

FOCA convention hosts first "youth council"

ROSEMONT, IL – For the first time, members of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America hosted a "youth council" in conjunction with their 90th annual national convention here July 22–25, 2016.

Organized by the OCA Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry and the Diocese of the Midwest, the youth enjoyed a program that included worship, outings, discussions with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and the other hierarchs in attendance, and sessions on how to expand the mission of the Church. Under the guidance of Priest Benjamin Tucci and OCA Youth Director Andrew Boyd, the youth also prepared a Powerpoint presentation which they shared with the convention's delegates.

Youth enjoy outing to Chicago's Navy Pier.



The highlight of the weekend was Sunday's Liturgy, celebrated by Metropolitan Tikhon and His Grace, Bishop Paul; His Grace, Bishop David; and His Grace, Bishop Daniel.

■ **FULL STORY:** <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/90th-foca-national-convention-hosts-first-youth-council>

OCA Diaconal Practicum marks decade of growth

YONKERS, NY – Over the past decade, the OCA's Diaconal Liturgical Practicum has become an established program offering ongoing intensive instruction for deacons. Initiated with the blessing of the Holy Synod of Bishops, the practicum is held on the campus of Saint Vladimir's Seminary here as part of the OCA's Diaconal Vocations Program, directed by Archdeacon Kirill Sokolov.

This year's gathering, held June 26–29, 2016, opened with a presentation by Archpriest Chad Hatfield on the topic "Eucharistic Living and the Diaconate," which set an evangelistic tone for the remainder of the program that included the daily celebration of the Divine Liturgy and Vespers, liturgical practice sessions, and a variety of related presentations by His Grace, Bishop Paul; Archpriest Sergius Halvorsen; and others. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/oca-diaconal-liturgical-practicum-marks-decade-of-growth>

OCA Treasurer releases report for first half of 2016

SYOSSET, NY – Melanie Ringa, Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, released the financial results for the first two quarters of 2016.

Highlights of the report include the following.

- The balance sheet as of June 30, 2016 indicates total assets of \$2,847,991.00, total liabilities of \$237,618.00, and net assets of \$2,610,373.00 – a \$63,113.00 increase year-to-date.
- Actual results show a surplus of \$63,113.00. The Unrestricted [Operating] Fund showed a net surplus of \$43,162.00 for the quarter ended March 31, 2016 and a net deficit of \$25,370.00 for the quarter ended June 30, 2016 – a year-to-date operating surplus of \$17,792.00.
- Year-to-date contributions to the "Stewards of the OCA" totaled \$38,313.00 – \$8,723.00 above the anticipated amount.
- Income and unrealized investment gains totaled \$45,914.00 with expenses of \$4,052.00, for a net surplus of \$41,862.00. ■ **COMPLETE REPORT:** <http://oca.org/PDF/NEWS/2016/2016-0721-treasurer-report-2016Q2.pdf>



Free "Orthodoxy in America" app available

BERLIN, MD – Priest John Parsells and his associates at Orthodox Web Solutions have developed a new free app – "Orthodoxy in America" – for smartphones and tablets.

"The app features news, social posts, daily audio, and trending photos, as well as video and 360 tours from various jurisdictions, agencies, seminaries, monasteries, and a variety of popular Orthodox media outlets," said Father John. "News from the Orthodox Church in America and its institutions also is featured to help inform, educate and inspire the faithful to live and share their Faith."

Android, Apple, and Windows versions – totally free and without advertisements – are in the app stores now. ■ **DOWNLOAD FREE APP:** <http://orthodoxyinamerica.org/>

Apply now for 2017 Church Planting Grants

SYOSSET, NY – Applications for 2017 Church Planting Grants are now being accepted by the OCA's Department of Evangelization. Applications must be received no later than August 26, 2016 to receive consideration. Grants will begin on January 1, 2017.

