

Archeparchy of Winnipeg (1988)

The Archeparchy of Winnipeg, under the leadership of Metropolitan Maxim Hermaniuk and Auxiliary Bishop Myron Daciuk, in 1988 marking the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine, had 34 secular priests (excluding 5 in retirement), 15 deacons, a priests of the Basilian and Redemptorist orders. Approximately 49 000 faithful are united in the Archeparchy. In the Greater Winnipeg area there are 16 parish churches who's priests also serve the neighbouring parish communities of Cooks Creek, Gonor, and Cloverleaf. There are also parishes in Dauphin, The Pas, Flin Flon, and Thompson with missions in the northern regions. Parish communities are united in 15 church districts in which there are 142 fully or partially functioning churches. Presently, there are 158 churches in the Archeparchy which are recorded individually in this book.

The Ukrainian Catholic community in Manitoba can take pride in many achievements in addition to those pertaining to the religious-church life of the Archeparchy. There has been a Ukrainian publishing house in existence in Winnipeg as early as 1914. Through the efforts of Metropolitan Maxim, it was expanded in 1958 to include suitable premises for the newly organized Archeparchy publishing house, Progress, which began to publish a weekly paper, the "Progress" in 1959, and for the Ukrainian Catholic Council of the Archeparchy along with its archives. Between 1950 and 1975 a monthly magazine for children called "My Friend" was edited by Rev. Semen Izyk and published by the Council. With the assistance of various religious and lay committees this Council continues to air a weekly, half hour radio broadcast. Every Sunday since 1950, through the initiative of the Metropolitan , the Council has broadcast a half hour religious program called "The Voice of the Church", and since 1979 it has produced a weekly television program. Between 1938 and 1950, the bimonthly "The Future of the Nation" was published by Progress and edited by Rev. Ihor Shyptkowsky. This publishing house has also published many occasional publications, programs and calendars, notably "The Progress Calendar". In addition, almost every larger parish in Winnipeg and in the Archeparchy has published its own history. The editor of the "Progress" between 1959 and 1962 was Roman Danylewych. He was succeeded by Anatol Kurdydyk who was the editor between 1962 and 1970, with Very Rev. Monsignor Miroslav Rudachek assuming the editorship of the English section in 1960. Very Rev. Mitrat Izyk became the editor in 1970, a position which he holds to the present. Peter Bashuk has been the business manager of the Progress Publishing Company for many years.

To standardize and improve Ukrainian language instruction in the Archeparchy, the Metropolitan initiated the formation in Winnipeg of an Archeparchy School Board and the Society of Ukrainian Catholic Teachers under the patronage of Rev. Markian Shashkevych. An addition was built to the existing St. Nicholas School in Winnipeg which was named the Immaculate Heart of Mary School and was blessed in 1962. In 1952, Very Rev. Mitrat Roman Dobriansky assisted in the purchase of a 160 acre farm and its development into a vacation resort called Ukrainian Park which specialized in recreational and educational programs for children and youth from within and beyond the Archeparchy. Located also in the resort is the St. Volodymyr Chapel and the Metropolitan's summer residence. In addition, the Archeparchy owns two large properties with plans to develop them according to the needs of the faithful. The St.

Paul's Home in Dauphin under the direction of Sisters Servants provides care for the infirm.

Winnipeg is the headquarters of the Metropolitanate and house the Metropolitan's consistory and personal home known as the place which was built during Bishop Basil Ladyka's tenure and a second, modern addition was initiated by Metropolitan Maxim. The palace is the domicile of the Metropolitan and the Auxiliary Bishop. The consistory also contains a conference hall, office, library, archives and catechism centre. The eparchial museum in Winnipeg which was opened in 1957 exhibits folk art and religious artifacts. Winnipeg also houses the Basilian and Redemptorist priests' provincial homes. The Sisters Servants have four homes in Winnipeg and administer a day school, the "Immaculate Heart of Mary", the "Holy Family Home" for the aged, a Catechism Centre and "Ryznytsa" where clerical vestments are made. Located in Winnipeg are also the Ukrainian Catholic Council of the Archeparchy and the executives of the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood, Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada, Ukrainian Catholic Youth, the Mutual Benefit Association of St. Nicholas, the Ukrainian Students' Organization, Obnova, the Ukrainian Branch of the Knights of Columbus, and monastery of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The Archeparchy of Winnipeg was privileged to share in the responsibility of planning and organizing His Holiness Pope John Paul II's visit to Canada. The formal greeting of this eminent guest on behalf of the Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitanate of Canada and the welcoming address was given in the Cathedral of Saints Volodymyr and Olha by His Grace Metropolitan Maxim Hermaniuk amid the overflowing gathering of the faithful and distinguished representatives of Canada and the Ukrainian and Latin Rite Churches. His Holiness was greeted at the entrance of the Cathedral by children on behalf of laity in Canada, the president of the Ukrainian Catholic Council of Canada, Theodore Baran, welcomed him with the traditional bread and salt. Choral music during the greetings and the liturgical service was provided by the Winnipeg choir under the direction of George Hnatiuk. The congregation was deeply moved by the Pontiff's address and were given the opportunity to meet with him personally and receive the Apostolic blessing from him in the Ukrainian language.

This unforgettable and historically significant visit of His Holiness to Winnipeg as the capital of the Archeparchy and the seat of the Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitanate of Canada took place on Sunday, September 16, 1984.

Article taken from Ukrainian Catholic Churches of Winnipeg Archeparchy, History of Ukrainian Catholic Churches in Canada, Volume 4 by Anna Maria Kowcz-Baran (Saskatoon, 1991).