

From the Spiritual Advisor's Desk

◇ З Пера Духовного Дорадника

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Our *Deeply* Cultural Gift to Canada on Her 150th

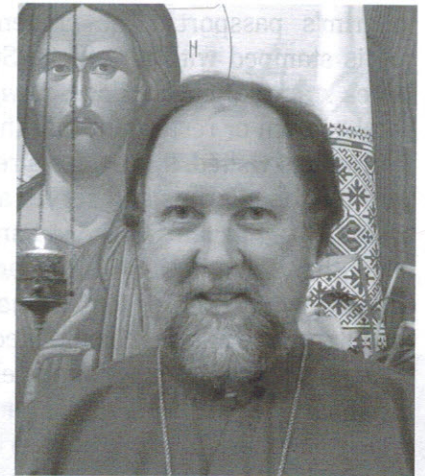
◇ Наш *глибокої* культури дар Канаді з нагоди її 150-ліття

So what gifts will our community present to Canada on her 150th? Many of us are old enough to remember a time when Canada was not “multicultural.” The late Senator Paul Yuzyk helped change that. He is rightly hailed as the Father of Canadian Multiculturalism. And he understood where the deep roots of every culture lie.

The word “culture” usually evokes thoughts of music, dance and other art forms. And rightly so. However, the word is related to “cultus” which is the Latin

form for “worship” or “religious practice.” In that connection, “cultivation” originally meant an ongoing process of formation, a formation grounded in a focus on what is *ultimately* important. You commit yourself to forming the best within yourself and your community – and the best, of course, is God.

Having lived in Ottawa off and on for almost 25 years, I have gotten to know the legacy of Senator Yuzyk in unique ways. I'll never forget the time when a parishioner at our beautiful



Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine in Ottawa told me: “In the 1980s there were all sorts of debates about where to build the Shrine. People were divided. Some wanted it in one part of town, others in another. Senator Yuzyk then took the committee to the amazing location overlooking the Rideau Canal where the Shrine now stands and said: ‘This is where we must build.’ He simply insisted: ‘No other site will do.’” Every Canadian – or tourist to Canada – travelling up that scenic root, marvels at the splendour of the shining domes that dominate the view across from Carleton University. The gold, pear-shaped cupolas proclaim: “Look upwards! Christ is the source of the beauty and harmony you see around you.”

Senator Yuzyk’s two academic dissertations were on the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches respectively. He was also key in building a wonderful church in Florida, used by both Catholics *and* Orthodox. I think, then, that I can say with some assurance that, while Yuzyk would have been overjoyed to see the proliferation of our usual Ukrainian cultural organizations and ensembles, today he would



St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine in Ottawa

