

St. Andrew's Outreach Newsletter

JULY/
AUGUST
2009

SUMMER ISSUE

VOLUME 8
ISSUE 7



ST. ANDREW'S
UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX
SOBOR PARISH



Websites:

*Ukrainian
Orthodox
Church of
Canada:*

www.uocc.ca

Western Eparchy

www.uocc.we.ca/

St. Andrew's Parish

www.uocc-standrew.ca/

(You can read our
monthly
"Outreach"
newsletter on the
Parish website)



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What is the implication, the meaning, the reality of baptism, chrismation, membership in the Church? The definition of church membership is not something that we can read in the statutes. It is simply "to serve." All are called to minister. The people of God are called to minister, not to be ministered to, but to minister. All are called to serve. It is not a question of the clergy serving the people but rather a call to service for all the people, including the clergy, who make up the Church. In the beginning of the Scriptures, in Exodus, God is choosing His people, **laos theou**. His people are called out from other peoples. He assigns the priestly functions to Aaron and the priesthood to the male members of Aaron's family. But again, He chooses the priests out of the people, out of the serving people, out of His people whom He has called to do His work, His will, to fulfill His plan. Why does our Church seem so slow to grow? It is precisely because we never seem to get beyond ministering to our own

To Serve

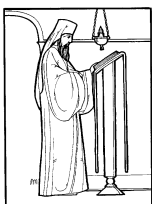
people. Instead of ministering to them, we should be ministering with them, to make the Church grow, to extend its mission and work in this country and everywhere.

Images of the Sacred in the Secular World

I love the Pauline images of the Epistles when he talks about the people of God. He speaks so often in images of military service. He talks about marathons, running races, and, in several passages, images of the Olympics. And, in today's terms, I think precisely in terms of football, baseball, marathons. Paul sees in the secular world images of the sacred. He doesn't separate the sacred from the secular. He sees these images and he struggles, grapples, with them. The Epistles are so realistic for this very reason. When St. Paul speaks about the people of God, the ministry of the people of God, he means everybody who considers himself a member of the Church. In his military terms, he says that if, in the church militant, it is only the clergy who fulfill the function of the ministry of the Church,

then it is like fighting a battle with only the generals. Can you imagine how foolish that would be? Of course, it might be a good way to stop all wars! But in the real world, such a situation would be unthinkable.

And when it comes to the ministry of the Church, this is precisely where the action is - on the front-lines, in your homes and neighborhoods, at your jobs, in our country. These are the front lines. We cannot do the work of the Church without the troops, the fighters, without those who are trained for service, trained to be of service, trained to be loyal, trained to understand the principles and do something about them, to give their lives and their hearts. This is precisely what St. Paul is talking about and this is the approach to the ministries of the Church that we must take. St. Paul uses another image - that of running the race. What would happen at a marathon if only the coaches ran the race while everyone else stayed home and watched the television? This is exactly ... -Cont'd on p.



**LITURGICAL
SCRIPTURE
READINGS**

Summer 2009

Sunday, July 5th

4th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Rom. 6:18-23;

Gospel: Matt. 8:5-13.

Sunday, July 12th

5th Sunday After Pentecost

The Holy, Glorious and All-

Praised Leaders of the Apostles,

Peter and Paul

Epistle: Rom. 10:1-10;

Gospel: Matt. 8:28-9:1.

Sunday, July 19th

6th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Rom. 12:6-14;

Gospel: Matt. 9:1-8.

Sunday, July 26th

7th Sunday After Pentecost

"Holy Fathers of First Six

Ecumenical Councils"

Epistle: Rom. 15:1-7;

Hebr. 13:7-16;

Gospel: Matt. 9:27-35;

John 17:1-13.

Sunday, August 2nd

8th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Cor. 1:10-18;

Gospel: Matt. 14:14-22.

Sunday, August, 9th

9th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Cor. 3:9-17;

Gospel: Matt. 14:22-34.

Sunday, August 16th

10th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Cor. 4:9-16;

Gospel: Matt. 17:14-23.

