

O.N.E.

ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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Diocesan Assembly in Salem

Right: His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon presides at the **opening prayer of the Diocesan Assembly.**

Rev. Joshua Mosher

St. Nicholas Church, Salem, Mass., hosted this year's Diocesan Assembly with aplomb—on Halloween weekend. It was a largely peaceful gathering, with the highlight of welcoming our newly-established Christ the Savior Mission in the Bangor area of Maine.

After the opening prayer, His Eminence, our Archbishop Nikon addressed the Assembly. The annual Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops was his first topic. They are ad-

ressing oversight of chaplaincies, multiple sees in one city, and other major issues. They reviewed the word "diaspora" in the organization's by-laws of assembly, and agreed to strike it. As Archbishop Nikon explained, there is no Orthodox diaspora, which refers to Jewish exiles who lost their temple in Jerusalem. We lack nothing in our worship here in America.

While noting that he avoids political debate, Archbishop Nikon felt compelled to oppose publicly Proposition 2 on the Massachusetts ballot,

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Archpriest Nicholas and Matushka Anastasia Timpko Celebrate 50th Anniversary of Marriage & Ordination

V. Rev. Steven Voytovich

Below: Fr. Nicholas and M. Anastasia Timpko stand with those celebrating their anniversary. On the far left and right are two of the Timpko's children, Nicholas with his sons, and Stacey and her three sons. (Their son Gregory passed away in 2007.) In the front are most but not all of their grandchildren. Behind the family from left to right are Archpriest Steven Voytovich, Archbishop Nikon, Fr. Patrick Burns, Pastor of Three Saints Church, and Paul Juzwishen, parish Sacristan.
Photo: Mat. Cindy Voytovich

On Sunday, September 9, Three Saints Orthodox Church in Ansonia, Conn., honored Archpriest Nicholas and Matushka Anastasia Timpko by celebrating their 50th anniversary of marriage and ordination.

Fr. Nicholas was born in July, 1941, and graduated from St. Tikhon's Seminary in May, 1962. On August 4 of the same year he married Anastasia Kowal. The honeymooners were recalled for his ordination to the diaconate on Aug. 14, and to the holy priesthood on Aug. 19, by then-Archbishop Ireney (Bekish) of Boston and New England, later Metropolitan of All-America and Canada who has since reposed in the Lord.

Fr. Nicholas, with Mat. Anastasia first served in Pennsylvania, at

Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Altona, and Holy Ascension Church in Lykens. He served at St. Michael Church in Chicago for ten years, and Holy Protection Cathedral in Minneapolis for three. Then in 1979 they began almost thirty years of service at Three Saints Church in Ansonia. Matushka Anastasia worked for many of those years at Griffin Hospital overseeing the Volunteer Department and many other areas.

Fr. Nicholas was Dean of the Connecticut Deanery, 1992-1998, became a Metro-North Railroad Chaplain around 2000, and for a brief time before his retirement served as Diocesan Chancellor. During his tenure at Three Saints, the parish celebrated its 100th anniversary. He continues to serve as Metro-North Chaplain after most recently serving for a brief period as interim pastor of Nativity of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church in Waterbury, CT, while they were in the midst of a search for a new pastor.

It was meaningful indeed that His Eminence, Nikon, Archbishop of Boston, New England, and the Albanian Archdiocese was able to be present at the Divine Liturgy, presenting Fr. Nicholas with a Synodal Gramota, and then celebrated the Molieben marking



“Itinerant” School of Ecclesial Arts Coming to New England

Marilyn Shesko

Long known for its courses in iconography, Hexaameron recently added ecclesial embroidery to its offerings. I was privileged to attend the first such workshop this fall, led by Olga Fishchuk of Kiev, Ukraine. For six days, the five embroiderers in attendance worked closely with our teacher, learning techniques used in the medieval period when the best works were produced in Byzantium and Russia.

Right: Embroidery in progress at the Hexaameron workshop.

Photo: Marilyn Shesko



We learned techniques for pattern couching of metallic threads, used for halos, garments and vestments, and worked on an image of an angel. Our materials included silk threads hand dyed by the instructor, metallic threads, and silk ground fabrics mounted on linen.

Ms. Fishchuk, who has a degree in ecclesial pictorial embroidery from the Moscow Orthodox Theological Academy, brought with her examples of contemporary embroidery and inspiring photographs of historical items in Russian museums.

