

16-19 OCTOBER, 2019

16-19 ЖОВТНЯ, 2019

“LORD, I LOVE THE BEAUTY OF YOUR HOUSE, AND
THE PLACE WHERE YOUR GLORY DWELLS.” (PS. 26:8)

«ГОСПОДИ, ПОЛЮБИВ Я КРАСУ ДОМУ ТВОГО,
І МІСЦЕ ПЕРЕБУВАННЯ СЛАВИ ТВОЄЇ.» (ПС. 26:8)

SOBOR XXII

12 April 2019 – Venerable John (Climacus) of Sinai – of the Ladder

Dearly beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Clergy and Laity of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA:

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

According to the Constitution of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, I hereby call and bless the convocation of the **REGULAR SOBOR - XXII** of our Church. The Sobor will take place at our Metropolia Center of St. Andrew in South Bound Brook/Somerset, NJ, 16-19 October 2019. It will be preceded by a Metropolitan Council Meeting on 15 October and a half-day Clergy Conference on 16 October.

The theme for our Sobor is: *“Lord, I love the Beauty of Your House and the Place where Your Glory dwells.”* (Ps. 26:8), The author of the Psalms, King David, was not speaking of the Temple in Jerusalem, which his son, Solomon, built after him. He was speaking of the temporary tent utilized for worship in which was found the Holy Tabernacle (containing the tablets of the Ten Commandments and the Manna from Heaven, which sustained the people during the 40 years wandering in the desert) – the “dwelling place of God”. The House of Beauty is the place where the faithful – the truly faithful – people of God gathered together before the Holy Tabernacle speaking with one voice to Him and supporting one another, as opposed to those earlier in the Psalm who sought to defile the King. We, the people of God of the New Covenant, share this “love of the Beauty of the Lord’s House and the Place where His Glory dwells – in the altars before which we worship and adore Him. We have been blessed with much of that Beauty and Glory at our Metropolia Center where we have gathered for the past sixty-eight years.

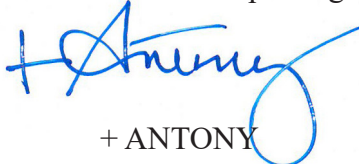
We have much to consider during this Sobor. We stand at a crucial crossroads in the life and history of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. You have heard such words from all my predecessors over the first one hundred years of our ecclesiastical life, but rarely have they been spoken with such dire urgency as now, because of the circumstances of life in our Church as we enter our second century of service to God. We have weathered many storms through the decades, always counting on the provision of our Lord and we still do count on His magnificent and complete love for us. As always, however, we realize that we must make our own contribution to our welfare and stewardship of the gifts He has presented to us. We must be willing to climb up the mountain, hoping to come face to Face with God to offer our gratitude to Him and to beseech His continued mercy and generosity.

Your participation in all aspects of the Sobor is an absolute necessity. Your contribution to the strengthening of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church here in the United States of America is essential. Our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents came to build a new life in this great nation and they centered that life on the Truth of God’s Word – in far more difficult circumstances than we know today. Throughout all, they never wavered in their “love for the Beauty of God’s house and the Place where His Glory dwells”. Let us follow their example now, living in the blessings of God – to ensure the legacy we must pass on to our own children and grandchildren! During our Sobor we will face **VERY, VERY IMPORTANT DECISIONS** about our Metropolia properties, and our staffing, which may affect our future operations significantly.

The election of parish delegates, which must be accomplished, according to our Church Constitution, at a parish meeting, should be completed by the end of June so that those delegates might well prepare for the work of this Sobor. Our future depends upon representation from all our parishes. The Pre-Sobor commission has begun the task of preparing for our triennial convocation and you will receive all necessary and detailed information from them. I ask that you adhere to all deadlines set for the Sobor.

May the Holy Spirit guide all our deliberations and efforts during this Sobor, uniting us in “one mind and one heart” so that all we attempt to accomplish will be for the Glory of God and the salvation of souls.

In our Lord’s All-Encompassing Love,



+ ANTONY

By the Grace of God, Metropolitan