Sunday, August 23rd

11th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Cor. 9:2-12;

Gospel: Matt. 18:23-35.

Sunday, August 30th

12th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Cor. 15:1-11;

Gospel: Matt. 19:16-26.



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
AT ST. ANDREW'S**

Sunday, July 5

Bilingual

Sunday, July 12th

Bilingual

Sunday, July 19th

Bilingual

Sunday, July 26th

English



Sunday, August 2nd

Bilingual

Sunday, August 9th

Bilingual

Sunday, August 16th

Bilingual

Sunday, August 16th

Bilingual

Sunday, August 30th

English

Confession @ 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy commences

@ 10 a.m.



**Summer Worship
Hours at
St. Andrew's Parish**

July & August
Sunday Worship
Services



commence at
9:30 a.m.

**Dormition Fast:
August 14th - 28th**

Liturgical



**WORSHIP SERVICES AT
ST. ANDREW'S SELO**

Tuesday, July 7th

Feast of St. John the Baptist

Friday, August 28th

Feast of Dormition of Mother of God,
Virgin Mary

10 am - Divine Liturgy

Fellowship Coffee & Lunch

to follow every Divine Liturgy



To Serve ... Continued from p. 1

... what we have allowed to happen in the Orthodox Church. The coaches run the race. Everyone else attends. We attend services, we attend classes. We attend. We advise the priest, at best, at parish council meetings, when in fact, we should be expected to run the race with the coaches. The coaches can run alongside us, with us, but not for us. Priests can help with the training, they can facilitate, but it is ultimately up to each member to run the race.

The Offensive Line

It's the front line that moves the ball, you see, and that quarterback, that priest, that bishop, isn't going to be able to do anything without the front line. He's going to get sacked every time unless he has the front line working with him, for him, understanding the game and doing something about it. This was a revelation for me. All the time I sat there with the other laymen, listening to Howard Cosell talking, and waiting for something spectacular to happen in the backfield. Then, your son plays football, and this insight comes as you watch him play. You begin to see all kinds of fantastic things open up. You begin to see what happens when the line holds, when the line gives, what happens when someone goofs, what happens when there isn't that team spirit and they don't work together. Then you begin to see the injuries. You see what happens to the receivers and to that quarterback when there's no line. The ball doesn't move. This is what St. Paul is talking about when he speaks about all of us being committed to moving the Church forward. ...

-Continued on p. 4

In Memoriam!



[Should you have names of loved ones you would like included in this section, please contact the Church Office (780-469-1463)]

St. Andrew's Sobor Family extends their sincerest condolences to:

- ⇒ Sophie Rygus and Family on the repose of her brother-in-law, Mike Rygus (of Ottawa);
- ⇒ Carol Stanicky and Family on the repose of her mother, Clara Forster (of Camrose);
- ⇒ Mr. Joe Bandura, long time member of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish, passed away on June 24th, 2009. Our condolences go out to his friends and family.;
- ⇒ Gordon & Liz Haug and Family on the repose of Liz's aunt, Kathleen Gordon (of Turtleford, Saskatchewan).

ETERNAL BE THEIR MEMORY!

**WE PRAY THAT THE LORD GOD WILL ESTABLISH THEIR SOUL
WHERE THE RIGHTEOUS REPOSE**

REMEMBERING THE LIVING & DEPARTED

During every liturgy the priest says prayers for the living and the departed. At the entrance to the church, please fill in special "Remembrance Cards" and submit them to the celebrant priest so that prayers may be offered.

With Heartfelt Thanks

We would like to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of our friends at St. Andrew's for their outpouring of condolences, prayers, cards, and donations made to the church after the passing of our wife, mother, and Baba, **Anne Harasymuk**. We feel so grateful to be members of this wonderful Parish and we are so touched by your kindness. May God bless you and keep you all.

- *John Harasymuk, Mark & Sheri Harasymuk and Family, Patrece & Greg Maluzynsky*

Parish Bulletin Board

GREETERS' ROSTER

There are no official greeters designated for the summer months. Should you wish to be included for the fall, please contact Pauline Lysak (780-434-4826).

