

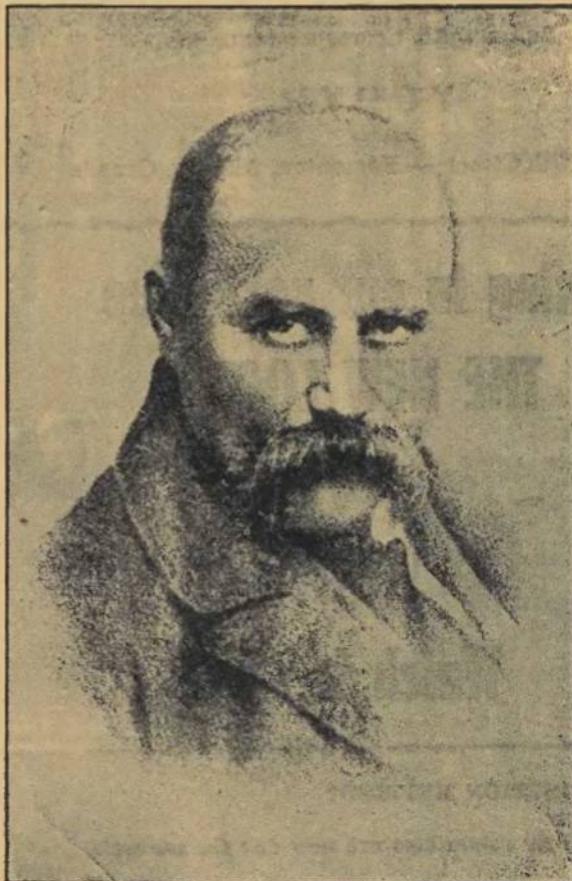


YSA Youth

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TARAS SHEVCHENKO

Youth . . . The Golden Age of Opportunity

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THE NATIONAL MONTHLY FOR UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH

Ukrainian Culture in Canada

THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURE

What reaction do we have from other people about our Ukrainian People and the Ukrainian Culture?

Recently I asked this question "What do you know of Ukrainian culture?" This was the question that I asked Mr. John Diefenbaker in a letter few weeks ago. Here is his reply, made by his secretary.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of February 9 to Prime Minister and in reply to your various questions I enclose copies of speeches delivered by Mr. Diefenbaker which I feel will give you the information you seek.

Yours sincerely,
CLAUDE GAUTHIER,
Secretary.

Here are some excerpts from two speeches given by Mr. J. Wiefenbaker at Winnipeg in the years of 1958 and 1959.

Quote (from the 1958 speech).
"Less than seventy years ago the first two Ukrainians arrived in Canada. They belong to the second largest race in Europe with a population of 45 million, and occupy one of the richest countries for its size in the world. They were soon followed by the hardy group of courageous compatriots who were to carry so large a share of the burden

of opening the Canadian West. In these seventy years Canadians of Ukrainian origin have come to number nearly 400,000.

They are playing a distinguished role in our common effort to build and maintain a democratic and prosperous way of life. They have the defence of freedom in the Canadian Armed Forces. There is no Canadian who is not aware of the responsible and effective participation of Ukrainian Canadians in the Government of this country.

Canadians of Ukrainian origin can be found at all levels of government, from municipal to the provincial and to the federal level. The Ukrainian Canadian community is ably represented in both House of Parliament and in the Cabinet itself, where I am able to call on the support and counsel of a colleague, Honourable Michael Starr, who sprang from among your number.

Canadians of every background acclaim the role of Ukrainian Canadians in the enrichment of the academic, artistic and professional life of the country. The vitality of the Ukrainian literary and artistic tradition is proverbial as well as in music and poetry. It has already placed Ukrainian Canadian in the cultural forefront of our

national life, and still greater achievements are the future promise of your community.

We know something of the great antiquity and quality of our cultural tradition. I like the story of the Kiev princess in the Middle Ages, who, on marrying a king of France, was worrying about having to leave such a civilized centre as Kiev to live in remote Paris. I like the story of the Medieval English King who took refuge from his enemies in Kiev. It is indeed a glorious thing to be able to look back on a history of more than a thousand years of Christian civilization.

Canadians of whatever origin can well understand why Ukrainian Canadians, while fully accepting the responsibilities of Canadian citizenship, endeavour to preserve their own great cultural heritage to enrich the cultural life of their new country.

Conclusion: May free men everywhere have that hope unabated that the golden domes of Kiev will once more reflect the sun of freedom and that its chimes will once more peal forth their message of freedom." unquote.

Experts from 1959 speech...

Quote. — The Ukrainian Canadian Committee, with its noble purpose of maintaining the best in the cultural traditions and arts of the Ukrainian race with its comprehensive activities on behalf of Canada and as a federation for the maintenance of the abiding principles of freedom, is one of those organisations whose contributions to Canada cannot be measured.

I have known the Ukrainian people, for many, many years. Indeed, my

memory goes back to those early days when some of the first of the Ukrainian people came to Canada. I was raised in an area in which there were many of that race, some of whom have in the intervening years attained a measure of success that has been characteristic of many thousands of the 450,000 and more now living in this land. They have built a better Canada All I want to say in that connection is this, we welcome organizations in our country that maintain the cultural heritages of the races and nationalities which constitute the Canadian nationality.

