

# Holy Ghost Ortho

## Ethnic church puts down roots in Sterling Heights

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Members of Holy Ghost Orthodox Church celebrated a long-awaited event last Sunday as the congregation held groundbreaking ceremonies for a new church to be built on Ryan Road, south of 17 Mile, in Sterling Heights.

Presiding at the morning worship service and the groundbreaking ceremony was His Grace, Bishop Hilarion of New York.

Holy Ghost, a Carpatho Russian Eastern Orthodox Church, vacated its former building on Mound near Outer Drive in Detroit last September. Since then the congregation has been worshipping in the chapel of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic School in Warren.

The new building will be a traditional Carpathian style church with central dome. It will have seating for 250 worshippers. Attached to the church will be a fully-equipped social hall with accommodation for 350 persons.

Holy Ghost Orthodox Church currently has 170 members, most of whom reside in Warren and Sterling Heights. The new church is being built on land which the parish has owned for 17 years.

"The dream of the parish to build a church, rectory and social hall is

now materializing," said the Rev. Fr. Vladimir Vandalov, pastor of Holy Ghost Orthodox Church.

Vandalov explained that the parish was founded in 1917 by a small group of determined people who migrated to the United States from the Carpathian Mountain area of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

"Although the parish is proud of its immigrant legacy, its mission has not been confined to people of purely Slavic roots," he said. "The parish is made up of descendants from many nationality groups and welcomes anyone who wishes to embrace the Eastern Orthodox Christian faith."

Vandalov said the new church facilities will meet the parish's needs for many years to come. The building program is expected to be completed by early spring 1989.

This is the millennial year for East Slavic Christians. It was 1,000 years ago — in 988 — that St. Vladimir of Kiev baptized the nations of Russia, Belorussia and the Ukraine into the Christian faith.

"Every aspect of life, thought and activity of the peoples of Rus was transformed by St. Vladimir's acceptance of Christian baptism, and the subsequent baptism of the masses into the Eastern Orthodox faith," Vandalov said. "For Russian Orthodox Christians, this is a most significant year."