

PETER and PAUL RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL in MONTREAL
PARISH NEWS



КАФЕДРАЛЬНЫЙ СОБОР СВ. АП. ПЕТРА И ПАВЛА В МОНРЕАЛЕ

ПРИХОДСКОЙ ЛИСТОКЪ

No 3 (160)

April - May

1991.



ХРИСТОСЪ ВОСКРЕСЕ!

LE CHRIST EST
RESSUSCITE!

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη

“Christ
Is
Risen”



...on the tomb with the body
and in hell with the soul,
in paradise with the thief
and on the throne with the
Father and the Spirit, wast
Thou, O boundless Christ,
filling all things.



The HOLY SYNOD
of the
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

PASCHA 1991

TO THE REVEREND CLERGY AND FAITHFUL
OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Dearly beloved in Christ:

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Throughout the centuries, Orthodox Christians of every language, culture and country have repeated this exuberant greeting again and again. And still, these simple words have lost none of their power and majesty. Today, wherever this greeting is being announced -- village church, city cathedral, military chapel, seminary, monastery or home -- every man, woman and child of the faith is united in that mysterious certitude that these words are true and life-giving.

It is of interest to note that the disciples did not expect Christ's resurrection after his death on the cross -- the first reports from the women disciples being regarded by the disciples as "idle tales". It was only through experiencing the risen Lord that their lack of faith was conquered and their doubt, faint heartedness and unbelief were transformed into the certitude that Christ is Truly Risen from the dead, "granting life more fruitful and in abundance". Once the disciples had tasted the experience of the life giving resurrection, life could not be the same. Everything -- absolutely everything -- took on new meaning, new purpose and new joy.

Dear brothers and sisters, through the celebration of the feast of the resurrection, this same experience of joy is here for us to taste. The very foundation of our Orthodox faith is rooted in the words that "Christ is Risen"! These words are proclaimed not through some wishful thinking, but in the certitude that the "dominion of death has been vanquished". Let us become as little children and enter into this feast of faith with exuberance, embracing each other, forgiving each other, sharing with each other in the certitude of that new and indestructible life that Jesus brings. Let us be filled with the Spirit, singing and making melody to the Lord with all our heart. Let us always and for everything, giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father, proclaim with all certitude that " **CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**"

With love in the risen Lord,

+Metropolitan THEODOSIUS
and Members of the Holy Synod

EASTER SUNDAY

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!

(John 1:1-17)

So much of the news we hear in our day is bad news. We hear about the troubles of our nation and the trials of our neighbors. We read about crime and corruption, as well as sickness and starvation. Ask a person how he feels, and he will begin to complain of his pains and his troubles. Is there no good news to be heard?

Today, thank God, there is good news! Today, on this Easter Sunday, all the news is good! There is good news, joyous news, happy news. It is the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. This is wonderful news not only for our Lord's sake, in that Death could not hold Him in the grave; this is also glorious news for us, because His victory is our gain.

We celebrate this triumphant event in these words of the troparion: "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to all in the tombs bestowing life." Over and over again, the strains of this hymn resound within the walls of our churches. And yet we never tire of it, because it is full of good news.

1. First, we sing: "Christ is risen from the dead." This is fact. Jesus died on Great Friday and was buried in the tomb. A huge stone was rolled to the door of the grave. It was sealed. A guard of soldiers was detached to stand watch over it. But no earthly power could contain the Lord in the darkness of Death. That first Easter Sunday morn, Christ broke through every barrier and rose triumphantly from the grave! By the time the good women came to anoint His body, they found an empty tomb and an angelic messenger who brought them the electrifying good news: "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen!" And from that day to this day, for twenty centuries, men have taken up that strain from the Angels and have passed the news down to us today: Christ is Risen! It is for each one of us to respond in faith and joy: Indeed, He is Risen!

The resurrection of Christ is one of the most authenticated facts of history. Many people—as many as five hundred—saw Him and recognized Him. Jesus showed His Apostles the wounds in His hands, feet, and side. He ate in their presence, to assure them they were not seeing some ghost. "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." That is what the Resurrected Lord told His Apostles.

From Friday to Sunday the followers of Christ had been a sad and dejected group, the flame of love and hope in Christ all but extinguished; now these dying embers were rekindled into a flame that sent them out into all the world preaching and dying for Christ. And this fire has continued to our day, too, for love and hope in the Resurrected Lord burns in our hearts, as well. Else we would not gather here today.

The resurrection of Christ was so important that the Apostles changed their observance of the sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. Sunday became the day of resurrection, the day of God's new creation. And even today among the Orthodox, Sunday is called "Resurrection Day." Every Sunday is a "little Easter," so to speak. The very liturgical structure of hymns and lessons for the Sundays of the year is centered about the theme of resurrection.

2. Secondly, in the great hymn of this day we sing: "Trampling down death by death." Death, that ancient and ever-present enemy of mankind has finally met its match and been conquered. And what an enemy Death was for so many centuries! Who can count the number of those claimed by this enemy of Life? Who can portray the anguish of those dying without hope in eternity? But all that is gone now. Christ came and defeated Death at its own game. He died Himself, but then gloriously rose from the grave on the third day. What good is Death if one can come back to life again? Death's grip has been broken, once and for all. No wonder we rejoice today: this is good news for all. No wonder we call Jesus the "Victor," for indeed He is the greatest Victor and Conqueror of all.

St. Paul asks, "O Death, where is thy sting? O Death, where is thy victory?" Death has lost its sting. The victory Death wins when a Christian dies is an empty victory, because the dead shall rise again. The open sepulchur of our Lord has laid bare the secret and mystery of death.

3 Thirdly, we conclude the grand Resurrection Hymn with the words: "And to all in the tombs bestowing life." We may think that the resurrection of Christ does not affect us. Jesus died, then Jesus rose; what does this have to do with us? What has it to do with our dead parents, children? What does it have to do with me when I am laid to rest in the good brown earth? It has this to do with us: the Resurrection of Christ means that our beloved dead shall resurrect, and that we, too, shall one day rise from the cemetery sod. To all in the graves, Christ bestows life. Life in all its abundance, life without ending, life without tears and sickness; thrilling, throbbing life. Whose heart doesn't feel the pull to such a life with God?

Christ bestows life to those in the graves. Go to our cemetery, and there at every grave you find the symbol of the cross. This has become for us the symbol of victory, victory over death. Just as we bury a seed in the ground, expecting it to come forth one day in all the glory and wonder of fruit or flower; so we gently lay our beloved dead into the earth, expecting the dead to rise one day in all the glory and wonder of eternal and blessed life.

Let the hymn of victory ring out, then! Let the good news be heard. Let every voice be raised to sing with one tongue and one heart: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to all in the tombs bestowing life!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Amen.



HEATTEST CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FRIENDS
ON THE OCCASION OF THE JOYFUL FEAST OF
THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST !

ARCHBISHOP SYLVESTER

Rt.Rev.
Archimandrite Anthony

Montreal

Starosta of the Cathedral
A.A.Kaminski & family

Brossard

Rt.Rev.
Archimandrite Cyril

Montreal

Rev.Protodeacon
Gregory Maksymiuk

Montreal

V.Rev.
George Pokrowsky

Ottawa

Rt.Rev.
Oleg Boldireff
and Matushka

Rawdon

THE PARISH COUNCIL
of the Cathedral of St. Peter & St. Paul
in Montreal

wishes the Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Choir-members,
parishioners and all donors a joyful

E A S T E R

C h r i s t i s R i s e n !



