



“Vibrant Parishes Places to Encounter the Living Christ” Ukrainian Catholic Church Vision for the Year 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Church has been seen as “a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit”. The Lord Jesus set it on its course by preaching the Good News, that is, the coming of the Kingdom of God, which, for centuries, had been promised in the Scriptures:

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand” (Mk. 1:15).

(Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, n. 1.5)

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The mission of the Church, founded by Jesus Christ, continues for over two thousand years. While Christ calls men and women to follow him down through the centuries, every generation faces unique challenges to live and proclaim the “Good News.” The world around us is constantly changing, but we are always called to follow Christ and build the Kingdom of God.

Recently, the Bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church while gathered for their synod in Curitiba, Brazil, once again asks us to reflect on our vocation in the Church, our service and ministry in our parish communities and in society at large. We all know that a vibrant parish is a place to *encounter the Living Christ*.

This is why I am asking the priests and religious of the Stamford Eparchy to begin preparations for an *Eparchial Sobor* which is scheduled for April, 2013. The *Stamford Eparchy Sobor*, our own gathering of priests, religious, and you the faithful, will give us the opportunity to reflect on our Christian calling and mission in today’s world.

In order to prepare well for this important event in the life of our Local Church, I humbly ask, this autumn, as we embark on our journey towards the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Jesus Christ, that we reflect on our own baptismal promises. On Christmas Day, we will all joyfully sing in the Divine Liturgy: “*All who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia*”. But in order to make these words a living expression in our life, we must meditate upon what it really means “*to be baptized into Christ*.”

I pray and hope that we may proclaim the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and be a witness of His loving presence to those who search and wish to follow Christ!

Wishing you a blessed pilgrimage toward the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, I am,
Sincerely yours in Christ,

+*Paul*

Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM
Eparch of Stamford