

ANNUAL REPORT The SVS Vine vol. 12 JULY 1, 2018–JUNE 30, 2019













WHERE PAN-ORTHODOXY IS LIVED



ST. VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Pan-Orthodoxy is not just a dream at St. Vladimir's. It is *lived* here. The Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield PRESIDENT, ST. VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Those words, uttered recently by a hierarch and Seminary alumnus from the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese, struck me deeply.

They are a timely reminder that St. Vladimir's pan- and inter-Orthodox flavor serves as a beacon of light. Because, tragically, the Orthodox world in our time is as divided as ever.

Forty years after the repose of the brilliant Fr. Georges Florovsky (1893–1979), our former



dean, his vision and work to give the Seminary a definite pan-Orthodox orientation is still being fulfilled here every day.

- 1 Pan-Orthodoxy is Lived Here FR. CHAD HATFIELD
- 5 The Opportunity in Change DR. ALEX TUDORIE
- 6 2019 Financials
- 8 Sitting with the Suffering of Others FR. NATHANIEL TREMBLEY
- 10 A Leap Forward SACRED ARTS PROGRAM
- 12 Hot Off the Press SVS PRESS UPDATE
- 14 Two Serving as One ALUMNI IN MINISTRY
- 16 The Gift is in the Giving GINNY NIEUWSMA
- 18 Ordinations
- BACK St. Vladimir's Seminary Board of Trustees

All photos courtesy of St. Vladimir's Seminary unless otherwise indicated. COVER TOP RIGHT: Nick Mueller COVER BOTTOM LEFT: Michael Sellas

"A contemporary Orthodox theologian cannot retire into a narrow cell of some local tradition, because Orthodoxy [...] is not a local tradition but basically an ecumenical one."

Archpriest Georges Florovsky, after St. Vladimir's was granted official status as an academy of higher learning in 1948

At our chapel, in our classrooms, and even at lunch, one cannot help but notice how Orthodox Christians from just about every jurisdiction and continent stand side-by-side in worship, study, and fellowship. You will see, among other things, how vespers and matins every Thursday are served and chanted according to the rubrics of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese; how unique courses in music, liturgics, history, and more are offered every semester for Orthodox traditions outside of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA), including Oriental Orthodox traditions; how chapels have been established on campus for students from the Coptic and Syriac/Malankara traditions to learn and practice serving in their respective rites; how special scholarships have enabled seminarians from Serbian, African, Georgian, Syriac, and other churches to be educated and trained here at St. Vladimir's (and the list of scholarships is growing!); and how at every Seminary gathering or event, Orthodox Christians of every background you could imagine engage in loving Christian fellowship and high-level discussions. Oh, and one of the

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highlights of 2019 was our celebration to commemorate fifty years of cooperation between St. Vladimir's and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

Does this kind of activity-or even *could* ithappen on this scale and with this frequency anywhere else in the world? Everywhere you look, jurisdictional disputes abound, and too many Orthodox churches are arguably becoming even more insular. But we continue to buck that trend. In fact, we are constantly in discussions to increase our cooperation with other Orthodox jurisdictions and to create new offerings in our curriculum to better cater to the needs of their respective traditions.

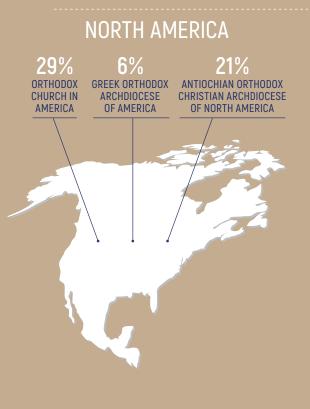
I firmly believe the Seminary will play an important role in bringing Orthodox unity-it's only a matter of when we as Orthodox Christians can get out of our own way long enough to allow the Holy Spirit to do His work and bring us together. But when that happens, St. Vladimir's will be at the forefront.

So, when you pray for and support St. Vladimir's Seminary with your generosity, you are also investing in this crucial goal of Orthodox unity. With all sincerity, I thank you for that.

2019 was not just a year highlighted by our continued commitment to pan- and inter-Orthodoxy. There were important developments in so many areas, including, notably, the sacred arts, Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), and St. Vladimir's Seminary (SVS) Press. Enjoy this snapshot of St. Vladimir's Seminary and her seminarians, alumni, faculty, and staff in the pages that follow.

By the way, you may have noticed this annual report has been released later than in previous years. That is because we have decided to start publishing our annual report around the beginning of the Seminary's new fiscal year, on July 1, rather than around the beginning of the calendar year. We hope it was worth the wait!

WHERE PAN-ORTHODOXY IS LIVED Seminarians at St. Vladimir's Seminary hail from multiple continents and jurisdictions.



¹2019-2020 Academic Year; does not include non-degree students ²Includes Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church

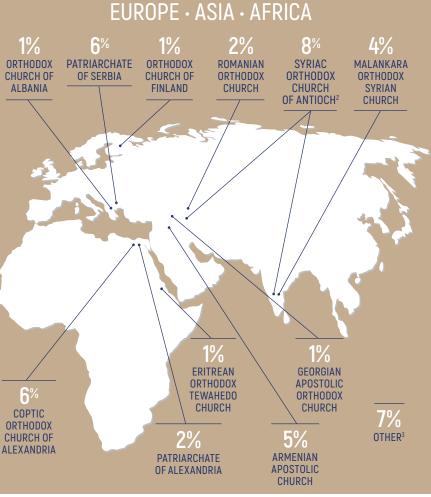
and Knanaya Syriac Orthodox Churches ³Church of the Nazarene, Melkite Greek Catholic, Free Methodist, Episcopal, Unaffiliated, Continuing Anglican

Fr. Chad & His Grace. Bishop Daniel Findikyan (M.Div., 1989), primate of

the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and president of St. Nersess Seminary (рното: Dn. Ryan Tellalian)



With His Eminence, Metropolitan Basilios and Coptic Orthodox priest Rev. Dr. Daniel Fanous at the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese Residency in Illawong, Sydney, Australia *(рното: Antiochian Orthodox* Archdiocese of Australia. New Zealand and The Philippines)





The Opportunity in Change

Dr. Ionut-Alexandru Tudorie ACADEMIC DEAN, ST. VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

There have been noticeable changes at St. Vladimir's in recent years. Well-known professors have retired. Others have left for new administrative appointments within the Church or new academic opportunities at other institutions. A new academic dean was hired.

Of course, any period of transition is a challenge, but there is also great opportunity in this time of change! I believe one of my most important duties as academic dean is to help bring in the finest Orthodox scholars when these opportunities arise. In this process, we also have an opportunity to foster and cultivate the pan-Orthodox vision for this Seminary.

In the 2019-2020 academic year, with those goals in mind, we began a rigorous search to fill two important faculty positions: professor of patristics and professor of liturgical theology. After an extensive search in North America and internationally, making use of external reviewers to assist our in-house Search Committees in the process, I am very happy to report that Rev. Dr. Bogdan Bucur and Dr. Vitaly Permiakov have joined our faculty as professors of patristics and liturgical theology. To learn more about these new hires, please visit our website: www.svots.edu.





Rev. Dr. Bogdan Bucur

Dr. Vitaly Permiakov

electronic resources to the Seminary's Father Georges Florovsky Library. Expanding the research tools and the library collection is definitely an important piece in attracting the finest scholars to St. Vladimir's. We hope to bring you more good news about these and other efforts very soon.





Our work will not stop here. Either as faculty or as visiting scholars, I am committed to bringing here distinguished scholars from as many of the great traditions of Orthodoxy as possible–Russia, the Middle East, Greece, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, and so on. I would like St. Vladimir's Seminary to be recognized as a hub for Orthodox scholars in service of the Church. In pursuit of this goal, we have been working to organize, grow, and add more

RAISING UP MORE LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH

The donors of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary provide 75% of tuition costs needed to deliver a stellar educational experience to our students. Thanks to their prayers and generosity, graduates may enter the service of the Church without being burdened by tuition loan debt. We believe strongly that no qualified applicant should be deterred from considering service to the Church because of financial concerns.

Our formula is simple. The Seminary pays 50% up front. If 25% can be secured through a seminarian's home parish, diocese, or other church organization, the Seminary will match that up to 25%.

If you are not already a donor, please consider making this investment in the future of the Church. If you are already a donor, thank you! To learn more, visit SVOTS.edu and click on "Ways to Give" or "Give Now" at the top of the page.

The total annual cost to educate one seminarian is \$62,775

Review our audited financial statements, which reflect our prudent care of gifts entrusted to us, online at SVOTS.edu/support/financials.

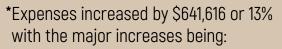
COSTS BY CATEGORY

FACILITIES COSTS	\$ 19,359	31%
INSTRUCTION & LIBRARY	\$ 13,851	22%
ADMIN/TECH/ALUMNI/ADMISSIONS	\$ 13,617	22%
FUNDRAISING/COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 8,489	14%
SCHOLARSHIPS/TUITION MATCH	\$ 7,459	12%
TOTAL COSTS	\$ 62,775	
FUNDED BY STUDENT/DIOCESE/PARISH	\$(18,591)	-30%
OPERATING FUNDS TO BE RAISED BY SVOTS	\$ 44,184	70%

Includes cost of maintaining 14 buildings, including Chapel, Refectory, dorms, apartments, and classrooms. Includes cost of the faculty plus the Library. Includes cost of the President's Office, all technology for the entire campus, recruitment, and admissions. Cost to communicate with our constituents and to raise funds to support the mission. Represents scholarships from our endowed funds, plus matching grants that are given by SVOTS. Represents costs covered by the student, their parish/diocese, and scholarships/matching grants. Balance of 70% of operating costs is raised by SVOTS annually to support educating our students.

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

	FY2019	FY2018	CHANGE
INSTRUCTION	\$ 929,285 19%	\$ 740,763 17%	\$188,522 20%
ADVANCEMENT & EVENTS	\$818,871 16%	\$ 583,632 14%	\$235,239 29%
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 670,294 14%	\$ 544,248 13%	\$ 126,046 19%
OPERATIONS & PLANT MAINTENANCE	\$ 649,696 13%	\$ 622,239 14%	\$ 27,457 4%
SCHOLARSHIPS/TUITION MATCH	\$ 612,889 12%	\$ 562,447 13%	\$ 50,442 8%
DEPRECIATION	\$ 527,668 11%	\$ 534,566 12%	\$ (6,898) -1%
TECHNOLOGY	\$ 228,503 5%	\$ 228,906 5%	\$ (403) 0%
STUDENT HOUSING/REFECTORY	\$ 175,862 4%	\$ 164,578 4%	\$ 11,284 6%
ACADEMIC SUPPORT	\$ 171,365 3%	\$ 164,476 4%	\$ 6,889 4%
STUDENT SERVICES	\$ 98,091 2%	\$ 100,190 2%	\$ (2,099) -2%
RECRUITMENT/ALUMNI RELATIONS	\$ 81,573 2%	\$ 76,436 2%	\$ 5,137 6%
TOTAL EXPENSES*	\$4,964,097 100%	\$4,322,481 100%	\$ 641,616 13%



- INSTRUCTION \$188.522 for the addition of a full-time academic dean with legal and other costs, CPE satellite fees, and other travel and office-related expenses.
- ADVANCEMENT & EVENTS \$235,239 focused on fundraising for scholarships and events for sacred arts and leadership.
- ADMINISTRATION \$126,016 for teambuilding, president's increased travel and speaking, and additional personnel.
- MATCHING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS \$50,442 to support seminarians.

Sitting with the **Suffering of Others MY SUMMER OF CPE**

Fr. Nathaniel Trembley (M.DIV., CLASS OF 2020)

My summer CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) experience at a hospital in Connecticut was invaluable for my personal growth and future pastoral ministry. When I began CPE, I was terrified by the prospect of walking into hospital rooms and talking to patients and their families during their moments of vulnerability and weakness. I knew that I would be facing suffering, sickness, and death in the hospital, but I felt powerless to minister to people who were confronting their own frailty and mortality. I wondered what I could really say or do for someone who was in the midst of their darkest days-especially if they did not share the same religious faith or core beliefs with me.

Here, one of the main things that I learned in CPE was how important it is for a chaplain or pastor to cultivate a non-anxious presence.

While each of us will inevitably face moments of intense pain and sorrow-moments when almost any words of comfort come off sounding hollow and trite-there is nothing worse than having to face such moments alone.

