OCA, Communications Director

**From Our Parish
President ... Con't from p.7**

... that the goals of traditional education were achieved through teaching characterized as the "banking concept". That is, the method of teaching turned students into containers or receptacles to be filled by whatever the teacher had to say. Communication was almost totally absent because teaching was seen as a transfer or a depositing of knowledge from the teacher to the students. Students received, filed, memorized, and stored that knowledge but seldom ever had to process that knowledge and use it. Freire wrote this almost 40 years ago and we have to be aware that, since 1972, many changes have taken place not only in the education profession but other professions and fields as well. For example, in education there is a focus on developing curricula and assessments that are student-centered. The practice of medicine is shifting from a physician-centered, disease-centered practice to one that is patient-centered, illness-centered and one where the patient shares in decision making regarding his or her health care. In the area of persons with developmental disabilities, the move is away from a systems-based, needs model to one that is person-centered, wants model. In communities, there is a shift from problems, needs, and services to meet the needs of consumers approach to one that focuses on the assets of citizens and one that promotes community development.

And so I come back to our Parish. I am certain that other Open Forum Discussions will be held in the near future. Do not decline the invitation to attend such forums; come and have a say in the future of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish.

God Bless!
-Ernest N. Skakun
Parish President

OCTOBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9 a.m. - Golden Age Club Mtg.	3 7 p.m. - Ukr. Lang. Classes	4 7:30 p.m. - Choir Practice	5 5 - 8 p.m. — Pyrohy Supper 6:30 p.m. - Ukr. Dance Classes	6
7 19th Sunday After Pentecost Bilingual	8 Thanksgiving Monday Holiday	9 9 a.m. - Golden Age Club Mtg. "Repose of John the Theologian" @ Selo (10 a.m.) 7 p.m. - Parish Exec. Board Mtg.	10 7 p.m. - Ukr. Lang. Classes	11 7 p.m. - Budget & Finance Mtg. with rep. 7:30 p.m. - Choir Practice	12 6:30 p.m. - Ukr. Dance Classes	13
14 "Protection of Ever-Virgin Mary" Parish Thanksgiving Celebration Bilingual	15 7 p.m. - Mtgs. of Ladies Auxiliary & Men's Club	16 9 a.m. - Golden Age Club Mtg.	17 7 p.m. - Ukr. Lang. Classes	18 7:30 p.m. - Choir Practice	19 6:30 p.m. - Ukr. Dance Classes	20
21 "Holy Fathers of 7th Ecumen. Council" Youth Sunday (Guest Speaker From Ukraine) English	22	23 9 a.m. - Golden Age Club Mtg.	24 7 p.m. - Ukr. Lang. Classes	25 7:30 p.m. - Choir Practice	26 6:30 p.m. - Ukr. Dance Classes	27
28 22nd Sunday After Pentecost 125th Anniversary of Met. Ilarion Program Bilingual	29	30 9 a.m. - Golden Age Club Mtg.	31 7 p.m. - Ukr. Lang. Classes	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Western Diocese Conference @ St. Andrew's October 25th - 27th </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Sunday Fellowship Roster: Oct. 7th — Mrs. Sedor One-Year Memorial Fellowship Oct. 14th — Parish Thanksgiving Dinner Oct. 21st — ? Oct. 28th — ? PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE CHURCH ATRIUM TO SPONSOR A FELLOWSHIP LUNCH </div>		

Confession... 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy...10:00 a.m.

Reading of Hours (Youth Sunday)... 9:30: a.m.

Following every Sunday Divine Liturgy, "Fellowship Coffee & Lunch" is served!

We welcome you and yours!





From Our Parish President

From the Parish President
on Behalf of the Board of
Management

Glory to Jesus Christ! Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ. This report consists of several announcements, a summary of the September 10 Board meeting, and something to think about.

