

Holy Synod of Bishops confirms St. Louis, MO as site of 19th All-American Council

SYOSSET, NY – During their fall session at the Chancery here October 18-21, 2016, the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America gave their blessing to convene the 19th All-American Council [AAC] at the Union Station Hotel, Saint Louis, MO, July 23-27, 2018.

“Nineteen US and Canadian cities had been considered in the extensive site search,” explained Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary. “As with the 18th AAC in Atlanta, the Council will include a youth program in conjunction with the annual Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America [FOCA] Convention at the same location July 20-23.”

Appointed to the Preconciliar Commission were His Grace, Bishop Paul of Chicago and the Midwest, Chair; Father Eric Tosi, AAC Director; Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor; Melanie Ringa, Treasurer; Protospesbyter Leonid Kishkovsky, Consultant; Deacon Peter Ilchuk, Council Manager; Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky, Metropolitan Council representative; Becky Tesar, FOCA representative; and Priest Benjamin Tucci, Youth Coordinator. Archpriest Timothy Sawchak, Dean of the Kansas City Deanery, and Robert Butchko of Saint Louis will serve as clergy and lay chairpersons of the Local Organizing Committee.

In related news, the Holy Synod's session opened with the address of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, who shared his ongoing work on the “four pillars” of Church life – a document articulating a long-term vision for the OCA. Reports were offered by the OCA's officers, the Office of Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations and the Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee, the Department of Pastoral Life, the FOCA, the Office of External Affairs, and other departments and offices.

The Holy Synod of Bishops is the supreme canonical authority in the Orthodox Church in America. Chaired by the Metropolitan, the Synod includes as voting members all diocesan bishops. ■ **FULL STORIES:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-approves-st.-louis-as-site-of-19th-aac> and <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-of-bishops-concludes-fall-session2>.

Metropolitan Tikhon addresses annual CWS meeting

CHICAGO, IL – On Friday, October 28, 2016, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon addressed participants in the annual meeting of Church World Service at the headquarters of Chicago's Episcopal Diocese here.

In his reflection, Metropolitan Tikhon spoke of the example offered by North America's early Orthodox Christian missionaries, especially Saints Herman of Alaska and Tikhon, in addressing the plight of the poor and needy. He also elaborated on the Gospel-based mandate to discern



The Holy Synod in session.



Metropolitan Tikhon, Bishop Paul with OCA and Greek Archdiocese CWS reps.

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Holy Synod announces 2017 Church Planting Grant recipients

SYOSSET, NY – The Holy Synod of Bishops recently approved five full and one partial Church Planting Grants for 2017.

Saint John the Evangelist Mission, Tempe, AZ [Priest Andre Paez, Priest-in-Charge] and Saint James Mission, Beaufort, SC [Priest James Bozeman, Priest-in-Charge] will receive third-year grants. Receiving second-year grants will be Saint Nektarios Mission, Waxahachie, TX [Priest David Bozeman, Priest-in-Charge] and Saint Juvenaly and His Companion Mission, Wasilla, AK [Archpriest Mikel Bock, Priest-in-Charge]. Receiving a first-year grant will be the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Mission, Saint James, MO [Priest Joel Wilson, Priest-in-Charge], while Saint Katherine Mission, Cardiff, CA [Priest Andrew Cuneo, Priest-in-Charge] will receive a partial-year grant.

“Each of these missions receives a substantial grant – \$24,000.00 for the first year, \$20,000.00 for the second year, and \$16,000.00 for the third year – matched by the missions to support the full-time ministries and missionary work of their priests,” explained Priest John Parker, who chairs the OCA's Department of Evangelization. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-awards-2017-church-planting-grants>

Mission School audios now available on-line

SYOSSET, NY – Audio recordings of presentations and discussions offered during the OCA's second annual Mission School, conducted August 22-26, 2016, are now available on-line.

Clergy and lay participants representing the OCA's dioceses participated in this year's program. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/second-oca-mission-school-audio-recordings-now-available>

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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Fr. John Matusiak, Editor • info@oca.org

Monastic superiors hold annual Synaxis

ELLWOOD CITY, PA – With the blessing of their respective diocesan bishops, the superiors of the Orthodox Church in America’s monasteries gathered at Holy Transfiguration Monastery here for their third annual Synaxis October 25-27, 2016.



His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel, in whose diocese the monastery is located, were present at this year’s gathering, which was attended by superiors or their representatives from 12 monasteries.

The superiors addressed several issues of importance for the monastic life. One session was devoted to an in-depth discussion of Metropolitan Tikhon’s proposed *Guiding Framework*, with its focus on the four pillars of Church life – the spiritual life, stewardship, evangelism and outreach and external relations. Particular attention was given to the spiritual life, with each superior sharing the many ways in which their monasteries nurture their internal spiritual life and provide witness and encouragement for pilgrims, visitors and their local communities. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-transfiguration-monastery-site-of-monastic-superiors-annual-synaxis>

Help “expand the Mission!”
Donate NOW to the SOCA’s St. Herman Appeal!

SYOSSET, NY – Response to the Stewards of the OCA’s Saint Herman Appeal, which ends on December 13, 2016, has been exceptional!
 “Year-to-date contributions to the SOCA totaled \$51,377.00 – \$6,993.00 over the anticipated amount,” said Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak in early October. “And the entire membership of the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council have set an example through their individual commitments.”
 Make your donation on-line at <http://oca.org/become-a-steward> or by sending your check to the Saint Herman Appeal, PO Box 675, Syosset, NY 11791. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/join-the-oca-stewards-make-your-donation-today-to-this-years-st.-herman-app>

Treasurer reports on first three quarters of 2016

SYOSSET, NY – During the first week of November 2016, Melanie Ringa, Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, released the financial report for the first three quarters of the year.

Highlights of the report include the following.

- The balance sheet as of September 30, 2016 indicates total assets of \$2,922,976.00, total liabilities of \$251,958.00, and net assets of \$2,671,018.00 – a \$123,758.00 increase year-to-date.
- Actual results show a surplus of \$123,758.00. The Unrestricted [Operating] Fund showed a net surplus of \$17,871.00 for the first three quarters of the year.
- Total revenues were over budget by \$11,347.00.
- The \$67,656.00 in departmental expenses, compared to a budget of \$77,063.00, also resulted in a positive variance of \$9,407.00.
- Income and unrealized investment gains totaled \$130,022.00 with expenses of \$6,363.00, for a net surplus of \$123,662.00. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/oca-treasurer-releases-report-for-first-three-quarters-of-2016>

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CWS annual meeting

the very presence of our Lord in “the least of the brethren,” citing a number of illustrations from the Church’s monastic tradition and fielded a number of questions.

Representatives from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the OCA, including Dr. Constantine and Arlene Kallaur, also attended the gathering, as did His Grace, Bishop Paul of Chicago.

The text of Metropolitan Tikhon’s address will be available on the OCA web site during the third week of November 2016.

In Memoriam

- **Catherine Elizabeth Maymon**, beloved mother of Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, fell asleep in the Lord November 4, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/catherine-elizabeth-maymon-mother-of-archbishop-mark>
- **Matushka Maria Shuga**, wife of the late Archpriest Andrew Shuga, fell asleep in the Lord in Elizabethtown, PA October 26, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/matushka-maria-shuga>
- **Preoteasa Silvia Yova**, wife of the late Protodeacon Paul Yova, fell asleep in the Lord in Fairlawn, OH October 21, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/preoteasa-silvia-yova>
- **Archpriest Oleg Kirilov**, who in retirement resided in Moscow, Russia, fell asleep in the Lord October 18, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-oleg-kirilov>