

## *Metropolitan Tikhon leads Orthodox marchers*

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Tens of thousands of marchers gathered in the US capital on Friday, January 19, 2018 for the 45th annual March for Life. The theme of this year's March was "Love Saves Lives."

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, led the Orthodox Christian hierarchs, clergy, seminarians and faithful at the March. Joining him were His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania and His Eminence, Archbishop Michael of New York and New Jersey. In addition to representing the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, Metropolitan Tikhon represented the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA at the request of His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios, Assembly Chair.

On the eve of the March, Metropolitan Tikhon attended a Prayer Vigil at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Presiding was His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan of New York, who together with other Roman Catholic hierarchs extended a warm welcome to Metropolitan Tikhon and those accompanying him.

At Friday morning's pre-March program, Metropolitan Tikhon led the marchers in the opening prayer and later offered prayers for the victims of abortion. Among the marchers were students from Saint Tikhon's and Saint Vladimir's Seminaries. On Friday evening, Metropolitan Tikhon attended the annual Rose Dinner, at which Pam Tebow gave the keynote address. ■

**FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/strong-orthodox-christian-presence-at-dc-march-for-life1> ■

**VIDEO:** <https://oca.org/media/video/metropolitan-tikhon-leads-orthodox-prayer-service-at-march-for-life>



## *Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon on the Sanctity of Life*

To the Honorable Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

From the moment they were born, both Moses and our Lord Jesus Christ faced great danger: as infants someone wanted each of them dead. Moses's

life was saved because the Hebrew midwives feared God more than Pharaoh, so they refused to follow the order to kill the newborn males [Exodus 1:17]. And our Savior's life was spared because of angelic intervention [Matthew 2:13].

But the Holy Innocents were not spared. Herod's lust for power, or rather his deep-seated insecurity, led to the massacre of a multitude of small children and the bitter weeping of their inconsolable

mothers. We sing of this at the Ninth Royal Hour on Christmas Eve:

"Mothers were bereft of their infants, and by an untimely death their babes were bitterly harvested. Breasts grew dry and sources of milk were stopped. Great was this calamity!"

The root of sin, and specifically of violence toward our fellow human beings, has not changed since those times. It has always been our passions: anger, fear, judgment, despair, jealousy, pride, vanity, to name only a few. Moreover, the Fathers of our Church have always taught that the nature of all passions is one and the same: love of the self. This is, in the words of our Lord, "not to think the things of God, but those of man" [Matthew 16:23], or in other words, not to think as God does, but as people do. We learn from the Apostle Paul how God thinks. He does not think of His divinity as a thing to hold onto, but He empties Himself taking the form of a servant [Philippians 2:6-7]. The mind of God is not only *not* to kill, but to give life to the world through His death [John 6:33,51].

Locking ourselves within our own minds and setting ourselves as the standard of life, not only do we not see God for what He is, but we don't see our fellow human beings for what they are. They become objects of our ideas and plans, props in our own life narratives, subjects of our own desires. We hurt others in many ways just to make them fit us better. The calamities we inflict on each other are not different in nature since the beginning of time, they are only greater. Today we have means to injure others on extraordinarily larger scales. We have the means to hurt others all the way on the other side of the planet with the typing of 280 characters. We have means to execute the condemned by the thousands. We have means to destroy the enemy by the hundreds of

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## **Fr. Daniel Andrejuk begins duties as OCA Representative to Moscow Patriarchate**

**SYOSSET, NY** – Archpriest Daniel Andrejuk began duties as the Orthodox Church in America's Representative to the Moscow Patriarchate and Rector of the OCA's Representation Church of the Great Martyr Catherine, Moscow, on February 1, 2018.



**Fr. Daniel and Matushka Vera with Metropolitan Tikhon, Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky and Fr. John Jillions.**

Father Daniel was appointed to the position by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and the Holy Synod of Bishops. On Friday, February 26, Metropolitan Tikhon celebrated a Molieben in the Chancery's Saint Sergius of Radonezh Chapel for Father Daniel and Matushka Vera and their three daughters, Paraskeva, Ephimia and Fevronia before their January 29 departure for Moscow.