CPE challenged me to sit with the suffering of others-their fear, anger, grief, doubt, and



discouragement-without running away, being personally overwhelmed, or trying to rush them through distress by offering well-meaning platitudes. Paradoxically, the more that I accepted my own powerlessness, the more that I was able to be the kind of empathetic presence that could be a source of comfort, healing, and strength.

CPE required me to take a clinical approach to my own pastoral growth and education that combined action, reflection, and a new action. Every week, I spent three full clinical days visiting with people in their hospital rooms or at a local nursing home, as well as two full class days reflecting on these encounters with my CPE supervisor and fellow chaplaincy interns. During class days, I received instruction about various aspects of pastoral care, and also presented verbatims-or word for word accounts of conversations that I had had-in order to get feedback on what I had done well or poorly. This feedback was central to improving my competency as a pastor and chaplain, but even more importantly, it helped

me to identify the hurts or hang-ups within me that prevented me from being fully present with others in whatever they might be facing, and thus allowed me to deepen my own empathy and connection to them.

I have not had the opportunity to receive such honest feedback very often, and it was one of the greatest blessings (and challenges!) of the CPE process. While it was always tempting to dismiss the insights of my peers or educator or to be defensive, they gave me new strategies to take into hospital rooms during subsequent visits, as well as a more accurate sense of my own pitfalls when it comes to relating to others. Partnering with them was one of the most rewarding aspects of CPE, and after the interpersonal that we completed together, I have noticed that my conversations with others feel much more natural and comfortable regardless of the subject matter or direction.

When I began CPE, I doubted whether I would be able to help anyone who was in the midst of suffering, sickness, and death, especially if they did not believe that Jesus Christ has already endured these for us and conquered them. But I discovered that my own non-anxious presence is the greatest gift that I can give to someone in these circumstances. Even our Lord Himself, in the midst of Gethsemane and Golgotha, longed for the presence of companions who would not fall asleep on Him or run away, and when we offer this to others, we ultimately come into His presence. CPE has been one of the single most valuable aspects of my education at St. Vladimir's Seminary, and I would recommend it to anyone who is preparing to become a priest or simply looking to deepen their own pastoral ministry.

GIVING SEMINARIANS PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Last year was a seminal year for the program for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at St. Vladimir's Seminary. For the first time, St. Vladimir's was able to offer CPE for credit as a satellite of The Center for Pastoral Education at The Jewish Theological Seminary. Their CPE program is accredited by The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE).

Clinical Pastoral Education is key to the theological education of future priests, deacons, and hospital and prison chaplains. CPE combines psychology with theology and gives students a chance to practice what they have learned either at a parish, a hospital, or a prison. These assignments require the involvement of a clinical site mentor, who verifies the spiritual care delivered and provides observation and feedback on the student's ministry.

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A Leap Forward



In 2019, the Sacred Arts Initiative at St. Vladimir's went from "initiative" to "institute." This was primarily made possible through a second generous grant by the Henry Luce Foundation. The grant enabled the new Institute of Sacred Arts (ISA) to begin an important new integration of the sacred arts into the Seminary's curriculum. Students can now complete an M.Div. or M.A. degree with a concentration in sacred arts. Other courses at the Seminary (Church history, patristics, liturgy, and others) will begin to incorporate the relevance of the visual and musical arts.

The Luce grant also enabled the ISA to pour much-needed resources into marketing efforts, including an impressive new website (www. instituteofsacredarts.com) filled with videos, interviews, and reflections by



both Seminary faculty and other scholars and practitioners.

"We have maintained a steady stream of activity, some of which is very public and some more internal," said Dr. Peter Bouteneff, the director of the Institute. "The cumulative effect is to demonstrate a serious and viable permanent Institute of Sacred Arts at the Seminary."



Since its founding in 1938, St. Vladimir's Seminary has fostered the study of icons, music, and liturgy. The ISA now serves to extend the Seminary's mission in exploring the mutual relationship between theology and the arts by contributing to the work of people and institutions that practice and reflect on the sacred arts; engaging people and institutions of all backgrounds with Orthodox artistic tradition; and inspiring wider public interest in spirituality and the arts. The Institute will find expression in a curriculum infused with the arts, academic symposia and conferences, and publications and cultural events.

