



Українська Католицька Едмонтонська Єпархія

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton

EPARCHIAL NEWSLETTER

February 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

The **22nd World Day of the Sick** will take place **February 11**. This year's theme is "Faith and Charity: We Too Must Give Our Lives for the Brethren." A summary of Pope Francis' message for the event is attached.

Presbyteral Council meetings – **March 17** (2:00-5:00 pm, Chancery), May 22, September 22, November 17.

Clergy Conferences – **March 18 (Saint Basil the Great Parish, Edmonton)**, May 23, September 26, November 18.

25th Anniversary of the Legalization of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine, Commemorative Concert – **April 29**, 7:30 pm, Saint Josaphat Cathedral.

NEW Pope Francis issued his Message for the **51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations**, to take place on **May 11**, on the theme of "Vocations: Witness to the Truth" (attached).

Eparchial Sobor on Vision 2020: The Vibrant Parish, the Place to Encounter the Living Christ – **May 23-24**, Saint Josaphat Cathedral Hall (Verkhovyna).

Clergy Study Days – **June 23-27**, Pope Francis' "Joy of the Gospel" led by Rev. Stefano Penna (Newman Theological College); and "A Closer Look at the Shroud of Turin," Sanctum Retreat, Caroline.

Clergy Retreat – **September 22-25**, Rev. John Sianchuk, cssr, Retreat Master, Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW The **48th World Day of Social Communications** will be celebrated on **June 1**, the Sunday before the Feast of Pentecost. Pope Francis' Message for the occasion, entitled "Communication at the service of an authentic culture of encounter" is attached.

NEW Upon the recommendation of the Eparchial Liturgical Commission, **Bishop David has promulgated norms** on the **Restoration** of the Liturgical Practice of the "**Kiss of Peace**" in the **Divine Liturgy**, to be implemented throughout the Eparchy of Edmonton, effective Forgiveness Sunday, March 2, 2014.

The Kiss of Peace is an expression of reconciliation and unity among the faithful. It was a widespread custom in Jesus' time as evidenced in the Sacred Scriptures, then practiced in the Early Church and later in the Byzantine Churches, including Kyivan Rus'. For various reasons it fell into disuse. It was reintroduced in the Latin Church after the Second Vatican Council.

After much study and careful consideration the Kiss of Peace is being reintroduced in the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Alberta for several reasons: a means of a much needed public profession of love for one another, a sign of mutual forgiveness, efforts in the New Evangelization in proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel Message, and a gesture of hospitality in our parishes.

NEW The **Eparchy of Edmonton** has launched its **new website** as part of its 25 Year Pastoral Plan in order to respond better to the New Evangelization and the call to share the Good News of the Gospel Message. Visit www.edmontoneparchy.com.

NEW The **Episcopal Commission for Doctrine, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB)**, issued a new document, entitled "**The Essential Elements of Evangelization Today.**" Written from the context of the Canadian pluralist society, this new 16-page document is intended not only for priests, consecrated men and women, and those actively involved in pastoral work, but also for "all Catholics who desire to understand better and respond more zealously to their call to evangelize the modern world." Although composed prior to the release of Pope Francis' recent Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), its approach and recommendations are similar, while providing a uniquely Canadian perspective.

Following the recent Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith, the Commission "would like to reflect on the challenges this pluralism brings, as well as how it affects the proclamation of the Gospel." In its pastoral reflection, the Commission proposes a path forward following the example of the early Church. The central theme is that of a threefold witness which manifests (1) a personal, living encounter with Christ, (2) the love lived in Christian community, and (3) service to others.

The Bishops of the Commission state that the style of ecclesial witness must be humble and with joyful confidence. "As Christians, we must respond 'with gentleness and reverence' (1 Peter 3.16), always keeping in mind that the ultimate goal for ourselves and those we meet is an encounter with God the Father in his kingdom, by means of our union with Christ in the Spirit" (paragraph 21).

Printed copies of the document are on sale from CCCCB Publications (telephone 1-800-769-1147 or email publi@cccb.ca).

[Link to the Document \(PDF\).](#)

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9645 – 108 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5H 1A3
Tel: (780) 424-5496 Fax: (780) 425-2330
www.edmontoneparchy.com