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.

FLORAL FUND

There were some individuals who were erroneously left off the Easter Floral Donation list. Our sincere apologies go out to Phyllis Fedorak (for her contribution in memory of her husband, Cornell).



Did you Know?

Interesting facts from the files we have in St. Andrew's Archives:

- The initial membership to St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish in 1959 was \$1.00 per member.
- The cost of building the Cultural Building in 1965 and the Church in 1972 was approximately \$312,608.69 combined.
- Completing the Atrium/office addition in 1990's cost \$425,456.85.
- Insurance costs for the year 2009 including replacement cost of building, contents and liability insurance on our St. Andrew's Church complex will approach \$9,000. ■



Pochaiv / Klenovi Lyst Project Sunday, October 18th, 2009



*A Fundraising Event at
St. Andrew's Cultural Center Complex
9831 - 75 Street, Edmonton*

1:00 p.m. Luncheon & Silent Auction

GUEST SPEAKER: Victor Malarek

CTV W5 Journalist & author of
"The Natashas"
and his latest book "The Johns"

MC: Graham Neil, Award-winning CTV Reporter

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS
EVENT WILL
GO TOWARD
THE POCHAIV / KLENOVI
LYST "MAPLE LEAF"
PROJECT IN UKRAINE



TICKETS:

\$25.00 per person IN ADVANCE ONLY!
(Seating is limited!)

For more information or tickets, contact:

Pauline Lysak — 780-434-4826 or aplysak@telusplanet.net

**Thank you for helping to make a difference toward
diverting the children of Ukraine from human
trafficking through education, awareness and a
"Safe House" Center**

To Serve ... Continued from p. 2

The bottom line is that we don't want another generation of Howard Cosells to talk football. I'm so tired of hearing explanations about this or that - or giving explanations. Let's train people to help instead of talking the game, talking about missions or church schools. Let's learn the skills so that we can teach others in order to make the Church grow, so that it might be the extension of power, grace, love and fullness that it is called to be in this country.

What I have in mind is power, people-power - not programs, not even materials - but rather people-power, power of the laos, the lay people. This is where our strength is. "Lay ministries" is getting back to the basics of equipping all believers, all the faithful, to use their gifts and talents for the work of the Church; that is, not to attend services, but to be of service, to be the servers, the ministers.

Orthodox worship itself is called "service" by no accident. The worship of the church is an enterprise of all the Christian people who are known by one word - "servant."

Servant

In the sacraments, all Christians are addressed by one word - "servant" and this implies that no one may contract out of rendering service to Christ and His Church. And, how are we known in the Church? Is there a single sacrament in which we are referred to in the abstract? Each and every time, the commitment is personal - Mary, John, Andrew - every name. We are known personally. But are we simply called by name? Always, we are identified as the *servant* of God, Mary, the *servant* of God, Andrew, the *servant* of God, Ann, the *servant* of God. Are these just vain words, or some sort of wonderful, mystical connection to the glorious Byzantine past? No, indeed! There's not a single word in the services that we shouldn't take seriously. And, if the priest or bishop refers ... ***-Cont'd on p. 6***

With Thanks!

Thank you to
Gordon & Liz
Haug, Ollie
L u c h k a ,
J o h a n n a
Dzenick, Ollie

Sluzar, Phyllis Skaken, Vivian Skakun (special beans). Margaret Wozmirsky, Marshal Boratyneć, Bartko Family, Bob Lazaruk and whoever else helped for their assistance in preparing the food and the clean-up after the Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Club Annual BBQ. A special thanks to Dr. Harry Hohol, Dr. Harry Mosychuk, George Tkachyk and Orest Mulka for the wonderful steaks. A special thank you goes out to Fedor Gotsaliouk for all his extra help!

Social Chair
Wally Yadlowski

**NEXT PYROHY SUPPER!**

There will be no Pyrohy Suppers held in the summer months.

