

2008 COMMENCEMENT

OF

*St Vladimir's
Orthodox Theological Seminary*



SATURDAY

MAY 17, 2008

2:00 PM

St Vladimir's Seminary
575 Scarsdale Rd, Crestwood, NY

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2008

Commencement Exercises

- 1 Molieben
- 2 Procession of Graduates and Faculty
- 3 Opening prayer: "Christ is Risen"
- 4 Opening of the Commencement Exercises
His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman, President
- 5 Welcoming Remarks
Fr John Behr, Dean
- 6 Commencement Address
Fr Michael Oleksa (SVS '73)
- 7 Confering of Degrees to the Class of 2008
- 8 Valedictory Address
Rico Gabriel Monge
- 9 Induction into the Alumni Association
Fr David Barr, Association President
- 10 Salutatory Address
Evan Freeman
- 11 Concluding Remarks
Fr Chad Hatfield, Chancellor
- 12 Closing of the Commencement Exercises
His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, President
- 13 Closing prayer: "Shine, Shine . . ."
- 14 Recession of Graduates and Faculty

Class of 2008

Candidates for the Master of Divinity degree

Gregory John ABDALAH

The Role of Youth Choirs in the Orthodox Church

Daniel BELONICK (*magna cum laude*)

Silence in Ignatius

Fr Paul COATS (*magna cum laude*)

Iconological Marriage Preparation: Toward a Positive Approach

Dn Abu Koshy GEORGE

Origins of the Schism in the Orthodox Church in India: 1912–1975

Fr David LEWIS

From Death to Resurrection: An Examination of the Rite and Ritual of Lent and Holy Week in Western Rite Orthodoxy

Barry MIGYANKO (*cum laude*)

Rico Gabriel MONGE (*Valedictorian, summa cum laude*)

The Twilight of Idolatrous Theology: An Examination of the Debate over Jean-Luc Marion's Postmetaphysical Theology and its Implications for Theological Discourse

Dn Aleksa PAVICHEVICH (*cum laude*)

Tatiana V. PENKRAT

Image and Liturgy: The History and Meaning of the Epitaphion

Fr Kristijan PETROVICH

Orthodoxy in American Cinema

Fr Paul RIVERS

Dn Gregory VARGHESE

Rise of the Malankara Orthodox Church in America

Candidates for the Master of Arts degree in General Theology

Maria P. BETHANCOURT (*cum laude*)

Working Toward One Witness

Erica Seraphima CARL (*magna cum laude*)

*On Creation, Twice: The Double Creation Account in the First
19 Paragraphs of Athanasius of Alexandria's De Incarnatione*

Dn Ephrem (Aboud) ISHAC

*St Jacob of Edessa's Hexaemeron: A Comparative Study with
St Basil of Caesarea's Hexaemeron*

Yulia KATYSHEV (*cum laude*)

*Pedagogical Methods for Preschool Children as Found in
Orthodox Literature on Religious Education*

Jennifer N. C. LOPUSHOK

Unthought Protection: Byzantine Christians Under Islamic Law

Mariya SIMAKOVA (*magna cum laude*)

*Saving the Good Samaritan: The Literal and the
Allegorical in Modern Orthodox Exegesis*

Haron TCHETCHENIAN

John TZAVELAS

*Redaction Criticism and the Stilling of the Storm in Matthew:
Methodology and Outcome*

Candidates for the Master of Arts degree in Religious Education

Nicholas BELLACK

Megan A. JENDIAN

Candidates for the Master of Theology degree

Jeremy BERGSTROM

Embodiment in Gregory of Nyssa: His Anthropology and Ideal Ascetic Struggle

Dn Kevin J. E. HAAN

A Critical Examination of the Traditionalist's Position on Rebaptism

Fr Gregory George HARRIGLE

*Understanding Wisdom Secretly: "Gnostic Thought Forms"
in Second Century Orthodoxy and Heresy*

Steven LEE

On First Principles and General Theories

Rami WAKIM

Literal Analysis of St Maximos the Confessor's Mystagogy of the Church

Candidates for the Doctor of Ministry degree

Fr Nicholas J. SOLAK

Preaching Stewardship in a Consumer Culture

Fr Steven P. ZORZOS

*Addiction and Idolatry: Self-Renunciation, Forgiveness and Love.
A Healing Meditation on the Parable of the Prodigal Son*

Commencement Speaker

Reverend Dr Michael James Oleksa

The Reverend Dr Michael James Oleksa has spent the last 35 years in Alaska, serving as village priest, university professor, consultant on intercultural relations and communications, and authoring several books on Alaska Native cultures and history. Father Oleksa graduated from Georgetown University in 1969 and from St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in 1973. He also earned his doctoral degree in Presov, Slovakia, in 1988. His four-part PBS television series, *Communicating Across Cultures*, has been widely acclaimed. The recipient of numerous awards from local, state and federal agencies, as well as the Alaska Federation of Natives, Father Michael has taught on all three main campuses of the University of Alaska system and at Alaska Pacific University as well. He currently resides in Anchorage with his Yup'ik wife, Xenia, his daughter Anastasia and one of his three grandsons.



St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

575 SCARSDALE ROAD
CRESTWOOD, NY 10707-1699

www.svots.edu