



Українська Католицька Едмонтонська Єпархія

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton

PASTORAL CENTRE - COMMUNICATOR

February 4, 2021

***Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава На Віки!
Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!***

At the Pastoral Centre, we are excitedly working towards the Evangelize 2021 initiatives revealed at the Bishop's Armchair Gala in December. The online gala was truly a success as we were able to reach our parishioners all across the province. If you were unable to join us, we encourage you to visit our website at www.eepararchy.com and click ***Evangelize 2021*** to learn about the future projects of our Eparchy. We also have a few updates from our last newsletter in November to share with you:

1. Parish Revenue Submissions

Revenue information from parishes continues to come in very slowly or is incomplete. Unfortunately, these delays impact all parishes, as we must receive, compile and send in all the information for CEWS subsidies at once. We ask that you send in your revenues by the 25th of the following month, so that we can stay current in our applications.

As a reminder, for smaller parishes that may not have regular services or their services were cancelled, revenue confirmation must still be submitted, as some parishioners continue to donate even if services are cancelled. If no revenues are received, please state this in your email or report.

2. Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) - Submissions October to December 2020

We submitted CEWS for October 2020 and are still waiting for several parishes to provide their November and December revenues (for 2020 and 2019). We did receive a subsidy of approximately 40% of the priest salary for the month of October. However, from the numbers received from parishes to date, we are predicting that the last two months of the year will bring a subsidy of only 3% to 5% of the salary. Once the November and December CEWS submissions are accepted, we will send a cheque for all three months to the parish/district (provided they do not have amounts outstanding).

3. Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) - Submissions for 2021

We are now accepting revenue summaries for January 2021. Attached is the updated spreadsheet which includes columns for January and February 2020 and a full year of columns for 2021. Parishes who did not provide their January and February 2020 revenues when the CEWS started,

are required to provide the 2020 comparative revenues for January and February with your 2021 revenues. Parishes who already provided this information do not need to resend. Please note that, as of March 2021 the current revenue will be compared to months where COVID restrictions were in place. This may result in no or low subsidies. We will continue to submit on your behalf while the programs is in place. The Government of Canada has indicated that CEWS will continue to support charities and businesses through to June 2021.

4. Faith-based and Cultural Facility Relaunch Grant

As mentioned in our November newsletter, the Government of Alberta is providing a one-time funding grant of up to \$5,000 to religious and cultural organizations to reimburse them for costs incurred to “relaunch gatherings” (including religious worship both online and in person).

The first intake for this grant was December 15, 2020 (notification March 2021) and the **second is March 1, 2021** (notification May 2021). There is still time for your parish to make an application for reimbursement of COVID related costs, including equipment used for in person or on-line services, cleaning supplies, etc. In the application, you are required to provide “proof of ownership” of the facility. As all parishes are under the Eparchy, each parish applying for the grant will need a letter of authorization from the Eparchy confirming that they are responsible for the maintenance and operation of the church property. Please contact Iryna at the Pastoral Centre and a letter will be prepared for this purpose.

For more information about this grant, please refer to the Province of Alberta website at: <https://www.alberta.ca/faith-based-and-cultural-facility-relaunch-grant.aspx>

5. Annual General Meetings and Financial Health Check

This is the time of year when most parishes schedule their Annual General Meetings (AGM). *What will this look like in 2021? Who will attend? How will we attend?* All good questions.

AGMs are intended to share information regarding the operations of the parish with the membership at large. In addition to providing executive and committee reports including, the year end financial statements, a **new pastoral council** is elected. Although reports can be easily shared by printing copies for parishioners or sending them by email, electing your council may be more challenging. Consider starting the nomination process early or propose your existing council to continue for another term if they are willing.

If you choose to have an in-person meeting, it is important for these meetings to follow all the restrictions issued by the Alberta Government for public gatherings (including face coverings, distancing, and capacity limits (15% of capacity). Some parishes may use online tools such as Zoom to connect with their parishioners; however, we understand that such tools are not accessible to everyone.

This will be an important time to share with your parishioners the **financial health** of your parish, particularly with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. For most parishes, it has been a very difficult year in many respects. *Do all the parishioners truly understand the financial reality of their parish and if their parish is under financial strain? Do they know that it is their responsibility to support their parish?* This is a difficult conversation; however, it could be your parishioners that have ideas on how to raise revenues or decrease costs. They cannot help if

they don't know there is a problem. Attached is a sample document from one of our parishes that is distributed with the year end financials and donation receipts. It summarizes the operations of the parish based on revenues and has proven to be helpful to engage parishioners.

6. Parish Hub

At our Bishop's Armchair Gala, I was pleased to unveil the new "Parish Hub" initiative that will bring important information and resources to the faithful about best practices for building and strengthening our parishes. Planning begins this month, and we are asking what information you would find beneficial for your parishes, both in day-to-day operations and in ministry development. We strive for more openness with our parishes and hope to focus on our parish and family life ministry. We will be reaching out to many of you for your input. If you have any thoughts or ideas now, please send me an email.

З Богом! Yours in Christ,

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Chancellor and Director of Finance

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