

Archdiocesan Assembly 2007- Ottawa Other Reports

Contents

Metropolitan Council Representative Report	1
Missions Report	5
Canadian Orthodox Messenger Report	7
St. Arseny Orthodox Theological Institute Report	10
Youth & Young Adult Report	16
Archdiocesan Web Site project Report.....	21
Holy Resurrection Church, Sifton – Restoration Report	25
Proposed Amendments to the Archdiocese of Canada Bylaws.....	27
Our Journey to Ottawa.....	31

Metropolitan Council Representative Report

Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent. (The Tractatus)

This aphorism of Ludwig Wittgenstein (the Viennese-born British thinker) aptly expresses the apophatic character of Orthodox theology that we so often laud, and so rarely practice. For proof of this, one need only call to mind all the hot air and cold ink and endless pixels that have been expended these last few years over the “scandal” in the Central Administration of the Orthodox Church in America.

Earlier this year a summary of my prediction regarding the outcome of this still-ongoing process was printed in our diocesan newsletter (reproduced below). I cannot add to the main thrust of my earlier

statement, and so will not do so here. (The reason the Lord God permitted the Internet to come into being is so more of us than are willing to confess can "lurk" in the knowledge of good and evil, even when this regards the financial and moral misdeeds that continue to plague us.)

The four main blessings that have emerged from all of this, in my opinion, still hold true. The "latest" events such as the Day of Prayer and Fasting in the OCA Diocese of the Midwest, the earlier open letter of a cleric from there, the "benchmarks" set by that diocese for the OCA and Holy Synod to meet... all of these are the necessary components of a solution to this, in Christ. I believe that the Lord God will grant us to see the End of all this – let's pray that this will be given to us all in the OCA !

"Death is not an event in life: we do not live to experience death. If we take eternity to mean not infinite temporal duration but timelessness, then eternal life belongs to those who live in the present."

The Beginning of the End

Canadian Orthodox Messenger – New Series 18:2 Spring 2007

We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

The finance-related woes that have befallen us in the Central Administration of the Orthodox Church in America in the early years of this century have certainly put us all on the world map. More so than many expensive "public relations" extravaganzas, this "scandal" has been reported in more media than we're accustomed to seeing ourselves. The wire-services (both commercial and home-grown) have spawned discussions of our plight not only in the USA and Canada, but in places as far away as Russia, Japan, Greece and even Iraq.

Now while it is easy to bemoan this notoriety, we are also called to "make of it" something more "according to his purpose." And, strangely enough, some good things have come out of this predicament in which we find ourselves:

We have been humbled and reminded that sin is not a phenomenon that afflicts only others. Painful though it may be, it is much better to see ourselves as we really are – rather than to put up false fronts and delight in delusions.

We are being led into a re-examining our modes of acting and of thinking. Since these troubles surfaced, various levels of the church have been chastised: the episcopate and other clergy, the laity and various institutions we have taken for granted.

We are being watched by other Orthodox Churches (both in the “old countries” such as those mentioned above, and in the “newer ones” such as England, Finland and others in the so-called Diaspora) to see how we act and react when challenged by adversity and calamity of our own doing.

But to my mind, perhaps the greatest boon of all is this: we are inwardly not quite as quick to permit ourselves a “holier than thou” attitude in relation to others: other people, other segments of society, and even other confessions and denominations.

Taught as we are in Scripture that all creation and everything in it is finite – what has a beginning is also blessed by God to have an end – this is the blessing that was given me and many others at the recent joint sessions of the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council in early December of last year. Read the statements pointed out on the OCA’s official website (and indulge yourself by admitting that you’ve read the competition’s counterpoint “OCANews.org” site). Both of these OCA organisms have now openly and publicly – some would say, finally – acknowledged that we have been remiss in our stewardship of God’s Body, the Church. Now that is a hard, but not at all bad, admission to make – and one that we Orthodox, as I said, are not very adept or comfortable at expressing both to ourselves but especially to others.

The beginning of the end is now at least visible to all the gossip and recrimination to which we have subjected ourselves the past few years.

While many details and fine points of this admission have still to be worked on, in broad strokes the very fact doing so is rejuvenating. It’s good to be so forcefully reminded (especially during Great Lent and Pascha) that all of us are capable of and in need of, repentance and confession. Clergy of all ranks, laity of various professions and persuasions, all united before and in the Lord God. And to once again know how refreshing this is.

“Lord, it is good for us to be here!”

Archpriest John Tkachuk

Archdiocese of Canada

Representative to the Metropolitan Council

Missions Report

The following is a current list of Missions and Mission Stations in the Archdiocese of Canada, as well as changes in status since the last Archdiocesan Assembly in July, 2004.

Missions

Served by:

<u>Kingston, ON</u>	<u>St. Gregory of Nyssa</u>	Fr. Luc (Majoros)
<u>Winnipeg, MB</u>	<u>Theotokos of the Life Giving Spring</u>	**New since last Assembly**
<u>Sherwood Park, AB</u>	<u>St. Athanasius</u>	Fr. Ronald Poworoznik
<u>Comox Valley, BC</u>	<u>Holy Apostle Barnabas</u>	Fr. Alexis Nikkel
<u>Whitehorse, YT</u>	<u>St. Nikolai of Zhitsa</u>	Fr. John Bingham
<u>Toronto, ON</u>	<u>St. Astius Albanian</u>	(Dormant)

