

SUMMARY AND SYNTHESIS

ENCOUNTER OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CANADA

ЗУСТРІЧ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ КАТОЛИЦЬКОЇ ЦЕРКВИ В КАНАДІ

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Mission and Future of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada

Покликання і майбутнє Української Католицької Церкви в Канаді

Released in Winnipeg on July 11, 2005

In May 2005, at the invitation and under the patronage of Most Rev. Michael Bzdel, CSsR, Archbishop of Winnipeg and Metropolitan for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada, the Permanent Synod of the Ukrainian Catholic Church met in Winnipeg. At the same time, there was a gathering of the Ukrainian Catholic clergy, religious and monastics of Canada for a national encounter on the theme Mission of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada and Its Future.

The Winnipeg Encounter will be remembered as a particular historical moment in the life of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada - already well into its second century of existence. Every Ukrainian Catholic eparchy in Canada was widely represented. Over 250 priests, deacons, seminarians, religious and monastics were able to meet and pray with the Father and Head, Lubomyr Cardinal Husar. His presence, as well as that of the Bishops of the Permanent Synod, was a sign of the unity of the Ukrainian Catholic Church dispersed throughout the world, and of its particular historical, spiritual, liturgical and theological patrimony.

Participants of the Encounter were able to focus on the particular concerns, needs and opportunities of our Church in Canada. They reflected on their commitment to serve those who were born and baptized in Ukrainian Catholic parish communities, on the need to reach out to those who may have left the Church, and on the mandate to preach the Good News of Our Lord to those who have yet to hear it. Some of the concerns and issues addressed were: liturgical renewal, evangelization, youth ministry, ecumenical work and formation, family ministry, use of the internet for the Gospel, and much more. Throughout the Encounter participants were united in the love of the heavenly Father, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. They returned to their homes determined to carry out the mission of service, evangelization and spiritual renewal in their communities.

The following summary and synthesis were compiled by Fr. Stephen Wojcichowsky (Edmonton) and others. While each report does render all of the ideas expressed, they do not give the passion nor the frequency with which issues came up. For example, the need to work with youth, the respect for the contribution of the laity, the role of women, the need to be true to our Eastern Christian tradition, the ecumenical dimension - these five - were of great concern to the participants. Other things were left unsaid that perhaps should have been, e.g., the place of English in our worship and in our conversations (although it was modelled marvellously throughout the Encounter). Admittedly, a number of things were said by the Patriarch, Bishop David, and Father Andriy Chirovsky that covered many of these areas. There is no doubt that the workshops also covered a number of these points (though not all the participants were present for each workshop). It is hoped that in the publication of these reports, further discussion may continue among all the members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada.

Synthesis of the Group Discussions

16 Groups, 31 pages, 278 comments, questions, suggestions

The notes from the groups were synthesized verbatim (as much as possible) into the following eight (8) categories:

1. THE CURRENT SITUATION

- Statistics indicate that there are a lot of Ukrainians in Canada
- our churches draw a mere fraction
- Young people don't see themselves as part of the Church
- People want a sense of being in contact with God, they seek faith and spiritual life, look for community.
- Most people don't understand the liturgy.
- School/parish/family triad not nearly as strong as it used to be and therefore the faith is not reinforced.
- The country parishes are too small.
- Movement from farms to city results in those people not affiliating themselves with our churches in the cities.
- Not enough workers in the vineyard.
- Our focus has not been evangelization
- Many in ministry need renewal (tired, uninspired, burnt out, cynical)
- The reality of mixed marriages needs to be addressed.
- Government has given too much liberty to children and taken away parental authority.
- Many of our churches are dysfunctional
 - theologically
 - spiritually
 - liturgically
 - pastorally
- POSITIVES
 - We have not been stagnant – there are signs of life
 - Dialogues such as this have taken place at various levels
 - SERVE program and Welcome House (Redemptorist)
 - Lay formation and Lay ministry programs (Sisters Servants)
 - Catechist training
 - Bible Study Groups
 - Great focus on Church services in many parishes
 - Youth Ministry in several eparchies
 - Pyrohy suppers, paska blessings, coffee fellowship all serve to build community

