**Metropolitan Tikhon addresses World Summit in Defense of Persecuted Christians**


“This Summit takes place during the season of the resurrection of Christ, in which we celebrate the victory of the Life-giver over death and the destruction of corruption by the Divine Physician,” said Metropolitan Tikhon. “As Christians, we participate in this victory and this destruction not by the external imposition of force and violence upon others, but rather through our struggle to attain the love of Christ in the Holy Spirit, which is accomplished through humility and patience.”

Also addressing the gathering was His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion [Alfeyev] of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate’s Department for External Church Relations. On the Sunday after the Summit, Metropolitan Tikhon and Metropolitan Hilarion concelebrated the Divine Liturgy at the OCA’s Saint Nicholas Cathedral in the US capital.

Sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, the gathering considered the plight of persecuted Christians in 60 nations. Over 100 victims of persecution were among participants from 130 countries.

Accompanying Metropolitan Tikhon were His Grace, Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa and Archpriests John Jillions and Eric G. Tosi, OCA Chancellor and Secretary respectively. Also participating were His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America; representatives from the Patriarchates of Antioch and Russia; participants from the Oriental Churches; and numerous Roman Catholics and Protestants. ■ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-addresses-world-summit-in-defense-of-persecuted-christians

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**Third annual OCA Mission School opens August 21**

HUNTINGTON, NY – The third annual Mission School of the Orthodox Church in America will be held at Immaculate Conception Seminary here August 21-25, 2017. Each diocesan hierarch will select two participants – one clergy, one lay – to attend the program.

Among the topics that will be developed during the week-long gathering are Missiology and Evangelism Theory, Creating and Understanding a Mission’s Vision, Community Building, Revitalizing a Parish, and Mission Community in Sacramental and Developmental Practice.

“The Mission School is an initiative of the Holy Synod of Bishops that utilizes a bequest to the OCA earmarked for missions and evangelism,” said Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary and Mission School Coordinator. In addition to Father Eric, guest faculty will include Archpriests Chad Hatfield, Timothy Hojnich, John Jillions, David Rucker, Thomas Soroka, and Steven Voytovich; Priest John Parker; and Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak. ■ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/third-annual-oca-mission-school-to-convene-august-21-25

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**Metropolitan Tikhon presides at 113th Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon’s**

SOUTH CANAAN, PA – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon presided at services throughout the 113th annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage to Saint Tikhon’s Monastery May 26-29, 2017.

A pilgrimage highlight was the presence of the Myrrh Streaming Hawaiian Icon of the Iveron Mother of God, which scores of faithful venerated throughout the weekend.

Concelebrating the Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan Tikhon on Memorial Day was His Grace, Bishop Thomas of the Diocese of Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, who addressed graduates of Saint Tikhon’s Seminary at commencement exercises and was awarded a Doctorate of Divinity Honoris Causa. Also concelebrating were His Eminence, Archbishop Mark; His Eminence, Archbishop Irénée; and His Eminence, Archbishop Michael. ■ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-presides-at-113th-annual-memorial-day-pilgrimage
OCA seminaries honor over three dozen graduates

Over three dozen seminarians were honored at commencement exercises at the Orthodox Church in America’s seminaries in May 2017.

On May 14, His Grace, Bishop David of Sitka and Alaska presented diplomas to Deacon Herman Madsen and Elena Levi during the 44th annual commencement exercises at Saint Herman’s Seminary, Kodiak, AK. Several other students were awarded Clinical Pastoral Education certificates. Archpriest David Shewczyk, Professor of Pastoral Theology at Saint Tikhon’s Seminary, South Canaan, PA, delivered the commencement address.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, Chair of Saint Vladimir’s Seminary Board of Trustees, presided at the 75th commencement exercises on the school’s Yonkers, NY campus on May 20. Sixteen graduates from three academic programs received degrees. His Grace, Bishop John of the Antiochian Archdiocese’s Diocese of Worcester and New England, delivered the commencement address, while the seminary’s trustees recognized Archpriest John Behr for his ten years of service as Dean and his recent appointment to the newly established “Father Georges Florovsky Distinguished Professorship of Patristics.”


Registration opens for July Small Parish Forum

NEW KENSINGTON, PA – On-line registration is now open for the Fourth Small Parish Forum to be cosponsored by the Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania and the Diocese of the Midwest at Saint John the Baptist Church, New Kensington, PA, July 13-15 2017. The $100.00 per person registration fee includes meals, breaks, a hospitality reception and materials. The Forum is open to clergy and members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, His Grace, Bishop John of the Antiochian Archdiocese’s Diocese of Worcester and New England, delivered the commencement address, while the seminary’s trustees recognized Archpriest John Behr for his ten years of service as Dean and his recent appointment to the newly established “Father Georges Florovsky Distinguished Professorship of Patristics.”

The Forum theme, “Becoming a Community of Engagement: On Behalf of All,” will be developed in a series of workshops and presentations that will explore ways to inspire and motivate smaller parishes to accept their calling to live a life in Christ without necessarily becoming “big.” The program also will include case studies, discussions, small group conversations and short video contributions.


Noted musician John Sutko awarded Order of St. Romanos

BURR RIDGE, IL – On behalf of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, His Grace, Bishop Paul presented the Order of Saint Romanos to John Sutko at Saint Peter and Saint Paul Church, Burr Ridge, IL on Saturday, May 6, 2017. The award was presented in recognition of Mr. Sutko’s extraordinary contributions to the field of liturgical music, which includes conducting the Burr Ridge parish’s choir for over six decades.

The day’s joy was amplified by the ordination to the priesthood of Mr. Sutko’s grandson, Priest Alexander Koranda. □ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/noted-musician-john-sutko-receives-order-of-st.-romanos

In Memoriam