Indeed, as I sat here this evening, I could not but think of the words of the Prime Minister of India a year or so ago, when He said no people have a future that are not able to look back to a greatness in their past.

I am not going to review the whole history of the Ukrainian people or their contribution to civilisation. Those people have a love of freedom which is inherent in the very personality of those who came to this country. You will remember that as far back as 600 years after Christ the Byzantine Emperor Maurice wrote of the people of the Ukraine:

"... they are free and never would they suffer the joke of an alien power, especially on their own territory —They will retreat before rather than before gifts."

I think, too, of our past. In this month of July, I think of two momentous events in the Ukrainian history, a glorious victory and a tragic defeat, each in order to pre-

serve freedom. On July 7th and 8th, 1659... 300 years ago... the Ukrainian hetman, Bohdan Khmelnytsky, led his people to the decisive victory over the Muscovites. Fifty years later, the Hetman Ivan Mazeppa, suffered a fatal defeat, as Byron put it, on "great Poltava's "day". Both were in July, in this month, 300 and 250 years ago. Then, as in two world wars, the forefathers of those of Ukrainian origin in our country stood and maintained those principles of freedom which are our heritage and which are the hopes of our future and our destiny.

Conclusion:

May you prosper in the days ahead
May the destiny of our future be a
continuing realization that by main-

taining the past, you contribute to contribute to that Canadianism... strong, vibrant, powerful, characteristic of the Canadian people. In the House of Commons and the Senate today there are 18 or more racial origins represented, an indication of the degree to which Canada itself signifies a unity of purpose that will make our country one of the greatest in the world." unquote.

Both of these exerts of both speeches are well worth thinking about.

Orest N. Kociuba,
Press Correspondent,
St. Mary's U.Y.C.,
Vancouver, B.C.

My Trip to Europe

By Father Greschuk

From Vienna we went to Venice, the gondola city in northern Italy, and then on to the Eternal City, Rome, which was the second highlight of our trip. We stayed two weeks. This city is one of contrasts. Here you can see ultra-modern apartments and the latest in roads, and among these ancient Roman ruins of buildings, walls and even a road of 2,000 years ago. Before arriving in Rome, we had seen many large and beautiful churches in the countries through which we travelled, but when we came into St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, there simply was no comparison between what we had seen and what we were now viewing. Its massiveness and beauty certainly verifies the fact that it is the centre of Christianity. I had the privilege of celebrating

Mass in the crypt of the Basilica on an altar that stands directly above the spot where St. Peter, the first Pope, was buried.

Five days later we went to Castelgandolfo, about 24 miles from Rome, where the Holy Father lives during the summer months. Here we saw the Holy Father. This indeed was a moment which made a lasting impression. Here was a man entrusted with the highest office on earth, yet he reflects the greatest humility, love and kindness. There were about 2,000 people in the large hall where the Holy Father grants such audiences. He spoke about 15 minutes. His speech was translated into four other languages: English, French, German and Spanish. In conclusion, he imparted his blessing to all present.

We had occasion of seeing the Holy Father again three days later when he granted an audience to all the athletes participating in the Olympic Games that were held in Rome this year. This was on the day prior to the opening of the Olympics and was held in St. Peter's Square. With the athletes, of whom there were about 6,000, there were half a million people in the square.

Our two weeks in Rome went by very fast and we were reluctant to leave. But we had no choice in the matter because we had a flight booked from Paris to Lisbon and that was only six days away and that is not allowing too much time for travelling by car from Rome to Paris. Besides this we wanted to visit Lourdes on the way up to Paris.

So we started out and drove up to Genoa and then along the Riviera and arrived in Lourdes about 9 p.m. in the evening. We came to the Shrine and there were about two thousand pilgrims, all taking part in a candlelight procession. This sight was most fascinating and such a fitting tribute to the Blessed Mother. The following morning I celebrated Mass in the Shrine and visited the Grotto. There were many stretchers that were being taken to the miraculous waters. Lourdes is situated in a very beautiful countryside. This, together with the devotion of the visiting pilgrims, makes a lasting impression on the visitor.

From Lourdes we motored back to Paris, returned the rented car, and boarded the plane for Lisbon, Portugal. Lisbon is a clean and neat city. This is partially due to

an enforced law which demands that every owner of property must paint or clean his building at least once every seven years. The result is that all the buildings are attractively neat. In Lisbon we rented another car and drove to Fatima, which is about 120 miles north of Lisbon. This was the fourth and last highlight of our trip. Fatima, as a shrine, is comparatively new to Lourdes. In Lourdes, the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Bernadette in the year 1854, and she appeared to the three children in Fatima in 1917. Nevertheless, there already stands a large and beautiful church in Fatima with a large square in front for processions. In this square stands a little shrine, built exactly on the spot where the Blessed Virgin spoke to the three children. I had the privilege of offering Mass in this little shrine.

From Fatima we drove back to Lisbon to board our plane for New York and Edmonton. We arrived in Edmonton on the 10th of September. Travelling such vast distances, motoring through nine European countries, visiting Rome and seeing the Holy Father, being present at the Eucharistic Congress, praying at two most famous shrines dedicated to our Blessed Mother; all this happening within a short time of seven and one half weeks, really does seem unbelievable. Nevertheless, I was fortunate enough to make that trip. It was an education in itself. Europe is a different world. The people there do not rush and run like we have a tendency to do in this part of the world. They take things more in their stride.

We are often reminded to main-

tain our customs, language and tradition. Europe is a wonderful illustration of this. The moment you cross the border, you are in a country with a different language and customs. In spite of the fact that those countries are situated so closely together geographically, yet each one proudly maintains its own individual characteristics. This is true of every race and every nation. Why should it not be true of the Ukrainian race?

Dauphin U.C.Y.

A re-organization of U.C.Y. was held on November 8, 1960. The following were elected to hold their prospective positions: president, Elmer Prochyshen; vice - president, Nellie Lesiuk; treasurer, Ed Koshowski; secretary, Rosalyn Koshowski; fifth member, Gloria Michayluk; press correspondent, Sonia Praciuk.

Other Committees such as: the Social, Spiritual, Cultural and Sports Committees were nominated.

Our meetings are held every Tuesday. Father Oucharyk furthers his lectures on religion weekly. Also, in order that we may learn more about our culture and religion, booklets are distributed to various member of the club who in turn are responsible for giving a Summary of the contents of the pamphlet to the members. Interesting debates are held with educational topics such as "Should Canada Have It's Own Flag?"

Our Club sponsored a Turkey Bingo on December 15, 1960, with a tremendous turnout. The members all cooperated and it was a success.

Unfortunately, our President, Elmer Prochyshen informed us of his Resignation on January 31, 1961 due to an employment variation. Nominations were held for a new President and Eugene Gwaziuk, an active member was elected. We realize outstanding progress in our Club with Eugene's Presidency.

On January 7, 8, and our Club consisting of 66 member was divided into groups and visited all Catholic homes in the Dauphin district with carols. Donations amounted to \$365.

A New Year's Party was held on January 15. The party consisted of tobogganning in the afternoon, supper, a film and dancing in the evening. Most of the member attended for this evening of entertainment.

On January 22, our Club attended the Hockey Game in a group to witness the Notre-Dame Hounds, a Catholic Team, in action. Following the game, all the members went bowling. The day ended with coffee and hamburgers at the usual lunch drive-inn.

Our Club is really beginning to become active and is progressing tremendously, thanks to our capable executive and their many wonderful ideas.

Till you hear from us again, Good Luck and May God Bless You!

Sincerely,

Sonia Praciuk, Dauphin U.C.Y. Press Correspondent.

•

Professor: What books have helped you most?

Student: Mother's cook book and father's cheque book.

Catholic Faith and Practise

How do you know that you can help the souls in purgatory by your prayers?

God would not have inspired the Jews to pray for the departed if such prayers were of no avail. Christians have always prayed for the dead, a practise fully warranted by the doctrine of the Communion of Saints. And if we can pray for our dear ones who are in trouble in this life, our prayers can certainly follow them in their future difficulties. All prayer is addressed to the same God who is as present to the souls of our dear departed as He is to us.

Why does the Church oppose prohibition?

Nowhere does God forbid wine or alcoholic drink, and the Catholic Church insists on justice. It is unjust to forbid all men to drink even in moderation because a few take it to excess. This is an unjust interference with individual liberty. And in any case you cannot force people to be virtuous. If a man cannot drink moderately, the Church advises him to take the pledge, and practise total abstinence. But prohibition is like abolishing table knives because some men have used those implements for purposes of murder and suicide.

Would it not be better for the Church to forbid intoxicants rather than harmless meat on Fridays?

It would not. The Church wishes to forbid a thing which most of her people will miss. Practically all eat meat, but not all drink intoxicants. All are united in a common act of mortification. There is a

tendency in men to think that all laws should conform to their own pet ideas. A man likes his meat and dislikes drink. So he suggests that the Church should rather forbid drink than meat. But drink does not affect all men; meat affects practically all.

Priests are only human beings. Why are they forbidden to marry?

Because they do not wish to be natural. They wish to be supernatural. St. Paul was human but he did not marry. And like St. Paul, Catholic priests wish to centre their interests in Christ and share their hearts with no one else. Meantime, they are not forbidden to marry as human beings. They are forbidden as priests. Prior to their choice of the priesthood, every priest could have chosen marriage had he wished it.

Why do we omit from "Our Father" the words "for Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever"?

Because Our Lord did not add those words to the prayer as He taught it. There is nothing wrong with the words themselves. In fact they are very beautiful. But they are not Sacred Scripture. Some early Catholic copyists wrote those words in a margin; later copyists mistakenly transcribed them into the text; and Protestant translations made use of a copy of the New Testament with the words thus included. All scholars today admit the words to be an interpolation. We Catholics do not use them.

— Reference from "Radio Replies" by Fathers Rumble and Carty.

Tips on Running Meetings

Why are some meetings very well received by the members in your club, while others are real flops? Actually if you sit back and remember what happened at that flop then you will probably see why it turned out so. Here is a short summary of criticisms which came out of people who were dissatisfied with some meetings.

"The meeting was not started on time." Keeping the members and guests waiting because of a mix-up in the meeting time is bound to lead to discontent. Stress the importance of everyone being on time and be sure that everyone knows the exact time of the meeting.

"Too much trivial business was hashed over and over." Great care should be taken in choosing a guest speaker and he should be told how long he is to speak. He appreciates and expects that.

"The presiding officer kept leaving the chair during the meeting to take care of matters that someone else could have handled easily."

"The program was too darn long

and way too full." Keep the meeting short and interesting. Club members, like baseball players, need a 7th inning stretch.

"The meeting is either too formal or too relaxed." Keep the meeting in tune to the occasion and with the people in mind.

"Overdoing the Let's Everybody Sing business." Having everyone join in great but too much is enough.

"All they ever talk about is dues and money all the time." There is a time and a place for that. More members have dropped out of clubs because of that than may be generally realized. Concentrate more on making the programs and projects attractive and the members will want to belong.

REMEMBER— a person joins a club in order to meet and work with friends. Cater to this and a club is bound to be a success and there won't be any gripes!

Don Bobyn, president,
Sts. Peter and Paul UCY,
Saskatoon.

"Your husband says he leads a dog's life," said one woman. "Yes, it's very similar," answered the other. "He comes in with muddy feet, makes himself comfortable by the fire, and waits to be fed."

•

The husband indignantly answered the phone and blurted: "How would I know? Call the weather bureau." "Who was that?" his wife asked.

"Some fool who wanted to know if the coast was clear."

A BIT OF ADVICE —

"You must realize, my boy," the father said to his son, about to be married. "you will have not only another mouth to feed, but a great big one to listen to."

WRONG NUMBER —

•

Customer: Why does that dog sit there and watch me all the time?

Waiter. You have the plate he usually eats from.

Communion Breakfast at Vancouver

The Vancouver UCY held a corporate Communion Breakfast on Sunday, February 26, 1961. There were 63 members present including the Obnova, and Richmond B.C. Youth Club and Sodality. The breakfast began with a prayer led by Father Damien. After everyone had something to eat, the speakers began. The master of ceremonies, Mr. Adam Kozak, who is also the president of Obnova, called up Father Damien to say a few words. Father Damien spoke on the importance of our prayers for the parish priests. He also reminded members that he had some crosses which he received from Rome and mentioned that these crosses were blessed by Pope John XXIII.

Miss Gain Ewaskin, the president of the St. Mary's Sodality thanked the UCY for having invited them to the Communion breakfast. The president of the Richmond UCY expressed his thanks. The master of ceremonies then introduced Father Allen — a professor of Philosophy from the University of B.C., to give us his talk.

Father Allen spoke on the difficulties of being a good Christian and the personal benefits of all people who are good Christians. He stressed that we all must know thoroughly the faith that we believe in. Father Allen broke his speech up into four important parts. They were:

1. Deepen your knowledge of your faith. be able to understand and explain to others your faith accurately; learn from (a) reading, (b) discussing, (c) prayer, (d) individual

expression.

- (2) Eucharistic life: Offering yourself to Masses, Communion, to the life of Christ. Try to live your consecration of yourself to Christ.

- (3) Life of prayer. Prayer is as necessary as is breathing. Say personal prayers anywhere, on the street, at work, in the bus, anywhere.

4. Be Christian. "Life of Sacrifice." You cannot be a good Christian if you do not share the sacrifices as did the Son of God during His life on earth.

Father Allen closed his talk on these words:

"How will others know Christ if we do not live the life."

The UCY president, Mr. Eugens Clunyk ended the speeches by thanking everyone for attending and also thanked the speakers. He also spoke on the importance of working together.

Orest N. Kociuba,
Press Correspondent.

Definitions:

Husband — a man whose ambition is to have as much money as his wife thinks he has.

Imagination — what makes you think you're having a wonderful time when you're only spending money.

Charm — the ability to make somebody think both of you are pretty wonderful.

Expert — a man who knows more and more about less and less until he knows practically everything about almost nothing.

Chipman U.C.Y.

After a few months of commotion and unsettled plans, our club, under the spiritual direction of Father Wynnyk, has chosen a permanent executive.

The staff consists of the following: president, Georgina Eleniak; vice-president, Melaine Kitura; secretary, Lillian Houppniuk; treasurer, Clarence Kitura; fifth member, Cynthia Starko; social convener, Audrey Safranowich; sports convener, Marvin Actemickup; press correspondent, Geraldine Eleniak.

Our activities have been greatly slackened due to the horrible bus-train tragedy near our parish. We had planned a whist drive for the same week but unfortunately we had to cancel it. But what we did do was to go carolling on Christmas Day and we also attended the Ice Capades last month.

In the future we hope to participate in many more activities.

Geraldine Eleniak,
Press Correspondent

A man had just bought a parrot at an auction after some very spirited bidding. "I suppose that bird talks?" he said to the auctioneer. "Talks—" was the reply. "Who do you think it was that was bidding against you?"

•

The boy who remembers what he was taught at his mother's knee was probably bent over it at the time.

