



Winter 2008-2009

Issue #Two

# THE S.T.A.S. STEWARD

*Newsletter of the St. Tikhon Archdiocesan Stewards*

## **A Word from the Chair...**

**Fr. Deacon Gregory Scratch,  
Chair, Vision Committee**



**"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and  
looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God."  
(Luke 9:62)**

These words of the Lord have punctuated many events in my life. The Lord beckons each of us to cultivate the land, that is our soul, always moving forward, creating an environment in which the seed of God, the divine Word, can sprout and take root.

The recent initiatives of STAS and the continuing activities within the Archdiocese of Canada, are a process of putting the blade of the plow to the earth that is our country. The enthusiastic embrace of STAS since last summer, and the presentations since STAS Sunday, are a witness by the faithful across this country, working to cultivate the rich soil surrounding the cross planted on this continent over 200 years ago by St. Herman.

But it is just the beginning! As any farmer, or gardener knows, flowers, fruits, vegetables, do not appear over night, the next day or even week. The constant attention to watering, weeding, fertilizing etc., is needed to insure healthy and strong plant(s). In short, it takes dedication, and time, to bring forth

good fruit.

Our collective work in the Archdiocese through STAS has started to till the rich earth of our country, from the rich Fraser delta, through the prairies, to the groves of Ontario, and the valleys of the Maritimes. In this way, we are creating an opportunity for the cultivation of the faith in our land through the preaching and witnessing of the Gospel. I believe that these labours will in time provide in abundance for us, for our children and our children's children.

For those who have contributed, I thank the Lord for your vision of country alive with the Orthodox faith: a place where Bishops can be fathers, where missions can be authentic communities, and seminarians can be our future fathers without distraction. May the Lord bless you all with many years! For those new to these labours, I ask that you consider putting your hands on the plow, alongside the hands of our brothers and sisters, from across this Archdiocese, in the future hope that is a harvest of mercy and joy through contributing to STAS.

**May the Lord bless and keep you!**

# STAS Website Now Online!

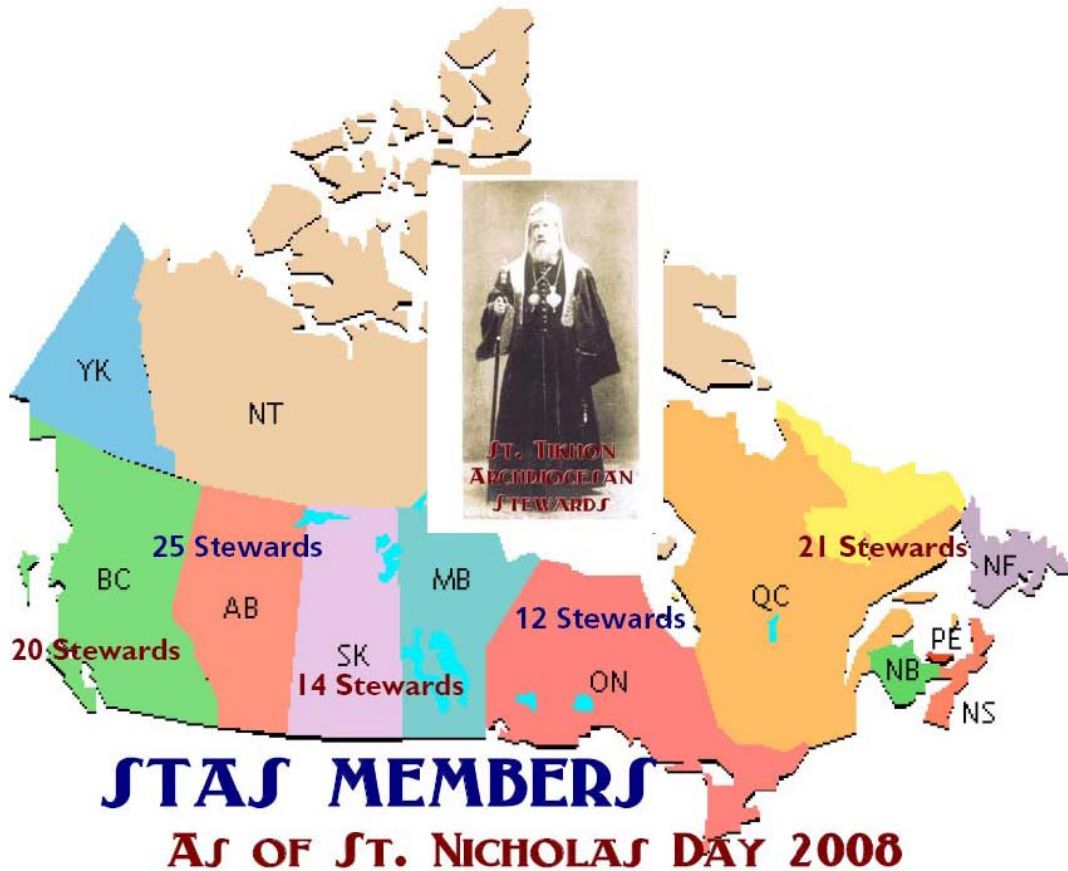
## [www.canadastas.ca](http://www.canadastas.ca)



