

Edited Version of Rev. Fr. Bohdan Hladio's Report Presented to the Western Diocese Conference held October 27 and 28, 2006 (Edited by George Zaharia)

Please accept my warmest Christian greetings. One thing that has impressed me over the past 15 months has been the dedication and love our faithful have for their Church. I wish to express to all of you, the leaders of our congregations, my heartfelt respect and gratitude for all the time and labour you sacrifice so that our Church might be strong and vital, and to assure you that the Consistory takes very seriously its mandate to serve the needs of our faithful and support the good work being done in our parishes. I encourage you to share this report with the members of your parish when you return home.

Statistically, our Church looks like this at the present moment:

Congregations: 268 (Most of these are located on the prairies, and are served very infrequently, or 2 services per year).
Missions: 2 (Red Deer, AB and Winnipeg, MB).
Chapels: 1 (The Chapel at St. Andrew's College functions during the school year as a parish).

Parishes/Parish Districts: 60

Parish Closings: Over the course of the past year one congregation (The Pas, MB) has voted to close their doors due to lack of members. One mission (St. Andrew's in Ft. McMurray, AB) also has requested to disband due to lack of support. One other congregation (New Westminster, BC) has voted to close, and the Consistory is considering options regarding this decision.

Parish Openings: Our parish in Bradford, Ontario, which was closed in 1996, is in the process of re-opening. Transfer of the property from the Consistory to the congregation is in process. Recognition and gratitude is due to our Cathedral parish of St. Volodymyr in Toronto, its parish council, Fr. Petro Anhel, and Archbishop Yuriy for their facilitation of this rebirth.

Clergy:

Parishes served by full-time clergy: 29
Parishes served by part-time clergy: 4

Parish districts served by full-time clergy: 20
Parish districts served by part-time clergy: 7

***Note:** A parish consists of a congregation having one main temple served by a duly assigned priest(s) that may or may not have one to several smaller congregations attached to it. A parish district consists of two or more congregations having their own temples, which are either formally or informally organized into a "district" served by a duly assigned priest(s).*

At the present moment our Church has 2 active Bishops; 55 active priests engaged in full-time ministry; 7 active priests engaged in part-time ministry; 2 priests on leave; 22 retired priests, of whom two are engaged in part time ministry; 3 deacons involved in part-time ministry; 1 man awaiting deaconal ordination; 1 man who has applied for deaconal ordination; and 1 seminarian who is completing his degree this semester and soon to be married.

Over the course of the past year we have had 1 priestly ordination (Fr. Michael Maranchuk); 1 reception of a priest from another jurisdiction (Fr. Roman Trynoha); 1 priest leave the ministry (Fr. Roman Szewczyk); 1 priest leave our jurisdiction at his own request (Fr. Andrew Jarmus); 1 priest request and be granted a leave of absence (Fr. George Gembliouk); 6 priests repose in the Lord (Frs. Revko, Olesiuk, Moroz, Minenko, Krytiuk, & Hutzuliak - may their memory be eternal!)

UOCC Membership: 11,364 dues paying adult members in 2005, and 11,363 in 2006.

Consistory Office Staff: There are 11 people on staff: 2 secretary/receptionists; Financial Manager; Office Manager; Church Goods worker; Secretary to the Metropolitan/Administrative Assistant; Visnyk-Herald Editor/Director of the Office of Education and Communications; 1 part-time OME worker; 1 typesetter/layout and design specialist for the Visnyk-Herald; 1 part-time Archivist; and the Chair of the Presidium, who is acting Director of Missions and web-site supervisor.

Changes in Consistory Staff This Past Year: Due to budget constraints, 1 receptionist was let go. The Director of the Office of Missions and Education and editor of the Visnyk, Fr. Andrew Jarmus, left our Church in July and was replaced by Fr. Gene Maximiuk. Sister Bohdanna, a Ukrainian Orthodox nun from Ukraine, has filled the half-time OME position mandated by the 21st Sober.

Where do we stand vis-a-vis the mandate we were given at the 21st Sobor in July of 2005?

Apostolic Succession. The Episcopal Search and Development Committee has made great strides in identifying the needs of our Church, the necessary qualities Episcopal candidates for our Church should possess, and specific candidates who might, in the short to medium term, be appropriate for our Church. In September, a delegation from our Church visited Constantinople. From there I proceeded to Kyiv to confer with Church authorities. In both places, suitable Episcopal candidates were discussed.

A final analysis is currently underway as to the suitability of particular candidates. A decision will be rendered by the full Consistory at its November 2006 meeting as to the calling of an extraordinary Sobor in 2007 to elect bishops for our church.

Monastery: A Ukrainian Orthodox nun, Sister Bohdanna, has been hired to fill the half-time OME position mandated by the 21st Sobor. Not only is she a great employee, but also as a monastic, she paves the way for the consideration of the formation of a women's monastery in the future. At the present time she works at the Consistory under the direction of Fr. Gene Maximiuk and fulfils her monastic obedience in the skete of St. Ilarion of Kyiv.

Office of Education: Fr. Gene Maximiuk has been very involved with the production of the Visnyk-Herald, and has not been able to devote a lot of time to Christian Education. Sister Bohdanna has been involved with cataloging and organizing our OME resource centre. Our UOCC informational brochures and bible studies are posted on the UOCC website.

Finances: I must emphasize that we have had many extra, non-budgeted costs over the past year, such as Episcopal search and development committee meetings with attendant costs for teleconferences and travel to meet potential candidates; the enthronement weekend activities; teleconference costs for presidium meetings; unbudgeted moving expenses, etc. We remain near our budgeted expenditures, a testament to the financial management skills and the fiscal responsibility of both the Consistory employees as well as the members of the Consistory.

As of October 2006 about 72% of our parish levies have been paid. We have been given mandates by the Sobors. When parishes do not pay their levies, we do not have the resources to fulfill these mandates. The Consistory is very grateful to all the congregations who submit their levy payments on time. We would

respectfully remind those who don't, that the Consistory has no other major source of income other than the levies. We cannot make bricks without straw.

Church goods. Two main issues have been dealt with regarding the Consistory Church Goods Store. First, at our December 2005 meeting, the Church Goods Board made a principled decision to support church goods businesses in Ukraine as much as possible, and will no longer be purchasing stock from Russian sources. In the past there were no sources for many items in Ukraine - thank God the situation is changing and we can purchase our items in Ukraine now, and when necessary can also source items in Greece, Canada or America.

Secondly, there have been constant complaints that our prices at the Church Goods Store are too high. At our summer meeting, the Church Goods Board has decided to change the business approach from one of retail sales to one of service to our parishes. The presidium has agreed to forgive the overhead that Consistory Church Goods has been paying to the Consistory, so that Church Goods Store might be able to **lower prices for our own parishes**. The model we are implementing is one of retail sales to non-UOCC customers, **but a service to our parishes with lower prices**. Plans are to implement this program by January 1, 2007. This second initiative is reflective of a general feeling among the members of the Consistory that our job is to support and facilitate the work which goes on in our parishes; that the **Consistory should provide rather than consume parish resources**.

Communications: Positive comments are being received regarding changes to the Visnyk-Herald under the new direction of Fr. Gene. In the short time he has been with us, he has come up with some very good ideas for the paper that are being implemented.

The Ridna Nyva calendar is being "cleaned up". We have tried to make the book useful and user friendly for cantors and priests, and believe the 2007 edition will positively impress you.

The UOCC web-site is back on line. Michael Yereniuk of Edmonton is our webmaster and currently I am fulfilling the role of web-site supervisor. We would like to make the site more interactive. From all reports, though, even given our limited resources our new web-site seems to be impressing people positively. One request we have of every parish is that you forward a picture of the temple either to me at either bhladio@uocc.ca or 9 St. John's Ave., Winnipeg, MB R2W 1G8, or directly to our web-master, Michael Yereniuk, at michael@chickenlip.com Our goal is to have a picture of every one of our temples on the web-site by the beginning of March.

Centralized Pay: A report has been published in the Visnyk-Herald and a special presentation was made this July at our parish administration workshop. This is a good example of a motion that is made at a Sobor that might, after consideration, be regarded as unacceptable or unnecessary by our membership

Church By-laws: Our Church By-laws committee has reviewed and amended the proposed new Statute and By-laws of the UOCC. It is envisioned that a draft of this document will be ready for presentation to our Church membership for input after adoption by the full Consistory Board at our November meeting.

Enthronement: We celebrated the enthronement of our Metropolitan in July. The enthronement cast our Church in a very positive light, especially to non-UOCC members who were present or heard about it.

Liturgical Texts: Our new "Dobryj Pastyr" prayer book is at the printers. Currently work is proceeding on the new Priest's service book (Sluzhebnyk). With the help of Archbishop Yuriy, I am working on a bilingual funeral book using the new, official text. We hope to have the funeral book ready for review by the beginning of 2007, and the priest's service book ready for publication by the Spring/Summer of 2007.

Museum and Archives: The situation in our Museum and Archives is reaching critical proportions. As our Church continues to mature, more and more archival material will need to be gathered, sorted, stored and preserved. At this point our choices are to give our archives to another facility (a university library or public archives, for example); to try to raise the funds necessary to construct or purchase a suitable Museum/Archives building and cover the ongoing operating costs; or to find qualified volunteers who are willing to devote full-time labour on a long-term basis. This is an important issue that requires both immediate and ongoing attention by our Consistory and Church.

Joint UOCC/USRIL Standing Committee: Over the past year a series of concrete cooperative proposals have been accepted for implementation, including: an ongoing leadership development initiative led by Gene Luczkiw; outreach to our young adult constituency; data gathering in regards to our Church camps and Institutes with the goal of using this information to improve programming; and chaplaincy programs for our lay organizations.

Clergy Development: This matter is still in the organizational stage. Concrete results are not evident, but be assured that the members of this committee chaired by Dr. Peter Kondra, have been working hard to put in place a program that will be effective and sustainable.

Conclusion: Before concluding, I have one request of all of you. Many people, even people in positions of leadership who should know better, have the habit of speaking negatively about our Church. Not long ago I read a very negative diatribe against our Church in an information bulletin published by a lay organization whose mandate is, among other things, to support the UOCC! As you can see from the statistical data and the ongoing activity noted in this report, our Church is not going to hell in a hand-basket. There are difficulties, challenges, and occasional crises, but there are also successes, achievements, and triumphs.

I challenge every member of our Church, clergy and laity alike - especially those who complain the most about "declining membership" - to build up our membership. Over the course of this year let us all - every single one of us - do our best to bring in one new member. I'm not talking about paying a parish membership for my son or daughter who doesn't come to Church and never will, but spending this next year introducing one person to our Church who, after getting to know us and our fellow parishioners will want to sign up on their own, and will be an active member of the congregation rather than a parishioner who only exists on paper. We've got hundreds of thousands of families, new immigrants, and fellow Canadians to draw from.

If our Church has a lot to offer, as I believe we do; if our faith can offer consolation to a troubled world, as I know it does; if our temples, Church music and liturgical rites are as beautiful as others tell us they are; and if our people are as hospitable, loving, caring and pious as we think we are, then I don't see why we can't gather here a year from now and celebrate the fact that in one year our official Church membership rolls have grown by 100%.

May Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless and keep all of you.

Fr. Bohdan Hladio, Chair
 Presidium of the Consistory
 Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada