

O. N. E.

ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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Above: Children served as the choir at **Diocesan Youth Rally** in New Hampshire this August.



Below: Children from the Diocese of New England joined many others in singing to the hierarchs, clergy and faithful assembled at the **All-American Council** held in Atlanta in July.

The present & future of the Church

New England youth and adults were active in Diocesan Youth Rally and at the All-American Council this

summer. See reports on each event inside this issue of the ONE.

All-American Council in Atlanta: “Expanding the Mission”

Rev. Joshua Mosher

Delegates from New England joined hundreds from across North America to participate in the All-American Council [AAC] this July. The theme, “Expanding the Mission,” featured prominently—most notably in a series of videos from each diocese describing how they are witnessing to the love and power of God in their distinctive circumstances. Our own diocese had a presentation emphasizing Youth Rally and the efforts supported by the diocesan Parish Grant Program. The video is available at the Diocese of New England website: www.dneoca.org

The first major agenda item of the Council was the proposed revision of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America [OCA]. First adopted in 1971, after the OCA was granted autocephaly, the Statute had been modified in piece-meal fashion over the decades. Parts of the document were unclear and even contradictory, while on key aspects of the faith like seminaries and monasteries, it was silent.

A task force developed a complete revision of the Statute to address these concerns. Although their work was considerably delayed and there was less opportunity for review by the Church at large than originally intended, the AAC embraced the revision.

The AAC has given one particular task to each of our parishes: all by-laws must be updated by Dec. 31, 2017, to comply with the revised Statute. His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon has appointed a committee to provide

insight and guidance to the parishes of our diocese.

If the theme was how to expand the mission of our Church, one major challenge was how to finance that work. The Synod had presented numerous versions of a resolution to move to proportional giving in supporting the OCA.

The final version was quite complicated, reflecting the very different circumstances of the various dioceses. Two priests of New England, Fr. John Kreta and Fr. John Hopko, spoke against the resolution, raising concerns that it might cripple the budget of the OCA.

Metropolitan Tikhon acknowledged those concerns and expressed a commitment to ensure that the mission of the OCA was adequately funded. The resolution did pass, which will mean that the responsibility of the Diocese of New England will continue to decrease over the next few years.

The AAC was brightened by the activity of dozens of children participating in the AAC Youth Program. Children from our diocese befriended others from across the OCA, thanks in large measure to the leadership of Andrew Boyd, son of the diocese and OCA Director of Youth Ministry. The youth made a presentation to the Council—hymns, a backpack for the Metropolitan, and a set of “dreams for the Church,” which were thought-provoking and inspiring.

More on the AAC is available at www.oca.org.

Diocesan Youth Rally 2015

Rev. Joshua Mosher

In 2015, 34 children participated in Youth Rally, along with 15 adult staff. Twelve were participating for the first time. The theme this year was “The Samaritan Woman at the Well.”

Fr. John Hopko, Rally Director, as well as Fr. Dennis Rhodes and Fr. Sergius Halvorsen, gave presentations on this encounter in the Gospel. A “Rally Theater Group” also developed a skit during camp on Isaac and Rebecca, whose story also revolves around an encounter at a well.

Youth Rally, in its 29th year, continues to use St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in N.H. The pattern



is well established, with liturgical services setting a foundation for education and fun activities like arts and crafts, sports, and a trip to an amusement park.

The Rallyers celebrated the the Feast of Dormition, and His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon was able to preside at the festal liturgy. Fr. Hopko





reports that plants and flowers were blessed at the feast, in preparation for being planted on the grounds of the camp.

Fr. John Kreta spoke admiringly of the bouquet of flowers given to the Archbishop—they had no live flowers available, so children worked during the week to construct one out of sticks and colored duct tape!

The children made an excellent company of altar servers and a beauti-

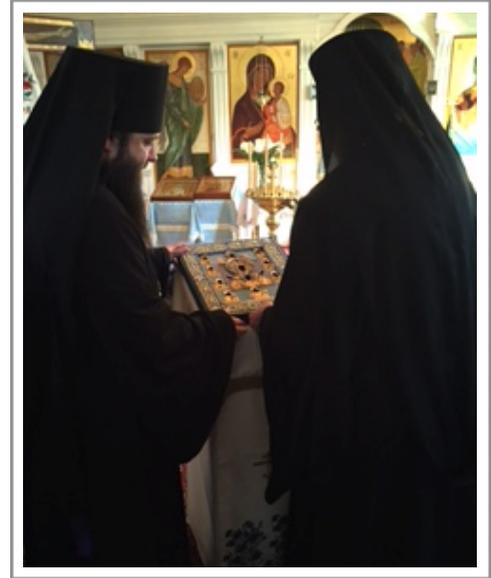
ful choir. The entire hierarchal liturgy was performed, except that His Eminence was vested in the altar.