After months of careful preparation, the **St. Tikhon Archdiocesan Stewards** are now online! This website provides easy access, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to information regarding the STAS program, as well as updates, and enrolment forms. The site was generously developed free of charge by Ottawa-based webmaster Mr. Pat Heard, in consultation with the STAS Vision Committee. From this day forward, [www.canadastas.ca](http://www.canadastas.ca) will be online 'hub' for any STAS news. Check it out today!

Contact the **STAS STEWARD** at [stassteward@gmail.com](mailto:stassteward@gmail.com)

# STAS GOES COAST TO COAST!



As you will see from the “membership map” posted here, significant gains have been made across Canada, in every Deanery of our Church. As of the time of the printing of issue of the **Σ.T.A.Σ. ΣTEWARD** we have **92** fully enrolled **St. Tikhon Archdiocesan Stewards** across the country. Several other individuals have pledged their membership, and have sent in enrolment forms, but have not yet indicated at what level they are able to participate.

Significantly, while the **Alberta & NWT Deanery** still leads the way in terms of numbers of numbers of stewards, major gains are witnessed in both the **Deanery of Quebec and Atlantic Canada**, and also in the **Deanery of BC and Nunavut**, which now leads us in the level of monthly contributions. While giving to the work of the Church through STAS is in no ways a competition amongst the faithful, the wholesome zeal with which this initiative is taking root in Canada is an inspiration to us all!

We are now well over half-way towards meeting our primary goal of raising **\$40,000** in sustainable, annual support to the Archdiocese of Canada. This supports the excellent work of our new Episcopal Secretary to His Eminence. The current monthly income from STAS is **\$2,140**, which adds up to **\$25,680** per year.

**GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS!**

# Report of the Episcopal Secretary

*Members of the St. Tikhon Archdiocesan Archdiocesan Stewards will know that our first priority has been to provide much-needed administrative support to His Eminence, our Archbishop SERAPHIM. We are very grateful to Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko, who has been appointed by Vladyka SERAPHIM and took up this role, September 1, 2008.*

*This report was given by Father Nazari at the meetings of the Archdiocesan Council, held at Annunciation Cathedral in Ottawa, October 30 – November 1, 2008, and is shared to show how your STAS contributions are already benefiting the work of our Church.*

*His Eminence, Archbishop SERAPHIM commented at that meeting that thanks to Protodeacon Nazari's work, his desk now "resembles Saskatchewan more than Rocky Mountains," which it used to.*



*Episcopal Secretary  
Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko*

Your Eminence, Reverend fathers and respected members of Archdiocesan Counsel!