Born in Bialystok, Poland on January 11, 1976, Father Daniel and his family relocated to the US when he was 12 years old. A 1999 graduate of Saint Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, PA he continued studies at the Moscow Theological Academy, from which he graduated in 2002. He was ordained to the diaconate and priesthood in 2002. For several years, he served as Rector of Saint Tikhon of Moscow Church, Anchorage, AK.

May God bless and grant many years to the Andrejuks as they begin this new chapter in their lives. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/fr.-daniel-andrejuk-begins-duties-as-oca-representative-to-moscow-patriarch> ■ **VIDEO:** <https://oca.org/media/video/metropolitan-tikhon-serves-molieben-for-new-representative-to-russian-church>

## **Diocesan chancellors, treasurers hold annual meeting**

**SYOSSET, NY** – Chancellors and treasurers from eleven dioceses of the Orthodox Church in America held their seventh annual meeting at the Chancery on Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

In his opening remarks, Metropolitan Tikhon noted that the working group of chancellors and treasurers complements the work of the Holy Synod of Bishops and the Metropolitan Council and serves as a great example of the Church pursuing the apostolic work of the Church. With regard to 2018's 19th All-American Council, he explained that the gathering will be "foundational" in nature as it "begins a new chapter" in the life of the Church and provides the vision of where the Church is going in the future. He concluded his remarks by referencing the "Four Pillars" he has been refining as a means of discerning how we can translate the Gospel into a message that can be received and lived out in our parishes and our missionary work.

Archpriest John Jillions, OCA Chancellor, presented information on clergy compensation. The chancellors and treasurers expressed concern over a potential shortage of clergy in the immediate future, due in part to retirements.

Melanie Ringa, OCA Treasurer, reviewed results of the first two years of proportional giving, noting that the results were very close to initial projections presented at the 18th All-American Council in 2015. She also presented options for funding the Church for the next three to four years that will be presented for further discussion at the Spring Metropolitan Council meeting.

Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary, provided a detailed update on plans for the 19th All-American Council, noting that online registration is now available. ■ <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/diocesan-chancellors-treasurers-hold-seventh-annual-meeting-at-oca-chancery>

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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Fr. John Matusiak, Editor • [info@oca.org](mailto:info@oca.org)

## **STM Press releases new edition of Divine Liturgy**

**SOUTH CANAAN, PA** – Saint Tikhon's Monastery Press recently released *Hieratikon II: Liturgy Book for Priest and Deacon*, edited by Hieromonk Herman [Majkrzak] and Dr. Vitaly Permiakov.

Published with the blessing of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, the volume includes the full texts of the Liturgies of Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Basil the Great and the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, along with explanatory introductions for the Hierarchical, Vespereal, and Paschal Liturgies; the order of censuring; and priestly and diaconal concelebration. Appendices include hymns and verses of the liturgical year, various blessings, and more.

The 360-page volume is available from Saint Tikhon's Monastery Press, 175 Saint Tikhon's Road, Waymart, PA 18472 or by contacting Priest Innocent Neal at 888-454-6678; [innocent.neal@stmprpress.com](mailto:innocent.neal@stmprpress.com). ■

**FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/new-edition-of-the-divine-liturgy-now-available-from-stm-press>

## **19th AAC registration opens for delegates, youth**

**SYOSSET, NY** – In early January 2018, it was announced that online registration is now open for delegates, observers and youth participants to the 19th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America, slated to convene in Saint Louis, MO July 23-27, 2018. ■ **FULL STORIES:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/online-registration-for-19th-aac-delegates-begins> and <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/19th-aac-youth-program-registration-now-open>

## Metropolitan Tikhon celebrates Theophany in Mexico City

**MEXICO CITY** – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, made an archpastoral visit to Mexico City for the celebration of the Great Feast of Theophany January 6-9, 2018. His visit also marked the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the construction of Mexico City's Cathedral of the Ascension and the 45th anniversary of the reception into canonical Orthodoxy of what is today the OCA's Diocese of Mexico.

