

## Pastoral Visit to the Ascension Parish in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

**ON BRIGHT SATURDAY** and the Sunday after Pascha, or the Sunday of St. Thomas, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios and Archimandrite Akakios, on their return to California from Toronto, celebrated services at our Exarchate parish of the Holy Ascension in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, with Father Demetrios Sarlakes, who had joined them in Toronto for Bright Week services there. The small congregation in Winnipeg has struggled for twenty-five years against formidable challenges—crushing financial difficulties chief among them—but has quite heroically held on, thanks to the dedication of the parish pastor, Father Demetrios (who has himself been confronting cancer and who holds secular employment to support himself and his son), of Mr. Dionysios Grammatikos, one of the original founders of the Church, and of a number of extraordinary parishioners who have worked tirelessly to maintain the community. Both His Grace and Father Akakios spent a number of hours meeting with the faithful, discussing resistance and the absolute primacy of moderation and love in our movement, as well as encouraging them in their exemplary struggles and those of their loyal pastor, Father Demetrios.