Announcements:

1. Western Diocese Conference. The Conference is scheduled for October 25 – 28 2007 and will take place in our Parish. If you want to serve as a delegate, please inform Fr. Victor or me of your intention. All delegates have to be approved by the Board of Management. All delegates should be aware that the Parish will pay 80% of the costs associated with registration, meals, travel, and so on; the remaining 20% is the responsibility of the delegate.

2. Budget Planning for 2008. The first meeting for developing plans, along with required resources and funding for 2008 and beyond is scheduled for October 11 2007. This meeting includes the Committee Chairs, Organization Presidents, members of the Budget and Finance Committee, and members of the Board of Management.

3. Initial Donation for Membership Privileges and Donations. We are entering into our final quarter of operation for 2007. A Contributions Statement will be mailed mid-October. Please review the statement. On behalf of the Board of Management, I thank you for your generous donations to the Parish. However, if you have not made your initial donation for membership privileges or if you have not fulfilled your other donations to the Parish, please do so

within a timeframe that is suitable for you and preferably well in advance of December 31 2007.

4. Serving on Committees and on the Board. We are a large Parish and we have many activities. Several years ago, the Board developed an organization chart, which lists all the personnel, committees, and organizations and the relationship between them. For the Parish to function effectively requires that we, to the extent that we are able, serve on committees, organizations and so forth. Hence, if you are approached by a committee chair or by a member of a nominating committee and asked to be a member of a committee or to take a board or an executive position, consider that request an honor.

From the September 10 2007 Board Meeting:

1. Heard from Mrs. Pauline Lysak, an update report on the Pochaiv Safe House Project.

2. Heard from Ms. Ollie Sluzar, an update report on Fr. Victor's 40th Ordination Anniversary.

3. Heard from Mr. Eugene Luchka, that the Parish renovations are complete and that a final inspection by a consultant will be done on September 12.

4. Accepted that an "All-Ukrainian" Divine Liturgy be scheduled once per month.

5. Accepted that a Parish advertisement be placed in the Sherwood Park Weekly News once a month during the months of October, November, and December.

6. Heard from Dr. Ernest Skakun, an update on the budget preparation and

planning meetings scheduled for October, November, and December.

7. Accepted that a request be made to the Ladies Auxiliary and the Men's Club to have their respective treasurers or designates serve as members of the Budget and Finance Committee.

8. Accepted that, in the future, the Budget and Finance Committee be chaired by the Vice-President of the Board.

9. Read and filed correspondence from Mr. William Dymianiw regarding recognition of members' voluntary and monetary donations as an agenda item for the October Board Meeting. Read and filed correspondence from the Consistory regarding advertising in the Ridna Nyva; Wild Rose Foundation Annual Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards; Ms. Marian Merenda regarding a request for funding for Mission Work; CanadaPost; Veernist Dance School Monthly Newsletter; and announcement of a Parish Open Forum Discussion to be held on September 18.

10. Heard reports from Board members. Information from the reports includes the following. A beta version of the Parish's website (www.uocc-standrew.ca) will be launched on October 10 2007; Ladies Auxiliary Pre-Christmas Bazaar will be held on November 17 2007; repairs have been made to kitchen cooler and to the doors leading to the Tillie Kurysh Hall; and Fr. Victor reviewed the Ukrainian Self-Reliance League of Canada Convention, the Western

Diocese Meeting, and the Open Forum Discussion.

11. Accepted the Treasurer's Report.

12. Accepted that the bills payable be paid.

13. Tentatively, have set the date for Patron Saints Day Celebration for December 9 2007.

14. Requested that the Nominating Committee, consisting of Dr. Bert Hohol, Mr. Walter Killick, Mr. Ivan Kupchenko, and Mr. Walter Zukiwsky begin the process of filling the Board of Management slate for 2008.

15. With respect to future planning, Board members were reminded of the Sustainability Report produced by Mr. Lawrence Dary and the numerous reports produced by Mr. Eugene Luchka and the Budget and Finance Committee.