Ms. Fishchuk's evening lectures covered the overall history of ecclesial embroidery from the Temple of Solomon to the eighteenth century, when secular activities displaced embroi-

dery as a major occupation for noblewomen in Russia.

Since our class was running concurrently with the iconography class, taught by Xenia Pokrovsky, Anna Gouriev and Marek Czarnecki, we also attended the introductory lecture on the history of icons in the church.

Hexaameron has been offering iconography courses for ten years, and is adding a third area of study, wood and stone carving, in 2013. All three workshops will be offered in New England for the first time June 9–15, in Bloomfield, Conn.

The Hexaameron web site, www.hexaameron.org, has details on

Assembly from I

which would allow physician-assisted suicide. The proposition was very poorly written, with inadequate safeguards. Candidates for suicide required no psych evaluation, the family did not have to be notified, and no physician needed be present when lethal measures were administered. He concluded, "As Orthodox Christians we respect the right of every person to die with dignity, however, suicide is not a viable means to a blessed repose, nor is it a way to a painless, blameless and peaceful death."

Archbishop Nikon then reported on the national church. Addressing issues of sexual misconduct take enormous time, but are absolutely necessary. Varying sexual harassment laws across jurisdictions complicate matters. The OCA has to investigate each allegation. "Immediate public response however is neither possible nor prudent," he added. The Holy Synod has a moral obligation toward the accuser, the accused, and witnesses.

His Eminence then addressed the sorrowful case of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah's resignation. He recalled, "His Beatitude, in his own words, said he had neither experience nor temperament" to be metropolitan. His successor will have the long and difficult task of building trust.

Archbishop Nikon acknowledged the temptation to despair in the church, but reminded us: "God's

power is made perfect in our weakness. We are to share gospel without exception to all. Our challenge is to live in such a way that trust in church, as an expression of gospel, is restored. We must give up our divisions. By one Spirit, we were baptized into one Body. There is no us and them but One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church." He concluded this topic by expressing complete confidence in each member of synod. He said, "Healing will take time, but Christ will accomplish it."

On more personal responsibilities, His Eminence reported that his own health is in slow recovery, and that he continues to fulfill all episcopal duties. He continues to minister

to the Diocese of the South. He hopes early next year that diocese will hold a special assembly to nominate a new candidate for bishop. However, His Eminence would not step down as *locum tenens* for another year.

Archbishop Nikon had the singular honor of being invited to the consecration of the new cathedral in Tirana, Albania. He also celebrated the twentieth anniversary of Archbishop Anastasios of Albania. He is awed and inspired by the achievements of Archbishop Anastasios. Yet he heard complaints — on the one hand that he is ethnically Greek not Albanian, and on the other that he is making church "too Albanian." Archbishop Nikon dismissed both criticisms: "Truly, Archbishop Anastasios is fulfilling the mission of Christ in Albania."



Right: St. Nicholas Church, Salem, at the opening of the Diocesan Assembly.

Photo: John Barone

In diocesan events, His Eminence welcomed Fr. Steven Belonick and Fr. Nicholas Hubbard into the diocese. He also noted the ordination of Fr. Jeffrey Frate this summer in Boston. This year was the Centennial of Terryville. Fr. Nicholas Timpko celebrated his 50th anniversary as a priest. He announced that the mission station in Bangor, Maine, was recently elevated to the Mission of Christ the Savior. Its entry caused the first increase in membership in the diocese in many years. Fr. John Kreta is priest in charge there, and Fr. John Pawelchak ministers to them regularly.

His Eminence welcomes collaboration between Albanian and New England dioceses, notably in Youth Rally. He closed his remarks with a prayer for the harvest of a vineyard, saying, "Our vineyard is ready for harvesting."

The Assembly's first presentation was by OCA Chancellor Fr. John Jillions. He began by noting his connections to our diocese. He spent a few years in Connecticut in junior high. His wife is from Bridgeport, and they attended St. Peter and St. Paul in Springfield, Mass. Fr. Sergious Gerkin of Holy Resurrection, N.H., was his seminary room mate. He also brought the greetings of Melanie Ringa and Andrew Boyd, both from the diocese. He pointed out that Boyd was training to be the executive assistant to the new metropolitan.

