

To: The Reverend Clergy and the Pious Faithful  
of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

Beloved in Christ,

As you know, 2007 marks the 35th anniversary of the repose and 125th anniversary of the birth of Metropolitan Ilarion (Ohienko). These anniversaries have great meaning for all Orthodox Ukrainians throughout the world, but especially for us as Ukrainian Orthodox in Canada.

Several of our parishes, most notable St. Mary Protectress Sobor in Winnipeg and St. Vladimir Sobor in Hamilton, have already organized events in honour of our beloved Metropolitan Ilarion on a community level. In order to properly mark these anniversaries as a Church an organizing committee has been struck and plans are under way to worthily honour both the academic/theological and pastoral legacy of Metropolitan Ilarion. A learned symposium, featuring speakers from Canada, Ukraine, and Poland is scheduled for the first weekend in November at St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg. Concurrent with the symposium, plans are also underway to have the wonderworking icon of the Mother of God of Kholm (Metropolitan Ilarion's first episcopal see) visit Canada. The icon will visit as many parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada as is possible. A commemorative booklet including the akathist to the Mother of God of Kholm (translated by Metropolitan Ilarion) in bi-lingual format will be prepared, and the akathist sung in every church the icon visits.

In order to realize this project we require your help. First of all, we ask your prayers for the success of this project. Secondly, we ask your participation. Please plan to attend the symposium as well as host the icon of Kholmska Bozha Maty in your parish. Thirdly we need your financial support. If you, your parish, or your organization is able to help fund this project please send a cheque to the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, with the memo "Metropolitan Ilarion Celebration". Tax receipts will be issued.

Further details will be given in upcoming issues of the Visnyk. We thank you for your attention and support.

On behalf of the Consistory,

Fr. Bohdan Hladio, Chair  
Presidium of the Consistory  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada