



April 15, 2023

a Letter from *the Bishop*

Христос воскрес! Воістину воскрес!
Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Remember us, O Lord

No one wants to feel forgotten. The fact is that many in our Eparchy feel forgotten all around the Province: a busy member of the clergy stretched to the limits, a member of a small country parish facing the struggles of remaining open and active, a member of a large city parish who feels invisible in the pews, a newcomer from Ukraine who feels misunderstood in Canada, a young person who feels alone, an elder who feels ignored. The Eparchy of Saskatoon is the Body of Christ in Saskatchewan, but for many people that body feels “dismembered.” The antidote to being forgotten or “dismembered” is to remember. When we remember others, we combat the loneliness and isolation of our world. To remember means not to forget, but it also means to join together, bring back, and gather again.

In Luke 23:42, the Good Thief says to Christ on the cross: “Jesus, remember me, when You come into Your kingdom.” Liturgically, we, as Ukrainian Catholics, use this phrase in a number of ways. In the prayer before communion, we echo the words of the Good Thief, “Remember me, O Lord/Master/Holy One, when you come into Your kingdom,” in a prayer to the Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. At a memorial or funeral, we commend the deceased to God’s eternal and perfect memory proclaiming, “Вічна Пам’ять”. In the funeral service or Похорон, we sing the Beatitudes (Mt. 5:3-12) with the refrain, “Remember us, O Lord, in Your Kingdom” as a prayer for all of us – the living and the dead.

“Remember us, O Lord, ...” Through the efforts of the Annual Eparchial Appeal, we are asking God to remember us – to rejoin, to reconnect, to reattach us so that we can work together for the greater good of all the forgotten in our Eparchy. For, we are the Eparchy of Saskatoon. We are all responsible for the health and well-being of the members of the Eparchy across our beautiful Province of Saskatchewan.

Please remember the Appeal and the work of the Ukrainian Catholic Foundation of Saskatchewan by participating and giving generously this year. Let us remember that we are members of one another in the Body of Christ in our Eparchy by supporting the Annual Eparchial Appeal in 2024.

Yours in our risen Christ,

Bishop Michael Smolinski, C.Ss.R.
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF SASKATOON

Meeting the needs of the Faithful

Each year the Eparchy of Saskatoon assesses the financial resources at its disposal and its ability to respond to the needs of the Eparchy and our Church Community. The work of the Eparchy is vital to the sustainability of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and Faith in Saskatchewan. Donations to the Annual Eparchial Appeal are one way for the Faithful of the Eparchy to help the Eparchy fund initiatives and programing.

In the 2023 Annual Eparchial Appeal about 20% of the Faithful of the Eparchy supported the Appeal. We are prayerfully hopeful that this percentage will increase in 2024. The Foundation is not soliciting a huge contribution of support from each Parish Family. We humbly and graciously ask those Parish Families who are able to do so to please make a gift of \$125 on behalf of your family. We also recognize that not everyone is able to provide support

at the \$125 level. So, if you are able to do so, please consider another gift or two of \$125 on behalf of families who may not be in a financial position to donate to the Appeal. Of course, the Foundation would be most grateful for a gift of any amount.

For more detailed information on the above programs, please refer to the Eparchial website, www.skeparchy.org under the "Organizations".

2023 Annual Eparchial Appeal statistics

\$ 116,291

was total amount raised

\$ 9,213

was distributed to the Bishop Roborecki Foundation

\$ 83,192

was distributed to the Eparchy of Saskatoon

\$ 795

was rebated to Parishes exceeding their Appeal Goal

\$ 253

was the average donation per parish family to the Appeal

Number of Parishes/Missions Participating in the Appeal in 2023

69 parishes/missions are in the Eparchy

46 parishes/missions participated

67% of parishes/missions participated

Number of Families Participating in the Appeal in 2023

2,320 parish families in the Eparchy

460 parish family units participated

20% of parish families participated

Parishes/Missions have also benefited from other Foundation fundraising initiatives and grant programs. Including the **\$152,360** rebated back to the Parishes/Missions through the Annual Eparchial Appeal Rebate Program, Parishes/Missions/Eparchial Organizations have also received **\$291,350** from the Ukrainian Catholic Foundation through the Grant Fund and the "Share the Spirit" 50/50 Lottery Designated Beneficiary programs. We are pleased to be able to share just under **\$444,000** with the Parishes/Missions and Eparchial Organizations.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generous support from our Parish Families. The

Foundation extends a very heartfelt **THANK YOU** for your support and prayers. We entreat and ask you to **PLEASE** continue to support the Foundation and the Eparchy through the **2024 Annual Eparchial Appeal**.

If you wish to donate online through the Foundation's website, please scan the QR code with your mobile device to link you directly to our website.

Bishop Michael Smolinski, C.Ss.R.
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF
SASKATOON