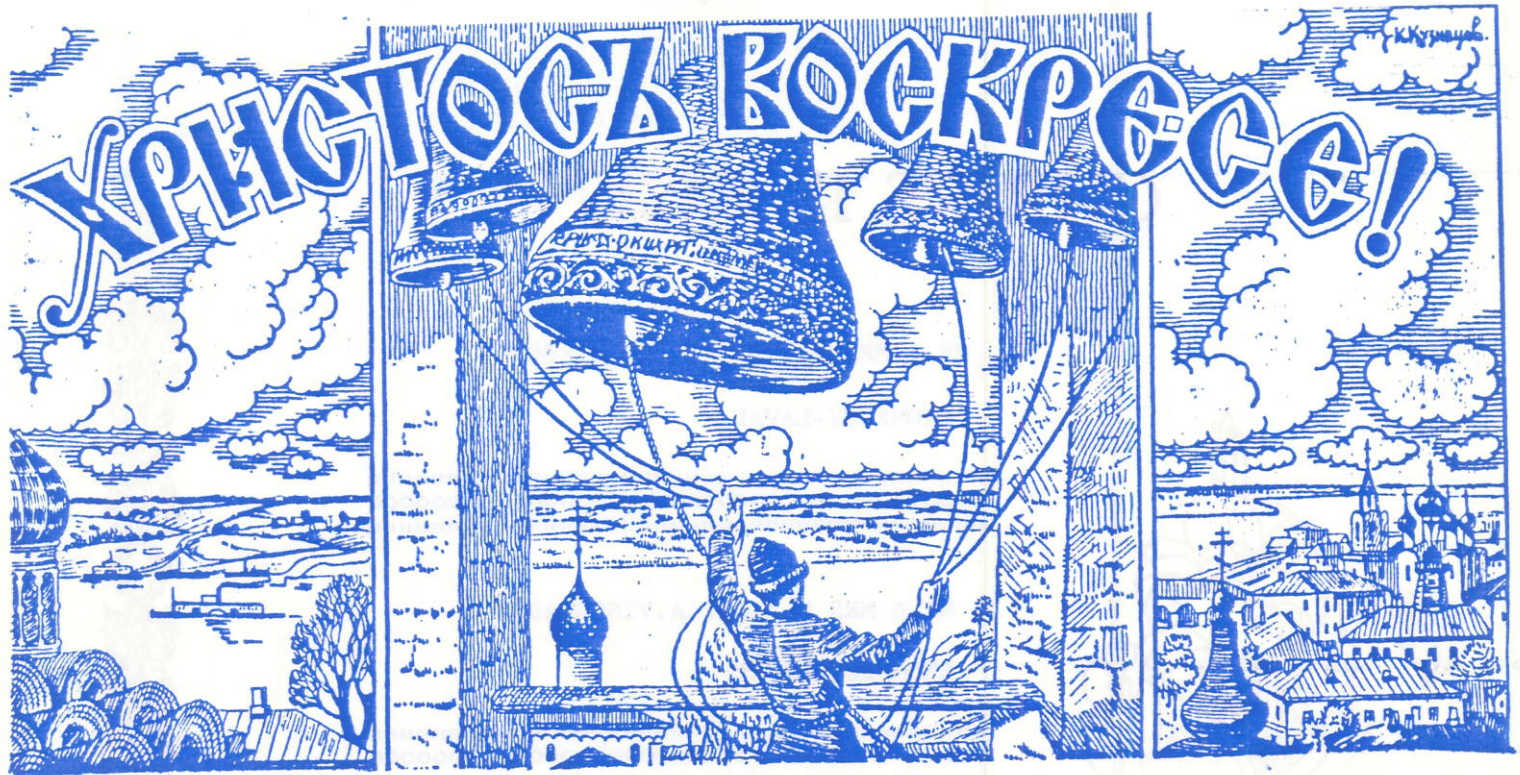
CHARITABLE SOCIETY

IN THE NAME OF THE VERY REV. JOHN OF KRONSTADT, OF THE
CATHEDRAL OF ST.PETER & ST.PAUL
MONTREAL



The Russian Chapter of the Royal Canadian Legion
Expresses its warmest wishes
to His Eminence Archbishop Sylvester,
the Clergy, and to all Parishioners and Freinds of
St.Peter and St.Paul Russian Orthodox Cathedral
throughout the radiant Feast of CHRIST'S RESURRECTION!





CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY, HE IS RISEN!

S I S T E R H O O D

in the name of St.Catherine
of the Cathedral of St.Peter & St.Paul

congratulates

all Orthodox people with the Joyful Feast of

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION



CHRIST IS RISEN!

MR & MRS G.I.& T.I.VINOGRADOV

CHOMEDEY-LAVAL

MR & MRS M.I. & I.A. VINOGRADOV

CHOMEDEY-LAVAL

THE CHURCH WARDEN AND THE PARISH COUNCIL
OF ST.SERAPHIM'S CHURCH IN RAWDON
SEND GREETINGS OF THE FEAST OF THE
RADIANT RESURRECTION OF CHRIST
CHRIST IS RISEN!

THE STAFF OF THE A.S.PUSHKIN LIBRARY
EXPRESSES ITS WARMEST GREETINGS TO
ALL OUR READERS DURING THE
RADIANT FEAST OF OUR LORD'S RESURRECTION





CHRONICLE OF PARISH LIFE
.....
at the Cathedral of
the Holy Apostles Peter & Paul
in the city of Montreal
.....

St. John of Kronstadt Benefit Society, in keeping with previous years, hold its Easter Collection at the same time that the parish collection is held. With this "Parish News" you will have received an Easter donation request from the Parish Council. Please put your offering in the enclosed envelope and either leave it at the candle desk or mail it to our parish. One third of the money so collected will go to our Benefit Society. Thank you in advance to all who respond to this paschal appeal and who, by their contribution, help the needy and unfortunate. By the time the Feast of the Holy Resurrection comes, our Charity Fund will have sent Easter donations to those in Brasil, Argentina, Peru, Yugoslavia, Austria, Poland, U.S.S.R., the Holy Land, to Mount Athos; Russian Organisations - the Russian Children's Welfare Society in New York, to Russian Invalids, Holy Protection Monastery in France, the Theological Institute in Paris (France), St. Vladimir's Seminary in New York. In Canada - Canadian Red Cross, Canadian Bible Society, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Quebec Easter Seal Society, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Quebec Lung Association, Amnistie International Canadian Section. Please help us to keep on showing this support for we must not forget.

On Easter night, after the Liturgy, the Benefit Society will serve a paschal breakfast for all.

Please try to make a point of purchasing our Charity Fund's greeting cards. This helps us to continue rendering assistance to the needy.

The Brotherhood - on Thomas Sunday, April 14th, after the Divine Liturgy the departed members of our Brotherhood will be commemorated (Panikhida) after which a everyone to attend this memorial service and meal.

The Sisterhood - on April 21st - Day of the Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women - following the Divine Liturgy the Sisterhood is histing a paschal buffet (breakfast). Everyone is welcome!

On May 26th - Holy Pentecost Day - the Sisterhood will provide its final "Sunday Coffee", a service which will resume in September following the summer

vacation - September 8th.

The Blessing of Kulichi and Paschi will take place in the Cathedral on Holy Saturday (April 6th) from 6 to 9 o'clock in the evening. In addition, following the Easter-night Liturgy, there will be a general blessing of kulichi and paschi in the parish hall.

Please Note. This year Paschal Vespers (April 7th) are scheduled for 12 o'clock noon.