ABOVE: Dr. Peter Bouteneff at the Arvo Pärt Centre in Estonia (PHOTO: Birgit Püve)

LEFT: Princeton Professor Dr. Mary K. Farag at the ISA's Byzantine Materiality Conference in May 2019



Hot off the press

The past year was a significant one for St. Vladimir's Seminary Press!



SVS PRESS GETS IMPRESSIVE WEBSITE OVERHAUL

The website of St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, SVSPress.com, was recently relaunched with a sleek new design and important new features.

The new features will lead to a noticeably better user experience for SVS Press patrons. The new layout includes an attractive design with simplified navigation. The homepage draws the reader's attention immediately to important new releases, bestsellers, and "our favorites."

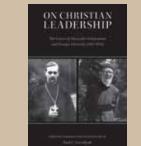
An optimized search function makes it easier than ever to find what you're looking for. Site users can also now see book reviews written by other customers and leave their own reviews. Crucially, the checkout page is a completely smooth and secure experience for the user. *The new website was generously funded by a friend of the Seminary.

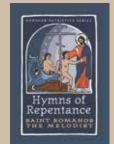
New Marketing Director joins the Press

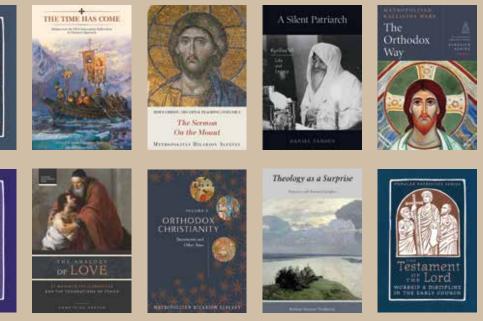
In the summer of 2019, SVS Press began a new era under the leadership of Sarah Werner, who initially joined the Press as marketing director (her role has since expanded at St. Vladimir's). Sarah has been leading the strategic vision for marketing and sales of product, supervising SVS Bookstore operations, and working closely with all aspects of Press operations. The Press has been thriving under her leadership.

Werner hails from Lexington, KY, where she was a member of St. Athanasius Orthodox Church (OCA) in Nicholasville, KY, under the pastoral leadership of Archpriest Justin Patterson (SVOTS Class of 2005).

THE YEAR IN BOOKS Here's a look at new SVS Press publications released over the past year.





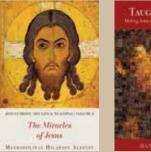


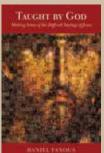


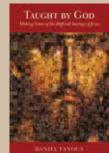


A LOOK AHEAD

Watch for these anticipated new titles and more coming soon!









BECOME AN SVS PRESS PATRON

Patrons play a major role in SVS Press's mission of spreading the gospel and educating the world about Orthodox Christianity. Patrons who sponsor SVS Press titles boost SVS Press & Bookstore revenues, which in turn feed the Seminary's annual operational fund. To become an SVS patron, visit SVOTS.edu/ svspress/patron, or contact:

> Sarah Werner CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER 914.961.8313 x328 SWerner@SVOTS.edu

SVS Press books have contributed greatly to my own spiritual journey and theological understanding, and I am honored to have a hand in expanding the Press and continuing to provide reputable theological resources to the Church and those seeking the Church.

Sarah Werne

ALUMNI IN MINISTRY

Two Serving as One

Father Mircea and Matushka Sarah Geana of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Springfield, VT (OCA) are both graduates of St. Vladimir's, each earning a Master of Divinity degree in 2007. Along with being in charge of an Orthodox parish, the couple has five children and run a vegetable and animal farm. Father Mircea is from Romania and Matushka Sarah was raised in New Hampshire.



In 2019, you went from being an assistant priest to being the sole priest of a parish. What is it like now to be in charge?

FM: It is an adjustment. The main difference is responsibility. As assistant priest I didn't have to handle the parish council or any administrative responsibilities. I would just show up, do the services, hear some confessions. Being sole priest is nerve racking a little bit. There are some worries and a lot to consider. You have to deal with the parish council and a lot of administration. But I am glad to say that the parish is phenomenal and very welcoming, and they helped our children transition too.

How did St. Vladimir's prepare you for this responsibility?