Youth Rally remains one of our diocese's most admired and generous programs. The cost is over \$700 per child, Fr. Hopko acknowledged, but we ask less than third of that amount from families. There also are scholarships for any children in need. Your contributions to ONE Stewards make this ministry possible. **ONE +**



Visitation of the Kursk-Root Icon to Cumberland, R.I.

Right and below: Archbishop Nikon participated in the visitation of the **Kurk-Root Icon of the Theotokos** to the Church of Dormition of the Virgin Mary, Cumberland, RI. He concelebrated with Bishop Nicholas of ROCOR. Fr. Vasily Lickwar and the faithful of the church hosted many others for the celebration.



Spring and Summer Full of Life at Christ the Savior

By Anne Wilkinson

Above: The Churaching at the **Baptism of Aubrie Muire McGinnis**, with her father, Tim; mother, Shannon; brother, Jack.

Below: Fr. Vladimir, Fr. Constantine and Deacon at the front doors of the chapel in Churaevka on the **1000th Anniversary of the Repose of St. Vladimir**.



It has been a blessedly full spring and summer at Christ the Savior Church in Southbury, Conn.

Since Pascha we have celebrated three baptisms: on April 26, the baptism of Aubreigh Muire (Marie) McGinnis; on May 24 we had the baptism of Blake James Berry, and on June 28 the baptism of Michael Constan-

tine Paduano. Each was held during Liturgy, allowing us all to renew our baptisms as we sang, "As many have been baptized in Christ have put on Christ."

In July, we held the traditional blessing of vehicles on the Sunday before St. Elijah's feast day. Fr. Vladimir



Right and below: More scenes from the celebration of the **feast of St. Vladimir.**



blessed cars, a motorcycle —and even bicycles, scooters, and toy cars!

Also in July we said farewell to Yanna and Brian Re and their three children. The Res are moving to St. Petersburg, Florida and will be missed by all. On July 28 we were invited to celebrate the 1000yr anniversary of the death of St. Vladimir at Churaevka (Russian Village) in Southbury. It was a most memorable day of brotherly love.

Planning has begun for the celebration of our 25th Anniversary in 2016. The celebration will be held on June 10 – June 11, 2016; held on a Friday and Saturday so that our clergy friends from both near and far will be able to join us while also being back at their parishes on Sunday morning. Please mark your calendars!

As we move into the fall we look forward to welcoming and getting to know our intern for the year from St. Vladimir's Seminary, Wes Pulley, and his family. Fr. Vladimir will be teaching a practicum course on the Sacraments at St. Vladimir's this Fall. The Eve of

St. Nectarios is Sunday, November 8. Great Vespers and Procession will begin at 4:00. We would like to invite the whole world because: "Miracles happen on St. Nectarios Eve".

We look forward to another Liturgical year of God's blessings!

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Tomb for Christ the Savior, Maine

Rev. Joshua Mosher

Saints Peter & Paul Church in Meriden, Conn., has finally found a new home for their Tomb: in Bangor, Maine. The Tomb, used liturgically in the celebrations of Holy Week, was constructed for the church many decades ago, but was retired recently.

After many inquiries, we found that Christ the Savior Mission in Maine would gladly accept it, if only we could find a way to deliver it.

Three members of the Brotherhood of SS. Peter & Paul volunteered to make the 8 hour trip in Dr. Richard Comshaw's truck, affectionately dubbed "Goliath." Rick, with Paul Leonowich and David Zavednak set it in place and then participated in the Divine Liturgy.

Fr. John Pawelchak thanked them for their service and the faithful of SS. Peter & Paul for their support. He reported, "I am having a parishioner put a piece of plywood on the Tomb and we'll also use it for the Table of Oblation for now. Our Altar Table and the other are just plywood on saw horses." **ONE +**





Above and Center:
Baptism of Evelyn Irene Watson at St. Alexis, Clinton, Conn., on July 5. Pictured are Godparents Kathryn Brubaker and Brian Krot; parents William and Sharon Watson; and brothers Ezekiel and Elisha.



The Mission Is Expanding

V. Rev. Vladimir Aleandro

When the bishop comes to visit our parishes there are many things we need to prepare and anticipate. This past June Matushka Suzanne (aka Mama Apua) and I answered the call to return, for the sixth time, to Turkana Kenya. We had the honor again to celebrate Liturgy with Archbishop Macarios of Kenya.

