**Metropolitan Tikhon attends Papal gathering**

NEW YORK, NY – Metropolitan Tikhon attended the “Multi-Religious Gathering with Pope Francis” at the Museum of the National 9/11 Memorial on September 25, 2015. Accompanying him was Archpriest John Jillions, OCA Chancellor. Hierarchs of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, and the Oriental Churches also were present, along with representatives of other faith traditions. During a brief ceremony, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Demetrios read the Beatitudes in Greek.

Pope Francis called on those present to observe a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives and as a sign of “commitment to the cause of peace throughout this world which God has given us as the home of all and a home for all.”

**Metropolitan Tikhon with Antiochian Metropolitan Joseph and Coptic Bishop David at 9/11 Memorial.**

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**YONKERS, NY** – Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed Patriarch Irinej of Serbia to St. Vladimir’s Seminary on September 11, 2015. During an academic convocation, at which Archpriest Dr. John Behr, Dean, presided, Patriarch Irinej was awarded an Honorary Doctorate.

Accompanying Patriarch Irinej were Bishops Maxim and Mitrophan of the Serbian Church’s Western American and Eastern America Dioceses respectively and Bishop Justin of Zica.

After being invested with the academic hood and doctoral cross, Patriarch Irinej delivered a lecture titled “Theology as a Hope for the Future of the Church.”

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**Metropolitan Tikhon welcomes Serbian Patriarch**

**SITKA, AK** – In line with a National Park Service [NPS] project to restore a portion of Sitka National Park to its appearance in Russian colonial times, a search for the burial site and relics of St. Jacob Netsvetov recently began.

In a meeting with NPS reps, Bishop David of Sitka and Alaska had brought up the possibility of locating the relics which, if found, would be enshrined in Sitka’s St. Michael Cathedral.

Cornell University’s Dr. Thomas Urban arrived in Sitka where, with the help of a “ground penetrating radar” device, scanning was initiated.

It is suspected that St. Jacob was interred near the entrance to a church that once stood on the site.

Born on Atka Island in 1802, the son of a Russian father and Aleut mother, St. Jacob was Orthodox Christianity’s first North American-born priest. His tireless missionary efforts brought about the conversion of many across Alaska’s Yukon River region. He fell asleep in the Lord in 1864.

**Assembly of Bishops meets in Chicago**

**CHICAGO, IL** – Metropolitan Tikhon and members of the OCA Holy Synod of Bishops participated in the sixth annual meeting of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA here September 15-17, 2015.

This year’s meeting included sessions devoted to canonical regional planning, during which the Assembly’s 12 jurisdictional first hierarchs offered their insights on a proposal prepared by the Committee for Canonical Regional Planning slated to be submitted to the Great and Holy Council in 2016. Working sessions on pastoral practices involving marriage and divorce also were held.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the hierarchs issued a statement to the faithful.

**Searching for the relics of St. Jacob Netsvetov**

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Archbishop Benjamin represents OCA at canonizations

ALHAMBRA, CA – Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West represented the OCA at the canonization of Bishop Mardarije [Uskokovic] and Archimandrite Sebastian [Dabovich] at St. Steven Serbian Orthodox Cathedral here September 5, 2015.

Patriarch Irinej of Serbia presided at the celebration.

St. Sebastian was born in San Francisco, CA in 1863. As a priest he worked closely with Archbishop [now St.] Tikhon in various capacities and locations in the North American Mission. In 1894, he established the first Serbian parish in the US in Jackson, CA. He fell asleep in the Lord in Serbia in 1940.


OCA Departments share hopes for future

SYOSSET, NY– A great deal of enthusiasm was generated by reports offered by the OCA’s departments during the 18th All-American Council in July 2015. In a feature article recently posted on the OCA web site, the Departments of Continuing Education, Pastoral Life, Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid, Christian Education, Liturgical Music and Translations, and Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry and the Office of Military and Veterans Administration Chaplains shared their vision and plans in the months and years ahead in light of the AAC theme, “How To Expand The Mission.” ■ http://oca.org/news/headline-news/oca-departments-share-current-future-plans-for-expanding-the-mission

OCA young adults attend international youth festival

SUPRASL, POLAND – Five young adults – Janine Alpaugh, Joseph Green, William Kopcha, Victor Lutes, and John Shimchick – represented the OCA at the international youth festival sponsored by Syndesmos, the World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth, during the last week of August 2015. The theme – “Attaining Conciliarity” – was introduced by Archpriest Dr. Chad Hatfield, Chancellor of St. Vladimir’s Seminary, in his keynote address. Over 40 young adults from Germany, Russia, Slovakia, Romania, France and elsewhere attended.


OCA participants welcomed by Archbishop Jacob of Bialystok and Gdansk.