



# COMMENCE- MENT : 2017

ST VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

YONKERS, NEW YORK



SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017, 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 Chairman of the Board of Trustees

*Welcoming Remarks*

The Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield, President

*Commencement Address*

His Grace the Right Reverend John (Abdalah)

Bishop of Worcester and New England

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES ON THE GRADUATES OF  
THE CLASS OF 2017

*Valedictory Address*

Mr. Mark Chenoweth

*Introduction to the Alumni Association*

The Very Rev. David Barr

*Conferral of the St Macrina Award*

Dn. Joseph Wessler

President of the Student Council

*Salutatory Address*

Mr. Dimitrios Nikiforos

*St Vladimirs' Women's Chorale*

*"The Angel Cried" by Nazo Zakkak*

*"Christ is Risen" by Vladimir Morosan*

*Closing Remarks*

His Beatitude, The Most Blessed Tikhon,

Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada,

Orthodox Church in America

*Closing prayer: "Shine, Shine, O New Jerusalem"*

*Recessional: The Troparion of Pascha*

*A reception follows.*



# THE CLASS OF 2017

## CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

Mr. Ian Francis ABODEELY

Mr. Levon ASDOURIAN

Mr. Mark CHENOWETH (*magna cum laude; commendation for thesis*)  
*Allegory and Old Testament Violence: Origen's Interpretation  
of Joshua in a World of Historical Criticism*  
Dr. Peter Bouteneff, advisor

The Rev. Seth EARL (*commendation for service to community*)

The Rev. Paul GIRGIS

Mr. George MANAMPURAM

Mr. Christopher STOOPS

Mr. Bobby VARGHESE

The Rev. Dn. Joseph WESSELER



CANDIDATES FOR THE  
MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

Ms. Sandy HERMANSEN

*Rhetoric, Mimesis, and Theology: A Study of the Hymns of Feast  
of the Meeting of the Lord*

Prof. Richard Schneider, advisor

Mr. Stefan Emil JOHANSSON

*The Christology Put Forth by Severus of Antioch in His Letters Written to  
Oecumenis the Count*

The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, advisor

Dr. Nicholas MONTIEGEL (*commendation for service to community*)

*The Great Narratives of Pre-Lent: Three Studies of Individuation*

Dr. Peter Bouteneff, advisor



CANDIDATES FOR THE  
MASTER OF THEOLOGY DEGREE

Mr. Patrick Landon BOWMAN

*Hebrews 6:4-6 and the Patristic Problem: Reconciliation  
or Rejection for Lapsed Christians*

Dr. Peter Bouteneff, advisor

Nun Margarete ROEBER (*commendation for thesis*)

*Twofold Organization: Discerning the Coherence of Gregory of Nyssa's  
On the Making of Man*

The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, advisor

Mr. Shawn Poothicote THOMAS

*An Examination of the Ecclesiology of Basil the Great in the Context  
of the Meletian Schism*

The Very Rev. Dr. Alexander Rentel, advisor

The Rev. Dr. Timothy THOMAS

[Degree awarded in September 2016]

*Themes of Incarnation in the Cathedral Homilies of Severus of Antioch*

The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, advisor



## THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

His Grace the Right Reverend John (Abdalah) is bishop of the Diocese of Worcester and New England, in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

He holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Care from Pittsburgh Theological School, a Master of Divinity from St. Vladimir's Seminary, a Master's equivalency certificate in Pastoral Counseling from Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Suffolk University in Boston, MA. Throughout Seminary and following his studies, he also studied Arabic.

Additionally, Bishop John is a clinical member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. He taught Pastoral Counseling in the graduate program at the St. John of Damascus Institute at the Balamand in Lebanon.

For 33 years, Bishop John served as a priest of the Antiochian Archdiocese, and had been Dean of St. George Cathedral in Pittsburgh, PA, for 16 of those years. His prior parish service also included 16 years in New Kensington, PA, and one year in Little Falls, NJ.

In other service to his Archdiocese, Bishop John acted as the Spiritual Advisor for the "Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America," and as Dean of Western Pennsylvania clergy and parishes. He also served for nearly ten years as North American Council Spiritual Advisor for the Fellowship of St. John the Divine.

Currently he teaches Priestly Formation for the Antiochian House of Studies, while mentoring the full-time seminarians in the Antiochian House of Studies programs. Bishop John also is Editor of *The Word* magazine.

Bishop John's Commencement Address is titled, "What I Wish I Had Known 39 Years Ago."

## 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 salutatorian, 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 salutatorian 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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The Very Rev. John H. Erickson

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