

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

Holy Synod of Bishops announces 19th All-American Council theme

SYOSSET, NY – “For the Life of the World” was selected as the theme of the 19th All-American Council by the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America at their Spring Session at the Chancery March 28-31, 2017. The theme of the AAC – slated to convene in Saint Louis, MO July 23-27, 2018 – is based on the seminal book of the same name by the late Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann, which initially appeared in the 1960s and has established itself as a “classic.”



His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, presided at the opening prayer service in Saint Sergius of Radonezh Chapel and at the hierarchs' plenary sessions. The agenda included Metropolitan Tikhon's opening address; reports from the OCA's officers; updates by the departments, offices, committees and dioceses; and related matters. Updates on the work of the Departments of Christian Education and Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid and the OCA communications team also were presented.

On Wednesday evening, Metropolitan Tikhon concelebrated the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with His Eminence, Archbishop Alejo of Mexico and His Eminence, Archbishop Irénée of Ottawa. Graduating OCA seniors from Saint Tikhon's and Saint Vladimir's Seminaries sang the responses and, together with their wives, engaged in a question-and-answer dialogue with the Holy Synod after dinner. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-announces-19th-aac-theme-during-spring-session>

Metropolitan Tikhon expresses condolences after bombings in Egypt, Russia

SYOSSET, NY – As widely reported, some three dozen faithful died and over 100 were injured in terrorist bombings at two Coptic churches in Egypt on Palm Sunday. In response to these tragedies, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon sent condolences to His Holiness, Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria and All Africa of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

“The bishops, monastics and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America mourn with Your Holiness and the clergy and faithful of your land,” Metropolitan Tikhon wrote. “We also offer our most sincere and heartfelt condolences for those who lost their lives, and our prayers for comfort and recovery of those injured. We are at a loss to add anything more than the words of the Apostle Paul read on the Feast: ‘The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus’” [Philippians 4:5-7].

Continued on the reverse...

Bishop Alexander elevated to dignity of Archbishop

SYOSSET, NY – At their recent Spring Session, the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops elevated His Grace, Bishop Alexander of Dallas, the South and the Bulgarian Diocese to the dignity of Archbishop.

Archbishop Alexander was consecrated to the episcopacy in May 2012 to succeed His Eminence, the late Archbishop Kirill, who had overseen the Bulgarian Diocese from 1964 until 2007. In March 2016, he was elected Bishop of Dallas, succeeding His Eminence, the late Archbishop Dmitri, who fell asleep in the Lord in August 2011.

Metropolitan Tikhon consecrates Holy Chrism

SOUTH CANAAN, PA – For the first time since 2012, Holy Chrism is being consecrated at Saint Tikhon's Monastery during Holy Week.

On Holy Monday, April 10, 2017, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the opening prayers and the blessing of the numerous ingredients used in confecting Holy Chrism. The Chrism is then cooked and stirred continuously until it is consecrated on Great and Holy Thursday morning.

The Consecration of Chrism is a rite reserved for the Primate of autocephalous Orthodox Churches. ■

FULL STORY: <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-presides-at-opening-rite-of-preparation-of-holy-chrism>

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OCA represented at chaplains' gatherings

SYOSSET, NY – Archpriest Theodore Boback, Jr., Dean and Executive Director of Orthodox Military and VA Chaplains, and Archpriest Joseph J. Gallick, Deputy Director and Assistant Dean, recently represented the Orthodox Church in America at the annual meetings of the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces, the Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy and the Armed Forces Chaplains Board.



Chaplain (Major General) Paul K. Hurley, US Army Chief of Chaplains, with Frs. Theodore Boback and Joseph Gallick.

The conference theme was “Emerging Trends: Serving on the Cutting Edge.” Among the many topics considered were evolving trends in the American religious landscape, the future of education, caring for caregivers, opportunities in the Bureau of Prisons, and analytics measuring present and future trends. Attendees also participated in a variety of workshops expanding on the conference theme. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/oca-represented-at-annual-military-va-chaplains-gatherings>

Outstanding liturgical musician recognized

SYOSSET, NY – During their Spring Session, the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops awarded the Order of Saint Romanos to John Sutko, Choir Director Emeritus of Saint Peter and Saint Paul Church, Burr Ridge, IL, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the field of liturgical music in the Orthodox Church in America.

Established by the Holy Synod in 2014, the Order is awarded to influential arrangers, composers, teachers and conductors. Past recipients include Archpriest Sergei Glagolev, Archpriest Igor Soroka, Prof. Dr. David Drillock, Walter Shymansky, Archimandrite Roman [Braga], Dr. Vladimir Morosan and Aleksei Shipovalnikov. A detailed biography of Mr. Sutko appears on the OCA web site. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-awards-order-of-st.-romanos-to-noted-liturgical-musician>

In Brief

CrossRoad Summer Institute open to HS juniors, seniors

The annual CrossRoad Summer Institute will be held on the campus of Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA in June and July 2017. The ten-day program, especially designed for Orthodox Christian high school juniors and seniors, features courses in theology and Scripture, excursions into Boston and its environs, parish visits and engagement with the city’s homeless. Session One will be held June 17-27, while Session Two will run July 5-15. The Institute is open to students of all jurisdictions. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/crossroad-summer-institute-open-to-h.s.-juniors-seniors>

Chicago site of FOCUS North America’s YES Program

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve [FOCUS] will hold its “Youth Equipped to Serve” [YES] program in Chicago April 28-30, 2017. YES offers faithful ages 13 through college age an opportunity to “serve and love the people of Chicago” through action-oriented and sustainable solutions to poverty. Thirty-five students are expected to participate in the pan-Orthodox program. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/focus-north-americas-yes-program-coming-to-midwest-april-28-30>

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Parishes are kindly asked to duplicate and distribute **OCAreview**, especially to those without internet access.

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Letters of condolence

Metropolitan Tikhon sent a similar letter to His Holiness, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, in response to an April 3 subway bombing in Saint Petersburg, in which at least 10 people perished and over three dozen were injured.

“The experience of senseless violence, carried out without discrimination, has been known by too many across all geographic and cultural borders,” Metropolitan Tikhon wrote. “The suffering, pain, fear and anxiety of these events are only bearable through the love offered within the community of faith as we ‘look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.’” ■ **FULL STORIES:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-sends-condolences-to-coptic-pope-tawadros-ii-after-palm> and <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-sends-condolences-to-patriarch-kirill-after-st.-petersb>

In Memoriam

- **Archpriest Orest Olekshy**, 77, Pastor Emeritus of Holy Resurrection Church, Saskatoon, SK, fell asleep in the Lord in Melville, SK on March 28, 2017. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-orest-olekshy>
- **Matushka Barbara A. Frenchek**, 69, wife of the late Deacon Basil Frenchek of Saint Paul Cathedral, Dearborn Heights, MI, fell asleep in the Lord in Gibraltar, MI on March 23, 2017. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/matushka-barbara-a.-frenchek>