Fr. Jillions then moved to his main topic, the significance of the national work of the OCA. He said, "Despite its trials, the OCA has enormous potential and responsibility." He empa-

sized that we "cannot be church alone. We need each other across the OCA." All of us are members of the OCA by choice, though one cannot be a member of the OCA alone; we are and have to be united to each other. What do we get by being a member of the OCA? We get an identity of being part of the Orthodox Church in America. We will minister to everyone no matter where they are from.

We will bring Jesus Christ to everyone in this nation. We honor and serve the historic patriarchates, but we identify with this country. Orthodoxy has not been good at looking at its self, finding its faults and making the change needed to correct itself. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann said "Orthodoxy lacks the capacity to be self-critical, but it has found a growing capacity for this in North America."

Second, the mission of the OCA is to speak about Christ. Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh made a point of not speaking about "Orthodoxy" but rather "Christ." He had the confidence that those who were drawn by his witness would look to the tradition he represented.

Third, our identity is founded in *sobornost*, conciliarity. We gather and talk together at all levels, "right down to coffee hour," Fr. Jillions said.

Another distinctive part of the identity of the OCA is transparency and accountability. Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky travelled to Kiev last year, where a bishop talked to him privately. That hierarch said, "We also have these problems, but you are dealing with them openly." Eventually other



Right: OCA Chancellor Fr. John Jillions addresses the Assembly. Photo: John Barone

Orthodox Churches will have to deal with their problems openly, too.

Fr. Jillions acknowledged the question he often hears: "We are a very small church, why not give up this inheritance and merge with a larger jurisdiction?" His response is that our identity and vision must not be abandoned, but rather is one that all Orthodox Christians in America can participate in.

Fr. Jillions then focused on his own goals as chancellor. His first aim is to build relationships with the leadership of the OCA. It starts with the bishops, but much more besides. Their common purpose is to support work of dioceses, parishes, monasteries, institutions, in the daily life of the Church. The administration is working to overcome suspicions. Another goal is to introduce proportional giving to the OCA.

Fr. Jillions said the OCA is also systematically addressing sexual misconduct. This is at bottom a good news story because it is being addressed and not swept under rug.

He concluded by reading a poem of his favorite poet, Robert Frost. "The Mower of the Field" came to mind as he drove past New England stone walls and fields: "Men work together from the heart, whether they are together or apart."

The report on One Stewards was another notable highlight of the first day of the Diocesan Assembly. This diocesan appeal supports valuable programs like scholarships and Youth Rally. Protodeacon Paul Nimchek reported that for the second year, after many years of falling short, One Stewards achieved its target. But the primary reason, Pdn. Paul reported, is that our archbishop is giving five hundred a month! His Eminence and other contributors see the value in the mission and outreach of our diocese.

Those programs total \$40,000 in expenses, and One Stewards fundraising covers \$20,000.

In the discussion that followed, it was pointed out that One Stewards was founded as a challenge to individuals and parishes who wanted to do away with involuntary assessments. If we truly want to support the work of the diocese through free-will offerings, then One Stewards needs much wider support.

Protodeacon Nimchek also reported on the Diocesan Grant Program, established at last year's Diocesan Assembly. Four applications were received, though Holy Trinity, Willimantic, Conn., had to withdraw because the local event they planned to host was moved to a different venue. Christ the Savior, Southbury, Conn., asked for support to continue to host Fr. Tarazi's presentations on the Scriptures. Holy Ghost, Bridgeport, proposed to expand their ministry to feed the homeless. SS. Peter & Paul, Meriden, Conn., was helped in its outreach for the adult education program, The Way: a Foundation in Orthodox Christianity. Next year, the diocese will repeat the grant process, with another ten thousand funded from diocesan savings.

Fr. John Hopko reported on Youth Rally, but promptly moved discussion to a more sensitive topic: what is the biggest challenge he sees kids at Rally facing? He pointed to everyday access to shocking pornography. This is a problem for young men, damaging their ability to act as good husbands and fathers in the future. These images, warp ideas of love, too, for boys and girls. What the counsellors see at Rally reveals wider problems in our parishes. Fr. Hopko emphasized, "It's not that our kids are bad or abnormal. They are reflecting what is going on in society around them."

Fr. Hopko's words led to a general discussion of how to support the Christian life of teens. One proposal was to create a healthy online gathering for them—a "virtual Youth Rally."

The day closed with Vespers at St. Nicholas Church, followed by fellowship and dinner at a nearby hotel.

The heart of the Diocesan Assembly is the assembly of the diocese for the Divine Liturgy on Saturday. It was a joy not to be taken for granted to participate in this worship with our archbishop presiding.

The final presentation of the assembly was on Youth Protection. Fr. John Bacon, who is a regional Scout chaplain, gave the Boy Scouts of America [BSA] training program to all delegates. All volunteer leaders in BSA must complete this training, Fr. Bacon said.

However, anyone can register at the Boy Scouts of America website <<http://www.scouting.org>> and undergo similar training, and get a certificate of completing youth protection training. Fr. Bacon suggested this could work for parish volunteers who are involved with youth.

Fr. Bacon commented on the youth protection training: "The most important obstacle to abuse is the adult volunteer or parent. If you have eyes and ears open to possible abuse, then you will be able to recognize a situation open to abuse and stop it."

Fr. Bacon added, "Also important in youth protection is *volunteer* protection. We want to keep adults out of compromising circumstances, and have witnesses and be able to

answer any false accusation. Lives can be ruined—in church as well as scouting."

This led to a wider, fruitful discussion. Fr. John Jillions recommended the Faith Trust Institute, which has clergy and church specific resources on protecting against abuse.

Fr. Bacon and Fr. Jillions together explained how allegations of abuse in church must be handled. Each case must be reported to the dean, chancellor, and bishop, but also to the sex abuse investigation commission of OCA. But for a case involving a child, or a crime of any sort, we must be sure to report to the police as well. Clergy are mandated reporters of abuse.

After this presentation, and the annual elections to various positions, the assembly moved to its last items. We agreed to give \$500 to assist members from the Dioceses of Mexico and Canada attend the All-American Council. We thanked our generous hosts in Salem. And we entertained various invitations for future Assembly locations.

By the grace of God, we had an edifying and fruitful Diocesan Assembly, and we look forward to gathering next year, at Holy Ghost, Bridgeport, Conn.

ONE +

Below: Dozens of delegates gathered from all the states of New England for the Diocesan Assembly. Photo: John Barone



Terryville celebrates 100 years

Right: His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon blesses those celebrating the **100th Anniversary** of Saints Cyril and Methodius Church.

Photo: John Barone



Rev. John Hopko

On September 29 and 30, 2012, Saints Cyril and Methodius Church commemorated its 100th Anniversary. The celebration included a festive Vigil celebrated on Saturday and on Sunday, the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon of Boston, followed by the Blessing of the New Parish Elevator and the 100th Anniversary Banquet.

The full hierarchical order of the Divine Liturgy was served, with the formal greeting and entrance of the Archbishop, the vesting of the Archbishop in the middle of the Church and all the other additional liturgical

elements that are added to the Divine Liturgy when the bishop serves, including the use of the special blessing candles, the trikiri and dikiri. Archpriest John Behr delivered the sermon.

It was a great and pleasant privilege to have Archbishop Nikon and all the other distinguished clergy and guests with us for our 100th Anniversary Celebration.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the new elevator and elevator shaft and tower at Saints Cyril and Methodius Church were blessed by His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon. The new elevator has been dedicated to the memory of all our departed loved ones—Memory Eternal!

After the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the clergy and faithful of Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, together with our diocesan hierarch, and other distinguished guests, traveled the short distance to The Lyceum, Main Street, Terryville, for the 100th Anniversary Banquet.

The Banquet included greetings and brief remarks from our guests, a short speech from Mr. Louis Kopcha, a distinguished longtime member of the parish, (delivered on his behalf by his wife, Kay), the main address by Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko, and a visual presentation of pictures from the parish's history.

Right: The new **Terryville elevator** awaits the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Photo: John Barone



ONE +

Boy and Girl Scouts Gather for 52nd Scout Retreat

Reader Stephen Bradford

On a bright sunny Saturday afternoon, over 125 Boy and Girl Scouts and over 50 adult leaders came together for a day and a half of fellowship, prayer and instruction led by the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary Ambassadors at the spacious St. Basil's Academy, operated by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in Garrison, NY on the banks of the Hudson River overlooking the United States Military Academy at West Point.

The theme for the day was centered on "Running the Race" from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 9. The Ambassadors led age-appropriate groups from grades 1 through 12 in a day of activity and teaching.

While the Scouts were engaged in their own activities, two Ambassadors led parents and leaders in a discussion on setting the example for the Scouts in their own lives as parents and leaders.

While Fr. John Bacon of Nativity of the Virgin Parish in Chelsea, Mass. and Reader Stephen Bradford of Holy Trinity Parish in Willimantic, Conn. have attended past Retreats, this was the first time in recent memory that Scouts from Diocese of New England joined their counterparts from New York and New Jersey in the activity. Bonnie Morrison, a Girl Scout leader from Coventry, Conn. and her daughters Madigan and Maya, all from Holy Trinity, Willimantic attended.

Morrison could say only good things about the Retreat: "The Retreat was a wonderful opportunity for my daughters to experience Girl Scouts as it was originally intended—as a faith-based organization. We had a wonderful time and all three of us are already looking forward to next year's retreat!"

The day continued with Great Vespers served by Hieromonk Anthony, Assistant Chaplain at the Acad-



Above: Madigan Morrison, top center, of Holy Trinity Church, Willimantic, leads Scouts gathered at St. Basil's Academy, Garrison, NY, on October 20, 2012 in the Girl Scout Pledge during the **52nd Scouting Retreat sponsored by the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting**, under the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops in America.

emy, with chanting led by the Ambassadors. Their skillful use of Byzantine Chant in English with some Greek interspersed was enthralling to hear.

A spaghetti supper followed Vespers and at 8:00 PM a campfire led by Dr. Peter Hilaris of Tenafly, NJ, EOCS Chairman, gave each Scout unit a chance to entertain fellow Scouts around the traditional Council Fire with songs and skits.

A solemn moment preceded the activity when old palms from last Great Lent were burned in the fire, an example of proper disposal of these sacred items.

After the fire, younger Scouts returned to their camp sites on the Academy grounds while older Scouts gathered in the Administration Building's parlors for a "Rap Session" on contemporary issues led by the Seminary Ambassadors.

Sunday morning's activities began at 8 AM with Orthros (Matins) sung by the seminarians. In a modern application of technology, they used their iPads to read the texts and music while one or two of the people in the congregation followed on their iPhones. They assured Fr. Anthony

that they would only use a real book in the Little Entrance, though!

Most of the Scouts assembled by 9:30 for Divine Liturgy, again chanted by the seminarians. At the end of the Service, Father took time to compliment them for the masterful job that was done. It was the first time for the attendees from Willimantic to hear the ancient Byzantine melodies.

After the Liturgy, a brief closing ceremony was held in the chapel and then all recessed to the front of the Academy Gym for a cook-out and farewells before they returned home.

Anyone interested in attending next year's Retreat, always held on Columbus Day Weekend, or the Boy Scout Encampment that will be held again at St. Basil's on April 20-21, 2013 may contact Fr. Bacon or Reader Stephen through their own rectors or they may go directly to the EOCS web site <http://eoocs.org/> for more information.

Reader Stephen Bradford is a member of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Willimantic, Conn.

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Timpko from 2

50 years of marriage for Fr. Nicholas and Mat. Anastasia. Three Saints parish presented Fr. Nicholas with a Jeweled Cross, and gave Mat. Anastasia gifts honoring both with 50 years of marriage and service to the church.

May God grant Archpriest Nicholas and Matushka Anastasia many years!

[This article relies on material compiled by Archivist, Alex Liberovsky.]

ONE +

Three Saints Church, Ansonia, Conn.

Barbara Ann Dixon

On Sunday, September 9, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Father Nicholas Timpko to the Holy Priesthood and the 50th wedding anniversary of Father Nicholas and Matushka Anastasia. Father Nicholas served almost thirty of the fifty years at Three Saints. His Eminence, The Most Reverend Nikon presented Father Nicholas with a Synodal Gramota signed by all members of the Holy Synod of Bishops. Father Patrick Burns present the Gramota awarded to Fr. Nicholas Timpko. Celebrating the Liturgy under Archbishop Nikon were Father Patrick Burns, Archimandrite Denis Lajoie, Archpriest Steven Voytovich and Archpriest Nicholas Timpko. His Eminence led us in prayers of thanksgiving.

Matushka Cindy Voytovich, Betty Klischer and many helpers prepared and served a fantastic breakfast brunch following the Liturgy, with many friends, family members and parishioners in attendance. The many greetings, prayers, help in coordinating the event, and donations toward the pectoral cross from parishioners contributed to the success of the celebration.

