



Great and merciful , o Lord, that gave
Ukraine and world mountain in Stradch

Mission Pilgrimage centre “The Stradch Mountain”

a charitable foundation established with the blessing of Patriarch Sviatoslav (Shevchuk) and Metropolitan and Archbishop of Lviv Ihor (Voznyak) in 2015 to build a retreat-pilgrimage center in the village Stradch (Lviv region) to meet the spiritual needs of the citizens of Ukraine, as well as pilgrims from abroad.

The Historical and Spiritual unity of Stradch

1. The Historical and Cultural Heritage of Stradch

- Five cultural layers of settlements from the Mesolithic (about 5 000 BC) to the age of Kiyvan Rus (XI-XII centuries AD) were discovered by archaeologists in a small area around the mountain of Stradch;
- The second in size and importance Christian monastery in Ukraine after Kyiv-Pechersk lavra, which came to us in its original condition (XI-XII centuries AD), the origins of which are dated from the beginnings of Christianity in our land, is preserved in the mountain of Stradch;

(The monastery of Stradch came to us in its original condition – it was not distorted by human hand in later times by omnifarious rebuildins and reconstructions. In Ukraine and in the whole world are very few memorial save in this condition)

- The ancient settlement was significant in its time, as it had the large fortification (400 x 150 meters in X century AD). Under the assumption of some researchers, it could emerge as a center of the power of prince Volodymyr the Great in the territory Roztochchya.

- The village is a witness of internecine struggle between princes of Chernihiv and Daniel of Galicia and according to chronicles was ruined when the neighboring city Lviv did not exist yet

(It was ruined by the forces of Golden Horde of Batu Khan)

- The parish church is the best representative of a rare architectural style, so called crystal modern. In the church are stored works of famous artists of the last century: A. Manastyrskyi, V. Dyadynyuk, M. Osnchuk, students of the school of O. Nowakowski and others.

2. The spiritual greatness of Stradch

- According to the archeology the first monks settled here in XI century, or perhaps earlier. Two centuries of fervent prayers and later the blood of the monks sanctified this area.

- In 1936 Pope Pius XI granted for the mountain of Stradch two unprecedented privileges: 1. plenary indulgence for every day of the year; 2. established the Stations of the Cross and equated it by value to the Stations of the Cross of Jerusalem.

(There is no other area in Ukraine that has both privileges)

- In 2013 and 2015 Pope Francis confirmed the decrees of Pope Pius XI and granted new privileges to the mountain of Stradch.

- There are two miraculous icons in the parish church: the icon of Our Lady the Indestructible Wall and the icon of the Assumption of the Virgin.

- On the mountain of Stradch are relics of the blessed holy martyrs of Christ – Fr. Mykola Konrad and Volodymyr Pryyma. In 2012 the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church proclaimed the blessed martyr Volodymyr Pryyma as the patron of the laity, it was solemnly proclaimed during the National Pilgrimage on 26 June 2013.





The achievements of recent years and prospects for development

Stradch is gradually becoming a national and European center of pilgrimage. A large number of pilgrims come here as both individual and diverse communities – energy sector, doctors, teachers, security forces, groups of persons with disabilities, youth organizations, migrants and others. **Stradch mountain is visited by more than 200,000 pilgrims and worshipers** (ignoring thousands of tourists and vacationers who travel here of curiosity) during the year..

“Interestingly, the pilgrimage movement to Stradch also existed in previous centuries - it was only depressed for a time of the communist government”.

Traditionally nationwide pilgrimage dedicated to the Day of Laity on June 26 in Stradch collects 30 thousand of pilgrims. Patriarch or Metropolitan of Lviv leads the pilgrimage, he celebrates the Divine Liturgy with many bishops and clergy. Only for the sacrament of confession more than 100 priests are involved.

Over the past two decades, a “spiritual specialization” of the sanctuary in Stradch is gradually crystallized:

- to help people with various types of addictions (alcohol, drugs, gambling). Every year up to 800 persons make ceremonial oath to the Lord of renunciation of alcohol.
- to help women in overcoming a post abortion syndrome.
- in recent years suddenly opened that after prayers and supplications at the tomb of Blessed Fr. Mykola Konrad couples who couldn't have children for various reasons were blessed by Heaven of the grace of parenthood.

Interesting is that the Mysteries of Christian initiation at the parish church are imparted to the vast majority of infants, whose parents are not residents of the village. Many couples that received here the blessing to become parents, with gratitude to God and Our Lady come to the mountain of Stradch to baptize the children obtained through prayers.