2. ATTITUDE "It's a question of educating our hearts" (Patriarch Lubomyr)

- The rite is worth preserving
- We recognize the value of social contact with people.
- We have a strong sense of being Canadian and therefore a strong sense of who we are as a Canadian Ukrainian Church.
- We need to preserve a particular mind-set:
 - appreciation of what we have received.
 - take people where they are at
 - focus on our own personal holiness
- Our desire to reach out to all, our desire to share with all will strengthen us
- As religious leaders our minds must be converted to allow for lay leadership.
- Our Church is Alive!
- Conversion to Jesus Christ is essential to mission.
- To call people to new life is to make spiritual demands on them (note how the evangelical churches challenge their faithful to generosity, holiness, faithfulness)
- If we are in love with Christ, excited about Christ, we can undertake mission (regardless of what name we call ourselves).
- Mission means growing out of our protective shell.
- If we evangelize everything else will fall into place
- An attitude of forgiveness keeps the Church from losing the faithful.

3. MISSION STATEMENT

- To find the lost sheep.
- To be alive (Christ came that we may have life.)
- It's a call to personal holiness – if we aren't imbued with the Christ, we won't touch people (Pope John Paul II spent hours in prayer.)
- The sanctification of a united people should be adopted as our mission statement for the Church in Canada.
- To resurrect the Church.
- To bring all to the Church, to evangelize all.
- First missionary work is within our own parishes OR to evangelize the present Church membership.
- To reach out so that different segments of our Church and our society can interiorize the universal message "Christ is Risen!" specifically to its own circumstances.
- To be holy people of God who would involve and welcome others to the Church by the love we have of God and the Church OR to make of our Church a community that others would want to join.
- To evangelize on these levels
 - current parishioners
 - the baptized who have been lost
 - Ad Gentes (to the nations)
- To evangelize by getting people back into the Churches of their choice – whatever the church – to get back to the Judeo-Christian roots of our

country.

4. ADVISORIES

- We must have faith that our Church will not die. Is that why we want to evangelize, to preserve a structure? This would be a totally wrong reason to evangelize.
- We need to be fired up.
- Evangelization as of the moment is clergy-centered – we need more participation of lay people.
- Should not criticize our bishops – we should think, rather, of how we can help them.
- Don't dumb down the Gospel for youth but find a way to speak to them so that it makes sense to them.
- If our emphasis is on holiness then our preaching has to reflect that.
- Don't assume people won't like our Church.
- Don't make the assumption that all Ukrainians are attracted to Eastern Christian Liturgy and spirituality and that non-Ukrainians cannot be attracted.
- It's the Byzantine Rite that attracts not the Ukrainian language
- Sometimes the people aren't spoken "to."
 - sometimes they are spoken "at."
- Clergy need to foster solidarity amongst themselves (co-operation among pastors)
- We must see beyond our parishes
 - parochialism is a negative force.
- We should strive for unity but not uniformity.
- We are not afraid of progressive change, but we abhor (hate) destructive change.
- We have our gifts to share but not to trade them in for something else.
- We need to concentrate on making the Church more hospitable more welcoming.
- a positive atmosphere
- Respect time constraints and the expectations of people in this modern day.
- The priest has to love his parishioners and what he's uniquely called to do (pastoral work, administering the Sacraments, particularly the healing ones.)
- Capitalize on the faith basis of the people to call forth within the priest his priestly mission.
- Be open to people's needs – LISTEN!

5. What is in a name? Re: THE KYIVAN CHURCH.

- One group responds: Our Church was called Greek Catholic – not Kyivan. Our Church is a Church of martyrs who died for our Catholic Faith of the Eastern Byzantine Rite not for the Russian Orthodox (Muscovite) rite.
- It might be OK for Ukraine, but it sounds foreign to Canada and USA.
- Other possibilities: Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church OR Kyivan-Galician
- Greco Catholic (must fight through parliament to get it approved)

- As a name it opens doors to people (has overtone of Byzantine Rite.)
- If we lost "Ukrainian" it would be austere
- RCs have become a melting pot and Ruthenians have lost Slavic identity.
- Need another word for "Catholic" perhaps "Вселенська."
- It is less meaningful and welcoming.

