



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА В КАНАДІ
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA
L'ÉGLISE ORTHODOXE UKRAINIENNE DU CANADA

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December 21, 2018 A.D.

YOUR BEATITUDE, MOST REVEREND METROPOLITAN, BELOVED IN CHRIST, VLADYKA EPIFANIY!

"CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST!"

Permit me to congratulate you, with respect and fraternal love, on behalf of Right Reverend Bishops Ilarion and Andriy, the Clergy and God-loving Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, on the occasion of the event which brings joy to the entire Orthodox Church - your election to the ancient Great Throne of Kyiv, our common mother, thrice proclaiming: AXIOS!

I am sure that I do not exaggerate the powerful desire of every Orthodox Ukrainian of the diaspora to stand beneath the walls of the great and ancient shrine of Kyivan Rus', the Cathedral of Divine Wisdom - Sophia of Kyiv, on the blessing day of the constituent assembly of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. We and the faithful of our Church in Canada, with the help of virtual communication, beheld these great and joyful events with excitement and profound hope. The announcement of the result - the *creation of the unified local Church of Christ on the lands of blessed Ukraine and the election of its first presiding Hierarch in the person of your Beatitude* – was greeted most joyfully by the fullness of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada together with the Orthodox people of Ukraine, who are now under the wise archpastoral care of your Beatitude. Immense praise and overflowing gratitude to God for His great blessing for the pious Ukrainian people!

I am grateful to Almighty God that I shall have the opportunity - I hope, in the near future - to concelebrate with Your Beatitude! From this time on we are united without any obstacles: spiritually, canonically and eucharistically through the action of the Holy Spirit and the actions of His All-Holiness, Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew, and the wise archpastors of the Great Mother Church, which united the Ukrainian Orthodox diaspora three decades ago under its blessed omophorion! Now no one dares contradict the fact that Orthodox Ukrainians in the world are *de facto* and *de jure* brothers and sisters united in Christ!

Most sincerely and heartily I wish your Beatitude enduring health, endurance, God-inspired wisdom, and I pray God that the Cross of the primatial ministry you have accepted may ever be light!

Once again, I congratulate Your Beatitude on behalf of the all the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, with your ascendance on to the Holy Metropolitan throne of Kyiv! Eis polla eti despota!

With fraternal love of your Beatitude, a constant intercessor in prayer for you.

+ YURIJ, Metropolitan
Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy
Metropolitan of Canada
Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada