

Archdiocesan Assembly, July, 2007
Deanery Report: Manitoba/Saskatchewan

At the time of writing there are in the deanery 3 monastics, 4 deacons, and 10 priests. Of the priests, one is retired, and one is among the monastics. Most of this report will focus on events since the last Archdiocesan Assembly in 2004.

Holy Resurrection Sobor in Saskatoon has seen the retirement of Father Orest Olekshy, interim care of the parish by Father Daniel Guenther, and now the appointment of Father Cyprian Hutcheon as rector. Deacon Taras Papish has been ordained and Protodeacon Wilhelm Friesen has been received into the archdiocese. For a number of years, Father Daniel organized a St. Vladimir Seminary Institute in Saskatoon. Out of Holy Resurrection Sobor and other parishes and faithful, much work is being done in Ukraine in caring for younger orphans and providing life skills and resources for young men and women who are being lured into the horrors of the sex trade.

St. Mark Church in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, served by Father Rodion Luciuk and assisted by Father Andrew Piasta is particularly active in the summer months. Many satellite temples and their cemeteries are served only once a year now. In addition, Fathers Rodion and Andrew pastorally serve the Manitoba communities of Minitonas and Sifton. Hieromonk Vladimir (Lysak) has made his home and iconography studio in Grayson, Saskatchewan and assists as he is able in the deanery. A mission of All Saints of North America has been established in Canora, Saskatchewan, which is served once or twice a month. Father Tikhon (Green), who has served as choir director at St. Mark's for a number of years is in the process of moving to Edmonton. His presence and his work and care for the faithful in Yorkton will be missed.

Holy Trinity Church in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and other area parishes that it serves has seen the retirement and repose of long-term rector, Father Svetislav Balevich. Father Stacey Richter pastored the parish and area for a time, followed by Father Waldemar Kuchta. Since Nativity, 2006, Father Walter Smith and his Matushka Nancy have been serving the Moose Jaw area, trying to establish a realistic but regular liturgical cycle, as well as study groups and fellowship, as they gain the trust of the faithful and build up a pastoral relationship. Coming from Pennsylvania, they bring new blood to the archdiocese.

The Minitonas Parish of St. Lavrentius the Martyr (just east of Swan River, Manitoba), is served yearly with the dean present when possible. However, most funerals and memorial services and other pastoral work here are done by Father Rodion Luciuk out of Yorkton.

Holy Resurrection Church in Sifton, Manitoba has seen a great revival in its life in the past few years. While the Holy Ascension Monastery, just west of town has been demolished and a cairn erected, the archdiocese still owns the property, the farm land is rented out, and the cemetery is well-maintained. Four years ago, the annual pilgrimage to Sifton had a new beginning and has continued since then. Through the devotion and effort of Katya Szalasznyj of Saskatoon and Dot Connelly of Sifton, government and private funding, a new basement has been poured under the temple, the roof resingled, the exterior painted, and new entrance stairs built. Michael Luciuk from Yorkton is manning a seasonal museum there this summer.

St. Nicholas Church in Sandy Lake, Manitoba carries on faithfully. President, David Rystephanuk has been on Archdiocesan Council. As well as benefiting the council, he has shown the faithful in Manitoba the realities of broader Church life in the archdiocese. The

dean attempts to serve Sandy Lake once a month. In recent years there has been much greater co-operation with the Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Sandy Lake and the faithful are encouraged to attend services, when they are held, in each others' temples. An older pioneer cemetery has been suitably restored and improved access permits regular Paschal grave blessings in addition to those in the parish cemetery.

The historic Holy Trinity Sobor in Winnipeg was consecrated by St. Tikhon in 1904. The centennial was duly celebrated in the year 2004. The dean learned a valuable lesson with the assignment of Father Anatoly Melnyk and then Father Oleg Razumov that a revival of healthy parish life would arise from good, sound pastoring rather than from the linguistic heritage of the incumbent. The one-time home of St. Arseny of Winnipeg provided the initial facilities for the St. Arseny Orthodox Christian Theological Institute, bringing a new beginning to the educational aspirations of the holy archbishop.

Within the past year, Father Andrew Jarmus was received into the archdiocese from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. This has allowed for the revival of **an English Mission** under the patronage of the Theotokos of the Life-Giving Spring. The use of an Anglican parish hall in a central location in Winnipeg has permitted the growth of a healthy and regular liturgical life, along with study and fellowship. Protodeacon Raphael Cole, while remaining attached to Holy Trinity Sobor, assists Father Andrew in serving the Mission at the present time. It is with mixed feelings for the deanery that Father Andrew will leave Winnipeg to begin serving the central Church as Director of Ministries and Communications effective August 1. God willing, Winnipeg's immediate loss will bring benefits to the life of the whole Church.

St. Nicholas Church in Narol, Manitoba, continues regular parish life, served regularly by the dean. We have currently been blessed with the installation of a wheel-chair elevator and an external ramp, thanks to the Sir Thomas Cropo Foundation and the fundraising efforts of the faithful. Last year saw the ordination of Deacon Lasha Tchantouridze for our parish. Along with Matushka Nina, and children, Elizabeth and Matthias, the family are a great blessing to our parish. Originally from ancient Georgia, they help round out and add to our diversity. Deacon Lasha was the first diaconal graduate from the St. Arseny Institute. His academic background has allowed him to become an integral member of the faculty of the Institute.

St. Arseny Institute had its humble beginnings in the basement of Holy Trinity Sobor to train readers and deacons. Now it is affiliated with the University of Winnipeg Theology Faculty with ability to grant the Master of Divinity degree. Through the efforts of director, Spencer Estrabrooks, the archdiocese has a theological education committee working out means to provide good and sound theological education to train clergy and lay people within the archdiocese, without resorting to the more expensive means of studying outside the country.

Because of the very obvious intercessions for the life of the archdiocese by St. Arseny of Winnipeg and his veneration by the faithful in the archdiocese, a petition is being made to request Archbishop Seraphim to seek permission to bring St. Arseny's relics back to Canada. This petition will be available at the Archdiocesan Assembly for the faithful to add their names to if they wish. In the meantime, the logistics of transferring his remains are being investigated, should permission be granted.

Winnipeg iconographer, Vera Senchuk, has a school of iconography and a number of the faithful around Winnipeg study and work currently with Vera.

I have learned since beginning this report that the brethren in the deanery have through process of election, asked that I remain as dean. If Vladyka Seraphim blesses this, you will see more reports from my unworthy self at least until the Assembly of 2010!

In Christ,
Archpriest Robert Kennaugh, Dean