

Metropolitan Tikhon addresses Orlando shootings in archpastoral letter, statement

SYOSSET, NY – On Monday, June 13, 2016, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon issued an Archpastoral Letter to the hierarchs, clergy, monastics and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America and a Public Statement in response to the tragic shootings that occurred in Orlando, FL on Sunday, June 12.

“The hope of the Church is that all people should be saved and come to know the love of God,” Metropolitan Tikhon wrote. “It is therefore heartbreaking to see the triumph of evil and destruction on this earth. We have witnessed yet another manifestation of the brokenness and division wrought by the evil one in the tragic shooting in Orlando, the worst mass murder in United States history.”

The complete texts are available on-line. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-issues-archpastoral-letter-public-statement-on-the-orka>

Holy Synod issues “Sincerely Held Religious Beliefs Regarding Marriage” document

SYOSSET, NY – The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America approved a statement, “Sincerely Held Religious Beliefs Regarding Marriage,” on June 16, 2016 to articulate the basic and fundamental beliefs of the OCA regarding marriage in terms that could be understood and applied by federal, state, and local governmental officials without the necessity of any probing inquiry or interpretation that might require them to transgress limitations imposed on them by the First Amendment to the US Constitution and by related federal or state legislation, such as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993. The document is descriptive of marriage in the Orthodox understanding and also establishes guidelines regarding the usage of church property in related respects.

The complete text appears on-line. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-of-bishops-issues-sincerely-held-religious-beliefs-regarding-mar>

Holy and Great Council convenes in Crete

CRETE – The Holy and Great Council concluded with the concelebration of the Divine Liturgy on June 26, 2016, at which His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople presided. The closing session was held one day earlier.



According to the Council's press office, Patriarch Bartholomew, “expressed his joy for the willing and positive response of the Local Autocephalous Orthodox Churches in attendance.” The Churches of Antioch, Russia, Bulgaria and Georgia did not participate. They also “expressed their confidence that the Council opens a new era of conciliarity for the Orthodox Church to express its positions on the contemporary problems of man in the world.... His All-Holiness added that conciliarity is another word that characterizes the unity, holiness, catholicity and apostolicity of the Church.”

A wealth of reports and documents, including the gathering's closing encyclical, is available on-line. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-and-great-council-concludes-on-the-sunday-of-all-saints>



Metropolitan Tikhon presents archpastoral staff to newly enthroned Bishop Alexander.

Bishop Alexander enthroned as second Bishop of Dallas

DALLAS, TX – His Grace, Bishop Alexander was enthroned as the second Bishop of Dallas and the South at Saint Seraphim Cathedral here during the second weekend of June 2016.

The celebration opened on Friday afternoon, June 10, with a reception, after which Great Vespers was celebrated. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and several members of the Holy Synod of Bishops joined clergy and faithful from across the diocese and beyond.

On Saturday, June 11, Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, after which Metropolitan Tikhon presented the archpastoral staff to Bishop Alexander.

Canonically elected by the Holy Synod on March 29, 2016, Bishop Alexander succeeds His Eminence, Archbishop Dmitri, who in retirement fell asleep in the Lord at the age of 87 on August 28, 2011.

Established in the late 1970s, the Diocese of the South has grown to number nearly 80 parishes and missions and three monastic communities spanning 14 states.

■ **FULL STORY, GALLERY:** <http://oca.org/media/photos/bishop-alexander-enthroned-as-second-bishop-of-dallas-and-the-south>

“Youth Council” highlight of FOCA Convention

ROSEMONT, IL – The “Youth Council” that will gather during the 90th National Convention of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America [FOCA] July 22-25, 2016 will be a “first.”

Youth entering grades 6 through twelve will share four days of fellowship, outings, and meetings with our hierarchs and Church leaders to “expand the mission” of the Church. The gathering is being cosponsored by the FOCA, the OCA Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry and the Diocese of the Midwest.

“Participants will meet their peers from all over the US and form lasting friendships while worshipping, learning, and simply being together,” said Andrew Boyd, OCA Youth Director. “They’ll experience the ‘greater Church’ in prayer and worship, especially in the Divine Liturgy, at which His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and other members of our Holy Synod of Bishops will serve. They’ll also enjoy a variety of outings that include Chicago’s Navy Pier, a waterpark, and a service project.” ■ **FULL STORY, REGISTRATION INFO, SCHEDULE:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/register-now-for-foca-convention-youth-council-july-22-25>

Music symposium attracts nearly 150 participants

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – Nearly 150 participants from 31 states and five countries attended the 2016 Pan-Orthodox Music Symposium at Saint Mary’s Cathedral here June 23-26, 2016.

Sponsored by the Finnish-based International Society for Orthodox Church Music [ISOCM], the symposium featured numerous presentations by and working sessions with noted Church musicians. The keynote address was delivered by Father Ivan Moody, ISOCM’s Board Chair, who explored how beauty, prayer, and music are inherent to our Orthodox Christian ethos and liturgical experience.

His Grace, Bishop Paul of Chicago and His Eminence, Metropolitan Elia of Oulu, Finland concelebrated the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, at which participants sang the responses.

ISOCM works to increase awareness of Orthodox liturgical music and chant by hosting gatherings around the globe, publishing resources and proceedings from its events, and facilitating research studies that explore the many facets of Orthodox Christian music. ■ **FULL STORY:** <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/isocm-symposium-celebrates-unity-in-diversity-of-orthodox-church-music>



Symposium participants sing Saturday All-Night Vigil.

New STM Press title highlights instructions, teachings of St. Tikhon

SOUTH CANAAN, PA – Saint Tikhon’s Monastery Press recently released its latest title, *Saint Tikhon of Moscow: Instructions & Teachings for the American Orthodox Faithful (1898-1907)*. The volume features his sermons and other writings, newly translated and edited by Alex Maximov and Dr. David C. Ford. His words and sermons form an engaging “archpastoral diary” of sorts, detailing major aspects of Church life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries while detecting similarities and differences between that era and our own. Saint Tikhon was bishop and later archbishop in North America from 1898 until 1907. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/our-heritage-new-stm-press-title-highlights-st.-tikhons-instructions-teachi>



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.

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OCA summer camps open

The end of the school year ushers in the opening of the OCA’s network of “coast-to-coast” summer camps! A comprehensive directory of over a dozen summer camping programs is now available on-line at <https://oca.org/PDF/NEWS/2016/2016-0530-summer-camps.pdf>.

**Help “expand the Mission!”
Become a Steward of the OCA
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<http://oca.org/become-a-steward>**

In Memoriam

- **Eugenia [Johanna] Pleska**, mother of Archbishop Melchisedek, fell asleep in the Lord in Dayton, OH June 26, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/johanna-pleska-mother-of-archbishop-melchisedek>
- **Archpriest Boris Gulin**, father of Priest Nikolai Gulin of Philadelphia, PA, fell asleep in the Lord in Moscow June 26, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-boris-gulin>
- **Lawrence Moriak**, father of Bishop Matthias, fell asleep in the Lord June 17, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/lawrence-moriak-father-of-bishop-matthias>
- **Priest Justin Foster**, retired Rector of the Protection of the Holy Virgin Mary Church, Royalton, IL, fell asleep in the Lord June 14, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/priest-justin-foster>
- **Riasaphor Monk Vladimir [Poszywak]** fell asleep in the Lord in Lorain, OH May 29, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/monk-vladimir-poszywak>