A FRIEND

Have you ever stopped to wonder
What we'd be without a friend?
With everyone hating each other,
I'm sure this world would end.
A friend will see you through each
mood

By saying what is right,
To get you to your normal self
Without a single fight.
A friend is like a sister dear,
a Father, mother too,
Who treats you with such kindness,
And tells you what to do.
And when the world is lost from
you,

You'll find her waiting there;
To make your trouble meaningless,
And vanish in the air.
Whenever you are lonely,
And feeling so depressed,
Just call your friend right over,
And she will do the rest.
Without a friend you're no one,
Just like a grain of sand,
Drifting in a desert storm
Without a guiding hand.
Regardless of the make or kind,
No matter what the breed,
As long as you still have a friend,
You'll never have a need.

N.P., Victoria UCY.

Two men wandered into a very expensive restaurant for dinner and ordered the most expensive dishes and the finest champagne. They looked well groomed but didn't have a penny between them. When the cheque arrived, one said to the other, "Let's split the cheque — you wash and I'll dry."

•

One young gal said to the other, "He not only lied about the size of his yacht, he made me row!"

Edmonton Diocesan Annual Bonspiel

The Edmonton Diocese will once again hold its annual curling bonspiel for all its local clubs in the diocese. The bonspiel is open to all clubs in the Edmonton diocese and will be held in Edmonton on April 15 at the Derrick Golf and Winter Club. I will stress that we are indeed happy to say that we did get the Derrick Club and judging from the comments that were received from last year I believe that everyone really enjoyed curling at the Derrick last year.

This is an open day to all UCY members and their friends, so whether you are curling or coming along as a spectator, make sure you don't miss out on what has proven to be the most enjoyable curling bonspiel you will ever attend.

P.S.: For more information contact your local UCY president or contact the Secretary, Edmonton Diocese, 10439 Saskatchewan Drive.

Scholarship Offered

This year the Ukrainian Catholic Youth of Canada, Edmonton Diocese is getting up a scholarship for the benefit of Ukrainian Catholic students, throughout Alberta and British Columbia. This scholarship will be awarded to the boy or girl who will achieve the highest marks in his or her grade twelve or thirteen standings and who will be continuing his or her studies at a university or a school of nursing. The successful applicant will also have to be a member of good standing in the Ukrainian Catholic Youth Organization.

We are sincerely asking all the parishioners of all the parishes in Alberta and B.C. to help finance the establishment and the continued success of this scholarship.

Walter Kmet, president, Edmonton Diocese.

Sylvia Manowski, secretary, Edmonton Diocese.

Sparks for Thought

1. The great trouble with the school of experience is that the course is so long that the graduates are too old to go to work.

2. All men are born equal, but it is what they are equal to that counts.

3. Even if you are on the right track, you will be run over if you just sit there.

4. The right angle from which to approach any problem is the try-angle.

5. To really know a man, observe his behavior with a woman, a flat tire and a child.

6. You can do a great deal of good in the world, provided you do not mind who gets the credit for it.

Criticism is something you can avoid by saying nothing, doing nothing and being nothing!

W.P. — Victoria UCYO.

Nurses sometimes do strange things. One nurse saw a child eat a cake of soap, so she washed his mouth with dirty words.

You Owe It To Yourself

By Ted Sowiak, Spiritual Director

of Edmonton Diocesan Executive

It is the time of the year when all single men of the UCY should reserve the week-end of May 26 to May 28 to pay a visit to God. Certainly, there is enough time between now and then for you to make up your mind and attend this special occasion and lay your problems before Him. It is hardly needless to say, how refreshing a week-end this is and the many benefits that you will realize. I am sure that many books could be filled with stories about men, who have made such retreats and asked for the Divine Assistance and Benefits of the Father Almighty and received the same. It should not be necessary

for the Captains of this retreat to phone or write everyone to come, for in these trying times that we are experiencing in the world today, everyone should jump at the chance of being so close to God for this one week-end of the year.

So please make your reservation early and be assured of a place at St. Albert this coming May 26 and remember, you owe it to yourself and no one else, so phone or write your reservation to:

Mr. Ted Sowiak (captain),
7512 - 96 Avenue,
Edmonton, Alberta
Phone HO 6-8018

UCY Convention, Toronto

(Continued)

read the slate of officers for the

A discussion followed the reading of the report. Julian Zajac asked that point 6 of the Resolutions be explained. Nadia Boruch explained that the Ukrainian language would be used in each local for a period of time, fifteen minutes, half hour, according to their particular circumstances, to improve their fluency in Ukrainian.

Richard Sheffchuk moved all the Resolutions be accepted. Bill Mandzia seconded the motion. The resolutions were unanimously accepted.

Pete Stasyna, chairman of the nomination committee took the chair of the Committee of the Whole. He

new Diocesan Executive. All those nominated accepted:

Mary Trakalo, nominated for president, seconded by Bill Mandzia.

Eugene Dziuba, Toronto, nominated for 3rd vice-president, seconded by Nadia Boruch.

Julian Zajac, Montreal, nominated for 2nd vice-president, seconded by Nestor Lesyk.

Larry Hrywkiw, Windsor, nominated for 3rd vice-president, seconded by Julian Zajac.

Bertha Demnycka, nominated recording secretary, seconded by Olga Bayko.

