

OCA seminaries honor over 40 graduates

Over 40 seminarians were honored at commencement exercises at the Orthodox Church in America's seminaries in May 2016.

On Saturday, May 28, during the annual Pilgrimage to Saint Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, PA, His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, delivered the commencement address at Saint Tikhon's Seminary. Three seminarians received Master of Divinity degrees. Certificates in Pastoral Studies and Diaconal Formation were awarded to three additional students. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, presented a Doctor of Divinity, *Honoris Causa*, to Archbishop Demetrios.

Metropolitan Tikhon presided at commencement exercises at Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Yonkers, NY on Saturday, May 21. Thirteen graduates were awarded Master of Divinity degrees and 12 students received Master of Arts degrees. Four additional students received Master of Theology degrees. Dr. Paul Meyendorff, retiring Father Alexander Schmemmann Professor of Liturgical Theology, delivered the commencement address and was awarded the Order of Saint Innocent, Silver Class, in recognition of his many years of service to the OCA and seminary.

On May 15, His Grace, Bishop David of Sitka and Alaska awarded diplomas to five graduates of Saint Herman's Seminary, Kodiak, AK. Two students received Clinical Pastoral Education and Reader Certificates. The commencement address was delivered by Dr. David Ford, Professor of Church History at Saint Tikhon's Seminary. ■ **FULL STORIES, GALLERIES:** <http://oca.org>.

Dr. Meyendorff



SHS graduates



**Archbishop Demetrios
with Metropolitan Tikhon**

Bishop Alexander to be enthroned June 11

DALLAS, TX – Saint Seraphim Cathedral will be the site of the Enthronement of His Grace, Bishop Alexander as the second Bishop of Dallas and the South on Saturday, June 11, 2016. The greeting of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, followed by the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Rite of Enthronement, will begin at 9:00 a.m., followed by a banquet. On Friday evening, Vespers will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. A reception will follow.

Canonically elected by the Holy Synod of Bishops in March 2016, Bishop Alexander succeeds His Eminence, Archbishop Dmitri, who fell asleep in the Lord August 28, 2011. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/bishop-alexander-to-be-enthroned-in-dallas-june-11>

Holy and Great Council to convene in Crete June 16-27

The long-anticipated Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church is slated to convene in Crete June 16-27, 2016.



The historic gathering – in the planning stage since the 1960s – will consider a variety of issues spanning the Church's mission in today's world and its relations with other Christian traditions to the importance of fasting and the Sacrament of Marriage.

According to His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, "the foremost goal of this Pan-Orthodox Council is to demonstrate and declare the unity of the Orthodox Church as well as proclaim and pronounce a message of hope and love to the world." ■

FULL STORY: <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/on-line-resources-on-holy-and-great-council-now-available> ■

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: <https://www.orthodoxcouncil.org/>

Register now for Small Parish Forum July 14-16

CANTON, OH – Registration is now open for the 2016 Small Parish Forum cosponsored by the OCA's Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania and the Diocese of the Midwest at Holy Assumption Church here July 14-16, 2016.

"Titled 'The Small Parish: Possibilities and Opportunities,' the Forum is open to clergy and laity hoping to inspire and motivate parishes of 75 or less members to accept their calling to live a life in Christ without necessarily becoming 'big,'" said Joseph Kormos, Forum facilitator. "Sessions will offer a wealth of actionable tips and practices."

■ **FULL STORY, REGISTRATION INFO:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/register-now-for-third-small-parish-forum-july-14-16>

Archbishop Demetrios guest of OCA Chancery

SYOSSET, NY – For the first time since His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon was elected Primate of the OCA, His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese visited the Chancery on May 10, 2016.



Accompanying Archbishop Demetrios were His Grace, Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, Archdiocesan Chancellor; Archimandrite Nathanael Symeonides, Director of the Archdiocese's Office of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; and the Reverend Deacon Eleftherios Constantine, who met the OCA's Officers – Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor; Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, Secretary; and Melanie Ringa, Treasurer – and Protos-priester Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs. Discussions focused on current and future relations between the OCA and the Archdiocese; the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA; the place of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey; and the Great and Holy Council. ■ **FULL STORY, ADDRESS:** <http://oca.org/media/photos/archbishop-demetrios-guest-of-metropolitan-tikhon-at-chancery>

Study resources available for Church History volume of Fr. Hopko's "The Orthodox Faith" series

SYOSSET, NY – While the late Protos-priester Thomas Hopko was working on the revised edition of his four-volume series, *The Orthodox Faith*, he felt that adding discussion questions to the texts would enhance the books' usefulness. Subsequently, he requested members of the Department of Christian Education [DCE] to develop study resources/questions for each volume.

"Father Thomas especially wanted study resources for the History volume, as it is the most thoroughly revised and expanded, through his efforts and those of Dr. David C. Ford of Saint Tikhon's Seminary," said Matushka Valerie Zahirsky, DCE Chairperson. "DCE members then developed 109 questions for the volume, and currently are preparing similar study guides for the three remaining volumes. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/study-resources-now-available-for-history-volume-of-the-orthodox-faith>

SVOTS Trustees implement new governance model

YONKERS, NY – The Board of Trustees of Saint Vladimir's Seminary voted in May 2016 to adopt a new governance model, headed by a newly defined Chief Executive Officer [CEO] position. The model became effective on May 27, with additional components to be implemented in the near future.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, Board President, recognized "the excellent work undertaken by Board members over the past year as they worked with the Administration to tackle the challenging issues that are changing the environment in which the crucial work of theological education takes place."

The new model replaces the current bicameral system, headed by a Dean and a Chancellor/CEO, with four executive officers responsible for Academic Affairs, Operations, Advancement, and Finances, all of whom will report to a single CEO. A new business plan also was adopted to reflect the current "best practices" employed by other seminaries accredited by the Association for Theological Schools. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/svots-trustees-implement-new-governance-model-see-ceo>

ocareview

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*, especially to those without internet access.

June 2016

Father John Matusiak, Editor
info@oca.org

Metropolitan Tikhon addresses NCCC gathering

BALTIMORE, MD – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, addressed participants at the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA's annual Christian Unity Gathering here on May 4, 2016. The theme of the gathering was "Fear Not: God's Love in an Anxious Age." The complete text of his address is available on-line. ■ **FULL STORY, ADDRESS:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-addresses-nccc-annual-gathering>

**Help "expand the Mission!"
Become a Steward of the OCA
DONATE ON-LINE
<http://oca.org/become-a-steward>**

In Memoriam

- Priest Walter Smith, Rector of the Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church, Waterbury, CT, fell asleep in the Lord May 14, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/priest-walter-smith>
- Archpriest Gregory Dye of Holy Trinity Church, Overland Park, KS, fell asleep in the Lord May 13, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-gregory-dye>
- Archpriest William Tarenko, retired Rector of the Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church, Waterbury, CT, fell asleep in the Lord in Lubbock, TX May 8, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-william-a-tarenko>