We arrived at the seminary in Nairobi late night on the eve of Pentecost. After a meal with His Eminence, we were told to be ready in a few hours to travel to The Massai for Pentecost Liturgy. It was the one-year memorial for the first Massai man who became Orthodox. From that one man's vision and commitment Orthodoxy has spread, in a short time, to many Massai communities. They now have their own churches and priests. Two of the Massai priests are sons of this first Orthodox Massai.

When we arrived, we could not celebrate in the church because it was taken over by a swarm of bees, so we



Above: Fr. Vladimir and M. Suzanne Aleandro.

Below: Turkana teens singing

celebrated Pentecost outside. When it was time for the first Kneeling Prayer, we turned around to see the people running away. Suddenly, a dark cloud of buzzing began to descend on us. What a sight: archbishop, priests with phelonions on their heads, and faithful, running through goats to the safety of the smoke of cooking fires. On the way back to Nairobi, we laughed about the descent of the bees but talked much more about the spread of Orthodoxy through the faith, zeal and sacrifice of one man and the bishop.

From the cool, wet winter of Nairobi, our plane trip transported us to our destination of Turkana in winter—bone dry and 110 degrees every day. Our mission this year was the building of a two-room schoolhouse in Loupwala, Turkana. This community, isolated in the Turkana desert, is where 150 people were baptized in July 2006;



where I celebrated their first Liturgy and gave them Communion for the first time in July 2007; where a well was installed in 2010 through the efforts of many people and parishes of our New England diocese; where we built a church in 2012 and consecrated it in 2014; where five satellite communities are now formed from this one parish; where we have seen dramatic change in quality of life because so many people in the OCA Diocese of New England and other New England Orthodox churches responded to the poorest of the poor to give the refreshing message of the Gospel and fresh drinking water.

Now, with the school, there is the gift of valuable education and a meal of boiled cornmeal every day. Often this is the only food of the day. Most of all they ask us to thank our brothers and sisters in our parishes for the hope and life they now have. All this is because so many of you have seen the world as your parish and not your parish as your world. When we don't "box in" God out of fear, the Holy Spirit descends and sets our hearts on fire faster than a swarm of African bees.

Above: This girl and her sister are inside the church in Loupwala and will be going to the newly built school.

Below: Consecration of St. Nicholas Church by Archbishop Macarios.

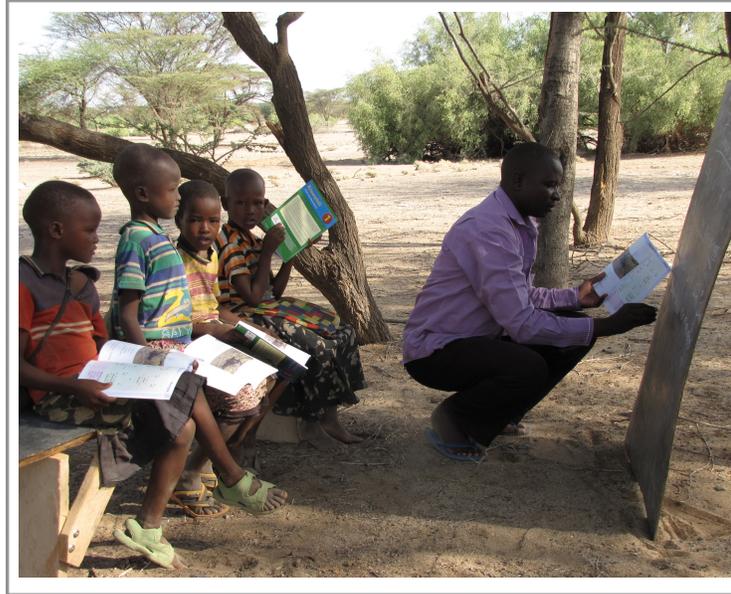


While we worked on the school, a group of Kenyan government officials arrived. Their purpose was to gather all together and at length speak, while liberally and correctly quoting scripture, of the importance of our work. They said we did things in the right order by building the church first because true morality must come from the Gospel first before education and aid can be effective.

In the middle of our building work, we traveled for a Sunday to meet Archbishop Macarios in the village of Lockichar for the consecration of St. Nicholas Church which our team built last year. Words cannot describe the overwhelming joy, singing, and dancing that welcomed us back.



Above and Below: Turkana school children, before their new school is completed.