Mission Stations

<u>St. John's, NF</u>	<u>Holy Lady of Vladimir</u>	Quebec Deanery
<u>Marystown, NF</u>		
<u>Québec, QC</u>	<u>Holy Trinity</u>	
<u>Orillia, ON</u>		
<u>Toronto, ON</u>	<u>St. Nicholas</u>	Fr. Nicholas Young
<u>Canora, SK</u>		Fr. Andrew Piasta
<u>Edmonton, AB</u>		Fr. Vasyl Kolega
<u>Red Deer, AB</u>	<u>St. Nektarios</u>	Fr. Michael Schaplowsky
<u>Vancouver, B.C.</u>	<u>St. John of Shanghai</u>	Fr. Justin Hewlett **New since last Assembly**
<u>Vancouver, B.C.</u>	<u>St. Nina of Georgia</u>	Fr. Christopher Rigden-Briscall **New since last Assembly**
<u>Cranbrook, B.C.</u>	<u>St. Aidan of Lindisfarne</u>	Fr. Richard Rene **New since last Assembly**
<u>Port Hardy, BC</u>		Fr. John Hainsworth
<u>Etobicoke, ON</u>	<u>St. Sergius</u>	(Dormant)
<u>Toronto, ON</u>	<u>St. Innocent of Alaska</u>	(Dormant)
<u>Prince Albert, SK</u>	<u>St. Peter the Aleut</u>	(Dormant)
<u>Grande Prairie, AB</u>	<u>Holy Apostle Philip</u>	(Dormant)
<u>Kamloops, BC</u>	<u>St Nicholas</u>	(Dormant)

<u>Montréal, QC</u>	<u>All Saints of Albania</u>	CLOSED
<u>Toronto, ON</u>	<u>St. Gabriel</u>	CLOSED

The following Missions have reached Parish status since the 2004 Assembly:

<u>Halifax, NS</u>	<u>St. Vladimir</u>	Fr. Vladimir Tobin
<u>Toronto, ON</u>	<u>St. Seraphim</u>	Fr. Nester (Mikhailechko)
<u>Hamilton, ON</u>	<u>All Saints of North America</u>	Fr. Geoffrey Korz
<u>Windsor, ON</u>	<u>St. John the Divine</u>	Fr. Constantine Katellio
<u>Victoria, BC</u>	<u>All Saints of Alaska</u>	Fr. John K Hainsworth

Respectfully submitted by,
Archpriest Larry Reinheimer
Missions Director

Canadian Orthodox Messenger Report

to the 2007 Assembly of the Archdiocese of Canada, OCA

Since our last report to the Archdiocesan Assembly in 2004 in Saskatoon, we have compiled articles and photographs, edited them, and typeset (using a "desktop publishing" computer program) twelve quarterly issues of the *Canadian Orthodox Messenger*. Each issue is read (and usually proof-read!) by Archbishop Seraphim before he gives his blessing to the final draft.

As we have always done since the beginning of my tenure as *Messenger* editor in July 1990, we have continued to adhere to a strict quarterly publication schedule, with issues in the parish churches by mid-September (Autumn), mid-December (Winter), mid-March (Spring), and mid-June (Summer). [Just as a reminder, the deadlines for these issues continue to be as follows: July 15 for Autumn, October 15 for Winter, January 15 for Spring, and April 15 for Summer. There is often a little flexibility with these deadlines, but we tend to stick to them fairly closely.]

From 1990, we have envisioned two primary goals for the *Canadian Orthodox Messenger*:

- To be a medium of communication among and for all of us in the Archdiocese, and
- To be a means of presentation of what we are to a wider readership beyond our own diocese.

To these ends we strive always for balance of regional content as well as variety of subject matter: news of parishes, monastic communities, and institutions east and west; information about our missionary history as a diocese; articles about notable servants of our diocese, especially on the occasion of significant anniversaries, etc.; occasional pan-Orthodox and ecumenical news, especially as related to the Canadian scene; and feature articles and book reviews, from time to time, which address practical, moral, and/or spiritual concerns which affect our daily lives as Canadian Orthodox

Christians.

As of late May 2007, most of the *Messenger* issues from the past six years are now online, at <http://www.archdiocese.ca/messenger.htm>.

For this we have **Mr Alex Ovodov** of Vancouver to thank, as well as **Fr Justin Hewlett** of Langley before him. Over the last few years, we have received many requests for this service, and it is good that we can present our diocesan newspaper in this popular format. Eventually the digital format should save some money on mailing costs.

Since 1990 we have had the much-appreciated help of **Ms Helene Culhane** of our Ottawa Cathedral as the *Messenger* Circulation Manager. She directs the distribution of 1700 printed copies of each issue. The majority of the copies are mailed in bulk directly to the diocesan parishes and institutions by our printer through Canada Post, but about 250 copies are mailed individually by Helene to the USA and Canada, Ukraine, Poland, Finland, Norway, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Latvia, Romania, Denmark, Macedonia (the Slavic country, not the ancient province of Greece), The UK, Uganda, Ghana, India, New Zealand, and Egypt.

Over the past three years Helene has received several queries about the availability of *COM* on the Internet, as has the editor. It is hoped that as people find that the issues are now on the Internet, the expenses involved in the mailing of individual issues can be lowered. It may be also that since the issues online are in permanent (non-changeable) format, fewer copies will need to be sent to parishes, since extra copies can be printed directly from the computer (but only in single-page format) if needed. We hope that the Archdiocesan Council will be discussing this possibility in the coming year. At this point it does not seem possible to produce the *Messenger* exclusively online, because many people in our diocese, as well as elsewhere, still do not have easy computer access, or even access at all.

