



And He shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth.
(Psalm 71:8)

The Canadian Orthodox MESSENGER

Published by the Archdiocese of Canada OCA New Series: Volume 1 Number 1 March 1989

EDITORIAL

Another newspaper?

Although there is much discussion these days in the OCA about 'rationalizing' publications and finding some means of integrating diocesan newspapers and The Orthodox Church, it is clear to many of us in Canada that, in as much as we are not merely 'one diocese among many' within the OCA, but have indeed a special status as the nascent Orthodox Church in Canada, we do need our own publications. Canadian publications which will not only reflect the reality of a distinct Canadian society, but will help to develop and cultivate our identity as a truly Canadian Church within the context of world Orthodoxy. Whether in the form of newsletter, newspaper or journal, there is a crying need for us to take up the work of communication.

We are just at the beginning of a period of 're-construction' in our Archdiocese after a long and difficult period. This process demands a means of building up awareness of the Church, the exchange of news and information to encourage, challenge and nurture the life of the Church. We know so very little about each other, spread as we are across the nation 'from sea to shining sea'. We know so little of the history of our Church and of Orthodoxy in this country. Our parish life has been very inward and often anaemic. We scarcely know who we are and what we are about and what opportunities exist for living the Orthodox Christian life in Canada. Your help is needed!

The editorial office in Alberta and the Archdiocesan Chancery in Ottawa look forward to your support: comments, letters, photographs, articles and advertisements and other information will be received with joy. The degree to which such things can be printed rests entirely with the faithful and well-wishers. The Canadian Orthodox Messenger Fund has been established to develop our publishing resources and the quality of our publications. Tax deductible donations and contributions will be gratefully received by the Treasurer of the Archdiocese at the Chancery: 55 Clarey Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 2R6. It's time to grow!

For nothing is so magnificent
in God's sight as pure
doctrine, and a soul perfect
in all the dogmas of the
truth.

St Gregory Nazianzen
The Last Farewell 8

1989 DEANERY CONFERENCES

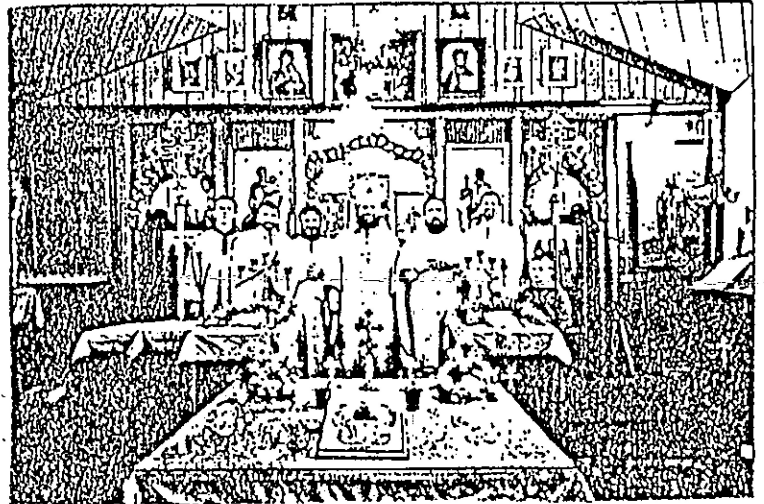
The 1989 Deanery Conferences of the Archdiocese will take place in Western Canada during the 40 days of Pascha. All deans, clergy, parish council members, delegates to the All-American Sobor and interested persons are most strongly encouraged to attend. Further details of the Western Canada conferences, and the times and locations of those in Eastern Canada will be forthcoming.

- 20-21 May: British Columbia Deanery Conference in Vancouver
- 27-28 May: Alberta Deanery Conference in Edmonton
- 3-4 June: Saskatchewan Deanery Conference in Saskatoon & Pastoral visit to Holy Trinity Church, Moose Jaw.
- 10-11 June: Manitoba Deanery Conference. Site to be announced.

This year's 'theme' will be two-fold: 1) Preparation for the All-American Sobor, and 2) Christian Living: Problems and Vision in the Canadian Church. His Grace, Bishop SERAPHIM will preside.

ARCHDIOCESAN CENTRE

As mandated by the 1987 Archdiocesan Council in Edmonton, the Archdiocese has sought and acquired a property for the Archdiocesan Centre and Episcopal Residence. A small farm of 27 acres was purchased in October, 1988 for the sum of \$97,000.00. The site offers good access to Ottawa, and via Highway 401, to Toronto, Kingston and Montreal. Bishop SERAPHIM moved onto the property in early November, and since that time much work has gone into developing the property, with the help of local parishioners in particular. The property was bought outright with monies set aside for the purpose, and by temporarily collapsing the Archdiocesan Scholarship Fund. We are now beginning the process of bringing the facilities up to scratch, and replenishing the Scholarship Fund.



Celebration in Holy Trinity Church, Sunland, Alberta. Reader Patrick Stewart (Lakeland Mission); Subdeacon John Panasiuk (St Herman); Deacon Andrew Piasta (St Herman); Bishop SERAPHIM; Priest Andrew Morbey (Lakeland Mission); Subdeacon Ron Poworoznik (St Herman); Simon Morbey.

RETREAT IN THE WADI EL NATRUN

His Grace, Bishop SERAPHIM, joined Hieromonk Gregory (Papazian) of Holy Transfiguration Skete, Rawdon Quebec, on retreat in the desert monasteries in the Wadi el Natrun (Scetis) in Egypt. Bishop SERAPHIM was a guest of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria during his stay from 30 Nov-15 Dec. In Cairo he stayed at the Patriarchate, and then spent one week at St Macarios Monastery and another at the St Bishoy Monastery. Both are in the desert about half-way between Cairo and Alexandria, and both, like all the monasteries for men and women in the Coptic Church, are flourishing.

He who prays truly is a
theologian, and a theologian
is he who truly prays.

St Neilos the Ascetic of
Mt Sinai
153 Texts on Prayer

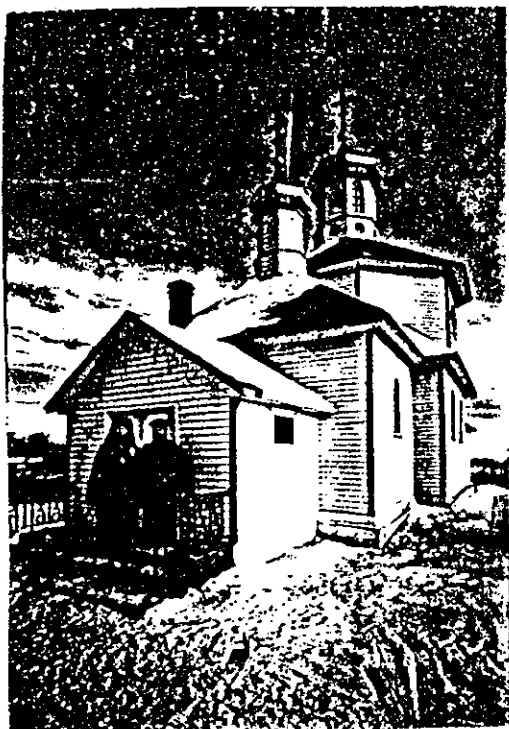
ARCHDIOCESAN MISSION SOCIETY

An Archdiocesan Mission Society is being formed with the two-fold aim of developing the resources of the Archdiocesan Centre and promoting the growth of the Orthodox Church in Canada by working to renew older parishes and to establish new missions throughout the country. The Society is taking as its Feast of Dedication the Holy Transfiguration. For further information contact the Cathedral offices at 55 Clarey Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 2R6. Tax deductible donations may be directed to the above address, made out to the Holy Transfiguration Mission Society.

EPISCOPAL CALENDAR

Other than his episcopal duties connected with the Cathedral of the Annunciation & St Nicholas in Ottawa, His Grace, Bishop SERAPHIM had the following schedule:

Pastoral visit to Holy Resurrection Church, Vancouver: 30 Sept-5 Oct.
 Pastoral visit to Holy Trinity Sobor, Winnipeg: 8-9 Oct.
 Holy Synod Meeting, New York: Thanksgiving Week.
 Meeting with Papal Nuncio, in Ottawa: 21 Oct.
 Diocesan Council Meeting in Ottawa: 24 Oct.
 Pastoral Visit to St John the Divine Church, Windsor, Ont: 29-30 Oct.
 Pastoral visit to St Gregory of Nyssa Mission & University House, Kingston, Ont; presentation to Kingston chapter of the Society of SS Alban & Sergius: 12-14 Nov.
 Pastoral visit and 10th Anniversary celebrations at the Sign of the Theotokos Church, Montreal.
 Spiritual retreat in Egypt: 29 Nov-15 Dec.
 Nativity celebrations at Holy Trinity Sobor, Ottawa: 7 Jan.
 Pastoral visit to Alberta. Services at Holy Transfiguration Church, Star; Holy Trinity Church, Sunland; Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church, Kiselew. Concelebrations at St Barbara's Cathedral (Moscow Patriarchate) in Edmonton and St John the Baptist Church (Moscow Patriarchate) in Vegreville.
 Diocesan Executive Meeting in Ottawa: 2 Feb.
 His Grace will be observing the Great Fast in Ottawa, apart from the celebration of the 3rd Sunday of Great Lent (Veneration of the Cross) at Christ the Saviour Sobor, Toronto, and the Lenten meeting of the Holy Synod: 28-30 March in New York.
 DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING: 6 March in Ottawa



Outside Holy Trinity Church at Sunland, January 1989.

Advertisements: It is the policy of the Archdiocese to publish its official publications in both official languages, and even multilingually where possible. It will take time to sort this out. In the meanwhile we will gratefully receive camera-ready materials in French, Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian and other appropriate languages.

CANADIAN ORTHODOX MESSENGER FUND

Help the Church grow by enabling the Archdiocese to develop its publishing resources. Your tax-deductible donation can help us meet the challenge of being the Orthodox Church in Canada!

YES! I wish to help! Please find enclosed _____ to further the publications work of our Church in Canada.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Parish affiliation: _____

STATUS OF ARCHDIOCESE INCORPORATION

Although most of our parish communities are legally incorporated and enjoy the benefits of incorporation - especially the possibility of issuing receipts for Income Tax purposes, the Archdiocese, after a long struggle, is only this year being incorporated. This struggle goes back to 1902, when Archbishop Tikhon attempted to have the Church incorporated in Canada. Motion to this effect was made in Parliament by the Edmonton MP Frank Oliver (owner of the Edmonton Bulletin). Opposition to the incorporation of the Orthodox Church was strongly resisted by a number of Roman Catholic MPs, led by A.A.C. LaRiviere, who represented the Provencher riding in Manitoba. The opposition to incorporation was successful in various delaying tactics, and the motion died on the order paper. Archbishop Tikhon could not afford to pursue the matter on the Federal level and instead worked to incorporate the Church in the Northwest Territories (Alberta and Saskatchewan). This was successful in 1903. This incorporation lapsed following the post-revolutionary confusion in the Church administration (after 1917). Subsequent attempts to incorporate were unsuccessful until the present day.

CHRONOLOGY OF CHURCH

The Archdiocese of Canada has published The Orthodox Church in Canada: A Chronology as a part of its Millenium celebration. The bi-lingual text provides a framework for the history of the Archdiocese and of Orthodoxy in Canada. Available for \$5 from the Chancery office: 55 Clarey Avenue, Ottawa, ONT K1S 2R6.

SASKATCHEWAN DEANERY

Fr Orest Olekshy, rector of Holy Resurrection Church, Saskatoon, and Dean of Saskatchewan, is working with the faithful and interested persons in Swift Current to revive the Mission there. The basis for this renewal are twice-monthly bible studies, discussion and fellowship in the context of house-meetings. Fr Dennis Pihach was assigned to the St Mark Mission in Yorkton in the autumn of 1988. He also serves the communities in Stennen, Gorlitz, Rhein, Veregin and Lady Lake in Saskatchewan, and St Nicholas Church in Sandy Lake, Manitoba. The Yorkton area mission is sponsoring a lenten retreat in March; the retreat leader will be Fr Mirone Klysh of St George Church, Winnipeg. Fr Peter Bodnar was assigned in the autumn to serve the St Peter the Aleut Mission up in Prince Albert. In Saskatoon, Holy Resurrection Church and St Vincent of Lerens Church (Antiochian Archdiocese) are planning to celebrate the Presanctified Liturgy together twice each week through Great Lent. OCA and Antiochian parishes in Saskatchewan are planning to hold a summer youth camp again this year, at the end of July at the OCA Romanian Diocese Missionary Centre in Ft Qu'Appelle. Last year's youth camp was a great success, and the facilities excellent. Fr Svetislav Balevich is rector of Holy Trinity Church in Moose Jaw, and serves the Holy Trinity Church community in Nuyville as well.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD BLESSES