Pentecostal Panikhidas at the Cemeteries:

Saturday, May 25th - Panikhidas at the Mount Royal Cemetery:

Upper Section - from 10 o'clock in the morning

Lower Section - from 2 o'clock in the afternoon

Sunday, May 26th - Panikhidas at the Mount Royal Cemetery:

Upper Section - from 3 o'clock in the afternoon

Lower Section - from 4 o'clock in the afternoon

Sunday, June 2nd, - Panikhidas at the Easter Cemetery (Hawhorn-Dale) from 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Summer Timetable for Divine Services. Everyone please note that after the Feast of the Holy Trinity the Divine Liturgy at our Cathedral will begin at 10 o'clock in the morning.

July 12th - The Feast of St. Peter and Paul - our patronal feast The Sisterhood invites all worshippers to a festal meal following the Divine Liturgy.

R A W D O N

Regular summer services will begin from June 1st: Saturday Vespers will be at 6:30 p.m., Liturgies on Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

On Sunday, June 9th, following the Divine Liturgy, a general Panikhida will be celebrated, after which litanies for the departed will be celebrated at the individual graves.

The patronal Feast of St. Seraphim of Sarov this year falls on Thursday, August 1st. The official celebration of the patronal feast will be postponed to Sunday, August 4th. Saturday, after Vespers, the Akathist to St. Seraphim will be held. After Liturgy, a festal meal for everyone will also take place.

This year, on September 1st, following the Divine Liturgy, a Panikhida will be celebrated at the MEMORIAL CROSS MONUMENT in memory of all who were killed and

tortured.

Every year St.Seraphim Church Committee organizes a Lottery. Tickets for this lottery may obtained after Easte either from Church Comitétee members, or from Mrs O.P.Motor in Montreal. Please help support this small community undertaking. The drawing will take place on August 18th.

The General Parish Meeting of the St.Seraphim community in Rawdon will take place on Sunday, Eptember 1st.

The Meeting of the Cemetery Committee will be held on August 25th, following the Divine Liturgy, at the residence of Archbishop Sylvester in Rawdon.

The Sisterhood of St.Seraphim will be preparing coffee in the presbytery every Sunday after Liturgy, from June 2nd. Parishioners will be most welcome here after Divine Liturgy.

A N A P P E A L :

at our Cemetery stands the MEMORIAL CROSS MONUMENT in memory of all those killed and tortured. For the period of June 1st to October 1st an "eternal flame" burns before the MEMORIAL CROSS MONUMENT. The maintenance of the Memorial Cross Monument and the "eternal flame" costa our Cemetery \$ 170.00 annually. His Eminence Archbishop Sylvester appeals to all who hold dear and do not forget all those tortured and killed by a godless regime to contribute to the defrayal of these expenses. We ask ~~these expenses, we ask that these donations be handed to~~ that these donations be handed to Archbishop Sylvester - cheque should be made out to the CHARITY FUND.

This season, Sister Nilla will be maintaining the Lampadas at the gravesites in the Rawdon Cemetery (June 1st - October 1st).

Several people have still not paid for last years "lampada" (50 dollars). Regretfully, unless these autstanding balances are paid by June 1st, "Lampadas" will no longer be placed on those respective gravesites.

The Annual General Parish Meeting took place on March 17th, this year, under the chairmanship of His Eminence, Archbishop Sylvester, with vice-president Mr G.Olsoufieff and the secretary Mrs I.Kazanovitch.

In his talk, the Archbishop first gave some general information on Parish Liturgical life concerning Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals. This past year, 11 parishioners have departed this life... many of whom were active participants in the life of our parish community. The Archbishop asked the Assembly to sing "Me-

mory Eternal" in remembrance of those who died. Vladyka expressed particular gratitude to Father Anthony and Protodeacon Gregory Maksymiuk who, although unencased (receive no stipend) regularly take part in Liturgical proceedings nonetheless. Vladyka expressed thanks to Father Cyril, the Choir and its director A.A.Kaminski, the Sisterhood, the Librarian Z.V.Szpakowska, Mr G.I. Vinogradov for his work setting up the Lottery, and issuing income tax receipts, Mr M.I.Vinogradov for his longstanding organisation of the yearly "Maslenitza" and Church Warden A.A.Kaminski for his caretaking and management of overall parish and church affairs with the Church Committee. Special thanks were expressed to Psalmist Mr A.I.Chomicz and his assistants, who conducts most Liturgical services and ceremonies and who, this past year has not missed one Liturgy.

The Archbishop asks that we express our gratitude to Anna Saakian and Nathalie Iliesko and their assistants for their coordination in sending medicines and food abroad to the needy. One ton of these supplies were sent to Moscow this past Christmas, and hopefully two tons will be sent to Leningrad this Easter.

Church Warden A.A.Kaminsky informed us that this year marks his fifth year as Church Warden, a duty which calls for constant repairs and maintenance to church property. He thanked all those who support the Church, especially Vladyka for his unseen work, the Clergy, the Choir, the Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Church Committee and especially its secretary Mr M.I.Vinogradov.