On Saturday, September 22, Nancy Dudchik held a giant tag sale. Donald and Betty Klischer were in charge of the homemade baked goods sale.

On Sunday, September 23, we celebrated the start of Sunday school with a prayer service.



Above Right: Archbishop Nikon and Fr. Patrick Burns present the Gramota awarded to Fr. Nicholas Timpko.

Below Right: Fr. Nicholas and M. Anastasia Timpko (center) with honored guests at the anniversary celebration.

Photos: Ann Tilden

Following the prayers, a kick off party was held in the auditorium with the new Sunday School Superintendent, Mary Pagliaro.

Father Patrick sent out invitations to family members and friends who have not been attending services and events for some time, inviting them to our second annual Homecoming Sunday on September 30, with the hopes of enticing them back to the fold. We had a marvelous turnout for the Liturgy and the homecoming breakfast which followed. Thanks to Matushka Mara Burns, Betty Klischer and their many helpers in coordinating the breakfast. We all had a good time renewing acquaintances and enjoying the food and company. **ONE** +



Christ the Savior, Southbury, Conn.

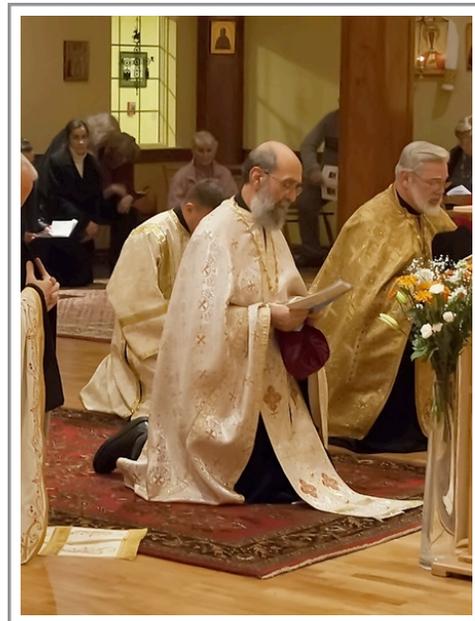
Sarah Cole

We welcomed Archbishop Nikon for a pastoral visit on Oct. 14. At the end of the Divine Liturgy he blessed our four newly installed icons, written by Fr. Andrew Tregubov. We invite everyone to come, see and pray before the icons of The Deisis and Communion of the Apostles in the High Place; The Theotokos of the Sign and the Etimasia, or "Prepared Throne" over the Holy Table.

As a part of the Eastern Orthodox Council of Scouting program for the St. George Award, Timothy Cole held a coat drive. Tim collected 51 winter coats for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission just after Super Storm Sandy struck the area.

Our patron saint, St Nectarios of Aegina, was remembered on Nov. 8-9.

Despite bad weather, over 100 visitors from all over the state came to pray to St. Nectarios and venerate his relics. Once again we were able to say: "Miracles happen on St. Nectarios Day."



Above Right: Archbishop Nikon presiding at the Divine Liturgy in Southbury.

Below Left: Fr. Vladimir Aleandro leading the prayers on the Feast of St. Nectarios.



A group of six young people have committed to a week of service this summer at Project Mexico. Anyone who might like to help the team members with a donation towards their travel expenses can contact Fr. Vladimir or Kari Stewart.

On Nov. 17 the Women's Group offered a morning of retreat with a talk by Ethel Anne Roome, a Grief Recovery counselor. It was entitled, "Things to Say or Not Say to People Suffering Loss". After singing the Akathist: Glory to God for All Things, the women had a short meditation by Fr. Vladimir. A Lenten Breakfast was shared followed by the inspiring presentation.

If you would like to learn more about events or services at our parish, check out our recently updated website: christsaviorchurch.org.

