

Church Ministries / Commissions

Canonization Commission

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Accomplishments/Progress Since the 13th All-American Council

By decision of the Fall 2004 session of the Holy Synod, the Canonization Commission, inactive for several years, was reestablished and a new chairman and membership were appointed.

By direction of the Holy Synod, the commission is currently beginning careful study and investigation of all available material concerning Archbishop Arseny (Chahovtsev), who reposed in 1945, and who played instrumental roles in the establishment of both St. Tikhon's Monastery (1905) and Seminary (1938), and also served as Bishop of Canada (1926-37). Searches are being undertaken in order to acquire copies of the writings of Archbishop Arseny, some of which may exist only in Russia or Ukraine. Upon completion of this thorough research by the commission, Bishop Seraphim of Canada, Commission Chairman, will report its results to the Holy Synod.

As is the universal practice of the Orthodox Church, the Canonization Commission's study of individuals being considered for glorification by the Church includes the following criteria:

- ♦ Veneration
- ♦ Martyrdom
- ♦ Miracles
- ♦ Holiness and righteousness
- ♦ Orthodoxy of teachings and writings
- ♦ Spiritual impact on the Church

Not all of these criteria are absolute prerequisites in every case of glorification by the Church.

As in the past, the commission will work most closely with the Department of History and Archives, as much of its research involves the study of historical documents and other materials in the OCA Archives. The Canonization Commission exists for particular and general purposes, regarding the study of holy persons, at the service of the Holy Synod of Bishops, the dioceses, and the Church.

Although the fiscal resources of the commission are very limited, nevertheless, as in other autocephalous Churches, the commission is competent to receive documents of and about, and other information on, significant personalities in the history of the Orthodox Church in America, and its antecedent, the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church in North America. The commission can also receive information and related material concerning persons considered holy by the faithful. Not all holy persons of the Church need necessarily be included on the calendar of the whole Church, but the commission is competent to assist local dioceses in their research regarding local persons as well.