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 **June** sponsors: Church School & Fellowship Committee (June 7th, Pentecost); Natalie Karbasheski, Margaret Wozmirsky, Nadine Brow & Sophie Rygus (June 14th); the Fellowship Committee (June 21st & June 28th). At the same time **we invite other parish members** to also sponsor an occasional Fellowship.

Parish Bulletin Board**DVD SET AVAILABLE**

A 3-disc copy of the *Hierarchical Divine Liturgy & Enthronement of His Grace Ilarion* as Bishop of Edmonton (from October 26th, 2008), as well as the banquet program, is available for purchase through the Church Office for a cost of \$30 for the 3-DVD set.

Congratulations

Congratulations to St. Andrew's member, former Altar Boy and Sub-Deacon **Anton Lakusta** on being ordained into the Holy Diaconate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. **E x t e n d e d** congratulations go out to Andrea, Jacob, and Nicholas, as well as Fr. Victor and Dobr. Marusia.

Golf Tournament

St. Andrew's Men's Club will be holding their 11th Annual **Mixed Golf Tournament & BBQ on Friday, August 21st, 2009** at Sherwood Park Golf Club (52321 Range Road 233).

9-Hole Texas Scramble
Golf — 2 pm
BBQ — 6 pm

COST:

9-Holes & BBQ \$45.00
Golf only \$20.00
(Golf carts are extra)
BBQ only \$25.00

Number of golfers is limited to 52 (BBQ is unlimited)! Entry forms will be available at the Church Office or **contact Tom Haugen** (1-780-797-2696).

Space is limited so contact Tom Haugen or Stephanie McNee at 780-469-1463 (office) or 780-469-5293 (home) ASAP if you are interested.

With Thanks

A special thank you is extended to **George Gushaty** for providing the greenery placed at the entrance of the Church on the **Sunday of Pentecost**. George has provided this service for many years. George, your dedication is appreciated!

Ladies Auxiliary

No General Meeting in the months of July & August.

The Ladies Auxiliary **Executive Meeting** will be held on August 20th @ 7 p.m.

The **AGM** will be held on Mon., Sept. 21st @ 5:30 p.m. Have a safe summer!!!

**CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS**

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Now that summer vacation has begun and most activities have come to an end, do continue to come and worship with us. Continue with your daily prayers for a safe and enjoyable holiday.

As a part of the Sustainability Initiative, it was suggested that the Senior Church School students and young adults participate in the Divine Liturgy by reading the Epistle. In consultation with our Parish Priest, protocol and training of the Readers will be addressed. We hope to have the Epistle read in both English and Ukrainian during the bilingual services. Also, we want to re-introduce having the senior students read The Hours on Youth Sunday.

Registration for the 2009-2010 Church School Year will be on August 30th and September 6th with classes starting on September 13th. We welcome children from the age of three years to grade 12 to participate in the Church School Program. More information will be forthcoming in August. A calendar for Church School and associated events will be available at registration. For more information, please contact Olga at 780-998-2356.

Since it is Grandparents' Day on September 13th, please invite your Grandparents, and likewise, Grandparents invite your grandchildren, to come and worship with us.

Mark your calendar: Aug. 30th & Sept. 6th - Church School Registration

Sept. 13th - Classes start / Grandparents' Day

Sept. 27th - Youth Sunday

May God's Blessing be with you.

Olga Alexandruk (780-998-2356)

VEERNEEST REMINDER:

Mark your calendars:

Fall Open House — **September 11th, 2009 (6:30 - 8 pm).**

**CHAIKA ORCHESTRA WORKSHOPS**

The Vegreville Pysanka Festival will be sponsoring music workshops July 3, 4, and 5 during the festival. All players must be able to read music. There is no fee for the workshops but you must register by June 20th.

For more information go to:

www.vegpysankafestival.ca OR Phone: 780-632-2777

O R e m a i l :
vegrevillefestival@telusplanet.net

FREE BOOK

*A History of CYMK in
Albert and BC
(1931-1988)*

The book "CYMK PATHWAYS" is available for free by contacting the Western Eparchy Office at 780-455-1938 or admin@uocc-we.ca

56th Ukrainian Self-Reliance League Convention

Regina — August 6 - 9

For more information call Sandra (780-466-0810)

Ordination to the Order of Deacon

Subdeacon Anton Lakusta will be ordained to Order of Deacon on **Sunday, July 26th at St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral.** Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Coffee and Lunch Reception to follow.