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New England participates in the 17th All-American Council

Rev. Joshua Mosher

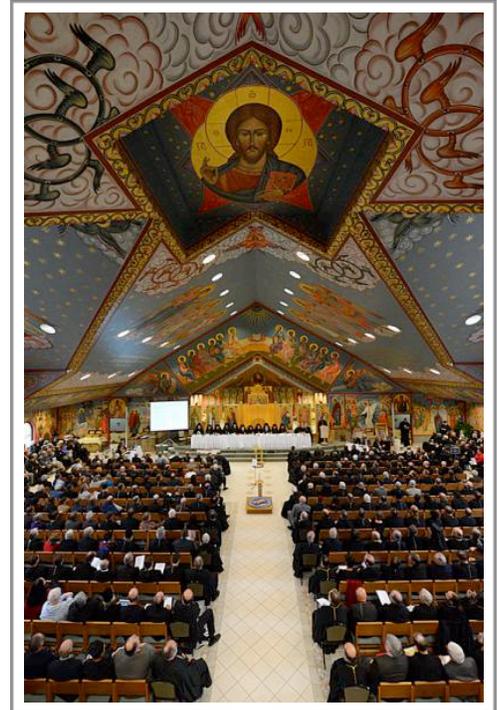
In November, 2011, a contingent from New England—much reduced by the Halloween snow storm—joined in the 16th All-American Council in Seattle. On November 13, 2012, New England was much better represented at the 17th AAC, despite the last-minute arrangements.

After the resignation of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, this summer, the Holy Synod called this special AAC for the sole purpose of electing a new metropolitan. Holy Trinity Church, Parma, Ohio, was chosen as the host due to its large size and substantial facilities.

All activities of the AAC were held on one day, all at the church—a significant departure from recent councils. It was also a departure in tone: the day was meditative and penitential in spirit, though there was plenty of opportunity for renewing old acquaintances and celebrating together.

Above Right: Hundreds gathered in **Holy Trinity Church, Parma, Ohio**, for the AAC.

Below Left: **David Drilllock** directed the **choir** during the various services of the day.



The council began with prayer, first with Vespers the evening before, and then with Divine Liturgy to begin the day. Archpriest Thomas Hopko preached, dwelling on the themes of suffering, humility and repentance on the path of salvation.

His Eminence, Nathaniel, Archbishop of Detroit and the Romanian Archdiocese, then *locum tenens* of the metropolitan see, addressed the council before voting began, preparing the delegates for their solemn duty.

Over 600 votes were cast on the first ballot. Each delegate wrote a single name on a ballot, and there was no prior slate of candidates, so the tellers' responsibility was challenging. The rest of the assembly sang an akathist





Above: Archbishop Nikon and Archbishop Benjamin lead the newly-elected Metropolitan Tikhon out of the sanctuary.

Below: Archbishop Nathaniel, surrounded by the Holy Synod and all the clergy and faithful of the AAC, greets the new Metropolitan.

during that time. No candidate received the necessary two-thirds of the vote to be nominated on the first ballot.

On the second ballot, each wrote down two candidates, and the two highest would be given to the Holy Synod. Once again, the council turned to prayer while the ballots were counted.

At length, we learned that His Eminence, Archbishop Tikhon of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania and

His Grace, Bishop Michael of New York and New Jersey, received 317 and 355 votes respectively.

The Holy Synod withdrew into the sanctuary. After further prayer, His Eminence, our Archbishop Nikon, and

His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West, escorted from the altar His Beatitude, the newly-elected Metropolitan Tikhon. He was welcomed with a thundering series of "Axios," as he was vested as the primate of the Orthodox Church in America.

At the concluding banquet, His Beatitude spoke humbly and with gentle humor, expressing gratitude and asking for the help first of the Holy Trinity, and also his brother bishops, and all the clergy and faithful in carrying his weighty burden. Afterward, His Eminence, our Archbishop Nikon said that as he entered the banquet hall with Metropolitan Tikhon, the joy and thankfulness was palpable.

The proceedings of the 17th All-American Council were recorded and can be found at Ancient Faith Radio. The minutes were recently published on www.oca.org.

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Arts from 2

Above and Below:
Examples of the **sacred art** taught at the Hexaameron workshop.

each of the classes and on-line registration forms. Similar classes are offered all over the United States, and this January Sao Paolo will host the first workshops in South America. Students from as far away as Australia and New Zealand come here to study with Hexaameron's teachers.

A single six-day workshop, of course, cannot turn anyone into a professional iconographer, embroiderer or carver. The very small class sizes, about one teacher for every eight students, mean that each student receives individualized instruction.

Since the courses are offered several times each year, and often return to the same venues in following years, those interested in studies can progress to in-

creasingly difficult subjects and, over several years, train to a high level of mastery.

Marilyn Shesko is a member of Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church, Chelsea, Mass.

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