Metropolitan Tikhon issues statement on Las Vegas shootings

SYOSSET, NY – His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, issued the following statement in response to the tragic events in Las Vegas on October 1, 2017.

"On behalf of the hierarchs, clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, we offer sincere condolences to the families and friends of the victims of the mass shooting in Las Vegas. It always brings great sorrow to hear of such senseless killings in the supposedly civilized world. Our hearts ache for the families and friends of the victims, and we offer fervent prayers for the repose of the souls of those whose lives were tragically cut short. We pray for the victims and the grieving families and ask that God send down upon them the spirit of peace and consolation. We also offer thanksgiving for the timely and heroic actions of the first responders. Finally we offer our prayers for the city of Las Vegas and all of those who have been affected by these tragic events. We ask that all Orthodox Christians remember the victims and their families in their prayers.”


Metropolitan Tikhon, members of Holy Synod attend Eighth Assembly of Bishops meeting

GARFIELD, NJ – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and the US members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America participated in the eight annual meeting of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America here October 3-5, 2017.

The gathering opened with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, Clifton, NJ, after which His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Assembly Chair, delivered his opening address. Plenary sessions focused on youth ministry, leadership, canonical regional planning and related themes. A statement to the faithful, signed by the 32 hierarchs in attendance, was issued at the closing of the meeting.

The OCA has fully participated in the Assembly’s work since its inception in 2009.


Urgently needed renovations to OCA Archives underway

SYOSSET, NY – The Archives of the Orthodox Church in America, located at the Chancery here, will be closed until further notice “due to a number of renovations designed to modernize the facilities and ensure protection of the collection for future research and utilization,” said Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary.

“The renovation project is being funded through a modest endowed fund for the Archives approved for use by the Metropolitan Council and blessed by the Holy Synod,” Father Eric explained. “Plans include waterproofing; establishing a climate controlled environment with proper lighting; reworking the walls, floors and ceilings; a new office area for the Archivist; and a reading room and work space.”

It is anticipated that all renovation work will be completed by the end of the current year.


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OCA communities spared in natural disasters
SYOSSET, NY – As widely reported during the past several weeks, OCA parishes had been spared in a number of recent natural disasters.

Saint Seraphim Cathedral and Our Lady of Kazan Skete, Santa Rosa, CA and Holy Assumption Monastery, Calistoga, CA remained undamaged due to the wildfires that spread across Sonoma and Napa counties, according to His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin. The nuns, who had been evacuated from their communities, have returned. His Eminence, Archbishop Alejo reported only minor damage to Mexico City’s Cathedral of the Ascension during the 7.1 earthquake that struck on September 19. In Florida, no significant damage was reported to any of the churches in the path of Hurricane Irma, although many faithful suffered damage to their properties. ■ FULL STORIES: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/update-on-oca-communities-in-california and https://oca.org/news/headline-news/oca-diocese-of-mexico-assessing-earthquake-damage-in-parishes-missions

19th AAC assessment info now available

“The Preconciliar Commission has prepared a budget that includes $275,000.00 in assessments to the dioceses,” said Melanie Ringa, OCA Treasurer. “Instead of the OCA invoicing parishes directly, the dioceses will be invoiced for their respective portions of the $275,000.00, based on the percentage of their support to the 2017 Operating Budget as calculated by the Finance Resolution adopted at the 18th AAC in 2015.”

Dioceses will have the option of absorbing the assessment or passing it along by invoicing their parishes.

Ms. Ringa added that “these fees have remained unchanged from the 18th AAC.” ■ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/preconciliar-commission-announces-assessments-for-19th-all-american-council

Volunteers for AAC Youth Program needed
SYOSSET, NY – Volunteers to staff and serve as chaperones for the youth program at the 19th All-American Council are being sought by program organizers and the OCA Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry. Faithful age 18 or over with experience in any number of youth ministries are invited to apply by January 1, 2018. Selected candidates will be notified shortly thereafter. ■ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/registration-opens-for-19th-aac-youth-program-volunteers

Historic Alaskan church receives national fund award
UNALASKA, AK – The National Fund for Sacred Places recently announced that Holy Ascension Church was one of 17 US congregations chosen to participate in a national grant-making program that supports capital building projects at historic houses of worship.

A National Historic Landmark, Holy Ascension Church was constructed in 1896 and contains over 200 historic and irreplaceable icons, books, relics and other liturgical items, according to His Grace, Bishop David of Sitka and Alaska.

“The church’s commitment to local Native Alaskan communities is important today,” said Chad Martin, National Fund Director. “We are thrilled with the opportunity to be a part of this major effort to preserve a true treasure of religious architecture as an asset for its community.” ■ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/historic-unalaska-church-receives-national-fund-award