For about a decade and a half, we have greatly appreciated the work of our printer, **Mr Doug Gander** of Westport ON, a parishioner of the Ottawa Cathedral. Although he earns his livelihood as a professional printer, he does all the work for us on a volunteer basis, with the diocese paying only for paper and mailing costs. As Doug and I work together, we are beginning to

try to find ways of enhancing the quality of photographs in the publication. The quality of the printing of words is always excellent, but because we rely largely on digital cameras, there are problems with the production of photographs that we hope to work out in the next three years. Doug has just begun to develop a process of mixing some acrylic-based ink into the regular rubber-based black, which should work a lot better with fine screens (dot-patterns used for photos). We hope that this will go some way to improving photo quality in future. There are also a number of things I will be trying at the desk-top publishing end of the process. Alex Ovodov has also said that he may be able to help me improve the photo quality before the pictures go to the printer. Clearly all of us will need to be working on this!

Doug reminds all who send photographs to the editor for publication, to try to set their cameras to the highest resolution-setting available to any particular camera, to get the sharpest photos. He also notes that a higher quality of paper would produce better output for pictures, but that is an extra expense that the Archdiocesan Council may not see as justifiable, especially since the photos are of quite good quality when they appear on the Internet (the digital media being so compatible).

I thank God for the work and dedication of each of these faithful people mentioned above, and I thank all of you - everyone in the Archdiocese of Canada - for your advice, encouragement, and help. Please continue your interest and support and labours for the love of Christ in this particular medium of our witness and service to the Lord as Orthodox Christians in Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
Mother Sophia (Zion),
Monastic Community of St Silouan the Athonite, Johnstown ON

St. Arseny Orthodox Theological Institute Report

to the Assembly of the Archdiocese of Canada

A. A Summary of Developments since the Last Archdiocesan Assembly

1. B. Th. and M. Div. Degree Programmes Added to the Reader's, Diaconal, and Lay Certificate Programmes of Study Offered by the St. Arseny Institute

Courses for Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity Degree Programmes in Orthodox Studies to Begin in September, 2007

- A full programme of courses (96-credit hours) for a graduate Master of Divinity degree in Orthodox studies (Association of Theological Schools standard) has been approved by His Eminence Archbishop Seraphim, and the Dean of Theology, University of Winnipeg. A Bachelor of Theology degree programme will also be available. St. Arseny Institute is now able to provide degree programmes for both laity and prospective candidates for the priesthood in Canada, beginning in the fall of 2007.
- The B. Th. and M. Div. degrees also allow for various practical training components being done as part of the academic credit for the degree.
- The degree programmes allow for a considerable number of courses being done through distance education or intensive studies or directed studies.
- The Institute is planning to offer toward the M. Div. degree five courses in the fall, 2007 term; five courses in the Winter 2008 term; and several intensive courses of differing lengths in the period between May to August during the Spring/Summer 2008 term.

Note: Ongoing Reader's and Diaconal Study and Lay Certificate Programmes
The Reader's Training and Diaconal Study and Lay Certificate programmes continue to be offered by correspondence across Canada, and by local class

sessions, one-on-one directed study, or tutoring in a few locations across Canada. The Reader's Programme and Diaconal Programme each have about fifteen students officially enrolled in training toward being tonsured as readers or toward ordination to the diaconate, while others take courses without a view to official service in the Church.

Two students who have completed the full 20 courses of the diaconal programme have been ordained to the Holy Diaconate, and a third student who has completed a few courses with the Institute has also been ordained. Seven students have completed the Reader's Programme.

2. Academic Theological Library Established

- Our St. Arseny Institute library has been catalogued, shelved and is being circulated by the University of Winnipeg Library, with allowance for growth by the U. of W. Library.
- Significant offers of contributions to the St. Arseny Library Collection have been received and are being followed up.
- Our degree students also have access to the University of Winnipeg Library's theological collection and other holdings of the Library.
- Through distance loan our degree students have access of the libraries of other universities, electronically-stored theological library resources (e.g. the *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*) are available to our students through the University of Winnipeg Library's membership in ATLA. Hard copies of those early volumes are not available electronically, are being obtained and will be added to our library collection.
- Through the Winnipeg Theological Cooperative, our degree students have access to eight other theological libraries in Winnipeg.

3. Presence Established at the University of Winnipeg

- The Director of the St. Arseny Institute, Spencer Estabrooks, has been appointed as Adjunct Professor of Orthodox Studies for the Faculty of Theology. We are awaiting office space at the University.
- Classroom space is also provided by the University.
- 15% of fees is taken by the Faculty of Theology, and the remainder goes to the Institute to be used to pay faculty and administration costs. [If we have one student registered in a course this would be a very substantial increase over current honoraria received by our faculty for teaching diaconal courses]. With eight or nine students in a class our faculty will receive a reasonable standard of remuneration for sessional-lecturers.
- The St. Arseny Institute is an increasingly active contributor to, and catalyst in, the Winnipeg Theological Cooperative. The nine member theological academies of the WTC work with the Faculty of Theology to provide a variety of course offerings for the Master of Divinity degree.
- Faculty members of St. Arseny Institute have participated in theological education events in Winnipeg and elsewhere in Canada and in the United States. Through UOCC connections with the Faculty of Theology at the University of Winnipeg Father Thomas Hopko spoke at the University in March, 2007. The Institute co-sponsored with the Faculty of Theology a lecture at the University by Fr. Michael Oleksa, also in March, 2007. St. Arseny Institute also recently cooperated with the Faculty of Theology in hosting two prominent Orthodox scholars from Europe. In June the Institute arranged public gatherings for Kouria Maha Mlke Wehbe, an Orthodox spokeswoman from Lebanon, who is in charge of Women's Programmes for the Middles East Council of Churches and involved in the World Council of Churches.
- Resources for distance education courses via computer are available to our faculty through the Faculty of Theology. Many services,

including some secretarial services, some publicity, and printing of materials for classes are available via the Faculty of Theology.

