

Metropolitan Tikhon attends Papal gathering

NEW YORK, NY – Metropolitan Tikhon attended the “Multi-Religious Gathering with Pope Francis” at the Museum of the National 9/11 Memorial on September 25, 2015. Accompanying him was Archpriest John Jillions, OCA Chancellor. Hierarchs of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, and the Oriental Churches also were present, along with representatives of other faith traditions. During a brief ceremony, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Demetrios read the Beatitudes in Greek.

Metropolitan Tikhon with Antiochian Metropolitan Joseph and Coptic Bishop David at 9/11 Memorial.



Pope Francis called on those present to observe a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives and as a sign of “commitment to the cause of peace throughout this world which God has given us as the home of all and a home for all.” ■ <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-attends-papal-gathering-at-nycs-9-11-memorial>

Metropolitan Tikhon welcomes Serbian Patriarch

YONKERS, NY – Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed Patriarch Irinej of Serbia to St. Vladimir’s Seminary on September 11, 2015. During an academic convocation, at which Archpriest Dr. John Behr, Dean, presided, Patriarch Irinej was awarded an Honorary Doctorate.



Accompanying Patriarch Irinej were Bishops Maxim and Mitrophan of the Serbian Church’s Western American and Eastern America Dioceses respectively and Bishop Justin of Zica.

After being invested with the academic hood and doctoral cross, Patriarch Irinej delivered a lecture titled “Theology as a Hope for the Future of the Church.” ■ <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-welcomes-serbian-patriarch-irinej>

Assembly of Bishops meets in Chicago

CHICAGO, IL – Metropolitan Tikhon and members of the OCA Holy Synod of Bishops participated in the sixth annual meeting of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA here September 15-17, 2015.

This year’s meeting included sessions devoted to canonical regional planning, during which the Assembly’s 12 jurisdictional first hierarchs offered their insights on a proposal prepared by the Committee for Canonical Regional Planning slated to be submitted to the Great and Holy Council in 2016. Working sessions on pastoral practices involving marriage and divorce also were held.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the hierarchs issued a statement to the faithful. ■ <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/assembly-of-bishops-issues-message-at-conclusion-of-sixth-annual-meeting>

An introduction...

Ocareview is now available for those without internet access who desire printed highlights of OCA web site postings. Parishes are asked to duplicate and distribute the digest locally on a monthly basis.

Searching for the relics of St. Jacob Netsvetov

SITKA, AK – In line with a National Park Service [NPS] project to restore a portion of Sitka National Park to its appearance in Russian colonial times, a search for the burial site and relics of St. Jacob Netsvetov recently began.

In a meeting with NPS reps, Bishop David of Sitka and Alaska had brought up the possibility of locating the relics which, if found, would be enshrined in Sitka’s St. Michael Cathedral.

Cornell University’s Dr. Thomas Urban arrived in Sitka where, with the help of a “ground penetrating radar” device, scanning was initiated.

It is suspected that St. Jacob was interred near the entrance to a church that once stood on the site.

Born on Atka Island in 1802, the son of a Russian father and Aleut mother, St. Jacob was Orthodox Christianity’s first North American-born priest. His tireless missionary efforts brought about the conversion of many across Alaska’s Yukon River region. He fell asleep in the Lord in 1864. ■ <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/search-for-relics-of-st.-jacob-netsvetov-begins>



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Archbishop Benjamin represents OCA at canonizations

ALHAMBRA, CA – Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West represented the OCA at the canonization of Bishop Mardarije [Uskokovic] and Archimandrite Sebastian [Dabovich] at St. Steven Serbian Orthodox Cathedral here September 5, 2015.

Patriarch Irinej of Serbia presided at the celebration.

St. Sebastian was born in San Francisco, CA in 1863. As a priest he worked closely with Archbishop [now St.] Tikhon in various capacities and locations in the North American Mission. In 1894, he established the first Serbian parish in the US in Jackson, CA. He fell asleep in the Lord in Serbia in 1940.

Born in Montenegro in 1889, Saint Mardarije served as a missionary in America. Consecrated to the episcopacy in 1926, he organized the Serbian Orthodox Diocese in the US. He reposed in 1935. ■ <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/bishop-mardarije-archimandrite-sebastian-to-be-canonized-september-5>



Patriarch Irinej presides at canonizations.

OCA Departments share hopes for future

SYOSSET, NY – A great deal of enthusiasm was generated by reports offered by the OCA's departments during the 18th All-American Council in July 2015. In a feature article recently posted on the OCA web site, the Departments of Continuing Education, Pastoral Life, Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid, Christian Education, Liturgical Music and Translations, and Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry and the Office of Military and Veterans Administration Chaplains shared their vision and plans in the months and years ahead in light of the AAC theme, "How To Expand The Mission." ■ <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/oca-departments-share-current-future-plans-for-expanding-the-mission>

OCA young adults attend international youth festival

SUPRASL, POLAND – Five young adults – Janine Alpaugh, Joseph Green, William Kopcha, Victor Lutes, and John Shimchick – represented the OCA at the international youth festival sponsored by Syndesmos, the World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth, during the last week of August 2015. The theme – "Attaining Conciliarity" – was introduced by Archpriest Dr. Chad Hatfield, Chancellor of St. Vladimir's Seminary, in his keynote address. Over 40 young adults from Germany,

OCA participants welcomed by Archbishop Jacob of Bialystok and Gdansk.



Russia, Slovakia, Romania, France and elsewhere attended.

Established in Paris in 1953, Syndesmos continues to network Orthodox Christian youth the world over. ■

■ <http://oca.org/media/photos/oca-young-adults-participate-in-syndesmos-international-gathering-in-poland>

Metropolitan Council concludes fall session

HUNTINGTON, NY – The OCA's Metropolitan Council concluded its fall session on September 24, 2015.

The meeting opened three days earlier with a full-day retreat featuring presentations by Dr. Mary Ford, Professor at St. Tikhon's Seminary, and Archpriest Dr. John Behr, Dean of and Professor at St. Vladimir's Seminary. Planning and business sessions began on Tuesday morning.

In his opening address, Metropolitan Tikhon reflected on his ongoing work on "The Apostolic Work of the Church: Building the House of the Lord in Our Lands," which will provide a "guiding framework for the Orthodox Church in America" during the next triennium and beyond. He spoke of the need to build the Church's apostolic work on "the foundation, which is Christ," and the pillars of the spiritual life – stewardship, evangelism and outreach and external relations.

A number of reports were heard, including those of the OCA's officers and departments and the Metropolitan Council's committees. The 2016 OCA budget, which reflects financial decisions passed at the 18th All-American Council, was accepted and will be referred to the Holy Synod of Bishops, which meets in mid-October 2015.

Full Metropolitan Council minutes and reports will be posted on the OCA web site as they become available. ■ <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-council-concludes-fall-session-passes-2016-budget>