



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

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14 September 2021  
(Ecclesiastical New Year)

**To: The Clergy & Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of  
Canada**

**Re: Initiatives for the New Ecclesiastical Year**

Beloved in Christ, Reverend Fathers,  
Brothers & Sisters!

**Glory to Jesus Christ!**

A new year, connected to any calendar – civil, agricultural, fiscal, school, etc. – is frequently accompanied by our inspiration and plans for new goals, new projects, or, simply, new beginnings. Such it is with the beginning of the New Year in the life of the Body of Christ, the Holy Church, also.

Today, turning to our Lord in the Tropar of the Feast with the appeal to “*bless the crown of this year with Your goodness,*” (in reference to Jesus’ reading from the Book of Isaiah in the Nazareth synagogue), I am pleased to bless two new initiatives to recognize two very important groups of people, vital to the ongoing good works of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada:

First, for our beloved youth! Today, *we are launching the web page, [www.uoccyouth.com](http://www.uoccyouth.com), a new online resource*, developed to teach you, guide you, and explain our beautiful Orthodox Christian faith to you. The page will also inform you about exciting events organized for your growth and development as young members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. Beloved and faithful youth! Use this new resource for the

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**КАНЦЕЛЯРІЯ МІСЦЕБЛЮСТИТЕЛЯ МИТРОПОЛИЧОЇ КАФЕДРИ**  
**OFFICE OF THE LOCUM TENENS OF THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL**

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strengthening of your faith, inspiring you to be models of true discipleship for the entire Church, like the young child to whom Christ, Himself, referred when responding to His disciples' question about greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 18:1-5)! I have confidence the [www.uoccyouth.com](http://www.uoccyouth.com) page will become a popular place to find answers to your questions and to make connections with Ukrainian Orthodox youth across Canada.

Second, I am pleased to bless the inauguration of an annual day honouring a very important group of faithful women in our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, who work tirelessly (though often without want for recognition or notice!) alongside our clergy in our parishes and institutions, making valuable contributions to their well-being and good works - our beloved clergy wives (Dobrodiyky). *Beginning in 2022, I bless each parish, in their own creative way, to honour their Dobrodiyky on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pascha, the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women.* I know we all recognize the vital role the priest's / deacon's wife plays in the daily life our church community. I believe, therefore, it is important we formalize that recognition as an annual commemoration in our churches across Canada.

In closing, I greet you all, once again, with the Ecclesiastical New Year! The harvest of the previous year's work, let us all look forward and make plans to bring forth new fruits and a more bountiful harvest of good works in our beloved Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, for our salvation and for the glory of God!

With archpastoral love,  
in Christ, the Lord,

+Іларіон

+Ilarion, Bishop of Edmonton & the Western Eparchy  
Locum Tenens of the Metropolitan Cathedral of the  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

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