- Our students in the degree programmes have access to Faculty of Theology bursaries.

4. On-line Academic Theological Journal Established

- The St. Arseny Institute has established the on-line *Canadian Journal of Orthodox Christianity* (www.cjoc.ca) which we believe will play an increasingly significant role in theological education in the Archdiocese and also in the whole Orthodox Church in Canada.
- The *Journal* has an Editorial Board consisting of Orthodox scholars from across the Archdiocese of Canada.
- The managing editor is Dr. (Deacon) Lasha Tchantouridze of the University of Manitoba.
- Five issues have been published on-line.
- A number of quality articles by members of the Archdiocese of Canada have been published.
- Hymns for Vespers and Matins for St. Arseny (Chahovtsov), a Life of St. Arseny, and writings by or about St. Arseny are have been published in various issues of the *Journal*.

B. Projects in Progress

- **An Academic Board of Orthodox Scholars from Across the Archdiocese**

The Institute very shortly expects the finalization of an Academic Board for the Institute. The Board will assist in assessment of the qualifications of potential faculty members, assist in ongoing improvement of course syllabi, and help generally in maintaining

quality academic standards for St. Arseny Institute's programmes of theological education for the Archdiocese.

C. Projects To Be Initiated

- **Catechist and Lay Programmes in Orthodox Studies To Be Developed.**
At the direction of Vladyka we are beginning work toward a training programme for lay catechists in parishes. Also extensive programmes for lay theological education within the Archdiocese are being considered at His Eminence's direction.
- **A Blessing Has Been Given for a Major Detailed Biography of St. Arseny**
The Vita already submitted by the Archdiocese of Canada to the Canonization Commission of the OCA will provide the basis for this publication. The Institute is also considering the publication of a shorter, popularly written biography on St. Arseny for distribution among the faithful of the Archdiocese.

D. Financial Needs

- **Funding from the Virginia H. Farah Foundation is being sought for an intensive, short-term project to identify and explore potential sources of financial support for the on-going operational costs of the St. Arseny Institute, which would provide a sustainable basis for the administration and operation of the Institute.**
- We appreciate any suggestions or help in establishing a solid basis for covering operating costs, obtaining necessary office equipment, and in providing reasonable compensation for those administering the rapidly growing programmes and activities of the Institute.
- **We operate in the black on a budget of less than \$15,000.00 a year.**

Many thank to Archpriest Andrew Jarmus, who has contributed so much in his short time with us. We pray that the Lord will richly bless his efforts as the new Director of Ministries and Communications for the OCA.

We give heartfelt thanks to God for all that has been accomplished in our first four years and want to express publicly our gratitude to all of those who have contributed in so many generous and sacrificial ways to the work and vision of St. Arseny Institute.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the St. Arseny Institute Administration,

Spencer Estabrooks,
Director



Website: www.saintarseny.ca

On-line *Canadian Journal of Orthodox Christianity*: www.cjoc.ca

E-mail: institute@saintarseny.ca c/o Director Spencer Estabrooks

(New) Institute Mailing Address:

St. Arseny Institute
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University of Winnipeg
515 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB
R3B 2E9

For Information Regarding Study Programmes and Registration:

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 3 Prestwood Place,
 Winnipeg, MB
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Youth & Young Adult Report

Archdiocese of Canada
Orthodox Church in America

Archdiocesan Assembly

July 16-20

Annunciation Cathedral St. Paul University, Ottawa

Rev. Fr. Richard Rene, Director

Matthew Francis, Coordinator

St Barbara, Patron of Canada’s Youth

Your Eminence, Rev. Fathers, and Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
It is our privilege to offer this report for Youth and Young Adult Ministries to the Archdiocesan Assembly. We are pleased to serve God and assist His Eminence, Archbishop SERAPHIM, through various efforts to encourage the faith of those younger Orthodox Christians across Canada.

Since the 2004 Archdiocesan Assembly in Saskatoon, much has taken place in the life of our Church in Canada. We give thanks to God that across Canada, youth are not only ‘the future of the Church,’ as is often recognized, but are – in the present – getting involved, and taking their places of service. Increasingly, it is apparent in our parishes that young people are taking to heart the words of the Apostle Paul to St. Timothy: *“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”* **1 Timothy 4.12**

Let us thank God together for His faithfulness to the Church here in Canada, and especially for the new generation of servants He is raising up to serve Christ’s Church here in Canada.

This report will highlight some of the many Youth and Young Adult ministries that have taken place across our great Archdiocese over the past few years.

Events & Ministries

2004

A Historic Year for Camp Ministries

While many of our parishes and deaneries have historically participated in Summer Camps for their children and youth, 2004 marked the first annual Summer Camp for the BC Deanery. Dedicated to St. Arseny of Canada, the camp offered its first season under the leadership of Fr. John Hainsworth, and a great deal of support from St. Herman of Alaska parish in Langley. The camp has continued to grow since 2004, embracing the calling of the "pilgrim people of God," by being held in a new location each year since its beginning. But this has in no way diminished the fervour of the camp leaders, or the children in attendance. Love for the experience of camp, and the spiritual blessings that accompany it, have continued to grow in the BC Deanery. www.starsenycamp.ca

Other Deaneries, particularly Alberta and Saskatchewan, have continued to use camps as a significant ministry tool to serve the needs of children and youth.

