

October 18, 2013

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This year the three seminaries of the Orthodox Church in America celebrate important anniversaries: 75 years of service for St. Vladimir's and St. Tikhon's Seminaries, and 40 years for St. Herman Seminary.

As the deans and administrators of these schools, we send both the assurance of our prayers and our sincere thanks for the support that you and your parishes have given over the years to our seminarians as they prepare to serve the Orthodox Church. Theological seminaries are essential for serving our existing parish communities but also to prepare chaplains with specialized ministries and those who will plant new missions in North America.

We need your help to do this. As many of our communities are preparing budgets for 2014 we would like to urge parishes to dedicate at least 1% of their budgets to the support of our seminaries. As you may recall, the 16th All-American Council, meeting in Bellevue, Washington in November 2011, passed a resolution that encouraged *each OCA parish and mission to support the seminary of its choice through a sacrificial gift of a 1% minimum of its annual operating budget.*

A number of parishes have already taken this step. Won't you consider joining them?

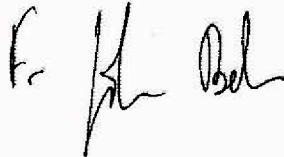
Thanking you in advance,



The Right Reverend Dr. Michael (Dahulich)
Rector, St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary



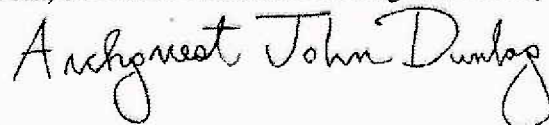
The Very Reverend Archimandrite David (Mahaffey)
Administrator, Bishop-elect of Sitka and the Diocese of Alaska



The Very Reverend Dr. John Behr
Dean, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary



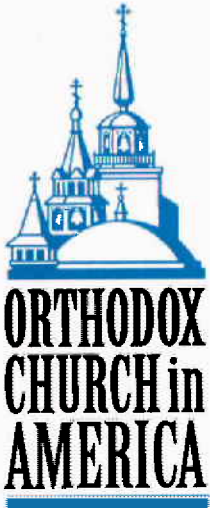
The Very Reverend Dr. Steven Voytovich
Dean, St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary



The Very Reverend Dr. John Dunlop
Dean, St. Herman Orthodox Theological Seminary



The Very Reverend Dr. Chad Hatfield
Chancellor/CEO, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary



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