

УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЄПАРХІЯ
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF
SAINT NICHOLAS

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Very Reverend Fathers, Reverend Fathers, Administrators,
Deacons, Parishioners, Brothers, Sisters,
and the Faithful of the Eparchy of St. Nicholas

Слава Ісусу Христу!
Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Faithful in Christ,

Our Church has begun preparation for the VII Session of the Patriarchal Council on the following topic: "The Church is always and everywhere with You," which will take place in the year 2020. Preparatory work is already underway – the staff of the Secretariat and the members of the organizing committee as well as the Synod Fathers have already approved the Draft Statute of the VII Session of the Patriarchal Council. One of the main themes of the Council, which is extremely relevant to our eparchy, is immigration, where parishes have hundreds of years of experience in serving immigrants from Ukraine, their descendants, and those who joined our Church in the United States who are not of Ukrainian descent.

To be effectively prepared for the Patriarchal Council, each eparchy of our Church has to work out the suggested topics from the program of preliminary meetings within the eparchy and the parishes. Because the territory of St. Nicholas is very- wide-ranging and distances between parishes are great, I recommend that you hold a meeting at each parish as stated in the Vision of St. Nicholas Eparchy. All parishioners and active members of the community should be invited to this meeting regardless of their descent and language spoken.

During the meeting, please discuss the following issues:

- How do we as a parish feel and experience our existence within the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church?
- How is the unity of the Father and the Head of the UGCC realized in practice with the faithful? (spiritually, through prayer, informational, please discuss difficulties of communication with the Patriarchal Curia and possibilities of solving them).
- How can we secure the future of the UGCC in Ukraine and in other countries? (liturgical texts, liturgical acts, calendar, specifics of ecumenical relations with others).
- Are Greek Catholics moving into the local community of the UGCC, or out of the local community of the UGCC?

- The phenomenon of migration and the interaction of different structures within the UGCC with different governmental entities in Ukraine and abroad to ensure respect for the human dignity and the faithful of the UGCC (opportunities and perspectives)
- Why do Ukrainians lose their faith and traditions? (problems with registering as a parishioner, mixed marriages within Ukraine and abroad)
- A person from another rite on the threshold of the UGCC (entering the church and staying for the Liturgy as well as the unity in the Eucharist).

During the meeting, the secretary of the Pastoral Council should keep accurate minutes of thoughts and suggestions on the proposed topics as well as their solutions. These meeting notes should be signed by the parish administrator and the secretary and forwarded to the Chancery by the end of December 2019.

After the meeting notes are sent to the Chancery – the secretary of the St. Nicholas Eparchy will present them to the Eparchial Sobor for discussion which will take place in the Spring of 2020. **Each parish is obligated to delegate a priest and at least one layperson to the Eparchial Sobor.** After the Eparchial Sobor is concluded, the final report will be forwarded to the Secretariat of the VII Session of the Patriarchal Council, to which each Eparchy will delegate its representatives.

The Patriarchal Council will be held in Ukraine in the Autumn of 2020!

The blessing of the Lord be upon you!

+ Benedict



MOST REVEREND BENEDICT (ALEKSIYCHUK)
Eparchial Bishop

V. Rev. Skovalchuk

V. Rev. Serhiy Kovalchuk
Chancellor