

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton

A Vision for the Eparchial Catechetical Commission

Catechesis has its beginning and end in the Trinity. CDUCC, 12.

Scriptural reflection (Luke 10: 21-24)

At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father; for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.' Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, 'Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.'

Core Statement

Our goal is to respond to the call of the divine communion of the Persons of the Most Holy Trinity to enter into a similar communion with the Trinity and with one another.

Preamble

We recognize that catechesis has many dimensions such as prayer, liturgy and scripture. In this document we focus on the instructional aspect of catechesis, what the *CDUCC*, 22 calls “the orderly process of learning the teaching of Christ.” This is in keeping with the mandate of the Eparchial Catechetical Commission.

We recognize that catechesis is a lifelong journey or, in the words of the Eparchial 25 year plan, it is a task that is undertaken from “cradle to grave.”

Of equal importance is that the catechetical formation be “based on materials appropriate to our Eastern Christian heritage and spiritual patrimony.”

The Director of Catechesis for the Eparchy plays a key role in overseeing the catechetical programming.

In providing support, the Eparchial Catechetical Centre and those connected with it are the unifying elements behind the provision of resources and formation.

Directional Statements

We are a Church where:

- The **Family** is recognized as the centre of catechesis and receives support in this role through:

- spiritual formation
- the prayers, fasting and sacrifice undertaken by members of Christ's faithful
- provision of mutual support, educational materials, guidance and instruction

- **The Parish** is understood to have a vital role to play in catechesis. This is in keeping with the statement made by His Beatitude Sviatoslav, "the parish is the place where Christian holiness most often germinates, grows and matures" (VP, 1). Within parish based catechesis:
 - the leadership role of the clergy is recognized and articulated
 - the vocation of lay catechists is encouraged and supported
 - a special effort is made to encourage youth and young adults to become involved in catechetical ministry.

- The **Eparchial Catechetical Commission** envisages for itself a key role in the provision of a wide variety of materials to assist in the ongoing process of catechesis in the Eparchy by:
 - cooperating with other educational agencies, especially those in other Eastern Catholic Churches, to facilitate the greatest use of existing resources.
 - producing catechetical material as the need arises
 - maintaining an awareness of emerging methods for catechesis that embrace new technology
 - facilitating the development of catechetical networks, support in obtaining educational resources and in provision of training for clergy and laity.

Strategic Plan 2015-2020

The Eparchial Catechetical Commission is situated within the framework of the 25 year pastoral plan for the Edmonton Eparchy. As such, the commission seeks to articulate an image of the Church that we are called to become by:

- outlining a strategic sense of how this can be achieved
- providing guidance to the Director of Catechesis with respect to the provision of resources and formation

Immediate Goals

- Create a brochure to encourage the laity to answer the call to catechetical ministry
- Schedule visits to parishes by Director of Catechesis

- Organize annual/biennial gatherings of catechists
- Offer an annual study day for priests on catechesis
- Complete a full inventory of catechetical resources which will be accessible through the Eparchial website
- Establish a digital library which will be accessible through the Eparchial website
- Develop a presentation of the English Translation of the *Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church*
- Investigate and develop ways of assisting catechists to use the *Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church* in their ministry
- Create a system of resource bins to be made available for use in parishes and schools throughout the Eparchy based on a variety of themes
- Work toward developing a lay formation program
- Consolidate links with other Eparchies throughout Canada and the United States for the purpose of consistency in programming, sharing of resources and collaboration in developing catechetical materials
- Maintain links with the Patriarchal Catechetical Commission
- Establish closer relationships with teachers in the Ukrainian bilingual programs for the purpose of learning their catechetical needs, developing and providing catechetical materials and building awareness of available Eparchial programs for all age groups

Concluding Statement

This vision statement will be reviewed and updated yearly by late spring (May/June)

Bibliography

His Beatitude Sviatoslav. Pastoral Letter to the Clergy, Religious and All the Faithful of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, “*The Vibrant Parish – a place to encounter the living Christ (VP)*” 2011

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