- Thematic pilgrimages, retreats and vigils, prayer meetings.
- Here come people with physical and spiritual illnesses. Also people possessed by evil spirits get relief here. The volunteers and soldiers that go to the front or back from the war do not bypass the mountain of Stradch.

In the parish church one Divine Liturgy is celebrated weekdays, on Saturday there are three, and on Sunday four Liturgies are celebrated. However, depending on needs one more Liturgy can be served. From several dozen to several thousand of worshipers pray the Stations of the Cross every day. The vigils are held twice a month. During the warmer months, from a few hundred to a thousand pilgrims pray at night, and up to twenty priests arrive to Stradch to offer the spiritual care.



Current challenges

Today the Pilgrimage center in Stradch faces huge number of problematic issues connected with the spiritual care and amenities of thousands of pilgrims.

There are more and more people coming to Stradch seeking resolution of emotional, mental, social and other problems. For many people Stradch becomes the last refuge and hope in their lives. Therefore, the urgent exigency is to establish an aid and advisory centers at the mission, in which everyone could get a professional help of psychologists, rehabilitators and specialists in other areas. There are an increasing number of pilgrims with physical and mental problems, received because of the war in eastern Ukraine.

A sharp increase of the number of pilgrims and tourists during the last decade led to the emergence of intense and sometimes irreversible destructive processes:

1. [Landslips of the mountain.](#)
2. [The cave monastery is crumbling.](#)
3. [The surrounding area is polluted despite regular cleaning](#)

The urgent issues are:

1. [providing essential everyday needs \(toilet, drinking water, benches, arbors, etc.\) .](#)
2. [creating conditions for pilgrims to stay for several days.](#)

Support

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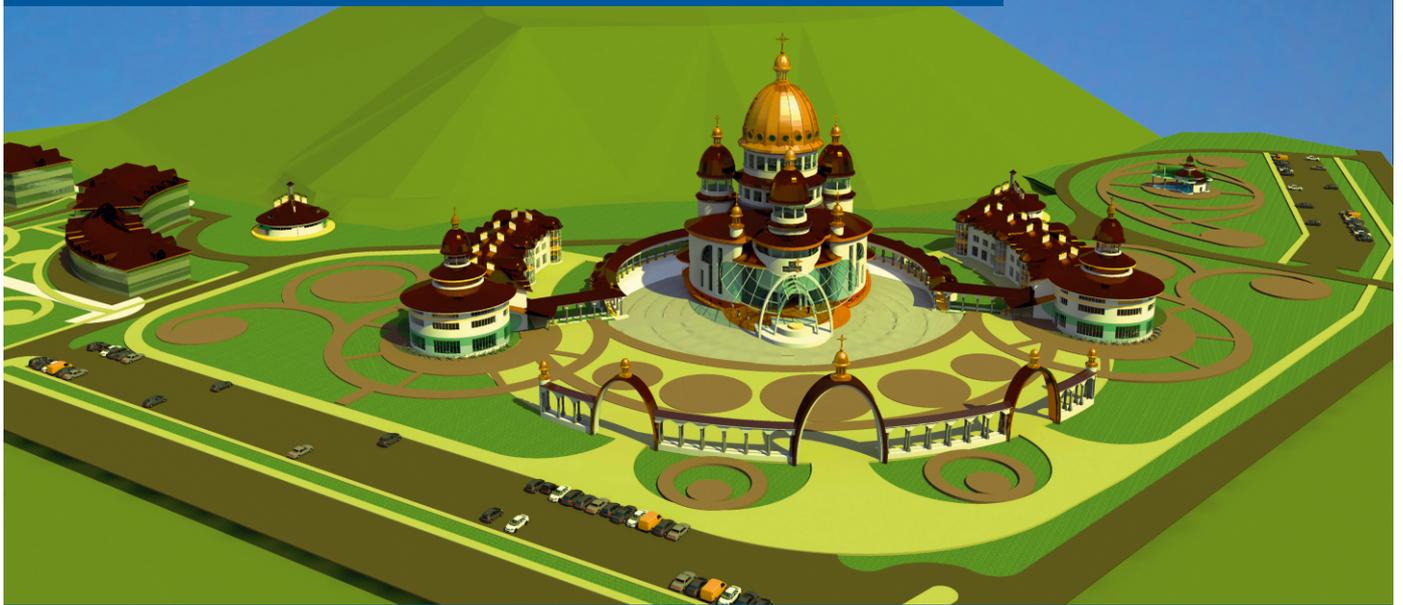
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ПО МІСІЯ ВЦ СТРАДЕЦЬКА ГОРА ЛА УГКЦ (For international transfers (Swift), organization name and adress write in English transliteration), **The bank account** 26004053708510, **Privatbank, Bank SWIFT Code** PBANUA2X, **Company address** UA 79000, Lviv region, c. Lviv, sq. Saint Jura, 5, **IBAN Code** Ua203253210000026004053708510, **Account in the correspondent bank** 001-1-000080, **SWIFT-code of the correspondent bank** CHASUS33, **correspondent bank** JP Morgan Chase Bank, New York, USA

