

PASTORAL CENTRE - COMMUNICATOR



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton
Українська Католицька Едмонтонська Єпархія

October 10, 2022



Слава Ісусу Христу

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!

During this time of Thanksgiving we thank God for our families and friends and for the peace and prosperity we enjoy in Canada. However, our hearts and prayers continue to be with the people of Ukraine who are suffering greatly in this horrendous campaign of terror and destruction brought about by Russia. We pray to our Holy Mother to protect the people, turn the hearts of the invaders and bring peace to the people of Ukraine.

It has been a number of months since our last newsletter but we would like to provide some updates on important events and initiatives within our Eparchy.

1) Donations for Humanitarian Aid

As of September 30, 2022, the Eparchy, through the efforts of parishes, parishioners, faithful and friends, has raised over \$2.6 million dollars towards Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine. Over \$2.4 million dollars have been sent to Ukraine through the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) who disburses funds to our church in Ukraine, Caritas Foundation, and other Catholic organizations aiding the displaced families in Ukraine with food, shelter, medical supplies and spiritual support. For more information visit www.cnewa.org/ca/campaigns/ukraine/.

The Eparchy continues to accept donations through our website www.eepararchy.com or via mail. In November, Bishop David will be announcing a new campaign in support of humanitarian aid for the Ukrainian people. Information will be available in the coming weeks.

2) Humanitarian Aid Settlement Grants

In May, Bishop David announced a new grant program to help with the settlement of families fleeing the war in Ukraine and arriving in Alberta. A fund in the amount of \$200,000 was established for parishes within our Eparchy to apply for grants up to \$10,000 for eligible projects. At the time of this newsletter 11 parishes have successfully received grants in various amounts totaling approximately \$100,000.

This is a summary of parishes and projects that are ongoing in our Eparchy since June 2022:

Parish	Project
St. Basil's Parish (Edmonton)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct assistance by way of financial reimbursements for approved medical services and equipment, hygiene items, backpacks and toys for children etc. • Meet and greet events where a smile, hug and a little love helps welcome the newcomers
St. George's (Edmonton)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration for summer day camps (31 children welcomed) • Registration to Ridna Shkola for the 2022/23 school year for Ukrainian Nationals
St. Stephen's (Calgary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hired a newcomer coordinator to support evacuees arriving in Calgary and organize volunteers; hired a newcomer for this job
Assumption Parish (Calgary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration for day camps for children including faith camps, activity camps and school preparation programs (approximately 40 children)
St. Josaphat's (Edmonton)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration for summer day camps. The parish hosted 25 children of refugee families. Children enjoyed many activities & friendship.
Holy Cross Parish (Edmonton)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of a family(ies) arriving at the parish including paying for essential needs such as food, clothing, rent, and medical expenses
St. Vladimir Parish (Red Deer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hired a newcomer coordinator to support evacuees arriving in Calgary (hired an evacuee from Ukraine) and organize volunteers
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish (Mundare)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of a family(ies) arriving at the parish including paying for essential needs such as food, clothing, rent, and medical expenses
Dormition Parish (Edmonton)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support bilingual schools and Edmonton Catholic Schools by providing funding for needs of newly arrived children • Offer our parish hall for English classes and offer refreshments, fellowship along with childcare if needed. • Provide financial support for basic necessities including food, clothing, and medical of newcomers.
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish (Lethbridge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of a family(ies) arriving at the parish including paying for essential needs such as food, clothing, rent, medical expenses
St. Sophia Parish (Sherwood Park)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a series of events to welcome newcomers to the community including "Free Store" and a "Vitayemo" barbecue • Provide "welcome baskets" with essentials tailored to the needs of families including schools supplies, toiletry items etc. • Sponsored 23 children of Ukrainian Nationals, for a weeklong Cultural Day Camp

This grant provides funds which in turn can be used for programs to welcome newcomers. Bishop also recognizes the many parishes and parishioners working tirelessly in their communities, raising funds on their own to help Ukrainian Nationals in need. *Dormition Parish in Grande Prairie* and *St. Nicholas Parish in Edmonton* shared their initiatives including their “free store”, providing essentials of food and person hygiene items and hosting welcome events for Ukrainian Nationals. Truly inspiring!

If your parish is unsure what projects they can undertake, we could offer some suggestions. Please call Iryna Laschuk at the Eparchial offices for information. Grant applications are posted on the Eparchy website under *Parish Hub > Administration > Fundraising and Grants* and attached to this email.

3) Pastoral Convention

Our Pastoral Centre staff would like to thank all parish representatives who attended the Convention on September 10, 2022, in Edmonton and joined us in the pastoral council sessions. We had the opportunity to discuss the supports our staff provide to parishes including resources from our Family and Life Ministry office, Safe Environments, and the Finance department. We also had an excellent presentation by Dr. Frances Swyripa on the importance of preserving our parish archives. We will be presenting more on this in the new year.

We hope to schedule these information sessions annually as it provides a forum for good conversation and sharing of ideas and concerns between the eparchy and parishes. We will strive to select a time of year that is suitable to our parishioners in the rural areas.

4) Insurance Renewals for 2022/23

The time for insurance renewal is upon us. Our insurance provider has confirmed no “rate” increase from last year, however certain property values have increased (for our Eparchy approximately 10%) thereby increasing the premium. Bishop David will once again provide an insurance subsidy for all parishes on our program in an amount similar to 2021/22. Liability insurance has also increased; however, it is a small portion of the overall billing and will not have a significant impact. Parishes who anticipate difficulty in paying their premiums must contact our offices to discuss options available including reducing the extent of the property coverage. We should have the invoices in the next week or two and provide additional information at that time.

5) Reminder – Seminary Collection and Papal Collections

A gentle reminder, for parishes to forward their **Seminary Collections** and any donations received for the **Papal Special Collection**, as soon as you are able.

May God Bless you and your parishes and may God Bless the people of Ukraine and grant them peace. 3 BoroM! Yours in Christ,

Iryna Laschuk

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