FM: It definitely provided a good foundation in the faith. It grounded me in the faith. The services were essential, the fact that we had services every day. It sticks with you. I do remember those first few days of Great Lent when everyone was silent on campus. We tried to do all the services just like in a monastery. I would say also that Dr. Rossi and Fr. Paul Lazor (+2020) really helped me a lot. Their courses were very practical, like Dr. Rossi's on how to deal with death and dying and marriages that are falling apart. Father Paul taught practical theology and liturgics; how to serve and what to do.

How did Seminary prepare you for being a Matushka?

MS: I can share Father's sentiment that the services of the Church provided a foundation. Having a theological education has made me better equipped to deal with discussions at our parish on controversial issues. I definitely was benefitted by Fr. Stephen Belonick (+2019) and the course on Family Systems Theory and parish life and caring for parishioners. I also benefitted from Fr. Harry and Presbytera Kerry Pappas who taught a course called Prepare/Enrich as a Christian pre-marital course. Dr. Rossi made a huge impact on me in my life and marriage and Fr. Paul Lazar was a wonderful father confessor.

How did you choose St. Vladimir's?

FM: When I was applying from Romania, I had some options. I knew I wanted to study theology and I was accepted at both St. Vladimir's and Holy Cross. It helped that St. Vladimir's gave me a better tuition package. Also, I attended a summer institute at St. Vlad's for a week or so and I met three Romanian students and they all said they loved St. Vlad's.

Along with five children, you run a vegetable and animal farm. How do you stay on top of all of that as well as your ministry?

MS: The only way we can do it is because my mother lives with us. We are very blessed to have a super supportive family unit. Everybody comes together to take care of the kids and to take care of the farm.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church welcomed Fr. Mircea as its new rector along with his wife, Matushka Sarah, and their five children in August 2019 (РНОТО: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church)



DONOR VIEW

The Gift is in the Giving FR. WILLIAM RETTIG & HOLY RESURRECTION CHURCH

Ginny Nieuwsma

Although originally hailing from Washington state and Chicago, respectively, Fr. William and Matushka Jillian Rettig have counted the Upper Midwest as home for over fifteen years. They met and married in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul and were parishioners of Holy Trinity, St. Paul before being prodded to consider seminary in 2013. After graduating from St. Vladimir's in 2016, Fr. William was assigned to Holy Resurrection Mission (now Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church) in Fargo, ND. The Rettigs make their home just across the Red River of the North in Minnesota, where they keep busy caring for their two children, Adelheid and Eben, and their sprawling garden.



During The Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield's Parish Administration class at seminary, Fr. Chad issued a challenge that stayed with Fr. William Rettig when he assumed the leadership of Holy Resurrection Church in Fargo, North Dakota.

"When Fr. Chad was talking about a parish budget, he noted that if every church in the OCA gave 1% of their budget to OCA seminaries, all three of them would be fully funded! His point was that with a small amount—if every parish did its part we could fund a seminary education for every worthy candidate."

Continues Fr. William, "We are so grateful that our sending parish Holy Trinity in St. Paul gives to the seminaries; between this and the St. Vlad's debt-free tuition program, Mat. Jillian and I started our ministry unhampered by debt."

Father William believes that parishes should create an atmosphere of charity. In his very first year at Holy Resurrection, the parish council embraced the challenge to offer a 1% tithe to St. Vladimir's.

"My experience at St. Vladimir's was stellar and the education, world class–I wanted to make sure that opportunity would be available to other potential clergy.

LEFT: Theophany prayers over the Red River RIGHT: Fr. William and Matushka Jillian Rettig and their two children, Adelheid and Eben



"The mission of the Church extends way beyond our corner of the world here in Fargo, North Dakota," he adds. "We are part of the universal Church. Since that first year when we took a leap of faith to give out of our budget, our parish council has increased our donations to organizations. Rather than suffering financially, this practice has encouraged our relationships with others outside the parish and increased our cohesion with other ministries within the Orthodox Church. No longer in 'survival mode,' our bishop and dean aspire to see us become a missional presence to the whole of North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

"We've learned that the gift for us is in the giving and in the sacrifice, when we let go of that thing we realize was never ours to begin with.
God has blessed us with this opportunity to be in the place of God, the Giver. We don't want to be like the ungrateful servant who, when he was released from his giant debt, turned
we believe we are meant to be nere.
When the Rettigs arrived at Holy Resurrection, the parish had been without a priest for over a year. However, a small group of committed parishioners had been conducting reader services so that a foundation was laid and the laity felt invested in the parish.

around and demanded money from his debtor;
 instead, we seek to be generous after the
 model of Christ."

In response to the question, "So how is life in North Dakota?" Fr. William laughs.

y, "Some people make a comment to the effect of, 'Just what did you do wrong to be sent to the American Siberia?' But actually, Bishop Paul (OCA Diocese of the Midwest) made a good case for us of why we would fit here and he was right.
a We both grew up in colder, northern US states so this is our comfort zone; by God's grace, Mat. Jillian and I both feel at home in the culture and we believe we are meant to be here."

"We were told we would be 'mission planting' when we came, but God has blessed us beyond what we expected," Fr. William says. "That first Sunday we ministered to a hundred souls rather than the forty we were anticipating. We've already outgrown our facility and we're in the process of purchasing a new building."

Holy Resurrection's "culture of outreach" also extends to local college students.

"Many college students come through our doors and we're at a point where we're hoping to see an Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) started. We're also a very young parish with as many as 30-40 children on any given Sunday; sometimes Sunday morning liturgy 'has to be shouted' but we welcome the awesome responsibility of raising the next generation in the Faith."

Somewhat unexpectedly, Fr. William says that the largest single ethnic group at Holy Resurrection is Eritrean/Ethiopian.

"Here in Fargo it's a happy accident that we get all ethnic groups. Because we're one of the only Orthodox communities in town, everybody comes through our doors. It's such a picture of what Orthodoxy should look like."

Father credits St. Vladimir's with modeling ecumenical engagement for him "...in the proper, truest, best, sense of the word. The Seminary doesn't water down the differences between Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, for instance, yet recognizes the common ground and has formed lasting partnerships with institutions like St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. Now that I'm dealing with various Orthodox ethnic groups in my parish, I'm very grateful for that example."

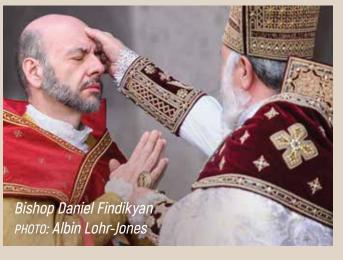
Many St. Vladimir's Parish Partners give as a result of the resolution passed by the OCA in 2011 encouraging the support of a "seminary of its choice through a sacrificial gift of a 1% minimum of its annual operating budget." Organizations become our Parish Partners, investing in the mission of the Church by providing a monthly, guarterly, or annual contribution to the Seminary. If you would like more information about this program, please contact Maria Kouloumbis at 914-961-8313, ext. 360, for details.

BELOW: The growing and pan-Orthodox parish of Holy Resurrection, Fargo, ND



Forming Clergy for Service

Twenty seminarians and alumni from St. Vladimir's Seminary were ordained to Holy Orders from 2019 to June 2020. Additionally, six of our alumni and a faculty member were either elevated in their rank or received an honorary award. "Axios" and "Many Years" to all as they continue their ministries!



HOLY EPISCOPACY

Bishop Daniel Findikyan (M.Div. '89) · Armenian Apostolic Church · Consecrated bishop 12 May 2019 · Primate of the Eastern Diocese of America of the Armenian Church of America

HOLY PRIESTHOOD

Priest Kuriakose (Alex) Abraham (M.Div., '16)

- Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (MOSC) Ordained 30 March 2019 · Vicar, St. Thomas
- Orthodox Church, Newington, CT

Priest Thomas (Shawn) Thomas (M.Div., '16: Th.M. '17) • Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (MOSC) • Ordained 27 April 2019 • Assistant Vicar, St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Yonkers, NY

Priest Stefan Dioric (M.A., '18; Th.M., '19) • Serbian Orthodox Church · Ordained 2 June 2019 · Parish Priest of Holy Resurrection Church, Steubenville, OH

Priest Andrew (Narek) Garabedian (M.Div., '16) Armenian Apostolic Church · Ordained 28 & 29 June 2019 • Pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, Chicago, IL

