

**Dear fathers, brothers and sisters in Christ, and, especially,
our newly-ordained Father Deacon Oleg!**

May the name of the Holy Trinity be blessed today, August 8th, 2021, in Winnipeg, in this holy Metropolitan Cathedral. We were able to receive the Holy and Precious Body and Blood of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, which is the pharmacy of immortality and unity with Him.

It is a special joy for all of us today. With God's blessing, a short time ago, I ordained pious Subdeacon Oleg to the Holy Deaconate so that he can help to celebrate the Holy Mysteries and to serve God and His Holy Church.

Dearly beloved in Christ, Deacon Oleg:

By God's Providence, you grew up in the town of Brusyliv in the province Zhytomyr, Ukraine, where our Metropolitan Ilarion Ohienko was born. My father was born in Zhytomyr province too, and all of my relatives on my father's side are from there.

From childhood, you have known very well what a difficult priest's cross your father bears, and not many children of a priest's family now dare to stand in the footsteps of their parents and serve the Church of Christ. I want to thank your parents who raised you for the glory of God.

Dear Father Deacon Oleg, you did not choose the Lord, but the Lord chose and called you to serve Him. It is a great privilege to serve God as a deacon, but it is also a great responsibility to be a deacon of the Holy Orthodox Church. As stated in the prayer during the Cherubim hymn: "No one who is bound with the desires and pleasures of the flesh is worthy to approach or draw near to serve You, o King of Glory; for to minister You is great and awesome even to the heavenly powers." Saint Apostle Paul said: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Heb

10:31). The Lord, who knows all hearts, has chosen you to serve Him.

Do not be afraid to be a servant of the Lord. The Lord will not leave you. He will give you His hand as He gave it to Apostle Peter when he was drowning and calling on the Lord for help. Today, the hands of the bishop were laid on your head and “The Divine Grace which always heals that which is infirm and completes that which is lacking” descended upon you.

The Lord will help you; the Lord will strengthen you; the Lord will always bless you if you become His devoted and faithful servant.

Dearly beloved fathers, brothers, and sisters in Christ!

Please pray for the good the 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 for me so that the Lord may strengthen me to bear this new cross, the temporary Primate of the UOCC, and I assure you of my fervent prayers for all of you.

May God help us all! Christ is amongst us!

