

KATHEDRA

A Monthly Newsletter for the Archdiocese of Washington, DC
Orthodox Church in America

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At the 19th All-American Council in Saint Louis, our Archdiocesan delegates met and discussed, among other matters, the importance of communication within the Archdiocese of Washington. Later that year, a survey was taken within the Archdiocesan Council to identify the areas that our Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDB) might direct their funding towards. Here again, communication was identified as a priority. In the past, we had an impressive quarterly publication known as Kathedra which was edited by Fr. Dennis Buck. We do not presently have the resources to publish a Quarterly of that quality but we will endeavor to provide a concise monthly or quarterly Newsletter for our parishes. We have named it "Kathedra" in order to take up once again the good work that was begun so excellently in the 1990s.

A Word From the Metropolitan...

Christ is in our midst!

It is fitting that the first issue of the revived *Kathedra* publication take place in the month of September since the first of this month marks the beginning of the ecclesiastical year. It is an ecclesiastical year that overlaps both the 225th Anniversary of the Alaskan Mission (September 24) and the 50th Anniversary of Autocephaly and the Canonization of St Herman (August 9).



I recently returned from a visit to the Diocese of Alaska, where I participated in the Annual St Herman Pilgrimage to Spruce Island. That event was a blessed one, with many pilgrims travelling from all over the world to come and pray before the relics of the humble monk

who became the first to be glorified as a saint in our North American lands. As we prepare ourselves for the celebrations in 2020 of the 50th Anniversary of his canonization and the 50th Anniversary of our Autocephaly, I would encourage everyone to consider making a pilgrimage to the original diocese of the Orthodox Church in America.

While I was in Alaska, I also had the blessing to travel—by very small plane—to Saint Paul Island, the largest of the Pribilof Islands on the Bering Sea. There is only one post office, one store and one church – the one Church is the Orthodox parish of St Peter and Paul. It was wonderful to see a vibrant and faithful community of Orthodox believers on this remote island, which most Americans might know from the television show, “America’s Deadliest Catch” which is filmed in the waters around St Paul Island.

My delegation, which included Archbishop David, the diocesan bishop, was greeted simply yet warmly at the small airport with beautiful singing by the choir and over 50 people who had gathered to welcome us (even bringing along a red carpet for the bishops). Later that evening, Vespers was celebrated and singing could be heard in Slavonic, English, and Unangan (the Aleut language).

It was remarkable, and truly inspiring, to find an Orthodox community on this small island of 400 people, and especially to see the wonderful and natural integration of many cultures (Aleut, Russian, and North American) all within the context of a believing Orthodox community in the middle of the sea. Even though they are isolated, one could sense a strong feeling of family and unity there, and for us who live in the modern world of luxury and easy communication, it is a powerful lesson in basic Christian living.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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From the Chancellor's Desk...

Great news from the Mission in Fairfax County...

The Fairfax Mission Station celebrated its first monthly Divine Liturgy on Aug. 28, 2019 with some 60 worshippers in attendance and it was glorious.



The Mission Station began in October of 2018, after a demographic study by the Mission Board revealed the need for an Orthodox presence in southwestern Fairfax County. Thanks to the generosity of the Roman Catholic Church it meets in the historic St. Mary Catholic Church in Fairfax Station and it has been blessed with dedicated and talented clergy and choir directors. To date, the services have been mainly Saturday night Vespers, followed by a light meal, fellowship, and Bible study. Attendance has ranged from the mid-teens to around 40 souls, with the average around 20 and growing. Given this encouraging beginning, the Mission Station is now beginning to serve Divine Liturgies on one Sunday per month. The August 28th Divine Liturgy was the first of these and the next will be on Sunday, Sep. 29th, with His Beatitude currently scheduled to serve. Praise be to God for this blessed start!

We are looking for volunteers for local committees...

We, the Archdiocese of Washington D.C., will be hosting the 20th All American Council (AAC) in Baltimore in the summer of 2021. This is the official gathering of all the OCA parishes throughout North America that occurs once every 3 years and involves roughly 1,000 people. Besides being a wonderful occasion, it is a great opportunity to showcase our Archdiocese and to continue the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the autocephaly of the OCA and the canonization of the first North American saint – St. Herman. Fr. Ted Boback and Lisa Mikhalevsky are the local co-chairs for the event.