Priest Lavrentia (Lawrence) Soper (M.Div., '19) Serbian Orthodox Church · Ordained 7 July 2019 • Priest of St. John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Church, Patterson, NJ

Priest Simon Menya (M.Div., '18) · Patriarchate of Alexandria, Diocese of Uganda · Ordained 31 July 2019 · Assigned as priest at St. Lavrentios, Archangel Michael, and St. Basil parishes



19 SVS VINE VOL 12 | ANNUAL REPORT

Priest Christopher Dillon (M.Div., '20) • Antiochian

Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

(AOCANA) · Ordained 3 August 2019



Priest David Winn (M.Div., '20) • Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (AOCANA) • Ordained 4 August 2019

Priest David McCready (Non-degree track, completed 2019) • Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (AOCANA) • Ordained 11 August 2019 • Pastor of St. Columba Orthodox Church, Lafayette, CO

Priest Symeon Halsell (M.Div., '20) · Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (AOCANA) · Ordained 11 August 2019



Priest Geevarghese (Bobby) Varghese (M.Div., '17)
Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (MOSC)
Ordained 14 September 2019 · Assistant Vicar of St. Mary Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, Staten Island, NY

Priest Dorde Tomic (M.A., '19) · Serbian Orthodox Church · Ordained 21 September 2019

Priest Nathaniel Trembley (M.Div., '20) • Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (AOCANA) • Ordained 22 September 2019

Very Rev. Grand Ecclesiarch Aetios (formerly Dimitrios Nikiforos; M.Div., '18) • Ecumenical Patriarchate • Ordained 3 November 2019 • Grand Ecclesiarch of the Holy Great Church of Christ

Priest Basil Crivella (M.Div. program, 2016-2019)
Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Ordained
14 March 2020 • Attached to St. Nicholas Church,
Mentor, OH

HOLY DIACONATE

Deacon Charalambos (Charles) Youngblood (3rd-year Seminarian, M.Div. program) • Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (AOCANA) • Ordained 7 July 2019

Deacon Armen Terjimanian (M.Div., '20) • Armenian Apostolic Church • Ordained 14 July 2019 **Hierodeacon Michel Mikhai**l (3rd-Year Seminarian, M.Div. Program) · Orthodox Church in America (OCA) · Ordained 26 November 2019

Deacon Phillip Beiner (M.Div., '20) • Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Ordained 22 December 2019



ELEVATIONS & AWARDS

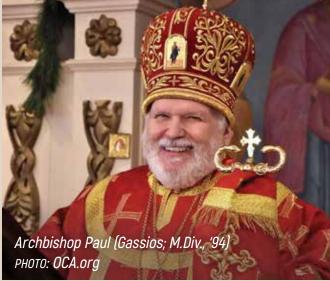
Archpriest John Erickson (Dean, 2002-2007) • Serbian Orthodox Church • Awarded the prestigious Johannes Quasten Award 30 January 2019 by The Catholic University of America's School of Theology and Religious Studies for excellence in scholarship and leadership in religious studies • Retired (Orthodox Church in America); assistant priest of St. Stephen Namanja Serbian Orthodox Church, Bisbee, AZ

Mitered Archpriest Andrew Tregubov (M.Div.Program, 1977-1982; M.A., '95) · Orthodox Churchin America (OCA) · Elevated to the dignity ofmitered archpriest 29 July 2019 · Rector of HolyResurrection Orthodox Church in Claremont, NHof Chicago and the Midwest

Archpriest Adrian Budica (Seminary Faculty; Th.M., '10) • Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (AOCANA) • Elevated to the dignity of archpriest 20 October 2019 • Attached to St. Nicholas Cathedral, Brooklyn, NY; director of Field Education and lecturer in Clinical Pastoral Education, St. Vladimir's Seminary, Yonkers, NY

Priest Benedict Churchill (Seminary Staff; M.Div., '10) • Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Awarded the Gold Cross 15 August 2019 for his many years of faithful service to the Diocese of the South • Priest-in-charge of St. George Mission, Edenton, NC; Saint Vladimir's Seminary (SVS) Press Editor

Mitered Archpriest Michael Koblosh (M.Div., '68) • Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Elevated to the dignity of mitered archpriest 5 January 2020 • Retired, priest at All Saints of North America Mission, Alexandria, VA



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