

PASTORAL CENTRE - COMMUNICATOR



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton
Українська Католицька Едмонтонська Єпархія

October 18, 2023



Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава Навіку! Glory Be To Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!

Dear Reverend Fathers and pastoral council members. Fall is a busy time for our pastoral centre and of course for our parishes. This updated ***Communicator*** includes some new information for your planning, discussion and action, along with reminders from previous newsletters.

1) Insurance Renewal

October 1, 2023, is the renewal date for our property and liability insurance. We received the invoices late last week and subsequently scheduled a review with our insurance company (Acera). Generally, property values have increased an average of 4.6% from last year and the premium rate in Alberta increased by 0.0020% (i.e. an extra \$20.00/\$100,00.00 of insurance). Liability insurance (liability, directors' and officers' coverage, theft, physical & sexual abuse etc.) is up by 10%. As a result, parishes can expect their insurance premium invoices to be higher primarily due to increases in asset values which factor in construction costs, labour and materials needed to replace a building. Bishop David once again approved subsidies for parishes on the Eparchial plan for the 2023/24 renewal to help defray the costs.

Parish invoices are being prepared and will send them, along with supporting documents, next week (October 25 - 26). As in prior years, we will email all documents to our urban parishes and mail packages to our rural parishes. If you are from a rural parish and would prefer to have your documents emailed, please call or email Olya at chancery@edmontoneparchy.com.

This is a good time for parishes to evaluate the type of insurance coverage held by your parish. Previously, we provided information on the various types of coverage including partial replacement cost which covers a partial loss (not replacement) of your church should there be a full catastrophic loss. With this type of coverage, the overall insurance cost is lower because the building is being insured for a lower value. This is a good option if the parish would not rebuild after a major loss or they would “build to suit” (i.e. a smaller church). Refer to the attachment explaining options and contact Iryna at the office with questions.

2) Cathedraticum and other Eparchial Collections

Parishes who have not remitted their cathedraticum for previous years (prior to 2023) are kindly asked to contact Sheila at bookkeeping@edmontoneparchy.com to arrange for repayment. As mentioned previously, Bishop David provided a 3-month reprieve from paying the cathedraticum from April 1, 2020, to through June 30, 2020, only. This was reiterated in subsequent *Communicators*. Letters have been sent to those parishes in arrears.

3) Clergy Mileage

With the new pastor assignments, parishes and districts may see a different approach to their pastoral ministry. Your pastor works for the parish and on behalf of the parish, where from time to time he will support and visit those who may not be able to attend Divine Liturgy or be active in the parish. Such outreach visits are important but, may have an impact on a pastor’s mileage submissions (either increased or decreased from the budgeted amounts). Please discuss your pastor’s plans for visiting schools, shut ins, seniors facilities etc. and support him in this important ministry.

4) Major Repairs, Major Purchases and Long-Term Leases

A reminder, if your parish is planning major repairs, purchases and/or entering long-term leases, ensure that all “project budgets” are formally approved by your pastoral council and the results included in the meeting minutes. The Council should evaluate and prioritize all projects against sources of available funds and request multiple quotes (at least 2) for all expenditures; ensuring good stewardship and transparency for the parish members. Also, all major expenditures and/or commitments over \$15,000.00 must be approved by Bishop David before the expenditure is made. Approval is based on purpose and the parish’s ability to pay.

5) Seminary Collection

We are grateful to have 6 seminarians studying for the priesthood on behalf of our Eparchy, with 2 currently engaged in their pastoral assignments. The Eparchy’s seminary assessment invoices have been sent to all parishes in September and we thank parishioners for their generous support of our seminarians. We appreciate remitting your Seminary contributions by December 1, 2023.

6) Financial reports and Charity Returns

If you have not yet submitted your 2022 year end financial statements including your charity return (T3010), please forward these to the chancery office before the end of October. Documents could be emailed to chancer@edmontoneparchy.com or mailed to the Pastoral Centre.

7) Donations for Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine

Ukraine continues to suffer under the weight of war and we support them through prayer and donations towards the emergency “Food Boxes For Ukraine” project. You may donate through your parish, our Eparchy website (www.eeparchy.com) or CNEWA www.cnewa.org/ca/campaigns/ukraine/. Thank you for your generosity.

8) Humanitarian Aid Settlement Grants - Alberta

Bishop David allocated \$200,000 to help support Ukrainian nationals fleeing the war and settling in Alberta. To date our Eparchy has provided over \$180,000 in Humanitarian Aid Settlement grants to our parishes who in turn have been helping newcomers with important needs such as medical expenses, hosting, childcare, English language classes and finding jobs. In the next few months we will provide a summary of all the projects completed. Approximately \$18,500 is still available with several applications pending. If your parish has a project that supports the objectives of this grant, please submit your application by the end of October 2023.

As always, our pastoral staff are here to help parishes with questions and support them in their own pastoral mission. Please do not hesitate to call on us when needed.

May God continue to bless our pastors, pastoral councils, and parishioners.

Please keep the people of Ukraine in our prayers and pray for peace throughout the world.

З Божом! Yours in Christ,

Iryna Laschuk

Chancellor and Director of Finance
email: accounting@edmontoneparchy.com