

November, 2007



Guest Speaker: Fr. Bohdan Bilas

GUEST SPEAKER FROM LVIV, UKRAINE

On Sunday, October 21st, Father Bohdan Bilas was our Guest Speaker during the fellowship hour. He has a Masters degree in Theology and is the Chairman of the Benevolent Social Services, the secretary of the Lviv Eparchy, Manager of the Deacon's Center and serves in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the village of Stoyaniv.




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.

With gratitude, Fr. Bilas thanked God for the interest of the people present. As a representative of the Ukrainian Orthodox church, he expressed many good impressions from his one week in Canada. This week included a visit to St. Herman's Orthodox Sobor, St. Barbara Russian Orthodox Cathedral, St. Andrew's Ukrainian

Orthodox Sobor, the Youth Emergency Shelter and other facilities. He was very interested in the manner in which Canada deals with social problems like those he sees in Ukraine (since his main focus is on issues with the youth of Ukraine). Currently in Ukraine there has been a fund established called "Faith, Hope, and Love." This fund is an interchurch coalition of the Orthodox, Ukrainian Catholic, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reform, and Armenian churches that was formed in 2005. This is the first interchurch foundation that established resources and seminars to educate the clergy. Some of the first seminars were given in December 2005. Presently, over 200 priests have taken part and over 400 different seminars have been given to train local clergy. This joint fund supported different social projects that are directed by the church. These projects include homes for the aged and children. The focus of the projects for the youth centre on two main themes: AIDS which is prevalent in the Eastern part of Ukraine and human trafficking which is prevalent in the Western region.

Presently, there are over 2.5 million Ukrainians who work abroad. In the last 10 years alone, over half million females have left the Ukraine seeking jobs. Where are these females? Sadly, every 5th

female falls into slavery. In reaction to this statistics, the clergy among the major churches have received training in the questioning of individuals and couples who seek employment abroad. It is a pity that a couple of years ago, when people left Ukraine for work, the priest bestowed a blessing upon them for safe travel and a good job. Many of them have not returned. Now the clergy educate the parishioners on the perils of international travel and employment. They have to ask questions about who the employer is, how much information is there about the hiring organization, if the parishioner understands the labour laws and speaks the language of the country where they are going, is the employment legitimate or not, if the parishioner knows the phone number of the Ukrainian consulate in that country? In other cases parents of younger children leave to work abroad and leave the grandparents in charge of the children. Often the children are left unsupervised by the grandparents and do not stay at home but go out into the street. It is on the street that they learn about drugs, sex, and slavery. When the parents return with sufficient money to support their children's education and other needs, they often have to use the money to find and rehabilitate their children. It is in these cases ...

(over to page 2) 



Pre-Christmas Bazaar: Tea & Bake Sale



Saturday, November 17, 2007

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

St. Andrew's Cultural Complex

9831 - 75 Street

**Home Baking
Pampushky
Perishky
Pies**



Crafts

**Frozen Foods:
Pyrohy Rolls
Cabbage Rolls
Crepes/Nalyanyky**



**Sponsored by:
St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish
Ladies' Auxiliary**

The Divine Liturgy

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is consecrated and distributed to prepare Orthodox Christians during the Divine Liturgy. The word "*liturgy*" means the "*work of the people.*" The people are the entire local congregation of Orthodox Christians led by their ordained priest or bishop.

The Divine Liturgy usually occurs in the morning after matins and prayers for the first hour are ended. However, it can take place at any time of the day. The Divine liturgy is not a part of the seven daily hours of prayer. The Divine Liturgy is the celebration of the beginning of the Lord's union with His people, looking forward to the future age – eternity.

On the days Orthodox Christians receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, no food or beverage (*including water*) is consumed until after the Communion is received.

Holy Communion must be received with a clean heart. Holy Confession offers the opportunity to repent of any sins. A priest or bishop hears confessions and offers spiritual counsel, including various forms of penance when appropriate, and offers absolution (*forgiveness through the mercy of God*). ◆

Father Bilas ... *Cont'd from p. 1*

... Fr. Bilas claims that the church has a duty to raise such children. The priest involves the children into church life either by allowing the young boys to serve at the altar. The priest acts as a mentor when discipline is needed by the grandparent. The youth is told by the priest that they cannot serve in the altar if they continue to disobey their grandparents. It is the goal of the church to show all children how to be better Christians.

Currently, Ukraine is lacking social

programmes to support its people. During the Soviet times, all social welfare programmes were free including education. With the new government system where only the wealthy can afford postsecondary education and hence a future for their children, most parents need to strive to earn the means to send their child to these types of institutes. As previously mentioned, parents do not always return and most often the children are orphaned.

The importance of the Safe House project is for education of the youth

both in the cities and more importantly in the villages. It is in rural areas that parents lack higher education and big city know-how. These people are often unaware of the dangers of job recruiters and they discover the problem too late. The opportunities of technical education available at the Safe House would enable children to have a respectable profession that lead to the development of essential life skills. It is only through responses from Canada and organizations like Nashi and St. Andrew's projects such as this can be established.