Church Committee Secretary Mr M.I.Vinogradov reported that 10 meetings, chaired by His Eminence Archbishop Sylvester have been held since this past year. Noting the services rendered by Church Warden, he expressed personal thanks to him for conducting the Church Committee numerous activities.

The Financial Secretary Mrs V.A.Kaminski read the financial report aloud concerning parish savings for 1990. The Archbishop explained the annual statement of accounts for the Church's Building Fund.

The Chairman of the Auditing Committee, Mr N.K.Rumin reported the findings of the Committee, saying that all parish-books were in order and balanced correctly.

The Budget for 1991 was read aloud by A.A.Kaminski. This budget is projected for \$ 79,630.00.

After this, the reports from the Sisterhood, the Library, the Benefit Society and the Rawdon Cemetery were read aloud respectively. All the reports were printed in Russian and English and before the commencement of the Parish

Meeting were distributed among those attending the meeting.

After this reports there followed a short intermission during which Mr G.I. Vinogradov invited parishioners to donate to the Building Fund. This collection amseed - \$ 3,440.00 (will all those who were asent from this meeting, will please try to contribute their part).

After recess it was proposed the meeting move on to the election of persons to responsible posts. Mr P.S.Subritsky resigned his post from the Church Committee due to health reasons. The Church Committee was re-elected in entirety, with Mrs X.A.Barrett and Mr N.K.Rumin elected as new members. Mrs M.G.Kartashov was elected as President of the Auditing Committee and Mrs I.V.Kazanovitch was elected as new member.

For 1991 the Church Committee are made up as follows:

Mr	A.A.Kaminski	Starosta (Church Warden)	
Mr	G.I.Vinogradov	1st Vice-Starosta	
Mr	P.A.Ostrowski	2nd Vive-Starosta	
Mr	P.A.Ferst	3rd Vice-Starosta	
Mr	M.I.Vinogradov	Secretary	
Mrs	V.A.Kaminski	Financial Secretary	
Mr	I.A.Feochari	Treasurer	
Mrs	X.A.Barrett	Member of Church Committee	
Mr	A. Cooper	"	"
Mr	N.A.Feochari	"	"
Mr	F.N.Gribovsky	"	"
Mr	P.I.Kamel	"	"
Mrs	H.G.Koshits-Lebedeff	"	"
Mrs	O.S.Lambetsky	"	"
Mr	A.P.Ostrowski	"	"
Mrs	I.N.Poutiatine	"	"
Mr	D.A.Poutiatine	"	"
Mr	N.K.Rumin	"	"
Mr	V.S.Slivitsky	"	"
Mr	N.N.Westphal	"	"

Auditing Committee

Mrs	M.G.Kartasho	President of Auditing Committee	
Mrs	E.G.Bikadoroff	Member	" "
Mrs	I.V.Kazanovitch	Member	" "

Mrs O.A.Melikoff	Member of Auditing Committee
Mrs M.S.Shtym	Member " "
Honorary life-member of the Church Committee - V.A.Hulet	
Honorary life-member of the Church Committee - G.D.Olsoufieff	

As to current affairs, the first question to be put forward was: should parish membership fees be increased by one dollard. After a short deliberation the Assembly moved that member fees from January 1992 will be:

for men - annually \$ 108.00 (\$ 9.00 a month)
for women - annually \$ 96.00 (\$ 8.00 a month)
for Sisterhood members - annually \$ 84.00 (\$ 7.00 a month)
Students can pay \$ 1.00; 2.00; 3.00 or 4.00 a month.

The following question was: our Library as already filled to capacity... We need more cabinets if we are to accomodate more books... After some consideration the Assembly decided it is possible to buld cabinets in the small hall along the far wall running from the staircase to the corner ikon...

The Archbishop clarified several obscure points surrounding interest from "Frozen Capital" how is this money spent. "Frozen Capital" of the late T.A.Kruspel - yeilds interest which is between the Sisterhood, St.Seraphim Church in Rawdon, Russian Invalids (France), Children's Society (New York), the faithful in Russia, the cemetery in Rawdon for forgotton gravesites...

"Frozen Capital" - of Cemetery in Rawdon - interest for upkeep of graves and for commemorations.

"Frozen Capital" - of different persons for preserve and for burials.

Vladyka also noted that controls concerning tax deductible donations are becoming stricter every year. He is asking everyone to please not iinflate their reported contributions to the Church. Mr G.I.Vinogradov will have to control the attestats handed in much more closely, so please don't take offense - it has to be done...

In his concluding statements at the end of the Meeting, Vladyka thanked all those who had participated in the preparation of facts for the General Parish Meeting and to all who contribute to the welfare of our Cathedral and parish life.

DONATIONS: in memory of N.V.Skotezky - to the Benefit Society -

Mrs X.Barrett, Mrs Z.Szpakowska,
Mrs Katharina Schuller

Tel.: (514) 687-8808

5017 Boul. St. Martin
LAVAL P.Q. H7W 3S6

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
branch 226

ST. GEORGE THE VICTORIOUS

THE TRADITIONAL PARADE

OF THE RUSSIAN CHAPTER OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION IS SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY, JULY 14th 1991 AT 12:30 p.m.