Grants of up to \$24,000.00 are awarded to first-year recipients. Grants must only be used to help provide a salary for a full-time resident priest and must be matched by the qualifying mission, deanery, or diocese. Grants may be renewed for a maximum of three years. ■ **APPLICATION, MORE INFO:** <http://goodnews.oca.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2017-planting-grant-application.pdf>

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

Small parish forum attracts over 50 participants

CANTON, OH – Fifty-four individuals representing parishes from five OCA dioceses participated in the Small Parish Forum held at Holy Assumption Church here July 14-16, 2016.

Co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania and the Diocese of the Midwest – represented at the forum by His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek and His Grace, Bishop Paul – the program was facilitated by Joseph Kormos, the Archdiocese’s Parish Development Leader. Presenters included Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary, who delivered the keynote address; Archpriests Peter Baktis and Marc Vranes; Priests Daniel Mathewson and Justin Patterson; and Benedict Sheehan.

The forum was the third in a series initiated in 2014. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/small-parish-forum-attracts-over-50-participants>



Forum participants with Archbishop Melchisedek and Bishop Paul.

Conferences reflect growth of Mexican Diocese

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO –

Nearly 100 youth and young adults gathered here on June 1 for the Diocese of Mexico’s youth conference. Representing several parishes and missions, the youth shared in worship, discussions and inspiring talks, and fellowship with their peers. His Eminence, Archbishop Alejo spoke on the challenges to Christian life faced in today’s world. The gathering also served to network the younger faithful, some of whom are from remote areas of the country.

One week later, the diocese’s clergy gathered at Mexico City’s Ascension Cathedral for their seventh pastoral conference, during which Archbishop Alejo encouraged the clergy and monastics “to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the land.” ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/youth-pastoral-conferences-reflect-growth-of-mexican-diocese>



Archbishop Alejo addresses diocesan youth.

Bishop Paul, MW clergy guests of RO Church

TIKHVIN, RUSSIA – His Grace, Bishop Paul, together with Archpriests John Adamcio and Alexander Garklavs and Deacon Alexander Koranda, participated in the celebration of the feast of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God here July 4-12, 2016. As is widely known, the Tikhvin Icon had been enshrined in Chicago’s Holy Trinity Cathedral from the late 1940s until its return to Russia in 2004.

Bishop Paul with Bishop Mstislav of Tikhvin.



While in Russia, Bishop Paul and his entourage also visited numerous religious sites in St. Petersburg, Kronstadt, and elsewhere, and celebrated the Divine Liturgy in Holy Trinity Cathedral in the Saint Alexander Nevsky Lavra.

■ **FULL STORY:** <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/bishop-paul-mw-clergy-guests-of-russian-church-for-feast-of-the-tikhvin-ico>

In Memoriam

- **Prifteresha Viola Soter**, wife of retired Archpriest Michael Soter, fell asleep in the Lord in Belear Beach, FL July 22, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/prifteresha-viola-soter>
- **Matushka Olga Zajchenko**, wife of the late Archpriest Theodore Zajchenko, fell asleep in the Lord in Jackson, NJ July 18, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/matushka-olga-zajchenko>
- **Elsie Skvir Nierle**, Trustee Emerita of St. Vladimir’s Seminary and member of Holy Cross Church, Williamsport, PA, fell asleep in the Lord July 17, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/elsie-skvir-nierle>
- **Protodeacon Basil Safchuk**, attached in retirement to Saint Mark Church, Bethesda, MD and father of Archpriest Gregory Safchuk, fell asleep in the Lord July 14, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/protodeacon-basil-safchuk>
- **Elizabeth Walens**, mother of Archpriest Michael Hatrak and grandmother of Deacon Gregory Hatrak, fell asleep in the Lord in Pittsburgh, PA July 6, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/elizabeth-walens>
- **Matushka Anna Union**, wife of Deacon Elias Union of Saint Susanna Church, Sonora, CA, fell asleep in the Lord July 4, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/matushka-anna-union>

Help “expand the mission” by joining the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America!

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