As all of you know, upon receiving the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Seraphim and my spiritual father His Eminence Metropolitan Onyfrij, I started my new position in the Archdiocese of Canada on 01 of September of this year. My family and I moved to Ottawa area in the end of August and slowly we starting to organize our life in this new place. In very beginning of my report I would like to thank first of all Vladyka Seraphim for trust in me the sinner, Father Dennis for his constant care and help, and all of you who made this transition easy and made me fill part of your team and family in the OCA.

Now about business...

## **Office:**

A first task that, with the blessing and under supervision of Vladyka Seraphim, I took upon myself was to organize Archdiocesan office. Slowly, with the help of Olga Jurgens and Helen Culhane, I started to familiarize my self with filing system and general office procedures. As all of you know shortly after my arrival to Ottawa Vladyka Seraphim was given a new, additional obedience by the Holy Synod, which to some extend affected my duties at the office.

*Editor's Note: Archbishop SERAPHIM served as Administrator of the Orthodox Church in America from early in the Fall until His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH's election at the All-American Council, on November 12<sup>th</sup>.*

At this point I can report that office documentation is filed and organized to date and Vladyka's correspondence is properly filed and organized, and in a timely fashion. In these two months, I am now almost comfortable with the existing filing system, and with the assistance of Olga and Helen, I am planning further development of it. We plan to divide files into two sections: 1) working files and 2) archival information file, which will be moved out of general office area into one of the rooms in the house.

**Mail:**

Regular mail is checked on regular basis, worked on by His Eminence and properly filed.

**E-Mail:**

A short time after I started my duties, it became evident that for proper and timely processing of incoming mail I will need to have full time access to Vladyka's e-mail. With the blessing of His Eminence, we purchased a laptop computer. It arrived last week and was programmed by me and is now almost fully set up for office use. At this time all of Vladyka's correspondence is received not only on office desk top and Vladyka's Blackberry, but also on our new laptop.

I plan to develop a proper filing system where all correspondence is filed on the computer in the manner corresponding to one we usually file hard copy's and in due time transferred to external hard drive and stored for archives.

**Phone calls to Archdiocese office:**

In order to unload a stream of telephone calls coming to Vladyka, for the last couple of weeks, all incoming office telephone calls, are redirected to my cell phone I try to deal with callers in priority sequence and inform Vladyka about left messages.

*Editor's note: it was noted at the Archdiocesan Council meeting that all phone calls, emails, and correspondence will be treated by Father Protodeacon Nazari with absolute pastoral discretion and confidentiality.*

**Antimensia:**

With the blessing of Vladyka Seraphim, we started the cataloging system of all antimensions given to our parishes. All antimensions will be numbered and stamped by Archdiocesan stamp. The record will be kept in special files, hard copy and on computer as well. This will give us information how many antimensions are given and to whom they are given.

**Episcopal Vestry:**

Another part of my office duties is to organize Vladyka's vestry or *riznitsa*. At this point all of

Vladyka's vestments are properly stored and separated by color. With the help of subdeacons we have slowly started to fix, clean and organize these vestments in proper order.

**Traveling:**

As was mentioned by Vladyka in His report, part of my duties is to assist him during His travel. This duty consist of two different aspects: 1) To prepare His Eminence for travel: booking his tickets, organizing his itinerary, setting up meetings, preparing his vestments for trips, and making sure that all necessary things and documents are taken. 2) Actually traveling with His Eminence by car or flying, assisting His Eminence during travel, participating in Divine Services by making sure that proper liturgical order is kept, and in all other situations when my help is needed.

