



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА В КАНАДІ
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA
L'ÉGLISE ORTHODOXE UKRAINIENNE DU CANADA

9 St. John's Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 1G8
Tel. (204) 586-3093 (204) 582-8709 Fax. (204) 582-5241
web site: www.uocc.ca e-mail: consistory@uocc.ca

28. 07. 2021 A.D.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear fathers, brothers and sisters in Christ!

By the grace of God, I have begun to temporarily perform the duties of the Primate of the UOCC, following the retirement of our Metropolitan Yuriy.

My first decision, which went into effect on July 14 of this year, was to bless the renewal of participation of our faithful in the Holy Mysteries of the Eucharist and Repentance. Everything else in the life of the Church is important, but the Church exists for our salvation, which can only be attained through the Holy Mysteries.

All epidemics and environmental catastrophes, conflicts and troubles between people and nations, and our own personal problems and imperfections, are caused by the consequences of the ancestral sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, as well as by our own desires and actions in trying to become like God and to live without God. Every attempt to build a paradise on earth without God, such as the communist regimes of the 20th century and other projects of civilizations, ends in futility and bitterness. Instead of a paradise without God, the result is hell on earth.

Therefore, we, Orthodox Christians, must never forget the words of our Lord: "for without Me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5). And most importantly, we can do nothing without the Lord in His Holy Church, because it is His

КАНЦЕЛЯРІЯ МІСЦЕБЛЮСТИТЕЛЯ МИТРОПОЛИЧОЇ КАФЕДРИ
OFFICE OF THE LOCUM TENENS OF THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL

Mailing Address: 11404 - 112 Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0H6 CANADA
Office Telephone: (780) 455-1938 Mobile Telephone / SMS: (587) 990-6882
Direct E-Mail Address: ilarion_of_edmonton@yahoo.com

Church and He is Her Head. The Lord said: "You did not choose Me, but I chose you" (John 15:16).

We often create business plans and roadmaps for improving the Church in Her function as an institution. However, our plans do not always coincide with His plans. Before dwelling on many thoughts and making

plans for the Church, remember these words:" Do not trust in rulers, and in the sons of man, in whom there is no salvation. His breath shall go out of him, and he shall return to his earth; on that day all his thoughts shall perish. "(Psalm 145:3-4). We should not try to save the Church; we should try to save ourselves in the Church. We are not the saviors of the Church. There is one Savior - our Lord Jesus Christ.

If we are worried about the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada, we must first bear our own personal spiritual fruit through frequent participation in the Holy Mysteries, in keeping God's commandments, in fasting and prayer, and in acts of charity. Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed to His Heavenly Father on Holy Wednesday in the Garden of Gethsemane for all who believe in Him to be one: "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." (John 17:20-21).

The UOCC is in a turbulent state and has many challenges and problems. We must seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all other things shall be added to those who believe at Him as the Lord tells us. (Matthew 6:33)

We must sincerely beseech the Lord to help us so that we do not become a dry branch in His vineyard, but that we bear abundant spiritual fruit so that God may bless us all. "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." (Psalm 126:1).

Beloved in Christ!

Just as the Lord prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane on Holy Wednesday for the unity of all who believe in Him, I bless that every Wednesday from now until the 24th Sobor of the UOCC in June, 2022 that all of the clergy and faithful read the Akathist to our Lord Jesus Christ, the

КАНЦЕЛЯРІЯ МІСЦЕБЛЮСТИТЕЛЯ МИТРОПОЛИЧОЇ КАФЕДРИ
OFFICE OF THE LOCUM TENENS OF THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL

Mailing Address: 11404 - 112 Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0H6 CANADA
Office Telephone: (780) 455-1938 Mobile Telephone / SMS: (587) 990-6882
Direct E-Mail Address: ilarion_of_edmonton@yahoo.com

Head of the Holy Orthodox Church, for the good estate of the UOCC and for the unity of us all, so that God may bless, enlighten, and guide us all on the righteous road to salvation.

Please pray also for me so that the Lord may strengthen me to bear this new cross as the temporary Primate of our Church. In closing I assure you of my fervent prayers for you all.

With love in Christ,

+ Іларіон

+ Ilarion

Bishop of Edmonton and the Western Eparchy
Locum Tenens of the Metropolitan Cathedral UOCC

КАНЦЕЛЯРІЯ МІСЦЕБЛЮСТИТЕЛЯ МИТРОПОЛИЧОЇ КАФЕДРИ
OFFICE OF THE LOCUM TENENS OF THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL

Mailing Address: 11404 - 112 Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0H6 CANADA
Office Telephone: (780) 455-1938 Mobile Telephone / SMS: (587) 990-6882
Direct E-Mail Address: ilarion_of_edmonton@yahoo.com