

The Archpastoral Message of Metropolitan Tikhon on the Great and Holy Pascha 2016

To the Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, Monastics, Distinguished Stewards, and the entire family of the Orthodox Church in America:

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

I greet you, my beloved brothers and sisters, with the great joy of the bright Feast of Christ's Resurrection. Today we arise at the rising of the sun to "bring unto the Lord a hymn instead of myrrh," and to behold Christ, "the Sun of Righteousness, Who causes light to dawn for all" [Paschal Canon].

Today, we awake with joy to a new and divine reality. Today, our life continues with the same hope in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that we had yesterday, but with renewed spirit and purpose, inspired by the life given to us by the Lord, Who came to us in the flesh, was lifted upon the cross, descended into the grave, was raised on the third day, and ascended into heaven so that we might have that life and have it more abundantly [John 10:10].

We know that, just as the servants in the Gospel were called to account for the use of their talents, so each of us has received talents in this life for which we must give account. Whether it is the gift of being kind, loving, caring and patient, or being a good and faithful parent, child or sibling, these talents blossom more fully through the death and resurrection of Christ by giving us the opportunity to reclaim the gift of eternal life even in our earthly struggles.

In recent years we have heard it said that lives matter. While this is not a new concept for those who today are celebrating the triumph of life over death, we need to remind ourselves that the life which Christ offers us today is offered to all of humanity. It is also a gift that holds us accountable. What matters most is how we use the abundance of life given to us through the Cross and Resurrection, and whether we choose to simply live or to live an abundant life overflowing with love, mercy and compassion.

Today we are filled with joy both serene and overwhelming. At the same time, we face the awesome responsibility of sharing this great joy and this abundance of life with the world around us. Through the Cross, our cup overflows with life [Psalm 23:5], enough life to share with all of those around us; enough love to fill up all those who are alone and afraid; enough mercy and peace to bring a measure of joy to those suffering.

I sincerely wish that all of you will convey this Paschal joy to your children, your neighbors, to all those in your families and communities, and also to those who do not as yet know that Pascha in the Orthodox Church is the "Feast of feasts, the Triumph of triumphs, wherein let us bless Christ forevermore."

With my archpastoral blessing and love in the Risen Lord,

+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada



Metropolitan Tikhon presides at Paschal Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington, DC May 1, 2016.

Metropolitan Tikhon offers prayers after NYC Serbian cathedral fire

NEW YORK, NY – On Monday, May 2, 2016, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, wrote to His Grace, Bishop Mitrophan offering prayers in the wake of a



four-alarm fire that engulfed Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral here on Pascha. The blaze started at 6:50 p.m., well after the Paschal Liturgy and a luncheon had concluded.

Designated a New York City landmark in 1968, the cathedral was built as an Episcopal Church in the 1850s and purchased by the Serbian Orthodox Church in 1943.

"Please accept my personal expression of sadness and grief over this tremendous loss to the Serbian Orthodox community and to all the Orthodox in New York City," Metropolitan Tikhon wrote. "In this time of tragedy, I open my arms to Your Grace and your community to offer whatever assistance we can provide. "With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, the Orthodox Church in America's Holy Protection Cathedral in New York City and its priest, Archimandrite Christopher Calin, are prepared to host your community and provide fully for a temporary home for Your Grace and the faithful of Saint Sava's. I pray that Your Grace and the community of Saint Sava's will find a measure of relief in our Lord's Pascha, and I pray that our Lord's Resurrection will give you the strength to lead your community through this difficult moment." ■ **FULL STORY:** <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-offers-prayers-after-fire-at-nycs-serbian-cathedral>

Holy Synod of Bishops concludes Spring Session

SYOSSET, NY – The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America concluded its Spring Session at the Chancery here on April 1, 2016. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, presided.

The agenda included Metropolitan Tikhon's opening address; reports of the OCA's officers; updates by the departments, offices, committees and dioceses; and other matters reported in detail on the OCA web site.

During the gathering, the members of the Holy Synod met with graduating OCA students from Saint Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, PA and Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Yonkers, NY. After sharing a lenten dinner, the hierarchs and seminarians engaged in an informative discussion and question and answer session that touched on a wide range of topics and concerns. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-concludes-spring-session2>



Outstanding liturgical musicians recognized

SYOSSET, NY – During their Spring Session, the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops awarded the Order of Saint Romanos to Dr. Vladimir Morosan and Aleksei Shipovalnikov in recognition of their extraordinary contributions to the field of liturgical music in the Orthodox Church in America.

Established by the Holy Synod in 2014, the Order is awarded to influential arrangers, composers, teachers and conductors. Past recipients include Archpriest Sergei Glagolev, Archpriest Igor Soroka, Prof. Dr. David Drillock, Mr. Walter Shymansky and Archimandrite Roman [Braga]. Detailed biographies of the award recipients appear on the OCA web site. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-awards-order-of-st.-romanos-to-noted-liturgical-musicians>

First "Youth Council" to be held at FOCA Convention

CHICAGO, IL – The Orthodox Church in America's Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries will partner with the Diocese of the Midwest and the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America to host the first OCA "Youth Council" during the FOCA's 90th Convention here July 22-25, 2016.

Continuing the overwhelming success of the youth program at the 18th All-American Council, youth of all ages will enjoy fellowship, outings, and discussions with our hierarchs and Church leaders on "expanding the Mission" of the Church. ■ **FULL STORY WITH SCHEDULE, REGISTRATION INFO:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/first-youth-council-to-be-held-during-foca-convention-in-chicago-july-22-25>

Camp for youth with disabilities to open June 17

EMLENTON, PA – All Saints Camp here will be the site of the first Orthodox camping program for youth, ages nine through 19, with disabilities and their families June 17-20, 2016.

"Sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA's Camping Ministry, the camp will be open to all Orthodox Christians," said Andrew Boyd, OCA Youth Director. "It will offer parents and children with disabilities a chance to spend time together in a family setting offering sensory friendly prayer services, modified learning classes, parent workshops, parent/child sports, crafts, singing, dancing, hayrides, swimming, and many other activities." ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/first-orthodox-camp-for-youth-with-disabilities-to-begin-in-2016>

oca review

A monthly digest highlighting news and features from the web site of the Orthodox Church in America – <http://oca.org> – published with the blessing of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon.

Parishes are kindly asked to duplicate and distribute *OCAreview* monthly, especially to those without internet access.

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Memorial Day Pilgrimage schedule announced

SOUTH CANAAN, PA – The community of Saint Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary extends a cordial invitation to all faithful to attend the 112th Annual Pilgrimage May 27-30, 2016.

"It is always a joy to welcome hierarchs, clergy and faithful from the Orthodox Church in America, other jurisdictions and guests from near and far," said Archimandrite Sergius, Abbot.

The Pilgrimage will officially open on Friday, May 27 at 3:30 p.m. with the arrival of the Hawaiian Myrrh-Streaming Icon of the Iveron Mother of God and the celebration of a Molieben. The icon will be available for veneration throughout the Pilgrimage. Concurrently, the 74th annual Commencement of Saint Tikhon's Seminary will be held on Saturday, May 28. ■ **FULL STORY WITH SCHEDULE:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/st.-tikhons-monastery-announces-memorial-day-pilgrimage-schedule2>

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In Memoriam

● **Archpriest Angelo Estrada-Rea** fell asleep in the Lord in retirement in Edwardsville, PA April 25, 2016. ■ <http://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-angelo-estrada-rea>