

## **Metropolitan Tikhon serves with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at Orthodoxy Sunday Liturgy**

**ISTANBUL, TURKEY** – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and members of the Patriarchal Holy Synod in the Patriarchal Church of Saint George on the Sunday of Orthodoxy – March 20, 2016. Metropolitan Tikhon's visit came in response to the invitation of His All-Holiness.

Metropolitan Tikhon had accepted similar invitations in recent years. In 2014, he visited the Holy Theological School of Halki and the Patriarchate with Archpriests John Jillions, OCA Chancellor, and Archpriests John Behr and Alexander Rentel of Saint Vladimir's Seminary. In 2015, he and Father Alexander also visited the Patriarchate in connection with the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA.

Accompanied by Father John Jillions, Metropolitan Tikhon met with Patriarch Bartholomew in his office, at which time Metropolitan Tikhon offered greetings on behalf of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America.

"Metropolitan Tikhon and His All-Holiness discussed the Great and Holy Council, His Beatitude's recent visit to Archbishop Leo and the Church of Finland, the work of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the USA, and prospects for renewed formal dialogue with the Patriarchate concerning Orthodox unity and regularizing the canonical situation in North America," said Father John. "His All-Holiness, in turn, welcomed the discussion, recalling his discussions of these

*Continued on the reverse*

**LEFT: Metropolitan Tikhon and Fr. Jillions with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. RIGHT: Metropolitan Tikhon during Divine Liturgy.**



**Metropolitan Tikhon blesses Bishop Alexander after election.**

## **Holy Synod elects Bishop Alexander to vacant Dallas See**

**SYOSSET, NY** – During their Spring Session at the Chancery March 29–April 1, 2016, the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America elected His Grace, Bishop Alexander of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese to fill the vacant See of Dallas and the South.

Bishop Alexander succeeds His Eminence, the late Archbishop Dmitri, who in retirement fell asleep in the Lord at the age of 87 on August 28, 2011.

In separate letters announcing the election to the clergy of the Diocese of the South and the Bulgarian Diocese, Metropolitan Tikhon noted that Bishop Alexander will continue to oversee the Bulgarian Diocese. An archpastoral letter to the faithful of the Diocese of the South was posted on the OCA web site and sent to the faithful of the Diocese of the South on March 31.

Additional information on the Spring Session of the Holy Synod will be featured in the May 2016 edition of OCAreview. ■ **FULL STORIES:** <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-elects-bishop-alexander-of-toledo-to-vacant-dallas-see> and <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/archpastoral-letter-of-metropolitan-tikhon-to-the-diocese-of-the-south>

## **New edition of Fr. Hopko's series released**

**YONKERS, NY** – In mid-March 2016, Saint Vladimir's Seminary Press released an updated and expanded edition of *The Orthodox Faith* series, originally written in 1971 by Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko, who fell asleep in the Lord on March 18, 2015.

The new edition, which includes cover redesign, new illustrations, expanded content to the Church history volume, and numerous other revisions, may be purchased as a complete set or individual volumes from Saint Vladimir's Seminary Bookstore by calling 1-800-204-BOOK. On-line orders may be placed at <http://www.svspress.com/the-orthodox-faith-four-volume-set/>. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/updated-orthodox-faith-series-honors-protopresbyter-thomas-hopkos-memory>



**Bids being sought for OCA web site redesign**

**SYOSSET, NY** – During the first week of March 2016, Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary, issued a request for proposals for a redesign of the OCA web site.

“This represents a strong commitment on the part of the leadership of the OCA to expand and upgrade communication needs and to engage those seeking the Orthodox Christian Faith with the tools of the 21st century,” noted Father Eric.

The deadline for submitting bid packages is April 15, 2016. All bids should be submitted to Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, PO Box 675, Syosset, NY 11791 or [egtosi@oca.org](mailto:egtosi@oca.org). ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/bids-sought-for-oca-web-site-redesign-project>

**Diaconal liturgical practicum to be held June 26-29**

**YONKERS, NY** – The Tenth Annual Diaconal Liturgical Practicum – held in conjunction with the OCA’s Diaconal Vocations Program [DVP] and Saint Vladimir’s Seminary – will be held June 26-29, 2016 on the seminary campus.



According to Archdeacon Kirill Sokolov, DVP Director and leader of the practicum’s liturgical workshops, the program will offer intense practical training for deacons and diaconal candidates. Sessions also will cover chanting, vocal technique and public speaking. Register on-line at <https://support.svots.edu/diaconal-practicum-2016>.

■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/tenth-annual-diaconal-liturgical-practicum-to-be-held-june-26-29>

**Chicago site of July’s 90th FOCA Convention**

**CHICAGO, IL** – All Orthodox Christians are invited to attend the 90th Annual Convention of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America [FOCA] to be held at Loews Chicago O’Hare Hotel in suburban Rosemont, IL July 22-25, 2016.

Besides plenary sessions, the weekend will include a golf outing, Trivia Night event, architectural boat cruise, and a Sunday Hierarchical Liturgy followed by a banquet and dance. The youth program, coordinated by the OCA Youth Department, the Diocese of the Midwest and the FOCA, will offer a service project and visits to Navy Pier and a water park. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/chicago-site-of-90th-foca-convention-july-22-25-2016>



**Become a Steward of the OCA and help “expand the Mission!”**

**DONATE ON-LINE:** <http://oca.org/become-a-steward>

**Seminarians present papers at Patristics conference**

**SOUTH CANAAN, PA** – Three Saint Tikhon’s Seminary students presented academic papers at the 12th Annual Archbishop Iakovos Graduate Student Conference in Patristic Studies at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA March 3-5, 2016.

Deacon Mikel Hill delivered a paper titled “Hierarchy as Revelation: The Contribution of the Corpus Dionysium to the Appreciation of the Hierarchical Structure of the Liturgical Assembly.” “The Nestorian Implications of Severan Christology” was the topic of Marshall Goodge’s paper, while Jonathan Lincoln’s presentation was titled “Universal Salvation: Saint Gregory of Nyssa in Light of Saint Mark of Ephesus.” All three seminarians also offered responses to other presentations.

■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/stots-students-present-papers-at-patristics-conference>

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 asked to duplicate and distribute **OCAreview** monthly, especially to those without internet access who desire printed highlights of OCA web site postings.

April 2016

Father John Matusiak, Editor  
[info@oca.org](mailto:info@oca.org)

**Constantinople from front**

matters with the late Protopresbyter John Meyendorff and the late Archbishop Peter [L’Huillier]. It was noted that, while differences in understanding remain concerning the nature of autocephaly, this does not present an impediment to communion and concelebration.”

■ **FULL STORY:** <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/the-sunday-of-orthodoxy-visit-of-metropolitan-tikhon-to-the-ecumenical-patr>

**In Memoriam**

● **Archpriest George Gerov**, 95, fell asleep in the Lord in retirement in Miami, FL March 20, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-george-gerov>

● **Sister Rachel [Labish]** of New Skete, Cambridge, NY, fell asleep in the Lord March 11, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/sister-rachel-labish>

● **Stephen J. Platko**, brother of the late Archpriest John Platko and former choir director at St. Nicholas Church, Joliet, IL, fell asleep in the Lord March 1, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/stephen-j.-platko>

● **Archpriest James Bertolini**, attached in retirement to St. Paul the Apostle Church, Las Vegas, NV, fell asleep in the Lord February 29, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-james-bertolini>

● **Archpriest Daniel Nenson**, attached in retirement to St. George Church, Dysart, SK, Canada, fell asleep in the Lord February 29, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-daniel-nenson>