6. IMPLEMENTATION: GENERAL

- We need a statement from our Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of Canada, with His Beatitude's blessing, for beginning an evangelization program.
- Education of clergy and laity in how to be a missionary and evangelizer.
- Look at successful parishes – share.
- Need national policy on religious education, university chaplaincy, evangelization, etc.
- Better training for priests and seminarians.
- Standardized RCIA programs.
- Education for cantors and potential cantors.
- Strive for complete range of services.
 - Streamline our services.
- Reach out to sick, isolated, marginalized – 'a Church' of service.
- Implement a North American forum on evangelization
 - include priests, lay people, religious, parish councils, etc.
- Establish one calendar to promote unity.

7. IMPLEMENTATION: STRUCTURAL

- Centralize parishes in the country and farms
- Team ministry – as part of a team with lay faithful in serving the mission of the Church locally (It is not "Father's" church. It is our Church.)
- We need to dialogue with laity and have them more involved in decision making and policy making. Women especially need to have more of a voice and most importantly need to feel like what they think matters. INVOLVE YOUTH!
- We need to find a way to involve girls in Liturgy (i.e. a role where they have ownership like altar serving, but not limited to that.)

8. IMPLEMENTATION: SPECIFIC

- Meet every 5 years (every year)
- Sunday homily is key.
- The Alpha course.
- Internet, website (You've all given your email address when you registered – anyone willing to join a chat group for resource notification)
- Children's involvement in Liturgy.
- Give grandparents materials for catechism:
 - "We are Children of Light"
 - "God With Us" – revised to Grade 5

- "Guardian Angel" Prayer Book
- "Divine Liturgy for Children"
- "Lift Up Your Hands"
- Adult video – "New Life in the Church" – Eparchy of Parma
- Introduce Kiss of Peace for the faithful because it welcomes people, builds community and makes us live what we pray "let us love one another."
- Focus on Hospitality
 - greeters
 - guest book
 - coffee fellowship
- Reaching out
 - Get to know children of seniors you visit.
 - Prepare parents at same time as children for Christening and Solemn Eucharist.
 - Encourage inviting neighbours – NOT: "моя хата з краю, я нікого не знаю"
- Learn from others
 - Roman Catholic programs on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC)
 - RC Stewardship program
 - Orthodox catechetical materials
 - Study the way evangelical churches reach out to the community
- Minister to newcomers from Ukraine
 - encourage them to express themselves
 - give basic catechetical teaching
 - help them in work placement, financial assistance, etc.
 - This will help them to be good parishioners
- One group put it this way in terms of outreach to all ages:
 - Working with the elderly is the fulfillment of God's commandment about respecting your parents and as an occasion to reaching out to their children and grandchildren.
 - Parish based kindergartens provide a safe and loving haven for children.
 - Evangelizing youth gives them a welcome forum to express themselves and feel like they belong
 - Sunday school – Priests should make themselves known to children ("Добрий пастир знає свої вівці.")
- Solid balanced leadership of the clergy is based on clergy solidarity – the people need to see us as working together and respecting one another

Closing Statements

(26.v.05, 2:25pm, Olenka Hanushevsk Galadza, Ottawa (613-230-0997, olenkagaladza@sympatico.ca):

1) Bishop Hrynchyshyn:

There was an oversight in this conference: Evangelii Nuntiandi (the "Magna Carta"

of evangelization) was not mentioned. John Paul II issued *Nuovo Millennio Ineunte* Providing points to work on: Sanctity, prayer, Eucharist, Reconciliation, primacy of grace, listening to the Word of God, announcing the Word of God, and lastly the martyrs (and we have them – the Bishop concludes.)

2) Fr. Andriy Chirovsky:

Thank you, thank you. Such good energy in this room. We'll suffer from withdrawal when we go home. Our greatest enemy was always distance, now with the internet, this distance has been destroyed. The conversations started here must go on. Three people networking is more than the sum of the individuals – the firestorm of Pentecost will result.