This is a community where a well was drilled and a grain mill was installed. These lifesaving accomplishments were greatly through the efforts of Christ the Savior and the New England Orthodox parishes who held: "Walks for Water," youth "Hunger Strikes," and outpouring of sacri-

ficial giving, to expand the mission. During the Consecration Liturgy, I felt so close to my three Turkana brother priests, Frs. Vladimir, Zachariah, and Herman. Two of these priests were given their names by the archbishop at ordination to reflect the close ties the Turkana mission has with the OCA and the

Diocese of New England.

One thing that the seminarians from Nairobi, who accompanied the archbishop, did not anticipate is that the candles in the dikiri and trikiri, as well as those in the altar, would not stand up, but would make complete prostration in the intense heat.



An example of how their Orthodox Christian life is changing the Turkana took place while we were staying in the compound of a Turkana Clan. They were in territorial conflict with a neighboring Turkana group. The normal way to “resolve” this is with Kalishnikovs (AK 47’s), but both groups are now Orthodox Christians. The leader of one group prayed with us and after a whole night of debating, a goat was killed, roasted and peace was made.

Not a day goes by when I don’t think of the mission in Turkana. During the days of the All-American Council in Atlanta, not an hour went by without thinking and connecting our life to the mission in Turkana.

On July 28, as we celebrated the 1,000th anniversary of St. Vladimir’s repose, I was asked to preach at the Liturgy in Churaevka here in Southbury. One thousand years ago, a king named Vladimir received Christ as his King; today, an old Italian priest by the name of Vladimir pastors a living body of Christ the Savior in Southbury. Today, in the remote desert of

Turkana, a Turkana Orthodox priest by the name of Vladimir is teaching and preaching to the poorest of the poor on earth, but the richest of the rich in the Kingdom.

Across the span of 1000 years, from the Dnieper River to the Reiko River, the Mission is expanding with each person who enters the water to receive a King of love, Who died and arose from the dead, so that they can share His life and kingship. It is awesome! God alone knows how the mission will expand over the next 1,000 years.

From the journals of Priest Ioan Veniaminov in Alaska in 1834, after returning from his mission trip, he observes: “I should state that I again could see everywhere the same *zeal* for hearing the Word of God as I had seen previously—the same *joy*, and also the same *gratitude!*” Mama Apua and I would be honored to be invited to share the zeal, joy, and gratitude of the Turkana mission and help expand the mission in your parish.

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Below: The school building completed with the help of this summer’s mission to Turkana, Kenya.



Right: Scenes from the blessing of motorcycles at All Saints of America, Salisbury, Conn.

Fr. John Kreta writes: "This year we expanded our blessing of vehicles and invited other bikers. We tried it this year with the hope of making it an annual event. Next year we will host a picnic/barbecue and those that attended this year want to come back and will start getting the word out to others. Next year we may have 30-40 bikers, but we'll see."



Archbishop Nikon greets Patriarch John of Antioch in July

Right: His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon with His Beatitude, John, Patriarch of Antioch.

Below: Patriarch John.



His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, invited Archbishop Nikon to attend their Archdiocesan Convention in Boston. The highlight of this convention was the visit to America of His Beatitude, the Most Blessed John, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East. Archbishop Nikon offered fraternal greetings from Metropolitan Tikhon to Patriarch John.

Following the convention, Patriarch John spoke at St. Vladimir's Seminary on the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. He received an honorary doctorate from the seminary.

In related news, at the All-American Council of the OCA earlier in July, delegates spontaneously contributed \$12,000 toward relief work in the Middle East, after hearing a pres-

entation from International Orthodox Christian Charities on the suffering in refugee camps.

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His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon
Rev. Joshua Mosher, Editor
Phone: 203-237-4539
frjmosher@sspeterpaul.org

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For subscription requests:
frjmosher@sspeterpaul.org
203-237-4539
50 Shady Crest Road
Meriden Conn. 06450

Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church
PO Box 2876
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Upcoming Events

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| Oct 15 | Deadline for the next issue of the ONE. |
| Sept 19 | Holy Resurrection, Berlin, N.H., celebrates 100th Anniversary. |
| | Holy Trinity, Springfield, Vt., celebrates 110th Anniversary. |
| Sept 27 | Holy Transfiguration, New Haven, celebrates 100th Anniversary. |
| Oct 3 | Orthodox Education Day at St. Vladimir's Seminary. |
| Oct 4 | FORCC Benefit Dinner at St. Dimitrie Church, Easton, Conn. Guest speaker Dn. Stephanas Ritsi, missionary to Albania. |
| Oct 23-24 | Diocesan Assembly at Holy Trinity, Willimantic, Conn. |
| June 10-11 | Christ the Savior, Southbury, Conn., celebrates 25th Anniversary |