THE PARADE WILL COMMENCE WITH A PANIKHIDA IN THE CEMETERY AT THE
MONUMENT TO THE RUSSIAN SOLDIER.

AT 1:45 p.m. AT THE LOCALE, OF THE RAWDON CHAPTER OF THE ROYAL
LEGION, 409 ALBERT STREET and 4th AVENUE - A DINNER WILL BE HELD.

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND AQUAINTANCE - TAKE PART IN THE CELEBRATION
OF THIS ALL-RUSSIAN EVENT.

DINNER PRICES - \$ 10.00

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE



AID TO BELIEVERS IN RUSSIA

charity fund

1175-A, rue de Champlain
Montréal Québec
H2L 2K7 CANADA

"Contain the peaceful spirit in yourself and thousands around you will be saved"

Moscow - February 7, 1991 - The relics of St. Seraphim the Profet of Sarov were met today. This is a most noteworthy event - the 2nd consecration of the Relics pfone of Russia's greatest saints both for Russian history and for the history Annals of the Russian Orthodox Church. The Vladimir Iljin describes St. Seraphim with great clarity and precision saying that "in studying and coming to know him, one learns one's Reucrence for Orthodoxy: almost as through we feel generating from St. Seraphim a spark from which generates Orthodoxy's strongest Rays". The ceremony celebrating the solemnity of transferring the the St. Seraphim's relics took place only recently this past January 11th in Leningrads Cathedral. The saints Relics are presently located at the Church of the Epiphany in Moscow and in midsummer upon fulfilling the Saint of Sarov's feast day, will then be transferred to the Diveevsky Monastery.

MURDER OF CLERGY IN MOSCOW.

Early on the morning of September 9th 1990 while on his way to service Father Alexander Menn was attacked and killed by someone's blow of an ax to the back of his head. To this day official investigation has not been successful in coming closer to solving the murder.

On December 27th 1990 Igumen Father Lazar 9Solnishko) was murdered while in his communal apartment. His death was due to 7 or 8 blows to the head by some heavy, blunt object, although the reasons are still very sketchy, indications are that the main motive for this killing was robbery. Investigations surraunding this case lead the cheif invesigator to this crime to believe that it will be a lengthy and protracted one.

During the night of February 1st and 2nd Hieromonk Seraphim (Shlikov) was murdered around midnight. Initial findings indicate that several persons entered his apartment, bound him hand and foot then dealt several heavy blows to the head with some blunt, heavy object, possibly a hammer. At this point the cheif investigator considers the primory motive behind this case to be

robbery.

Yet... even in the February 5th edition 1991 "Komsomolskaya Pravda" says: Considering that this has been the third murder in a row of a Priest in the past 6 months, robbery, as motives go, is still pretty hard to beleive...

SOVIET JOURNALIST REPORTS ON MURDERED PRIEST.

A journalist from the Young Communist newspaper "Komsomolskaya Pravda", Leonid Nikitinsky, has written a lengthy report in the paper on his investigation into the murder of Russian Orthodox priest Seraphim Shilkov. Father Seraphim had telephoned Nikitinsky on the day before his murder to arrange a meeting, saying that the had information to pass on to him.

Nikitinsky describes a conflict between two rival religious communities which both tried to register in the central Moscow church to which Fr. Seraphim was appointed. One group was associated with a splinter group of the anti-Semitic organisation "Pamyat". They made crude written and verbal threats against the priest, and he was also troubled by anonymous telephone calls. Nikitinsky tentatively concludes that possibly he was murdered by a religious fanatic or group, possibly under the influence of "Pamyat". Such a person or group could also have been responsible for the murders of Fr. Aleksander Men and Hegumen Lazar (Solnyshko).

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH REORGANISES.

The Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church adopted a series of internal re-organisation measures at its session on 29-31 January, reports "Service Orthodox de Presse". The measures are aimed at co-ordinating religious education and charitable work and at decentralisation to reactivate diocesan and parish life. Father Ioann Ekonomtsev, a professor at the Moscow Theological Academy, is in charge of religious education, and charitable work is headed by Archbishop Sergi of Solnechnogorsk, until now the church's representative at the WCC in Geneva.

Five new dioceses have been created. One, in Volgograd, unites parishes of the Volga basin. The huge diocese of Kazakhstan, whwre nearly half the population is Russian, has been divided into three new dioceses: Uralsk (west), Khimchent (centre) and Alma-Ata (east). In the Soviet Far East two new dioceses have been created in addition to the existing Khabarovsk diocese: Vladivostok and Magadan, which includes the Kamchatka peninsula.

Two more theological colleges have been opened, in Kirov (Russia) and Alma-Ata (Kazakhstan), bringing the number of Orthodox educational establishments to 14. Eight monastic institutions have been returned, comprishing five monasteries and two convents in Russia and a convent in Moldavia. The church now possesses 61 monasteries throughout the Soviet Union, compared with 17 in 1986.

