



*Lviv, September 13, 2017*

*Ex. № 17 / 032\_E*

*To His Beatitude Sviatoslav,  
the Father and the Head of UGCC,  
The Most Reverend Bishops,  
Heads of Eparchial (Exarchal) catechetical commissions,  
Superiors of Religious Orders,  
Reverend Fathers*

*Glory to Jesus Christ!*

### **Dear co-workers in catechetical service!**

We would like to inform you about the latest developments and plans of the Patriarchal Catechetical Commission.

This year the Synod of Bishops devoted much time to the **liturgical and prayer life** of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. The Synod particularly emphasized that in the catechetical service, we should pay special attention to the cultivation of personal prayer, spiritual, liturgical life as we transmit this to those whom we teach. In our catechetical programs, it is important that we celebrate and explain our liturgical life of the Church and that we establish the liturgical catechesis as a priority of our ministry.

**The Word of God and the biblical apostolate:** Recently we have worked on producing a commentary on the Gospel of



Luke. We are preparing commentaries on the other Gospels. We invite you to distribute them to those who need them. The commentaries on Gospels according to Mathew and Mark are now available. We are also working on the International Biblical Commentary. Two volumes (pictured) have been completed. Four more volumes are coming.

**The Catechism "Christ - our Pascha"** was published more than 6 years ago. His Beatitude Sviatoslav calls for an examination of conscience: on how the Catechism has been implemented into our work, how we use it during catechetical classes, whether each family has this book at home, or is the Catechism integrated into the curriculum of our educational institutions? The Patriarchal catechetical commission has complied the translation and the printing of the Catechism into the following languages: Portuguese, Russian, and English. Now the Catechism is being prepared for printing in Spanish and Slovak; translations are continuing in Romanian, French, Polish, German, and Italian. The Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church "Christ - Our Pascha" is the official teaching of our Church. We must review all our educational materials to make sure that they are in tune with it.

We are very grateful to the catechetical commission of the Metropolitanate of Canada, which has produced the material for studying the Catechism of UCC "Christ our Pascha". They have placed it on the website [www.royaldoors.net](http://www.royaldoors.net), and which I invite you to actively use it. The material on their site will be very useful to our catechetical work today. We also invite you to make use of the information on the website of the Patriarchal Catechetical Commission at [www.pcc.ugcc.org.ua](http://www.pcc.ugcc.org.ua).

**Catechism for youth.** The committee is working on the youth catechism "We walk with Christ", has presented the progress report to our Bishops. The Synod blessed further work to finish this very important project.

In 2018 in Lviv we will hold the Contest of the Modern Religious Song "**Song of the Heart**" on the theme "Rejoice in the Lord!" This contest is another opportunity to catechize children and families. We call on our eparchies to take part – this is an opportunity to unite children in the eparchies of our Church and countries where there are no structures of UCC or Ukrainian schools. This competition started in 2001 and has become an important part of our Church. More information is on our web site [www.pcc.ugcc.org.ua](http://www.pcc.ugcc.org.ua).

**Formation of catechists.** The Synod of Bishops has emphasized on the importance of catechesis in every eparchy and parish. I want to pay special attention to the need propped solid basic and formation of catechists. It is important that Catechists meet often and share their common interests. We are grateful to all the laity who are deeply dedicated to catechetical service. The heads of catechetical commissions should ensure that those who already lead the catechetical classes, but do not yet have a formal formation, receive it. It is also important that we take care of improving the catechetical education of those who have already received this education in the past so that their knowledge be consistent with meet current requirements and with the actual teaching of our Church.

A special need today arises in the **catechesis of all age groups, and especially adults**. We want to emphasize that catechesis is not only for children, but also all age groups who want to know their faith more deeply. Therefore we call for the training of catechists to work with them.

Congratulations on the creation of a **new eparchy** in Chernivtsi (Ukraine) and its new Bishop Josaphat Moshchych. We pray that new catechetical structures will work fruitfully in this eparchy as well.

I am pleased to inform you that **the main theme of the Synod**, which will take place in September 2018 will be "The Word of God and Catechesis".

This was decided at the Synod of Bishops, held in Lviv in September 2017: it appointed Bishop Peter (Stasiuk) and Bishop David (Motiuk) responsible for the preparing the main theme. Bishop David (Motiuk) is happy to cooperate with the Patriarchal Catechetical Commission.

As part of the preparation for the Synod in 2018 Patriarchal catechetical commission is already holding conferences aimed at the getting acquainted with the state of catechesis and outlining priorities for the next 10 years. Such conferences have already taken place in Brazil and Ukraine. The upcoming conferences will be held in Winnipeg (Canada) and Stamford (USA) in October 2017.

We ask all Catechists to pray for the preparation to the Synod in 2018 and submit their suggestions and how we can improve our catechetical service.

With prayer and gratitude,

Yours is Christ,

+ PETER (Stasiuk)

The Head of Patriarchal Catechetical Commission of UGCC