In this time we went to: 1) Kingston for the Divine Liturgy, 2) Toronto for 3 days where we served two Vigils and two Divine Liturgies, and established contact with local potential benefactor to Archdiocese. 2) Winnipeg for 4 days where Vladyka chaired a meeting of St. Arseny Institute, had a meeting with Primate of Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan John, served Vespers at St. Nicholas Church and Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral. Besides assisting Vladyka with liturgical services and meetings, I had a meeting with Fr. Sevastian to help him with immigration process and to introduce Him to reality of Canadian Orthodox parish settings in Manitoba. Also in Toronto and Winnipeg due to considerable presence of new immigrants from Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia, Archpastoral sermons had to be translated into Russian language. 3) Immediately after return from Winnipeg I accompanied Vladyka on a 5 day trip to N.Y. for meeting of the Holy Synod, where I was offering my assistance as it was requested and needed during meetings of Synod, and also with the visit of Metropolitan Hilarion of Russian Orthodox Church outside of Russia. 2) On our way back we did stop in Montreal and had a service at St. Benoit, French mission.

**Fair Haven:**

Most recently, I was blessed with another obedience and responsibility to start looking into management of Archdiocesan property at

Fair Haven. I hope with your help we can develop this property into a real and self-sustainable Archdiocesan Centre. There are a lot of possibilities, but we have to start looking at them seriously. Some buildings need serious construction work. If some of these issues are not addressed in due time, some parts of the building will be completely destroyed. I know that proposals were made before but unfortunately not taken under consideration, so I urge all of you to come and visit our office facilities where I personally can show you in what conditions Vladyka lives and works, so all will understand that this is not just somebody's wish but an absolute necessity. I hope by the next Archdiocesan Council meeting we can develop some kind of strategy and start working on it by summer time. If we are so determined to have our Archdiocesan Centre there we have to start seriously thinking, fundraising and professionally building place up so it becomes a face of our church, one we will be proud of, and can live it for generations to come.

#### **Deaconal Training:**

As the Protodeacon of our Archbishop, I was assigned to Holy Annunciation Orthodox Cathedral, and with this I assumed obedience and responsibility of the first deacon, one responsible for training of newly-ordained deacons and subdeacons. By this time, we had one deaconal ordination and one more is coming this Sunday. I did spend some time working with Fr. Deacon Daniel and Subdeacon Alexander. Also we did have workshop with subdeacons. At the recommendation of St. Arseny Institute, a more elaborate program is going to be prepared, and with the blessing of His Eminence I will take an integral part in it.

#### **External contacts:**

As I understand, we are striving to become a national church of this God-Beloved Country where all can be one in our Lord Jesus Christ. Also we know that we live in the real world where unfortunately not everybody shares this vision. We have to become known to people and show them that by working together Orthodox Christians can grow, in this not-so-friendly environment.

With the blessing of our Vladyka, I took upon myself organization of the presentation of most

facsimile copy of the ancient Gospel of *Peresopnytsya*. The Archdiocese of Canada Orthodox Church in America, St. Paul University, and the Embassy of Ukraine is organizing this presentation. A planning committee was struck and we are expecting that in the end of November a delegation of Ukrainian Orthodox Church headed by His Eminence Metropolitan Onyfrij of Chernivtsi and Bukovyna will be visiting us in Ottawa to unveil this masterpiece for Canadian Orthodox Christians.

*Editor's note: This special event did take place and was a great success.*

By taking part in this project we make our Church a centre of attention not only to broader Orthodox community and rest of Eastern Christian communities in Canada but also to representatives of the government of our beloved country as well as the governments of Ukraine, Russia and Byelorussia.

This presentation will take place at the Parliament Hill where His Eminence Seraphim will be introducing Vladyka Onyfrij. Also, the All Night Vigil and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be served in our Cathedral on 30 of November where we hope to host not only guests from Ukraine but representatives of Orthodox, other Eastern Christian Churches and governments.

I hope to fulfill Vladyka's and your beloved brothers' and sisters' trust in my unworthy self, and bring my God-given talents to the service of our Orthodox Church in Canada. I ask for your Holy prayers and assistance in this endeavour, especially with development of the vision for our Archdiocesan Centre.

***God Grant you All Many Blessed years in the service to His Holy Orthodox Church.***

***St. Tikhon, pray to God for us!***

