



*Because of the changing times and after some discussion, it has been decided that the Eparchial News will no longer be published in the fashion it has been over the years. I personally wish to thank the individuals, parishes and organizations who supported the publication financially over the years, particularly while I was the editor.*  
 - Fr. Yurij Lazurko

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**The Future of the Eparchial News - Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR**



**A little history . . .** With the blessings and leadership from the late Bishop Basil Filevich, and the determination of two faithful servants, William Berezny and Deacon Yurij Lazurko (and their families), December 1990 saw the birth of the Eparchial News with the first Christmas edition. Today, 27 years later, we bid farewell to the Eparchial News as we have grown to know it. However, I would be remiss in only discussing the future of the Eparchial News without first expressing our most sincere gratitude to William and Father Yurij for their hard work and perseverance in bringing this publication to fruition. Furthermore, I wish to thank Fr. Yurij who continued to believe in the importance of this publication to the faithful in our Eparchy for these past 27 years. He truly was the “*chief cook and bottle washer*” of the Eparchial News, serving as co-editor, editor and courier, seeing to it that each of the publications always got delivered to all the parishes in our Eparchy. All this was done with no cost to the Eparchy. TRULY A LABOUR OF LOVE! We also express our gratitude to Добрадїйка (Dobrodijka) Dorothy and the Lazurko family for their support to Fr. Yurij’s work with the Eparchial News. May God Bless you Father Yurij, good and faithful servant of our Eparchy!

**And now, what about the future . . .** Chatting face to face with the Coordinator of the Communication Office of the Eparchy Chris Pidwerbeski the other day, different trends became apparent about communication in the Eparchy. I was surprised to learn the growing numbers of people accessing our Eparchial website, over 3.3 million hits this year to date, with over 80,000 visitors (first time visitors), and over 140,000 visits (people who return frequently). A recent meeting of the Communication Office with the web designer, Whole Wheat Web Design, and various staff and volunteers who contribute to social media, news and event stories to our websites, as well as to parish bulletins, brought to light the new challenges faced in keeping people informed. The news that reaches the faithful of the Eparchy of Saskatoon currently comes in various formats.

Websites, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Livestream, etc., have made the sharing of news more accessible as to how it is shared and with whom. Further, the methods available to share news have diversified. The various methods or formats for news have become more commonplace. For example, with some ease, video can be livestreamed, which offers people not able to attend an event in person the option of participating in it more personally by seeing and hearing a great deal live on a device such as cell phone, computer or tablet.

Others may prefer a news column style approach to the news, with a reporter who attended the event and covers it with photos as well as an intentional selection of highlights of the story. Some readers enjoy the summary of the event and the suggested significance of what took place. The perspective of the reporter comes through in the story. What the Eparchy needs is people who are willing to capture various aspects of what is happening in their parishes, districts and/or in the Eparchy, and then write about it, and then submit it to our Communications Office. This familiar relationship can be comforting to some when they turn their attention to what is the latest news out there. This is more significant when we hear that the Prairie Messenger will soon stop print and recent decisions about regularly printed news in the Moose Jaw area as well, to cite a couple of examples.

My concern is for the catechetical and faith-forming role that the written print has played in the lives of the faithful over the years. After all, good reporting of Catholic and Christian news should not be limited to merely informing people about events. It should have the intention of stirring something in the heart of the person digesting it, calling them to reflect on something that is meaningful, challenging (disturbing or comforting) and then evoking a response in the reader or viewer. News in the Eparchy should have the intention of evangelizing and forming those who access it.

The Eparchial News will continue online in some manner so that people from across the Eparchy can access it for its summarizing and celebration qualities. This can easily be downloaded and printed for those who prefer to handle the paper copy to read the Eparchial News. As we transition into a new chapter of an ever-changing aspect of what it means to be a missionary disciple, sharing news and passing it on again, we will become vibrant followers of Christ, which is everyone’s vocation and responsibility.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR