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Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This past weekend we celebrated our Ukrainian Orthodox heritage amongst ourselves and the broader community. The day could not have been better – even the weather cooperated, delivering perfect temperatures and shielding us from the sun that had baked us over the previous days. Whether measured in terms of the numbers of children playing, meals served, desserts and drinks sold, tours given, volunteers participating, overall organization, or money raised, the festival was a tremendous success! This speaks volumes about the commitment and capability of our Christian community.

As your pastor, it moved me tremendously to see how much of yourselves so many of you gave in this effort. This is this kind of individual and communal self-sacrifice that our forefathers exerted when first building St. Michael's; it is this kind of individual and communal self-sacrifice that our forefathers exerted when first building up the Orthodox Church in Ukraine; it is this kind of individual and communal self-sacrifice that will allow us to grow our community here; and (most importantly) it is this kind of individual and communal self-sacrifice that sanctifies us and those around us.

And so I thank *each of you* for all of your efforts. I would like to give special thanks to those who put so much of their time and energy in the weeks leading up to the festival organizing the event and preparing the many freezers full of food: *dujhe dyakuyu*. Your faithful service is inspiring to all of us.

Your pastor and servant in Christ,

*Fr. Anthony Perkins*