

Eparchial Liturgical Commission

Inaugural Meeting
December 9, 2009
2:00 PM

In Attendance:

Bishop David (Motiuk)
Rev. Peter Babej
Dr. Melanie Turgeon
Rev. Taras Kraychuk
Rev. Gregory Faryna
Danylo Kuc

Absent:

Rev. John Sembrat, OSBM
Rev. Michael Winn

- The meeting was opened at 2:15 PM with a prayer by Bishop David
- Bishop David introduced the Commission by describing it and explaining what a liturgical commission does.
- Danylo Kuc described the origin and composition of the two documents concerning the work of the ELC and the role of the Director of Liturgy
 - Bishop David asked for questions or feedback on the two documents. Rev. Gregory Faryna asked the bishop to elaborate on the difference between the Patriarchal Liturgical Commission and the Synodal Liturgical Committee. Bishop David explained that the latter, currently chaired by Metropolitan Lawrence (Huculak), sets the agenda and determines the work to be done; the former, currently chaired by Bishop Hlib (Lonchyna), is the working body that carries out the work appointed by the synodal committee.
- Further clarification was sought regarding the role of the Director of Liturgy:
 - It was explained that, in the simplest terms, the Commission sets the direction (of work to be done in liturgical matters of the Eparchy), while the job of the Director of Liturgy is to look after the implementation of decisions reached by the Commission.
- Commenting further on the aforementioned patriarchal and synodal forums, Bishop David expressed his hope that eventually a liturgical commission for the whole Canadian metropolia would be formed. This would better facilitate relations and communication between the work being accomplished here and the work of the Synodal Liturgical Committee and the Patriarchal Liturgical Commission.
- Bishop David suggested that the two documents referred to above, as well as the minutes of every meeting of the Commission be posted on the eparchial website.
 - Such a measure is aimed at keeping the Commission proceedings as open as possible and inviting feedback.
 - The bishop also asked the Commission to consider publishing some sort of “liturgy bulletin” to keep the faithful informed about, and to offer explanations of, the decisions reached by the Commission.
- The Commission members requested that the documents be adjusted as *per* their observations, and that these and the meeting minutes be submitted to Bishop David.

- The Commission members asked Rev. Peter Babej to act as chairman of the ELC and he accepted.
- Danylo Kuc enumerated some of the priorities that the ELC will have to consider (priorities which Bishop David had spelt out some time prior to this meeting):
 - 1) Producing liturgical texts – especially of the sacraments – for use in all parishes of the eparchy.
 - 2) Ascertaining from the eparchial clergy what sort of assistance they would like to have available in regards to liturgical matters (*i.e.*, texts, workshops, educational resources).
 - 3) Establishing the Eparchial Liturgical Commission.
 - 4) Producing an English Gospel and Epistle lectionary.
 - 5) Inquiring about the International Commission for English in the Liturgy (ICEL): what are its principles for translating; what documents regarding ICEL are available; what is the process by which the work of ICEL comes to be evaluated by the various episcopal conferences.
- A request was made to provide the Commission members with a copy of an article by Rev. Peter Galadza which sets forth the principles on which the *Anthology* (pewbook) was produced.

Some Continuing Business

- The Commission will continue to collect copies of the liturgical texts used by the priests of the Eparchy
- The Commission will inquire of the priests as to what sort of English scriptural text they use for services in their parish(es).
- It will continue to gather information about ICEL.
- It will look into the process by which the CCCB wound up settling on the NRSV for its lectionary text.
- Bishop David called for a discussion of the precautions that were being taken in response to the H1N1 outbreak.
 - It was suggested that the eparchy write a letter instructing the priests to return to the usual practice of distribution of Holy Communion with a spoon, explaining that the fear that had originally kept some of the faithful away from the Sacraments was no longer a factor to reckon with.
 - The ELC unanimously approved this return to distribution with a spoon.
- The ELC set its next meeting for January 25, 2010 at 12:00 PM. The members have as their assignment to consider what should be the most immediate priorities for the Commission to work on.
- Rev. Peter Babej noted that, according to some inquiries he had made, there were no more copies left of the small pew version of the Divine Liturgy book and that no more were to be printed.
 - The Commission requested that this matter be looked into with Basilian Press and Metropolitan Lawrence.