

Strong Orthodox Christian presence at DC March for Life – despite the storm!

WASHINGTON, DC – Despite the threat of the worst snowstorm to hit the US capital in some 90 years, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, clergy and seminarians, and faithful from across the country took part in the annual March for Life here on Friday, January 22, 2016.



Metropolitan Tikhon, Bishop John and Archbishop Michael offer prayers at outset of DC March.

Metropolitan Tikhon was accompanied by His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek and His Eminence, Archbishop Michael. Also participating were His Eminence, Metropolitan Evangelos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey and His Grace, Bishop John of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese of Worcester.

The March marked the 43rd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the US.

During the pre-March rally, Metropolitan Tikhon was among the hierarchs on the stage as Metropolitan Evangelos offered the opening invocation. Marchers carrying icons, banners and signs made their way to the US Supreme Court after prayers were offered for those who have fallen victim to abortion. ■ **FULL STORY:** <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/strong-orthodox-presence-at-dc-march-for-life-despite-the-weather>

Metropolitan Tikhon visits Diocese of Mexico

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon made an archpastoral visit to the Diocese of Mexico January 7-11, 2016. His Eminence, Archbishop Alejo of Mexico City, welcomed him and the members of the OCA delegation, which included Archpriests Eric G. Tosi and Antonio Perdomo and Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak.

The visit marked the 44th anniversary of the establishment of what is today the Diocese of Mexico.

Besides meeting with Archbishop Alejo and the diocese's clergy, Metropolitan Tikhon visited His Eminence, Metropolitan Antonio [Chedraoui] of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Mexico, Central America and Venezuela, and congratulated him on the 50th anniversary of his consecration to the episcopacy.

After the Sunday Liturgy at Ascension Cathedral, the hierarchs celebrated the Blessing of Water and delighted cathedral neighbors as they blessed a nearby park and playground. ■

FULL STORY: <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-concludes-archpastoral-visit-to-the-diocese-of-mexico>

Metropolitan Tikhon blesses water at Mexico City's Ascension Cathedral.



Third Anniversary of Metropolitan Tikhon's enthronement

SYOSSET, NY – On January 27, 2016, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon celebrated the third anniversary of his enthronement as Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada.

On behalf of the Holy Synod of Bishops, the clergy, monastics and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, we pray that our Lord will continue to grant him peace, safety, honor, health and length of days "rightly dividing" the word of God's truth. Axios! Eis polla eti despota! May God grant you many years!

Recent meetings at OCA Chancery

SYOSSET, NY – Chancellors and Treasurers representing eight dioceses met with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon at the Chancery on January 19, 2016.

"I believe that this is one of the most important meetings of the year, since it allows for a parallel interaction to what takes place biannually in our Holy Synod meetings," Metropolitan Tikhon said. "It is very helpful for those who assist the bishops in their administrative work to share, learn, and strengthen the bond of unity between us."

A key issue considered during the meeting was the manner in which the dioceses are transitioning to the formula developed by the Finance Resolution adopted at the 18th All-American Council.

At the request of Metropolitan Tikhon, members of the Office of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations gathered for a consultation on January 21. His Grace, Bishop Alexander chaired the meeting, during which future plans and transitions were discussed. Broader issues related to

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OCA represented at Scholars' Meeting at Ecumenical Patriarchate

ISTANBUL, TURKEY – Representatives of the OCA were among a group of 30 Orthodox scholars invited to a gathering at the Ecumenical Patriarchate here January 4-5, 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to establish connections with theologians and academics representing varied disciplines and ministries and to become better acquainted with their interests and aspirations in light of the forthcoming Holy and Great Council.



Patriarch Bartholomew addresses scholars.

“We had the opportunity to listen to His All-Holiness address all those gathered, and then, as representing different communities of scholars... to offer to His All-Holiness reflections on the particular challenges we face today and how we can work together more effectively,” said Archpriest Dr. John Behr, Dean of St. Vladimir’s Seminary. Also representing the OCA was Archpriest Dr. Alexander Rentel, Assistant Professor of Canon Law and the John and Paraskeva Skvir Lecturer in Practical Theology at St. Vladimir’s. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/oca-represented-at-scholars-meeting-at-ecumenical-patriarchate>

Nearly 400 students attend east, west conferences

LIGONIER, PA – Over 300 college students gathered at Antiochian Village here December 28-31, 2015 for the Orthodox Christian Fellowship’s annual east coast college conference – “Modern Martyrs: Witnesses of the World.” Concurrently, over 60 students explored the same theme at OCF’s west coast conference at Saint Nicholas Ranch, Dunlap, CA.

The programs combined worship, fellowship, discussions and presentations on how to witness to Christ on campus and in the secular world.

Sister Vassa [Larin], a nun of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia from the University of Vienna, Austria, delivered the keynote address at the east coast conference, while Priest Apostolos Hill of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ, gave the opening address at the west coast conference.

OCF is the official campus ministry organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/nearly-400-students-attend-ocfs-annual-east-west-college-conferences>

Openings still available for OCMC’s 2016 teams

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL – It’s not too late to sign up for an Orthodox Christian Mission Center [OCMC] 2016 ministry team.

Individuals interested in teaching, youth and healthcare ministries are being sought for team opportunities in Albania, Indonesia, Guatemala, Kenya, Mexico, and Uganda between March and November. Seminarians may earn credit hours while studying missiology through the Missions Institute of Orthodox Christianity in a practicum in Albania in late May and early June. Four additional mission teams will undertake construction projects and youth camping ministry in the OCA’s Diocese of Alaska in July.

Detailed descriptions, expectations and registration information may be found on OCMC’s web site at http://www.ocmc.org/about/open_teams.aspx. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/openings-still-available-for-ocmcs-2016-mission-teams>

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 asked to duplicate and distribute *OCAreview* monthly, especially to those without internet access who desire printed highlights of OCA web site postings.

February 2016

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world Orthodoxy, the OCA’s contributions to pan-Orthodox discussions on ecclesiology, and the OCA’s role in the Assembly of Bishops also were reviewed.

Also participating were the members of the Standing Synod of Bishops; Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs; Archpriests John Erickson and Alexander Rentel; and Dr. Paul Meyendorff. Also present were Archpriests John Jillions and Eric G. Tosi, Chancellor and Secretary respectively; Melanie Ringa, Treasurer; Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak, Secretary to Metropolitan Tikhon; and Alexis Liberovsky, Archivist. ■ **FULL STORIES:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-addresses-diocesan-chancellors-treasurers>, <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/office-of-external-affairs-looks-to-future>

In Memoriam

● **Archpriest Demetrius Edwards**, Rector of St. Gregory Church, Moundville, AL, fell asleep in the Lord January 7, 2016. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-demetrius-edwards>

● **Joshua Zdinak**, beloved son of Archpriest John Zdinak, Chancellor of the Diocese of the Midwest and Dean of St. Theodosius Cathedral, Cleveland, OH, and Matushka Cynthia, fell asleep in the Lord January 20, 2016. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/joshua-zdinak>