Marie Kochan, nominated corres-

ponding secretary, seconded by Anne Yarema.

Olga Bayko, nominated treasurer, seconded by Cathy Smyke.

Alex Stelmocovich, nominated fifth member, seconded by Joe Korchinski.

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate was accepted.

Joe Korchinski, the past president of the Diocesan Executive gave his farewell address.

Bill Mandzia moved the delegates extend their congratulations to Joe Korchinski and executive for the perserverance and all the work displayed during the term of office. The motion was seconded by Mary Trakalo. The delegation approved also.

Nadia Boruch extended congratulations to the new president, Mary Trakalo and asked the UCY in the Eparchy to cooperate with her and the executive.

Father N. Swirsky gave a summary of the Convention. He reviewed the reports. He stated that he was not in any position to say that the Basilians would take over the editorship of the Youth magazine, but that if this was not possible, he would get a magazine published for the youth in the near future. He stressed the importance of the Leadership Courses and urged stronger participation. He also pointed out that there are three areas, i. e. Sudbury Region, Niagara Region and Ottawa-Montreal Region that have the facilities for Leadership Courses. In regards to the locals association with the Diocesan Executive, he stated that membership must be paid

and all correspondence should be returned promptly, correctly addressed. He ended by asking the delegations support in upholding the Resolutions of the Convention.

A short discussion was held to clarify any points arising from the sessions.

Julian Zajac asked about rallies and Walter Borowicz extended an invitation to have the next rally in Sault Ste. Marie.

Ed Skiejka extended his and the delegation's congratulations to the past Diocesan Executive.

Mary Trakalo addressed the delegation in Ukrainian. She announced that P. March was spiritual chairman and Mrs. C. Harasewycz was cultural chairman of the new Diocesan Executive. She thanked the Convention chairman and secretary for their work and effort in guiding the Convention smoothly and successfully.

The third session of the Convention was convened by Mary Trakalo. Seconded by Elsie Chamik.

The Convention was officially closed with a prayer led by Father Swirsky at 1:10 p.m., Monday, October 10, 1960.

A weiner roast sponsored by the St. Josaphat's Teen Club was held at the Trafalgar Picnic Grounds for the Toronto Youth and remaining delegates and guests. About 150 youths attended this function.

Pat Taras, Convention secretary
Ed Skiejka, Convention chairman

•

When the doctor asked his pretty young nurse to boil his instruments, she stuck a fork into them to see if they were done.

Portage La Prairie U.C.Y.

The year 1959-60 proved to be a considerably busy year for our members and eventually turned out to be quite successful.

The Ukrainian Catholic Youth of the Church of Assumption Parish of Portage La Prairie was organized in November of last year with fifteen members present. Our spiritual chaplain is Father Slabyj. We held our meetings at a minimum of once a month. These were previously and carefully planned by our executive. Our meetings consisted primarily of learning the history of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. We planned certain themes in which we may interest our members to be present at meetings. One of these was a surprise that was laid in charge of the members alternately in turn and presented at the end of each meeting.

Our first event of the year was a Communion breakfast. In December we sponsored a St. Nicholas concert—proceeds of which went to the church. The members went carolling during the festive season. We went for a sleigh ride sponsored by the CYO. During one of our meetings we were visited by Father Kristalovich and Father Shpytkowski from Winnipeg. During the Lenten season we held a three-day retreat, officiated by Father Lushovy. We finalized our retreat with a Communion breakfast.

During the year we set aside certain evenings which were spent in learning Ukrainian dances. Our dancers were invited to perform at

the Portage Hotel one evening.

Spring, however, was a busy season for all. We sponsored a concert consisting of Ukrainian dances and musical items at the annual spring tea held by the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League. In May the members made flowers which were sold at the church on Mother's Day — proceeds of which went to the church. In the afternoon of the same day we had a Mothers Day Concert and Tea — proceeds of which went to St. Vladimir's College at Roblin. We had a tag day for the World Refugee Year. We made a small donation to the Taras Shevchenko Monument. During the year the girls served at all parish dinners and banquets. Near the close of the year the members motored to Winnipeg to see a concert sponsored by the Ukrainian Dancers of Minneapolis.

This year we had the good fortune of being present at the UCY convention in Dauphin where we obtained many ideas and discussed our problems with the UCY members from Roblin, Winnipegosis, Ethelbert, Sifton and Dauphin.

The members have accepted a resolution presented at one of our meetings stating that all our members should receive Holy Communion together on the first Sunday of every month. We are proud to say that so far no one has broken the record.

Every Thursday evening, the members hold classes where Ukrainian

language is taught.

With May just around the corner, it is time again to begin thinking of a Mother's Day Concert. If any clubs have good ideas, we would appreciate very much to hear from them.

Our club has a common disadvantage and that is, the fact that all

our members are high school students and must devote much of their time to school work.

The UCY members of Portage would like to wish all their fellow members every success in their efforts. We hope you all had a joyous Easter. May God bless you all.

OBNOVA and U.C.Y.

There is probably a question in the minds of the UCY's concerning the Obnova Club and how it is similar with the UCY. They aren't separate groups, but are very closely related — by one of the strongest bonds which is the same, and true faith.