16. Mr. Michael Zukiwsky will re-confirm the dates for Camp Bar-V-Nok Family Weekend for 2008.

17. Scheduled the next Board Meeting for October 9 2007.

Something to think about:

On September 18, I attended the Open Forum Discussion that was organized by the Parish's Outreach Ministry Committee. In spite of several announcements of the event, I was disappointed with the attendance. Here was an opportunity for us to discuss and to provide suggestions and yet few of us chose to do so. And so, I began to think why was this? Have we nothing to offer? Is there nothing that requires change? Are we prepared for change? Certainly the world around us is not static; there are different ways of thinking about and of doing things. I was reminded of the work of the Brazilian educator, Paulo Freire, who in his book, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (1972), said that ...

-Continued on page 5



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Edmonton, Alberta T6A 2Y8

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Fax: 780 - 469-5256

Email: st.andrews_uocc@telusplanet.net

PASTOR:

Right Rev. Fr. Victor Lakusta
Phone: 780 - 438-1890
Email: flakusta@telusplanet.net

Office Hours:

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
Thursday: Pastoral Visitation Day
Friday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

“St. Andrew’s Outreach” is published monthly to encourage Christian growth, to share our faith in Our Lord God, Jesus Christ, to keep you informed of our parish events and activities, and to invite you to worship with us.

Next “Outreach” Issue - October 28th

Disclaimer: We do not claim that all the information published in this newsletter is accurate. All submissions are the responsibilities of their contributors.



St. Andrew’s Men’s Club Website
www.uocc-standrew.ca/mensclub/



PASTORAL REFLECTIONS!



Confessing in the Presence of a Priest

If we can make confession to God without the priest, then why do we have confession with a priest present?

In the early Church, confession was public; that is, one confessed one’s sins in the presence of the entire faith community. When this became impractical, it was the priest who “stood in” for the community, as its presiding officer and as its witness to the penitent’s repentance.

Further, while we can indeed confess directly to God, “in the presence of” the priest who, as the prayer before Confession clearly states, is God’s “witness” and who, having witnessed our confession of sins offers pastoral advice on how we can better our lives and overcome the very things we can confess. Just as one would not attempt to diagnose, much less cure, one’s own physical ailments, so too one should not attempt to diagnose, much less cure, one’s own spiritual ailments.

It is often the case that those who object to revealing their sins in the presence of a priest or to seek his advice have no qualms about revealing their sins to their neighbors, friends, psychiatrists,

and so on, usually with the intention of obtaining advice — advice that is not necessarily godly or spiritually profitable, or even just plain “good,” for that matter.

So, we confess in the presence of the priest to acknowledge that our sins, whether we wish to accept it or not, affect the entire faith community on the one hand, and that we cannot “heal ourselves” on the other. The priest is there to help us overcome those things for which we seek forgiveness, to give advice that a friend or neighbor might not be in a position to give, and to bear witness on behalf of the faith community, of which he is the spiritual father, that we have indeed repented and been forgiven by God.

SENSING GOD’S PRESENCE

What happens when we start reading prayers before our icon? We may soon find ourselves only reading the words while our thoughts go their own way. This may also have happened to us while we were standing in church listening to prayers being read or sung. There our wandering thoughts did not interfere with the course of the service, but it is a different matter when we are praying alone. Prayer is prayer only when our thoughts stay with it. What should we do?

We should go back to the point in the prayer where our thoughts went astray. When they scatter again after a moment, we must go back, time and time again. Also we should slow down our reading and try to pay attention to every word.

However, we may have another kind of experience. We may feel our hearts being warmed by the words of the prayer. Then the thoughts stay with it more easily. Perhaps we have experienced this in church, with the result that we did not find the service too long.

As a result of the Fall, the Fathers explain, our human nature, our thoughts and feelings as well as our bodies, are easily scattered. But in prayer, through God’s grace, our nature becomes whole again. The Apostle refers to this when he says: “The Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.” (Rom. 8:26)

The only suitable feeling accompanying prayer is that of contrition and our unworthiness. “The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise,” says Psalm 51. It is in the spirit of this psalm that we should prepare ourselves for prayer — and begin to sense God’s presence in our hearts. ■