
PRIORITIES FOR 2013 -2015 pp.

**For parish pastoral planning
within the framework of the program
«VIBRANT PARISHES – A PLACE TO
ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST»**

INTRODUCTION

In 2011, the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church approved 12 main directions of development for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church within the framework of the Vision 2020 Strategy “*Vibrant parishes – the place to encounter the living Christ*”.

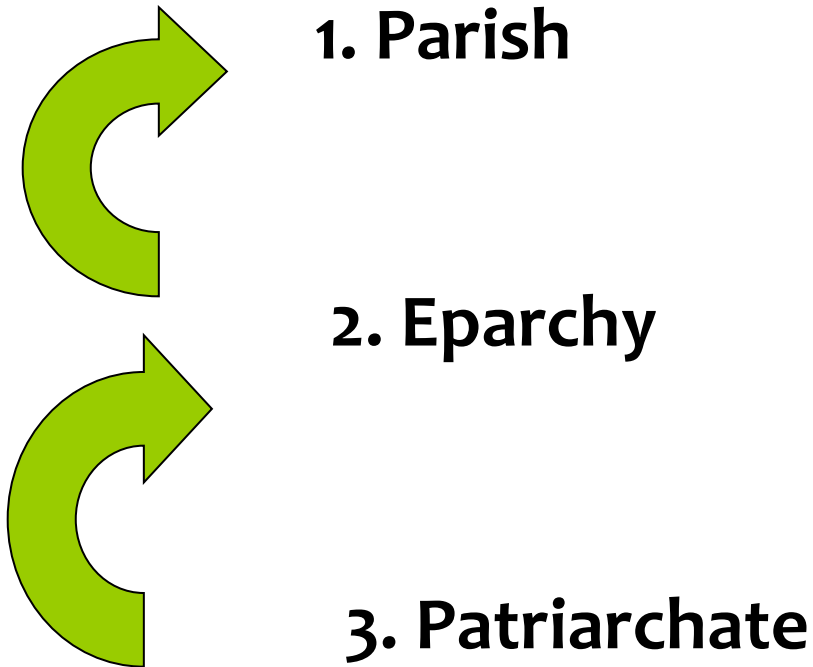
12 Main areas of development – pg 1

1. Catechesis
2. Ecumenism
3. Unity (within the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church)
4. Fostering our eastern identity
5. Evangelization/Mystagogy (Votserkovlennya)
6. Formation of clergy

12 Main areas of development – pg 2

7. Formation of laity
8. Serving migrants
9. Youth ministry
10. Financial management
11. Social service ministry
12. Education

12 Main areas of development goals on 3 levels



Primary responsibility for strategy implementation

- ❖ In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, the primary responsibility for implementing the strategy is on the eparchial and parish levels.
- ❖ Patriarchal Commissions and Departments are called to assist – by the development of guidelines, materials, handbooks and programs, and also to serve in cases that require common agreement and unification, or coordination and communication between the eparchies and other institutions of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC).

Priorities for 2013-15:

1. Catechesis
2. Liturgy and prayer (fostering eastern identity)
3. Social ministry/diakonia
4. Youth ministry
5. Formation of laity
6. Formation of clergy

We have prepared:

For the local bishop and coordinator:

Proposals of goals for the 6 priority directions on 3 levels: parish, eparchial and patriarchal, for implementation over the course of the next 3 years (2013-2015).

We have prepared

For parishes: an abridged version

Proposal of goals for the 6 priority directions for parish planning, and also a list of resources, which are being developed on the Patriarchal and Eparchial levels to aid in the development of a vibrant parish life and community.

1. CATECHESIS – the complete list of goals on all 3 levels for local bishops and coordinators

1. CATECHESIS

On the patriarchal level (1)

1. Translate the new Catechism of the Church into different languages: English, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, French and Belarusian.
2. Implement the new catechumenate program into UGCC pastoral ministry.
3. Develop mechanisms to ensure catechetical ministry for children of migrants and the formation of catechists in countries where no structures Church.
4. Create and implement programs for Bible study (the biblical apostolate).
 - a. Publish a commentary on Scripture.

1. CATECHESIS

On the patriarchal level (2)

5. Create a catechist association, which would unite all catechists of the UGCC.
6. Hold meetings for those responsible for catechetical ministry every two years.
7. Organize and conduct educational and cultural programs for children and adolescents (International Festival of Sacred Music "Song of the Heart" and other thematic contests).
8. Establish a mandatory course in Catechesis with practicals at all seminaries and other theological institutions of the UGCC..

1. CATECHESIS

On the patriarchal/eparchial level

1. Develop new parish catechetical materials for different age groups based on the new Catechism of the Church, making them available as an Internet resource in different languages.
 - a. Provide additional parishes catechetical programs for adults (e.g. on biblical, liturgical, moral themes).

1. CATECHESIS

On the eparchial level

1. Organize parish conferences and presentations of the new Catechism.
2. Analyze existing parish catechetical programs and develop, where necessary, new programs based on the new Catechism of the Church.
3. In cooperation with Catechetical Institutes, ensure the formation of parish catechists based on the new Catechism of the UGCC.
4. Provide educational and theological training for persons in catechetical leadership positions on the eparchial and deanery levels.
5. Provide training for leaders of the biblical apostolate.

1. CATECHESIS

On the parish level

1. Organize a catechetical school or catechetical courses for all age groups: children, youth and adults.
2. Implement catechetical programs based on the new UGCC Catechism for different age categories.
3. Set up a parish catechetical council comprised of: pastor, administrator, assistant pastor, catechists and parents.

**1. CATECHESIS– an abridged
version for parish pastoral
planning**

1. КАТЕХИЗАЦІЯ

На парафіяльному рівні

1. Організувати в парафіях УГКЦ катехитичні школи/курси для дітей, молоді й дорослих, впроваджувати катехитичні програми на основі нового Катехизму УГКЦ для різних вікових категорій.
2. Створювати в кожній парафії катехитичні ради, до складу яких входили б: парох, катехит і батьки.

1. CATECHESIS

On the parish level

1. Organize a catechetical school or catechetical courses for all age groups: children, youth and adults.
2. Implement catechetical programs based on the new UGCC Catechism for different age categories.
3. Set up a parish catechetical council comprised of: pastor, administrator, assistant pastor, catechists and parents.

1. CATECHESIS

Resources being developed:

1. Training and formation for catechists and leaders of Bible Apostolate in the Eparchy. (Eparchy-Exarchate)
2. The UGCC Catechism translated into different languages. (Patriarchal Catechetical Commission - PCC)
3. Catechumenate program - catechesis for adults. (PCC)
4. Bible study program + Bible commentaries. (PCC)
5. Catechetical materials for different age groups based on the Catechism of the UGCC, posted to Internet resources. (PCC and the Eparchial Commission)
 - a. Catechetical programs for adults - such as biblical, liturgical, moral themes. (PCC and Eparchial Commission)

2. LITURGY AND PRAYER– an abridged version for parish pastoral planning

2. LITURGY AND PRAYER

On the parish level

1. Conduct liturgical catechesis for the faithful in the parish.
2. Revive the idea of a prayer corner (Pokuttya) in the family tradition and encourage the faithful to daily personal and communal prayer.
3. Hold daily Divine Liturgy and Prayers of the Hours (Chasoslov) in the parish church.
4. Encourage the faithful to participate in worship services, not only on Sundays and holidays, but during other days of the week.
5. On Sundays and holidays, in addition to the Liturgy, introduce Matins Vespers services.
6. Emphasize the importance of learning and practicing daily prayers, the prayers of the Prayer of the Hours (Chasoslov) and prayers before and after meals.

2. LITURGY AND PRAYER

Resources (1):

1. A Common Church Calendar and Ustav (Typikon) -both Julian and Gregorian calendar (Patriarchal Liturgical Commission - PLC)
2. A series of Booklets-Brochures explaining different parts of the liturgical cycle of prayer. (PLC)
3. Publication of a set of festal icons, based on the Ukrainian sacred art tradition, for use during feast days on the tetrapod (analogion). (PLC)
4. Liturgical texts honoring the Blessed Martyrs of the Church. (PLC)
5. Liturgical prayers and petitions for the glorification of martyrs and confessors of the faith. (PLC)
6. A thematic series of publications of important patristic and modern mystagogical catechesis and also liturgical-patristic commentary of those Scripture texts which are a permanent part of the liturgy. (PLC)

2. LITURGY AND PRAYER

Resources (2):

7. Certificate programs for learning about the liturgical heritage of our church tradition: Iconography, liturgical music, liturgical ministry, conscious and active participation of the faithful, (Eparchy - through institutions such as the Ukrainian Catholic University, the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, the Sheptytsky Institute or eparchial structures – all in agreement with the Patriarchal Liturgical Commission).
8. Eparchial Cantor (dyak) school, or courses for continuous formation for cantors (dyaky). (Diocese)

**3. SOCIAL SERVICE
MINISTRY/DIAKONIA– abridged
version for parish pastoral
planning**

3. SOCIAL SERVICE/DIAKONIA

On the parish level

1. Identify a person (or group of persons) responsible for developing the charitable service ministry of the parish, and encourage all the faithful in the active participation in charitable service as an expression of a living faith.
2. In each parish establish your own charitable program or actively support already existing charitable initiatives organized by the church or other community organizations.
3. Promote and spread the practice of “charity weeks / days” and other initiatives designed to popularize social service ministry in the Church and society.
4. (In Ukraine) Implement the program of activities planned for 2013, and dedicated to diakonia, as an expression of living faith.