To indicate this fact, a look at the objectives of the two clubs can be taken.

First, the objective of the UCY.

1. To organize and centralize the Ukrainian Catholic Youth of Canada. To create in each Ukrainian Catholic parish of Canada a unit of the society and to give it unified leadership.

2. To develop Ukrainian Catholic youth into the practical Catholics and good citizens of Canada conscious of their cultural heritage.

Objectives of Obnova:

The aim of the organization is to deepen and spread Ukrainian Catholicism among Ukrainian Canadian University students.

To do this Obnova shall work for the spiritual formation of Ukrainian students in accord with Catholic morals and in the spirit of Ukrainian Catholic traditions.

Also, it forms among the students a clear outlook on the aims of student life and the responsibilities of a Ukrainian Canadian citizen.

These are very similar objectives, and adding to the common aim of every individual in the two organizations is the obtaining of place in Heaven and a life of eternal happiness.

The methods of obtaining these goals must essentially be the same in Christian Catholic life. This life is described by our Holy Father as Catholic Action, which he defines as "the union of Catholic forces organized to assert, spread and defend the teachings of the Church in the lives of the individuals, the home and society as a whole, under the direction of the Holy See and the leadership of the competent ecclesiastical authority."

Some of you may still be wondering "What is Obnova?" Obnova is an organization of Ukrainian Catholic University students. To be a member you must be registered at the University or at an affiliated institute such as Teachers' College or Nursing — Actually, UCY members entering an institution for furthering

their education. Obnova is an organization to keep these students in contact with Ukrainian Catholic activities until they have completed their studies. Also, an effort is made to further their education in Catholicism in order that they may be of further benefit to themselves, UCY

clubs, and the parishes in whatever communities they decide to carry out their individual practices.

It's only through co-operation of the two groups that these potentials can be preserved, expanded and then utilized.

— ANTON PROTZ.

THE BARD OF UKRAINE

TESTAMENT:

When I die, remember, lay me
Lowly in the silent tomb.
Where the prairie stretches free,
Sweet Ukraine, my cherished home.
Thre 'mid meadows' grassy sword.
Dnieper's waters pouring
May be seen and may be heard,
Mighty in their roaring.
O bury me, then rise and break
The chains in which ye lie,
And as we spill the tyrant blood
Your freedom sanctify.

So begins the story of Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine's greatest poet, genius, immortal bard and champion of Ukrainian unity and nationality.

Just as he wrote — "My life is the life of the people" — more than a century ago, so are his words and work today a compelling part of Ukrainian life.

He was a man who spent most of his life in exile — and he wept in his homesickness. He was a poet who found beauty in his hard and bitter life. Through his works he imparts courage to others. He was an artist who perceived a dignity in the lowliest of men, and painted a vision of faith and hope in the future. Shevchenko was born a serf. He was only seven years old when

orphaned. All his childhood and boyhood he spent in hard work for his master, and lived a life full of privations. One of his poems describes just what he felt quite vividly.

I shan't describe that meagre hut
Beside the pond, beyond the village,
As paradise on earth.

'Twas here my mother gave me birth,
And singing, as her child she nursed,
She passed her suffering to me.
In such a hut I saw dark hell,
Grim slavery and ceaseless toil.
There my good mother, aged by days
Of toil and misery, while still young —
Went to her grave.

While father, weeping with his mood
Could not withstand his evil lot,
And died at toil in servitude.

Young Taras was bound first to one master and then another and found little difference between them. Perhaps one was more harsh than the other — or more indifferent. One however opened a new and exciting prospect for young Taras — He was a village deacon who allowed the young boy to mix artists' colors — how the pigments glowed and changed in his eager fingers! Taras had always loved to draw — now he longed to hold a brush — to paint the things we saw with such fresh eyes.

His owner, a rich land proprietor by the name of Englehardt, having noticed the boy's talent, decided for his own selfish benefit, to apprentice him to a painter. For four years, in St. Petersburg, Taras worked from sunup to sundown for the painter. He was taught nothing, but what he could, he learned for himself. During the day he was so busy mixing colors for his master that he had no time to mix his own. But on the moonlit St. Petersburg nights, while the rest of the city slept, Taras would make his way to the famous Summer park and there he practiced his art.

One such night, a countryman of his, a painter himself, spotted him in the park, and became interested in his sketches. He introduced Taras to the famous artist Bryullov of the St. Petersburg Art Academy, and the latter, having recognized the boy's talent, made arrangements to buy his freedom. The landowner Englehardt demanded an exorbitant price for him — 2500 rubles. Even Bryullov did not have this much money. To raise the amount Bryullov decided to paint and raffle a portrait. The money collected in such a way bought Shevchenko's freedom.

Taras was 24 when he began a life of a free man. As if to repay his debt, he began to study with the greatest zeal. He took special courses in art at the Academy of Arts, studied languages, literature, history, music — he visited operas, theatres and saw Shakespeare's plays. He became an authority on the great English writer and a serious critic of the great musical works he came to love. His closest friends and acquaintances were people who them-

selves were talented, cultured — specialists in the fine arts.

