

**With the blessing of Metropolitan John the  
Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association  
National Executive invites you to participate in  
National Symposium 2009**



**to be held at St John's Cultural Centre – Edmonton  
on the theme**

**“Faith and Culture: Gender, Sexuality and Family Life - The  
Challenge of Living a Holy Life in Today's World”**

**WHY A SYMPOSIUM?**

Today in North America traditional Christian morality is under violent assault.

The faithful of the Orthodox Churches in Canada live in a society that lives and promotes an anti-Orthodox Christian – secular humanist message – worldview . In order to deal effectively with this challenge we need to understand how the secular world view differs from a patristic Orthodox Christian world view and why. Much too often, many of our members are permeated with a non-Orthodox Christian world view without even realizing it. In the absence of a solid grounding in the teachings of the Orthodox Faith on a level capable of challenging secular and differing worldview assumptions and in the absence of an experience of a ‘life in Christ’ a large percentage of our faithful lead nominal-superficial Christian lives. In particular, this is so when it comes to our understanding of issues relating to gender, sexuality and family life. The statistics bear this out. Our profile as to divorce rates, pre-marital and extra-marital sex, teen births and pre-marital co-habitation are no different then that of the society at large.

The purpose of this Symposium is to

deepen our understanding of the differences between these world views. To do this, as a first step, we need to explore in some depth the Orthodox Christian view on what is a holy life and then go on to systematically explore the points of conflict.

**S Y M P O S I U M  
P R O G R A M**

**Friday Evening March 6**

- 6:00** Registration
- 7:00 – 7:15 PM** Moleben –
- 7:15 – 7:30** Opening Session
- 7:30 – 8:30** Part I: The Teaching Session 1 – The Basis For Leading a Holy Personal and Family Life
  - *Theology of the Holy Trinity and of the Incarnation/Mankind*
  - *Purpose of Human Existence and Human Sexuality*
  - *The Role of Images both True and False*
    - *Holy Icons of Oneness - Cultural Icons of oneness - Theology of Human Anatomy*

**9:30 Reception**

**Saturday March 7**

- 8:00 – 9:15 AM** Divine Liturgy
- 9:15 – 10:00** Breakfast
- 10:00 – 11:15**
- Session 2 – How Theology Informs/Transforms the Culture –**

The redemption of image, language and culture of human sexuality

**11:15 AM – 12:30 PM**

**Part II: Lessons from the Past**

**Session 3**– The First Christian Centuries – How the Christian Gospel changed the Pre-Christian views on Gender, Sexuality and Family Life

**12:30 PM – 2:00 PM Lunch**

**2:00 – 3:15**

**Session 4** – How the Christian Gospel Changed the Views on Gender, Sexuality and Family Life of Kyivan Rus

**3:15 – 3:45 Nutrition Break**

**Part III – Current Challenges and A Search for Solutions**

**3:45 – 5:00**

**Session 5** – The Challenge to Living a Holy Personal and Family Life – The Insights of an Orthodox Psychiatrist

**5:00 – 6:30 Supper Break**

**7:00 – 9:00**

**Session 6 - Panel Discussion –**

How are the challenges to leading a holy life experienced by our faithful today? ( The young, the single, the married, monastics and seniors.)

**Sunday March 8**

**8:00 – 9:15 AM Divine Liturgy**

**9:15 – 9:45 Breakfast**

**Part III - From Lessons To Action**

**9:45 – 12:00**

**Session 7 - Group Session –**

Part a - Summarizing the Lessons for Orthodox Personal, Family and Community Life- Local and National Church

Part b - From Lessons to Action – So what do we do now?

**12:00 – 1:00 PM Dinner**

**1:00 Closing Remarks and Departure for homes**

**For detailed information contact Yaroslav Lozowchuk (306-584-1238 or 501-9200) or Tony Harras (306-586-6805) or fax request to 306-789-2350 or download a detailed program and registration form from [www.usrl-cyc.org](http://www.usrl-cyc.org)**