Six Canadian Parishes Find New Life Together in One Mission

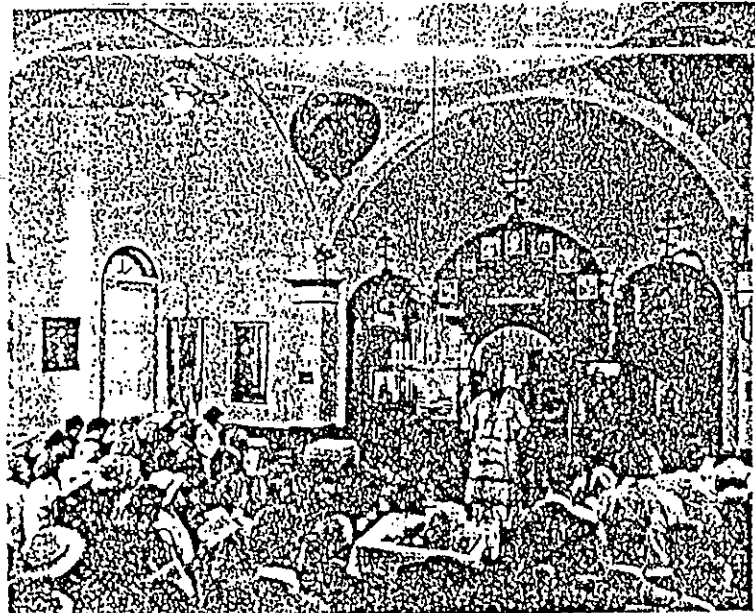
A Creative Unlty Brings Renewed Growth and Hope

Just before Palm Sunday weekend, a storm brought six inches of snow to the area of rural Alberta, Canada. Nonetheless both Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday were celebrated with great joy. The temples, filled with the boughs of fir, pine and hemlock, and pussy-willows, barely budding and cut a few days before, were held aloft by the faithful, though the wind howled outside. Evening Holy Week services were held in bitter cold, under the dancing northern lights, coyotes wailing close by. On Holy Friday, a combined Vespers of Holy Friday and Matins of Holy Saturday was held in each temple, beginning at 8 a.m. and going on long after 8 p.m. On Pascha, all faithful gathered in one place for Matins and Liturgy of the Resurrection, and the rest of the early and later morning hours were spent travelling to each temple, bringing the greeting "Christ is Risen!" to crowds of faithful, family and the curious, gathered for the blessing of well-laden hampers of Paschal foods. With the coming of Pascha, nature began to smile, and spring arrived in northern Canada.

The Lakeland Orthodox Christian Mission was established by Bishop Seraphim of Edmonton and Administrator of the Archdiocese of Canada, in the summer of 1987 following a year of groundwork undertaken by the Dean of Western Canada, Fr. Stephen Keaschuk, and representatives of the

St. Nicholas Church at Desjarlais (1917) were established at the time of a massive immigration of Slavs from the Austro-Hungarian Empire and elsewhere. Holy Transfiguration Church at North Bank was established in 1953. All of these parishes were in a critical state of decline as they entered the 1980's, if not earlier. Over decades of neglect, the historic Orthodox presence has been greatly reduced, marginalized, "ethnized," nominalized, and fragmented jurisdictionally. Linguistic and ritual incomprehensibility, a lack of educated, pastorally active and enthusiastic priests and church workers, the *trebi* system, and the unchallenged rise of relatively attractive and aggressive sectarian, and secular, alternatives have all combined with demographic changes in the countryside to undermine a once vibrant Orthodox culture.