3. SOCIAL SERVICE/DIAKONIA

Resources

1. A Council (Committee) of Social Ministry formed at the Patriarchal level to coordinate, promote and share experiences of social service ministry in the UGCC. (Department of Social Ministry -Patriarchal Curia)
2. Professional training of social service volunteers and staff at church and state institutions, and a series of regular courses, workshops and seminars to improve their skills in ministry. (Eparchy and the local Caritas)
3. Audio, video, and printed informational materials to share information about already existing social service ministry projects being implemented in the Church. (Department of Social Ministry - Patriarchal Curia)
4. (In Ukraine) Outline of events and activities for 2013, dedicated to diakonia as an expression of a living faith. (Department of Social Ministry - Patriarchal Curia)

4. YOUTH MINISTRY – an abridged version for parish pastoral planning

4. YOUTH

On the parish level

1. In every parish where there are young people, to establish a youth group.
2. Involve properly prepared and active young people in the life of the parish, especially in matters serving others and evangelization in the parish and beyond.
3. Where possible, found other youth community groups and activities at the parish (for example: Plast, sports teams)

4. YOUTH

Resources (1)

1. Eparchial Coordinator (commission) of youth pastoral care in parishes.
2. Youth Catechism. (Patriarchal Catechetical Commission (PCC) and the Ukrainian Patriarchal Youth Commission (UPYC)).
3. Youth website dyvensvit.org. (UPYC)
 - a. Possibility to create Eparchial sub-pages.
 - b. Forum for the communication and experience sharing of the youth of the whole UGCC.

4. YOUTH

Ресурси (2)

4. Programs and Materials (UPYC)
 - a. Youth Retreat.
 - b. "First Steps in youth ministry in my parish." (guidelines to creating a youth group in the parish)
 - c. Program for training youth leaders.
 - d. "Discovering your vocation."
 - e. "Fostering a spirit of missions and social service."
 - f. "Know the treasures of our spiritual tradition."
5. Christian camps for teenagers and young people. (Eparchy)
6. Eparchial Youth Pastoral Plan for 3 years. (Eparchy)
7. Training seminar for youth leaders. (Eparchy)

5. FORMATION OF LAITY– an abridged version for parish pastoral planning

5. FORMATION OF LAITY

On the parish level (1)

1. Create or revitalize Parish Councils: pastoral and economic, engaging spiritually mature and well prepared lay people - professionals.
2. Hold retreats or formational days based on the "Formation program for laity" for those persons involved in the administration of the parish. (Palamar, brotherhood and sisterhood leaders, cashiers, etc ...)
3. For the general formation of laity - particular emphasis in the coming year:
 - a. Bible study groups at the parish to foster the daily reading and study of Sacred Scripture: privately and in the family.
 - b. Joint reading and studying the new Catechism of the Church "Christ - our Passover."

5. FORMATION OF LAITY

On the parish level (2)

4. Encourage the faithful to greater participation in liturgical services of the Church through liturgical catechesis: explanation of iconography and liturgical music, and helping lay groups to foster the practice of common liturgical prayer.
5. Ensure proper preparation for the sacrament of marriage in parishes and eparchial centers, and where there are enough young couples, create a community-group of young families.
6. Offer catechesis for parents and godparents in preparation for baptism, to help them raise their children in faith and love for God and neighbor, and to participate actively in the life of the church community.
7. Hold Retreats 2 times a year (Christmas and Lent). Once a year organize a parish pilgrimage. Every five years hold a mission at the parish.

