

23rd Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
Winnipeg, Manitoba, July 12-19, 2015
Communiqué 3

On Thursday, July 16, the Clergy and Faithful gathered to celebrate the Divine Liturgy at Clergy and Faithful gathered in the Chapel in the La Verendrye Room to celebrate the Divine Liturgy which was celebrated by the Clergy of the Eastern Eparchy.

Session III of the Sobor dealt with Parish Development, Youth Engagement and Spiritual Renewal. Presenting reports on work with our youth were: from the Western Eparchy: Stephania Luciuk and Dobrodiyka Kathy Yamniuk; from the Central Eparchy: Dobrodiyka Halia Teterenko and Lenore Fenton; from the Eastern Eparchy: Fr. Bohdan Hladio and Nataalka Olynyk Kowalenko. This was followed by an excellent address on parish spiritual renewal by Fr. Maxym Lysack who spoke from Ottawa via an internet uplink. Fr. Maxym reminded us that the Church is a family in Christ, whose life is centered on the Holy Mysteries of Baptism, which is immersion into Christ's death, whereby we take a firm stand against the evil passions and ways of this transitory fallen world, and emersion in Christ to manifest a life of joy, love and the good works of His Kingdom.

This was followed by some uplifting reports from renewed and new Parishes of our Church under the inspiring title: "Building Healthy, Hopeful 21st Century Parishes in a Framework of Renewal". The Parish in Bradford, Ontario, was turned around from dissolution by the generosity of St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Toronto, who released their second Priest, Fr. Petro Anhel, to celebrate regular Liturgies there. That led to a renewal of Parish life, under the spiritual leadership of Fr. Petro, who has become their Pastor. The St. Nicholas Parish in Red Deer, Alberta, from which we heard at the last Sobor, continues to flourish, as does the renewed Holy Trinity Parish in Lethbridge, Alberta, as we heard from their delegate to the Sobor, Subdeacon Kyle Lickiss.

Session IV consisted of the report from the Nominations Committee. After the presentation of the candidates proposed by the committee there were nominations from the floor. We have two candidates for the post of Chancellor and must also select 8 other Clergy and 9 laity for the Consistory of the Church. The Internal Auditors, the Ecclesiastical Court and the Board of Directors of St. Andrew's College were elected, from candidates proposed by the Nominations Committee and from the floor, by acclamation. There were additional comments to the printed report from St. Andrew's College given to the Sobor from Dr. Denis Hlynka, Fr. Roman Bozyk and Paul Amiot. Six Theology students from the College (including the three from Ukraine who are sponsored) are in attendance at the Sobor. The candidates for the post of Chancellor, Frs. Victor Lakusta and Taras Udod, addressed the Sobor. Later in the evening they answered questions from the floor.

Following Vespers in the La Verendrye Room, the Chapel for the Sobor, and supper, at which we heard a heart-warming message from Metropolitan Sotirios, there was a session dedicated to the presentation of resolutions and amendments to the Bylaws. There will be breakout groups to deal with these and we shall be voting on them on Saturday. Fr. Ihor Kutash from St. Mary the Protectress Parish of Montreal again read the Midnight Office in the Chapel.

Respectfully submitted by the Press Committee

-Rt. Rev. Mitred Archbishop Dr. Ihor Kutash

Marusia Kaweski