The majority of Lakeland parishioners live on the farm or in small towns. The temples are found miles out in the countryside, off the highways, far down dirt roads. Rain and snow often make travel on these roads difficult, if not impossible. The combination of winter weather and the lack of insulation in the temples generally reduces their winter use to Sunday mornings, and perhaps festal liturgies. None of the temples have running water, but all but one or two have electricity. There are periodic infestations of mice, and occasionally bats. All the same, the church build-



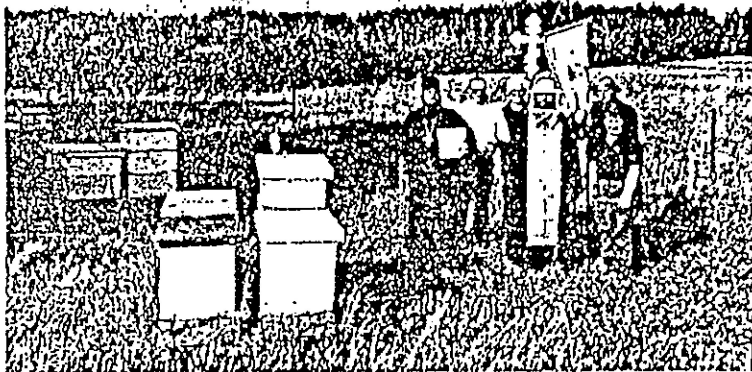
The Lakeland community gathers together for a feast day in Stary Vostok.

rural Alberta parishes. The Mission is understood to be a means of stabilizing and renewing parish life in north-central Alberta, and as an expression of the larger commitment of the revitalized Archdiocese to the life of the Church in the historic "heartland" of Canadian Orthodoxy in the Prairie provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The Mission priest is Fr. Andrew Morbey.

Taking its name from the provincial regional designation, the territory covered by the Mission forms a rough triangle with Fort Saskatchewan on the west, Smoky Lake on the north and Two Hills on the east. This is a mixed farming area, with several small towns and hamlets. At present the Mission is made up of six of the ten active OCA parishes in Smoky Lake, Lamont, and Two Hills counties. Holy Transfiguration Church at Star (1893, Greek Catholic; 1898, Orthodox) and Holy Trinity Church at Stary Vostok (1897) are believed to be the first Orthodox parishes organized in Canada. St. Nicholas at Bukovina (1900), Holy Trinity Church at Sunland (1910) and

ings have been kept up very well by the faithful, and the cemeteries attached to each parish are well-maintained. The Mission is truly blessed to have, in spite of many adversities, "all the props!"

Increasingly, the Mission itself is seen as the "larger parish," with several temples scattered throughout its territory. Many of the faithful travel to neighboring temples, and even further, to share in worship with fellow members of the Mission. This follows a pattern of Church life common in Finland and suggested by Bishop Seraphim as a workable model based on his experiences while living at the New Valamo monastery. Each parish maintains its own administrative structure, while sending at least two elected representatives to participate on the Executive Board of the Mission, which meets every two months at one or another of the parishes. In the first year the Mission ran a six-week rotation of Sunday services, a "mission circuit," while ensuring that, with weekday and Saturday services, each temple was visited at least once a month.



No, it's not a spaceman, but Bishop Seraphim with Fr. Morbey and parishioners blessing beehives.

Entering our second year, we have set aside the first and third Sundays of each month for services in the two largest parishes, while other Sundays are assigned to the smaller parishes.

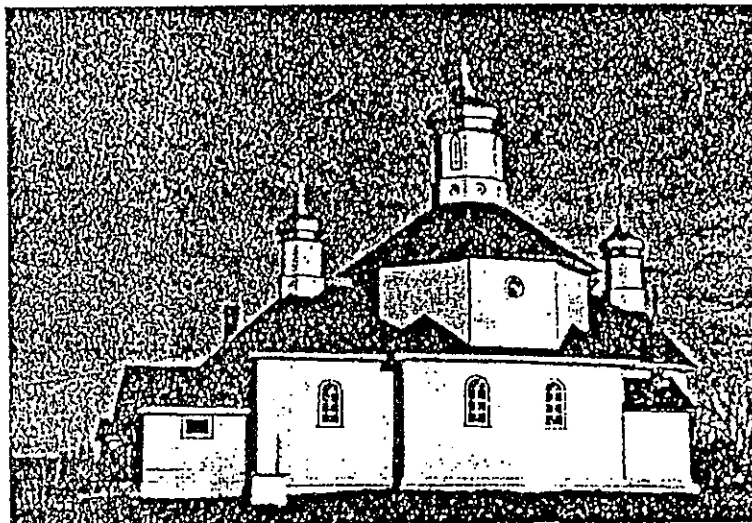
The primary task of the Mission is the re-creation of an active, informed and intentional Orthodox community. This necessarily involves "turning-on the faithful," reconciling and nurturing the lapsed and apostate, and drawing those outside the Church into its saving life. And this, to a large extent, means re-thinking and creatively addressing those attitudes, customs and habits that make the life of the Church inaccessible and incomprehensible to the faithful and potential converts alike.