5. FORMATION OF LAITY

Resources (1)

1. In the Eparchy a designated person responsible (or a Commission) for the Lay formation programs.
2. Church-wide program "Preparation for the sacrament of marriage." (Ukrainian Patriarchal Commission on the Family)
3. Training for lay people helping the priest in the implementation of Marriage preparation courses. (Eparchy)
4. Program of lay formation - training for people serving in parish ministry (Eparchy)
 - a. Foundations of the Christian faith.
 - b. Vocation and mission of the laity
 - c. How to form and run a lay organization.
 - d. Formation of laity for active ministry in the parish.
(Later program permanent formation for laity)

5. FORMATION OF LAITY

Resources (2)

5. Network of family movements and communities (Movement of young families, family counseling centers, etc ...). (Eparchy)
6. Programs and materials for the veneration of lay martyrs of the Ukrainian Church. (Patriarchal Liturgical Commission - PLC and Postulation Center)
7. Regular presentations lay communities, movements and organizations, at the level of deaneries to foster the development of new communities. (Eparchy)

6. FORMATION OF CLERGY– an abridged version of parish pastoral planning

6. FORMATION OF CLERGY

On the parish level (1)

1. Parish priest promotes vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life through:
 - a. Encouraging young boys to participation as altar servers and holding additional activities with them.
 - b. Encouraging young people to participate in deanery and eparchial meetings and programs for youth interested in religious life.
 - c. Sermons on vocations.
 - d. Meetings and retreats for the youth in the parish on the discernment of vocations.
 - e. Personal conversations.
2. In parochial schools and organizations emphasize the value of religious vocations among young people.

6. FORMATION OF CLERGY

On the parish level (2)

3. In parishes where there is more than one priest, the priests should foster their own regular common prayer together. (for example: Prayers of the Hours (Chasoslov)).
4. Support the connection between parish communities and seminarians of the Eparchy (particularly seminarians and their home parishes).
5. Encourage parish communities to support individual eparchial seminarians, especially those who come from poor families and also priests entrusted with a special pastoral ministry. (Chaplaincy and missionary activities)
6. Develop solidarity with priests and parishes in missionary territory.

6. FORMATION OF CLERGY

Resources:

1. Eparchial Commission or coordinator for fostering vocations.
2. Eparchial formation courses based on the Program of permanent formation of priests for the UGCC, which also includes formation for priestly families, especially for priest's wives. (Eparchy, Patriarchal Commission on Clergy formation).

NEXT STEPS

On the patriarchal level

Revise strategies on the basis of feedback during coordinator meetings – send to coordinators by January 30, 2013.

Prepare contact information on patriarchal commissions and departments responsible for programs and materials, etc.

On the eparchial level

Local bishop, together with the coordinator and eparchial staff, adjust the strategies to reflect the local situation of eparchies and territories where there are no official UGCC structures.

Prepare contact information on eparchial commission and departments responsible for programs and materials, etc.

Present to priests during Vision 2020 meetings/retreats

**Appendix:
Proposal of activities for
parishes for the
Year of Faith -2013**

Proposals for 2013 – Year of Faith

On the parish level (1)

1. Reading and explanation of the Apostolic letter *Porta fidei* and pastoral letters of the Patriarch.
2. Hold parish educational seminars to introduce and familiarize the faithful with the new UGCC Catechism "Christ - our Pascha."
3. Parish missions and retreats, night vigils (using the icon of the Year of Faith) and pilgrimages to places of pilgrimage.
4. In parishes, church schools and institutes (catechetical institutes, seminaries) presentations of contemporary witnesses of faith, inviting missionaries, religious, chaplains, who will present ways of witnessing to the faith today, in various circumstances of life.
5. Encourage the faithful to charitable service and acts of charity, as evidence of a living faith ("Faith without works is dead").

Proposals for 2013 – Year of Faith

On the parish level (2)

6. A series of sermons and teachings throughout the year on topics:
 - a. faith which we express and strengthen in prayer and worship (lex orandi lex credendi est)
 - b. faith that we witness to (Creed, Catechism)
 - c. faith which we live (social, charitable service)
 - d. faith which we believe and pass on to others (evangelization mission)
7. Since faith is born and develops in the family as in a "domestic church" and grows deeper in prayer (including family and personal), then:
 - a. Promote and encourage the practice of family prayer (at least the evening), as well as daily reading the word of God, and prayer before and after meals.

Proposals for 2013 – Year of Faith

On the parish level (3)

- b. In order to encourage family home prayer, organize a parish icon, which would travel between members of the parish (each house 1-3 days - depending on the size of the parish). If the priest helps to transfer the icon from house to house, this can also be another opportunity for visiting parishioners and better learning about their needs.
- c. Restore the faithful Christian duty to cherish the interior of their homes, emphasizing the presence of the icons on the ancient tradition of red corner, as a special corner for prayer.

Proposals for 2013 – Year of Faith

On the parish level (4)

- d. Produce and distribute electronic versions of liturgical prayer and other texts (for tablets, smartphones ...), putting them on the Internet, so that everyone could access them, and use them for personal prayer.
8. Hold parish retreats on the sacrament of baptism as preparation for 1025 anniversary of the Baptism of Rus' and the renew vows on the feast day of St. Volodymyr the Great.