Leningrad, January 12, 1991

Dear Nicholas,

I am writing to you on the eve of the "new old year", a date that the natives of St. Petersburg have always celebrated. Alas, today, as our desperate economic situation has become "normal" and while people are unable to find food even on ration-coupons, we fear only that "things may get still worse!".

A recent thunderstorm, rare in January, caused many people to think that an explosion had occurred signaling the beginning of a military coup. Our newspapers had to identify the "explosion" as being the work of mother nature. In these circumstances, the word "celebrate" is not very appropriate. Each day brings more bitter news. It comes from everywhere and is always unexpected. Today my sister and niece were supposed to go to Kaliningrad with a group from their institute but the trip was cancelled because the train from "there" - meaning the Baltic states - did not come. Frightful rumours of events in the land of our peaceful neighbours reach us and we don't know what is true, and what is rumour created by the terror of the population facing the soldiers and the tanks.

One thing is clear, 1991 started badly in the USSR. The times are now such that the only good to hope for is that which you can manage to create around you. Even though the little things one is able to accomplish are minute in the face of universal grief and need, they are nevertheless steps towards the light.

For Christmas we were able to receive from Mexico, at my request, some toys for blind children. Last year I was asked to help a small blind boy and his unfortunate parents. Through my involvement I became acquainted with the problem of blind children. Now I have some 80 addresses of blind children in Leningrad. You may wonder, why toys? Surely everybody needs food! Blind children, however, cannot get to know their world without good toys. They cannot see pictures or watch television, they cannot read..... all is done by feel or by sound. Yet there are many gifted children among these kiddies, many of whom are the victims of birth accidents and of our "free" medicine. They need help to become autonomous or they will be doomed to live and die in communal houses for the handicapped where life cannot be called "life" without a good dose of hypocrisy.

A recent newspaper article recounted a "common" event; an old woman in a long line-up for meat became so desperate that she started pushing out of the queue another woman with a baby saying "you make babies and then run around food queues". Vicious, hungry people see in every extra mouth an encroachment on their own piece of food. The editor asks readers to write in (and express their opinion on) how an honest person standing in this queue should have reacted to such goings-on.

You can see what we have come to!

At Christmas, thanks to the faithful in America and France, we were able to give presents to the children in the kindergarten and the boarding school for handicapped children. Nevertheless, we occasionally despair at only being able to help tens or hundreds when the need is so widespread. On the other hand, only faith and mercy can soften this growing anger that is like a cancerous tumour. God help us if it should burst in an explosion! God help us if it should spread from Russia to the whole world!

Our churches are crumbling and people's souls are empty. Pray for Russia, we cannot expect miracles from our leaders. Only God in his mercy can heal our suffering, godless nation.

May the Lord keep you and yours!

N. D.....

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ICONS RETURNED TO CHURCH

On 16 February "Komsomolskaya Pravda" published a short paragraph on the Kazan prayer house in the town of Termez on the Afghan border. The chief priest Hegumen Innokenti shared the joyful news with the paper that recently the authorities have returned more than 50 19th century icons to the church. They were confiscated in 1935 and then handed over to the regional Folklore Museum.

OFFICIAL EASTER CELEBRATION IN MOSCOW.

For the first time in 70 years Easter will be officially celebrated in Russia. On 6 April a divine service will be held in Moscow on Red Square. The service will mark the start of Easter week according to the Orthodox calendar. Ten thousand orphans and disabled people will take part in the Easter festivities, reported Moscow home service. A joint Soviet-American conference for charitable cooperation will sponsor the events, the report added.

STATISTICS ON ORTHODOX CHURCH IN ESTONIA.

There are currently 89 Orthodox churches in Estonia, according to "Service Orthodoxe de Presse". Of these, 39 have services in Estonian, 38 in Russian and 12 in both languages. The numbers of faithful are 15,000 Estonian and 25,000 Russians, but growing rapidly. The newly-elected Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, Aleksii II, is retaining responsibility for the diocese of Estonia, whose bishop he has been since 1960 (he is of Estonia and Germanic descent), but is now represented by an auxiliary bishop, the newly-ordained Kornili. The Estonian diocese is suffering from a shortage of priest. At present priest may be trained in one of the Russian seminaries or at the Orthodox seminary at Joensuu in Finland, but the diocese is hoping to reopen its own seminary in Tartu, which functioned until 1940 in association with the Lutheran Theological Faculty of Tartu University.

RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT TAXES CHURCH PROFITS.

On 1 December the Parliament of the Russian Republic adopted a draft law which, "for the first time in the history of humanity establishes a tax on the profits from the everyday activities of religious associations", writes Orthodox priest Vyacheslav Polosin in the Russian Christian Democratic Movement's newspaper "Put". Fr.V.Polosin is himself a member of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR and chairman of its Committee on Freedom of Conscience.