Important Notice:

Absolute Deadline for 50 Year History Autobiographies of St. Andrew's Ladies Auxiliary Members

Autobiographies **MUST be submitted** by the next annual meeting on **September 21, 2009.**

If your history is not submitted, it will not be included in the history book. Please leave a legacy for your children and grandchildren.

The Committee Members are Mary Dymianiw, Patrece Maluzynsky, and Elsie Boychuk.

**Saturday, July 25th**

Pancake Breakfast



9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

at St. Andrew's Cultural Center

This event commemorates the 50th Anniversary Year of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish. The members of our parish first celebrated worship services in the Forest Heights Community Hall prior to the Cultural Centre being erected on 75th Street and 98th Avenue in the Terrace Heights Community. We are proud to have been a part of these two communities. Donations for the breakfast will be accepted for both these community leagues.

Parish President's Report

Slava Isusu Khrystu! Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I am pleased to report on the following activities of the **Board from their meeting of June 8, 2009.**

1. St. Andrew's Board is still searching for a member to act as our computer system administrator to help us manage our new computer system. Please help us and volunteer for this position. This position could be filled by an adult, university student, or a senior high school student with an aptitude for computers. All interested persons are to call me at 780.469.1729 or George Tkachyk at 780.634.5803. The membership is reminded that part of the new system includes a laptop and a projector that is available for committee use in the church. To date, only the Adult Ukrainian Language classes are requesting the use of this equipment. ...
2. A report was received from Fr. Bilas of the recent construction activities on the Pochaiv Safe House Project in Stoyaniv, Ukraine.
3. The new security system is complete and operational.
4. The Sustainability Committee held its first meeting on May 14, consisting generally of open discussion. A subsequent meeting was held June 24, and a number of recommendations are forthcoming to the Board for consideration.
5. The Board/Committee Chairs meeting scheduled for May 20 did not occur and was subsequently held on June 17.
6. A Church Improvement Committee will be struck to prioritize improvement items for the church proper. All interested in participating in this committee is to contact George Tkachyk
7. A letter was sent to and discussions continue with Bishop Ilarion on the matter of a replacement priest for St. Andrew's. ...
8. A thank-you card will be written to the Ladies' Auxiliary for their donations made to the Board in memory of Annie Lakusta and Anne Harasymuk.
9. Michael Alexandruk and Dr. Ernie Skakun (as alternate) will continue to represent St. Andrew's at the Council of Ukrainian Orthodox Churches of Edmonton for the next year.
10. The Treasurer's report was heard and accepted. Accepted that the bills payable be paid. May expenditures experienced by the Parish are reported to be \$18,559 (YTD expenditures are \$96,457) and May income received is \$26,092 (YTD income is \$126,321). Therefore, the net period income is \$7533 (YTD net period income is \$29,864).
11. A report was heard from the Membership Chair. The Membership Chair is still searching for a female member to join the Membership Committee. Those interested should contact Ivan Kupchenko, Fr. Jaroslaw, or Michael Zukiwsky. **-Cont'd on p. 7**

To Serve ... (Continued from p. 4) ... to us as "the *servant* of God," we'd better believe it! That's what we're called to be, what we're called to do - to be the servant of God, to be the servant of the parish, to be the servant of the diocese - the servant of God and specifically, by name. This is what ministries is all about.

Every sacrament implies a beginning in baptism and chrismation, those acts by which we enter into service and join in Christ's own life, He who came to serve and not to be served. Every new member of the Church comes to be baptized into this life of service. And chrismation is precisely to be enabled by the Holy Spirit Himself to use our hands, eyes, ears, mouth, nose, and feet to serve the church, to extend the ministry of Christ into the world. In each of these sacraments, we are called "the servant of God."