To this end the Mission has set itself a five-fold program for parish renewal: the proclamation of the gospel in its most basic, evangelical form, through preaching and teaching in English; congregational participation in singing and serving the Divine Liturgy, the revival of Great Vespers (summer) and Matins (winter), celebration of the 12 Great Feasts and other selected holy days and many of the Lenten and Holy Week services, and maximum use of the *Trebnik* (blessings of fields, seed, barns, livestock, ponds, bee hives and so on); an emphasis on informed, regular and pious participation in the Holy Mysteries, especially General Confession, Holy Communion and Anointing; the building up of community life through joint worship, weekly coffee hours, family nights and dinners, and lots of "visiting" and "socializing"; an emphasis on the Church's tradition of prayer, fasting and good works; exploration of the meaning of "spiritual warfare" in our religious education programs.

This program has already witnessed many positive results. Church attendance has at least tripled, increasingly

the faithful are participating in the Holy Mysteries; lapsed members are returning, more young people are showing up, a measure of financial stability has been reached such that more educational and charitable work may be undertaken. In this first year the Mission can point to the following milestones in its spiritual growth: the support of a full-time priest; a successful Vacation Church School; establishment of a Church School program; adult religious education series offered publicly each month in the towns of Lamont, Andrew, and Willingdon; fortnightly services and visitations at the hospitals, auxiliary hospitals, nursing homes, and seniors' residences in Lamont, Smoky Lake, and Willingdon; active participation in the pastoral service programs of these institutions. The Mission has been supported in part by the Archdiocesan Mission Board, which provides a temporary monthly stipend and is richly blessed by the active personal interest and participation of Bishop Seraphim. In our first year, he has paid extensive visits to these country parts three times, rolling up his sleeves to join the "village batiushka" on his rounds. The heavenly patron of the Mission is the New-Confessor Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow, who established several of our parishes on his missionary journeys to Canada. The annual service to the New-Confessor Tikhon is celebrated by the Mission on 1/14 August, conjoined with the feast of the Procession of the Holy Cross. In June of 1987, and again in August of 1988, a large Cross was visible to the hundreds of faithful gathered at the Stary Vostok Church. We understand this to be the Lord truly "blessing His inheritance," sanctifying the labors of the Lakeland Mission.

Fr. Andrew Morbey
Lakeland Orthodox Christian Mission
Alberta, Canada



Holy Trinity Church in Sunland stands alone in the midst of prairies.

COMMITTEE OF CONCERNED ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN CANADA

This pan-jurisdictional and informal committee of clergy and laity across Canada has as its aim serious discussion of the ways and means of working towards one, united and canonical Orthodox Church in Canada, bringing together the faithful of all backgrounds and reaching out with the Gospel of Christ to the nation. The scandal of a divided, introverted and ineffectual Orthodox witness has gone on long enough! The Committee challenges the hierarchy, clergy and laity of all the Orthodox communities in Canada to put the glory of the Lord and a good witness of His Holy Orthodox Church in Canada high on their priority list.

If you would like to be on the mailing list of the Committee's NEWSLETTER, or to contribute to its work, please write:

Committee of Concerned Orthodox Christians in Canada
Box 7891
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 4R6

We preserve unchanged all the traditions of the Church, whether handed down to us in written or unwritten form. Of these traditions, one is the painting of icons. The pictorial image in iconography and the verbal narrative in the Gospels are in agreement with one another, and both alike emphasize that the incarnation of God the Word is genuine and not illusory.

from 7th Ecumenical Council



TROPARIUM TO THE NEW-CONFESSOR PATRIARCH TIKHON
Tone 8 Carpatho-Russian Chant

O teacher of true faith and guide in godliness,
witness before the world and example for the flock of Christ:
holy hierarch Tikhon you have enlightened us!
In your missionary labours and suffering confession,
you have given a pattern and a blessing to believers!
Pray for us to Christ our God
that He may grant us the heavenly kingdom!

