



COMMENCE- MENT : 2016

ST VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

YONKERS, NEW YORK



SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2016, 2:30 PM
METROPOLITAN PHILIP AUDITORIUM





COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

*Please silence all mobile phones
and other electronic devices.*

During the Procession: The Troparion of Pascha

Opening of the Commencement Exercises

The Most Blessed Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, and President of the Seminary

Welcoming Remarks

The Dean

Commencement Address

Dr. Paul Meyendorff

The Father Alexander Schmemmann Professor of Liturgical Theology
at the Seminary

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES ON THE GRADUATES OF
THE CLASS OF 2016

Valedictory Address

The Rev. William Ray Rettig

The Rev. Dn. John Max Mikitish

Introduction to the Alumni Association

The Rev. Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak

Conferral of the St Macrina Award

Ms. Abigail Dean

President of the Student Council

Salutatory Address
Mr. Mark Chenoweth

Concluding Remarks
The Chancellor

Closing Remarks
His Beatitude

Closing prayer: Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem

Recessional: The Troparion of Pascha

A reception follows.



THE CLASS OF 2016

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The Rev. Alexander J. MACKOUL

The Rev. Dn. Shiryl Simon MATHAI

The Rev. Dn. John Max MIKITISH (*Co-valedictorian; summa cum laude; commendation for thesis*)

*A Groundwork for a Liturgical and
Devotional History of Akathist Hymns*

The Very Rev. Dr. Alexander Rentel, *advisor*

The Rev. Aleksey PARANYUK (*commendation for service to the community*)

The Rev. William Ray RETTIG (*Co-valedictorian*)

The Rev. Michael R. ROZDILSKI

Mr. Shawn Poothicote THOMAS (*cum laude*)

*The Twentieth-Century Eastern/Oriental Orthodox
Dialogue and Its Athonite Critique*

Dr. Peter Bouteneff, *advisor*

Mr. Thomas Zaid TOTONCHY



CANDIDATES FOR THE
MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

The Rev. Eldos ALIYAS

*Images and Metaphors about St Mary in the Malankara Orthodox
Daily Liturgical Book Shimo*

Dr. Al Rossi, *advisor*

Mr. Patrick Landon BOWMAN (*summa cum laude*)

Koinonia in Antiquity: A Search for the Meaning of 1 Cor. 10 : 14–22

Dr. Paul Meyendorff, *advisor*

Mr. Andrew Patrick CANNON (*magna cum laude*)

The Word Became Flesh: Theanthropic

Communion Media in the Liturgy

Dr. Peter Bouteneff, *advisor*

Ms. Abigail O. DEAN

*Words about Women: An Analysis of the Semantic Field
of Women in the Earliest Christianity*

Prof. Richard Schneider, *advisor*

Mr. Edgar GEVORGYAN

(Degree awarded December 2015)

*The Concept of Time and Space through the Notion of διάστημα
in Gregory of Nyssa's Contra Eunomium*

The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, *advisor*

Mr. Edward HUNTER (*magna cum laude; commendation for thesis*)

Theodotus of Ancyra's Exposition of the Nicene Symbol:

A Historical, Literary, and Theological Examination

The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, *advisor*

Mr. Peter MANSOUR

*Restoring Diakonia: Looking to the Past and Proposing a Future for
the Deacon's Ministry in the Coptic Orthodox Church*

The Very Rev. Dr. Alexander Rentel, *advisor*

Mr. Abraam MIKHAIL

*A Pastoral Approach to the Pitfalls of Pleasure:
The Pædagogy of Clement of Alexandria*
The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, *advisor*

Mr. Alexandru Marian POPOVICI

Scientology: A Growing Modern "Faith"
The Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield, *advisor*

Mr. Wesley PULLEY (*commendation for service to the community*)

*Hospitality as the Key for Unlocking Evangelism
by the Orthodox Church in America*
The Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield, *advisor*

Nun Margarete ROEBER (*summa cum laude; commendation for thesis;
commendation for service to the community*)

*The Gift of Virginity: Active Passivity of Christ
and the Church in Irenaeus of Lyons*
The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, *advisor*

Ms. Elizabeth SINISCALCHI

(Degree awarded December 2015)
Genesis 11 : 1–9 as a Disruptive Narrative
The Rev. Dr. Sergius Halvorsen, *advisor*



CANDIDATES FOR THE
MASTER OF THEOLOGY DEGREE

The Rev. Ignatius GREEN (*commendation for thesis*)
Rereading St Gregory of Nyssa's Catechetical Oration
The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, *advisor*

Mr. Bogdan NEACSIU
The Argument and Purpose of
On the Making of Man by Saint Gregory of Nyssa
The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, *advisor*

Mr. Botros SADEK (*commendation for thesis*)
Mariology as Christology: A Reading in the Seven Coptic Theotokia
The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, *advisor*

Mr. Alexander Robert TITUS
Deification in St Gregory Palamas and Meister Eckhart:
A Comparative Study
Dr. Peter Bouteneff, *advisor*



THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

PROF. PAUL MEYENDORFF, the Fr Alexander Schmemmann Professor of Liturgical Theology, joined the faculty of St Vladimir's Seminary in 1987, following the completion of his doctoral studies at the University of Notre Dame. In addition to teaching, he has held the post of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (2002–2007) and of Editor of the *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* (1996–2002, 2007–present). Dr Meyendorff has taught as Visiting Professor at the University of Notre Dame and Yale Divinity School.

Throughout his career, Prof. Meyendorff has been active in the ecumenical movement, representing the Orthodox Church in the Faith and Order Commissions of both the National Council of Churches (1992–2003, Chairman 1996–2003) and the World Council of Churches (2004–present). Since 2003, he has been a member of the North-American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation, and since 2004 of the international St Irenaeus Orthodox-Catholic Working Group.

He is the author of several books published by SVS Press, including St Germanus of Constantinople, *On the Divine Liturgy* (1984), *Russia, Ritual and Reform: The Liturgical Reforms of Nikon in the 17th Century* (1991), and *The Anointing of the Sick* (2009). He has translated several books for the Press and written numerous articles.

In 2013, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Saint Sergius Orthodox Theological Institute in Paris, France. ☐

THE VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The valedictorian, who is selected from among graduating M.Div. students, delivers the commencement address on behalf of the graduating class. The salutarian, an M.Div. middler who is completing his or her second academic year at St Vladimir's as a full-time student, offers words of congratulation to the graduating class on behalf of those who will be remaining at the seminary. The valedictorian and salutarian are selected by the faculty on the basis of each student's excellent performance in all aspects of seminary life, including academic work, participation in chapel services, and completion of community service assignments. ☐

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