2005

All-American Council

The 14th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America was hosted by our Archdiocese in Toronto, July 17-22, 2005. Numerous young people participated in the work of the Council, and joined in the events through various age-specific programs.

Quebec Youth Retreat

A youth retreat was held in August 2005 at the Farm of Stuart and Anouk Iversen in Hinchinbrooke, Quebec. A good number of youth gathered together for this very successful retreat on the theme "Why be Christian," cutting to the core spiritual questions of adolescents today. The speakers for the retreat were none other than His Eminence, Archbishop SERAPHIM, and the Archpriest Fr. Cyprian Hutcheon. The retreat was well attended and a great spiritual benefit, as well as a lot of fun. A professional quality DVD was produced, documenting the retreat teachings. This is an excellent resource for other youth and young adults groups, and should not be missed.

Pan-Orthodox Young Adult Retreat

The first Annual Pan-Orthodox Young Adult Retreat for Western Canada took place in Edmonton Remembrance Day weekend 2005, hosted by our

brothers and sisters of the Antiochian Archdiocese. Several of our OCA parishes from Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, joined in this event, which featured our very own Fr. John Hainsworth of All Saints Church in Victoria, BC, as the speaker. The theme of the retreat was "Marriage and Singleness in the Orthodox Christian Life." "The Over sixty young adults representing 11 parishes took part in this excellent event. A strong spirit of Christian unity prevailed as we joined together in prayer, learning, and fellowship.

2006

Pan-Orthodox Young Adult Retreat

The second Annual Pan-Orthodox Young Adult Retreat for Western Canada took place in Edmonton Remembrance Day weekend, hosted by our brothers and sisters of the Antiochian Archdiocese. Fr. Michael Gillis of Holy Nativity Orthodox Church in Langley, BC, was the retreat speaker, and the retreat was very well attended. The theme of the retreat was "Can we be good without God?" One of the highlights of the conference was the service of the popular Akathist service "*Glory to God for All Things*," served at midnight. We in the Archdiocese of Canada have been asked to host the retreat this Fall, and we are waiting to see whether this will be possible.

Montreal Youth visit Annunciation Cathedral

Youth from our parishes in Montreal, including the Sign of the Theotokos Church, and Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral visited Annunciation Cathedral in Ottawa, witnessed the blessing of the new Icon of the Mother of God, and spent time with Archbishop SERAPHIM.

Calgary Pan-Orthodox Youth Fellowship

Our Youth Director, Fr. Richard Rene, laid the groundwork in Calgary for a collaborative, Pan-Orthodox Youth Fellowship, called "Koinonia." It is a partnership of

Antiochian Church of the Annunciation, St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church, St. Peter the Aleut Orthodox Church, and St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Several successful teaching and fellowship events have already taken place and more are planned, for the purposes of building friendships and Orthodox unity. This is a great model for cooperative youth ministry. Check out the website at : www.calgarykoinonia.blogspot.com

Group of Twelve

One other ministry cannot be overlooked, and that is the first annual "Group of Twelve" Orthodox Adventure which took place in Wells Grey Park in July of 2006. Under the leadership of Fr. John Hainsworth, twelve hearty souls took place in this deep immersion in Orthodox theology amidst the Cathedral of God's Creation. A feature article was written by Reader Michael Luciuk in the *Canadian Orthodox Messenger* and more information can be found on the website: www.groupoftwelve.org This year the theme is the Feast of Theophany, and "G12" is going canoeing!

2007

Various other events are taking places across Canada, in our parishes and on our university campuses, particularly in place like Montreal. Numerous Universities have launched Orthodox Christian Fellowships (OCF). It is great to hear the news of this witness for Jesus Christ.

Ongoing Communications Programs

Our ongoing communications efforts continue as usual, with consistent use of the youth and young adults' web-log
www.ocacanadianyouth.orthodoxmission.org

As you can see, numerous parish youth groups and networks are using the user-friendly online blog format with great effectiveness. And, best of all, it's completely free! Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with these excellent resources.

Archdiocesan Assembly

We are now gathered together in this holy gathering. Our Archdiocesan Assembly is a special opportunity for us to be together with our Archbishop as a Church family, the Body of Christ from Coast to Coast. The Assembly is perhaps the prime moment for the younger generations present to meet each other, building lasting relationships founded on Christ. It will be a unique "bridge-building" moment, and deserves focused attention to create an atmosphere that will draw young people to attend, to participate,

and to be challenged to serve. Numerous people have been involved with the planning and facilitation of the Youth and Young Adults program of the Assembly.

You will see that there are many Young people taking part. Here is just some of what they are participating in:

The four aspects of this special “Youth and Young Adult Track” are:

- **Liturgical Worship:** Youth & Young Adult participation in the services of the Assembly (singing, reading, serving, etc.)
- **Orthodox Formation:** A broad range of inspiring seminars tailored to the issues and topics facing young people today, and how to deepen their faith in Christ along the way. Fr. Justin Mathews, our special musical guest, is offering teaching sessions to the teenagers in attendance on the Assembly theme of Mission in a Pluralistic Society. Fr. Lawrence Farley and Prof. Richard Schneider are delivering some of the seminars being offered to the young adults (open to all).
- **“Diakonia” / Philanthropy:** (Thursday afternoon) Acts of service in the neighbourhood surrounding Annunciation Cathedral, assisting local social service/compassionate ministry types of agencies. The concept is that youth and young adults will be arranged into groups representing different areas to carry out these service projects, allowing them to get to know each other better.
- **Fellowship & Hospitality:** One of the most important aspects of the Assembly is the simple fact that we are together. It is good to be together. We have created not only the standard types of outings that are usually part of Assemblies (we will have some of those as well), but also a sort of special venue, an “evening coffee-house” type of environment hosted by and for our youth and young adults during the Assembly (but, of course open to all). Please feel free to drop by for a cup of coffee and get to know some of the young people better.