KONTAKION TO THE NEW-CONFESSOR PATRIARCH TIKHON
Tone 8 Carpatho-Russian Chant

Grace-bearing champion of the Church,
sure exponent of the Gospel and the Lord Who favoured you,
throughout North America and Russia you accepted the glad yoke
of Christ!
As a missionary labourer, archpastor and sweet fruition of the
patriarchal throne,
you built up the Church and gladdened and strengthened the hearts
of the faithful,
dispelling all darkness with wonderful deeds worthy
of praise.
O holy new-confessor Tikhon never cease
to intercede for us!

If your heart has been softened either by repentance before God or by learning the boundless love of God towards you, do not be proud towards those whose hearts are still hard.

St Nikolai Velimirovic
The Prologue from Ohrid

LIVES IN CHRIST is the title of an Orthodox parish life magazine published by St Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church. A good read. Write to the Church at 10320 - 147 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 3C3

NICENE CREED SERIES is published by 'Orthodox Christians in Action', a Winnipeg-based educational fellowship. This 11-part study is suitable for both private and group study. The work books are based on the well-known Orthodoxy: A Creed for Today by Fr Anthony Coniaris. Contact: 66 Killington Bay, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2G 2Y5

FATHER ALEXANDER SCHMEMMANN BOOKSTORE in Montreal has a number of tapes and texts available. Among the tapes are a series of recordings of sessions at the Orthodox Theological Institute by such retreat leaders and speakers as Kallistos Ware, Alexander Schmemmann, Thomas Hopko, John Breck, Daniel Sahas, Bishop Seraphim, Paul Tarazi, Vladimir Berzonsky, and others. For a list, write: Father Alexander Schmemmann Bookstore, P.O. Box 1390, Place Bonaventure, Montreal, PQ H5A 1H3

BYZANTINE MUSIC IN THE NEW WORLD is the title of a wonderful tape made by the Choir of the Sign of the Theotokos Church under the direction for Vassilis Hadjinicolaou. It is available from the Sign of the Theotokos Church, P.O. Box 1390, Place Bonaventure, Montreal, PQ H5A 1H3 for \$10.

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN CANADA: A CHRONOLOGY is the title of a Millenium publication of the Archdiocese. The text provides a framework for the history of the Archdiocese and of Orthodoxy in Canada. Available for \$5 from the Chancery at 55 Clarey Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 2R6.

In the modern dialogue between atheists and Christians, Marxist atheism of solidarity must be answered by the man of ecclesial community, and atheistic existentialism of solitude must be answered by the monk.

Evdokimov
Les ages de la vie spirituel

LENTEN RETREAT IN EDMONTON

The annual lenten retreat sponsored by St Herman's Church in Edmonton will take place on Saturday, 1 April. The retreat leader is Hieromonk Alexander Golitzin. This year's theme is the ascetic disciplines and spiritual warfare of Great Lent. Hieromonk Alexander is a member of the Brotherhood of Simonas Petras Monastery on Athos. He holds his doctorate from Oxford, based on his exegesis of the writings of St Dionysios the Areopagite. He is currently the priest in charge of St Mary Magdalene Mission in Merced, CA, serves as the director of the Diocese of the West Mission Board, and teaches courses at Stanford, Berkeley and in the Pacific Central Deanery Late Vocations Program.

The retreat will take place at the Grey Nun's Centre in Edmonton. Registration, including meals, is \$25. For further information call:(403) 454-8335.

THE CANADIAN ORTHODOX MESSENGER

Published by the Archdiocese of Canada of the Orthodox Church in America, with the blessing of His Grace, SERAPHIM, Bishop of Edmonton and Administrator of the Archdiocese of Canada.

Dedicated to the New-Confessor Patriarch Tikhon, and the memory of Archbishop Arseny (Chavtsov) and the other missionary labourers in Canada.

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