3) Fr. Peter Galadza:

Re: Patriarch Lubomyr's stress on vocation and the call from above: Fr. Peter proposes that nothing that happened here (in this conference) will bear fruit if we don't repent. Many people have fallen away from the Church because of our Church's sins. We could set aside a day of common fasting as a church – perhaps Sept. 15 (the feast of the weeping icon of our Lady of Sambirsk)

4) Bishop S. Yakymyskyn:

Re: The mission of the Church. Jesus has a mission; He came to the lost sheep of Israel and to the Samaritans. We also have the lost sheep of our Ukrainian Catholic Church. "We have a lot of work."

5) Fr. Yarema (Sarnia):

A lot of good things can be done through television (perhaps Vision T.V.), educating people about our rite.

6) Fr. Mark Bayrock (Edmonton):

Re: The Church and the Internet. I have just put together a CD that I can mail you for free: it contains 38 books the church Fathers? Entire Code of Canon Law (East and West), etc. mabayrock@hotmail.com

7) Bishop M. Wiwchar:

In October there will be a Sobor and "What the heck" will we be doing there? We have been working on this document for seven months in the Eparchy of Saskatoon: Some of the topics included are: Ministry, Catechumenate, Stewardship, Family and Marriage, Youth, etc. We will raise these issues and this document during the Sobor. If you would like a copy, I can send it to you.

8) Chancellor From BC:

Special thanks to Fr. Roman Galadza for leading the singing in an organized, prayerful, melodious way.

9) Patriarch's address:

I wish to thank the organizers, under the leadership of Metropolitan Michael. This has been a very successful encounter that should be repeated no later than 5 years from today. Thank you for your support of the Patriarchal Sobor in Kyiv, "Voskresinnia" I would like to express the feeling that there is still a very strong sense of inferiority regarding our rite and liturgy. This should not be. It is time we should get over it.

How can we do all of this, that we have discussed? Let me share this with you: (In less than a month) in the very near future, in Warsaw, there will be a reconciliation of the Ukrainian and Polish people, led by the bishops and leaders of both sides. Let me conclude in Metropolitan Michael's words: В ім'я Господнє, вперед!) [The participants sang "Ton Despotin"]

Ended at 3:00pm, with Fr. Stephen Wojcichowsky's greeting: Христос Воскрес!

Questions and Comments

Summarized by Ed Ewanko

1) Bishop Hrynchyshyn

- Oversight? Document on Evangelizing not even mentioned. Of Paul VI – The Magna Carta of Evangelization – Evangelization in the Modern World - At conclusion in 2000 Novo Millennio Ineunte– JPII What to do? 1. Sanctity, 2. Prayer, 3. Eucharist, 4. Reconciliation, 5. Grace, 6. Listen to Word of God, 7. Announce Word of God, 8. Martyrs

2) Fr. Chirovsky

- So much positive energy. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

- Keep in touch. Now no 'Distance' in the dispersion. Use modern technology to keep united, in touch. We need to network – Like the Fire Storm of Pentecost.

3) Fr. Peter Galadza

-Vocation – look at ourselves. God calls upon us to look at selves. We will have no fruits without repentance. All of us must do this. How did we 'lose' so many people. A day of real fasting, remembrance – to stop decline in our Church. 15 Sept. Weeping icon of our Lady of Sambir. Declare it as an Universal Day of Repentance.

4) Bishop Yakymyshyn

-Mission – Jesus has a mission – to lost sheep of Israel. We have our own lost sheep. We have a lot of work.

5) Father Ed Yarema

-Ecumenism? Look to our Lord's words. Harness the power of TV -- make our Church visible.

6) Fr. Mark Bayrock (Edmonton)

-Internet workshop. Has CD of Materials – Would like to make it available. mabayrock@hotmail.com . To get CD of valuable references.

7) Bishop Michael Wiwchar

-Evangelization, Reconciliation, Scene? Mission and the Church, Ecumenism, Catechumenate, Stewardship, Youth, Teens, Young Adults, Role of women in Church, Communication