Shevchenko soon discovered another gift, which soon developed into genius — the writing of poetry. He was especially attracted to the glorious past of Ukraine, the freedom and fame of the Ukrainian Cossack state. This glory and achievement he contrasted with the contemporary plight — national and economic oppression and poverty of the Ukrainian people.

In 1842 his first volume of verse was published. The poems dealt with historical and important contemporary events. Taras named the collection *Kobzar* — Singer of the Lays.

His poems contain some of the most beautiful descriptions of nature in Ukrainian literature. He dressed the history of his people in the beautiful robes of poetry, in the language his people knew, and he laid the foundation for the great literature of Ukraine. Many of his poems are lyrics for many popular Ukrainian songs.

Three years after his *Kobzar* appeared in print, Taras Shevchenko returned to his native Ukraine only to find his people more downtrodden and oppressed than ever before. At every step he saw injustice, suffering and inequality that filled his soul with hatred for the oppressors. His poem "Dymu Mol" can be taken as a prayer to God. In it he asks: "Why the torture of these thoughts? Why can he not erase from his mind the evils that exist?"

In the following years Shevchenko wrote several immortal poems, recreating the glorious past when the Ukrainian Cossacks sailed across the

Black Sea, raided Turkish fortresses, liberated captives from Constantinople, and fought with the Tartars and the Poles. It was after such victory over the enemy that the Cossacks rejoiced, feasted, and danced.

In his poetry Shevchenko declares war on the despotic Russian Czar, his regime, his greedy and cruel officials and followers. He warns them to beware the spirit of his people will never be broken.

The days of Shevchenko's freedom were numbered. Early in 1847 he was arrested by the Russian police for writing poems against the Czar and for belonging to a type of clandestine society. At the age of 33 Shevchenko was sentenced to 10 years in exile. He served in punitive battalions in far away Siberia isolated from the outside world, under constant surveillance and harsh discipline. He was strictly forbidden to write and draw on express order of the Czar and it was only with the greatest of difficulty that he managed to do both.

Taras was alone in his exile. There was no one — no one to whom he could open his heart and soul to pour out his sorrow and suffering. Surreptitiously, at night, he composed poems, in his secret notebook, where he drowned his grief and woe. Many of these poems had religious themes. In the one titled "Maria", he places all hope of his country's liberation, in the hands of the Holy Mother. In another he speaks of the horror of spiritual death.

How terrible to lie in chains
And die in dungeons deep.
But it's still worse, when you are
free,
To sleep and sleep and sleep.
And then forever close your eyes,

And leave not e'en a trace.
So that the fact you lived or died
No whit of difference makes.

For ten long years he longed for his native land, his kin and his poor oppressed and enslaved people. He recalled how harsh, how unjust, how cruel was the fate of his sisters, the girls and women in Ukraine. He longed for the simple things in life — to meet and speak with his friends — to go visiting on Sundays — to sing — to dance.

In 1857, Shevchenko was finally permitted to return to St. Petersburg, and to remain there under police supervision. On no account was he allowed to visit his native land.

The terrible years in prison had taken their toll. The Shevchenko who was sent into exile, was a young and vigorous man. The Shevchenko who returned, looked like an old man. His fathomless eyes were clouded with sickness and the suffering, degradation and iniquity they had seen.

He wanted very much to savour some of the normal life that passed him by, but that was not to be. In the summer of 1859, he was allowed a brief visit to his home — to Ukraine. He saw his people, still in bondage. Although a free man — the gendarmes dogged his every step, and he was finally compelled to return to St. Petersburg.

In February of 1861, he wrote his last poem — in which he talks of death — of whether or not the time had come to get ready "for the long journey". A day after his 47th birthday, Taras Shevchenko passed away. But his teachings were not in vain. In the years that followed, his genius helped to light the way for a new generation of great writers and thinkers. His patriotic poems reawakened the spirit of the Ukrainian

people. His writings brought about the unification and strengthening of the Ukrainian nation.

Tyrants tried to suppress his living words, they tried falsify and misinterpret his philosophy. Even now, a century after Shevchenko's death, Ukrainians speak of him as their beloved and greatest son, poetic genius and national leader. His enduring works — uncensored and complete, keep appearing in the free world. It seems that his most popular works deal with common every-day events in life. To him, 'simplicity' and 'beauty' were synonymous.

When our fathers came to this country more than sixty years ago, seeking refuge from hunger and tyranny, thy had little in the way of worldly goods. In their hearts they brought their love of labour — their love of soil — their love of freedom — and their love of Shevchenko.

He gave them courage to face the

hardships of a strange new land. Through him they came to know what unity meant — he used a vernacular familiar to all of them — Ukrainian. He taught them to respect and pursue knowledge. But above all he reminded them to love one another and respect people of other races, cautioning them against forgetting or belittling the nature of the seed from which they sprang. His poem "Uchiteshia Brate Mol" which subsequently was put to music, clearly illustrated this.

Greatful countrymen reverently fulfilled Taras Shevchenko's last wish expressed in his "Testament". With honors due to national heroes, his body was transferred from St. Petersburg to Ukraine and buried on a hill on the high bank of his beloved Dnieper, "midst its mighty roar".

Great men are the common heritage of mankind. This was a story of such a man, Taras Shevchenko — The Bard of Ukraine.

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