On Sunday, January 7, Metropolitan Tikhon concelebrated the Divine Liturgy at the cathedral with His Eminence, Archbishop Alejo and His Eminence, Metropolitan Ignacio, Archbishop of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Mexico, Venezuela, Central America and the Islands of the Caribbean Sea, and area clergy. Also in attendance was His Eminence, Metropolitan Athenagoras of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Mexico, Central America, Columbia, Venezuela, and the Caribbean Islands.

"It is a great joy to be with you again this year, at the invitation of His Eminence, Archbishop Alejo, for the Feast of Holy Theophany," Metropolitan Tikhon said at the conclusion of the Liturgy. "This feast is one in which we most clearly receive the light of Christ and are filled with the joy of His appearing.

"The joy of the feast is made even greater through the blessing of our concelebration today with His Eminence, Metropolitan Ignacio of the Antiochian Patriarchate, and with the presence with us of His Eminence, Metropolitan Athenagoras of the Ecumenical Patriarchate," Metropolitan Tikhon continued. "It is wonderful to give concrete and visible expression to the good relations that exist between all the Orthodox Churches, and particularly here in Mexico."

Metropolitan Tikhon and Archbishop Alejo then celebrated the Great Blessing of Water before they and the clergy and faithful left in procession to bless the park adjacent to the cathedral, to

the delight of the many people who had gathered there. Before the procession, a large cross, which was elevated in



**Metropolitan Tikhon and Archbishop Alejo delight faithful and neighbors as they bless the park next to Mexico City's Ascension Cathedral.**

the park, and a floral arrangement marking the anniversary of the cathedral's construction were blessed. Prior to a festive luncheon, Archbishop Alejo

distributed food baskets to the cathedral's most elderly members while Metropolitan Tikhon blessed everyone with icons of Saint Tikhon of Moscow.

On Monday, January 8, Metropolitan Athenagoras hosted Metropolitan

Tikhon and Archbishop Alejo at Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, where they discussed several matters of mutual importance to the mission in Mexico and world Orthodoxy. Later the same day, Metropolitan Ignacio welcomed Metropolitan Tikhon and Archbishop Alejo at Saints Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral, where similar discussions were held. At both gatherings, the subject of missionary outreach received much attention. ■ **FULL**

**STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-celebrates-great-feast-of-theophany-in-mexico-city>

### In Brief

#### Five missions receive 2018 Church Planting Grants

**SYOSSET, NY** – With the blessing of the Holy Synod of Bishops, five recently established missions will receive Church Planting Grants during 2018.

Receiving first-year grants are Saint John of Chicago Mission, Rogers, AR and Saint Nikolai Mission, Louisville, OH. Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Mission, Rollo, MO will receive a second year grant, while Saint Nektarios Mission, Waxahachie, TX and Saint Juvenaly and His Companion Mission, Wasilla, AK will receive grants for their third and final year.

The Mission Planting Grant Program is made possible in part due to the generous support of the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-approves-2018-church-planting-grants>

#### Pension Board continues parsonage designation

**SYOSSET, NY** – At their quarterly meeting on December 19, 2017, the members of the OCA's Pension Board approved the continuation of the Parsonage Designation Declaration for members of the clergy receiving pension benefits.

The Pension Plan serves over 330 active participants and more than 125 retirees, widows, and beneficiaries. Maureen Ahearn serves as Pension Fund Administrator. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/oca-pension-board-meets-continues-parsonage-designation-declaration-for-ret>

#### Newly released report highlights 21st century parish life

**NEW YORK, NY** – A new report, titled "Orthodox Christian Churches in 21st Century America: A Parish Life Study," was released by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA during the last week of January 2018.

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### **Metropolitan Tikhon's Sanctity of Life Message**

thousands. Finally, we have means to kill the unborn by the millions and billions. The only difference between us and the sinners of ancient times is that we have greater means for putting ourselves first and imposing ourselves on others. Yet, the scariest of all things is not even the scale of our means of violence. Rather it is the fact that our human mind has devolved in its own universe to the point of finding justification for all these terrible violences. At times it even seems that we are drawing near to justifying anything. Human law, established firmly in "the things of men" and not in those of God, follows suit. So many wars have been legal. So many executions have been legal. So many genocides – legal. Christ's own crucifixion – legal. So much violence has been done in the name of the law and of the good of the human being.

