

**THE EXTRAORDINARY SOBOR OF THE
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA**
HOLY TRINITY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL,
SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Saturday, August 23, 2008. Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Lawrence of Rome.

The Faithful gathered at the Extraordinary Sobor came together again in worship at 8:00 a.m. with a celebration of Divine Liturgy by senior clergy of the Church, presided by the Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest William Wasyliv. Many Clergy and Laity again received the Holy Mysteries. A Memorial Litia was celebrated at the end of the Liturgy presided by his Eminence, Archbishop Yurij, for the deceased Metropolitan, Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Monastics and Laity of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada during the last 90 years.

Following the Memorial Litia, the Sobor reconvened in Holy Trinity Cathedral with an explanation of the voting procedure. The Motions regarding the election of Bishop Ilarion and Bishop Andriy were read again. A Moleben' to the Holy Spirit was celebrated before the actual voting procedure took place. The casting of ballots took place following the Moleben'. These were deposited by the Clergy and Laity in special boxes consecrated for this purpose during the Liturgy. The Clergy and Laity sang spiritual hymns as the election took place. Once the voting was completed the scrutineers left with the ballots. More hymns were sung as the counting took place.

When the scrutineers returned with their results and presented them to Metropolitan John, his Eminence came forward and announced that the two Bishops had been indeed elected to the proposed posts. He then cried out "Axios!" and the entire Sobor gathered in the Cathedral thundered back "Aixos! Axios! Axios!"

Bishop Ilarion and Bishop Andrij addressed the gathering after lunch to standing ovations. They were followed by Bishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, who reminded the faithful of their duty to unite their prayers and worship to godly living in obedience to the will of God and the teaching of the Church. He too received a standing ovation.

The afternoon session saw a lively and animated discussion of the proposed revisions to the Church by-laws. The profound concern of the members of the Sobor for the well-being, growth and development of our Church was very much in evidence. Many amendments were proposed, discussed and voted upon. Finally there was a vote by secret ballot as to whether or not to postpone the acceptance of the revised by-laws until the next regular Sobor in 2010. This motion did not pass and another secret ballot vote was taken as to the acceptance of the revised by-laws as amended by the Sobor. This motion passed. Although accepted, the By-laws remain a work in progress. The By-laws Committee will remain as stands in order to receive further suggestions and proposals for amendments and/or improvements. The Sobor was closed with pastoral words from Archbishop Yurij and Metropolitan John and prayers.

During the final acts of the Sobor, some Clergy and laity served a Vespers with a Litiya in the Cathedral. The Sobor warmly greeted the Most Reverend Bishop Brian Bayda, newly elected Ukrainian Catholic Archpastor of Saskatoon, who paid a courtesy visit in the late afternoon. Tomorrow the Sobor shall formally end with a solemn Divine Liturgy and Banquet.

Humbly submitted by the Press Committee
Fr. Ihor G. Kutash

Fr. Gene Maximiuk