

The Patriarchal Sobor

VI session of UGCC Patriarchal Sobor



УКРАЇНЬСЬКА ГРЕКО-КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА
ПАТРІАРШІЙ СОБОР



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The Patriarchal Sobor of the Ukrainian Catholic Church is an event that takes place in the Church every five years since its exit from the Underground in 1989

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKZGGYp138A>

The latest Patriarchal Sobor of the Ukrainian Catholic Church was held in Ivano-Frankivsk from August 25 to August 27, 2015. It brought together 250 delegates – lay people, priests and bishops - from 57 countries. Delegates discussed important issues concerning church and secular life. The theme of the Patriarchal Sobor was “The Vibrant Parish – A Place to Encounter the Living Christ.” Delegates to the Sobor were chosen at Eparchial Sobors, which in recent years (2014-2015) took place in all Ukrainian Catholic Eparchies throughout the world.



For the first time since its inception, the Patriarchal Sobor was attended by a delegation from the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, headed by Bishop Ihor (Isichenko), Archbishop of Kharkiv and Poltava.

In the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada, the local Sobor under the guidance and blessing of Bishop Stephen Chmilar, Bishop of Toronto and Eastern Canada, met with great success and was held at the St. John the Theologian Ukrainian Catholic Church in St. Catharines from October 24 - October 26, 2014.



The Patriarchal Sobor held in Ivano-Frankivsk from August 25 to August 27, 2015 was attended by delegates of the Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada: Very Rev. Fr. Volodymyr Yanishevsky, Chancellor; Fr. Dmytro Hancharyk, coordinator of the program “The Vibrant Parish - A Place to Encounter the Living Christ” of the Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada; Dobrodiyka Tanya Choly, representing the parishes of Ontario; Mr. Oleg Kuziv, representing parishes of Quebec.



Each day of the Sobor began with Matins at 7:15 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Ivano-Frankivsk, followed by a Pontifical Divine Liturgy presided over by our Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk, who also attended all the sessions – some at the presidium, most as an observer. After the Divine Liturgy and breakfast, the Sobor began its work. Mornings were dedicated to plenary sessions, where all the delegates heard very interesting and inspiring presentations about the six aspects of the Vibrant Parish, and in the afternoon, the delegates were divided into small groups to discuss the implementation of the ideas into active proposals for the Church. At the end of each day there were thematic meetings and discussions.

All delegations were invited to have a display table about their Eparchy. This was a very interesting part of the event. The different Eparchies, institutions and organizations set up their exhibits and information. On display at our Eparchy’s table were brochures, presentation books highlighting the many parishes of our Eparchy, copies of the final



report from our Eparchial Sobor and a video presentation of our Eparchy in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. The whole Church was able to get an idea about our Eparchy and the people who make our parishes vibrant. There was also a special dinner meeting of all Eparchial “Vibrant parish” coordinators with Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk and Synod Secretary Bishop Bohdan Dzyurakh.

Day 1 TOPICS: **The Word of God and Catechesis. Missionary Spirit.**

Reports: Proclamation the Word of God –
Fr. Taras Barshchevsky

Examples of active catechetical ministry
UGCC (video) - Dobrodiyka Irena Galadza

Examples of active mission service in the
Church - Bishop Josaphat Moschych

After the first session of the day, before lunch, Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk and all delegates walked to a nearby memorial park for a panakhyda for all deceased soldiers and heroes of Ukraine, especially those fighting in ATO today. Many local residents joined the prayers.



Photos: <http://sobor-ugcc.org.ua/foto-z-soboru/2015-zhyva-parafiia-mistse-zustrichi-z-zhyvym-khrystom/162-25-08-2015-pershyi-den-soboru>

Day 2 - TOPICS: **Liturgy and Prayer. Communion and Unity.**

Reports: The Liturgical Life of the Ukrainian Catholic Church – Fr. Vasyl Rudeyko

Prayer life in the parish – Fr. Josaphat Boyko



Communion and the promotion of Unity in the Ukrainian Catholic Church – Fr. Petro Galadza

At the end of the second day delegates saw the premiere screening of the film called “The Face of the Living Church”. It is filled with images of vibrant parish life, but central to the film is His Beatitude Sviatoslav teaching about the role of Church in society in general, and the development of the Vision 2020 initiative in particular. “This film can be considered a practical guide, even a small handbook” about

the Vibrant Parish initiative – said Fr. Ihor Yatsiv, head of the Information Department of the UGCC.

Photos: <http://sobor-ugcc.org.ua/foto-z-soboru/2015-zhyva-parafiia-mistse-zustrichi-z-zhyvym-khrystom/164-26-08-2015-druhyi-den-soboru>

Film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sKyFJ6RvGU>

Day 3 - TOPICS: **Service to Neighbour. Leadership and Stewardship.**

Reports: Service to One’s Neighbour – Fr. Andriy Nahirnyak

Stewardship – Fr. Andriy Onuferko

Parish Caritas - Andriy Was'kovets

The final plenary session in the afternoon demanded a significant amount of work from the Sobor secretariat and delegates. The proposals and resolutions offered by the small groups were discussed and voted on. Resolutions were classified according to the six priorities of the “The Vibrant Parish” initiative, and according to level of responsibility – patriarchal, eparchial, parish.



Photos: <http://sobor-ugcc.org.ua/foto-z-soboru/2015-zhyva-parafiia-mistse-zustrichi-z-zhyvym-khrystom/171-27-08-2015-tretii-den-soboru>

After the voting, Patriarch Sviatoslav officially closed the Sobor. Our bishops have received the resolutions, proposals and commitments, which have been translated into English, and are available to view in both languages.

UKR: <http://sobor-ugcc.org.ua/постанови-патріарших-соборів/175-rezoliutsii-vi-sesii-patriarshoho-soboru-uhkts-zhyva-parafiia>

ENG: <http://sobor-ugcc.org.ua/постанови-патріарших-соборів/177-resolutions-of-ugcc-patriarch-council-s-vi-session>

After the final session all the delegates under the flags of their countries took part in a prayer procession through the streets of Ivano-Frankivsk to Andrey Sheptytsky Square by the Cathedral, where a monument to Metropolitan Andrey was consecrated. Local residents lined the streets where the procession took place, many more participated in the consecration ceremony. It was very moving.

As Patriarch Sviatoslav emphasized, the development strategy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church “The Vibrant Parish - A Place to Encounter the Living Christ” - is not just another “plan” or “program”. This is a wide spread church movement - it is the life by which the Church lives. The Patriarchal Sobor of the Ukrainian Catholic Church gave us a great opportunity to share our ideas, experiences and gifts. It was also a time of self-examination of conscience. We **ALL** need to answer the question: How vibrant is our Church community? What am **I** doing to make my parish/Eparchy/Church more vibrant?



If you are interested in contributing to the Vibrant Parish initiative at the Eparchial level, or would like more information about implementing some of the Sobor resolutions/suggestions at your parish, please contact Vibrant Parish Committee, Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada at vpvision2020@hotmail.com.