In penance, we are restored and reconciled to usefulness in the Church. How? We are reconciled again to the baptismal grace. We come and say, "We are worthless. Our sins have isolated us from our holy and high calling," and penance restores us to service. How are we forgiven? As "the *servant* of God."

In communion itself, *koinonia*, the fellowship and nourishment in which we ourselves partake of the Divine Light in the Precious Body and Blood of Our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, we are addressed as "the *servant* of God." Is this simply for our own spiritual service? Do we think that just because it is spiritual; it cannot be selfish? I have seen too much spiritual selfishness in my lifetime. We receive Christ here in the Holy Gifts precisely so that we can say to our neighbor, even to our enemy, "Jesus in me loves you." I have no business holding grudges because I have partaken of forgiveness itself, of divinity itself. Now I must serve. I must serve love. I must serve the divine so that what Jesus is by nature I might be by grace.

Marriage itself is meant to serve as a ministry of Christian witness. This is the reason for the martyrs' crowns. Our home must be part of this ministry, this witness in the neighborhood, in the community. This is where it begins and where it grows - in the home, in the family, among relatives and friends, in our places of our work and lives, we are married to each other as "the servants of God." How quickly romance will fail unless Christ Himself is involved, unless our love is service whose purpose is being the means by which we are given to each other, to love each other, and to fulfill that love by which we have been bound to Christ.

... **-Continued in the September "Outreach" newsletter**

President's Report Continued from p. 6

12. A report was heard from the Hospodar outlining recent repairs required to our facility. Our annual insurance premium is payable and of the two quotes received, the preferred quote will be pursued.
13. A verbal report was heard from the Ladies' Auxiliary and the Men's Club.
14. Fr. Jaroslaw provided a verbal report.
15. The matter of salary paid to priests was discussed. A letter to the Human Resources Committee will be forwarded. The salary of Fr. Jaroslaw was approved.
16. The OSVITA summer program of St. John's Institute will have their Zabava at St. Andrew's.
17. Congregational singing will be commenced during the summer months.
18. The **next Board meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2009.**

On behalf of the Board, I wish everyone a joyous and relaxing summer break – from school and work. I hope to see you in church throughout the summer, I don't think our prayers to God for all that He gives us should suffer! Summer also means that some of us are going to be traveling for holidays. I hope that all of your travels are safe!

Slava Naviky! Glory Be Forever!

Michael Zukivsky
Parish President

**A Welcome
Announcement**



Slava Isusu Khrystu!

Dear Parish Members,

Please join me in **welcoming Fr. Dr. Jaroslaw Buciora**, Dobr. Natalia, Lesia, and Anton to St. Andrew's!

In a letter dated June 1, 2009, His Grace, Bishop Ilarion informed St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish that Fr. Jaroslaw is assigned as our Parish Priest for the two months commencing June 1, 2009 and continuing to July 31, 2009. Fr. Jaroslaw will be responsible for all pastoral care at St. Andrew's; please contact him at the Parish office 780.440.4822 for any such assistance you require.

Fr. Jaroslaw is on sabbatical leave until July 31, 2009 from St. Mary the Protectress Sobor in Winnipeg. Fr. Jaroslaw is a graduate of St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg and he has earned Masters Degree from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston. He also holds a PhD from the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw, Poland.

Please welcome the Buciora family to take a seat at your table during the fellowship luncheon at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy or at any other occasion that arises – what an excellent opportunity to get to know them!

Yours truly,
Michael Zukivsky -
President

Important Dates

Tues., July 7 - Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist John

Sun., July 12 - Holy, Glorious Leaders of the Apostles, Peter and Paul

Mon., July 13 - Parish Board Meeting

Sat., July 25 - St. Andrew's Pancake Breakfast (9:30-11:30 am)

Sun., July 26 - Ordination of Subdeacon Anton Lakusta into the Holy Diaconate (St. John's Cathedral; 9:30 am)

Fri., Aug. 14 - Dormition Fast begins (until Aug. 28)

Wed., Aug. 19 - Holy Transfiguration of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Thur., Aug. 20 - Ladies Aux. Exec. Meeting (7 pm)

