

## 36<sup>th</sup> EPARCHIAL CONVENTION EPARCHY OF SASKATOON

*“Our Home, Our Spirit, Our Future”* was the theme of the 36<sup>th</sup> Eparchial Convention for the Ukrainian Catholic Women’s League of Canada (UCWLC), Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada (UCBC) and Ukrainian Catholic Youth (UCY) which was held in Saskatoon, on October 28 and 29, 2017.

Delegates and guests filled St. George’s Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral for the opening Divine Liturgy co-celebrated with Most Rev. Bryan Bayda, Eparch of Saskatoon, Very Rev. Janko Kolosnjaji, Pastor of St. George’s Cathedral, Saskatoon and Rev. Warren Dungen, Pastor of St. Josaphat, Kamsack.

Elizabeth Zahayko, President of the Ukrainian Catholic Council of Saskatchewan, welcomed all in attendance and guided the Official Opening of the convention which commenced with the traditional procession of the organizations’ Eparchial and Branch flags. Greetings were brought to the convention by Marion Barszczyk - UCWLC National President, Glen Tymiak - UCBC National Past President, Marlene Bodnar - UCWLC Eparchial President, Bernie Bodnar - UCBC Eparchial Vice-President, Sarah Sawchuk – Eparchial Youth Minister and Chantal Devine – CWL Provincial President-Elect.

Most Reverend Bryan Bayda challenged the delegates with two questions: What has God placed on your heart regarding the convention? How is what we do at this convention a response to God’s love for us? He directed us to focus on the dynamics of the theme **Our Home** appreciating the sense of belonging; **Our Spirit** animating the Holy Spirit who is present in our hearts, extended family and our organizations; **Our Future** witnessing the Joy of Loving as directed by the Holy Father.

Our Spiritual Advisor, Sr. Sophia, addressed the delegates regarding the importance of The Eparchial UCWLC “Shoe Box Project”. In Sister’s message to the delegates she commented how the support of this project serves the people of Ukrainian and thanked the branches with their continued support. “Your good and merciful hearts shine bright and warm rays in the midst of this black ocean of death and suffering, where orphans, widows, grieving mothers, and the distressed families of our heroes are in anguish. You are helping to protect the most vulnerable and heal the wounded. A sincere ‘thank you’ for everything you do!”

The National UCWLC President, Marion Barszczyk, graced us with her presence. Her message focused on three points: to bless the Social Service aspect of our community, encourage development of Family Life and Focus on God’s work in catechism. “I trust that each of us in attendance at this convention will examine how our organization can through its volunteers, charitable assistance and organized forms of providing social services to individuals and groups in need will be able to ensure the integral development of Christian social services in our communities.”

A presentation from Musée Ukraina Museum was made to the delegates by Martin Hryniuk, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the museum board. Martin shared the history of the museum, the business plan for sustainability, opportunities for programming & exhibits, as well as some of the museum’s highlights during the past several years. He thanked the UCWLC for their dedication, leadership and their continued support to the museum. Musée Ukraina Museum has had a successful lottery calendar for the past 14 years. Sister Sophia, Jayne Paluck and Eileen Bunko unveiled the 2018 museum lottery calendar, “Infinite Poppies”.

The delegates and guests were treated to two dynamic presentations by our guest speakers.

Our first guest speaker was Teresa Makowecki, UCWLC President, from the Vegreville, AB Branch. Teresa was motivated to become a UCWLC member by following in the footsteps of her mother and her 2 babas. Keeping our Ukrainian traditions, culture and faith growing is important to Teresa. She is convinced that if we want to engage more women and grow our league, the way we run our organization will have to change. Although holubtsi and pyrohy making is important, Teresa believes if we don't do more to help members understand their faith better and offer them more relevance, we will lose members in both our organization and our churches. Teresa's presentation was filled with new ways to involve the community into the church. She interjected with humor and encouraged senior members to appreciate the work of the younger members. Remember to profusely thank them for their contribution even though their pyrohy or holubsti are not made as perfectly as yours. Teresa encouraged the members to invite their friends, children and grandchildren to come see who we are and to be part of us. It's important to let others know about all the positive things in our organization and church. She also encouraged branches to reach out to the school community. If we want to bring our young kids back, we need to build a bridge between the school and the church.

The guest speaker at the Saturday evening banquet was Brenda Robertson. Brenda is a speaker, trainer, writer and consultant. She is the founder and president of Robcan Group. Brenda's presentation was a delight to the delegates and guests as she made her points through humor and laughter. Her topic for the evening was the power of intergenerational workplaces. She questioned the audience by posing "Are the generation gaps and differences a challenge or a chore?" She goes on to say, "differences are only difficulties when they are not understood". Her presentation created an insight into the following different generations: Veterans/Matures; Baby Boomers; Gen X; Gamers/Millennials and Gen "why". The objective of the presentation was "to help know the strengths of each generation; meet the leadership challenge and getting the best from the most". The presentation was refreshing and futuristic in connecting the dots amongst the generations to build community.

One resolution was presented by our resolution chair, Marusia Kobrynsky. The resolution reflects the needs of our parishes and supports the theme of the convention: ***OUR HOME, OUR SPIRIT, OUR FUTURE.*** It was passed with an overwhelming majority and reads as follows:

"Now therefore, be it resolved that: Local UCWLC branches conscientiously strive:

- a. To initiate, develop, and implement spiritual, catechetical, moral and social action programming within their parishes for the purpose of broadening the appeal of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and the UCWLC to all generations; AND
- b. To invite and actively encourage the participation of women who not members of the UCWLC, as well as men, youth and children in such programming."

The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers for the Eparchial UCWLC for the next two years. Marlene Bodnar was elected for a second term as the Eparchial President.

## 2018 - 2019 EPARCHIAL UCWLC

**SPIRITUAL ADVISOR:** Sister Sophia

### **EXECUTIVE:**

Past President: Elizabeth Zahayko  
President: Marlene Bodnar  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Loretta Yaganiski  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Gladys Rogalski  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President: Patrice Detz  
Secretary: Iris Owchar  
Treasurer: Sharon Hader  
Constitution: Marusia Kobrynsky  
Oristeen Kulyk

### **STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Spiritual Development:	Tamara Hrechuch
Social Action:	Geraldine Koban
Cultural/Education:	Elizabeth Zahayko
Organizational:	Eileen Yaworski
Membership:	Gayle Lockert
Public Relations/Website:	Doreen Rathgeber
Archives:	Sandra Fedoruk Eileen Yaworski
Inventory:	Marie Woytowich
Nasha Doroha:	Olga Kiryluk
Museum Financial Support:	Angeline Chrusch
Outreach Ukraine:	Jayne Paluck Oristeen Kullyk
Audit Chair:	Ange Gretchen
Audit Committee:	Rose Hill Margaret Scott
Members at Large:	Nadia Trafananko Roberta Pobran
BBESSI Representative:	Ange Gretchen

The convention closed with the adjournment of the business meeting. The three organizations gathered for Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral followed with fellowship by sharing a delicious meal. The membership left the hub city and spread out throughout the province with a new heart and purpose.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Eparchial Convention will be held October 26 & 27, 2019 in Saskatoon.

SUBMITTED BY

Doreen Rathgeber and Marlene Bodnar