



## Olya Kolomyjec

Eparchy of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania

Olya Kolomyjec is the current President of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League Australia. Olya founded the UCWLA in 2005 in Sydney; it was inaugurated in December 2007. From humble beginnings of 6 women on a steering committee in 2005 to 38 members in 2007, it has grown to a membership of over 130 today throughout Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle and ACT. She is the founder and current editor of the UCWLA quarterly magazine "Our Journey", which is sent to all members and parishes throughout Australia and readers overseas. Olya has initiated programs and projects for women relating to spirituality awareness, learning about Ukrainian culture and traditions, social justice issues and fundraising for charities in Australia and Ukraine. The work of the UCWLA-Sydney has led women in Ukrainian Catholic parishes throughout Australia to establish interest groups with the intention to set up branches. A UCWLA steering committee in Melbourne is now in the process of establishing a branch with approximately 40 members. Through her efforts, not only has Olya revitalised her own parish, but sees this happening in other Ukrainian Catholic parishes in Australia. Olya works in a close, warm relationship with the Catholic Women's League Australia and UCWL Canada.

Olya was born in Germany to Ukrainian parents and migrated to Australia with them in May 1949. She was educated in Adelaide. Olya worked as a PA and Secretary in the corporate and medical arena, and held positions in business development management. She holds a Diploma in Colour and Design and Textile design. She lectured in Colour and Design at the School of Colour and Design in Sydney. Olya is married with two adult children and has three grandchildren. She resides in Penrith, NSW with her husband who is a Ukrainian Catholic Priest at the parish of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Lidcombe NSW.