Immediate stages of the project

1	The pilgrim house construction	<p>The pilgrim house construction at the area of a former parish house. a total area about 1,300 square meters. Initially it's planning to place the administration of the Mission, the lounge for 50 visitors, small dining room, bathrooms will be located here. <i>Estimated project cost 430 000 y.o.</i></p>
2	The strengthening the dangerous areas	<p>The strengthening of the dangerous areas of the mountain of Stradch. the installation of ramps, railings, stairs, tiling pedestrian paths of the Stations of the Cross with the cobblestone.</p> <p>The implementation of archaeological research of the cave monastery and the ancient settlement, the remains of the last one are easily became a the village cemetery. Conservation and transformation of the caves of Stradch into museum and place to pray at the same time.</p>
3	The implementation of archaeological research	<p>The arrangement of pavilions and areas for recreation, trash cans, toilets</p>
4	The arrangement of pavilions	<p>The complex of engineering and construction works for the preparation of the land to construction of capital facilities of the pilgrimage center, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The transfer of the medium pressure gas pipeline, the state communications etc.• The reclamation and drainage works in the valley at the foot of mountain of Stadch.• The additional soil backfilling height of 0.5 to 1.5 meter in the area of 5 hectares, the construction of parking lots.• The establishment of a common sewerage system for the buildings of the parish and the pilgrimage center
5	The complex of engineering and construction works	<p>The construction of the buildings of the pilgrimage-retreat complex that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Church of Blessed Martyrs Fr. Mykola Konrad and Volodymyr Pryyma with capacity of 5 thousand faithful.• Two retreat corpus that provide rooms for 100 visitors, the monastery of the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, conference rooms and classrooms, dining room, two chapels, a museum.• The hospice facilities for children with special needs.• The building for the household purpose.• The summer chapel for the blessing of water.
6	The construction of the buildings of the pilgrimage-retreat complex	
7	The arrangement and the gardening of the territory	<p>The arrangement and the gardening of the territory (after the completion of the construction). Background: The implementation of these works will be carried out on an area of 7.25 hectares in the valley at the foot of the mountain (the plot is owned by the Curia of the Lviv Archeparchy) and 35 hectares of mountains covered with pine forest (the plot is leased by parish for 49 years)</p>
8	The camp building for the communities and the organizations	<p>The pilgrimage center plans to buy an unfinished hotel with the outbuildings and convert it to a camp for Christian communities and organizations ("The Faith and the Light", alcoholics anonymous, various youth organizations)</p>

**A visualization of the strategic project
of a pilgrimage complex**
The expected term of implementation – 2026



The implementation of the project allows to:

SAVE, restore and ensure civilized use of the archaeological, historical and cultural monuments of the mountain of Stradch.

SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE the environmental situation around the mountain of Stradch.

3 to 4 times INCREASE the number of the pilgrims, tourists, and reach 1 million visitors a year.

CREATE jobs for the residents of the Yavoriv district. Today 5 priests, 4 religious sisters, 14 person of support staff work at the parish. After the construction of the first pilgrim house (on the site of the former parish house) the number of support staff will grow to 30 persons. After the commissioning of all buildings of the pilgrimage center the approximate number of employees will reach 150 persons.

PROVIDE the advice assistance and the rehabilitation for at least 4-5 thousand of people a year. The early prevention, counseling and rehabilitation work is planned in the following areas:

- alcohol, drug and gambling addiction.
- mental problems on disorders (including post abortion syndrome, problems of adolescence, suicide, etc.).
- rehabilitation work with people with special needs.

ENSURE a proper level of service for the pilgrims and the tourists.

ENABLE and ensure the necessary conditions for a variety of religious and secular events that are consistent with Christian morality and values:

- Implementation of the Synods and the Councils of the Church.
- Ecumenical prayer and religious activities.
- Accommodation and recreation for everyone regardless of the religious affiliation.
- retreats, biblical and catechetical education, training, etc.
- secular scientific conferences and seminars, meetings, round-table talks, etc.