As you may imagine, hosting a week-long conference with 1,000 attendees takes some planning. Fortunately, the OCA has been doing this for decades and has a pretty good ‘play book’. Key to making this work is the formation and staffing of some dozen committees -- e.g. registration, exhibits and displays, food and beverages, secretarial, youth programs, public relations, liturgics, and more. All told we will need between 50 and 100 people helping us. Some of these committees will start early -- sometime this winter -- and others only when we get much closer to the AAC itself.

At this stage, we are looking to identify people who might be interested in helping. This is not a commitment, but simply an attempt to get an idea of the people we might be able to draw upon. If you eventually do decide to get involved, we can be flexible and match you to a position that matches your interests/background and your schedule. **But for now, all we want to know is whether you might possibly be interested and would like to be kept informed of what we are doing. If so, please let either Fr. Ted (tboback@aol.com) or Lisa (lisamik56@gmail.com) know. I think this will be a tremendously exciting time, a milestone in the life of our Archdiocese and the Church, and a wonderful opportunity to build new friendships and grow existing ones.**

A Glimpse From the Archives

The Summer/Fall 1994 issue of our Archdiocesan Quarterly, “Kathedra,” presented several articles on the Bicentennial of the Orthodoxy in North America, including a lead article with the schedule of Bicentennial events to be held with the diocese of Washington from September 22-25, 1994. There was also a reflection by a catechumen from St Catherine’s in Hagerstown, Kevin Gregory Long, on the glorification of St Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, which took place over the Memorial Day Pilgrimage that year. Also in that issue, can be found an interview with Katherine “Kitty” Perkowetz, the daughter of Archbishop Kiprian and a

parishioner of St. Andrew's Orthodox Church in Baltimore. In the interview, Kitty says the following about her father:

"In May of 1950, Metropolitan Leonty [then Archbishop of Chicago] assigned my father to Holy Trinity Church in Kansas City, Kansas, where we remained for three years, then he was transferred to St. Andrew's Church in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1959, my father was assigned to St Mary's Church in Stamford, Connecticut, where my mother died on July 23, 1961.

In 1961, my father was consecrated *Bishop of Washington, DC*, at the Holy Protection Cathedral in New York City on October 1, the Cathedral's feast day (according to the old calendar). His first official act as Bishop on this day was to ordain Metropolitan Theodosius to the diaconate. Immediately after the consecration he became rector of St Tikhon's Seminary. In 1964, he became bishop of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania and then was elevated to Archbishop.

Look for more history from the archives of the Archdiocese in future edition of this newsletter.

Upcoming Archdiocesan Events

September 28: Annual Archdiocesan Assembly at St Luke's Orthodox Church in McLean.

October 26: Local Meeting to prepare for the All-American Council. Everyone who wishes to help out and serve on a local committee is invited to attend!

November 16: Mission Retreat at St Mark Orthodox Church in Bethesda with Archpriest Michael Oleksa as retreat leader on the topic: *Baptizing Cultures from St Herman to the Present*. 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

Metropolitan's Schedule

September 29: Divine Liturgy at Fairfax Mission Station.

September 30-October 2: Residency at St Nicholas Cathedral.

October 5-6: Feast of St Innocent at St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary.

October 8-9: Feast of St Tikhon of Moscow and Enlightener of North America at St Tikhon's Monastery with lecture on "Primacy and Service," part 1 of the October Lecture Series at St Tikhon's Seminary (7:30 pm on October 8).

October 12-13: 100th anniversary celebrations of St Nicholas Orthodox Church in Wierton, West Virginia.

October 17-18: Fall meeting of the Board of Trustees of St Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary.

October 19-20: Liturgical World Premiere of Benedict Sheehan's Divine Liturgy with events in the Capital and Divine Liturgy on Sunday at St Nicholas Cathedral.

Kathedra is an official publication of the Archdiocese of Washington of the Orthodox Church in America. The Diocesan Bishop is His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of All America and Canada.

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To submit news or information for this Newsletter, please contact XXXX