Fr.V.Polosin says the committee has protested strongly against the tax, which would be imposed on performance of rites (baptisms, marriages and funerals), and on the sale of candles, icons and religious literature. The committee proposed two amendments which were not adopted, but then entered into a compromise with the Ministry of Finance by which only commercial activities would be taxable. This means the tax would not apply to religious rites but might well apply to sales. This means that the tax could be levied twice, once when the church workshop produces the candles and pays a tax of 38 per cent to the state, and a second time when a candle is sold in a church and a further 38 per cent is paid in tax.

Fr.V.Polosin expresses surprise that such a draft law can be adopted when the majority of Russian parliamentarians are positive about religion, as shown by the adoption on the Law on Freedom of Denominations last October. He fears it will lower the popularity of the Russian Supreme Soviet, which has already fallen from 59 per cent last August to 31 per cent in November.

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SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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APRIL

MAY

JUNE

1st Monday Great-Lenten Hours and Liturgy of the10:00 a.m.
Presanctified Gifts.....7:00 p.m.
Matins.....

2nd Tuesday Great-Lenten Hours and Liturgy of the10:00 a.m.
Presanctified Gifts.....7:00 p.m.
Matins.....

3rd Wednesday Great-Lenten Hours and Liturgy of the10:00 a.m.
Presanctified Gifts.....7:00 p.m.
Matins.....

4th Thursday Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St.Basil the Great.....10:00 a.m.
Matins and 12 Passion Gospels.....7:00 p.m.

5th Friday Vespers and Burial.....2:00 p.m.
Matins and Procession.....7:00 p.m.

6th Saturday Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St.Basil the Great.....10:00 a.m.
Nocturne.....11:30 p.m.

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7th Sunday Processions and Paschal Matins.....12:00 mm
Paschal Liturgy.....1:00 a.m.
Paschal Vespers.....12:00 a.m.

8th Monday Paschal Liturgy.....10:30 a.m.

9th Tuesday	Paschal Liturgy.....	10:30 a.m.
10th Wednesday	Paschal Liturgy.....	10:30 a.m.
13th Saturday	Paschal Liturgy.....	10:30 a.m.
	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
14th Sunday	St.Thomas Divine Liturgy.....	10:30 a.m.
16th Tuesday	Joyous Memorial of the Departed Divine Liturgy and Panikhida.....	10:30 a.m.
20th Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
21st Sunday	The Holy Myrrhbearer' Sunday Divine Liturgy.....	10:30 a.m.
27th Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
28th Sunday	Paralytic Sunday Divine Liturgy.....	10:30 a.m.
<u>M a y</u>		
4th Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
5th Sunday	The Samaritan Women Sunday Divine Liturgy.....	10:30 a.m.
6th Monday	St.George the Great Martyr Divine Liturgy and Molieben.....	10:30 a.m.
8th Wednesday	St.Sylvester Divine Liturgy and Molieben.....	10:30 a.m.
11th Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
12th Sunday	The Blind Man Sunday Divine Liturgy.....	10:30 a.m.

15th	Wednesday	Apodosis of Pascha	
		Divine Liturgy.....	10:30 a.m.
		Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
16th	Thursday	THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD	
		Divine Liturgy.....	10:30 a.m.
18th	Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
19th	Sunday	Holy Fathers of First Ecumenical Council	
		Divine Liturgy.....	10:30 a.m.
22nd	Wednesday	St. Nicholas Wonderworker	
		Divine Liturgy and Molieben.....	10:30 a.m.
25th	Saturday	Memorial Saturday	
		Divine Liturgy and Panikhida.....	10:30 a.m.
		Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
26th	Sunday	PENTECOST: TRINITY SUNDAY	
		Divine Liturgy and Vespers.....	10:30 a.m.
27th	Monday	Day of the Holy Spirit	
		Divine Liturgy.....	10:30 a.m.
<u>J u n e</u>			
1st	Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
2nd	Sunday	All Saints	
		Divine Liturgy.....	10:00 a.m.
8th	Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
9th	Sunday	All Russian Saints	
		Divine Liturgy.....	10:00 a.m.
15th	Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
16th	Sunday	Divine Liturgy.....	10:00 a.m.
22nd	Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.

23rd Sunday	Divine Liturgy.....	10:00 a.m.
29th Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
30th Sunday	Divine Liturgy.....	10:00 a.m.
<u>J u l y</u>		
6th Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
7th Sunday	Nativity of St. John Baptist Divine Liturgy.....	10:00 a.m.
11th Thursday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
12th Friday	THE HOLY APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL Divine Liturgy and Molieben.....	10:00 a.m.
13th Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
14th Sunday	Divine Liturgy.....	10:00 a.m.
20th Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
21st Sunday	Divine Liturgy.....	10:00 a.m.
27th Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
28th Sunday	Vladimir, Enlightener of the Russians Divine Liturgy.....	10:00 a.m.
<u>A u g u s t</u>		
2nd Friday	Holy Prophet Elijah Divine Liturgy and Molieben	10:00 a.m.
3rd Saturday	Vigil.....	7:00 p.m.
4th Sunday	Divine Liturgy.....	10:00 a.m.
9th Friday	Panteleimon, Great Martyr and Healer. Feast of the Transfer of the Relics of St. Herman of Alaska Divine Liturgy and Molieben.....	10:00 a.m.