On behalf of Fr. Richard and myself, we would like to thank Your Eminence, and the Archdiocesan Council, and the whole Church for your ongoing support, encouragement, and prayers for the younger generations of our Church in Canada. Through the prayers of St. Barbara, St. Timothy, St. Tikhon, and St. Arseny, may God be merciful to us and bless us as we work together for Him.

With love in the Lord, Your servants in Christ,
Priest Richard Rene
Reader Matthew Francis

Archdiocesan Web Site project Report
ARCHDIOCESE ASSEMBLY 2007

1. **The Sponsors of the Archdiocesan Web Site project are:**

- His Eminence Archbishop SERAPHIM
- Fr. Dennis Pihach
- The Archdiocesan Council

2. The Archdiocesan web site initially has been created by Fr. John Kaleeg Hainsworth, and supported by Fr. Justin E. Hewlett.

From May 1, 2007 the Archdiocesan Council has asked Alexander Ovodov to take on responsibility for the entire Archdiocesan website.

3. Currently **the web site has the following versions:**

- English version at <http://www.archdiocese.ca>
- Russian version at <http://www.archdiocese.ca/ru>
- French version at <http://pagesorthodoxes.net/archdiocese/accueil.htm>

Remarks: The Russian version is being supported as fully synchronized with the English version.

There is an intention to have in the future the versions in other languages used at the Archdiocese.

4. The main aims and functions of Archdiocesan web site are the following:

- Give the web site visitors General Information on Orthodox Christianity and the details on the Mission of the Canadian Archdiocese.
- Show the way of Christian Life on the examples of the Parishes and Monasteries of the Canadian Archdiocese including the multinational aspect.
- Publish materials on the Theological work and available Theological Education.
- Collect and make available for downloading various Liturgical resources and music in different languages.

- Publish and keep the archives on the Archdiocesan Annual reports, Council minutes, Archbishop's messages, and the Archdiocesan Assemblies.
- Publish announcements on the important future events.
- Publish the information on the current important events.
- Publish the online versions of the Canadian Orthodox Messenger in English and Russian languages.
- Keep the archives of the publications with the search possibility.
- Collect and represent the Chronology and the History of the Archdiocese by publishing articles, photo albums, and video materials on the important events.
- Have the up-to-day contact information on the Administration of the Archdiocese, all the Parishes, Monasteries, Organizations, Institutions, and all the Clergy.
- Give space for collecting and publishing the information on various Archdiocesan Ministries like Iconography, Orthodox Quire music, Youth activity, Women's retreats, Pilgrimages, Sunday schools, Families in need help, Museums and Archive work.
- Publish Family stories with family photo albums.
- Collect and publish useful links to Orthodox online resources.

5. There is a blessing on having three groups within the Archdiocesan Web Team with the following main functions:

5.1. Administrative Group:

- Strategic planning;
- Defining the Technical policy;
- Collecting and analyzing suggestions on the improvement of the web site;
- Provide approval of the sponsors for the updates - when needed;
- Prepare tasks to other groups for updating the site;
- Operational day-to-day planning and assigning the work to other groups;
- Control of the upgrades;
- Contact with the Internet provider - when needed;
- Invite people for participation in the project.

5.2. Editorial Group:

- Assign user roles and user access rights to the sections of the web site and separate web pages;
- Train Authors and Editors; provide assistance to them; Answer questions on publishing content, images, links, video, and audio files;
- Prepare answers to online questions of the visitors to the web site;
- Solve problems with transmitting data for publishing;
- Translation of the content into Russian and English when needed;
- Assign email addresses for users when needed.
- Check the content after publishing. Take measures to prevent spam.

5.3. Technical Group:

- Non-stop technical support of the web site including all current updates;
- Graphic design and development of new sections and functions according to approved plans.
- Scheduled backups and restores when needed.
- Provide access to archives of articles and files (PDF, MP3, Flash video, video) for allowed downloading.

6. Technical issues:

6.1. The current versions of the web site are developed mostly using HTML and JavaScript. All web publications are prepared and made by web developers and graphic designers.

6.2. The next versions of the web site are planned with using some free Content Management systems which will provide direct access of the authorized editors to the web site content without special knowledge or programming skills.

7. All remarks and suggestions on the content of the Archdiocesan Web site will be appreciated.

8. The Web team needs devoted volunteers for taking part in graphic design and the above-mentioned work.

Please send your suggestions to webmaster@archdiocese.ca.

With Love in Christ

Alexander Ovodov

Holy Resurrection Church, Sifton – Restoration Report

THE CANADIAN ORTHODOX PIONEER MUSEUM

The restoration of Holy Resurrection Church at Sifton, a four year project, is drawing to a successful conclusion. The Church now stands on a new foundation; its domes and siding have been refurbished and new exterior steps constructed. Re-painting of the interior and caulking of windows remain to be done, but otherwise, the project is nearly complete.