In front of this terrible reality some of us will be drawn to prayer. Others will be drawn to helping all the victims of this terrible violence. Others will be drawn to changing the law. But in front of all of us, regardless of our inclinations, is put forth the only Way and the only conquering of death and victory of life – Christ, the One Who "died for the life of the world" [John 6:51]. There is a great mystery hidden in this truth, because Christ died for the life of the world at the hands of the world. This is how Saint John Chrysostom puts it:

"Tell me, what is the goal of the Gospel of grace? Why the revelation of the Son of God in the flesh? So that we bite and devour each other...? Christ didn't die only for friends or for His own, but also for His enemies, for tyrants, for imposters, for those who hated and crucified Him.... Throw the net of love, not so that the lame will fall, but rather that he be healed... and thus having searched the hidden depths, pull out from the chasm of perdition the one drowned by his thoughts.... Do not hate! Do not turn away! Do not persecute! Rather, show him pure and true love."

And how Christ died "for the life of the world" at the hands of the world clarifies for us the most crucial thing, namely that life has only one source and only one victory: selfless or self-sacrificial love. Let us be selfless love for all and we – in the One Who is Love and Life Itself – will conquer death:

"Be persecuted, but persecute not. Be crucified, but crucify not. Be wronged, but wrong not. Be slandered, but slander not. Have clemency, not zeal, with respect to evil. Lay hold of goodness, not justice. Justice does not belong to the Christian way of life, and there is no mention of it in Christ's teaching. Rejoice with them that rejoice, and weep with them that weep: for this is the sign of limpid purity. Suffer with the sick, and mourn with sinners; with those who repent, rejoice.... Be a partaker in the sufferings of all men, but keep your body distant from all. Rebuke no man, revile no man, not even those who live very wickedly. Spread your cloak over the man who is falling and cover him" [Saint Isaac of Syria].

May the world see our love, receive it from our own cross, and fill itself with life in it!

With love in Christ,  
+ **Tikhon**  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhons-sanctity-of-life-message-now-available>

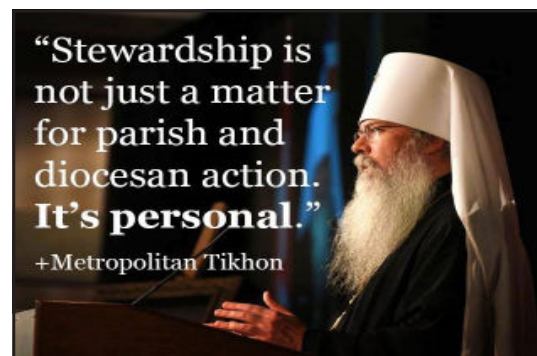
## **In Memoriam**

- **His Grace, Bishop Mark [Forsberg]**, Former Bishop of Boston, 83, fell asleep in the Lord on January 8, 2018. Funeral services were celebrated at Christ the Saviour Cathedral, Miami Lakes, FL. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/bishop-mark-forsberg>
- **Julie Ann Voytovich**, mother of Archpriest Steven Voytovich, Dean of Saint Tikhon's Seminary, fell asleep in the Lord in Gilman, WI on December 15, 2017. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/julie-ann-voytovich>
- **Archpriest John M. Klembara**, 86, Pastor Emeritus of Saint Andrew Church, Maple Heights, OH, fell asleep in the Lord on December 15, 2017. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-john-m.-klembara>

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### **New Assembly report released**

The report offers a detailed picture of US parishes today with regard to membership, worship, programs, religious education, youth, use of electronic technologies, and a variety of other aspects of Church life. A total of 580 parishes participated in the study, which was conducted by Alexei Krindatch, the Assembly's Research Coordinator. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/newly-released-assembly-of-bishops-report-highlights-21st-century-parish-li>



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