



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

June, 2012

By the time you read this letter in *The Sower* summer vacation time will be almost upon us. I sincerely hope that during the summer months most of you will be able to take at least a few days away from the normal work day routine to travel or simply to enjoy some “down time” with family and friends in God’s marvelous creation.

Of course, no matter where we are or what we do during the summer we never cease being God’s children. Whether we are at work or at school, whether we are hiking on a mountain trail, visiting a museum or relaxing at the beach we are always members of Christ’s Mystical Body, the Church, and continuously journeying towards God’s Kingdom.

With this mind, we have decided to begin preparations, even now during the summer, for the Sobor of the Eparchy of Stamford to be held from April 18 – 20, 2013 on the campus of St. Basil Seminary in Stamford, CT. In the previous issue of *The Sower* you will have read my official proclamation of this eparchial gathering. In the present issue of *The Sower* on this page you can see the official poster and logo designed for the Eparchial Sobor. They should become very familiar to you over the next months as we prepare for this historic event in the life of our Eparchy.

The theme of the Eparchial Sobor will be based on the strategic plan of renewal for our world-wide Ukrainian Catholic Church which was formally adopted by the bishops at their annual Synod held in Brazil last year entitled: “*The Vibrant Parish – A Place to Encounter the Living*

Christ". The laity are called to play a key role in its realization. Your ideas, input and constructive criticism are vital for the successful implementation of this strategy.

This summer you will have an opportunity to familiarize yourselves with the strategic plan and begin to contribute to its implementation. The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate have chosen the strategic plan as the theme for their annual Dormition Pilgrimage to be held on August 11 & 12 at their motherhouse in Sloatsburg, NY. In particular, a special workshop on the theme "*The Vibrant Parish – A Place to Encounter the Living Christ*" will be held in during the Dormition Pilgrimage on Saturday afternoon, August 11. I encourage all to attend.

In addition, I have agreed to lead the annual retreat sponsored by the Holy Name Society of St. Josaphat Parish in Rochester, NY from Friday, August 24 to Sunday, August 26 which will also have the strategic plan as its theme. This retreat is open to everyone. Please contact the St. Josaphat Parish office if you are interested in attending.

I look forward to seeing you this summer at these two events as we begin the task of the spiritual renewal of ourselves and our beloved Ukrainian Catholic Church.

To borrow the words of His Beatitude Sviatoslav in his recent pastoral letter: "*I encourage all of you: open the doors of your hearts and your homes to Christ, allow His Holy Spirit to transform you, purify and strengthen you in God's love! I invite all – laity, religious, and clergy – to the renewal of our church life on our native lands and abroad. Let us move forward, strengthened in God's grace, and trusting in His Holy Providence.*"

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM
Eparch of Stamford