The Archdiocese of Canada (OCA) personal and memorial donations have helped a great deal in making this restoration a reality. The Kaplan Fund of New York City provided strong support through its “Prairie Churches Restoration Project,” together with the Thomas Sill Foundation of Manitoba (\$40,000 in total). The Dauphin and District Community Foundation, Manitoba Community Places and Manitoba Heritage Programs provided another \$58,000. The remaining \$32,000 was provided by the Sifton Historical Society fund-raising efforts, local donations and gifts from persons within our Archdiocese.

The renewal of an annual Sifton Pilgrimage has been spiritually uplifting to the area, bringing persons largely from Dauphin, Ethelbert, Yorkton, Sandy Lake and Winnipeg. Clergy travel great distances to take part in it. For this year’s Pilgrimage, Vladyka Seraphim was able to be with us, and last year, Vladyka Lazar. Donations from the Pilgrimage go toward the Church’s ongoing restoration.

With the help of a \$2,000 grant from the Virginia Farah Foundation, the Canadian Orthodox Pioneer Museum was opened as a seasonal museum in the Church, operating from June 23 until mid-August this year. The story of a 1927 wedding is told in narrative and artifact. Displays of vestments, liturgical articles, incense making, and opportunities to hear chants and to buy candles, books, embroideries and icons from the entrance kiosk allow the visitor to become acquainted with the beauty of our faith. Central to the Museum is the life of St. Arseny, with a large icon of him written by Matushka Jennie Hainsworth. The icon is surrounded by an embroidered runner (rushnyk) from Vladyka Arseny’s home village of Derhachi. Reader Michael Luciuk of Yorkton is employed as the Museum guide and he has been blessed to offer Reader’s Services at the Church on Sundays and major holidays. So far, he has had a slow but steady flow of Museum visitors, with persons from as far away as Pennsylvania and Sault Ste. Marie.

A special Sifton project is a Retreat Cabin on the old Monastery land nearby. We have a small cabin replica and invite visitors to buy a packet of shingles, a bag of cement, a log or a window for a future Retreat House. The House would be useful for the summer student to live in, and allow visiting hierarchs and clergy to stay there for retreats or while serving there. A documentary featuring the Church as part of the "Prairie Churches' Project" will be shown on Prairie Public Television in December.

Many good things have happened at Sifton, by the prayers of St. Arseny and by your prayers. Please keep remembering this central holy place of our Archdiocese often.

Respectfully submitted,

Katya Szalasznyj
Archivist and Acting Museum Curator

Proposed Amendments to the Archdiocese of Canada Bylaws

To: Delegates of the Archdiocese of Canada Assembly

From: The Bylaws Committee of the Archdiocesan Council
(Rod Tkachuk, David Grier, and Fr. Dennis Pihach)

Date: June 22, 2007

The following two pages contain changes to the Bylaws of the Archdiocese of Canada recommended by the Bylaws Committee for your consideration. If approved, these changes will:

1. Rectify contradictions between our existing bylaws and the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, specifically with respect to how we select our representatives to the Metropolitan Council,
2. Allow for changes in the number of deaneries in the Archdiocese of Canada,
3. Add the ex-officio position of Arch-Dean and remove the position of Secretary from the Archdiocesan Council, and
4. Set out more clearly how nomination, election, and overseeing of appointment by the Bishop is conducted.

If approved, these amendments will result in a council consisting of:

- 6 clergy members (5 representing the existing 5 deaneries plus 1 being the clergy representative on the Metropolitan Council)
- 6 lay members (5 representing the existing 5 deaneries plus 1 being the lay representative on the Metropolitan Council)
- 4 ex-officio members (Ruling Bishop, Chancellor, Treasurer, and Arch-Dean)

The committee looks forward discussing these matters with you at the Assembly.

Yours in Christ, The Bylaws Committee

Bylaw Amendment June 12, 2007

2.2. (the officers) adding/ deleting :

- c.) **deleting** the word Secretary from Secretary/ Treasurer;
- d.) **adding the phrase:** the Arch-Dean (if any) of the Archdiocese;

2.3. The Directors of the Corporation are the members of the Archdiocesan Council (**deleting “duly elected by the Archdiocesan Assembly”**);

5.1 deleting the existing definition and replacing with:

5.1 The Directors of the Corporation (also called the **Archdiocesan Council**) are: the Archdiocesan Bishop ex-officio, the Archdiocesan Chancellor ex-officio, **the Arch-Dean ex-officio**, the Archdiocesan Treasurer ex-officio, **the Clergy and Lay representatives to the Metropolitan Council ex-officio**, the **Clergy Directors**, elected (except as otherwise provided herein) for a three-year term and the **Lay Directors**, elected (except as otherwise provided herein) for a three-year term. **Ex-officio members are voting members.**

5.3 deleting the existing definition and replacing with:

5.3 The Clergy Directors shall be six (6) in number. The number of Clergy Directors may be increased, with the approval of the Archdiocesan Bishop, provided however that there shall be a corresponding increase in the number of Lay Directors. The Clergy Representative to the Metropolitan Council, elected by the Archdiocesan Assembly, is one of the six (6) Clergy Directors, ex-officio. The Dean of a Deanery is to be one of the Clergy Directors for the Deanery over which he presides. The Dean is elected by the priests, by, and from amongst, the priests of the deanery and confirmed by the Archdiocesan Bishop for a term of three years provided however that, alternatively the Archdiocesan Bishop may appoint a Dean in a “maturing” Deanery. Any vacancy may be filled, from time to time, by appointment by the Archdiocesan Bishop, whenever possible, to be a priest from a Deanery not represented. The balance of the Clergy Directors, if any, shall be elected by the Archdiocesan Assembly and confirmed by the Archdiocesan Bishop.