Fri., Aug. 28 - Dormition of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary

Sun., Aug. 30/Sept. 6 - Church School Registration

Fri., Sept. 11 - Veerneest Registration Night

Sun., Sept. 13 - Church School Classes begin / Grandparents' Day

Fri., Sept. 18 - Veerneest Dance Classes begin

The Volunteer

... *Cont'd from the last page (p. 8)*

Children allowed to serve as Christian stewards will grow up considering volunteer work routine. Boys and girls can distribute bulletins, collect offerings, read the Epistle or Hours, hold the Communion cloth, assist in greeting visitors, help at fellowship gatherings, visit shut-ins, distribute and collect food for the needy - to name a few. It isn't necessary to make youngsters wait until they are older. Children are members of the Church too!

Last, but not least, volunteers should be thanked. The words 'thank you' should be used more often. Other forms of honest and sincere verbal encouragement should be used to foster volunteer enthusiasm. For example, why not tell volunteers of the positive efforts their selfless service has on others?



Mon., Sept. 21 - Ladies Auxiliary Annual Meeting and Dinner

Sun., Sept. 27 - Church School Youth Sunday

Wed., Sept. 30 - Closing date for Veerneest registration

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Edmonton, Alberta T6A 2Y8

Phone: 780 - 440-4822 or 469-1463

Fax: 780 - 469-5256

Email: st.andrews_uocc@telusplanet.net

Father Victor may be contacted by:

Email: vlakusta@telus.net or

chancellor@uocc.ca

Telephone: 780-974-8636 or

1-204-586-3093 Ext. 227

"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 - August 30th

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



THE VOLUNTEER

An Endangered Species?

Volunteers are the main arteries of the ongoing life of a parish. Their monetary value cannot be measured. Their contributions to education, music, administration, outreach, fellowship, and various other ministries are vital to the teamwork between clergy and laity that builds up the Body of Christ. Their willingness to become stewards by lovingly offering their time, talents, and treasures is a living witness to the Gospel message. Any reduction in volunteer activity could pose a threat to the life of a parish. We are challenged to keep the spirit of voluntary stewardship alive and to nurture its growth. The following suggestions might be considered to foster such growth.

The clergy are responsible for laying the groundwork. They teach their flock to see how God has given gifts to His People for the

building up of the Body of Christ. The priest must generate enthusiasm from the pulpit. He should make the possibilities for service known, whether these be teaching in the Church School, visiting the sick, organizing or participating in a food pantry for the needy, etc. - all according to the needs of the parish or community.

Specific requests should be made known, either through verbal announcements or bulletins. People won't volunteer if they are not informed. People should be asked to help with a specific task. Personal contact by the priest or laity is the most direct method. It is important to be absolutely honest with the prospective volunteer about what the task involves. An outlet should be offered in case the volunteer wants to terminate the job. No one should feel trapped if his

or her expectations are not met. A volunteer's talents, interests, and abilities should be taken into consideration. Consider the example of Saint Stephen. He was appointed to oversee distribution of goods for the needy so that the apostles could preach the Gospel. It is wise to use the same reasoning with parochial volunteers. Obviously a person gifted in teaching Church School shouldn't be asked to mow the lawn each week. Sometimes it's better to hire and pay workers for 'household' chores so that parishioners can use their time and talents for outreach or ministry. Bear in mind that it isn't right to throw, overwhelming, 'slave labor' jobs at volunteers; burnout may occur.

Some of the best 'P.R.' people are volunteers who have already performed in a special capacity. They can be dispatched to ask

others for help. It's important that they approach new parishioners and involve them so that they, too, can participate in the life of the parish. Seasoned volunteers can befriend and train others. This lends itself to forming new friendships and making newcomers feel welcome. Some people are afraid to volunteer for fear of negative criticism. Everyone in a parish, both clergy and laity, must remember that volunteers are not paid. Therefore it is wrong to harass a volunteer through negative comments. If a task is not being performed adequately, the volunteer's job should be diplomatically and lovingly changed into one more suited to his or her talents. ...

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