

Metropolitan Tikhon delivers Sunday of Orthodoxy homily at Antiochian cathedral

BROOKLYN, NY – On the Sunday of Orthodoxy – March 5, 2017 – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, delivered the homily at pan-Orthodox Vespers celebrated at the historic Saint Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral, Brooklyn, NY, at the invitation of His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

“Today’s commemoration – the restoration of the veneration of the holy icons – is truly a resurrectional feast, a paschal celebration and a source of encouragement for us in our Lenten struggles,” Metropolitan Tikhon said. “The Sunday of Orthodoxy, as many of us know, refers specifically to the historical events of the year 843, at which time the veneration of icons was restored in the Holy Church. The great event that we celebrate today was not a political victory. It was not simply the victory of one party, the iconophiles (or icon-lovers), over another party, the iconoclasts (or icon-smashers). Rather, it was a re-affirmation of the eternal victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over death and corruption. Hence, today’s feast is a proclamation of the victory of Pascha and of the reality of the resurrection in our lives, and this is an important message for us to remember and to share with the world around us.”

Continued on the reverse...



Metropolitan Tikhon attends luncheon honoring Syrian Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem II

NEW YORK, NY – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon was among the invited guests at a luncheon honoring His Holiness, Patriarch Mor Ignatius Aphrem II of the Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch at Saint Vartan Armenian Apostolic Cathedral, New York, NY on Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

Patriarch Mor Ignatius Aphrem II with Metropolitan Tikhon.



Hosting the luncheon was His Eminence, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), who welcomed His Holiness and expressed the solidarity and prayers of the hierarchs in attendance. His Holiness spoke about the current plight of Christians in the Middle East and humanitarian actions in the face of the crises in Syria and Iraq.

Continued on the reverse...



Metropolitan Tikhon celebrates Liturgy at opening of Metropolitan Council session.

Metropolitan Council concludes Spring Session

HUNTINGTON, NY – The Spring Session of the Metropolitan Council was held at Immaculate Conception Seminary here during the last week of February 2017.

Besides the address of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and updates by the OCA’s officers, reports were given by representatives of the Council’s committees and the Church’s departments and offices. Reports were also given by the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America, the Pension Board, the Office of External Affairs, and related bodies. Also reviewed was the work of the Departments of Christian Education and Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid.

The Metropolitan Council is the permanent executive body of the Church Administration which exists for the purpose of implementing the decisions of the All-American Council and continuing its work between sessions. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-council-concludes-spring-session4>

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Hershey, PA site of 91st FOCA Convention

HERSHEY, PA – The 91st Annual Convention of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America [FOCA] will be held at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel September 1-4, 2017. Hosted by the FOCA's New Jersey District, the gathering is open to all Orthodox Christians, regardless of FOCA membership.



Metropolitan Tikhon addresses 90th FOCA Convention in Chicago, 2016.

Besides plenary sessions, events planned include a golf outing, Trivia Night, Saturday evening entertainment and a Sunday Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, followed by a banquet and dance. Ample time will be available to visit Hershey Park, Hershey's Chocolate World and the Hershey Gardens. There also will be a fun-filled program for youth, coordinated this year in partnership with the Orthodox Church in America's Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries, that will include religious education sessions, a variety of activities including a visit to Hershey Park, and a possible service project. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/hershey-pa-site-of-focas-91st-convention-september-1-4>

St. Tikhon's Seminary reaccredited by ATS

SOUTH CANAAN, PA – On February 15, 2017, the Board of Commissioners of the Association of Theological Schools [ATS] announced that Saint Tikhon's Seminary [STOTS] has been reaccredited for seven years, with no notations. The news came in response to results of the seminary's periodic reaccreditation review in November 2016.

"This is great news for the seminary, following several years of consistent and intensive preparation," said Archpriest Steven Voytovich, STOTS Dean. "We wish to express gratitude to all who assisted in this effort!" ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/st-tikhons-seminary-reaccredited-by-ats>

In Brief

Fourth Small Parish Forum to be held July 13-15...

The fourth annual Small Parish Forum will be held at Saint John the Baptist Church, New Kensington, PA July 13-15, 2017. The gathering will focus on the unique needs of parishes with memberships of 75 souls or less. Registration opens May 1. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/save-the-date-fourth-small-parish-forum-to-be-held-july-13-15>

FOCA announces "Celebration of Faith" contest...

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America has announced that the theme of its 2017 "Celebration of Faith" art contest will be "Who is My Neighbor." The contest is open to all youth, who may submit original projects in the areas of literature, musical composition, photography and the visual arts. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/youth-invited-to-enter-focas-celebration-of-faith-art-contest>

UN fellowships available for grads, post-grads...

The Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America invites graduate and recent post-graduate students to apply for its fellowships at the United Nations in New York City. Two applicants will be selected for year-long stipended fellowships that will begin in the fall of 2017. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/united-nations-fellowships-available-for-grads-post-grads>

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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Orthodoxy Sunday homily

Metropolitan Tikhon concluded by reflecting on the ministries of Saint Tikhon and Saint Raphael, tracing their close personal relationship and cooperative efforts to plant the earliest Orthodox Christian communities in the eastern US. Relics of both saints are enshrined in the cathedral.

Concelebrating with Metropolitan Tikhon and Joseph were His Eminence, Archbishop Michael of the OCA's Diocese of New York and New Jersey, and His Grace, Bishop John of the Antiochian Diocese of Worcester. ■ **FULL STORIES:** <https://oca.org/media/photos/metropolitan-tikhon-preaches-at-antiochian-cathedral-on-orthodoxy-sunday> and <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-delivers-orthodoxy-sunday-homily>

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Syrian Patriarch honored

Also attending the luncheon were His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; His Eminence, Bishop Irinej of the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Eastern America; Archpriest Thomas Zain, who represented His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America; and Protospesbyter Leonid Kishkovsky, OCA Director of External Affairs. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/media/photos/metropolitan-tikhon-guest-at-luncheon-honoring-syrian-patriarch-ignatius-ap>