5.4 deleting the existing definition and replacing with:

5.4 The Lay Directors shall be six (6) in number. The number of Lay directors may be increased with the approval of the Archdiocesan Bishop provided however

that there shall be a corresponding increase in the number of Clergy Directors. The Archdiocesan Assembly shall elect the Lay Directors from the members of the laity, according to the following process, subject to any process that the Archdiocesan Assembly may, from time to time, invoke/adopt, such elected persons subject in all circumstances to confirmation by the Archdiocesan Bishop:

- a). Prior to the meeting of the Archdiocesan Assembly, there shall be a Nomination Committee, consisting of the presiding Bishop, the Chancellor, the Treasurer, and the Arch-Dean (if any) and any alternative or additional members that the Archdiocesan Bishop and the Archdiocesan Council may determine;
- b). Deaneries are encouraged, at Deanery meetings or meetings held for that purpose, to elect laity to present to the Nominating Committee as proposed Lay Directors and clergy and lay representatives to the Metropolitan Council. The Deanery, any person, parish, mission or community may present to the Nomination Committee, names of laity residing in the Deanery to represent that Deanery as Lay Directors and as Lay Directors at large and for the clergy and lay representatives on the Metropolitan Council;
- c). The Nomination Committee shall, additionally, be at liberty to propose names of laity and clergy;
- d). The Nomination Committee shall present the slate of proposed nominees to the Archdiocesan Assembly. Additional nominations shall be accepted from the floor of the Assembly meeting. The nominee's Deanery shall be identified;
- e). The Assembly shall elect, if available, one lay person from each Deanery from the nominees, provided that, alternatively, the Archdiocesan Bishop may appoint a Lay Director in a "maturing" Deanery. The Lay Representative to the Metropolitan Council, elected by the Archdiocesan Assembly, is, ex-officio, one of the six (6) Lay Directors. The balance of the Lay Directors, if any, may be elected without regard to Deanery representation.
- f). For the purpose of determining a person's eligibility to be either a Clergy or Lay Director, but without in any manner affecting the status or function of the clergy or laity as practiced in the Orthodox Faith, Clergy Directors shall be priests and Lay Directors shall include those of the Diaconate and Monastics, but not priests. Directors shall be voting members, according to and as

defined by the Statute and the within By-laws. Laity and Clergy, voting at the Assembly and Deanery meetings or presenting names to the Nomination Committee, shall be a voting member, as so defined.

g). Any vacancy may be filled, from time to time, by appointment by the Archdiocesan Bishop, whenever possible to be a lay person from the Deanery not represented.

5.10: adding this new section (the only present reference to the reps to Metropolitan Council is under 5.3 making them ex-officio members of our Council):

5.10 The Archdiocese shall select representatives to the Metropolitan Council as, and in the manner, set out in the Statute (i.e one priest and one lay person, both of whom shall thereby become, ex-officio, members of the Archdiocesan Council). A process is to be adopted that will select, if possible, the Archdiocese's representatives on a basis that there is a mix of new representatives and continuing representatives.

6.2 (ex-officio members of Archdiocesan Assembly):

- c). delete Secretary**, leaving Treasurer, rather than Secretary/Treasurer);
- i). add:** the Arch-Dean (if any);

8.2. delete the existing section and substitute:

8.2 The Diocesan Court shall exist, be formulated , be composed of, and have a process as, and in the manner, set out in the Statute.

Our Journey to Ottawa

By Maria Grountseva

**(Youth delegate to Assembly from
Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Sobor, Vancouver)**

Our journey started long before the safety speech on the plane or the hugs and good-byes. With the help of Mother Elena (Fourik), the fathers in our Church and many others, we were able to successfully organize the flight time, our accommodations and an exciting itinerary for our mission at the Archdiocesan Assembly in Ottawa.

From the day we arrived to Ottawa till the last minutes before departure, we were exceedingly lucky with the weather. Mild warmth with a drizzle here and there accompanied our stay throughout the week. The one day with rain pouring from buckets didn't affect our plans. On the contrary, it was a blessing to the greenery of Ottawa which was starting to fade with the previous heat.

Needless to say, the youth program provided many opportunities to get acquainted with Christians of the same age as you are from all over Canada and to even discuss the center topic of the trip: Being a Missionary. As for me, I found it exciting to hear all the views of others, get to know people and to be a part of this fabulous learning experience.

With a musical performance by Father Justin, a pizza night, a BBQ dinner, the evening coffee house, the Marketplace, the snack stops and of course the lime gelato, it is only necessary for me to illuminate on the most important reason of our gathering.

Our beliefs. The matins, the vespers, the closing prayers and of course the liturgies, where most of the clergy of Canada was gathered, were enchanting. In addition to the already bursting program, we got to listen to Fr. Justin preach about being a missionary for our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the youth even got to participate in a little mission for the community! Our goal was to walk nearby the Cathedral which was transformed into a Church, creating a cross. On our way, we were to pick up garbage, and every time we knelt down, to recite the Lords prayer.

It is hard to summarize our trip. The joy and excitement we all doubtlessly felt as we walked around Archbishop Seraphim's residence "Fair Haven", land and house, the chance to talk to priests from all over Canada and even some from the U. S.

Overall, it is a trip to remember and it is only exciting that the next meeting will be held in Victoria, so many more of us will be able to attend.